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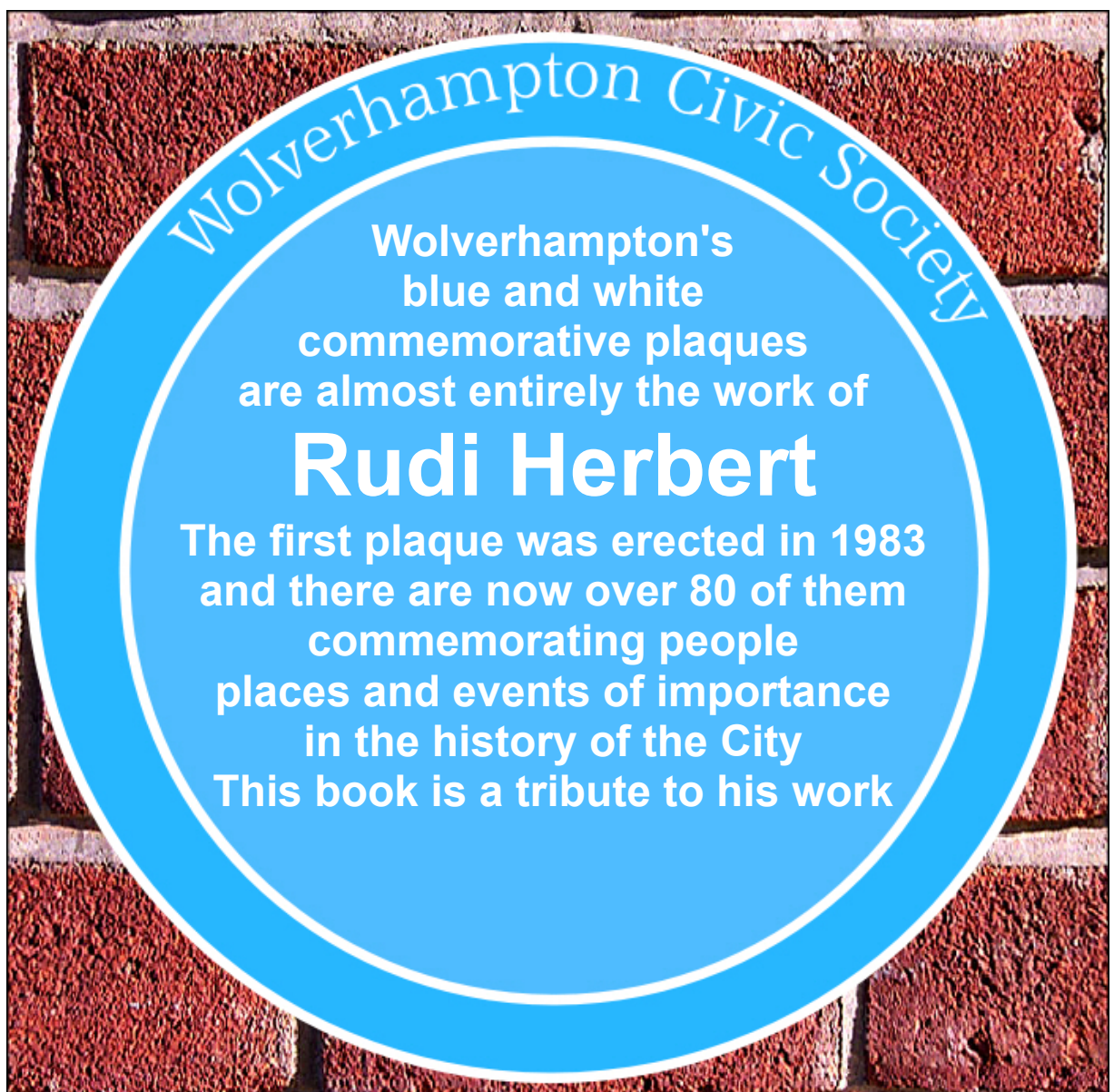
Steve Martin

Wolverhampton Civic Society decided to inaugurate a plaque scheme in 1981 which would make Wulfrunians aware of their heritage through the cultural, commercial, professional and industrial achievements of their forbears.

It was proposed that sponsorship would be the only means of financially supporting this scheme. It was not very difficult to obtain the services of sponsors. The main problem was to get permission from the owners of the buildings on which the plaque was to be placed, especially if there was no connection with the person being commemorated.

It is interesting to analyse the occupation of the persons commemorated. Although Wolverhampton is an industrial city with 13 plaques commemorating industrialists, a wide range of other professions are also represented such as actors, artists, architects, doctors, musicians, poets and writers, politicians and religious leaders.

The achievements of such a wide range of occupations has made Wolverhampton both an interesting and varied city.



# City Centre Plaques

## Commemorating

T H Fleeming  
J A Chatwin  
Queen Victoria  
James Beattie  
Star & Garter  
Benjamin Mander  
Darlington Street  
Sir Henry Fowler  
Arthur Marshall  
O J Reilander  
The Macdonald Sisters  
Joseph Armstrong  
Dan Rudge  
Villiers Reform Club & Rt Hon C P Villiers MP  
First Traffic Lights  
Sir Rowland Hill  
C J Phipps  
Queen's Building  
Chubb and Sons  
Sir Charles Wheeler  
William Wood  
G R Thorne  
Sir Charles Mander  
Emma Sproson  
Arnold Richardson  
Francis Smith  
John Milner  
The Millennium and achievement of City Status  
St Peter's Collegiate Church  
Button Gwinnett  
Maggie Teyte

## Location

Barclays Bank, Queen Square  
Lloyds Bank, Queen Square  
HSBC Bank, Queen Square  
Beattie's, Victoria Street  
Pizza Hut, Victoria Street  
Mander Centre  
Beattie's Store, Darlington Street  
Dixons Estate Agents, Darlington Street  
Darlington Street Methodist Church  
Darlington Street Roundabout  
Your Move Estate Agents, Waterloo Road  
Waterloo Road  
Telecom Building, Church Street  
6 George Street  
Rothwells, Princes Square  
Old Post Office, Lichfield Street  
Grand Theatre, Lichfield Street  
Victoria Square  
Chubb Building, Fryer Street  
Art Gallery, Lichfield Street  
University Building, Wulfruna Street  
Reflex, North Street  
Law Courts, former Town Hall, North Street  
Law Courts, former Town Hall, North Street  
Civic Hall, North Street  
Giffard House, North Street  
St Peter & St Paul, Paternoster Row  
Civic Centre  
Porch of St Peter's Church  
St Peter's House, Exchange Street  
Exchange Street

Commemorating	Location
Viking Cycle Company	34 Princess Street
The Weller Architectural Partnership	15 King Street
Thomas Graham	Express & Star Building, Queen Street
R J Emerson	Express & Star Building, Queen Street
Wolverhampton Borough Council	Walkabout Bar, Queen Street
George Wallis	Army Careers Office, Queen Street
E J Meynell	32a Queen Street
H T Hare	Central Library, Snow Hill
Edward Bird RA	Side of Central Library, Old Hall Street
Leveson Family and the Great Hall	Adult Education Centre, Old Hall Street
H D Hughes MA	Old Hall Street
St George's Church	Sainsbury's Store, St George's Parade





## Queen Square, Victoria Street & the Mander Centre



**Commemorating:**

Thomas Henry Fleeming who designed the Barclays Bank building in Queen Square

**Sponsored by:**

Barclays Bank P.L.C.

**Location:**

Queen Square. On the corner of Lichfield Street and Lich Gates

The building was built in two stages. The rear half facing St. Peters was built first, the original entrance being where the cash machine in Lich Gates now stands. The front half was built a little later when Lichfield Street was widened, and replaced a fine 17th century town house which was owned by John Gholditch, who was a wine merchant. The two halves of the building are built in the same Gothic style, using the same stone and so its not obvious that the rear part was once a separate building.



The bank's main entrance in Queen Square with the plaque just to the left.



**Commemorating:**

J. A. Chatwin who designed Lloyds Bank

**Sponsored by:**

Lloyds Bank P.L.C.

**Location:**

Queen Square, at its junction with Dudley Street

This side of Queen Square was rebuilt in the late 1870's and early 1880's, at the same time as the widening and redevelopment of Lichfield Street. Birmingham architect, J. A. Chatwin also designed the Art Gallery in Lichfield Street. Both buildings are in an Italianate style.





**Commemorating:**

Queen Victoria's visit to Queen Square in 1866

**Sponsored by:**

The Express & Star

**Location:**

On the west side of the HSBC Bank in Queen Square

Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, died in 1861. The people of Wolverhampton led by Alderman Underhill raised the money to erect a statue in his honour. The statue in Queen Square cost £1,150 and was sculpted by Thomas Thorneycroft. The statue was completed in 1866, and the Queen agreed to come in person for the unveiling, which took place on November 30th 1866. It was an important day for the town. A public holiday was declared and large numbers of people gathered to see the Royal party as they toured the town centre. Activities included illuminations and a spectacular firework display at the racecourse.



**Commemorating:**

James Beattie who founded the Victoria Drapery in 1877

**Sponsored by:**

James Beattie P.L.C.

**Location:**

Victoria Street, on the front of the store

Beatties, the well known department store in the city, started life in 1877 as a small drapers shop in Victoria Street, called the 'Victoria Drapery Supply Stores'. It was founded by James Beattie who started with a capital of just £300 and employed two assistants. By 1895 he had an annual turnover of £30,000 and had a staff of forty. The original premises on the eastern side of Victoria Street was badly damaged by fire in 1896, which led to the relocation and expansion of the business on the opposite side of the street. As the business prospered, adjacent premises were purchased and the store grew in size. James Beattie died in 1934.







**Commemorating:**  
The Star & Garter coaching Inn

**Sponsored by:**  
Frank Mason

**Location:**  
Victoria Street, on the front of Pizza-Hut

The Star & Garter was the town's main hotel. It occupied the site of a house in which King Charles 1 sheltered during the Civil War, and from this the hotel was named. The hotel was built in about 1815 and extensively modified in 1836. The building was demolished in the late 1960's to make way for the Mander Centre.



The Star & Garter in the early 1960's. Photo courtesy of Eardley Lewis



A poster advertising some of the many coach services that called at the Inn



**Commemorating:**  
Benjamin Mander

**Sponsored by:**  
Mander Property (Wolverhampton) Ltd

**Location:**  
Mander Centre. In the middle by the lifts

In 1773 Benjamin Mander and his brother John, founded Mander's works in St. John's Street. Benjamin was a japanner, and the company produced paint and varnish for decorating their products. The company went from strength to strength and eventually closed the japanning side of the business to concentrate on paints and varnish. The company went on to become one of the largest printing ink manufacturers. The St John's Street premises closed in 1965.





## Darlington Street, Waterloo Road, Church Street



**Commemorating:**

The building of Darlington Street.

**Sponsored by:**

Frank Sharman

**Location:**

At the top of Darlington Street, on the side of Beatties department store

Darlington Street was constructed on land belonging to Lord Darlington who sold it to the Town Commissioners for £350 per acre. It opened in 1823 and was constructed by John Worrall, who had the dubious distinction of being appointed in 1814, to the posts of Borough Engineer, Chief Constable, Sanitary Inspector, Weights and Measures Inspector and Clean Air Officer. When they also appointed him as Markets Manager he went on strike and his annual salary was raised to £80. Work on the street should have started in 1814, but was held up until 1821 when the matter of Red Lion Walk could be resolved. This footpath ran from Salop Street to the rear of the Red Lion Inn in North Street.



**Commemorating:**

Henry Hartley Fowler who was a Wolverhampton M.P. and Cabinet Minister

**Sponsored by:**

Fowler, Langley & Wright

**Location:**

Darlington Street on the side of Dixons Estate Agents, at the corner of Waterloo Road

Sir Henry Hartley Fowler (1830-1911) was a former Mayor of the Borough who became an MP for the town in 1880. He proposed the Wolverhampton Corporation Act which was passed in 1891 and in the same year became the first Freeman of the Borough. In 1894, he was made Secretary of State for India and was decorated with the order of the Grand Commander of the Star of India by Queen Victoria.



The photograph shows the plaque on the side of Dixons Estate Agents.



**Commemorating:**

Arthur Marshall who designed Darlington Street Methodist Church

**Sponsored by:**

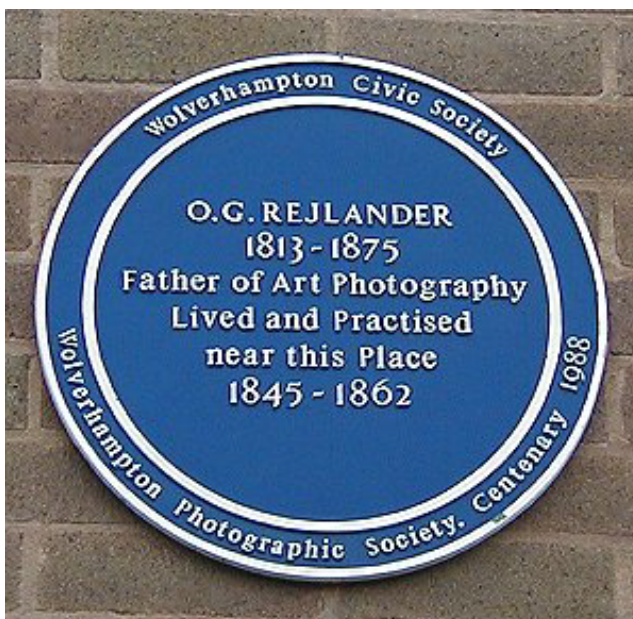
Richard Rhodes & Michael Phillips

**Location:**

Darlington Street Methodist Church



Darlington Street Methodist Church opened on 29th October 1901. It is capable of seating 1200 people, and is a replacement for an older church and school built in 1825. The plaque is mounted on the front wall, just to the left of the doors.



