

## **BLUE PLAQUES GROUP UPDATE**

### Group activity update:

The Group last met in person at the Town Hall on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 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 group approved the final draft of the Plaque from Leander. The JDHT and the Heynes family also gave their final approval. The JDHT will contribute £400 to the cost of the Plaque to be erected at 11 Percy Terrace. The Blue Plaques Group will fund the delivery of the Plaque and its installation plus the reception at the Town Hall and the info leaflet.

Plaque was ordered on 1<sup>st</sup> August. A copy of the Plaque is being produced at the same time for the JDHT archives which will be funded by them and delivered to them. Tony Merrygold to be asked to produce a ten minute presentation on William Heynes for the reception. Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 was agreed as the date for the unveiling with Tony Merrygold, the property owners, the Mayor and the Council Chamber.

Official invites went out to invitee list on 8<sup>th</sup> August with an RSVP deadline of 19<sup>th</sup> September. All Town Council members informed and invited.

Plaque arrived 20<sup>th</sup> September and will be erected, along with the unveiling curtain, on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September. Plaque to be unveiled by the Mayor and Mr Jonathan Heynes (son). Unveiling at 2pm followed by a reception at the Town Hall at 2:45pm.

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

Blue Plaque group members agreed to the request from Virginia Ironside to swap the words 'Camoufleur' around with 'Decimal Coin Designer'. It has also been agreed with Ms Ironside that the word 'Artists' be removed from the bottom of the Plaque. Ms Ironside has offered a £100 contribution towards the cost of the plaque.

Listed Building Consent application for this plaque was submitted on 4<sup>th</sup> August and receipt confirmed by WDC on 9<sup>th</sup> August. Request for amended location plan from WDC – this has been submitted. Possible unveiling dates of 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (these to be checked with Ms Ironside and the property owner).

- **Special Interest Plaque – The Camouflage Unit** -

Following the lack of response over six months from the owners of the Travelodge on the Parade, the DSO approached WDC/CDP re the possibility of housing this Plaque

on the Old Dole Office in Spencer Yard once regeneration works are complete there. The responses were very positive and this is something they would like to pursue with the Group. However, this regeneration project is long-term so the works to this property would not be complete within the next two – three years. Therefore, this one needs to be put on hold for now.

This would be a good time to investigate external funding opportunities for grants etc for this Plaque.

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.** Owner of property has confirmed he does not wish to proceed with this plaque.
4. **Rosa Newmarch – poet and writer on music,** lived at what is now Boots the Chemist on the Parade side. Requires further research.
5. **William Browne – composer, organist, pianist and music critic** born in Leamington Spa in 1888 and killed at Gallipoli in 1915. Close friend of war poet Rupert Brooke. Requires further research.

- Fred Mulley was also mentioned as a possible future recipient of a Blue Plaque. He was a Labour politician, barrister and economist and is renowned for falling asleep during the Queen's Jubilee Review of the Royal Air Force at [RAF Finningley](#) in 1977. He served as both Education and then Defence Secretary in the 1970's. Mr Mulley was born in Leamington Spa in 1918.
- There was also discussion around the possibility of a Special Interest Plaque for the real tennis courts at Bedford St. The first match took place there in 1846 and the club is the oldest tennis club in the world