

25 August 2017

TOWN CENTRE HERITAGE TASK GROUP – 30 AUGUST 2017

A meeting of the Town Centre Heritage Task Group will be held at 5.30pm on Wednesday 30 August 2017 in Committee Room 1 at the Town Hall, Rugby.

Councillor Miss Lawrence
Chair

A G E N D A

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Minutes – to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2017.
2. Apologies – to receive apologies for absence from the meeting.
3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of:

(a) non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors;

(b) pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors; and

(c) notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 – non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.

Note: Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their interests at the commencement of the meeting (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a pecuniary interest the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.

Membership of Warwickshire County Council or any Parish Council is classed as a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct. A Member does not need to declare this interest unless the Member chooses to speak on a matter relating to their membership. If the Member does not wish to speak on the matter, the Member may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.

4. Briefing Paper.
5. Dates of future meetings – please bring your diaries to the meeting.

PART 2 – EXEMPT INFORMATION

There is no business involving exempt information.

Membership of the group:

Councillors Miss Lawrence (Chair), Mrs Avis, Mrs Bragg, Gillias, Sandison, Mrs Simpson-Vince, Srivastava and Ms Watson-Merret

If you have any general queries with regard to this agenda please contact Linn Ashmore, Democratic Services Officer (01788 533522 or e-mail linn.ashmore@rugby.gov.uk). Any specific queries concerning reports should be directed to the listed contact officer.

If you wish to attend the meeting and have any special requirements for access please contact the Democratic Services Officer named above.

Town Centre Heritage Task Group

30 August 2017

Briefing Paper

Introduction

At the Town Centre Heritage Task Group meeting on 27th July 2017, it was agreed the next meeting would focus on the below. This briefing paper provides more information in each of these areas.

- Enhancing access to information and marketing activities for existing initiatives i.e. the Blue Plaque trail, Pathway of Fame and Town Guides
- An update on responses to the online consultation
- A summary of feedback on the Festival of Culture.

Enhancing access to information and marketing activities for existing initiatives

At the end of 2016, a new 'The Rugby Town' brand was launched to provide a single identity to promote the town centre and the wider borough's visitor offer. A new website has been launched and existing marketing activities are being adapted to include the new branding. Examples include promotion materials for town centre events, (e.g. St Georges Day, Festival of Culture, Food & Drink Festival), town centre walking tours and the Pathway of Fame. Members of the Task Group have been provided with a draft version of a revised Blue Plaque guide for comment.

The Tourism and Town Centre Team Leader met with the Town Guides in July. The volunteers were provided with the opportunity to feedback on what was working well with the programme and what could be improved. One of the agreed outcomes was that a new marketing plan was needed for the walking tours. This could include the below:

- Signage external to the building
- Increased levels of social media coverage
- Working with town centre businesses to provide added value to the town centre walking tours e.g. food and drink opportunities
- Targeting specific groups and communities who might be interested in discovering or re-discovering Rugby's heritage

Current responses to consultation

At the previous meeting only four consultation responses had been submitted through the online form. Since this meeting, only one further response has been submitted.

In an attempt to increase levels of public engagement in the Task Group, physical copies of the consultation form have been made available in the Visitor Centre. Staff have been briefed to actively encourage visitors to complete these.

Members of the Town Centre Heritage Task Group are encouraged to think of other ways to increase engagement in the consultation process.

Festival of Culture 2017 Feedback

This year's Festival of Culture took place between Saturday 24 June to Sunday 16 July – some statistics for this year's event are provided below. In its seventh year, the festival also coincided with Rugby School's 'Festival On The Close', taking place school's 450th anniversary year.

- 10,000 people attended the festival
- Over 100 events
- 22 town centre venues/locations
- Over 50 groups, businesses and organisations involved
- 27,000 festival guides distributed

The Festival of Culture committee are due to meet on Thursday 7th September to evaluate this year's event in full, using feedback from event organisers and people who attended events.

Recommendations

- Develop existing visitor publications in the 'The Rugby Town' branding
- Provide feedback on the draft Blue Plaque leaflet, circulated with this briefing paper (copies of colour leaflets will be available at the meeting).
- Increase promotion of town centre walking tours and explore opportunities to link with local businesses.
- Continue to progress with the public consultation process and identify ways to increase engagement.
- Explore how heritage can be better represented through the Festival of Culture evaluation process.

