



# COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

Celebrating People and Place

CONFERENCE

18-19 February 2010

RIBA, London



This conference is hosted by English Heritage, which is responsible for running London's blue plaques scheme, founded in 1866. It aims to consider and celebrate the large number of plaques across the country, to share experiences, and to consider future developments. The event, the first of its kind, will be held in London over two days, and will include discussion of key areas such as selection criteria, plaque design and inscription, historical research, the gaining of consents, and the promotion of plaques and plaque schemes. There will be talks from people involved in running schemes – some well-established, others more recent initiatives – and a series of walks exploring some of the plaques of central London.

Commemorative plaques, which can be found on buildings of all types and dates, are one of the most effective – and visible – means of celebrating our history and the historic environment. Plaques connect past and present in an immediate, tangible way, and have numerous benefits; for instance, they can increase a sense of local pride and can educate about history and architecture, making both more accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. They can also play an important conservation role, helping to highlight buildings with historic associations and to preserve them for the future. As Stephen Fry has noted, plaques are 'a game, a sport, and something more important'.

The outcomes of the conference – and the suggestions of conference attendees – will feed directly into a series of guidance documents to be produced by English Heritage in spring 2010, covering all aspects of plaques work, from the consideration of suggestions to the organisation of unveiling ceremonies.

This is an essential conference for anyone interested or involved in putting up commemorative plaques, and is a unique opportunity to have your say on a national level – to inform guidance and policy, and to share experiences.

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**Front Cover** (clockwise from top-left)  
Plaques to: Willy Clarkson, 41-43 Wardour Street, London; Pandit Shyamaji Krishnavarma, 60 Muswell Hill Road, London; William Ewart, Roe Street, Liverpool; William Wilberforce, 111 Broomwood Road, London; plague victim Peter Halksworth, Eyam, Derbyshire; residents of Bow Street, London; Christina Rossetti, 30 Torrington Square, London; Earl Kitchener, Broome Park, Kent.  
All images © English Heritage, unless otherwise stated

Copies of this brochure can be downloaded from [www.english-heritage.org.uk/plaquesconference](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/plaquesconference) or contact the conference organiser on 01273 882 112 or email [conference@sam-culture.com](mailto:conference@sam-culture.com) for more information.

**COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES:  
Celebrating People and Place**  
Conference produced by sam Ltd  
[www.sam-culture.com](http://www.sam-culture.com) 01273 882 112  
Designed by Evolve Design  
[www.evolvedesign.co.uk](http://www.evolvedesign.co.uk)

# PROGRAMME DAY ONE

## MORNING SESSION

Chair: **Professor Sir David Cannadine**, historian, Chairman of Blue Plaques Panel, English Heritage

Following an introduction, the conference will open with presentations about two different plaque schemes – that run in London by English Heritage, which dates back to 1866, and that in Manchester, begun in 1960 and recently reviewed. Both talks will draw on long experience to cover issues including selection criteria and design. After coffee, a panel-led discussion will focus on the fundamental reasoning and motivations behind commemorative plaques, and will ask questions such as: ‘What does a plaque achieve?’ and ‘Is a plaque appropriate?’

- 9.00 Coffee and Registration
- 10.00 Welcome and Chair’s introduction
- 10.15 Lived in London: The Blue Plaques Scheme in Practice  
**Emily Cole**, Head of Blue Plaques Team & Senior Historian, English Heritage
- 10.45 Reassessing Plaques in Manchester and their Role in Promoting Cultural Heritage  
**Marion Barter**, Director, The Architectural History Practice  
**Amanda Wallace**, Head of Asset Management & Development, Manchester City Galleries
- 11.15 Questions
- 11.30 Refreshments
- 12.00 Why a Plaque? Exploring Aims, Ambitions and Alternatives  
**Panel-led discussion**
- 1.00 Lunch

## AFTERNOON SESSION

Chair: **Maria Adebowale**, Director of Capacity Global, member of Blue Plaques Panel and Commissioner, English Heritage

Conference delegates will all attend workshops, which – on a rotating basis, across the two days – will cover three key areas (see opposite). Subjects for discussion will include: raising funds for plaques, obtaining consents from building owners, organising unveiling ceremonies, promoting plaques via publications, the internet and events, and care for plaques once they have been installed. The second panel-led discussion will explore how selection processes can work, and selection criteria. After tea, three talks will introduce plaque schemes of different types; one in its early stages, and two that are more well established.

