

Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Scheme

Bringing Oxfordshire's past into the present



Witney MP
David Cameron
at the ceremony to
unveil the plaque to
blanket maker
William Smith
in 2009

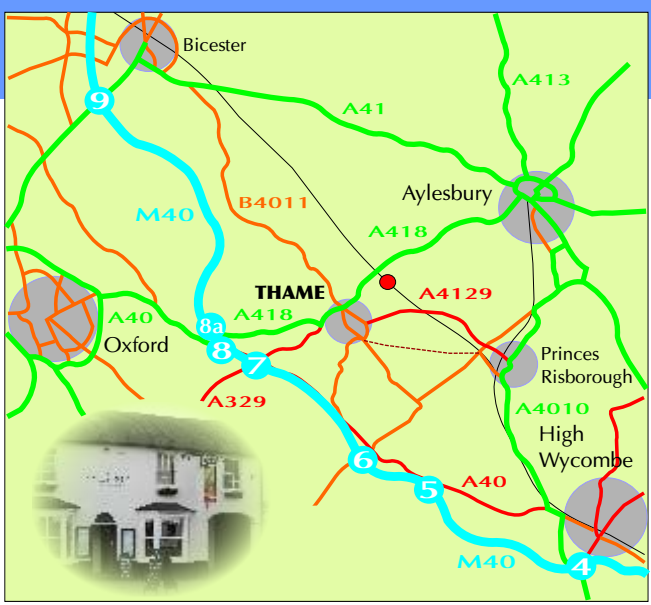
The Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Scheme promotes recognition and awareness of people, places and events that have been of lasting significance in the life of Oxfordshire or more widely.

The Board welcomes suggestions, from individuals or organisations, of men and women, places, organisations or events that might be commemorated by a Blue Plaque. It seeks to celebrate a variety of people and places, from throughout the county and all historical periods.

For further information on the scheme please see:
www.oxfordshireblueplaques.org.uk

i For information about events, places to eat, accommodation and attractions visit Thame Information Centre (Mon - Fri) in the Town Hall. Tel: 01844 212833 or go to www.visitsouthoxfordshire.co.uk www.thame.net www.thametowncouncil.gov.uk

How to get here



By bus
Thame is on the 280 service between Oxford and Aylesbury. It passes by Haddenham and Thame Parkway station. The 280 runs half-hourly during Mon - Sat daytimes, less frequently at other times. The Arriva Line 40 is a Mon - Sat daytime service from High Wycombe via Stokenchurch and Chinnor.
Traveline 0871 200 2233 or visit www.traveline.org.uk

By train
Thame is a short bus (280) or taxi ride away from Haddenham and Thame Parkway which is on the Chiltern Line between Marylebone and Birmingham Snow Hill. Train information: call 0845 7484950 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk

By car
From the north leave M40 at junction 8a, or from the south at junction 6. Follow signs to Thame. There is ample parking available in the town.

By bicycle
The Phoenix Trail between Princes Risborough and Thame is part of National Cycle Network Route 57 which continues to Oxford.

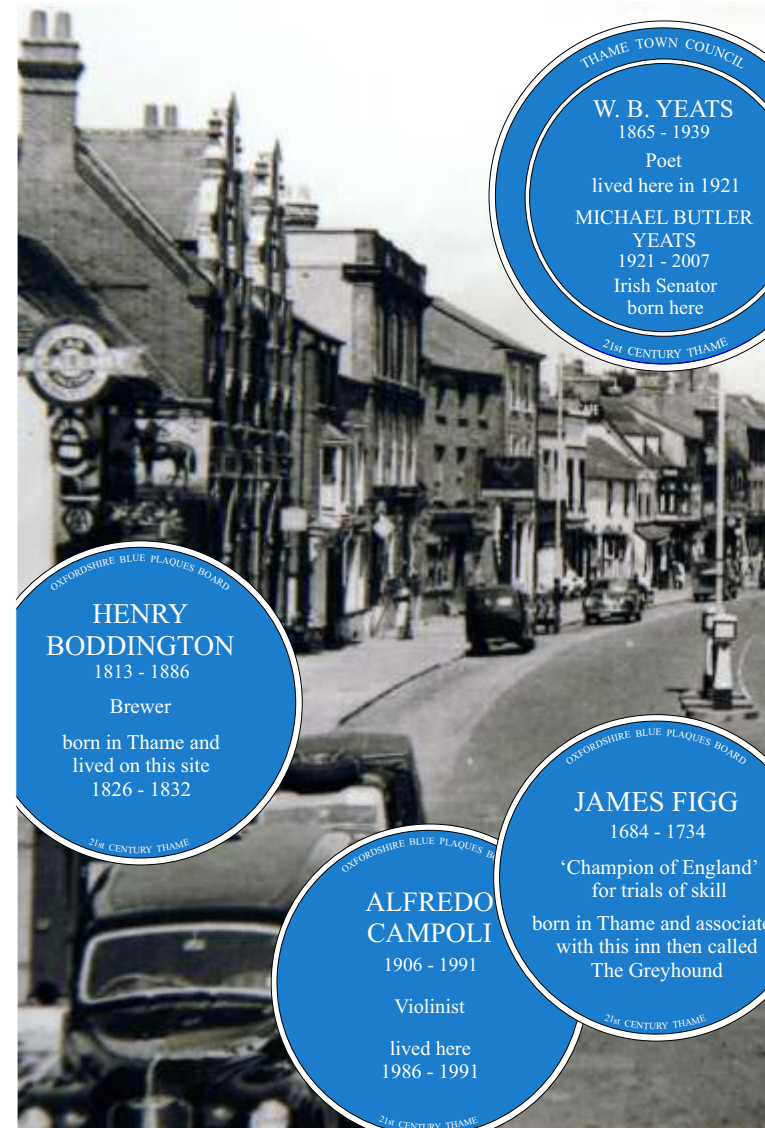
The production of this leaflet is sponsored by SEEDA's Small Rural Towns Programme, administered in Oxfordshire by Oxfordshire Rural Community Council



