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TODAY IN HISTORY

■ 1871: The English Football Association Challenge Cup competition – aka FA Cup – was formed.
■ 1944: An assassination attempt on Hitler was made by German officer Count Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg at Rastenburg, East Prussia. He was executed, as were 1,000 other people implicated in the plot.
■ 1969: 'One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind,' said Neil Armstrong when he emerged from the Eagle lunar module to take the first step on the Moon.
■ 1977: The CIA revealed it had engaged in mind control experiments.

Bowie Sound and Vision is brought to life in house

Starman's suburban past will be on show in Bromley, writes **Rory McKeown**

IT WAS where a young boy honed his craft to become one of the greatest musical icons the world has ever known.

4 Plaistow Grove in Bromley, London, is an unassuming semi that could be in any suburban street.

But this is where David Bowie called home from the age of eight to 20 and wrote his formative songs in a 9ft x 10ft bedroom.

He described the room as his 'entire world', a place where he was surrounded by books, his music and a record player, giving him the inspiration to go on and pen his breakthrough hit Space Oddity.

Now the family home of David Robert Jones – Bowie's real name – will be open to the public late next year after it was acquired by the Heritage of London Trust.

It will be made over to restore its early 1960s appearance, giving fans a glimpse of the home he shared with parents John and Peggy until 1967.

The project is spearheaded by Dr Nicola Stacey, director of the Heritage of London Trust, which also enlisted the support of Bowie's childhood friend George Underwood.

'It was incredibly exciting when I got the keys for the first time,' Dr Stacey told Metro. 'Even though a lot of it structurally hasn't changed a huge amount, there is something very powerful about opening his bedroom door, just standing there looking out of the window where he spent so much of his time.'

'That is where he formed the David Bowie that was let loose on the world. It wasn't the easiest house to live in for him. His family dynamics were a little bit complex and it wasn't a house that was bursting with creativity and warmth, except in this space.'

'What we want is for people to get a

sense of 1960s domestic life, then go into his bedroom where there is a burst of vision and excitement, and, even on this tiny scale, a sense of creative genius really starting.'

The project will host creative and skills workshops for young people as a living continuation of Bowie's legacy of 'free creative experimentation'.

'We've been working with local schools looking at what aspects of David's life really inspire them and how we can tell them through the house,' Dr Stacey added.

'It wasn't a grand house by any stretch. There was a lavatory outside,

the bath was a tin bath – all those things children now gasp with astonishment at when you tell them.

'But that's the place where he came from. His music is so varied and captures generation after generation.'

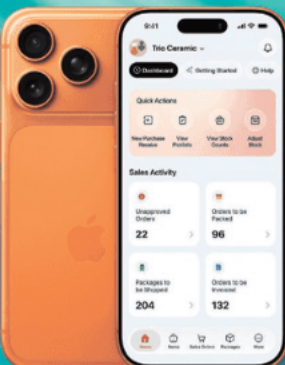
Bowie's roots were firmly spread across south London. The Ziggy Stardust singer, who died in 2016, was born in Brixton in 1947 and lived at 40 Stansfield Road before the Joneses relocated to Bromley. He then moved to nearby Beckenham where he co-founded the Beckenham Arts Lab at the Three Tuns pub on the high street. His iconic thunderbolt which

featured on his face for the cover of Aladdin Sane is etched into the pavement outside the former Three Tuns, which is now a Zizzi restaurant.

He married his first wife Angie at Bromley Registry Office in Beckenham Lane in March 1970 and a year later worked on The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars at Underhill Studios in Greenwich.

Dr Stacey said: 'We've had an amazing amount of people contact us to stay they knocked on his door when they were teenagers and got his autograph. People are so proud of living near the house.'





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