



February 2025

Blue Plaques Project

Bishop's Stortford History Society (BSHS) celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. BSHS will be marking this landmark year in a number of ways including the Blue Plaques Project ((BPP) under the leadership of Rob Francis, vice chair of BSHS. This project is intended to celebrate the historic contribution to Bishop's Stortford of a number of individuals by placing blue plaques on relevant and appropriate buildings in the town. We invited three partners to join the project: Bishop's Stortford Town Council (BSTC), Bishop's Stortford Museum, and Bishop's Stortford Civic Federation (BSCF). We have held meetings with representatives from these bodies and have agreed a long list of ten individuals we feel should be candidates for the plaques. This list has been prepared to be as diverse as possible within the confines of historical cultures.

We aim to install five plaques in 2025 and five more in 2026. BSTC have agreed to install, but BSHS will own and be responsible for maintaining the plaques. Owners of some of the properties concerned have given their permission, and other consents are in the process of being sought. Where appropriate planning permission will be sought. A number of the sites are owned by BSTC.

With funding secured from the Brazier Trust, BSHS and BSCF, we have now reached the public consultation stage. We are asking the public for their views on the list we have prepared and whether the public feel other names should be considered, bearing in mind that the individual's contribution should be significant either locally or nationally and that the individual has been dead for at least twenty years.

We would like you to select 5 from the following list of the 10 candidates and score them on a 1 to 5 basis, with 1 being most favoured and 5 least favoured and record your votes on the voting form on the last page of the document. If submitting your own suggestion please use the space provided on the form. If intending to return the form by e-mail, the form will initially open in your web browser. The simplest option is to download, or open as a new tab, complete the form, save and then return it as an attachment to an e-mail. Depending on your device, operating system and web browser, you may also be able to amend the form and

then send directly to the email address, for instance using the “Share” option in a Safari browser (for Apple iOS) or “send file” (Android), and send to: bsblueplaques@gmail.com

It may also help that you use a Chrome browser and/or have Adobe Reader installed as your pdf reader. For those that are unable to return their form in this manner you may leave your voting form at any of the following: the Town Council offices, the Library or the Museum. The consultation process will last from now until 31 March 2025 so please respond as promptly as possible.

The candidates the Blue Plaques Project Group have chosen are

- **Francis Barber** (c1742-1801) Former slave, valet, secretary to Dr Samuel Johnson and schoolmaster
- **Sir Walter Gilbey, Bt.** (1831-1914) Wine and spirit merchant, horse breeder and philanthropist
- **Mrs Tresham Gilbey** (1865-1941) Appointed a magistrate in 1920, one of the first such women in England, benefactor and active in local societies
- **George Edward Pritchett F.S.A.** (1824-1912) Noted architect, local antiquarian and electrical engineer
- **Baron Thomas Dimsdale** (1712-1800) Eminent physician, inoculator, banker and politician
- **John Laybank Glasscock Junior** (1852-1929) Local historian, builder and architect
- **Sir George Jackson, Bt.** (1725-1822) Creator and owner of the Stort Navigation
- **Joseph Dorrington Day** (1858-1937) Builder, brickmaker and Monumental Mason
- **Daisy Day F.R.P.S.** (1888-1983) “The Cecil Beaton of Bishop’s Stortford”
- **Elsie May Barrett** (1888-1947) The first lady elected as a councillor in Bishop’s Stortford and the first lady Chairman of the Urban District Council

Full biographies can be found on our web site [Blue Plaques Project – Bishop's Stortford History Society](#)



Tim Howard-Smith
Chair BSHS

Rob Francis
Chair BPP

Blue Plaques Project Voting Form

Please select 5 of the following candidates and score them 1-5 where 1 is most favoured and 5 is least favoured	
Candidate	Ranking
Francis Barber	
Sir Walter Gilbey	
Mrs Tresham Gilbey	
George Edward Pritchett	
Dr Thomas Dimsdale	
John Laybank Glasscock	
Sir George Jackson	
Joseph Dorrington Day	
Daisy Day	
Elsie May Barrett	
Other Candidates for the project - please put your suggestions and reasons here	
Your name	
email address	

Please return this form to: bsblueplaques@gmail.com
or leave a paper copy at the Town Council Offices, the Library or the Museum