**Commemorating:**

O. G. Rejlander

**Sponsored by:**

Wolverhampton Photographic Society

**Location:**

Darlington Street roundabout  
(Temporarily withdrawn)

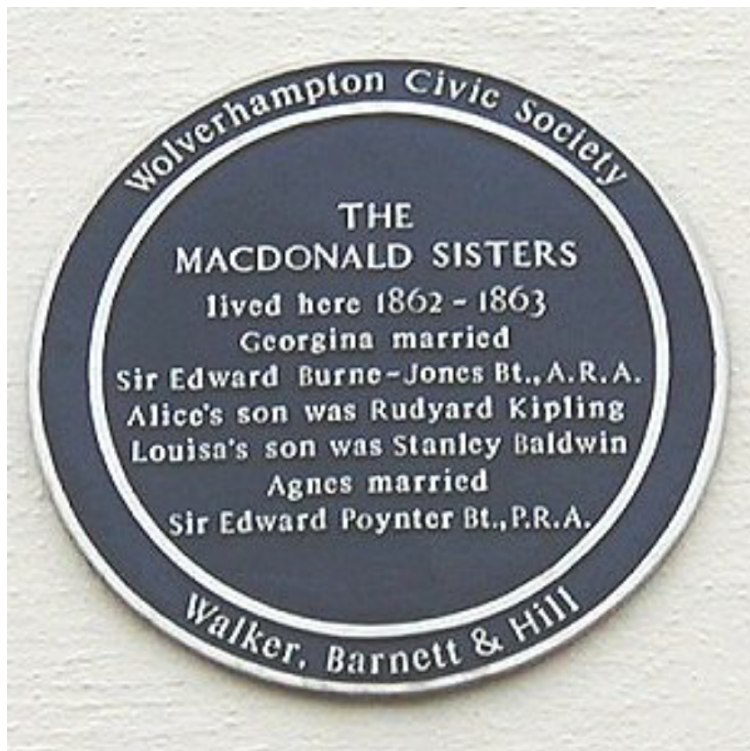
The date and place of Rejlander's birth are uncertain but 1813 and Sweden are the best guesses. He came to Wolverhampton in 1846, possibly to work as an artist in the japanning trade. He took up photography about 1851. He soon attained national fame as an art photographer, producing genre pictures and tableaux, many of them using local people as models. His most famous works are, perhaps, Two Ways of Life (a vast allegorical composition made with multiple exposures) and poor Jo (a study of a ragged child, despairingly slumped on a door step, an image still much used in charitable appeals). He moved to London in 1862.

In this detail from a self portrait, Rejlander is shown as a Rifle Volunteer. In his Wolverhampton days he was active in local social life and a keen member of the South Staffs Yeomanry.



The plaque is temporarily withdrawn pending developments at its original site





**Commemorating:**

The 4 Macdonald Sisters who married famous men or had famous sons

**Sponsored by:**

Walker, Barnett & Hill

**Location:**

Waterloo Road, on the corner of Clarence Street

The plaque is mounted on the front of Your Move estate agents. The building was formerly occupied by Walker, Barnett & Hill.





**Commemorating:**

Joseph Armstrong, Locomotive Superintendent at the railway works

**Sponsored by:**

Local railway enthusiasts

**Location:**

Waterloo Road, opposite New Hampton Road East

Joseph Armstrong obtained the post of Assistant Locomotive Superintendent of the Shrewsbury & Chester Railway in 1846. Seven years later the railway company merged with the Shrewsbury & Birmingham Railway, which ran to Wolverhampton. Joseph was put in charge of the locomotive stock and moved here. The following year the company became part of the Northern Division of the Great Western Railway and Joseph became Locomotive Superintendent. He oversaw the building of the works and soon set about designing his first locomotives which were completed in 1859. His designs were simple, reliable and performed well. Daniel Gooch, the company's Locomotive Superintendent at Swindon resigned in 1864 and he was replaced by Joseph who moved to Swindon to be replaced at Wolverhampton by his brother George.



The unveiling ceremony on 10th November, 2004

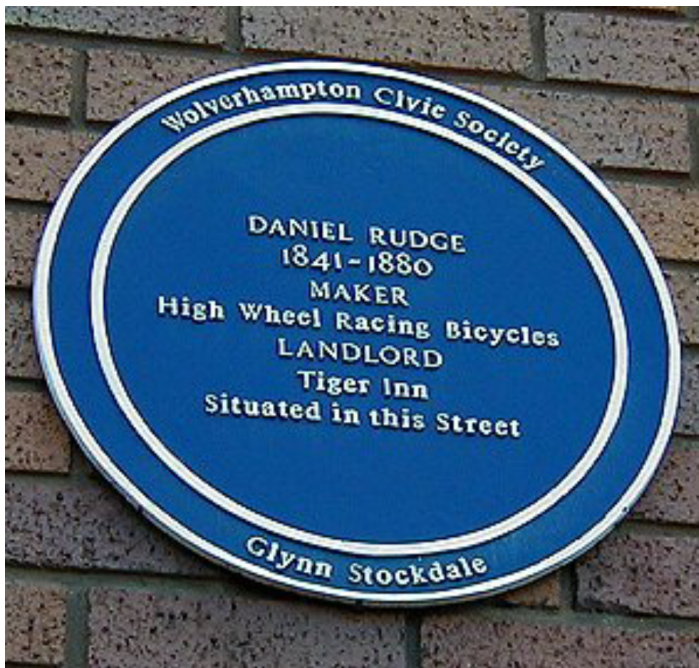
Left to right:

Richard Rhodes, Chairman of the Wolverhampton Civic Society;

Rudy Herbert, Civic Society; and

Mervyn Srodzinsky, railway historian, who sponsored the plaque.





**Commemorating:**

Daniel Rudge, bicycle manufacturer and landlord

**Sponsored by:**

Glynn Stockdale

**Location:**

On the Telecom Building in Church Street

Daniel Rudge was landlord of the Tiger's Head in Church Street. He took part in the bicycle races that were held in the grounds of the Molineux Hotel and won the very first race to be held there. He was very successful and built his own bicycles. In 1870 he started manufacturing racing machines, the first of which was a high wheeler. He made many improvements to his bicycles and they soon became the best racing machines that were available at the time. In 1878 he was awarded a gold medal for his exhibit at the London Cycle Show. He continued to run the Tiger's Head until his death in 1880. His widow continued with the cycle business for sometime, but eventually sold out to George Woodcock, who moved the business to Coventry.



Glynn Stockdale on his Rudge bicycle at the unveiling of the blue plaque.  
Courtesy of Richard Rhodes.



**Commemorating:**  
The Villiers Reform Club

**Sponsored by:**  
Larry McLean

**.Location:**  
6 George Street

Charles Pelham Villiers (1802-1898) was a member of Parliament for sixty three years, and holds the record for being the longest serving MP in Parliamentary history. From 1835-1885, he sat as MP for the single constituency of Wolverhampton and then from 1885 until his death in 1898 as MP for Wolverhampton South (Bilston).





## Lichfield Street, Victoria Square, Fryer Street



**Commemorating:**

The first traffic lights in England

**Sponsored by:**

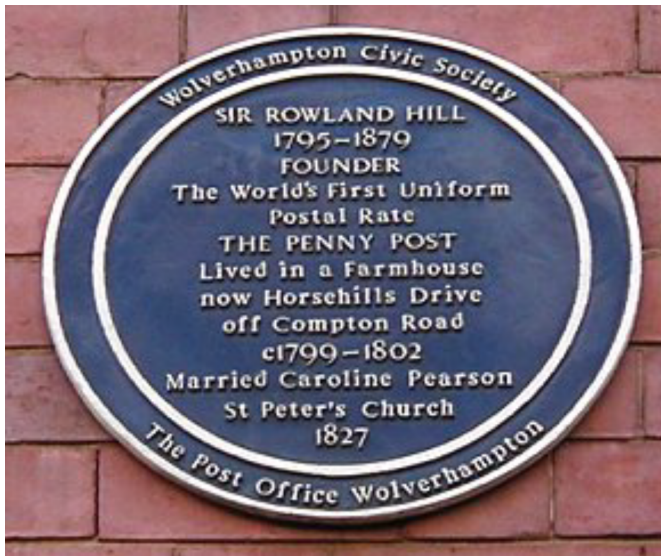
The Express & Star

**Location:**

Princes Square, on the front of Rothwells

The traffic lights were originally located on a small island in the middle of Princes Square. They were installed initially as an experiment on 5th November 1927. The experiment was presumably a success, as the lights became a permanent installation in October of the following year, and are still here today.





**Commemorating:**

Sir Rowland Hill who founded the penny post

**Sponsored by:**

The Post Office

**Location:**

Lichfield Street, on the front of the old post office

Sir Rowland Hill was born at 96 Blackwell Street, Kidderminster, on 3rd December 1795. The family soon moved to Horsehills Farm, Wolverhampton, which was on the corner of Compton Road and Richmond Road. The family who were quite poor, lived there for four years before moving to Birmingham. Rowland met his future wife there at the age of six, and married her in St John's Church on 27th September 1827. Her name was Caroline Pearson, whose father Joseph Pearson was a local manufacturer and County Magistrate. They lived at Graiseley House, off the Penn Road.

Rowland and Caroline were part-owners of White Lodge, which was next door to Graiseley House. They moved to London, where Rowland was a schoolmaster, but at the age of 38 he became secretary of the South Australia Commission, an association which helped with the colonisation of the country. He became interested in postal reform and produced a pamphlet on the subject. He proposed that letters should be charged by weight, not distance and that the sender should pay the postage. The scheme went before Parliament in 1837 and an Act of Parliament gave the Royal Assent in 1839. From January 10th, 1840, a letter not exceeding half an ounce could be sent to any part of the country for one penny. Rowland was given a two year post in the Treasury to help with the introduction of the new postal service. The famous Penny Black stamp soon had to be changed to the Penny Red because of forgeries. Rowland lost his job in 1842 after the change of Government and joined the London and Brighton Railway Company.



After the next change of Government he was given the job of Secretary to the Post Master General in 1854. At the age of 59 he was offered the post of secretary to the Post Office, a position he held until his retirement in 1864. During this time he introduced money orders, travelling post offices, the Post Office Savings Bank and improved rural services. On his retirement he was awarded his full salary as a pension for life and given a special parliamentary grant of £20,000. He was knighted in 1860 and was granted the freedom of London in 1879. A few months later he died at the age of 84 and was buried in Westminster Abbey. Rowland and Caroline had one son and three daughters.





**Commemorating:**

C. J. Phipps, theatre architect

**Sponsored by:**

Manby & Steward, solicitors

**Location:**

On the front of the Grand Theatre, Lichfield Street

C. J. Phipps, an experienced theatre architect designed the Grand Theatre in the early 1890's. The foundation stone was laid on 28th June, 1894 by Mrs. C. T. Mander, who at the time was Lady Mayoress. The theatre was built by Henry Gough and cost £10,000. It opened on 10th December 1894. The first performance was Gilbert & Sullivan's opera 'Utopia Limited'. It was performed by Mr. R. D'Oyly Carte's company and all of the 2,151 seats were taken.



**Commemorating:**

The Queen's Building

**Sponsored by:**

Centro

**Location:**

On the front of the Queen's Building in Victoria Square

The building was designed by Edward Banks who was architect for the Shrewsbury & Birmingham Railway Company. It was used as a grand entrance building for the railway station, company offices and boardroom. It had four arches, the centre two were for carriages, and the outer two for pedestrians. Above the entrance were the offices and boardroom for the railway company, and at each side was a row of shops. The building opened on 10th October 1849. The station was originally known as Wolverhampton General station, but renamed Queen Street station in September 1853, because the entrance building faced Queen Street.







**Commemorating:**

Chubb & Son's, lock and safe manufacturers

**Sponsored by:**

Chubb & Son's Lock & Safe Company

**Location:**

On the front of the Chubb Building in Fryer Street

The Chubb brothers, Charles & Jeremiah, served their apprenticeships to a blacksmith in Winchester. In 1804 they moved to Portsmouth where Charles opened a shop specialising in naval ironmongery. In 1818 the brothers took out their first patent for the Detector lock and started to manufacture locks. They moved to Wolverhampton and opened a factory in Temple Street. They began manufacturing safes in the early 1830's and took out a patent for a burglar resisting safe in 1835. Charles died in 1846 and the business was taken over by his son John. Towards the end of the century a larger factory was required and so the Chubb Building was built and opened in 1899.



**Commemorating:**

Sir Charles Wheeler, sculptor

**Sponsored by:**

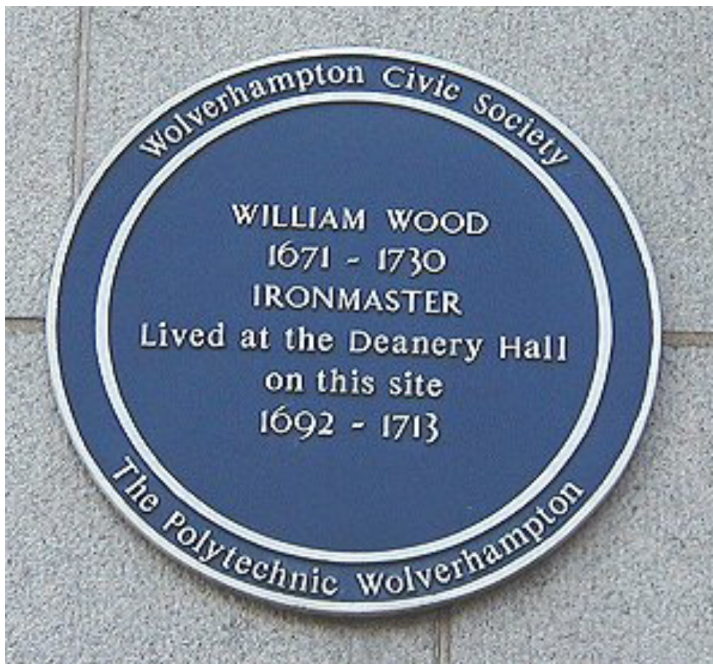
Wolverhampton Civic Society

**Location:**

On the rear of the Art Gallery Annexe in Wulfruna Street

Sir Charles Wheeler (1892-1974) was the first sculptor to be elected President of the Royal Academy of Arts. He was born in 1892 at Codsall, and studied at the Wolverhampton School of Art under Robert Emerson. He later studied at the Royal College of Art. Examples of his work can be seen on many London buildings including the Bank of England, India House and South Africa House. He also sculpted the statue of Lady Wulfruna which stands outside St. Peter's Church in Wolverhampton.





**Commemorating:**

William Wood, Ironmaster

**Sponsored by:**

The Polytechnic Wolverhampton

**Location:**

On the front of the University in Wulfruna Street

William Wood was born on 31st July 1671. He became an ironmaster and owned several copper and iron works in the west of England. He also had the lease for a number of mines that were on Crown property. He lived in the Deanery from 1692 to 1713, where he laid out a walled fruit garden. He supplied coinage to America and Ireland where he was perceived as an example of British imperialism. His effigy was hanged in the streets of Dublin. He died in London and was buried in Wolverhampton on 6th August 1730.





## North St., Paternoster Row, Exchange St., St. Peter's Church & the Civic Centre

The view looking down North Street from Queen Square. The building in the distance is the old Town Hall, which is now occupied by the magistrates' courts. It was built in between 1869 and 1871, in the style of a French Chateau. The building was designed by Manchester architect Mr. E. Bates and was constructed by Philip Horsman of Wolverhampton.



