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Childhood semi where Bowie wrote Space Oddity to be... a space for aspiring Starmen



Daily Mail Reporter

IT IS the small suburban home where he wrote his first chart hit, Space Oddity.

And now the unassuming property where David Bowie lived from the age of eight until he was 20 is to be opened to the public.

The interior of the house in Plaistow Grove in Bromley, south-east London, will be restored to how it was when the teenage songwriter was living there in the 1960s.

The release of Space Oddity, the song about doomed astronaut Major Tom, coincided with the Moon landings in 1969. It reached number five,

'I spent so much time in my bedroom'

kick-starting a career that turned singer and songwriter Bowie into an international superstar.

The Plaistow Grove house has been acquired by the Heritage Of London Trust. It plans to host creative and skills workshops at the venue.

Geoffrey Marsh, who curated the Victoria and Albert Museum's David Bowie exhibition from 2015, said a never-before-seen archive will help to recreate the interior layout as it was when Bowie lived there.

He said: 'It was in this small house, par-



Blue plaque: David Bowie's home in Bromley, south-east London, where he began writing

ticularly in his tiny bedroom, that Bowie evolved from an ordinary suburban schoolboy to the beginnings of an extraordinary international stardom.

'As he said, "I spent so much time in my bedroom, it really was my entire

world, I had books up there, my music up there, my record player, going from my world upstairs out to the street, I had to pass through this no-man's-land of the living room".'

Bowie had five UK number one singles



Changes: Glam rock star and, below, a young Bowie with a pet



and 11 UK number one albums, with an influential career that embraced glam rock, soul, electronic music and disco.

The acquisition of the Bromley house comes a decade after his death, on January 10, 2016.



By Olivia Christie

A SECOND community faces losing their Victorian-style lampposts in plans to replace them with modern lights.

The 13 cast iron 'barley sugar' street lights in Eastbourne are at risk after officials claimed they pose a safety issue as they are not bright enough.

Locals, however, have told East Sussex Council, which made the decision, that it could just fit brighter bulbs – and have even put up 'Save our Lampposts' signs on the columns.

It follows a campaign in Canterbury where the council plans to tear down a series of lampposts as they are too expensive to maintain.

The cast iron columns in Eastbourne are based on Victorian originals and were installed to reflect the town's historic character.

Tory borough councillor David Small said: 'There is cross-party support for keeping these lights.'

'No one is arguing against well-lit streets, but if the lights are too dim, surely a better and cheaper solution is obvious: just fit brighter, modern fit-

Dimwits Pt 2! Second council plans to axe 'Victorian' lampposts

tings to the posts we already have.' He added: 'It feels incredibly wasteful to throw away well-made ironwork for generic replacements.'

Bob Cookson, a retired electrical engineer and adviser to the Eastbourne Society, which pledges to protect architectural heritage, added: 'There is no reason why these columns cannot be fitted with modern fittings that meet current standards.'

But a spokesman for East Sussex County Council – where there is no overall control – said: 'The barley

sugar lamp posts along Terminus Road are scheduled to be replaced with new streetlights to improve public safety, ensure compliance with modern requirements, and support continued development and accessibility of the town centre.'

Canterbury, meanwhile, is fitted with around 250 Victorian lights, which locals claim are slowly being replaced with modern alternatives. Many of the lampposts were cast in the city's own foundry. The Canterbury Society said the historic lampposts could be saved

by Canterbury City Council and preserved with regular repainting. Kent Council said the decision had been made following safety inspections last August – three months after Reform took over the council.

The Canterbury Society's president Ptolemy Dean called proposed new designs 'grotesque disfigurements'.

A petition by the group asks councils to 'treat heritage street furniture as an asset rather than an inconvenience' and will be presented to Canterbury City Council.

Risk: One of the lampposts