

## 1 John Green Hall

4, St Margarets Street,  
Canterbury CT1 2PT

John Green Hall (1835-1887) 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 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

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

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

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, Comicall, Facetiously-quick 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

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

Of the many musical artists that have started their careers in Canterbury, Ian Dury is one of the best 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

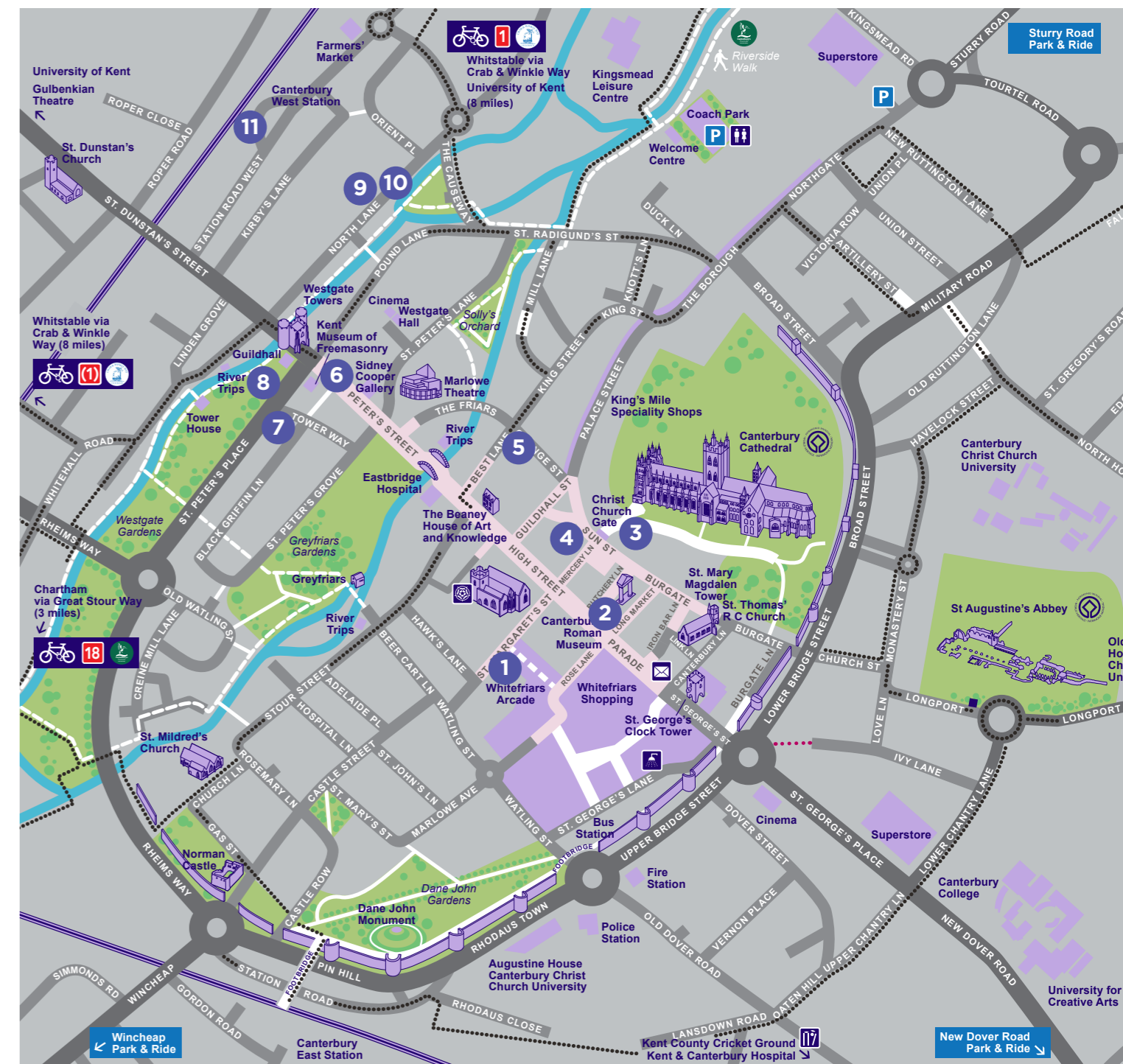
Kent Museum of  
Freemasonry,  
St Peters Place,  
Canterbury  
CT1 2DA

The Freemasons' library and museum at Canterbury owes its existence to Lord Cornwallis 2nd Baron KCVO KBE KStJ MC. Lord Cornwallis 2nd Baron held high public office, served in the military, senior civic positions, and held very senior positions in Freemasonry.