USING THIS GUIDE

A location map for all of the plaques listed is provided on the back of this leaflet. Please open out the leaflet to show exactly where to locate the site of a famous building, person or event in Rugby.



SINCE 1823
THE RUGBY TOWN



RUGBY'S BLUE PLAQUES

A GUIDE TO THE SITES OF COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES FOR FAMOUS BUILDINGS, PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN RUGBY

FIND YOURSELF HERE



1 CENTenary OF CALDECOTT PARK 1903 - 2003
Caldecott Park
Ellen, descendant of Abraham Caldecott Lord of the Manor in 1801, later married Edmund Harms, solicitor, who then held the Lordship until his death in 1893. Passing it to Rugby Council in 1903 to create a public park, they purchased 9½ acres of land for £500 from the Harms daughters. 2009 saw the restoration of the park, thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

2 THE BUTCHERS TEWS
1 Chapel Street
Where Drury Lane meets Chapel Street (previously Swan Lane) the 14th century wall made of wattle and daub may be seen. In the 19th century, it's reputed that they supplied the piece of beef steak for Tom's black eye after his fight with 'Slogger Williams' in Chapel Street Tom Brown's School days.

3 WOODBINE WILLIE
6 Windsor Court
From a large family, Geoffry Student Kennedy was the son of an Irish born vicar and grandson of an eminent Dean. Ordained Deacon at Worcester Cathedral in 1908, then designated to the Holy Trinity Church, School, Ordained as a priest two years later and assigned to the Holy Trinity Church, School, sportsman, poet, speaker and champion of the poor, gained his reputation and nickname comforting wounded and dying soldiers in the trenches during World War One, with poetry, prayers and a cigarette. Awarded the Military Cross for Gallantry in 1917.

4 ORIGINAL BOOTS
26-27 High Street
Boots the Chemist shop, 26-27 High Street built in the early 20th century was a model of Victorian opulence. The magnificent terracotta frontage remains as evidence of this, in the 1940s the shop was divided into two separate shops. In 2004 Mike and Eileen Jeffs, owners of Summersault Restaurant at no. 27, acquired no. 26, restored the premises and reunited them once more to their former glory as one shop.

5 THE SHAMBLES
9-10 Sheep Street
Circa 1800 these buildings were open wooden sheds used on fair and market days, 'shambles' being defined as a stall for the slaughter and sale of meat. In 1830 Thomas Caldecott, Lord of the Manor, rebuilt and renamed them. They were reconstructed in 1890.

6 LAST RIOT ACT
Rugby School, The Mound, Barbly Road

In 1797, headmaster Henry Inghes discovered a boy using gunpowder illicitly procured as 'tea'. On blaming the shopkeeper, the boy was flogged for being a liar. In retaliation the boys smashed the shop windows, for which the head demanded they pay. This led to the burning of desks and books and murtiny with the burning of desks and books in the playground. The boys were chased by Mr Bullin JP and apprehended as he read out the Riot Act. In retribution, the head flogged or expelled many boys.

7 ORIGINAL TOWN HALL
31 - 32 High Street

The first town hall built in 1857 housed council offices, sessions, courtrooms, assembly room and market hall.com exchange. In 1900 it moved, to be replaced by private businesses. As a cinema in 1921 the building became fire damaged and was then bought by Woolworths. Only three bay windows of the 1919 extension remain above.

8 THOMAS HUGHES
In front of statue, Barbly Road

Born in Uffington, Berkshire, first schooled near Winchester then studied at Rugby School from 1834-1842 under the headship of Dr Arnold. Oriel College in Oxford followed; he was elected MP for Lambeth in 1865 and he became a QC in 1869. He was a great social reformer and the colony he founded in the USA still exists today with links with Rugby.

9 FIRE MARK
5 High Street

Depicting the office of 'The Royal Exchange Assurance', founded 1720. After the great fire of London in 1666, it became evident that some form of compensation was required, so fire insurance companies were formed and the insured building was marked with their emblem. This practice continued for 250 years.

