

Green Plaque Awards Scheme

The finalists in rounds one, two and three

Round one:

The John Taylor Bellfoundry

The John Taylor Bellfoundry in Loughborough has been bellfounding since the 14th century, moving to its present site in 1839. The building is the only purpose built Victorian bellfoundry in existence and its bells are sent worldwide.

Nominated by: Alan Berry of Loughborough

Unveiled in Loughborough on 26 February 2015

Charles Booth

Social reformer and philanthropist

A successful Victorian businessman who lived in Thringstone, Charles Booth was a social reformer who organised and funded a survey on poverty and was instrumental in the introduction of a universal old age pension.

Nominated by: Janet Stevenson and Nita Pearson of Thringstone and Ray Woodward of Whitwick

Unveiled in Thringstone on 18 June 2014

Graham Chapman

One of the founding members of 'Monty Python's flying circus'

Comedian and writer, Graham Chapman was born in 1941, spending his early life in various parts of the county including Wigston and Melton. He is best known for his part in the ground-breaking television comedy Monty Python's flying circus, which ran from 1969-1974.

Nominated by: Richard Norwegian-Blue of Queniborough

Unveiled in Melton Mowbray on 10 December 2014

Brigadier-General James Lochhead Jack

Awarded the Distinguished Service Order

Born in 1880, James Jack fought in the Boer war and fought on the frontline for the entire duration of WWI. He recorded his experiences in a trench diary, since published under the title *General Jack's Diary*. After WWI, he lived in Kibworth where during WWII, he helped set up a local Home Guard.

Nominated by: Clare Langan and Dr Kevin Feltham of Kibworth Harcourt and Angela Hall of Fleckney

Unveiled in Kibworth Harcourt on 21 May 2015

Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Rice DFC RAF VR

Dambuster pilot

Taking part in the 'Dambusters Raid' on 17th May 1943, Rice's Lancaster clipped a wave across the North Sea, ripping away the bomb the aircraft was carrying along with the tail wheel. Safely returning to base, Rice, from Burbage, took part in other dangerous operations across Germany before being captured in 1944.

Nominated by: John Reed of Hinckley

Unveiled in Burbage on 18 September 2014

Alice Young

Teacher and Missionary

Alice Young was born in Enderby in 1867. At 26, she travelled to Palapye, Botswana, conducting her classes in the church until a school could be built. Her skill as a teacher was rewarded when the Chief of the Bamangwato tribe handed her the keys to the new school and asked her to take charge.

Nominated by: Enderby Parish Council

Unveiled in Enderby on 15 October 2014

Round two:**Sunloch**

Winner of the Grand National

Loughborough Racehorse who won the 1914 Grand National by 12 lengths. At one stage he was two fences clear of the rest of the field. With odds of 100/6, the local bookies all 'did a runner' when he won. The Sunloch Suite at Aintree is named in his honour.

Nominated by: Stuart Tyler of Woodhouse Eaves

Unveiled in Loughborough on 23 March 2016

George Stephenson

'Father of the Railways'

Born in 1781, George Stephenson was a railway pioneer internationally renowned for his innovative engineering. He designed the 'Rocket', the locomotive used on the first inter-city railway, the Liverpool to Manchester. He moved to Leicestershire in 1830 and turned his engineering talents to building a successful colliery.

Nominated by: Chris Pratt of Ravenstone

Unveiled in Ravenstone on 8 December 2015

William Henry Bragg

Nobel Prize winner for Physics

Born in 1862 and raised by his uncle in Market Harborough, William Henry Bragg shared the Nobel Prize for Physics with his son William for their analysis of crystal structure by means of X-rays. The mineral Braggite is named after them.

Nominated by: the Market Harborough Historical Society

Unveiled in Market Harborough 16 June 2016

Sergeant John Hannah

Awarded the Victoria Cross

A wireless operator/gunner during WWII, Sgt Hannah's bomber was subjected to intense anti-aircraft attack which started a fire that spread quickly. Sgt Hannah, who was from Birstall, remained in the aircraft eventually using his bare hands to put out the fire, enabling the pilot to bring the aircraft back safely.

Nominated by: Royal Airforces Association, Leicester

Unveiled in Birstall on 15 September 2016

Private William Henry Buckingham

Awarded the Victoria Cross

Born in 1886, William spent most of his childhood at the Countesthorpe Cottage Homes for orphaned children. Enlisting in the Leicestershire Regiment, he displayed extraordinary acts of gallantry rescuing wounded comrades, including an injured German soldier, under heavy fire during battle in 1915. Seriously wounded himself, he returned to the Western Front where he was killed at the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

Nominated by: Derek Seaton of Leicester

Unveiled in Countesthorpe on 29 September 2015

Angel Yard

Home of Ladybird Books

Angel Yard was the location of Wills and Hepworth, Printers. Established in 1873 as commercial printers, the company went on to produce market and distribute Ladybird Books which became famous around the world and made Loughborough well known everywhere as the "home of Ladybird Books".

Nominated by: 'Love Loughborough'

Unveiled in Loughborough on 29 July 2015

Round three:

Chapel Street, Barwell

Site of the Barwell Meteorite

On Christmas Eve 1965, one of the largest meteorites recorded in British history landed on the quiet and unsuspecting village of Barwell. Its flaming arrival was followed by a sonic boom as the 4.5 billion-year-old rock exploded into thousands of pieces.

Nominated by: Barwell Parish Council

Unveiled in Barwell on 8 December 2016

William Cotton

Inventor and manufacturer of Cottons Patent Knitting Machines

Born in Sileby in 1819, William spent most of his adult life living and working in Loughborough. A hosiery manufacturer, he developed a powered knitting machine and other ingenious innovations that changed the way knitted fabrics were produced forever.

Nominated by: Dennis Powdrill of Loughborough

Unveiled in Loughborough on 15 February 2018

Lady Florence Dixie

Author and campaigner for women's rights

Lady Florence Dixie was a renaissance woman ahead of her time. In 1875, she came to live at Bosworth Hall. She was appointed war correspondent for the 'Morning Post' of London to cover the Anglo-Zulu War and also wrote a feminist novel in which she prophesised that by 1999 the nation would be peacefully led by a woman! She also played a key role in the development of women's football.

Nominated by: the Market Bosworth Society

Unveiled in Market Bosworth on 10 May 2018

Palitoy

Toy Company

The original toy factory on Owen Street in Coalville manufactured some of the most popular toys in Britain, including Action Man, Tiny Tears, Pippa, Tressy, Mainline Model Railways, Merlin, Star Wars figures and the Care Bears.

Nominated by: Robert Brechin of Church Gresley

Unveiled in Coalville on 2 November 2017

Sir Frank Whittle

Inventor of the Jet Engine

Born in 1907, Sir Frank Whittle was a pioneering aeronautical engineer whose invention – the jet engine - created a revolution in air travel. He worked with Power Jets Ltd at Lutterworth from 1938-1948 to develop the turbojet engine.

Nominated by: Geoff Smith of Broughton Astley

Unveiled in Lutterworth on 29 June 2017

Wicklow Lodge

Military Hospital during WWI

Located in Melton Mowbray, Wicklow Lodge served as a military hospital in WWI treating over 1,400 sick and wounded soldiers from January 1915 - April 1919. It was originally a private house given free of charge by the owner, and was fully supported and funded by the people of Melton Mowbray.

Nominated by: Derek Simmonds of Melton Mowbray

Unveiled in Melton Mowbray on 9 August 2017