

## Green Plaques unveiled across Leicestershire

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### 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: The Green, Thringstone on 18 June 2014*



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### Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Rice DFC RAF VR

Dambuster pilot

Taking part in the 'Dambusters Raid' on 17<sup>th</sup> 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: The Sycamores Inn, Burbage on 18 September 2014*



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### 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: Seine Lane, Enderby on 15 October 2014*

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## **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: Burton Road, Melton Mowbray on 10 December 2014*



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## **The John Taylor Bellfoundry**

The John Taylor Bellfoundry in Loughborough has been bellfounding since the 14<sup>th</sup> 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: Freehold Street, Loughborough on 26 February 2015*



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## 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: Main Street, Kibworth Harcourt on 21 May 2015*

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## 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: Market Street, Loughborough on 29 July 2015*

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## 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: The Drive, Countesthorpe on 29 September 2015*

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## **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: Alton Hill, Ravenstone on 8 December 2015*

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## **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: Nottingham Road, Loughborough on 23 March 2016*



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## 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: The Square, Market Harborough 16 June 2016*

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## Flight Sergeant John Hannah

Awarded the Victoria Cross

A wireless operator/gunner during WWII, Flt Sgt Hannah's bomber was subjected to intense anti-aircraft attack which started a fire that spread quickly. Flt 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: Front Street, Birstall on 15 September 2016*

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## Barwell Meteorite

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: Chapel Street, Barwell on 8 December 2016*

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## 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: Ladywood Works, Lutterworth on 29 June 2017*

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## 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: Coalville Business Park, Coalville on 2 November 2017*

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## 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: Burton Road, Melton Mowbray on 9 August 2017*

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## 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: Factory Street, Loughborough on 15 February 2018*



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## 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 prophesied 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: Market Bosworth Hotel on 10 May 2018*



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## Tommy Brown

Awarded the George Medal

In 1942, the HMS Petard was engaged in the hunt for a German submarine. When the submarine surfaced alongside HMS Petard after being 'holed', it was imperative that the Royal Navy locate the Enigma machine and code book that contained information vital to code-breakers at Bletchley Park. Sixteen-year-old Tommy Brown from Earl Shilton helped rescue the documents, swimming back and forth between the sinking submarine and HMS Petard. The bravery of Tommy Brown and fellow seamen, Anthony Fasson and Collin Grazier, helped Britain survive the war, the details of which only came to light 55 years later when they were released from the Official Secrets Act.



*Nominated by John Reed of Hinckley*

*Unveiled: Station Road, Earl Shilton on 5 July 2018*

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## Ann Ayre Hely

Crimean War nurse

After becoming a widow, Ann Hely answered the call for nurses to work in the East, nursing the sick and wounded soldiers of the Crimean War. Anne, who was from Ravenstone, travelled first to the Smyrna hospital and then transferred to the purpose-built Renkioi Hospital designed by the celebrated Isambard Kingdom Brunel. In December 1897, Ann was awarded the coveted order of the Royal Red Cross. A hand-written letter from Florence Nightingale to Ann Hely confirms that Nightingale knew of Hely and her excellent reputation as a nurse.



*Nominated by Dr Wendy Freer of Ashby-de-la-Zouch.*

*Unveiled at the Ravenstone Almshouses on 27 September 2018*

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## The Drill Hall

Melton Mowbray

Built in 1914, the Drill Hall was the headquarters of both the 'A' Squadron Leicestershire Yeomanry and the 'C' Company 1/5<sup>th</sup> Leicestershire Territorials, both of which suffered heavy casualties in France during WWI.

*Nominated by Derek Simons of Melton Mowbray.*

*Unveiled on 29 November 2018*




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## Heathcoat & Boden's Lace Factory

Loughborough

A major manufacturer of lace and machinery, the factory was destroyed by Luddites on the evening of 28 June 1816. It was rumoured to be an early example of industrial sabotage organised by the Nottingham lace industry.

*Nominated by Tony Jarram of Loughborough.*

*Unveiled on 28 February 2019*




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## John T. Kenney

Thomas the Tank Engine artist

John T. Kenney was the artist who between 1957 and 1962 illustrated six books in Reverend W. Awdry's famous series, *Thomas the Tank Engine*. His illustrations captured the image and personality of Thomas and his railway pals that endures to this day. From Kibworth, Kenney was also a fine artist, painting mainly rural and sporting landscapes.