10 FIRST SITE OF GIRLS-HIGH SCHOOL
10 Eisee Road

A Rugby native, Olive Hands advertised her fee paying school as a "thoroughly efficient high school for girls" and named it after Thomas Arnold, headmaster of Rugby School. In 1919 control passed to Warwickshire County Council and fees were abolished. The school relocated to Clifton Road in 1927 and was renamed 'Rugby High School'. A third relocation to Longood Road in late 1950s occurred, but the name remained unchanged.

11 SECOND TOWN HALL
4 High Street

Rugby's second town hall, built in 1900, was built on the site of the Shoulder of Mutton Inn. George C Benn bequeathed the inn to the service of the town in 1895, with generous provision for erecting and maintaining a new building for the benefit of the ratepayers. In 1927 the council offices were transferred to the Lawn in North Street and Marks and Spencer bought the Benn building. The upper storey can still be seen.

12 GILBERT'S ORIGINAL WORKSHOP
19 High Street

William Gilbert, born in 1799, occupied the site of 19 High Street for around 25 years. From 1815 to 1842, then in 1842 he moved to 5 St Matthews Street. William made the early balls by stitching four pieces of leather around a freshly removed pig's bladder. This was inflated by mouth through a clay pipe and the appearance of the ball, much larger and rounder than those of the present day, was dictated by the shape of the bladder. Under the aegis of three generations of Gilberts, the nature of the ball evolved into the more oval-shaped ball.

13 RICHARD ELBOROWE
Corner of Sheep St & Lawrence Sheriff St

In 1645 Richard Sr. from Yelvertoft, a leading member in the town, bought this site and had a house built. Richard Jr. was born here and after making his fortune in London returned to Rugby in 1688. He later endowed a school originally for 30 boys and almshouses for 6 widows, both in High Street (now re-located).

14 MEDIEVAL MOAT
Jubilee Gardens, Regent Place

The remains of the moat were destroyed when Regent Street was built in 1902. The street occupies the grounds of Moat House which stood in Church Street. The moat had already been partially filled in by 1850.

15 RUPERT BROOKE
5 Hillmorton Road

Rupert Brooke, famous World War I poet, was born in this house on the 3rd August 1887. His father, William Parker Brooke, was a Housemaster at Rugby School. Rupert played cricket and football for the school and wrote many poems. On the outbreak of World War I he obtained a commission in the Royal Naval Division. On the 28th February 1915 they sailed for the Dardanelles. Whilst on exercise he contracted blood poisoning and died on the 23rd April 1915, being buried the same evening on the Greek isle of Skyros.

28 MARY RUTH BROOKE
24 Bilton Road

Mother of Rupert Brooke, poet. In this house Rupert Brooke completed the five sonnets called '1914', including 'The Soldier'. Mary was an active figure in Rugby, working tirelessly for the Liberal cause, and as a magistrate attended to her duties up until her death in 1930 aged 82.

29 QUEEN VICTORIA JUBILEE
The Clock Tower, Market Place

This was erected to commemorate the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria. J Parnell was the local builder and the materials used were granite for the base, with Derbyshire gritstone and infilling of Northamptonshire ironstone. Anthony Benn presented the clock to the town as a gift.

30 R BURTON, P BATT, M BURTON
12 Albert Street

Members of Howkins and Harrisons, chartered surveyors and auctioneers, and past presidents of the Rotary Club of Rugby.
R H M Burton 1955 - 1957
P A Batt 1977 - 1978
M M Burton 1979 - 1980.

31 RUGBY'S THIRD STATION
Bottom of Railway Terrace

The station opening was celebrated on July 3rd 1885. At that time, more than 120 trains passed daily. A dance was held on the platform with 2000 people present. The platform was 470 yards long and there was an overall glass roof of 2 spans, totalling 117 feet. 2008 saw an upgraded West Coast Rail line and refurbished station, costing several million pounds.

32 JOHNNY WILLIAMS
49 Church Street

Williams was born in Wales, moved to Rugby when he was three and began his boxing career in fairground booths collecting money by passing around a hat. After training in Rugby locations such as the Old Co-op building at this site (formerly Lawrence Sheriff Arms), He became British and Empire Heavyweight Champion in 1952. On retiring in 1960, he had a record 60 wins and 38 knock-outs to his name. Williams then became a full time farmer in Newton, Rugby, where his family still live and work.