His contribution 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.



Continue overleaf...



# BLUE PLAQUES IN CANTERBURY



## 8 Catherine and Stephen Williamson

**Tower House,  
Westgate Gardens,  
Canterbury CT1 2DB**

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**

The land beyond this gate was occupied by the North Lane terminus of the Canterbury and Whitstable Railway opened on the 3 May 1830. It was the first public railway in Britain intended for both passengers and goods, and was engineered by George and Robert Stephenson. It was rope hauled apart from steam haulage for two miles at the Whitstable end. In 1846 the terminus was transferred to



the newly opened Canterbury (West) Station when it was taken over by the South Eastern Railway and steam haulage was introduced throughout. This land was then retained as a coal yard until the 1980s. It was closed to passengers in 1931 and goods in December 1952. The original locomotive 'Invicta' is now exhibited in Whitstable Museum.

## 10 Weighbridge Cottage

**43 Orient Place,  
Canterbury CT2 8AW**

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**

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**

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. 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.



### NOTE

**Plaques 12,13,14 and 15 do not appear on the map as they are outside the boundaries of the old City.**

## 13 Aphra Behn

**Church Hill House,  
Church Hill, Harbledown,  
Canterbury CT2 9AB**

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**

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 Walter Pater

**12, Summer Hill, Harbledown  
Canterbury, CT2 8NH**

Walter Pater, 1839-1894, went to the King's School, living with his mother at 12 Summer Hill, Harbledown. At Oxford he became a fellow of Brasenose College in 1864. An influential literary critic and essayist, his best-known work is 'Marius the Epicurean' (1885) illustrating the highest ideals of the aesthetic life.



# BLUE PLAQUES IN CANTERBURY



**Michael Powell  
(1905-1990)**

**Producer and Director of  
many classic British films  
including  
A Canterbury Tale  
Born here**

*The Canterbury Society*

## The Reverend Robert Ullock Potts

1866 - 1949

He was the Sub-Warden and Bursar of St Augustine's College from 1912 to 1930.



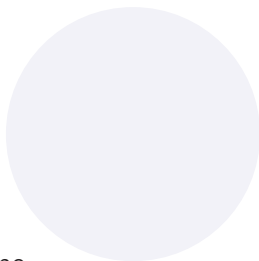
He set about the completion of a programme of excavations of St Augustine's Abbey which had begun in 1901. He wanted the 'holy ground' to be a 'source of inspiration to English-speaking peoples for all time'. In the seasons of 1914 and 1915, parts of the Anglo-Saxon churches were found underneath the Romanesque Abbey church.

Potts led successful archaeological works on the site for over 25 years. He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1922.

## Saint Hadrian

circa 630 – circa 710.

Hadrian, or Adrian, was born in North Africa. He came to Italy, most likely as a refugee, where he became an abbot. Pope Vitalian invited him to become the Archbishop of Canterbury. Hadrian declined. However, the Pope accepted his suggestion of the Greek monk Theodore as Archbishop, if he accompany Theodore to England. Hadrian was installed as the Abbot of St Peter and St Paul<sup>4</sup> in 670. He was a great scholar. Under his direction, the Canterbury monastic school had a wide influence. Hadrian worked with Archbishop Theodore in rebuilding the English church. Hadrian was venerated as a saint in the Middle Ages.



## Longport, Canterbury, CT1 1PF

Over the last 1400 years there have been many notable figures who have contributed to the history of St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury, and it is now part of a UNESCO World Heritage site, with Canterbury Cathedral and St Martin's church.

On the 4th of September 2025, the Lord Mayor of Canterbury unveiled eight blue plaques including tributes to Saint Augustine and Saint Hadrian. The partners in this exciting project were English Heritage (the custodians of the Abbey), the Canterbury Society and the Canterbury Commemoration Society (jointly responsible for seven of the eight plaques) and the Nubian Jak Community Trust (responsible for the Saint Hadrian plaque) The two Societies funded the plaques. An additional small brass plaque was installed beneath the Saint Hadrian plaque to acknowledge the late historian Marika Sherwood's valuable research contribution to the Saint Hadrian tribute.

The plaques are now installed on the outer walls of St Augustine's Abbey, in Longport and this unprecedented unveiling commemorated notable figures in the history of the Canterbury World Heritage Site.



