

## **BLUE PLAQUES GROUP UPDATE**

### Group activity update:

The Group last met in person at the Town Hall on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at the Town Hall.

### Current plaques:

- **William Munger Heynes** - Head of the Technical Dept for Jaguar Cars. Plaque to be funded by the Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust (JDHT) at 11 Percy Terrace. The property owners have agreed to have the plaque erected on their property frontage and draft text has been agreed by the Blue Plaques Group and the house owners. This draft text has now gone to the JDHT for their agreement/comments.

The location of the plaque is under discussion currently. The optimum locations on the front porchway are not possible as they are not wide enough to accommodate the plaque. Therefore, the plaque must go either to the right or left of the porchway at the top (owners' preference to be decided). Once the text and location are agreed, the plaque can be ordered as the property does not require a Listed Building Consent application.

- **Christopher (Coin designer, Royal Mint) and Janey Ironside (Professor of Fashion, Royal College of Art)** – joint plaque at 11 Lansdowne Circus. Draft text has been drawn up by the Blue Plaque Group members and sent to the property owner and Virginia Ironside (daughter). Location will be the mirror of the plaque on the neighbouring attached property. Ms Ironside to be approached for a donation towards the cost of the plaque.

Listed Building Consent application has been started for submission to WDC as this property is Grade 2 Listed.

- **The Camouflage Unit, Regent Hotel, Travelodge – Special Interest Plaque** - no success has been had in obtaining an answer from the owners of the property despite repeated attempts to contact them via their agent since 7<sup>th</sup> March. Blue Plaque Group members have agreed now to turn attention to the buildings in the Spencer Yard area which were also associated with the Camouflage Unit during the Second World War.

WDC and Complex Development Projects to be approached to gauge their interest in the erection of the Plaque in this location and making a contribution to its cost.

### Other forthcoming nominations:

1. **Nelly Thornton** - model for the Rolls Royce bonnet ornament sculpture “**Spirit of Ecstasy**” and was later known 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.

2. **Donald Healey CBE - noted English car designer, rally driver and speed record holder.** Lived on Kenilworth Rd, Leamington Spa with his wife and family. Requires further research.
3. **Sir John Hicks - Winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics 1972.** Property owner at 17 Claremont Rd to be recontacted to review if they would like to go ahead with this Plaque.

**Blue Plaques Walks leaflets revamp and reissue :**

New and updated leaflets were drafted and agreed by the Group with WDC Design. 500 have been printed. To be stocked at the Town Hall and the TIC in the Pump Rooms. Also, to be updated on the Town Council website and advertised via social media and press release. Many thanks to the members of the Group and to Eleri Usher at WDC for the design.