### Commemorating:

G. R. Thorne who was the last Liberal Mayor from 1902 to 1903

### Sponsored by:

Richard Whitehouse, Liberal Democratic Mayor, 1993-4

### Location:

North Street, on the side of Reflex pub

Reflex Public House, showing the plaque





**Commemorating:**

Sir Charles Arthur Mander, Second Baronet

**Location:**

North Street, on the front of the Magistrates' Courts

The front of the Magistrates' Courts showing the plaque



**Commemorating:**

Emma Sproson, Wolverhampton's first woman councillor

**Sponsored by:**

Labour Party members

**Location:**

North Street, on the front of the Magistrates' Courts

Emma Sproson was born Emma Lloyd in 1867. She married Frank Sproson in 1896 and had three children. She was a very active member of the Independent Labour Party and of the suffragette movement. She was imprisoned several times. Emma left the party in a split in 1927, stood as an Independent Socialist but lost. Her public career ended and she died as a recluse. The front of the Magistrates' Courts showing the plaque. This was the Town Hall during Emma's time as a councillor.







**Commemorating:**

Arnold Richardson, Borough Organist from 1938 to 1973

**Sponsored by:**

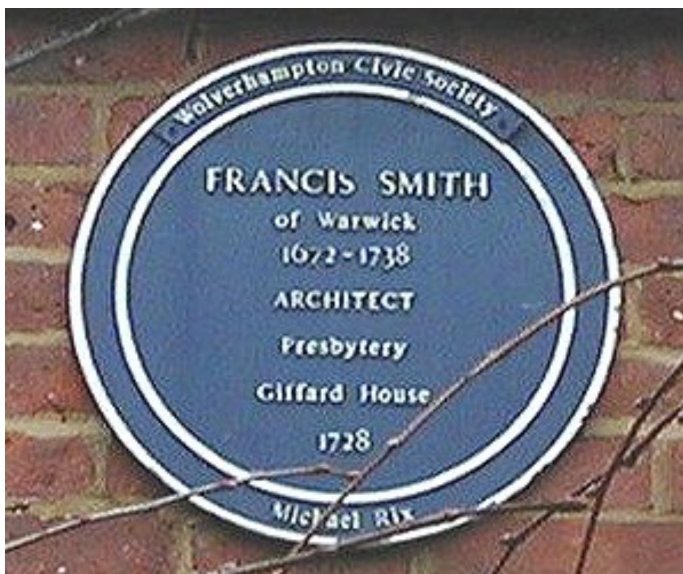
Roy Wheeler

**Location:**

North Street, on the front of the Civic Hall



The Civic Hall, with the plaque on the extreme left



**Commemorating:**

Francis Smith, architect

**Sponsored by:**

Michael Rix

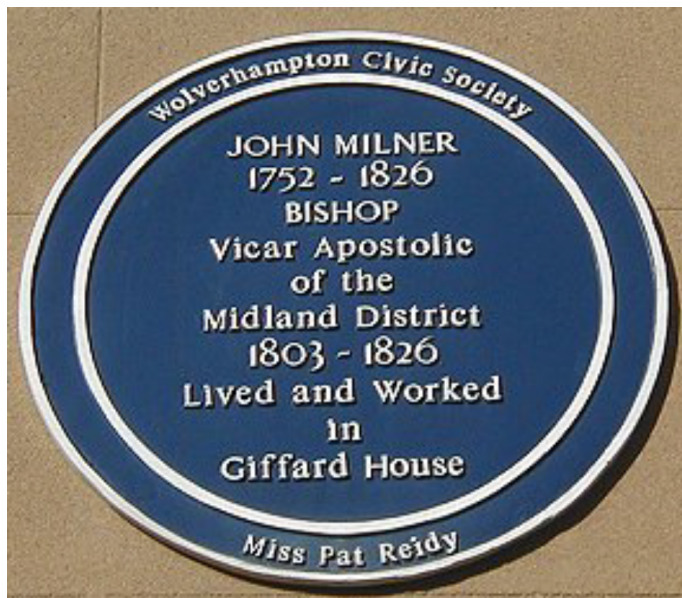
**Location:**

North Street, on the front of Giffard House

Giffard House, showing the plaque above the front door. Peter Giffard of Chillington decided to replace his town house with a larger building which became known as Giffard House. It was built between 1727 and 1734 by William Hollis, and was designed by Warwick architect, Francis Smith, who was doing some work at Chillington at the time. When completed the house and chapel were handed over to the Roman Catholic authorities, who still continue to use it today.







**Commemorating:**

John Milner who was the first Catholic Bishop of Wolverhampton from 1803 to 1826

**Sponsored by:**

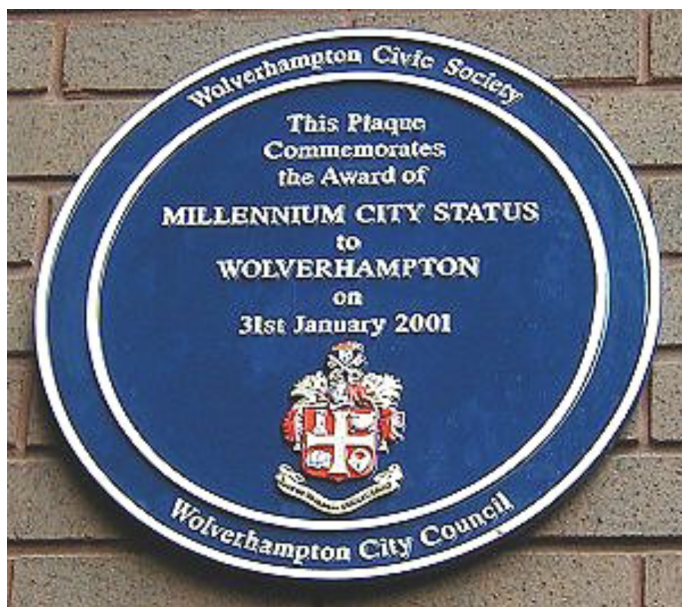
Pat Reidy

**Location:**

Paternoster Row, On the side of the Chapel of St. Peter & St. Paul

Bishop Milner lived at Giffard house from 1803 until his death in 1826. The chapel was originally situated inside the house and was extended in 1813. Bishop Milner decided to build an external chapel and set aside £1,000 for the project. Unfortunately he died before work on the new chapel could begin. He is buried behind the chapel, inside the house.

The photograph shows the plaque on the side of the chapel



**Commemorating:**

The millennium and the achievement of city status

**Sponsored by:**

Wolverhampton City Council

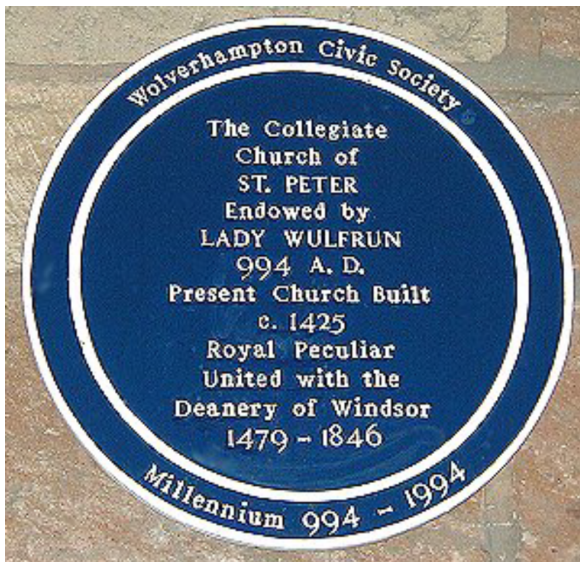
**Location:**

The Civic Centre

The plaque is situated on the left-hand side of the main entrance to the Civic Centre. It was unveiled by the Mayor, Joyce Hill







**Commemorating:**

St. Peter's Church millennium in 1994

**Sponsored by:**

Wolverhampton Civic Society

**Location:**

Inside the porch of St. Peter's Church

In 994 Lady Wulfruna endowed the minister church which was originally dedicated to St. Mary, with extensive land. Just over a century later the church was dedicated to St. Peter & St. Paul, and then to St. Peter alone. The church was served by a college of secular canons and had the status of a Royal free chapel. After the Norman conquest, King William granted the church to his chaplain, Samson of Bayeux. Most of the present church dates from the rebuilding in the mid and late fifteenth century. The Chancel, designed by Ewan Christian was completed in 1865.



St. Peter's Church Porch



**Commemorating:**

Button Gwinnett was Governor of Georgia, and a signatory of the Declaration of Independence

**Sponsored by:**

Daughters of the American Revolution

**Location:**

Exchange Street, on the side of St Peter's House

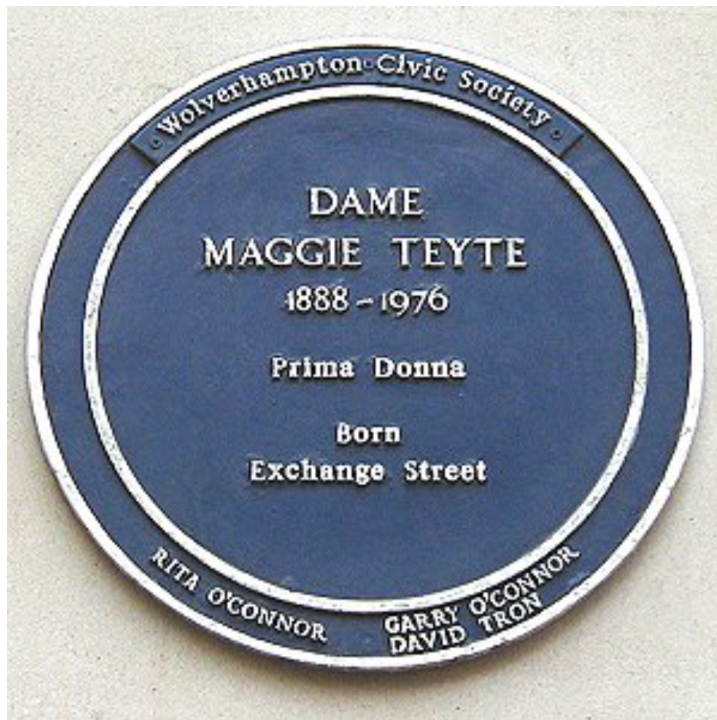
Button Gwinnett, who was a merchant from Bristol, lived in Wolverhampton from 1755 to 1762. He married Anne Bourne in 1757 and moved to America in 1762.

St. Peter's house was built in 1852 by Richard Cope, and was immediately sold to George Cope for £2,000. George was the wine merchant who owned and ran Copes Wine Lodge in Queen Square. The house was purchased by St. Peter's Church in 1974, and the ground floor is used as a tea shop. The Town Centre Team Ministry uses the house for its work with some of the district churches.



St. Peter's House showing the plaque





**Commemorating:**

Dame Maggie Teyte who was an international singer

**Sponsored by:**

Rita and Garry O'Connor, and David Tron

**Location:**

Exchange Street

The plaque is situated on the building that is opposite the old Bird-In-Hand Yard. Dame Maggie Teyte was one of the great opera singers of the 20th Century. Her father owned the Old Still Inn in King Street. She was sent to the Royal College of Music and later studied in Paris under Jean de Reszke. In 1908 she was selected to sing the title role Melisande at the Opera de Commique in Paris. This was the start of a career which was to last for nearly 60 years.



## Princess Street, King Street & Queen Street



**Commemorating:**  
Viking Cycle Company

**Sponsored by:**  
Vic & Karen Davies

**Location:**  
Coral Betting Shop  
34 Princess Street

The Viking Cycle Company was formed in 1908 by Alfred Victor Davies at 5 Wolverhampton Road, Heath Town. Before the turn of the 20th century he worked as a railway clerk in North Wales and was transferred to Wolverhampton. He started earning extra money in his spare time by mending bicycles. He also started the first motorcycle repair shop in Wolverhampton. The railway company found out about his repair business and he was told that he had to give it up or leave the railway. He decided to continue with the business.

It was an uphill struggle but by 1928 the company outgrew the Heath Town premises and moved to larger premises in Broad Street, and in 1934 moved to Midland Chambers at 34 Princess Street, where the betting shop is now. A year later a building was acquired in Princess Alley to house the works, the Princess Street shop becoming the showroom and offices. Around this time Viking started making frames and so changed a bicycle assembler to a manufacturer.

Alfred Davies retired just before the Second World War and was succeeded as Managing Director by his son, Reg Davies.

Reg built the business up from a small undertaking in the 1930s to a large scale manufacturing concern, producing 20,000 cycles a year.

Viking Cycles Limited was formed in 1939 when the company produced about 800 cycles a year, and after the war, production rose to 2000 cycles a year and the company decided to form its own road racing team.

Bob Thom joined the company as a player-manager for Viking's first lightweight cycle team and Reg Davies designed a couple of lightweight machines.

The Viking road racers were introduced in 1948. Bob Thom was a brilliant racing cyclist who led the team to many victories.

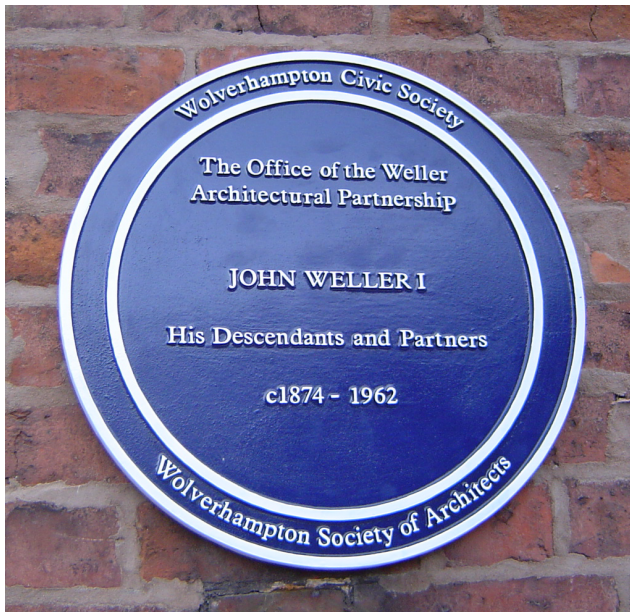
In the mid 1960s, there was a recession in the club-cycling part of the business and dealer's sales were falling. In 1967 production ended and the company closed.

It was purchased by two Americans who started it up again in Londonderry.

Viking Cycles still exists in Northern Ireland today, but as a bicycle assembler, assembling cycles from brought-in spares.







**Commemorating:**

The Weller Architectural Partnership

**Sponsored by:**

Wolverhampton Society of Architects

**Location:**

15 King Street

Originally from south-east England, John Weller I (1798-1869) worked at Himley Hall for the Earl of Dudley's architect William Atkinson; the Himley lodge beside the A449 is probably his work. In 1827 he married Mary Johnson, eldest daughter of the Earl's gamekeeper. In 1835, he moved to Compton, then Merridale, becoming engineer of the Staffordshire and Worcester Canal Company; his work involved various canalside buildings and houses, which may have included Fair View Villas, Merridale (now 9-12 Merridale Lane). He retired there, dying at No. 4 (9 Merridale Lane).

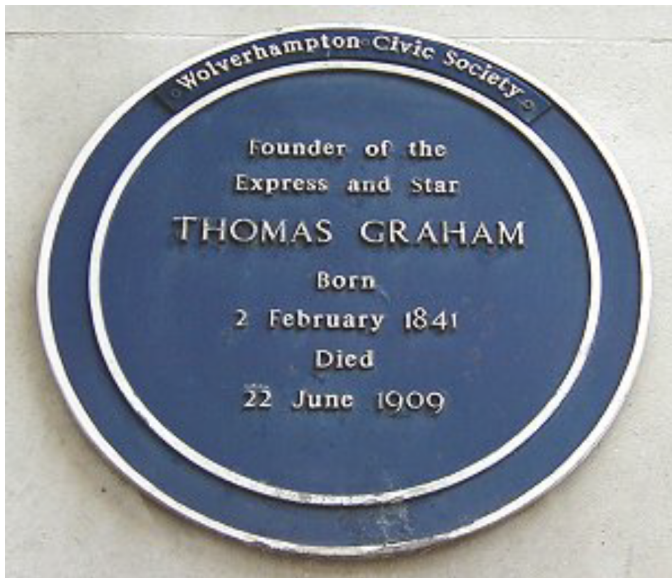
His son John Weller II (1830-1905) consolidated his father's work by founding the architectural practice that was to be housed at 15 King Street. He took articles under Edward Banks, and in 1855 was junior partner to William Darby Griffin, the practice called "Griffin and Weller". A work of this time is St. Philip, Penn fields (1957-1860), probably designed by Griffin. In 1859. In 1871 he began a professional relationship with John Frederick Proud, with Proud initially as pupil, then partner - 4 drawings in the name "Weller and Proud" survive; both lived at Fair View Villas. In 1872, Weller married Mary Harrison, daughter of a former mayor of Dudley. In the 1880s, Weller was involved with the Parkdale estate, north of Tettenhall Road, designing three large residences. A nearby surviving Weller building is Nos. 100/102 Tettenhall Road, next to St. Jude's (he currently lived opposite, at 187). John Weller II had a long association with the Wolverhampton & District Permanent Building Society. He designed their premises at 41 Lichfield Street (1892). John Weller II was a founder member of the Wolverhampton & District Architect's Association (predecessor of the plaque's Sponsor). On his death, he was buried at St. Michael's, Tettenhall.

John Weller II's sons were John Harrison Weller [John Weller III (1874-1919)] and William Johnson Harrison Weller (1877-1960); both were members of the Architect's Association. William was an architect in the Arts & Crafts tradition, of national importance. At first, he completed work of his father's, but with his design (1903) for a village hall for Burnhill Green, a thoroughly Arts & Crafts domestic language replaced the late-Victorian manner of *Longfield* for his own occupation. The house is a *tour de force* of Arts & Crafts design. He used the familiar Edwardian "butterfly" plan for his 1914 house for J.H.Brain; it is now the club house of Hell's Angels. On Weller's death in 1960, he was buried in the grave - beside Griffin & Weller's St. Philip's, Penn - whose stone he had designed for his first wife Mary (died 1919).

The children of W.J.H.Weller (by his second marriage) both trained as architects. Brian Weller [John Weller IV] (1930-) left Wolverhampton to practice privately, moving to Suffolk in 1964. Ruth Weller (1926-) went to London, marrying architect Reginald Silvester (1920-2006); later they returned to Wolverhampton, to re-start the family practice, which was now called "John Weller & Silvester". In the early 1960s, 15 King Street was bought by compulsory purchase (for road-widening demolition, which fortunately did not take place), but the practice survived until about 1990.



John Weller IV - Brian Weller (seated) unveiling the plaque in King Street, with members of the Society of Architects and the Civic Society



**Commemorating:**

Thomas Graham who founded the Express & Star

**Sponsored by:**

Express & Star

**Location:**

On the right-hand side of the Express & Star building in Queen Street

Thomas Graham, who was a weaver from Dunfermline, and his family, moved to Wolverhampton after automation had hit the local weaving industry. At the age of 21 he purchased a bacon curing business in Wolverhampton and soon became a magistrate and a member of the town council. His ambition was to run a newspaper. He was a fervent Liberal and was dissatisfied with the Conservative views of the Evening Express which was the only Wolverhampton newspaper of the day. One day in the 1860's, Thomas travelled by train to London and met Andrew Carnegie, the American steel tycoon. He was also from Dunfermline and the pair became life long friends. On 28th June, 1880, the Evening Star newspaper was launched by some of Thomas's Liberal friends. It cost a halfpenny and consisted of just four pages. In 1882 Thomas persuaded his friend Carnegie to buy the newspaper and it was soon a big success, selling 10,000 copies a day. In 1883 the Midland News Association was formed with Thomas on the board. In 1884 the Star brought the Express and the two newspapers soon merged as the Evening Express & Star. In 1889 the word Evening was dropped and the newspaper became the Express & Star. Carnegie eventually pulled out of the newspaper, giving the power of attorney for his interest to Thomas, who could now outvote the other members of the board. He soon paid them off and became sole proprietor of the Express & Star. This only lasted for a short while as he died in 1909 after a long illness.







**Commemorating:**

R. J. Emerson, art teacher and sculptor

**Sponsored by:**

Express & Star

**Location:**

On the left-hand side of the Express & Star building in Queen Street

The plaque is on the far left of the photograph



**Commemorating:**

The first meeting of Wolverhampton Council on 22nd May 1848

**Sponsored by:**

Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council

**Location:**

On the front of the Walkabout public house in Queen Street

The first municipal elections took place in the town on 12th May 1848. There were eight wards which roughly reflected the parish boundaries. The council consisted of 36 councillors and 12 aldermen. The council's first home was the Assembly Rooms in Queen Street, which later became the County Court. The council later moved to premises in Garrick Street, and eventually to the Red Lion Hotel in North Street. The council purchased the hotel and adapted it for council use. Eventually the adjoining properties were purchased and the buildings were demolished to make way for the town's first town hall.





**Commemorating:**

George Wallis, industrial design artist

**Sponsored by:**

Tarmac P.L.C.

**Location:**

On the front of the Armed Forces Careers building in Queen Street. The plaque can be seen by the right-hand door of the building, formerly the Mechanic's Institute which opened in 1836

Wallis was born in Wolverhampton in 1811 and was brought up by his uncle and aunt on the early death of his parents. He was deaf. He attended the grammar school. He soon became an artist, employed by Ryton and Walton at Turton Hall to paint the decorative centres of the best japanned ware; and he taught art. He promoted one of the country's first Industrial Arts exhibitions, which he put on in this building. He was then appointed art master of the School of Design in Manchester and then of that in Birmingham. He was then appointed Keeper of Art Treasures at the South Kensington Museum (the V & A). He was a Deputy Commissioner of the Great Exhibition of 1851. Throughout his career he was "ever ready to help the good old town and forward its interests".



George Wallis, from the portrait in Jones's Historical Sketch of the Literary Institutions of Wolverhampton.







**Commemorating:**

Edward James Meynell, manufacturer

**Sponsored by:**

Hugh Meynell

**Location:**

32a Queen Street

Meynell's were founded in 1798 and have been in existence ever since. Their principal business was brass founding and they always specialised in what would now be called fluid control. They produced a very wide range of goods, from taps to chandeliers, but now are famous for controls for showers. They were a family firm - between 1798 and 1988 six generations of Meynells were with the firm. The company came into the hands of Kohler Mira who, in June 2005, announced that they were transferring production to Germany, China and Cheltenham and that the works would close by April 2006.



The plaque is to be found on the front of Kevin Fisher's Chiropodist shop in Queen Street

## Garrick Street, Old Hall Street & St. George's Parade



The plaque on the front of the library, which was completed in 1902 and built by Henry Willcock & Co. of Wolverhampton.

**Commemorating:**

H. T. Hare, architect

**Sponsored by:**

Wolverhampton Society of Architects

**Location:**

Central Library, Snow Hill



**Commemorating:**

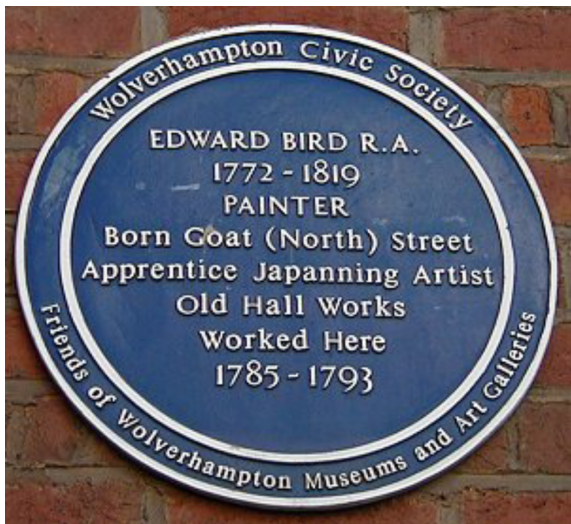
Edward Bird, painter

**Sponsored by:**

Friends of the Wolverhampton Museums and Art Galleries

**Location:**

On the side of the Central Library in Old Hall Street



The plaque on the side of the Central Library on the corner of Old Hall Street and Garrick Street







**Commemorating:**  
The Leveson Family's Great Hall

**Sponsored by:**  
Richard Wisker

**Location:**  
On the front of the Adult Education Centre in Old Hall Street

The Leveson family were wool merchants who were extremely successful in the local wool trade. They started their business in about 1430 and in the early 16th century James Leveson became the largest landholder in the area. James lived at High Hall which was on the south side of the market square or Queen Square as it is now known. In 1560 the family built, or possibly rebuilt the Great Hall for their new home. It was a moated Elizabethan manor house and was situated on the site of the present Adult Education Centre. By the early 19th century, the Great Hall, or Old Hall as it was then called had become a japanning factory. It was demolished in 1883.



**Commemorating:**  
H.D. Hughes MA (1914-1995)

**Sponsored by:**  
Wolverhampton Branch  
Workers' Educational Association

**Location:**  
Old Hall Street

H.D. (Billy) Hughes (1914-1995)  
M.P. Wolverhampton West 1945-1950.  
Educated in Derbyshire, Billy Hughes acquired a history degree at Oxford University. There he became active in Labour party politics and became chairman of the Oxford University Labour Party in 1935. He was elected as a Labour councillor in Lambeth, and was nominated as Labour candidate for Wolverhampton West and elected in July 1945. He served in the Commons as parliamentary private secretary to Ellen Wilkinson, Minister of Education, working on the 1944 Education Act.  
He lost his redistributed constituency to Enoch Powell in 1950 and was appointed Principal of Ruskin College, Oxford until 1975. He became President of the Workers' Educational Association, actively involved in the growth of Adult Education.





**Commemorating:**  
St. George's Church

**Sponsored by:**  
J. Sainsbury P.L.C.

**Location:**  
Entrance to Sainsbury's supermarket in  
St. George's Parade

Work on the church started in 1828, but there is some doubt as to the true identity of the architect. It is thought that the architect was probably James Morgan who was a Welshman and an assistant, and later a partner of the famous John Nash. The church was built of brick and encased in Tixall stone. The design incorporated a west tower, a nave with north and south aisles and a short chancel. The tower and spire bear some remarkable similarities in detail to Nash's work at All Souls in Langham Place. The building cost approximately £10,000 and was consecrated on 26th August 1830.



The church has had a chequered history. In 1849 the churchyard had to accommodate the many victims of the 1849 cholera epidemic. The victim's bodies were piled into mass graves which soon covered much of the churchyard. It was closed for burial in 1851, and after closure it was stated that because no records were kept of the early burials the sexton had used a borer to find empty spaces. In 1898 the burial ground was landscaped as public gardens. In the 1970's there were only a handful of parishioners and the church closed in 1978. After many years of dereliction the church and grounds were purchased by Sainsbury's and became a supermarket. The store opened in January 1988.



## Plaques in the North East

### Commemorating

Guy Motors 1914-1982

S.H.Sheldon

Dr C.A. MacMunn

### Location

Park Lane, Bushbury

Inside New Cross Hospital

Inside the Medical Institute,  
New Cross Hospital



## Park Lane



**Commemorating:**  
Sydney S. Guy

**Sponsored by:**  
The Guy Family and The Guy Owners Club

**Location:**  
Park Lane

In 1913 Sydney S. Guy resigned from his position of Works Manager at the Sunbeam Motor Company to set up his own business. Guy Motors was formed in 1914 and a factory was built at Fallings Park which opened in May 1914. The first vehicle produced was a 30 cwt lorry employing a light pressed steel frame, patented 3 point suspension, and a governor to automatically control the speed. During the first world war production was taken over by the Ministry of Munitions, and large numbers of vehicles were produced for military use. Guy also became the largest UK manufacturer of depth charge firing mechanisms.

Over the years the company has produced large numbers of trucks and lorries, and for a short while built cars. The company's first bus was built in 1924 and soon large numbers of buses were made here. In 1948, Guy purchased the Sunbeam Trolley Bus Company Limited and became the country's largest trolley bus manufacturer. In the early 1950's Guy started to produce heavy goods vehicles, but in 1959 the company ran into trouble with its 'Wulfrunian' bus, which was suffering from a number of mechanical problems. In October 1961 the company went into receivership, was purchased by Jaguar Cars, and renamed Guy Motors (Europe) Ltd. In 1966 Jaguar Cars became part of the British Motor Corporation, and production continued at Fallings Park as normal. By 1970 sales were falling due to increased competition. Guy started to assemble Scammell tractor units, but production ceased in 1978, and within a few years the works were demolished. Sydney Guy retired in 1967 and died in 1972.