# BLUE PLAQUES

AT

## ST AUGUSTINE'S ABBEY

CANTERBURY



<sup>4</sup> See footnote 1.

## St Augustine

circa 534 - circa 604

In 596 Pope Gregory sent a group of monks from Rome, led by Augustine, to bring back Roman Christianity to southern England. They arrived in Kent in 597 and were well received by the local King, Ethelbert, who soon became a Christian. Augustine was consecrated the archbishop of the English and became the first Archbishop of Canterbury. He initiated the abbey of St Peter and St Paul<sup>1</sup> outside the walls of Canterbury. He was buried there in 604/605 and ever since has been honoured as a saint of the church.



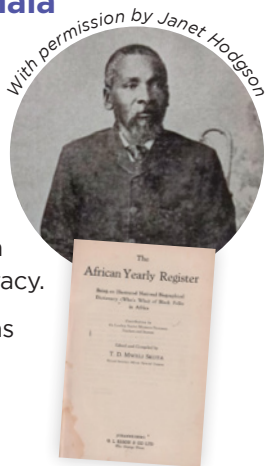
## Nathaniel Cyril Kondile Mhala

1843 - 1920

He was the son of the Xhosa Chief Mhala, in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. He studied at St Augustine's College from May 1867 to Christmas 1868. In England he attended Parliamentary debates, which left him with an admiration for British democracy.

After returning to South Africa, he was successively the head of an Anglican school, a government interpreter, and employed in a legal office.

In the 1890s he was a founding member and vice president of the South African Native Congress (SANC), a forerunner of the African National Congress (ANC). In 1897 he became first editor of Izwi Lanatu (The Voice of the People). He was an active advocate for the founding of an African university, eventually leading to the establishment of Fort Hare University.



## William Thorne

Thorne, a monk at St Augustine's Abbey, wrote a history of the Abbey from its foundation to 1397. He was zealous for the Abbey. His main concern in his Chronicle were its property and privileges. His work was mainly concerned with three officeholders: the Kings, who were benefactors of the Abbey; the Abbots, who were the Abbey's guardians; and the Archbishops, who occasionally challenged the Abbey's independence. Thorne wrote in the preface to the Chronicle that he hoped 'to hand down to posterity with up-to-date pen the doings and events [of the Abbey] both in prosperity and adversity'.



## John Tradescant the Elder

1570 - 1638



After the dissolution of St Augustine's Abbey in 1538, the abbot's apartments were converted into a royal palace. In 1612 Lord Wootton purchased the site. He employed John Tradescant the Elder, the famous gardener and collector of curiosities, to lay out three complex ornamental gardens, between 1615 and 1623, to the north and east of the palace. Lord Wootton died in 1628. Lady Wootton continued to live at the palace. In 1635 the gardens were described by a military surveyor. It was a 'delicate garden and paradise' with fountains and statues of mythological figures. Lady Wootton is commemorated in the name of the Green in front of the Fyndon Gate.<sup>2</sup>

## Sir Alexander Beresford Hope

1820 - 1887

He was a politician, author and art collector. He recognised the historical importance of the site of St Augustine's Abbey and bought it in 1844. He formed a partnership with the Reverend Edward Coleridge, a master at Eton College, to found a missionary college at the site. St Augustine's College operated from 1848 to 1947. Hope employed William Butterfield to design the College buildings. Butterfield later became one of the great Gothic Revival architects. The works on the College exposed some of the site's medieval remains. This gave rise to archaeological investigations which continue to this day.



## Thomas Fyndon

During Fyndon's time as Abbot of St Augustine's<sup>3</sup>, 1283 to 1310, great works were undertaken at the Abbey: a completely new abbot's lodging, a new cellarer's range, a new brewhouse and new bakehouse. The climax of all these works was a magnificent new gate of the Abbey in 1308. The gate survives, facing Monastery Street and Lady Wootton's Green. It established a model for English gatehouses until the end of the Middle Ages. The west gable wall of the brewhouse has also survived. It is in the campus of Canterbury Christ Church University.



<sup>1</sup> In 978, St Dunstan, then Archbishop of Canterbury, played a key role in renaming St Augustine's Abbey. Originally dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul, Dunstan added St. Augustine's name to the dedication, reflecting the abbey's origins as a missionary centre founded by St. Augustine. This change solidified the abbey's identity and its association with the influential figure of St. Augustine. | <sup>2</sup> See Thomas Fyndon above. | <sup>3</sup> See footnote 1.