

CANTERBURY SOCIETY BLUE PLAQUES PROJECT

ORDER OF PLAQUES FOR LEAFLET AND FOR GUIDED WALK

Blue Plaques in Canterbury

1. John Green Hall, 4, St Margarets Street, Canterbury CT1 2PT

Leaflet Text:

John Green Hall (1835-87) was the first City Surveyor for Canterbury from 1866 until his death and an architect in private practice. His office, a good example of his work, still stands at 4 St Margaret's Street. He lived a few doors away in the Georgian building now incorporated into the Hampton Hilton Hotel. He designed several Canterbury churches including St Thomas, Burgate and the cemetery chapels, almshouses at Aucher Villas, and three of the city's banks. He undertook the important task of renovating the city's sewage system during the 1860s when a second wave of sanitary reform coincided with enthusiasm for archaeological excavation in Canterbury

2 Audrey Williams, Roman Museum, Butchery Lane, Canterbury CT1 2JR

Leaflet Text:

Born in Wales in 1902, Audrey Williams was awarded a scholarship to Somerville College, Oxford to read English. During the 1930s her interest in antiquities and archaeology grew, and during the Second World War she excavated sites before they were developed for military installations. After the war she worked on significant sites including the Temple of Mithras in London as well as the Roman site in Canterbury. Audrey became the first female President of the Royal Institution of South Wales and Director of Excavations in Canterbury, leading the project that uncovered the Roman mosaic and underfloor heating system.

3 Elizabeth Elstob, 45 Burgate, Canterbury CT1 2HW

Leaflet Text:

Elizabeth Elstob (1683-1756) was a prominent defender of female education and the first woman to publish translations from Old English, including a history of St Augustine's mission and the laws of the seventh century Kings of Kent. As a child she lived with her uncle, a prebendary, in the Cathedral Precincts. Later she ran a girls' school in Evesham and was governess to the Duchess of Portland's children. She is buried at St Margaret's, Westminster.

4 John Lyly, 8-9 Sun Street Canterbury CT1 2HX.

Leaflet Text:

John Lyly (1553/4- 1606) author was born in Kent and spent in his early years in the Splayed Eagle in Canterbury before studying at Oxford. He moved to London where his publications, including *Euphues: the Anatomy of Wit* (1578), were very popular and influential in style. The editor of his plays described him as 'Witie, Comically, Facetiously- quicke and Unparalleled'. Lyly also served as an MP in the last four parliaments of Elizabeth's reign.

5 Sarah Baker, 4 Orange Street Canterbury CT1 2JA.

Leaflet Text:

Sarah Baker (1737-1816) was one of the most successful self-made women of her time. In the 1770s, widowed and with three children, the former itinerant fairground performer established her own small theatre company. By 1800, displaying prodigious diligence and business acumen, she owned four playhouses and was established as Kent's premiere theatre manager.

6 Ian Dury, Sidney Cooper Gallery, 22–23 St Peters Street, Canterbury CT1 2BQ

Leaflet Text:

Of the many musical artists that have started their careers in Canterbury, Ian Dury is one of the best well-known. His songs, '*Billericay Dickie*' and '*Sex and Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll*' have entered the national consciousness and '*Hit Me with your Rhythm Stick*' reached no.1 in 1979. He studied art, mentored by his tutor, Peter Blake, and took a teaching post at the Canterbury School of Art when it was located in its original building in St Peter's Street Canterbury. Ian contracted polio at the age of seven, leaving his left leg paralysed. The physical handicap and the mental scarring of the years spent in institutions gave him a challenging and determined character. His music, and particularly his witty and dexterous lyrics, have inspired and delighted millions.

7 Lord Cornwallis, Kent Museum of Freemasonry, St Peters Place, Canterbury CT1 2DA

Leaflet Text:

The library and museum at Canterbury owes its existence to Lord Cornwallis 2nd Baron KCVO KBE KStJ MC. Lord Cornwallis 2nd Baron has held high public office, served in the military, senior civic positions, and he held very senior positions in Freemasonry. His contributions to our country, the county of Kent, and Freemasonry is unlikely to be surpassed. The museum and library is the shop window for Freemasonry in Kent and was purpose built and opened in 1933, and the history of the museum has been well documented since.

