

BLUE PLAQUES GROUP UPDATE

Group activity update:

The Group last met in person at the Town Hall on Wednesday 19th January 2022 via Zoom

Current plaques:

Mrs Margaret Maitland Fowler – The Parthenon, Bath St (Iceland)

Plaque ordered from manufacturer and has been delivered to the Town Hall. Is now in storage in Room 5. Pinner's have confirmed installation quote and date for installation as either 21st or 22nd March. Invitee list for unveiling and reception afterwards at the Town Hall is being created by members of the Group to be sent to the DSO by 17th February. DSO will then create and send out the formal invitations. Biography leaflet content written by Margaret Rushton and gone to design and print at WDC Print Room.

Miss Eleanor Doorly – 23 St Mary's Crescent

Plaque ordered from manufacturer and has been delivered to the Town Hall. Is now in storage in Room 5. Pinner's have confirmed installation quote and date for installation as either 21st or 22nd March. Invitee list being created by Polly Beidas of King's High School who has written a book on Miss Doorly and knows of previous pupils and surviving relatives of Miss Doorly. This also to be sent to the DSO by 17th February when the DSO will then create and send out the formal invitations. Biography leaflet content being created by Polly Beidas by end of February to then go to design at WDC.

These two Plaques to be installed and unveiled on Wednesday 23rd March followed by a reception at the Town Hall. Town Council members to be invited. Local press to be invited and a press release done as well as photo coverage for social media purposes.

Progress with other nominations:

1. It has been agreed to move forward with a joint plaque for Christopher (Coin designer, Royal Mint) and Janey (Professor of Fashion, Royal College of Art) Ironside at 11 Lansdowne Circus. Property owner has agreed to have the Plaque installed and will send the DSO contact details for Virginia Ironside to have involvement in the wording and possible financial contribution. A Listed Building Consent application will be necessary.
2. 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. Text for plaque has now been agreed and has gone to Travelodge who will then pass it on to the property owners for approval. This Plaque will cost around £750 so additional funding sources are to be sought.

3. 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 (property currently an HMO).

Three other potential Blue Plaques recipients have now been brought forward for consideration for 2023/4:

- Edith Reynolds – artist c. 1887 – 1967, Francis Jahn - sculptor 1833 – 1920 and Rosa Newmarch - poet and writer on music 1857 - 1940

AOB:

- It was agreed by the Group (with a view to updating the Blue Plaques Walks leaflet after March 2022 with the new Plaques) to invite the designer from WDC who does the biography leaflets to attend the Group's meeting in April. This to discuss layout, routes, text, photos and colours.