22 LAWRENCE SHERIFF
Rugby School, Lawrence Sheriff Street

Lawrence Sheriff was born quite near to the present site of Rugby School, of which he was the benefactor. He became a master grocer to Queen Elizabeth I. On his death, he left property in London. The income from this property was used to provide a school for children and four almshouses for the oldest and poorest men of Rugby and Brownsver.

23 DENNIS GABOR
26 Bilton Road

Born in Hungary on 5th June 1900, he came to England in 1934. He was invited to the British Thomson-Houston factory in Rugby and worked there for 15 years, during which time he invented holography, thereby winning the Nobel Prize in 1971.

24 BENNFIELD HOUSE
32 North Street

The Benn family were great benefactors for the town of Rugby. They gave generously towards the upkeep of the church and presented a site in High Street for Rugby's second town hall.

25 MATTHEW BLOXAM
The Percival Guildhouse, St Matthews Street

Matthew Holbeche Bloxam was an antiquarian with many interests, including architecture and archaeology. He wrote a book on gothic architecture that was published in 1829 and ran to ten editions. During his life, he worked in Rugby as a solicitor and became clerk to the justices. Many works about Rugby and its neighbourhood were published after his death.

26 MOAT HOUSE WRATISLAW FAMILY
14 Church Street

Moat House was a regency house built by W F Wratislaw before 1820. He lived and had his solicitor's business there until his death in 1853. John Darby, a well-known horse dealer, occupied it in 1879. Tattershalls, the London horse dealers, leased premises behind, to serve as their Midlands branch.

27 RICHARD LINDON
6 Lawrence Sheriff Street

Richard Lindon, the inventor of the inflatable india rubber football bladder, lived and worked in Rugby. The bladders were used for both round and oval balls. He conducted his business on this site.

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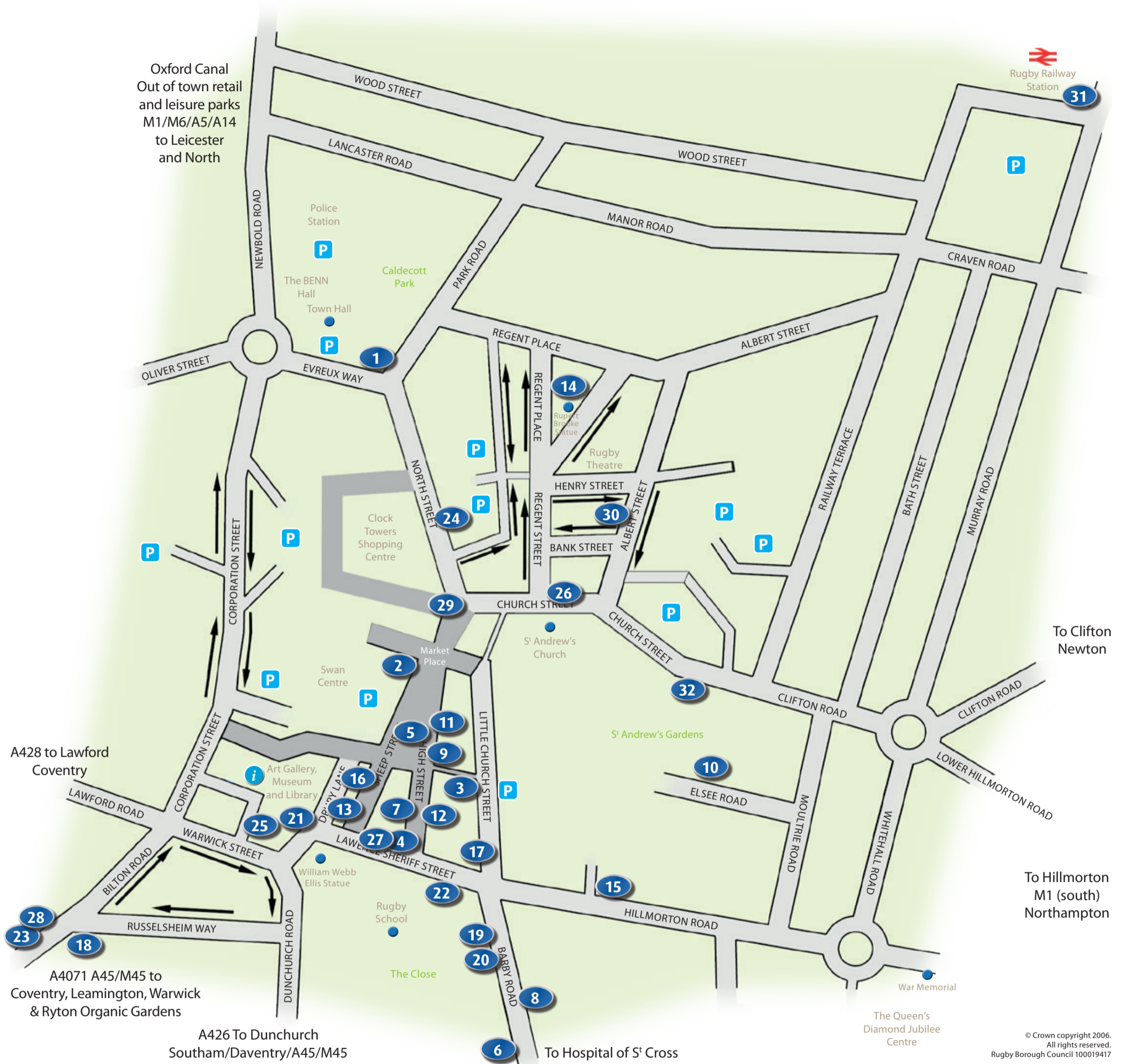
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RUGBY'S BLUE PLAQUES

Commemorative plaques for famous buildings, people and events in Rugby



Oxford Canal
Out of town retail
and leisure parks
M1/M6/A5/A14
to Leicester
and North

A428 to Lawford
Coventry

A4071 A45/M45 to
Coventry, Leamington, Warwick
& Ryton Organic Gardens

A426 To Dunchurch
Southam/Daventry/A45/M45

To Hospital of S' Cross

To Clifton
Newton

To Hillmorton
M1 (south)
Northampton

16
SIR NORMAN LOCKYER
24 Sheep Street

Astronomer, Sir Norman Lockyer was born in this house in Sheep Street in 1836. He was appointed Director of the Solar Physics Observatory and Professor of Astronomical Physics. He pioneered the application of spectroscopy to astronomy and by doing so discovered a new gaseous element in the atmosphere of the sun, which he named helium. In 1869 he founded the now very influential scientific journal 'Nature'.

18
LOUISA DANIELL
21 Bilton Road

Founder of the first Soldiers' Home in Aldershot. Born in Bath, Louisa married Frederick in 1833 and came to Rugby as a widow in 1849 to educate her son at Rugby School. In 1857 her missionary work began. She opened a mission hall in Pailton in 1860, followed by one in Hillmorton a year later.

20
RUGBY SCHOOL GATEWAY 400TH ANNIVERSARY
Barby Road

Her Majesty said she was delighted to be visiting the School and added, 'Rugby occupies a special place amongst our schools, and Rugbeians have played a notable part in the history of our country. The magnificent Commemorative Gates given so generously by the Old Rugbeian Society are a splendid tribute to the achievements of the School over four hundred years.'
Please note that the gates lead to private school land.

17
RICHARD HENRY WOOD
Little Church Street

Richard and his wife Elizabeth were the founders of Rugby's Hospital of St Cross in 1884. Richard founded the Wood Institute for adult learning and in 1890 gave money to build the first Public Library.

19
RUGBY SCHOOL GATEWAY OPENED
Barby Road

Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, visited Rugby School on a wet May 12th 1967. It was the first time since her great grandfather Edward VII that royalty had visited the School. The Queen also planted an elm tree on The Close, using the same spade that Edward had used to plant the 'King's Oak' that still stands outside School House today.
Please note that the gates lead to private school land.

21
WILLIAM GILBERT
Rugby Football Museum,
5 St Matthews Street

William Gilbert, a boot and shoemaker in High Street, established the Gilbert company in the early nineteenth century. He repaired shoes for Rugby schoolboys and provided casings for their footballs. William Webb Ellis probably had a ball made by William Gilbert in his arms when he ran with it, in 1823. The business moved to St Matthews street in 1842, where rugby footballs were made until the early 21st century.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this guide is correct, neither Rugby Borough Council nor the publishers can take any responsibility for errors or omissions. Some of the plaques shown in this brochure are not Blue Plaques, as they are old existing plaques.