



House Names in the Mill Hill Park Area

Avenue Gardens

Unknown



2 & 4 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HA

Rutland House

As well as a Midlands county, the Dukes of Rutland were well known - the 6th Duke was a leading Conservative politician who was a close colleague of Disraeli's.



Sunderland House

A northern city of course - but also the title which has always been given to the eldest son of the Dukes of Marlborough, of Blenheim fame.

8 (left) and 6 (right) Avenue Gardens London W3 8HA

Unknown

Built in the 20th
century after
numbering
introduced.



10 to 16 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HA

Cardigan House

A Welsh county - but to the Victorians the name meant Lord Cardigan, who led the Charge of the Light Brigade in the Crimean War and also gave us the woollen cardigan. Name can be seen on pillars.



18 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HA



Lorne House.

In 1871 one of Queen Victoria's daughters married the Marquis of Lorne, a Scottish aristocrat (heir to the Duke of Argyll). It caused a stir as she was the first of Victoria's children to marry a British subject rather than a foreign prince or princess. The name can be seen on a pillar



20 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HA



Ingleside

Lots of places called this. Ingle is the Saxon word for fire, hence ingle nook - so the name means Fireside and has cosy domestic connotations.

22 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HA



Roslyn

Roslyn Castle in Midlothian in Scotland is famous for its Templar Chapel which plays a part in the Holy Grail legend and figures in the film “The Da Vinci Code”!

24 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB



Strathray

Another Scottish name, possibly linked to Aberdeenshire, where it occurs. Strath means a river valley, especially when broad and flat.

26 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB



Westbury

Westbury House in Bradford on Avon, Wilts - home of the Barons Westbury. Lord Westbury in the mid 19th century was a well-known high court judge.

28 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB



High Beech

A place in Epping Forest.

30 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB



Fairmead

Many places with this name all over the country. Also has a general rustic feel - mead meaning meadow.



32 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB

Thorndean/Stanford

Dean means deep valley.

This house may have previously been called Stanford. Stanford Hall, a stately home in Leicestershire.

34 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB



Oakleigh

Another common name. Also one with rustic overtones – leigh means meadow.

36 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB



These houses were built as a single development in about 1905, that is, after the introduction of numbering in the 1880s. However, the decorative stained-glass windows over each front door once contained a house name, chosen, presumably, by the builders to confer “individuality” and status. Two of these remain visible, but the others have either been painted over at some point or have been removed during the installation of further front doors to enclose storm porches, or as part of redevelopment, when houses have been converted into flats.

38 – 54 Avenue Gardens
London W3 8HB



Unnamed

A corner house converted into flats a long time ago and significantly remodelled. No trace of the original main entrance remains.

38 Avenue Gardens
London W3 8HB



Unnamed

Name in stained glass painted over.



40 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB



Unnamed

Name in stained glass painted over.



42 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB



Unnamed

Name in stained glass painted over.

44 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB



Unnamed

A new front door encloses the storm porch. No original glazing.

46 Avenue Gardens
London W3 8HB



Unknown

At some point, probably when the house was converted into flats, the original arrangement of stained glass and door was removed. The original door was re-used in a new position to conceal the storm porch and the new front doors to two of the flats inside. None of the original glass remains.

48 Avenue Gardens
London W3 8HB



Unnamed

The original door, re-glazed with plain glass, has been re-mounted to enclose the storm porch. The glass over the door is plain glass.



50 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB

Arundel

A name simultaneously suggestive of the rural and of the nobility. Arundel an attractive country town in Sussex and includes Arundel Castle, the country seat of the Dukes of Norfolk. A comprehensive, somewhat fanciful restoration of the Castle was completed in 1900.

52 Avenue Gardens
London W3 8HB



Woodlands

One of many names popular at this time suggestive of a restful, wooded setting.

54 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB



Unknown

All the houses in this terrace were built in the 20th century after the introduction of numbering.



53 - 63 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB

Unknown

All the houses in this terrace were built in the late 20th century and have no names.

45 - 51 Avenue Gardens
London W3 8HB



Roman Close

A private road running off Avenue Gardens, the 20th century name is doubtless a reference to the Roman pottery found near this site and now on display at Gunnersbury Museum.

Roman Close
London W3 8HE



Langford House

Langford a village in Bedfordshire, with a manor house called Langford manor. I don't know if there is any connection with Langford Close off Mill Hill Rd, but suspect, probably not. Now (2019) called "Weeks House".

43 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB



Oakfield

Various places - name suggestive of rural home?

41 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB



Unknown

Built after numbering introduced.



33 – 39a Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB



Crosby House

Its first occupant, a barrister's clerk, was called Thomas Crosby Knight.



31 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB

Stanhope House

Stanhope a market town in Durham, also inevitably there was a Lord Stanhope - George Philip Cecil Arthur Stanhope - who was a first class cricketer in the 1860s.

29 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB



Unknown



27 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB

Unknown

25 Avenue Gardens London W3 8HB



Unknown

Built after numbering introduced.



13 (left) and 15 (right) Avenue Gardens London W3 8HA

Unknown

Built after numbering introduced.



