

BRISTOL BLUE PLAQUES SCHEME

**What is the Bristol Blue Plaques Scheme?**

“Blue Plaques” commemorate individuals who lived or worked at a specific location with a blue-coloured wall plaque giving some basic information about them and stating their connection with the site.

The Scheme recognises past residents who lived for at least some time within Bristol’s boundaries, and who have made important contributions to Bristol and/or the wider world.

The plaques increase awareness among both Bristolians and visitors about these people. Plaques can celebrate figures who are well-known, but can also draw public attention to people whose contributions may have been overlooked, as well as to aspects of our history that are less widely known. They can also honour a building where a significant event took place.

Plaques can also provide a sense of recognition and inclusion, appeal to people of all ages and from all backgrounds, and add character and pride to a neighbourhood.

The Bristol Blue Plaques Scheme is administered by the Blue Plaques Panel of the Bristol Civic Society. It is similar to the scheme which was formerly run by Bristol City Council.

**Who can be commemorated on a Blue Plaque?**

Individuals commemorated on a plaque should be of national or international stature, or of outstanding local importance.

They may have achieved national or international prominence in any field, including (but not limited to) academia, architecture, the armed services, the arts, commerce, education, engineering, industry, the law, literature, medicine, music, philanthropy, politics, religion and science. Or they may have made a major contribution to the development of Bristol, or the well-being of its citizens.

The Panel will not approve plaques for fictional or legendary characters, or for people still living. A minimum of five years must have passed since a person’s death before they can be nominated, to allow for an objective evaluation of their importance.

There is no limit on the amount of time a person, group or organisation should have spent at an address or in a particular locality. In general, though, the connection should be as long as possible (certainly running into months and years, rather than days or weeks).

**How can I get a plaque put up?**

Any organisation or individual can suggest a person to be honoured with a plaque.

The Civic Society Blue Plaques Panel does not itself nominate people; its role is to approve plaque nominations and provide advice and support in erecting them.

The Panel will require evidence that the individual being honoured had any connection with the building for which the plaque is proposed. You will also be asked to state your views as to why the person deserves a plaque.

The design of Blue Plaques must be approved by the Blue Plaques Panel and are made to a standard design.

A plaque must not advertise any company, product, organisation, website or app.

Plaques must be placed in accordance with local planning laws and other regulations, and only one plaque will normally be placed on any building.

Before a plaque can be erected, the owners of the building in question have to give their written consent and any other relevant permissions need to be obtained.

Once a plaque has been installed, it becomes part of the property to which it is fixed and is thus owned by the property owner.

Groups or individuals proposing a plaque will need to cover the cost of its manufacture and installation. If the funds are not immediately to hand, you can consider fundraising or sponsorship.

The Civic Society does not have a budget for plaques, but its Blue Plaques Panel can advise on design, manufacture and placement on facade. The Panel can also seek estimates for the work, which is currently in the region of £500 to £650, depending on plaque size.

The first step in applying for a plaque is to fill out the form below and send it to the Panel.

BLUE PLAQUES SCHEME PROPOSAL FORM

*…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………….*

*Name of person(s) or group proposing a plaque*

*…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………….*

*Contact details:*

*Email address:*

*Telephone:*

*…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………….*

*Who or where is your proposed plaque honouring (‘the nominee’)?:*

*…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………….*

*Nominee’s dates of birth and death:*

*…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………….*

*Please give brief biographical details:*

*…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………….*

*Please give at least three sources of further information on him/her (books, websites, entries in reference works such as the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, etc.):*

*…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………….*

*Why do you believe your nominee deserves a plaque? What was their contribution to Bristol or the wider world?*

*…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………….*

*Please give the exact location of the building on which the plaque should be erected, including postcode:*

*…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………….*

*What evidence do you have that the nominee resided at this address? You will be asked to provide reliable documentation on this, including the date span of residency. The Blue Plaques Panel will be able to advise on research.*

*…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………….*

*Have you secured the consent for a plaque with the property owner?*

*…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………….*

*Please feel free to enclose additional information on further sheets. Email or post the completed form to:*

Gordon Young 5 Branksome Road, Redland, Bristol BS6 7LL yogordo@hotmail.com

*…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………………………………………….*