*Nominated by Stephen Butt of Kibworth Beauchamp.*

*Unveiled in Kibworth Beauchamp on 13 June 2019*



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## Lieutenant Arthur Newberry Choyce

WWI soldier and poet

Arthur Newberry Choyce joined the Leicestershire Regiment in 1915, displaying remarkable bravery in leading his men into prominent battles. Despite his leadership responsibilities, he wrote poetry in the trenches of France and Flanders and his first book, 'Crimson Stains' was published in 1917 revealing the horrors he had witnessed.



*Nominated by Michael Kendrick of Old Woodhouse and Llynda Baugh of Thringstone*

*Unveiled in Hugglescote on 29 August 2019*

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## Kathleen and Nora Corcoran

Suffragette Campaigners

Sisters Kathleen and Nora Corcoran were prominent in the Loughborough Suffragette movement. The sisters organised many Suffragette events to encourage local women's involvement in the cause. Kathleen was also among the 300 women who marched to Parliament on Black Friday (18 November 1910) to protest against the government's refusal to extend the vote to women.



*Nominated by the Loughborough Labour History Group.*

*Unveiled in Loughborough on 31 October 2019*

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## The Revd Dr William Pearson

Astronomer

Revd Dr William Pearson was Rector of St Nicholas' Church, and an astronomer who co-founded the Royal Astronomical Society 200 years ago. His major work 'An Introduction to Practical Astronomy' won him the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society.

*Nominated by Carolyn Bedwell and Mike Frost.*

*Unveiled in South Kilworth on 16 January 2020*




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## Col John Cridlan Barrett VC

Distinguished Officer and Surgeon

Colonel John Cridlan Barrett VC was commissioned into the Royal Leicestershire Regiment in 1916. His extraordinary bravery and gallantry in the final weeks of WWI earned him the Victoria Cross. He later became a distinguished surgeon at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

*Nominated by Capt Bob Allen MBE on behalf of the Royal Tigers' Association.*

*Unveiled in South Wigston on 12 March 2020*




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## Jack Gardner

Heavyweight Boxing Champion of Great Britain and Europe

Born in Market Harborough in 1926, Jack began his boxing career whilst serving as a Grenadier Guard in the British Army. In 1948, he represented Great Britain in the Olympic Games. Gardner began his career as a professional boxer on 12



December 1948 in a novice tournament, winning all his fights by knockout in the first round. In November 1950 he became Heavyweight Champion of Great Britain.

*Nominated by the Market Harborough Civic Society.*

*Unveiled in Market Harborough on 29 July 2021*

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## Captain Robert Gee VC MC

Victoria Cross Recipient and MP for Bosworth

Born in 1876, Robert Gee was sent to the Countesthorpe Cottage Homes for orphaned children. He enlisted in the Royal Fusiliers, and on 30 November 1917 in France, Captain Gee single-handedly attacked a German machine gun post. He was wounded in the engagement, which was later described as a 'magnificent exploit' and for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross. Later he served as Member of Parliament for Bosworth.



*Nominated by Derek Seaton of Leicester.*

*Unveiled in Hinckley on 30 September 2021*

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## Fanny Deacon

Pharmacist

Born in 1837 in Kibworth Beauchamp, Fanny Deacon was the first woman to qualify for registration with the Pharmaceutical Society. Fanny moved to Fleckney in 1875 where she continued to practice as a pharmacist until her death in 1930.

*Nominated by Fleckney Parish Council*

*Unveiled in Fleckney on 16 June 2022*



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## Military Stables

At the Defence Animal Training Regiment

The Military Stables in Melton Mowbray have been training and caring for horses deployed in military defence since 1903. The Regiment continues to train military working horses and dogs, equine instructors, farriers, dog handlers and trainers. It is also the home of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps.



*Nominated by the Defence Animal Training Regiment*

*Unveiled in Melton Mowbray on 25 August 2022*

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## Sergeant Pilot Herbert E Black RAFVR

Battle of Britain Pilot

Born in Measham in 1914, Herbert Black attended Dixie Grammar school in Market Bosworth. Aged 23, he joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve becoming a front-line pilot on 1 September 1939, the day Germany invaded Poland. It was on 29 October 1940, Black and his fellow pilots attacked a Luftwaffe force at 22,000ft over Deal in Kent. Sgt Black escaped his burning plane during a dogfight, but was badly injured, and later died of his injuries.



*Nominated by John Reed of Hinckley and the Dixie Grammar School*

*Unveiled in Ibstock on 13 October 2022*