

WORTHING'S BLUE PLAQUE SCHEME

A blue plaque is a permanent sign installed in a public place to commemorate a link between that location and a famous person, event or former building on the site, serving as a historical marker.

The Worthing Blue Plaque Scheme is overseen by The Worthing Society. A selection committee was established in 2021 to consider applications for Blue Plaques.

The committee consists of local people with an in-depth knowledge of Worthing and its history. It includes representatives from The Worthing society, Worthing Borough Council and a local historian.

A maximum of 2 Blue Plaques will be put up each year. These will be funded by The Worthing Society, a registered charity, and Worthing Borough Council.

Selection process

There is a set of criteria against which any suggestion will be judged. These have been based on those set down by English Heritage but adapted for Worthing.

A suggestion for a Blue Plaque can be made by members of the public or the Blue Plaque Committee.

Please initially email the selection panel with your suggestion before submitting a formal proposal.

The email should be sent to worthingsociety@yahoo.co.uk

If your suggestion is worth more detailed consideration you will be asked to complete a formal application using a template for guidance.

The Blue Plaque committee will then research the proposal and advise on whether the suggestion should be successful based on the criteria. The panel meet quarterly.

If there are several successful applications in any particular year the committee will decide which plaques to proceed with. If unsuccessful an application can be carried forward to the following year.

A list of current Blue Plaques can be found here:-

List of Worthing's Blue Plaques

Jane Austen - author

Patricia Baring - conservationist

Beach House dedicated by Basque Children of '37 Assoc. UK

Ellen Chapman – suffragist and mayor of Worthing

Alma Cogan - singer

Pvt William Cooper – fought at Rorke's Drift

Dr Frederick Dixon FRCS, FGS.

Edward VII

Keith Emerson - musician

Sgt. Walter Harrold, MM (Military Medal)

W.H. Hudson - naturalist

Edward Knoblock - playwright

Philip McCutchan - author

Montague 'Monty' Moore VC, Commemorative paving stone

Gladys Morgan – actress and comedienne

WPC Gladys Moss

Harold Pinter - playwright

Princess Amelia

Provident House

Carl Seebold and The Dome

Percy Bysshe Shelley - author

Henfry C.P. Smail - naturalist

St Pauls

Sir Frederick and Lady Stern – botanist and horticulturist
The Lifeboat House
George Warne - hotelier
Oscar Wilde – playwright
Worthing Railway Station

Material of the blue plaque.

Aluminium and blue. Circular. Either 16 or 18 inches in diameter

The Criteria

Please see below for the criteria against which an application will be judged.

WORTHING BLUE PLAQUE CRITERIA

To be eligible for a blue plaque the person concerned must:

- As a general rule been deceased for at least 5 – 10 Years or have passed the centenary of their birth. Fictional characters are not eligible
- Have lived in Worthing for a significant proportion of their life
- Have made an outstanding contribution to the lives of the people of Worthing or to human welfare and happiness nationally
- Be considered eminent by a majority of members of their own profession
- Have lived or worked in the building concerned for a significant period in time or importance, within their life and work be recognisable to the well-informed passer-by, or deserve national recognition.

Proposals can be considered for the commemoration of buildings that have a historical significance worthy of public notice – other than a particular personal association – either because:

- (i) a historical event of particular importance occurred there, or
- (ii) the building had an important historical significance that is not obvious from its present appearance, use or any existing commemoration.
- The building has significant architectural interest

However, proposals in this category can be accepted and assessed only as resources permit, and at the discretion of The Blue Plaque Committee.

With regards to the location of a plaque:

- plaques can only be erected on the actual building lived or worked in by the figure, not the site where the building once stood, or on buildings that have been radically altered*
- Buildings marked with plaques should be visible from the public highway
- A single person may not be commemorated with more than one blue plaque
- Plaques are not placed on Boundary walls, gate piers, in educational or ecclesiastical buildings.
- The consent of the Conservation Officer is necessary for Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas