

BLUE PLAQUES GROUP UPDATE

Group activity update:

The Group last met in person at the Town Hall on Wednesday 29th September 2021

Current plaques:

Eddie Hapgood Blue Plaque – England football captain

The unveiling of the Blue Plaque for Eddie Hapgood took place on Thursday 23rd September at 44 Heath Terrace. Excellent turnout of about 50 people including Hapgood family members, Arsenal FC representatives and other attendees as invited. Weather was fine and the Mayor unveiled the Plaque on cue.

Unveiling and speeches took about 20 minutes followed by photos. MP Matt Western also attended as did a journalist from The Courier. The reception at the Town Hall was at 3pm with drinks, cakes and a rolling Powerpoint presentation on Eddie. About 30 people came for the reception and it lasted until 4pm. Members felt it would be preferable to have a speaker at the reception as well in future. The event was judged a robust success.

Woodbine St Studio - Special Interest Plaque

Plaque has been ordered and paid for by the house owner with the agreed text. To be delivered to 27 Woodbine Street. Owner to sort scaffolding for erection of plaque and liaise with Pinners. The Specials will finish a national tour at the end of September so it is anticipated there will be a surge of local interest in them for this Plaque. Members of the band and John Rivers keen to attend.

Progress with other nominations:

1. Permission has been given by the owner of 56 Bath Street (location of Iceland store) for a Blue Plaque to Margaret Maitland Fowler on the front of the building. Listed Building Consent application has been completed and submitted to WDC. Six week waiting time for this to be processed.
2. 23 St Mary's Crescent – Miss Eleanor Doorly. The Head of King's High School, Dr Stephen Burley, has agreed that the school will make a contribution of £200 towards the cost of the creation of this Plaque. Wording has been agreed by the group and will be sent to the property owners for their agreement.
3. A nomination has been made for Christopher (Coin designer, Royal Mint) and Janey (Professor of Fashion, Royal College of Art) Ironside to have a joint plaque at 11 Lansdowne Circus. Property owner has agreed to have the Plaque installed. More research required.
4. Travelodge are happy for a Special Interest Plaque commemorating the headquarters of the Camouflage Unit being located there during the Second World

War to be located on the property. However, they do not own the building. Text for plaque being created in conjunction with Leamington Museum.

5. New nomination for Nelly Thornton. Nelly became the model for the Rolls Royce bonnet ornament sculpture "Spirit of Ecstasy" and was later know by the name Eleanor Velasco Thornton. She was also the mistress of Baron Montagu of Beaulieu. Nelly lived at 24 Charlotte Street, Leamington Spa for part of her childhood and lived from 1880 – 1915 when she sadly drowned on the SS Persia when it was torpedoed during the First World War. Property owner to be contacted.