## New Cross Hospital



**Commemorating:**

J.H. Sheldon

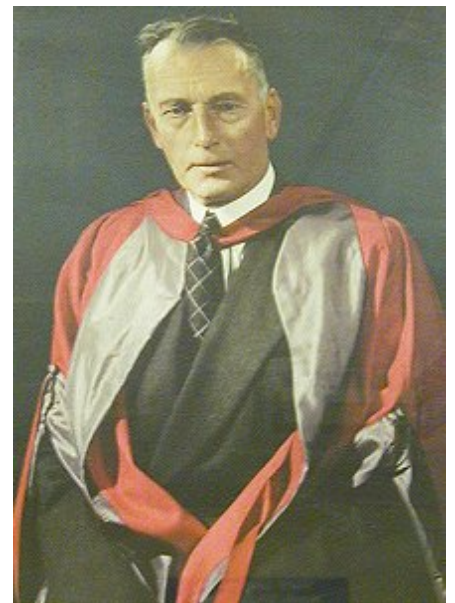
**Sponsored by:**

The Royal Hospital Medical Committee

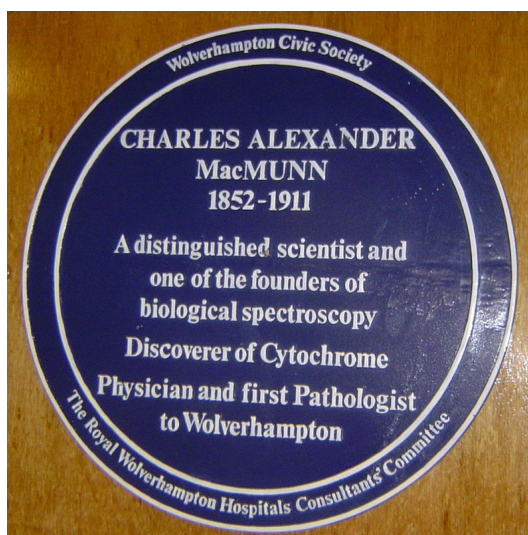
**Location:**

In the main corridor in the Sheldon Building, New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton Road

Joseph Harold Sheldon came to Wolverhampton as an honorary physician in 1921, having already won several prizes and scholarships. His two brothers were also doctors, one a physician to the Queen and the other a G.P. Joseph became Hunterian Professor to the Royal College of Surgeons in 1928, and 7 years later published his classic work on haemochromatosis. Thoughtful of his patients, he carried out patient clinics on market days, seeing up to 45 new out-patients in a morning. He was elected President of the International Association of Gerontology in 1954, awarded the CBE on 1955 and made a freeman of Wolverhampton in 1958.



The plaque is located in the Sheldon Building, at the side of the picture above.



### Commemorating:

Dr Charles A MacMunn

### Sponsored by:

The Royal Hospitals' Consultants Committee

### Location:

Reception area at the Medical Institute, New Cross Hospital

## CHARLES ALEXANDER MACMUNN 1852-1911

Dr Charles Alexander MacMunn was the first to describe the respiratory pigment now known as Cytochrome, which is present in all living cells. It was one of the most significant discoveries made by an Irish doctor.

Born in Co. Sligo on 11th April 1852, the son of James MacMunn MD, he showed early interest in natural sciences. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, graduating B.A. with honours in 1871, M.B. in 1872 and M.D. in 1875. Whilst at Trinity College he came under the influence of one of his teachers, Professor William Stokes. Stokes also had an interest in spectroscopy and biological pigments.

MacMunn moved to Wolverhampton in 1873 to work at his elderly cousin's medical practice. He took over the practice when his cousin died later that year, marrying his cousin's daughter in 1874. He was appointed Honorary Pathologist and Physician to the General Hospital, Wolverhampton, in 1889. He was also

appointed Physician to the Royal Orphanage, Wolverhampton; Life Governor of the University of Birmingham; Fellow of the Microscopical Society, and of the Chemical Society; Lieutenant Colonel and Medical Officer to the Staffordshire Voluntary Infantry Brigade. His military career took him to South Africa and he was appointed Staff-Officer to the Royal Hospitals Commission by Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, during the Boer War. He was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Queens South Africa Medal with three clasps.

Despite a full life, medical practice and hospital commitments he found time to devote much of his energy to scientific research. He had the loft of his stable converted to a laboratory where he could carry out work on his spectroscope. In 1880 he published a monograph 'The Spectroscope in Medicine'. He published numerous works on microscopy, spectroscopy and the identification of pigments. It is his discovery that the absorption of Oxygen and the production of CO<sub>2</sub> occurred in tissues rather than in the blood lead to the discovery of the cellular pigments he called Myo-haematin, now renamed Cytochrome. Unfortunately serious criticism of his work lead to it being discredited and MacMunn failed to receive the credit he deserved. Later work by David Keilin, using similar equipment in 1925, vindicated MacMunn's work. So 40 years after his discovery and 14 years after his death MacMunn eventually received the recognition he was due.

He married, as his second wife, the sister of Captain Webb, the swimmer. He retired from active hospital work and resigned his military position on 1909. Ill health sadly lead to his death on 18th February 1911. He was given a military funeral, his coffin borne on a gun carriage through the town, with a military escort.

The book 'Masters of Medicine' has this entry:

*"MacMunn's work on the cytochrome system must rank as one of the most significant and fundamental discoveries made by an Irish doctor, yet he has received little recognition for his achievements."*



(Transcript of Tribute under the Plaque at the Medical Institute - author unknown)



# Plaques in the South East

## Commemorating

## Location

Ernest F.G. Cox

Blakenhall Community Centre, Dudley Road

Fighting Cocks

Corner of Goldthorn Hill & Dudley Road

Edward Lisle 1852-1921

Moxley Foundry, Frederick Street

Sunbeam Cars 1899-1935

Timken building, Upper Villiers Street

Sunbeam Experimental Department

Sunbeam Studios, Sunbeam Street

Gwen Berryman 1906-1983

123 Goldthorn Hill

Briton Motor Co, 1909-1929

Stewart Street

Briton Motor Co, 1909-1929

Back of works in Lower Horseley Fields

Briton Motor Co, 1909-1929

Lower Walsall Street

C Forder Ltd

Dixon's building, Cleveland Road

John Freeman 1853-1944

Former Town Hall, Lichfield Street, Bilston

Sir Henry Newbolt

Barclays Bank, Lichfield Street, Bilston

Alderman H Beach JP 1874-1953

56 High Street, Bilston



## Dudley Road, Frederick Street, Upper Villiers Street, Sunbeam Street, Goldthorn Hill, Stewart Street



**Commemorating:**

Ernest F.G. Cox

**Sponsored by:**

The Historical Diving Society

**Location:**

On the front of the Blakenhall Community Centre, Dudley Road



Ernest Cox was responsible for finding many of the ships from the German High Seas Fleet, that were scuttled in Scapa Flow on 17th June 1919. The total weight of the ships that were sunk was over 400,000 tons. The largest salvage operation in history was soon underway and the first ship was salvaged in 1924.



**Commemorating:**

The Fighting Cocks

**Sponsored by:**

Goldthorn Park and District Residents Association

**Location:**

On the corner of Goldthorn Hill and Dudley Road

The plaque commemorates the area which is known locally as the 'Fighting Cocks'. It was named after the now thankfully outlawed sport of cock fighting. There was a popular public house on the opposite side of Goldthorn Hill, which was also called the 'Fighting Cocks'. It was on the site of the Aldi Supermarket.







**Commemorating:**  
Edward Lisle

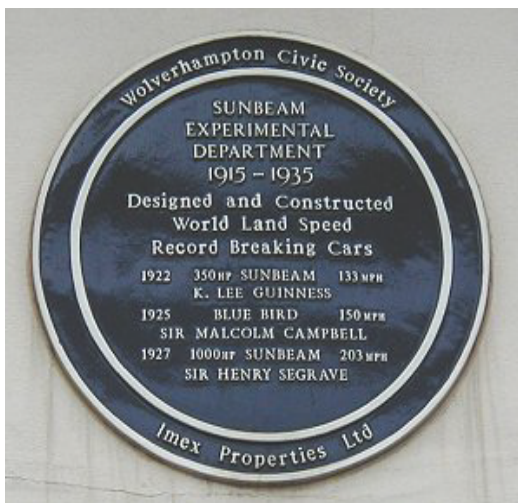
**Sponsored by:**  
The Lisle Family

**Location:**  
The old Moxley Foundry at the bottom of Frederick Street

Edward Lisle, the son of a railway worker, started manufacturing bicycles in 1869, at Moorfields. In 1876 he joined Mr. Sharratt and formed Sharratt and Lisle. In 1896 the Star Cycle Company was formed, and Edward collaborated with Thomas Parker to produce the 'Electric Dog Cart', an early electric car. The first Star car was built in 1897 and appeared in 1898. In 1909 the company changed its name to the Star Engineering Company, and set up the Briton Motor Company to produce the cheaper models.



Moxley Foundry, showing the plaque



**Commemorating:**  
Sunbeam Experimental Department

**Sponsored by:**  
Imex Properties Limited

**Location:**  
Over the entrance to Sunbeam Studios in Sunbeam Street

In 1909 Louis Coatalen joined Sunbeam as chief engineer. He set up a competition department and Sunbeam began making attempts on the world land speed record. The first success was in 1922 when K. Lee Guinness clocked 133.75m.p.h. at Brooklands. In 1925 Malcolm Campbell pushed the record to 150.87m.p.h. The 1000h.p. Sunbeam was the first car to exceed 200m.p.h. at Daytona Beach in America, on 29th March 1927. It was driven by Henry Seagrave and reached a speed of 203m.p.h. Major Seagrave received a Knighthood for the achievement.



The old Sunbeam Experimental Department in Sunbeam Street.





**Commemorating:**  
Sunbeam Cars

**Sponsored by:**  
The Torrington Company Limited

**Location:**  
The Timken building in  
Upper Villiers Street

The company was founded by John Marston. The first car was built in 1899 and shown to the public in 1900. Another car was built in 1901 and in the same year the Sunbeam Mabley was born. In March 1905 the Sunbeam Motor Car Co. Ltd was formed at Moorfield Works, off Villiers Street, with John Marston as Chairman. There were also satellite factories at Owen Road, Temple Street, and Ablow Street, where amongst other components car radiators were made. The group came under the control of Rootes Securities in 1935, and soon car production in Wolverhampton ended



**Commemorating:**  
Gwen Berryman

**Sponsored by:**  
The BBC, Pebble Mill, Birmingham

**Location:**  
123 Goldthorn Hill

Gwen Berryman, who lived in the house, played Doris Archer in the BBC's long running Archers programme, from 1951 to 1980.







**Commemorating:**  
Briton Motor Company Limited

**Sponsored and Erected by:**  
Charles Weight

**Location:**  
Stewart Street

Car manufacturer, Edward Lisle ran the Star Engineering Company. In 1909 the company phased out its cheaper models and set up a new company to produce them under a different name. The new company, called the Briton Motor Company was under the direction of Edward Lisle Junior. It continued to use Star's Stewart Street premises and its workforce. In 1913 the company moved to new works in Lower Walsall Street. After the first world war the company found itself in deep financial trouble due to increased competition. Sales fell, and in 1921 the company went into liquidation.



## Horseley Fields & Lower Walsall Street



An identical plaque has been erected by Charles Weight, on the front of the works in Lower Walsall Street, and another in Stewart Street.

**Commemorating:**  
Briton Motor Company Limited

**Sponsored by:**  
Charles Weight

**Location:**  
On the rear of Lower Walsall Street Works, in Lower Horseley Fields



Lower Walsall Street works are still there today and are now occupied by Sinclair Collis

New works were built on the site and the company moved there in 1913. During the first world war the company was occupied with war work, but after the war Morris and Austin started mass production, and Briton found itself in deep financial trouble. Sales fell, and in 1921 receivers were appointed. The company went into liquidation and the works was sold to A.J.S.

Car manufacturer, Edward Lisle ran the Star Engineering Company. In 1909 the company phased out the Starling and Stuart models, and set up a new company, the Briton Motor Company to produce their cheaper products. The new company was under the direction of Edward Lisle Junior. It continued to use Star's Stewart Street premises, taking over the labour force there. The company was quite successful and in 1912 purchased six acres of land alongside the LNWR railway line in Lower Walsall Street.



The plaque is on the side of the building that is occupied by Mercia Paper Limited



## Cleveland Road, Lichfield Street & High Street (Bilston)

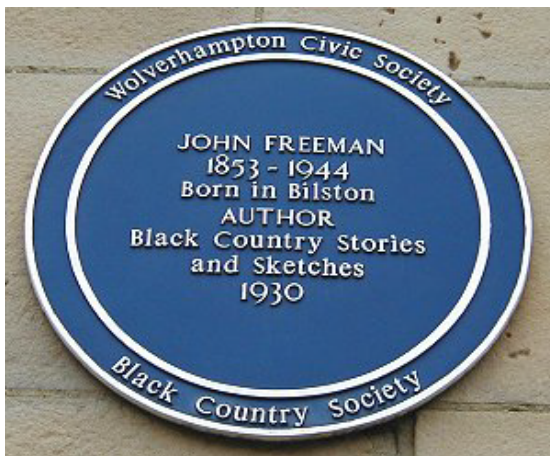


**Commemorating:**  
Forder & Company Limited

**Sponsored by:**  
S.J. Dixon & Son Limited

**Location:**  
Dixon's Building, Cleveland Road

Forder carriage builders was founded in 1864 by Frederick Forder and a Mr. Traves, and had premises on the corner of Garrick Street and Bilston Street. Traves retired from the business in 1866, which then became known as Forder and Company. They were very successful and specialised in making hansom cabs for the London market. In 1880, they acquired the Tudor works in Cleveland Road to provide much needed increased floor space. Only three years after the 1882 opening, plans were drawn up for further expansion. The new extension forms the present Dixon's building. It has not been established when the new extension was first used, but Forder's occupation did not last long. In 1893 the company was in financial difficulties and on 1st December the building was sold to Thomas Reade.



**Commemorating:**  
John Freeman, author

**Sponsored by:**  
The Black Country Society

**Location:**  
The former Bilston Town Hall,  
Lichfield Street, Bilston

The photograph shows the former Town Hall.  
The plaque can be seen on the front of the  
building





**Commemorating:**

Sir Henry Newbolt, poet

**Sponsored by:**

Wolverhampton M.B.C.

**Location:**

On the side of Barclays Bank,  
Lichfield Street, Bilston

Henry Newbolt was born in Bilston. His father was vicar of St. Mary's Church, but died when Henry was only 4 years old. The family then moved to Walsall and at the age of 10 Henry was sent to a boarding school in Lincolnshire, from where he won a scholarship to Clifton College. He later went to Corpus Christi College, Oxford and began a legal career, practising at the Chancery Bar from 1887 to 1889.



He became well known in literary circles and is probably best remembered for his sea songs, Admirals All, which includes Drake's Drum ("Drake he's in his hammock and a thousand miles away"); and Vitai Lampada ("There's a breathless hush in the close tonight ... Play up! play up! and play the game!"). He was knighted in 1915.





**Commemorating:**  
Alderman Herbert Beach JP

**Sponsored by:**  
Jim Hewitson

**Location:**  
56 High Street, Bilston

First Mayor of Bilston 1933 After being controlled by the U.D.C. for 39 years Bilston was granted a Charter of Incorporation in 1933. The Charter was presented by the Earl of Harrowby (Lord Lieutenant of the County) on September 18th 1933. The ceremony was held in Hickman Park and Councillor Herbert Beach had the distinction of becoming the Borough's Charter and first Mayor. Over the years Bilston's councillors took pride in the good and well being of the townspeople and its first considerations were housing and provision of amenities for residents.

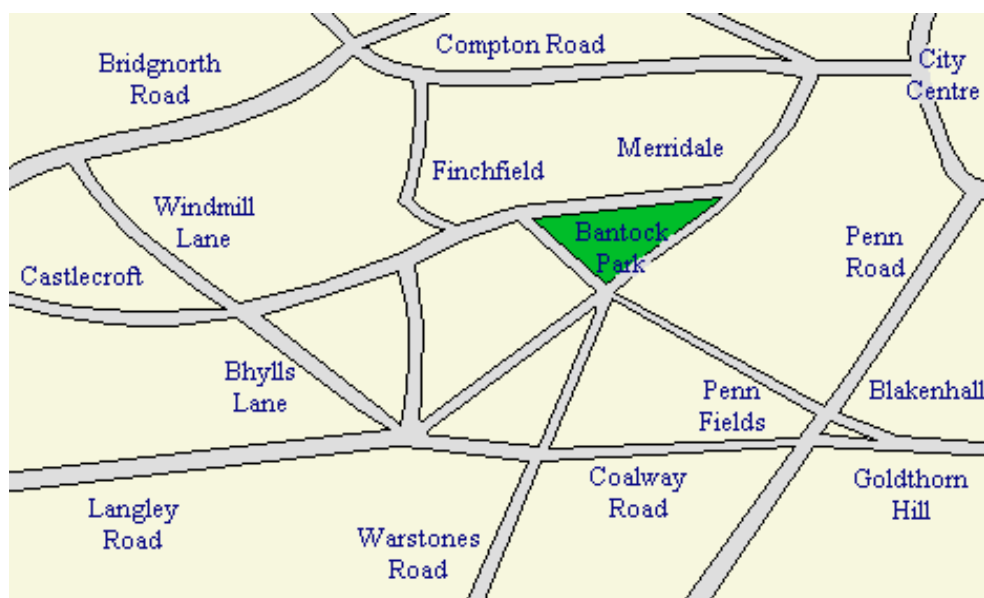


# Plaques in the South West

## Commemorating

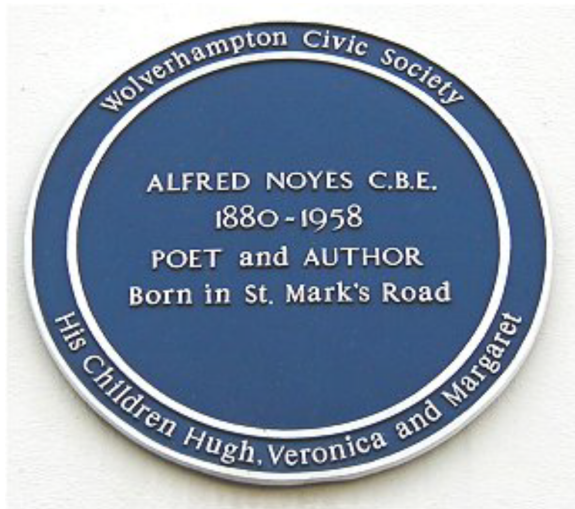
## Location

Alfred Noyes	St Mark's Road
John Marston & Sir Charles Marston	The Oaks, Merridale Road
Old Merridale Farm restoration.	Old Merridale Farm, Merridale Lane
Bantock House	Bantock Park
Rev Brian S O'Gorman	Beckminster Church, Birches Barn Road
Major Kenneth Hutchinson Smith	Castlecroft Gardens
Compton Hall, Compton Hospice and Compton Wallpaper	Compton Hospice, Compton Road
Merridale House	124 Compton Road
Clyno Cars	Pelham Street
Norman Craven Brook P.C. G.C.B. K.C.B. C.B.	104 Richmond Road
A J S Motor Cycles	Graiseley Hill
A J S Motor Cycles	Retreat Street
Sunbeam Bicycles & Motor Cycles	Paul Street
John Rollings	Quality Hotel, Penn Road
Evelyn Underhill	131 Penn Road
Louis Coatalen	Bromley House, Penn Road
J P Kemble	Park Hall Hotel





## St. Mark's Road, Merridale Lane, Merridale Road, Bantock Park, Birches Barn Road, Castlecroft Gardens



### Commemorating:

Alfred Noyes C.B.E.

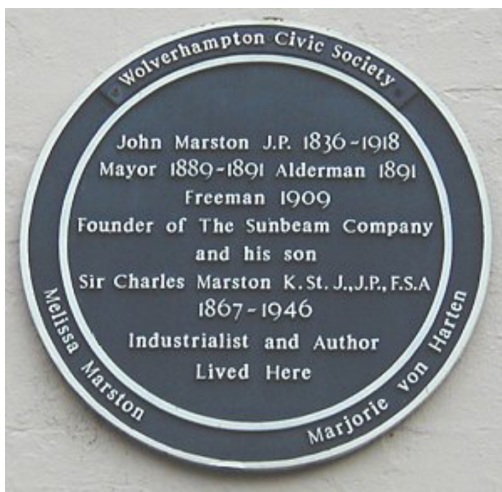
### Sponsored by:

His children Hugh, Veronica and Margaret

### Location:

On the front of the Co Operative Funeral Services, St. Mark's Road

Alfred Noyes was born in Wolverhampton on 16th September 1880. The family moved to Aberystwyth where his father became a teacher. He went to Exeter College, Oxford, but failed to take his degree. His first volume of poems, *The Loom of Years* was published in 1902. He joined the Roman Catholic Church in 1927 and published a book called *The Unknown God* in 1934. His autobiography *Two World's For Money* was published in 1953. He died on 25th June 1958.



### Commemorating:

John & Sir Charles Marston

### Sponsored by:

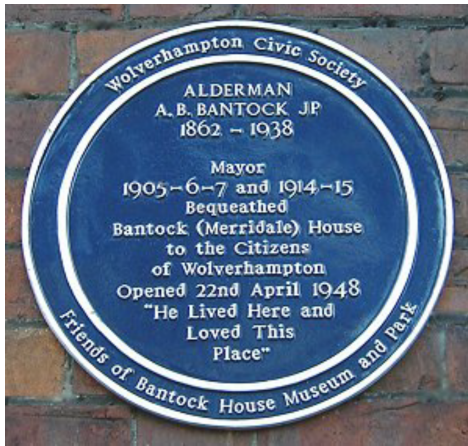
Melissa Marston and Marjorie von Harten

### Location:

On the front of 'The Oaks', Merridale Road

John was born at Ludlow on May 6th 1836. In 1851 he became an apprentice with Edward Perry of Richard Perry, Son & Co., tinsmiths and japanners of Wolverhampton. He later founded Sunbeamland in Paul Street, and went on to manufacture the successful Sunbeam bicycles and motorcycles. John was Mayor of Wolverhampton from 1889 to 1891 and his son Charles was an enthusiastic archaeologist who received a Knighthood in 1926.





**Commemorating:**

Alderman A.B. Bantock J.P.

**Sponsored by:**

Friends of Bantock House Museum and Park

**Location:**

On the front of Bantock House Museum,  
Finchfield Road

Alderman A. Baldwin Bantock was mayor of Wolverhampton from 1905 to 1907 and 1914 to 1915. Amongst his many public duties, he joined the Board of the Wolverhampton and Midland Counties Eye Infirmary in 1892, and was elected Chairman in 1910. He was also a freeman of the County Borough of Wolverhampton. On his death in 1938, he left his house to the town.



**Commemorating:**

The restoration of Old Merridale Farm

**Sponsored by:**

C.J. Sedgemore and H.J. Sedgemore

**Location:**

On the front of Old Merridale Farm, on the  
corner of Merridale Lane and Merridale Road

The plaque commemorates an excellent restoration of what has proved to be Wolverhampton's oldest building. Before work commenced the building had been derelict for some time and was in a very poor condition. Its future was uncertain. During the restoration sandstone walls and foundations were uncovered, which date back to the 12th century.







**Commemorating:**

The Rev. Brian S. O'Gorman, preacher

**Sponsored by:**

The Methodist Church Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District

**Location:**

On the front of Beckminster Church, on the corner of Birches Barn Road and St. Phillip's Avenue

The church tower showing the plaque.





**Commemorating:**

Major Kenneth Hutchinson Smith

**Sponsored by:**

Castlecroft Gardens Residents' Association

**Location:**

Castlecroft Gardens

Smith was a Canadian who came to this country in 1915 with the Canadian armed forces. He married an English girl and stayed. He had spent some time with the Royal Engineers and this seems to have been his only qualification for setting up as a builder and designer of houses.

For some reason he got it into his head that houses should be designed and built in the old fashioned way, with traditional craftsmanship. For this purpose he gathered together bricklayers who could and would work with reclaimed bricks and lime mortar, wood carvers, and carpenters who would work without modern tools. He went one considerable step further: where possible he would use old timbers to build timber framed houses, with old bricks and stones. He quarried these materials from wherever he could: bits left over from when Bradley Hall was removed from Kingswinford to Stratford, large parts of Lymore Hall, Montgomery, stone from Montgomery Castle, timbers from the New Ship Inn, Shrewsbury and so on.

In two cases Smith undertook the wholesale removal of complete buildings. The Buttermarket, Shifnal, was re-erected as No. 3 Castlecroft Gardens (Smith being sufficiently obstinate in his views of restoration as to refuse to install a kitchen in the restored house). And Greybeams, Castlecroft Gardens, a former seventeenth century Pattingham cottage was set up in the Gardens as the



The former Shifnal Buttermarket



wing of an otherwise modern structured building. Not all of his houses were so closely modelled on medieval exemplars - for example, some of them have no external beams at all.

Smith seems to have had a romantic notion that not only could one build medieval houses but also a medieval village to contain them. He seems to have started with some sort of village (or estate) scheme in Finchfield Gardens, but he appears to have abandoned this for his major effort and major memorial, Castlecroft Gardens. He seems to have thought of this estate as some kind of resurrected medieval village, complete with a village green and maypole; but the village

green was at one end, not in the middle, and this medieval village also had a tennis court.

But his methods were so expensive that the houses sold badly; and when he compromised his ancient principles and designed more modern houses, these sold even more badly. The outbreak of the Second World War made things worse and Smith's death in 1945, four days before the war's end, put paid to the whole enterprise, except for a couple of buildings which were completed by his foreman.

Smith's activities leave Wolverhampton with several remarkable buildings, Castlecroft Gardens (now a conservation area), parts of Finchfield Gardens and the strange sight of a commercial building from the centre of Shifnal in suburban Wolverhampton.





## Compton Road, Clark Road and Richmond Road



**Commemorating:**  
Compton Hall

**Sponsored by:**  
Dr. G.J.K. Darby

**Location:**  
Compton Hospice, Compton Road

Compton Hall was built between 1840 and 1850 by leading Wolverhampton architect Edward Banks, for Thomas Elwell, who was a hardware merchant. William Morris designed the last of his wallpapers for this house in 1896 and called it "Compton". The Hall was once occupied by Sir John Morris, the Mayor of Wolverhampton who was knighted by Queen Victoria on her visit to Wolverhampton in 1866. The Hall became Compton Hospice in 1982 and was officially opened by the Duchess of Kent, who is the Patron.





**Commemorating:**  
Dr. Percy Marshall Young

**Sponsored by:**  
Wolves Aid, Wolverhampton Wanderers F.C.

**Location:**  
72 Clark Road

Percy Marshall Young, music scholar, editor, organist, composer and teacher, adjudicator, conductor, writer and broadcaster was born in Northwich, Cheshire 17 May 1912. He was Director of Music at Stranmillis Teacher Training College in Belfast from 1934 to 1937; Musical Adviser for Stoke on Trent Local Education Authority 1937-1944; Director of Music, Wolverhampton College of Technology 1944-1966. He married Netta Carson (deceased: three sons, one daughter), and Renée Morris.

Percy Young was educated at Christ's Hospital in Horsham and in 1930 won an organ scholarship to Selwyn College, Cambridge, reading English, History and Music. It was here, under the particular guidance of the Organist of St John's College, Dr Cyril Rootham, that the seeds of his highly successful career were sown.

He was one of the musical world's most venerable elder statesmen, a veritable polymath who, throughout his long career, helped influence, inspire and nurture countless generations of aspiring musicians.

Young published more than 50 books. Among those are biographies of musicians such as George Friedrich Handel (1947), Vaughan Williams (1953), Sir Edward Elgar (1955).

He never spared himself in the service of his beloved Wolverhampton community. He was a member of the local borough council, a school governor and a co-opted delegate on a number of statutory health bodies. A long-standing supporter of Wolverhampton Wanderers FC, he also served as its historian, meticulous as ever, as he charted the club's somewhat roller-coaster fortunes.

In 1985, Birmingham University made him an honorary DMus, and, in 1998, Selwyn College made him an honorary fellow. In later years, he became devoted to the city and cathedral of Lichfield; the first volume of his catalogue of the cathedral's music holdings appeared in 1983. He was active to the last; it was in York, attending a Selwyn College event there, that he suffered the fall that led to his death from pneumonia on 9 May 2004.







**Commemorating:**  
Merridale House

**Sponsored by:**  
Dino Elbakkali , Managing Director of Dino’s Building Limited

**Location:**  
124 Compton Road

Sir Rupert Kettle came to be known as the “Prince of Arbitrators”. A Barrister and county court judge, he spent much of his own time in establishing arbitration as a means of settling industrial disputes, and met with considerable success at it. It was for these efforts he was knighted. He, and Henry Hartley Fowler, Lord Wolverhampton, were the two Wolverhampton Lawyers who achieved the greatest fame on the national scene. He was born in 1817, the last of ten children. His parents ran a glass staining business in Birmingham. These were turbulent times in Birmingham with demonstrations and riots relating to Chartism and the Reform Act. Rupert went to school in Wolverhampton at the Grammar School, which would have distanced him somewhat from the events in Birmingham. But he left school, at the age of fourteen, in 1831, and joined the family firm back in that politically turbulent city.

He returned to Wolverhampton when he was articled to Richard Fryer, a solicitor there. He passed the solicitors’ exams on 15th June 1839 and was admitted a Solicitor. He started to practise in Wolverhampton and did so until 2nd June 1841. During this time he is said to have attended the Birmingham School of Art but in June 1842 Kettle started to study for the bar and was called on the 6th June 1845. He was a member of Middle Temple.

Kettle practised on the Oxford Circuit and must have met with success. On the 5th October 1851 he proposed to Mary Cooke and was accepted. They married on the 18th December 1851 and went to live at 9 Hill Street, Knightsbridge. (It is not clear how long this London house was maintained. It seems that when children came along the couple lived at Merridale House. There is a later reference to the Reform Club being his usual lodgings in London).

He continued as a barrister until 1859. The nature of his practice is not known but his later career and interests suggest that in addition to the usual criminal practice he had some connection with industrial and commercial matters, including mining matters.

In 1859, during the Chancellorship of Lord Campbell, Kettle was appointed as County Court judge on Circuit 23, which included Dudley, Droitwich, Kidderminster, Worcester, Upton-on-Severn, Malvern and Ledbury, Bromyard, Tenbury; this was usually known as the Worcester Circuit. The judge was supposed to hold court at each place on his circuit on at least one day in each month.

