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| MEETING TITLE | Minutes of the 81 st meeting of the Blue Plaques Panel |
| DATE | 2 June 2021 at 11am |
| LOCATION | Held via Zoom |
| ATTENDEES | Professor Ronald Hutton (Chair) Professor Richard Aldrich Dr Simon Chaplin Alex Graham Andrew Graham-Dixon (part) Professor Claire Harman Dr Rebekah Higgitt Dr Rosemary Hill Alan Hollinghurst Amy Lamé Sir Tim Laurence – Board Chairman (part) Anna Eavis – Curatorial Director & Panel Secretary Cathy Power – Blue Plaques Manager Rebecca Preston – Blue Plaques Historian Howard Spencer – Senior Historian, Blue Plaques Sarah Whines – PR Manager Kathryn Lanning – Governance Officer Eloise England – Governance Assistant (minutes) |

Item 1 – Welcome and Announcements

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed Panel members and staff, including English Heritage Chairman Sir Tim Laurence who was in attendance. Sir Tim Laurence expressed his gratitude for the Panel's dedicated work, and hoped they found it rewarding and enjoyable.
- 1.2 The Chairman reminded members that, given the high number of blue plaque proposals received, successful nominations needed to be 'over the bar' in the Panel's collective view and borderline cases would be rejected. He also advised that from now on staff would carry out an initial sift of proposals, but that members would still see a full list of all proposals received and could request detailed reports on any for the Panel's consideration at a future meeting.

Item 2 – Apologies and declarations of interest

- 2.1 Apologies were noted from Emily Gee, Mihir Bose, Jeremy Ashbee and Michael Murray-Fennell.
- 2.2 Amy Lamé noted that she had been cited in the preliminary report on The Gateways Club but in a capacity unrelated to the nomination. The Chairman confirmed that this did not constitute a conflict of interest and there was no need for her to refrain from taking part in the discussion on this item.

Item 3 – Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2021

- 3.1 Agreed as a correct record.

Item 4 – Matters arising

- 4.1 There were no matters arising.

Item 5 – Secretary’s report (oral)

- 5.1 Anna Eavis updated the panel on the following:
 - Five installations had taken place since the last meeting for Dame Kathleen Lonsdale, Arthur Ransome, Caroline Norton, John Osborne and Ardaseer Cursetjee Wadia. Media coverage had been very positive. Panel members were invited to attend the unveiling for Jean Muir on 28th June at 11.45.
 - Following further correspondence with his biographer, it was agreed that the inscription on the plaque to Sir Hersch Lauterpacht should be altered to read: “An architect of modern international law and human rights lived here”
 - Panel membership would be boosted in coming months by the very welcome re-appointment of Gus Casely-Hayford and, as part of EH’s commitment to youth participation and involvement in decision-making, it was also proposed to appoint a young person to the Panel for a period of 12 months.
 - The BAME working group met on 9th February and were informed of progress made.
 - More profiles to existing blue holders have been added to English Heritage website. There is also now [a page on the website](#) which discusses the links of some plaque holders to the Eugenics Society and contextualises their commemoration within the scheme.
 - Steve Martin, member of the BAME working group, Howard Spencer, and Panel Members Rosemary Hill and Rebekah Higgitt had worked with Young Producers within the Shout Out Loud programme to create a short film entitled *Plaque to the Future*. Anna thanked staff and Panel members for their help on this project, particularly Rosemary and Rebecca’s contributions to [Plaque Stage Pass](#) behind-the-scenes episodes.

- The second edition of *The English Heritage Guide to London's Blue Plaques* had now sold over 1400 copies, and would be released in the US in August 2021. The Commercial team was also working on other products related to the scheme, including a scratch-off map of prominent plaques around London.

Item 6 – PR Update

6.1 The Panel noted the PR Update.

Item 7 – Blue Plaques Programme - Progress Report

7.1 The Panel noted the progress of the 2021 plaques programme.

Item 8 – Criteria for the evaluation of Blue Plaque proposals

8.1 Sir Tim Laurence suggested that clause (g) of the criteria be expanded to give further guidance on the nomination and shortlisting of buildings of historic significance.

ACTION: Howard Spencer

Item 9 – Preliminary considerations

9.1 Under its terms of reference, the Blue Plaques Panel advises English Heritage on the erection of Blue Plaques. The Panel considered 30 preliminary nominations as follows:

Julia Margaret Cameron (1815 – 1879)

The Panel's decision was to shortlist.

John Copley (1875 – 1950) and Ethel Gabain (1883 – 1950)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Jane Drew (1911 – 1996)

The Panel deferred a decision until the next meeting.

The Gateways Club (1930s – 1985)

The Panel's decision was to shortlist.

Jacques Groag (1903 – 1986) and Jacqueline Groag (1892 – 1962)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Frank Harcourt-Munning (1905 – 1985)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Margaret Huggins (1848 – 1915)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Ben Lyon (1901 – 1979) and Bebe Daniels (1901 – 1971)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Una Marson (1905 – 1965)

The Panel's decision was to shortlist.

John Newlands (1837 – 1898)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Patrick O'Brian (1914 – 2000)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist but to allow the case to be reviewed in 5 years.

The Pioneer Club (c.1892 – 1939)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Oliver Reed (1948 – 1999)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Kathleen Easmon Simango (1891 – 1924)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Violet Trefusis (1894 – 1972)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Harriette Wilson (1786 – 1845)

The Panel's decision was to shortlist.

Arthur Wontner, formerly Smith (1875 – 1960) and Sir Hugh Wontner (1908 – 1992)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Herbert Plumer, later Viscount Plumer (1857 – 1932)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Brian Jones (1942 – 1969)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Joseph Hunter (1783 – 1861)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Olive Edis (1876 – 1955)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Nellie Roberts (1872 – 1959)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Frances l'Anson (1766 – 1795)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Charles Speirs (1873 – 1966)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Revd James 'Jimmy' Butterworth (1897 – 1977)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Site of the Fellowship of the New Life (FNL) commune

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Dr Philip Spensley (1920 – 1994)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Alfred Seabold Ackermann (1867 – 1951)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Jack Stanford (1900 – 1969)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Yvonne Gregory (1889 – 1970) and Bertram Park (1883 – 1972)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Item 10 – Shortlist of recommendations awaiting final report

10.1 Noted

Item 11 – Final reports

11.1 *This item is included in a protected appendix to these minutes as it contains information that is potentially protected from public access.*

Item 12 – 2022 Meeting Dates

12.1 The Panel agreed the meeting dates for 2022 as follows:

Wednesday 9 February (11:00 – 13:00)

Wednesday 8 June (11:00 – 13:00)

Wednesday 5 October (11:00 – 13:00)

Item 13 – Any other business

13.1 The Panel expressed their sadness at the passing of former member Rupert Hambro, and acknowledged his dedication to the Panel during his time as a member between 2014 and 2019.

13.2 The Chairman advised that, regrettably, this was the last Panel meeting for Alan Hollinghurst and Rosemary Hill. He thanked them for their longstanding contribution and dedication to the work of the Panel. Alan and Rosemary expressed their gratitude to the Chairman and other Panel members.

Eloise England, Governance Assistant
June 2021