



Notes on Southwark Cyclists Healthy Ride 25/11/17

“Charlie Chaplin – Rides again”

A Charlie Chaplin themed social ride.

Visiting some of the places where he lived & visited.

Start 10.00am Peckham Square - SE15 5JR. (2hr circular ride flat ride)

The route is 10.5 miles. Track at www.mapmyride.com/workout/2508868517



Locations to be visited during the ride.

- 1, East Lane** aka East street market (SE17 2AB) - Thought to be Chaplin’s place of birth, however there are no records confirming this.
- 2, 92 Barlow Street** (SE17 1HW) – Home of Chaplin (Houses now demolished).
- 3, St John’s Church** (SE17 1NQ) where his parents got married on 22nd June 1885.
- 4, 39 West Square** (SE11 4SN) – Home of Chaplin.
- 5, Bethlem Hospital** (SE1 6HZ) – Where Charlie’s mother was admitted due to mental health problems (now the Imperial War museum since 1936).
- 6, Three stag’s pub** (SE1 7PZ) still one of the busiest pubs in Kennington. Charlie would often walk past it, but hardly ever looked in. But one day he did. There in 1901, sitting in the corner was his father, who had split up from his mother. He beckoned him in and for once showed genuine affection to his son. But the sight of his father was appalling. Charles senior, sat bloated, a drink in his hand suffering from the final stages of cirrhosis of the liver. It was the last time that eleven year old Charlie would see him alive. He died shortly afterwards aged 37 in St Thomas’s Hospital. And was buried in a pauper’s grave.
- 7, Lambeth workhouse** (SE11 4TH) - Where Charlie worked and stayed at the age of 7, Work houses were dirty & flea ridden. The building was converted into Lambeth hospital now closed, This is now the home of the cinema museum.
- 8, 287 Kennington Road** (SE11 6BY) - Where there is a plaque remembering him (‘though it is possible that he in fact he stayed next door with another family, as he didn’t get on with those who lived at No287).
- 9, 39 Methley Street** SE11 4AL (home of Chaplin) – Said to be the inspiration for the setting of *The Kid* as well as the home of the blind girl in *City Lights Movie*.
- 10, The Queen’s Head pub** (SE11 6AB) – Located on Black Prince Road this was run by his uncle, and he would often wander over to amuse his friends by mimicking a strange man who used to collect pennies in exchange for looking after cabbies’ horses. Rummy Binks was an odd looking chap. He wore trousers that were far too big for him and had an odd waddling walk. He was easy to ridicule and was a major influence on the appearance of the “little tramp”.
- 11, 15 Glenshaw mansions** (SW9 0DS) – He lived here during 1908 -1910 with his half brother Sydney, this now has a blue plaque displayed outside since June 2017.

The Life and times of Charlie Chapin (16 April 1889 – 25 December 1977)

Charles Spencer Chaplin was born on 16 April 1889 to Hannah Chaplin (born Hannah Harriet Pedlingham Hill) and Charles Chaplin Snr. There is no official record of his birth, although Chaplin believed he was born at East Street, Walworth, in South London. His mother and father had married four years previously, at which time Charles Sr. became the legal carer of Hannah's illegitimate son, Sydney John Hill. At the time of his birth, Chaplin's parents were both music hall entertainers. Hannah, the daughter of a shoemaker, had a brief and unsuccessful career under the stage name Lily Harley, while Charles Snr, a butcher's son, was a popular singer. Although they never divorced, Chaplin's parents were estranged by around 1891. The following year, Hannah gave birth to a third son – George Wheeler Dryden – fathered by the music hall entertainer Leo Dryden. The child was taken by Dryden at six months old, and did not re-enter Chaplin's life for 30 years.

Chaplin's childhood was fraught with poverty and hardship, making his eventual trajectory "the most dramatic of all the rags to riches stories ever told" according to his authorised biographer David Robinson. Chaplin's early years were spent with his mother and brother Sydney in the London district of Kennington; Hannah had no means of income, other than occasional nursing and dressmaking, and Chaplin Snr provided no financial support. As the situation deteriorated, Chaplin was sent to Lambeth Workhouse when he was seven years old. The council housed him at the Central London District School for paupers, which Chaplin remembered as "a forlorn existence". He was briefly reunited with his mother 18 months later, before Hannah was forced to readmit her family to the workhouse in July 1898. The boys were promptly sent to Norwood Schools, another institution for destitute children.

Charlie Chaplin's Marriages and Children

Charlie Chaplin was married four times and had 11 children between 1919 and 1962.

Awards

Chaplin received many awards and honours, especially later in life. In the 1975 New Year Honours, he was appointed a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE). He was also awarded honorary Doctor of Letters degrees by the University of Oxford and the University of Durham in 1962. In 1965 he and Ingmar Bergman were joint winners of the Erasmus Prize, and in 1971 he was appointed a Commander of the National Order of the Legion of Honour by the French government.

Death

By October 1977, Chaplin's health had declined to the point that he needed constant care. In the early morning of 25 December 1977, Chaplin died at home after suffering a stroke in his sleep. He was 88 years old. The funeral on 27 December was a small and private Anglican ceremony, according to his wishes. Chaplin was interred in the Corsier-sur-Vevey cemetery. Among the film industry's tributes, director René Clair wrote, "He was a monument of the cinema, of all countries and all times ... the most beautiful gift the cinema made to us." Actor Bob Hope declared, "We were lucky to have lived in his time."

On 1 March 1978 Chaplin's coffin was dug up and stolen from its grave by two unemployed immigrants, Roman Wardas from Poland, and Gantcho Ganev from Bulgaria. The body was held for ransom in an attempt to extort money from Oona Chaplin. The pair were caught in a large police operation in May, and Chaplin's coffin was found buried in a field in the nearby village of Noville. It was re-interred in the Corsier cemetery surrounded by reinforced concrete.

www.healthyrider.weebly.com

www.lcc.org.uk



Ride Organised & Led by Harry Clark.