Thame

• OXFORDSHIRE •

Commemorative Plaques 8



THAME TOWN COUNCIL
W. B. YEATS
1865 - 1939
Poet
lived here in 1921
MICHAEL BUTLER
YEATS
1921 - 2007
Irish Senator
born here
21st CENTURY THAME

OXFORDSHIRE BLUE PLAQUES BOARD
HENRY BODDINGTON
1813 - 1886
Brewer
born in Thame and lived on this site
1826 - 1832
21st CENTURY THAME

OXFORDSHIRE BLUE PLAQUES BOARD
JAMES FIGG
1684 - 1734
'Champion of England' for trials of skill
born in Thame and associated with this inn then called The Greyhound
21st CENTURY THAME

OXFORDSHIRE BLUE PLAQUES BOARD
ALFREDO CAMPOLI
1906 - 1991
Violinist
lived here
1986 - 1991
21st CENTURY THAME

Recognising famous people associated with this historic market town

et in 1921

EL BUTLER
EATS
- 2007
Senator
n here

URY THAME

W B Yeats

Y

Often referred to as Ireland's finest literary poet William Butler Yeats was born in Dublin in 1865, the son of a painter. He attended school in London and vacations in Sligo, Ireland, which was the setting for many of his poems. His early work centres on Irish mythology and themes and is mystical and lyrical. After his marriage he moved to England and to Thame in 1921, where his son was born.

Yeats ultimately became a respected public figure, a member of the Irish senate, and winner of the 1923 Nobel Prize in Literature. He died in the South of France in 1939.



John Hampden

H

Born in 1594 to a prominent Buckinghamshire family, Hampden was sent to the free Grammar School in Thame at the age of six. After studying at Oxford he became an MP for Buckinghamshire. He opposed the Ship Money tax being imposed by Charles I and was also imprisoned for refusing to loan the king money. As Colonel Hampden he recruited and led a regiment supporting Parliament in the Civil War, unfortunately during a battle at Chalgrove, he was wounded and later died at this house in Thame High Street on 24 June 1643.



James Figg

F

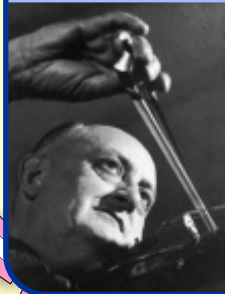
James Figg is recognised as the first "Champion of England", but he was also the first boxing coach, and was as proficient with a stick and sword as with his bare fists. He was born in Thame in February 1684 and gained himself a local reputation at prize fighting, making his headquarters at the Greyhound Inn. At Southwark Fair he kept a great booth on the bowling green where he entertained all day, and by 1719 was challenging all comers. Regular Prize Fights were held at a venue called the Boarded House in the Bear Garden at Marylebone, where he opened an academy of arms. Figg was a stalwart figure, always ready to accept a challenge. He died in London in 1734, and is buried at the Parish Church of St. Marylebone.



Alfredo Campoli

C

Alfredo Campoli was born in Rome in 1906 the son of an orchestral leader and violinist. The family moved to London in 1911. Alfredo learned the violin from age 4 and at the age of ten the young prodigy made his debut as a soloist. He was a very successful concert artist and toured widely with his own orchestra. Campoli was a greatly loved and respected performer whose Italian singing style of playing was coupled with a dazzling



technique and a warm, sweet, beautiful tone. He retired to Thame in 1986, where his wife had been born, and died suddenly in 1991.

Henry Boddington

B

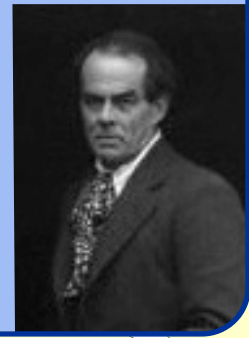
Henry Boddington was born at Thame Mill in 1813, the son of John and Elizabeth Boddington miller. His father became master of the Workhouse in Thame prior to the family moving to Manchester in 1832. At the age of 19, Henry was employed at Strangeway's Brewery as a commercial traveller. He progressed through the brewery and in 1853 became the sole owner. After which the business boomed and was renamed Boddington Brewery. By 1877 the company was brewing 100,000 barrels a year. Henry retired to Silverdale, Lancs, and when he died age 72 in 1886 he left nearly £150,000.



John Fothergill

G

John Rowland Fothergill was born in Kent in 1876. After an unhappy schooling and his early life studying art, he surprised all his friends when he bought the Spread Eagle in 1922. Here he found that he possessed many (though not all) of the attributes of an outstanding innkeeper: he was an excellent chef, a connoisseur of wine and an early campaigner for 'real food', and cared passionately about the quality of the furnishings. Yet the success of Fothergill's enterprise depended first and foremost on his intriguing, volatile, and provocative personality. He had a clear idea of the kind of clientele he wished to attract, and those whom he did not wish to be sharing his company. He moved from the Spread Eagle in the 1930s a wiser but not wealthier man and is remembered essentially for his book "A Diary of an Innkeeper".



Commemorative Plaques in Thame

Recognising famous people associated with this historic market town