8 Catherine and Stephen Williamson, Tower House, Westgate Gardens, Canterbury CT1 2DB

Leaflet Text:

Following the death of his parents, Stephen Williamson (1898-1986) and Catherine Williamson née Goodbody (1896-1977) donated Tower House and Gardens, where Stephen had grown up, to the people of Canterbury in 1936. The family owned St Mildred's Tannery, and both worked there for much of their lives. Catherine was Canterbury's first woman Mayor from 1938-1940, and wrote a book about Canterbury during WWII '*Though the Streets Burn*'.

9 The Coal Yard Gate, North Lane, Canterbury, CT2 8AW (Text awaited)

10 Weighbridge Cottage, 43 Orient Place, Canterbury, CT2 8AW

Leaflet Text:

The original terminus of the Canterbury and Whitstable Railway was located adjacent to this site. It was opened on 15 May 1830 and was the first public railway in southern England. George and Robert Stephenson were the engineers. It was rope-hauled except for steam haulage at the Whitstable end. From 1846 the Canterbury terminus was transferred to the newly opened Canterbury West Station, and from then until the closure of the line in 1952 the railway was steam hauled throughout.

11 Canterbury to Whitstable Railway terminus, Canterbury West Station, Canterbury CT1 1AA

Leaflet Text:

On 25th March 1834 the world's first passenger railway season ticket was issued from the nearby terminus of the Canterbury and Whitstable Railway in North Lane. The terminus was subsequently moved to Canterbury West Station on the opening of the London and South Eastern Railway in 1846. The Canterbury and Whitstable railway was thereafter steam-hauled until its closure in November 1952. The line was temporarily re-opened during February 1953 to by-pass the flood damaged North Kent main line.

12 R.W. Humphrey, Ye Olde Beverlie, St Stephens Green, Canterbury CT2 7JU

Leaflet text:

The Canterbury and District Bat & Trap League, was founded on Thursday September 22nd, 1922 at a meeting held at the Ye Olde Beverlie arranged by Mr. R. W. Humphrey. In attendance were teams from the Beverlie, Westgate Wanderers, The Risers, Terriers, Old City of Canterbury, and a ladies team. The league was founded minus the ladies who were voted out unanimously by the gentlemen. The game of Bat and Trap is something of a Kent tradition and it is believed that the ancestor of Bat & Trap, which is clearly related to Cricket, was first played in the 14th century. The Beverlie Inn opened for business in the 1740s, and it has records of the game being played there since it opened

Blue Plaques outside the city

13 Aphra Behn, Church Hill House, Church Hill, Harbledown. Canterbury CT2 9AB

Leaflet Text:

Harbledown-born Aphra Behn (1640-1689), daughter of a barber and a wet-nurse, was London's favourite playwright during the reign of Charles II. A self-taught author of remarkable talent, who also spied for the King, her risqué lifestyle and work so offended Victorian sensibilities that she remained largely unread until rediscovery in the 20th century.

14 Michael Powell, Howletts Farmhouse, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury CT4 5EJ

Leaflet Text:

Although recognition was shockingly slow in coming, Michael Powell is now regarded not only as one of this country's very greatest film-makers but a major film-maker on an international scale. His wartime masterpiece, *A Canterbury Tale*, is the subject of an annual pilgrimage to its various locations in and around Canterbury.

15 Henry George Follenfant, 24 Pier Avenue, Whitstable CT5 2HQ

Leaflet text:

Henry George Follenfant (1908-1978) lived in 24 Pier Avenue during the 1950s and 1960s. He joined the London Underground as a technical assistant in 1929, before joining up and serving in the Royal Engineers during WWII, rising to the rank of Colonel. After the war he worked on railways in Borneo and Kenya, before returning to the London Underground in 1956. He became the Chief Engineer for London Underground in October 1965 and retired in 1973. In 1943 he was awarded the MBE for his construction of railways in forward areas in the North African Campaign. In 1945 he was awarded the OBE for his construction and reconstruction of multiple engineering projects in the Northwest European Theatre in 1944-45. In 1969 he was made a CBE for his services as the lead engineer on the construction of the Victoria Underground Line.

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