- 2.00 Conference Workshops  
(see opposite for details)
- 2.50 Selection Process & Criteria  
**Panel-led discussion**
- 3.50 Refreshments
- 4.15 Starting Your Own Scheme: A Beginner’s Guide  
**Mark Young**, Chipping Sodbury Rotary Club, Gloucestershire
- 4.35 The Role of Plaques in Exploring the Shared Heritage that Connects Communities  
**Harbinder Singh**, Honorary Director, Anglo Sikh Heritage Trail
- 4.55 Looking, Learning and Linking: Interpretation Strategies in Liverpool  
**Wendy Morgan**, Principal Conservation Officer, Liverpool City Council
- 5.15 Questions and Concluding Remarks
- 5.45 Conference Reception

# PROGRAMME DAY TWO

## MORNING SESSION

Chair: **John Cattell**, Chief Buildings Historian & Blue Plaques Secretary, English Heritage

The second day will begin with a talk about the bronze plaques of Bath, which were first put up at the close of the nineteenth century under the initiative of Alderman Sturge Cotterell. Delegates will then be split into three groups for workshops, ensuring all have the opportunity to discuss the issues first considered on the afternoon of day one.

## AFTERNOON SESSION

Chair: **Professor Gavin Stamp**, architectural historian, member of Blue Plaques Panel, English Heritage

The final session of the conference will include the third panel-led discussion, considering issues related to plaque design, material and positioning. For instance, whether blue is always an appropriate colour; and the form plaques might take. An English Heritage Blue Plaques Historian will then explore different methods for researching proposals and, after concluding remarks, the day will end with three guided walks around some of the plaques of Marylebone, Fitzrovia and Regent's Park.

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9.30	Coffee	1.45	Design, Material & Positioning Panel-led discussion
10.00	Plaques in Bath: From 1898 to the Present <b>David McLaughlin</b> , conservation architect, McLaughlin Ross Ilp	2.45	Carrying out Historical Research for a Plaque: Three Case Studies <b>Dr Susan Skedd</b> , Blue Plaques Historian, English Heritage
10.30	Questions	3.15	Questions, Concluding Discussion and Remarks
10.45	Conference Workshops All workshops to be run by staff of the blue plaques scheme, EH	3.45	Refreshments
1.	Funding Options	4.15	Guided Walks around Local Plaques
2.	Gaining Consents and Organising Installation	1.	Marylebone
3.	Outreach, Promotion and Maintenance	2.	Fitzrovia
		3.	Regent's Park
11.30	Refreshments	5.30	Close
12.00	Conference Workshops (see above for details)		
12.50	Lunch		





Plaque to Neville Chamberlain, 37 Eaton Square, London. (Photo by Jim Gray © Getty Images)

# BOOKING INFO

## HOW TO BOOK

We recommend you book as early as possible as places are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

There are three workshops running throughout the conference programme. Every delegate will be given the opportunity to take part in each one.

Send your booking form to:

**Commemorative Plaques Conference,**  
sam,  
11B Dyke Rd Mews,  
74 Dyke Rd,  
Brighton,  
BN1 3JD

or fax a copy to 01273 297 846.

## FEE

The full two day conference costs **£95** per person, including the walking tours and conference reception (but excludes accommodation which can be found at [www.visitlondon.com](http://www.visitlondon.com) or by calling 08701 566 366 to make a booking).

## ACCESS AND DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

If you have any special access or dietary requirements please contact us directly.

## ENQUIRIES

If you have any questions, or require any further information, please contact the conference office on 01273 882 112, email [conference@sam-culture.com](mailto:conference@sam-culture.com) or go to [www.english-heritage.org.uk/plaquesconference](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/plaquesconference)

## DIRECTIONS

The conference is being held at the Royal Institute of British Architects. The RIBA is located at 66 Portland Place, W1B 1AD in central London, just north of Oxford Street and within easy access of Regents Park, Great Portland Street and Oxford Circus underground stations.

## CONFIRMATION OF PLACE AT THE CONFERENCE

Once you have a place at the conference we will contact you to confirm your booking and in advance of the conference you will be sent a delegate pack.



Plaque to Isaac Johnson at 7 Market Hill, Woodbridge, Suffolk

# BOOKING FORM

To ensure the event runs smoothly and all your requirements are met, please complete and return this form as early as possible to:

**Commemorative Plaques Conference, sam, 11B Dyke Rd Mews, 74 Dyke Rd, Brighton, BN1 3JD**

## CONTACT DETAILS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Access requirements (for example do you require a BSL interpreter; wheelchair access etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Tick if you do not wish your email address to be in the delegate pack

## WALKING TOURS

There is a choice of different walking tours available to delegates.  
If you wish to take a tour please specify below at least two choices by numbering the options 1, 2 or 3.  
Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

- ☐ Walking Tour One – Marylebone
- ☐ Walking Tour Two – Fitzrovia
- ☐ Walking Tour Three – Regent's Park

## METHOD OF PAYMENT

- ☐ I have enclosed a cheque payable to 'Sussex Arts Marketing Ltd' for **£95** or
- ☐ I enclose an official order from my organisation that will pay against an invoice Purchase Order

No: \_\_\_\_\_





Plaque to Samuel Taylor Coleridge, 7 Addison Bridge Place, London

