



MEETING TITLE	PUBLIC Minutes of the 89th meeting of the Blue Plaques Panel	
DATE	8 February 2024 at 11am	
LOCATION	English Heritage Offices, 100 Wood Street, London EC2V 7AN	
MEMBERS	Professor William Whyte (Chair) Sophie Anstee de Mas Professor Tilly Blyth YolanDa Brown OBE DL Dr Simon Chaplin Dr Gus Casely-Hayford OBE Emily Gee	Alex Graham Andrew Graham-Dixon Professor Claire Harman Amy Lamé Dr Shini Somara Petroc Trelawny
ATTENDEES	Matt Thompson – interim Curatorial Director Jeremy Ashbee – Head Historic Properties Curator Cathy Power – Blue Plaques Manager Rebecca Preston – Blue Plaques Historian Susan Skedd – Blue Plaques Historian Howard Spencer – Senior Historian, Blue Plaques Judeth Neville – Head of Governance (minutes)	
APOLOGIES	Professor Richard Aldrich Mihir Bose	Susie Thornberry

Item 1 – Apologies, announcements and declarations of interest or any other business

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Prof. Tilly Blyth, YolanDa Brown, Dr Shini Somara and Petroc Trelawny, four new Panel members, joining their first meeting as members.
- 1.2 The Chair noted that Prof. Richard Aldrich and Susie Thornberry had sent comments in advance on the papers, to which he drew the Panel's attention as the meeting progressed.
- 1.3 There were no new declarations of interest.

Item 2 – Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2023 and any matters arising

- 2.1 The Minutes were approved as a fair and accurate record.
- 2.2 There were no matters arising.

Item 3 – Chair's report (oral)

- 3.1 The Chair noted that the new English Heritage Chief Executive Nick Merriman starts later this month and intends to attend the Panel meeting in October.

Item 4 - Curatorial Director's report (oral)

- 4.1 The Curatorial Director noted the proposed 2024 unveilings. Currently the majority of the planned twelve plaques this year will commemorate women. The Panel welcomed the plan later this year to release a rebuilt blue plaques app.

A further update from the Curatorial Director is included in a protected appendix to these minutes as it contains information that is potentially protected from public access.

Item 5 – Preliminary considerations

5.1 Under its terms of reference, the Blue Plaques Panel advises English Heritage on the erection of blue plaques. The Panel considered 17 preliminary cases as follows:

John Doman Turner (1871–1938)

The panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Ethel Ayres Purdie (1874–1923)

The panel's decision was to shortlist.

Sir Kenneth Robinson (1911–1996)

The panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Nigel Hawthorne (1929–2001)

The panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Dudley Moore (1935–2002)

The panel's decision was not to shortlist.

The Piccadilly Theatre (first UK screening of a 'talkie')

The panel's decision was to shortlist.

Harriet Shaw Weaver (1876–1971)

The panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Mian Abdul Rashid (1889–1981)

The panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Maurice Baring (1874–1945)

The panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Violet Hunt (1862–1942)

The panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Constance Smedley (1876-1941)

The panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Dr Henry Harris (1838–1895)

The panel's decision was not to shortlist.

William Lionel Clause (1887–1946)

The panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Polly Brace (1900–1977)

The panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Cecil Tennant (1910–1967)

The panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Founding headquarters of the Royal Institute of British Architects (1853–1954)

The panel's decision was not to shortlist.

John William Banfield (1875–1945)

Frank Banfield (1905–1970)

The panel's decision was not to shortlist.

The cases of **Gerald Finzi (1901–1956)** and **Amy Woodforde-Finden (1860–1919)** were deferred for further research and consideration.

Item 6 – Final reports

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

Item 7 – Any other business

7.1 The Blue Plaques Manager outlined the process around installation and promotion of unveilings of new blue plaques.

Information papers:

- Blue plaques selection criteria
- Public relations update
- Blue plaques programme: progress report (protected)
- Panel recommendations awaiting final report (protected)

Minutes: J Neville 8.2.24