



MEETING TITLE	APPROVED Minutes of the 94th Meeting of the London Blue Plaques Panel	
DATE	7 th October 2025 at 11am	
LOCATION	English Heritage Offices, 100 Wood Street, London EC2V 7AN	
MEMBERS	Professor William Whyte (Chair) Professor Tilly Blyth Yolanda Brown OBE DL Dr Simon Chapman Andrew Graham-Dixon Mihir Bose Gus Casely-Hayford Emily Gee	Alex Graham Professor Claire Harman Dr Shini Somara (part: items 1 – 5) Susie Thornberry (part: items 1- 5 and part item 6) Petroc Trelawny Janie Winter
ATTENDEES	Geoff Parkin – interim Chief Executive Matt Thompson – Conservation, Curatorial and Learning 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 Sarah O’Grady – interim Head of Governance (minutes) Observers Hannah McCann, incoming member of the Panel by Teams: Historic England: Julia Haran, Blue Plaques Manager Alice Huxley, National Blue Plaques Scheme Historian Monica Ferguson, National Blue Plaques Scheme Co-ordinator	
APOLOGIES	Professor Richard Aldrich Amy Lame	

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

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone the meeting, including an incoming new member, Hannah McCann, as an observer. He noted that this would Janie Winter’s last meeting as her term as a Panel Member was coming to an end. He thanked her for her service to the Panel.

- 1.2 There were no new declarations of interest. Emily Gee reminded the Panel that she is employed by the Church of England.
- 1.3 Apologies – as noted above.

Item 2 – Minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2025 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)

The Chair thanked Panel members for their attendance at and contributions to events including the unveiling of plaques.

Item 4 – Conservation, Curatorial & Learning Director’s report (oral)

The Director gave an update including reporting on the implementation of past decisions and some key activities by the blue plaques panel team, including unveilings which had taken place.

Item 5 – Final reports

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

Item 6 – Preliminary considerations

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

Sibyl Colefax (1874–1950)

The Panel’s decision was not to shortlist.

John Fowler (1906–1977)

The Panel’s decision was not to shortlist.

Diana Vreeland (1903–1989)

The Panel’s decision was not to shortlist.

Ivor Bulmer-Thomas (1905–1993)

The Panel’s decision was to shortlist.

Sir William Chambers (1722–1796)

The Panel’s decision was not to shortlist.

Ethel Charles (1871–1962) and Bessie Charles (1869–1932)

The Panel’s decision was to shortlist.

Charles Repington (1858–1925)

The Panel’s decision was not to shortlist.

Evelyn Kark (1928–1997)

The Panel’s decision was not to shortlist.

Jim Ede (1895–1990)

The Panel’s decision was not to shortlist.

The Jews' Temporary Shelter (1880s–1973)

The Panel's decision was to shortlist.

Elizabeth Wiskemann (1899–1971)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Dorothy Lawrence (c.1888/96–1964)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Rutland Boughton (1878–1960)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Susie Thornberry left the meeting at this point

Ian Dury (1942–2000)

The Panel's decision was to shortlist.

Nicholas Georgiadis (1923–2001)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Jack Hylton (1892–1965)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

John Mayer (1929–2004)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Graham Chapman (1941–1989)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Hugh 'Jumbo' Edwards (1906–1972)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Mercedes Gleitze (1900–1981)

The Panel's decision was to shortlist.

Jessie Matthews (1907–1981)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

The Motleys (fl. 1930s–1960s)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Edith Durham (1863–1944)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Luca Prodan (1953–1987)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Syd King (1873–1933)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Maurice Oberstein (1928–2001)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Michael Croft (1922–1986)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Arthur Shirley (1853–1925)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Edward 'Teddy' Mortlock Donaldson (1912–1992)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Fanny Moody (1866–1945)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Rachel Bent Eny (otherwise Beneny): stage name Belle Fatma (1868–1913)

The Panel's decision was not to shortlist.

Item 7 – Any other business

None.

Information papers:

- London Blue Plaques awarding criteria
- Panel Member Role Description
- Public relations update
- London Blue Plaques Programme: progress report (Protected)

Sarah O'Grady 11th October 2025