There is no information on where Kettle got his particular knowledge of mining. And not giving full reasons for his decisions seems unusually Delphic, even for a county court judge. As to his being the originator of the phrase “a fair day’s pay for a fair day’s work”, no one else seems to have been credited with it and it is quite reasonable that, whether or not Kettle formulated the saying, he could well have given it currency, but in his arbitrations rather than in his county court work.

Sir Rupert Kettle died at Merridale House at 2.15am on Saturday 6th October 1894. His family was there, including one son who was a priest and a son-in-law who was also a priest. He was buried on Tuesday 9th October 1894 in the plot which he had purchased at Wolverhampton Cemetery and in which his wife, who had died ten years before, was already interred. His sons and daughters erected a memorial to their parents in St. Peter’s church. Very oddly, it refers to Lady Kettle and Dame Mary Kettle. And it is considerably more ostentatious than the grave stone Kettle had chosen for himself.





**Commemorating:**  
Clyno Cars

**Sponsored by:**  
Wolverhampton Glass & Windows Limited

**Location:**  
Pelham Works, Pelham Street

Clyno was founded by cousins A. P. Smith and F. W. A Smith in 1909, at Thrapston, Northants. The company manufactured motorcycles using engines produced by the Stevens Motor Manufacturing Company of Pelham Street. On 15th October 1910 the business was transferred from Thrapston to the Steven's old works in Pelham Street.



This photograph shows the Clyno works as they are today. The company also occupied Fort Works on the opposite side of the road. The company was initially very successful, but the motorcycle market collapsed after the first world war. Frank Smith was interested in producing cars and formed the Clyno Engineering Company (1922) Limited.

This photograph shows Clyno cars leaving the works. In its heyday Clyno was the third largest car manufacturer in the UK after Austin and Morris. It's price cutting policy led to financial problems and the company went into liquidation on 11th February 1929. During its lifetime it had sold over 15,000 motorcycles and 40,000 motor vehicles.







**Commemorating:**

Norman Craven Brook P.C. G.C.B.  
K.C.B. C.B.

**Sponsored by:**

The Old Wulfrunians Association

**Location:**

104 Richmond Road

The plaque commemorates Norman Craven Brook P.C. G.C.B. K.C.B. C.B., who lived here from 1914 to 1921 and was educated locally at the Grammar School in Compton Road. He was Secretary of the Cabinet from 1947 to 1962 and Joint Permanent Secretary of the Treasury, and Head of the Home Civil Service from 1956 to 1962. In 1963 he was created Baron NormanBrook.

The photograph shows the plaque on the front of 104 Richmond Road.



## Paul Street, Graiseley Hill. Retreat Street, Pelham Street, Penn Road, Park Drive



### Commemorating:

Sunbeam bicycles and motorcycles

### Sponsored by:

IMI Marston Limited

### Location:

Paul Street, on the front of the works, facing the Penn Road Island

The works originally produced tinplate goods and japanware, and was founded by John Marston. John was interested in cycling and the first bicycle was produced here in 1888, using the Sunbeam name. The first motorcycle was produced in 1912. Both the bicycles and motorcycles were extremely successful and became known throughout the world for their quality. Production ceased in 1936 due to falling sales. The company was then part of I.C.I. and the works began to produce radiators.



### Commemorating:

A. J. Stevens & Company (1914) Limited

### Sponsored by:

Marston Wolverhampton Heritage Trust

### Location:

Graiseley Hill, off Penn Road

A. J. Stevens & Company (1914) Limited was one of the most important motorcycle manufacturers in the Midlands. The company was formed in 1914 and built a new works on the site of what is now the Waitrose supermarket. The works eventually covered about 230,000sq.ft. and the company produced up to 25,000 machines a year in its heyday. Its motorcycles were very successful in competitions and the Isle of Man T.T., and gained a reputation for quality. The company sadly closed in 1931.







**Commemorating:**  
John Rollings

**Sponsored by:**  
Brian Rollings

**Location:**  
The Quality Hotel, Penn Road

The old part of the hotel was known as the Pines and was occupied by John Rollings from 1894 until his death in 1909. John was a Director of the Star Engineering Company which produced cars and bicycles. In 1897 he presented a peal of bells to the Royal Wolverhampton School Chapel.



**Commemorating:**

A. J. Stevens & Company (1909) Limited, Stevens Brothers Wolverhampton Limited and the Stevens Screw Company Limited

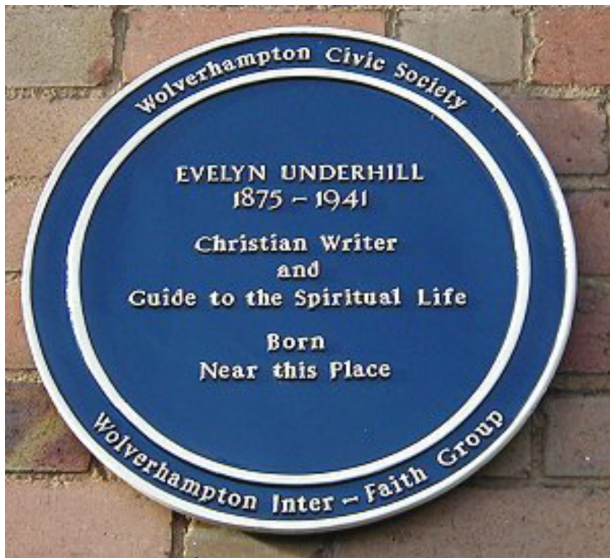
**Sponsored by:**  
Marston Wolverhampton Heritage Trust

**Location:**  
Retreat Street, on the corner of Penn Street, off Lea Road

The premises was acquired in 1908 as a base for the Stevens Screw Company Limited. A. J. Stevens & Company (1909) Limited moved here from Pelham Street in 1909 when the company decided to produce its own motorcycles. In 1914 A.J.S. moved to Graiseley Hill and the premises was retained by the Stevens Screw Company. In 1932 after the closure of A.J.S., Stevens Brothers Wolverhampton Limited was formed here. The company produced 3 wheel vans and Stevens Motorcycles until 1938, when it too closed. The premises was again retained by the Stevens Screw Company until its closure in 1992.







**Commemorating:**  
Evelyn Underhill

**Sponsored by:**  
Wolverhampton Inter-Faith Group

**Location:**  
On the side of Victoria House,  
Royal Wolverhampton School,  
Penn Road

Evelyn Underhill was born in 1875 and grew up in London. She embarked on a life of reading, writing, meditation and prayer. She produced a series of books on contemplative prayer and did a lot of lecturing. She died on 15th June 1941. Her books include *The Bar-Lamb's Ballad* (poetry), *Mysticism*, *The Mystic Way*, *Immanence* (poetry), *Man and the Supernatural*, *Worship*, and *The Mystery of Sacrifice*.

The plaque can be seen on the side of Victoria House, as viewed from the Penn Road



**Commemorating:**  
Louis Coatalen

**Sponsored by:**  
Sunbeam Talbot Darracq Register

**Location:**  
Bromley House, Bromley Place, Penn Road

In 1909 Sunbeam appointed Louis Coatalen as chief engineer. He was an ex-Humber man who had gained a lot of experience in the industry. His designs were very successful, and he decided to raise the company's profile by involving the company in motor racing, and set up a competition department. His slogan was 'Racing improves the breed'. Sunbeam had numerous racing successes and began making attempts on the world land speed record. Their first success was in 1922 when K. Lee Guinness clocked 133.75m.p.h. at Brooklands. This was followed by Malcolm Campbell who pushed the record to 150.87m.p.h. in 1925. In 1927 the 1000h.p. Sunbeam was the first car to exceed 200m.p.h.







John Philip Kemble received his early education at the Roman Catholic Seminary at Sedgley Park. He went on to become a famous actor who appeared at Drury Lane and Covent Garden. He made his first appearance on the stage in Wolverhampton, on 8th January 1776 in Lee's "Theodosius". His father Roger was an actor-manager and several of his children became famous in the profession. John's sister Sarah became a famous tragic actress on the London stage.

**Commemorating:**  
John Philip Kemble, actor

**Sponsored by:**  
Embassy Hotels

**Location:**  
Park Hall Hotel, Park Drive



# Plaques in the North West

## Commemorating

The Rev. Kenneth Hunt  
George Thorneycroft 1791-1851  
Dr John Frazer 1820-1909  
George Bidlake  
John Masfield  
Dr S C Dyke  
The Mount Hotel, 1865  
Sir John Morris  
West Park Conservatory Centenary Restoration  
George Armstrong 1822-1901  
Dr. Ernest Darby and Florence Parkes Darby  
Wolverhampton Municipal Secondary School  
World Altitude Balloon Record 1862  
The First All-British Flying Meeting

## Location

St. Mark's Church, Chapel Ash  
Salisbury House, Chapel Ash  
5 Tettenhall Road  
91 Tettenhall Road  
141 Tettenhall Road  
Limes Road, Tettenhall  
Mount Road, Tettenhall  
Elmslie Bank, Wightwick  
West Park Conservatory  
10 Park Road West  
7 Summerfield Road  
Newhampton Road  
Science Park, Stafford Road  
Dunstall Park, Gorsebrook Road





## Chapel Ash and Tettenhall Road



### Commemorating:

The Reverend Kenneth Hunt, M.A.

### Sponsored by:

Wolverhampton Wanderers

### Location:

St. Mark's Church, Chapel Ash



Kenneth Hunt was born in Oxford in 1884 and moved to Wolverhampton in 1898 when his father became vicar at St. Mark's. He attended the Grammar School and Trent College before joining Queen's College, Oxford. While he was an undergraduate he played as an amateur for Wolves and scored in the 3-1 F.A. Cup Final win against Newcastle in 1908. He represented England at both Full and Amateur levels and won an Olympic Gold Medal for Great Britain at the London Games in 1908. He was ordained in 1910 and became a Housemaster at Highgate School. He died in 1949 and is buried at Heathfield in Sussex.



### The unveiling Ceremony.

Left to Right:

Bert Williams, ex-Wolves player;

Dick Rhodes, Chairman of the  
Wolverhampton Civic Society;

Graham Hughes, Wolves historian;

and at the back Patrick Quirke, historian



**Commemorating:**  
George Benjamin Thorneycroft

**Sponsored by:**  
The Mason Richards Partnership

**Location:**  
Salisbury House, 2 and 2a Tettenhall Road

George Thorneycroft was born in 1791 and became a wealthy industrialist. In 1824 he founded the Shrubbery Ironworks with his brother Edwin. The works became the largest employer of labour in the town. George was also a churchwarden at St. Peter's Church, a JP, and became first Mayor of the town, in 1848. George died in 1851. The ironworks closed in 1877 after losing money for several years.



**Commemorating:**  
John Fraser M.D. F.G.S.

**Sponsored by:**  
Bryan Fowler

**Location:**  
5 Tettenhall Road

The plaque can be seen on the front of the house





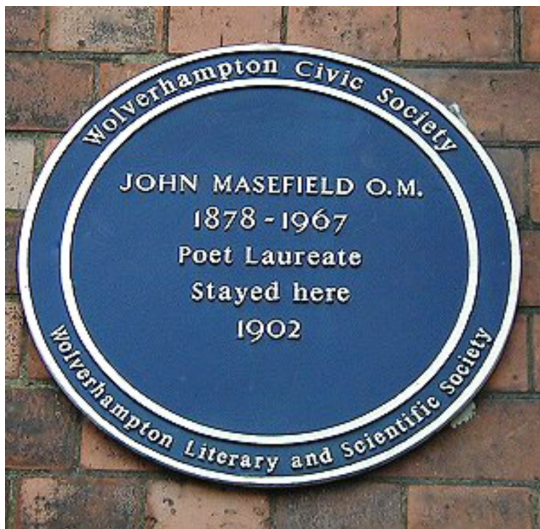


**Commemorating:**  
George Bidlake, architect

**Sponsored by:**  
Wolverhampton Society of Architects

**Location:**  
91 Tettenhall Road

The plaque, seen here on the front of the house, commemorates George Bidlake, who was one of the most important church architects in the town. One of his many churches was Queen Street Congregational Church formerly on the corner of Queen Street and Market Street.



**Commemorating:**  
John Masefield, Poet Laureate

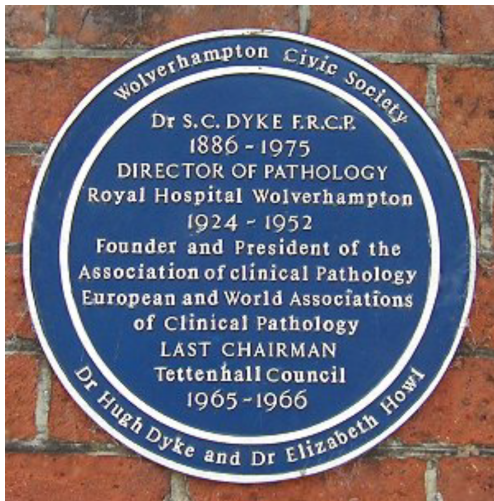
**Sponsored by:**  
Wolverhampton Literary and Scientific Society

**Location:**  
141 Tettenhall Road

John Masefield was born in Ledbury on 1st June 1878. At the age of 15 he went to sea on a voyage to Chile, via the Cape of Good Hope. Illness forced him to return home, and when recovered he travelled to America and worked in New York. He returned to the U.K. in 1897 and in 1900 joined the staff of the Manchester Guardian. His first book of verse published in 1902 is called 'Sea Ballads' and includes his famous poem 'Sea Fever'. In the same year he stayed in Wolverhampton while in charge of the fine art section of the Arts and Industrial Exhibition. He published numerous works including plays, novels and two autobiographies. He became poet laureate in 1930 and in 1935 was made a member of the Order of Merit. He died on 12th May 1967.



## Tettenhall and Wightwick



**Commemorating:**

Dr. S.C. Dyke F.R.C.P.

**Sponsored by:**

Dr. Hugh Dyke and Dr. Elizabeth Howl

**Location:**

Limes Road, Tettenhall

Sidney Campbell Dyke was raised in Canada and became a pathologist. Under his leadership a number of pathologists got together to form the British Pathologists Association in 1927. This evolved into the Association of Clinical Pathologists and later an international society, of which he became chairman. He was awarded the Ratcliffe prize for the advancement of medicine in 1929. His special interest was in diabetes. He was Director of Pathology at the Royal Hospital from 1924 to 1952.



**Commemorating:**

Charles Benjamin Mander

**Sponsored by:**

Jarvis Hotels

**Location:**

Mount Hotel, Mount Road, Tettenhall

Charles Benjamin Mander was the grandson of Benjamin Mander, the Japanner and tinplate manufacturer who started the family's business in the town. In 1845 Charles and his brother Samuel went into partnership to form Mander brothers, paint and varnish manufacturers. The business prospered and in 1865 the colour works was set up. This proved to be extremely profitable and offices were opened in London, and overseas depots and agencies were opened in France, Italy, Canada and Australia. The Mander family's fortunes grew and they rose to a position of eminence in the town. They were involved in local government and held many public offices.







**Commemorating:**

Sir John Morris

**Sponsored by:**

Cavendish Rensch

**Location:**

Elmsdale Hall, Elmsdale, Wightwick Bank

Industrialist John Morris was Mayor of Wolverhampton in 1866, when Queen Victoria paid a visit to the town, to unveil the statue of Prince Albert in Queen Square. A public holiday was declared and thousands of people lined the streets to see the royal procession. When the Queen entered the pavilion in Queen Square, she heard a speech by John Morris and was so pleased with her reception, that she borrowed a sword and promptly knighted him.



## West Park, Park Road West, Summerfield Road, Newhampton Road East



**Commemorating:**

West Park Conservatory centenary and restoration

**Sponsored by:**

Wolverhampton M.B.C.

**Location:**

Inside the conservatory, West Park

The plaque inside the conservatory which was designed by Dan Gibson and built from the proceeds of the Wolverhampton Floral Fetes. It was once famous for its display of chrysanthemums.



The conservatory, as viewed from across the lake





**Commemorating:**  
George Armstrong

**Sponsored by:**  
Local Railway Enthusiasts

**Location:**  
10 Park Road West

George Armstrong was in charge of G.W.R.'s Stafford Road Works from 1864 to 1897. He designed the many locomotives that were built there during his time. George was a very generous and likeable character. He was no family man and remained a bachelor all his days. He was a strong Presbyterian and ardent Liberal. He retired at the age of 75 and was presented with a silver tea and coffee service, a gold watch and chain, and an illuminated address. He died on 11th July 1901 after a stroke.



George Armstrong's House in Park Road West



**Commemorating:**  
Dr. Ernest Darby and Madame Parkes Darby

**Sponsored by:**  
Larry McLean

**Location:**  
On the front of 7 Summerfield Road

Dr. Ernest Darby was born in 1873 and died in 1937. Dr. Florence Parkes Darby was born in 1880 and died in 1976. Together they developed the Wolverhampton School of Music, and established the Wolverhampton Opera Company.





**Commemorating:**

Wolverhampton Municipal Secondary School

**Sponsored by:**

Wolverhampton Municipal Grammar School  
Old Pupils Association

**Location:**

Newhampton Road East

The Education Act of 1870 required children to attend school until the age of 13. School Boards were set up at local level to implement the Act. Wolverhampton's Board proposed, as early as 1883, to provide education beyond that age and this building was the eventual result, even though it was not opened until 1894. The architect was T.H.Fleeming, who was architect to the Board. The builder was Henry Lovatt. In 1974 the school was amalgamated with Graiseley and Penn Modern Schools, renamed Colton Hills Comprehensive School, and moved to Goldthorn Park.





## Gorsebrook Road and Stafford Road

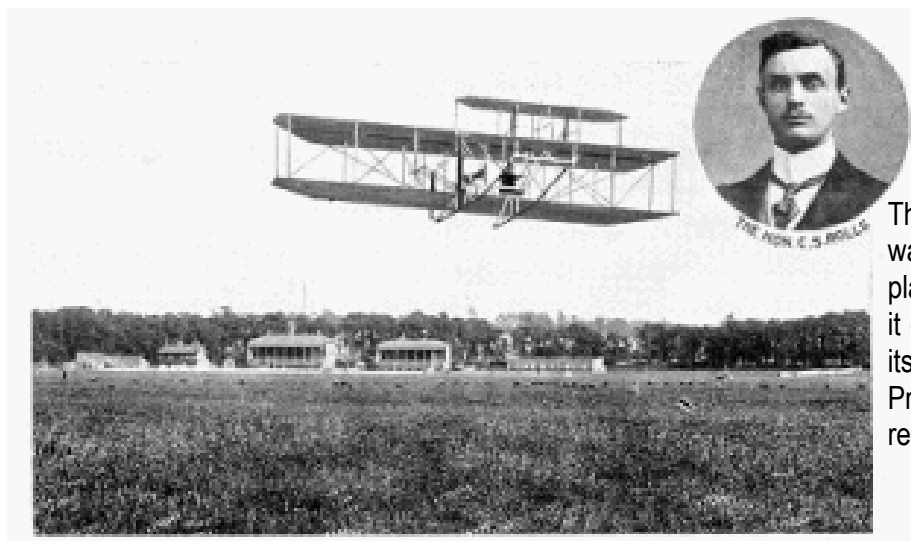


**Commemorating:**  
The First All-British Flying Meeting

**Sponsored by:**  
Express & Star

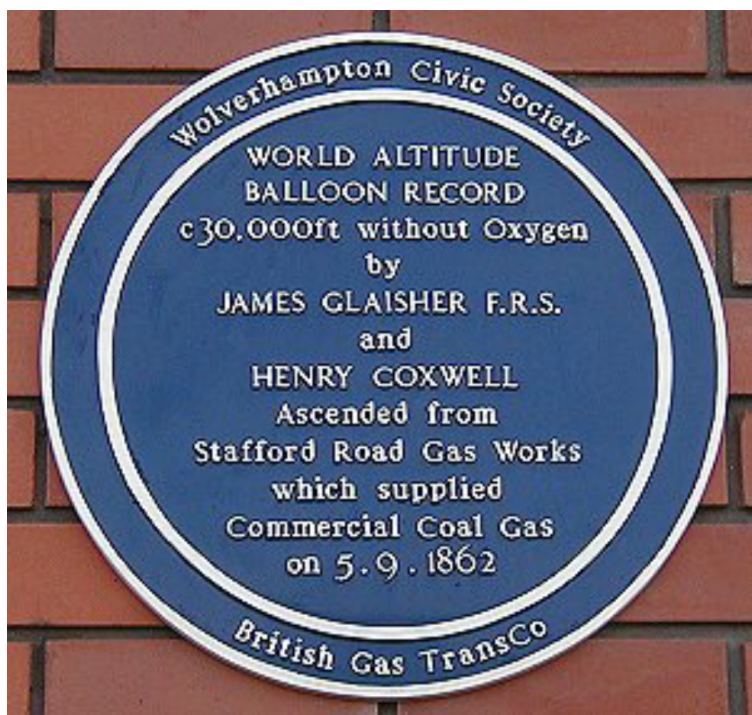
**Location:**  
Dunstall Park, Gorsebrook Road

The first midlands aviation meeting was held at Dunstall Park from 27th June to 2nd July, 1910 under the auspices of the Midland Aero Club, which was formed in 1909. Its headquarters were at the Grand Hotel in Birmingham and the club president was the Earl of Dartmouth. The official programme listed a varied selection of events. Prizes were awarded for the flight of the longest duration, cross-country flying, passenger carrying, figure flying and bomb throwing. Music was provided by the South Staffordshire Regiment and the Wolverhampton Military Band. There was almost no flying in 1910 because of bad weather and a dispute with some pilots over payment of their hotel expenses.



This postcard, postmarked 1910, was issued for the event. The plane is superimposed on it. But it does show Dunstall Park, and its grandstands at the time. Presumably the sheep were removed for the event.

The event was very popular and aviation meetings were held at Dunstall Park for several years.



**Commemorating:**

The World Altitude Balloon Record at Stafford Road Gas Works

**Sponsored by:**

British Gas Transco

**Location:**

Science Park, Stafford Road

On 5th September 1862 a balloon filled with coal-gas from Stafford Road gas works, ascended from the works and achieved a world altitude record of over six miles. The balloon was piloted by James Glaisher and Henry Coxwell, who nearly lost their lives in the flight. Henry Coxwell was a balloonist and James Glaisher a scientist. The balloon eventually landed near Ludlow. After the flight James Glaisher wrote: "On emerging from the cloud at 1hr 17m. we came into a flood of light, with a beautiful blue sky without a cloud above us, and a magnificent sea of cloud below, its surface being varied with endless hills, hillocks, mountain chains and many snow white masses rising from it." Two hours later he passed out.





# Wolverhampton's Blue Plaques

## Erection Dates

### 1983

Commemorating	Location
George Bidlake	91 Tettenhall Road
Sir Henry Fowler	Dixons Estate Agents, Darlington Street
Thomas Graham	Express & Star Building, Queen Street
Arthur Marshall	Darlington Street Methodist Church
John Marston & Sir Charles Marston	The Oaks, Merridale Road
Francis Smith	Giffard House, North Street
Maggie Teyte	Exchange Street
George Thorneycroft	Salisbury House, 2 and 2a Tettenhall Road
George Wallis	Army Careers Office, Queen Street
Sir Charles Wheeler	Art Gallery Annex, Wulfruna Street

### 1985

Commemorating	Location
C. Forder Limited	Dixon's Building, Cleveland Road
Button Gwinnett	St. Peter's House, Exchange Street
John Masfield	141 Tettenhall Road

### 1986

Commemorating	Location
Benjamin Mander	Mander Centre

## 1987

### Commemorating

Edward Bird  
J. A. Chatwin  
Dr. Ernest Darby & Madame Darby  
T.H. Fleeming  
John Freeman  
H.T. Hare  
J.P. Kemble  
The Macdonald Sisters  
Sir Henry Newbolt  
Alfred Noyes  
C.J. Phipps  
Queen Victoria  
Wolverhampton M.B.C.  
William Wood

### Location

Central Library, Old Hall Street  
Lloyds Bank, Queen Square  
7 Summerfield Road  
Barclays Bank, Queen Square  
Former Bilston Town Hall  
Central Library, Snow Hill  
Park Hall Hotel, Park Drive  
Your Move estate agents, Waterloo Road  
Barclays Bank, Lichfield Street, Bilston  
Co-operative Funeral Services, St. Mark's Road  
Grand Theatre, Lichfield Street  
Midland Bank, Queen Square  
Walkabout public house, Queen Street  
Wolverhampton University, Wulfruna Street

## 1988

### Commemorating

Dr. S.C. Dyke  
Sir Charles Mander Bt.  
O.J. Rejlander  
S.H. Sheldon

### Location

Limes Road, Upper Green, Tettenhall  
Magistrates' Courts, North Street  
Darlington Street Roundabout  
New Cross Hospital

## 1989

### Commemorating

The Leveson Family's Great Hall

### Location

Adult Education College, Old Hall Street

## 1990

### Commemorating

R.J. Emerson  
Arnold Richardson  
Dan Rudge  
St. George's Church  
Rt. Hon. C.P. Villiers M.P.

### Location

Express & Star Building, Queen Street  
Civic Hall, North Street  
Telecom Building, Church Street  
St. George's Church, St George's Parade  
6 George Street



## **1991**

### **Commemorating**

James Beattie  
Chubb & Sons  
Sir Rowland Hill  
John Milner

### **Location**

Beatties Store, Victoria Street  
The Chubb Building, Fryer Street  
Old Post Office, Lichfield Street  
St. Peter & St. Paul, Paternoster Row

## **1992**

### **Commemorating**

The Mount Hotel  
Rev. Brian S. O'Gorman

### **Location**

Mount Hotel, Mount Road, Tettenhall  
Beckminster Church, Birches Barn Road

## **1993**

### **Commemorating**

Dr. John Frazer  
Edward Lisle  
Star and Garter

### **Location**

5 Tettenhall Road  
Moxley Foundry, Frederick Street  
Pizza Hut, Victoria Street

## **1994**

### **Commemorating**

Sir John Morris Kt.  
St. Peter's Collegiate Church  
Sunbeam Bicycles & Motor Cycles  
Sunbeam Cars  
Traffic Lights  
Wolverhampton Municipal Secondary School

### **Location**

Elmsdale Hall, Elmsdale, Wightwick Bank  
St. Peter's Church porch  
Sunbeamland, Paul Street  
The Timken building, Upper Villiers Street  
Rothwells, Princess Square  
Newhampton Road East

## **1995**

### **Commemorating**

The Queen's Building

### **Location**

Queen's Building, Victoria Square

## **1996**

### **Commemorating**

Sunbeam Experimental Dept.  
West Park Conservatory Restoration  
Centenary

### **Location**

Sunbeam Studios, Sunbeam Street  
West Park Conservatory

## **1997**

### **Commemorating**

George Armstrong  
Gwen Berryman  
Louis Coatalen  
Clyno Cars  
Guy Motors  
World Altitude Balloon Record

### **Location**

10 Park Road West  
123 Goldthorn Hill  
Bromley House, Penn Road  
Pelham Works, Pelham Street  
Park Lane, Bushbury  
Science Park, Stafford Road

## **1998**

### **Commemorating**

A.J.S. Motor Cycles  
A.J.S. Motor Cycles, Retreat Street  
Bantock House  
The Briton Motor Company Limited  
G.R. Thorne

### **Location**

Graiseley Hill  
Retreat Street and the corner of Penn Street  
Bantock House, Bantock Park  
Lower Horseley Field  
Edwards, North Street

## **1999**

### **Commemorating**

E.J. Meynell  
The Fighting Cocks  
Evelyn Underhill

### **Location**

Removed from 32a Queen Street  
The corner of Goldthorn Hill and Dudley Road  
Victoria House, Royal Wolverhampton School, 131 Penn Road

## **2000**

### **Commemorating**

Ernest F.G. Cox  
Darlington Street  
First All British Flying Meeting, 1910

### **Location**

Blakenhall Community Centre, Dudley Road  
Beatties, Darlington Street  
Dunstall Park, Gorsebrook Road



## 2001

### Commemorating

John Rollings

Emma Sproson

The Millennium and the achievement of city status.

Compton Hall, Compton Hospice and Compton Wallpaper

### Location

The Quality Hotel, Penn Road

Magistrates' Courts, North Street

The Civic Centre

Compton Hospice, Compton Road

## 2002

### Commemorating

Norman Craven Brook P.C. G.C.B. K.C.B. C.B.

E.J. Meynell

### Location

104 Richmond Road

Replaced at 32a Queen Street

## 2004

### Commemorating

Joseph Armstrong

Rev. Kenneth Hunt

Old Merridale Farm restoration

### Location

Waterloo Road, opposite Newhampton Road East

St. Mark's Church, Chapel Ash.

Old Merridale Farm, Merridale Lane

## 2005

### Commemorating

Dr C.A. MacMunn

Alderman H Beach J.P.

Viking Cycle Company

H.D. Hughes M.P.

### Location

Medical Institute, New Cross Hospital

56 High Street, Bilston

Coral's Betting Shop, Princess Street

Old Hall Street

## 2008

### Commemorating

Dr Percy Marshall Young

Major Kenneth Hutchinson-Smith

John Weller Architectural Partnership

Merridale House

### Location

72 Clark Road

Castlecroft Gardens

15 King Street

124 Compton Road

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