

BLUE PLAQUES GROUP UPDATE

Group activity update:

The Group last met in person at the Town Hall on Tuesday 1st November 2022 at the Town Hall.

Current plaques:

- **William Munger Heynes** - Head of the Technical Dept for Jaguar Cars.

The unveiling for this Plaque took place on Wednesday 28th September 2022 at 11 Percy Terrace. The weather was good as was attendance from invitees, the Jaguar Daimler Trust and the property owners. Spaces were successfully coned off for vintage cars to park in the street during the ceremony and the unveiling with the Mayor and Jonathan Heynes (son) went smoothly.

Some cars were able to park in front of the Town Hall during the reception. The reception went well including a presentation from Tony Merrygold of the Jaguar Daimler Trust and many positive comments from the family and other attendees were received.

- **Christopher (Coin designer, Royal Mint) and Janey Ironside (Professor of Fashion, Royal College of Art)** – joint plaque at 11 Lansdowne Circus.

The Listed Building Consent had not come through from WDC by the date of this meeting (held up by request from them for a new site location plan). Therefore, an unveiling is now not going to be possible in December 2022 as hoped. Two new potential unveiling dates were agreed as 1) 18th January 2023 and 2) 25th January 2023.

The Listed Building Consent came through on 25th November. The order for the Plaque was placed with Leander Architectural on 29th November. There is usually a six-week lead in time for delivery. Virginia Ironside (daughter) to be contacted for her agreed financial contribution to the Plaque.

- **Nelly Thornton** - Model for the Rolls Royce Spirit of Ecstasy bonnet figurine

The owners of 24 Charlotte Street have responded positively to a letter sent seeking their permission to erect this Plaque on the frontage. They have now confirmed in writing that they are happy for this project to proceed.

Draft wording was agreed as follows:

Nelly Thornton
1880 – 1915
Model for the Rolls Royce
Spirit of Ecstasy mascot
lived here

A draft of this Plaque is to be requested from Leander and Rolls Royce to be approached to inform them of the project and suggest a possible financial contribution.

Other forthcoming nominations:

1. **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.
2. **Rosa Newmarch – poet and writer on music.** Lived at what is now Boots the Chemist on the Parade side. Requires further research.
3. **William Browne – composer, organist, pianist and music critic** born in Leamington Spa in 1888, lived in Lillington Rd and was killed at Gallipoli in 1915. Close friend of war poet Rupert Brooke. Requires further research.
4. **Fred Mulley - Labour politician, barrister and economist.** He served as both Education and then Defence Secretary in the 1970's. Mr Mulley was born in Leamington Spa in 1918. Research has been carried out by the archivist at Warwick School (where Mr Mulley was a pupil) and an offer of the full cost of this Plaque has been generously made by the School.

The group agreed to support a budget of £2,000 for 2023/24 as the Walks leaflet does not redesigning and reprinting in 2023, and sponsorship of Plaques has increased