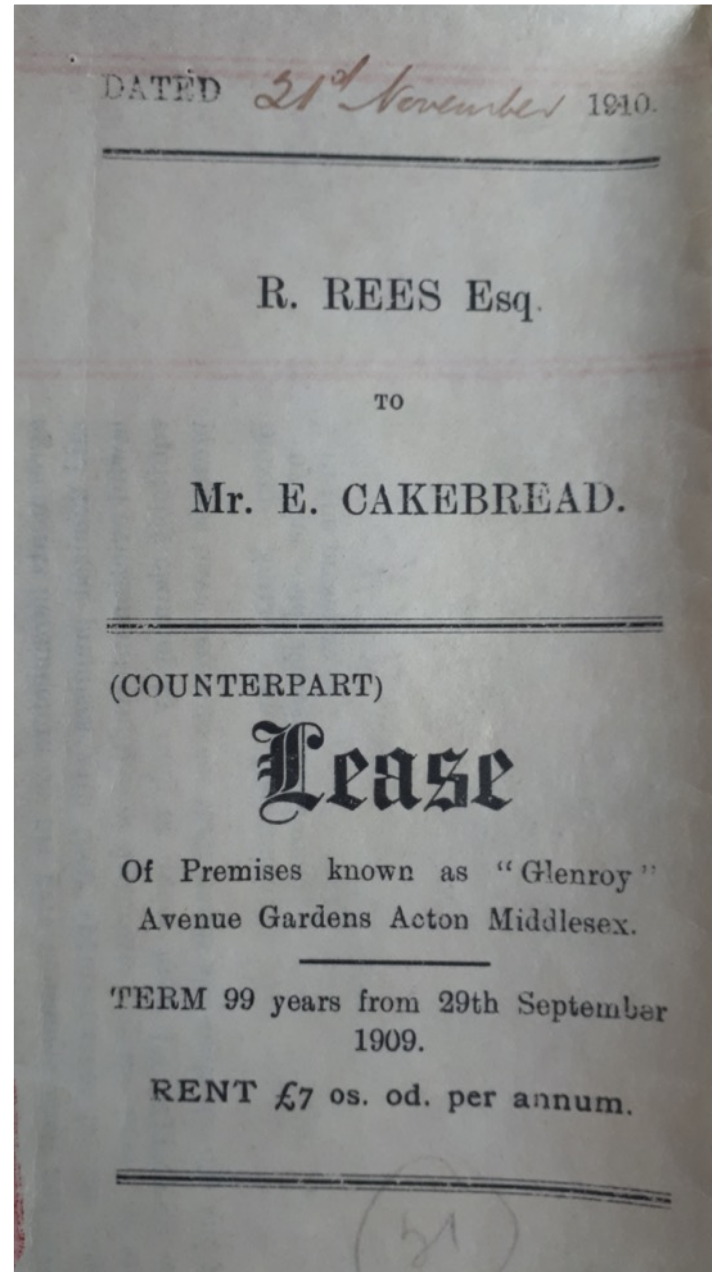
17, 19 and 23 [but not 21] Avenue Gardens London W3 8HA

Glenroy

Part of the terrace formed by 17-23 Avenue Gardens and probably completed by 1909. Numbering had been introduced in the 1880s. However, the 1910 lease in possession of the present owner, Daniel Wright, gives the name, Glenroy, rather than the number.

Another popular Scottish name, Glen Roy, meaning red glen in Gaelic, is in the Lochaber area of the Highlands.

21 Avenue Gardens
London W3 8HA



Sandybrook

Probably after Sandybrook Hall in the Peak district of Derbyshire, an early 19th century manor house, formerly the home of the Blakiston family, baronets.



9 (left) and 11 (right, "Sandybrook") Avenue Gardens London W3 8HA

No indication these had names.

An intriguing but unidentified house name somewhere in Avenue Gardens - there by 1880, so possibly one of these houses - was **Spestos**, lived in briefly by a man called Richard Pentecost, a land agent. He seems to have come from Devon and Spestos is the name of a farm near Crediton, so it probably had personal significance for him. Two other as yet unidentified Avenue Gardens house names are **Resolven** - a place in south Wales, apparently - and **Planehurst**, a name SO rare it produced not a single hit when entered into the worldwide Google search engine.

7 (left) 9 (right) Avenue Gardens London W3 8HA



The Laurels

Victorians loved laurels! A good house name to finish on because it was such a typical Victorian suburban house name. So much so that it was chosen by the authors of the fictional “Diary of a Nobody”, written in 1892, for Mr Pooter's house in Brickfield Terrace, Holloway. If you want to understand more about the social aspirations of the Victorian middle classes in suburban London, read this book. It's an easy read, a wonderful satire and still very funny even after over 100 years. Mr Pooter is very conscious of his position as a respectable clerk working in the City, able to afford to rent a six-roomed house with his long-suffering wife Carrie. He is particularly proud that he can afford to keep one domestic servant, which was the case with many of the houses in our area (only very few had more than one live-in servant). The original book had illustrations and The Laurels looks not so very different from some of the houses in our area.



1 (left, “The Laurels”) and 3 (right)
Avenue Gardens London W3 8HA