



BLUE
PLAQUE

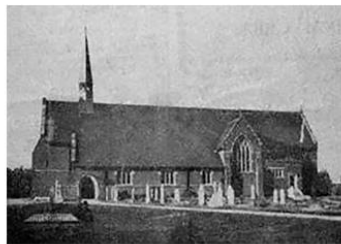
St. Anne's on the Sea

TRAIL

INTRODUCTION:

Up until the 1870's St. Anne's was an area of sand dunes, fields and farms, known as Heyhouses. The land was owned by the Clifton family of Lytham Hall. In the 1850's the family invested in the railway between Lytham & Blackpool. In the 1870's a road commenced from Fairhaven to the present St. Anne's Square and a further road which ran outwards to the Parish Church of St. Anne, built in 1873, which subsequently provided the name for this new town.

The Blue Plaques situated around our town are commemorations to places and people that have been integral to the history of St. Anne's on the Sea.



THE BLUE PLAQUE TOWN TRAIL:

The Trail starts with your back to the pier, cross the promenade at the pedestrian crossing. Walk towards the town centre, away from the sea. Then cross Clifton Drive to see the original tram waiting room of the Blackpool, St. Anne's and Lytham Tramways Company. ① The shelter was erected by the Blackpool, St. Anne's and Lytham Tramway company for it's tramway which ran past here from 1896 to 1937.



Cross over the pedestrian crossing and walk along The Square passing Nat West Bank. Crossing over Orchard Road you will see a Blue Plaque honouring Frank Dickinson, optometrist and inventor of the micro lens ②.



Take the Zebra crossing back onto the other side of the road and head towards The Crescent.

Turn left onto St. Andrew's Road North towards St. Anne's Railway Station. There you will see attached to the waiting room building a Blue Plaque to the designer of the Flying Scotsman Sir Nigel Gresley who married St. Anne's resident Ethel Fullagar in 1901 (3).



Sir Herbert Nigel Gresley CBE (1876 –1941) was one of Britain's most famous steam locomotive engineers, who rose to become Chief Mechanical Engineer (CME) of the London and North Eastern Railway (LNER). He was the designer of some of the most famous steam locomotives in Britain. Flying Scotsman, was the first steam locomotive officially recorded over 100 mph in passenger service.

Turning back towards the Main Street, take the right fork over the railway bridge (The Crescent) and continue through the traffic lights and along St. Anne's Road East. You will pass the Roman Catholic Church Our Lady Star of the Sea on your right. Continue along until Headroomgate with the Parish Church to your right. On the left you will see the Parish Rooms built in 1911 (4).



(Please turn over)

Turn right on Church Road keeping the Parish Church on your right. On your left is Heyhouses Infants School. In the grounds is a plaque commemorating aviator Captain John Alcock who, with A.W. Brown, made the first non-stop crossing of the Atlantic in 1919 (5).



Sir John W Alcock KBE DSC

John Alcock was born on 5 November 1892, Manchester, England. He attended St Thomas's Primary School in Heaton Chapel, Stockport and Heyhouses School in Lytham St Annes. British aviators John Alcock and Arthur Brown made the first non-stop transatlantic flight in June 1919 flying a modified First World War Vickers Vimy bomber from Canada to Ireland. This was also the first transatlantic airmail flight.

Continue away from the sea along St. Anne's Road East. On your left-hand side after Crosland Road North you will find a Blue Plaque commemorating the location of the town's War Memorial Hospital, built in 1922 (6).



Retrace your steps along St. Anne's Road East to The Crescent. Turn left onto St. Andrew's Road South, on the left you will see a stone memorial to 'Alpha House' the first permanent tenanted home in St. Anne's, built in 1875 (7).

(7)



Turn right onto Wood Street continue to Clifton Drive. Directly opposite Wood Street is the Public Offices (8). The Public Offices built in 1900 is one of the most iconic buildings in town and was the first public building to be erected in St. Anne's and is a visible statement of early civic pride. (Its future is currently uncertain).

(8)



Public Offices

The offices were designed by Thomas Muirhead, and are in Accrington brick with sandstone detail, and a slate roof. The building has an L-shaped plan, with a main range at the front and a long service wing behind. The main block has two storeys and a symmetrical five-bay front. The central three bays project forward and contain a round-headed doorway, and in the upper floor are three bay windows. Elsewhere the windows are sashes.

Turn left, crossing the road at the zebra crossing, and continue to walk left. At the next corner is The Drive Methodist Church, built in 1891. Behind it to the right is the Chapel in the Dunes, built in 1877, the first non-conformist place of worship in St. Anne's. The Chapel was designed by James Maxwell, better known for designing Blackpool Tower. Turn right down East Bank Road and on the right, you will see The Old Lifeboat House ⑨



This Lifeboat House was the home of the 'Laura Janet' that set out on the stormy night of 9th December 1886 to give help to the crew of German ship the Mexico. All the crew were lost, together with most of the crew of the Southport lifeboat. It is still the worst disaster in RNLI history – 27 crewmen died in total, leaving 50 orphans.



Turn back onto Clifton Drive and turn right. On the next block you will pass the District Club, on the corner of Hornby Road, built in 1875 and formally Kilgrimol School. Continue along Clifton Drive to St. Anne's Library ⑩, also designed by John Dent Harker. This interesting building opened in 1905 and had the benefit of a £3,500 grant from the Carnegie Foundation.

Carnegie Library ⑩

The library was designed by J. D. Harker in Edwardian Baroque style. It is built in red brick with sandstone dressings and a Cumbrian slate roof. In the northwest corner is an octagonal entrance vestibule that has a round-headed doorway with a stone architrave flanked by oculi. Above this is an octagonal storey on which is a copper-clad dome surmounted by a lantern and finial. Beyond the vestibule is an open hall, and single-storey reading rooms.

⑩



Continue along for several hundred yards past Cartmell Road and King Edward Avenue until you arrive at AKS Lytham, formally Queen Mary School for Girls, which was opened in 1930. ⑪

⑪



A Blue Plaque is located at the entrance gates. The Lytham Schools Foundation was established in 1719 after a flood disaster in the town. In 1908, one hundred and eighty-nine years after the Foundation's initial formation, King Edward VII School was opened to provide an education for local boys. The opening of the girls' Queen Mary School followed in 1930.

Turning back towards St. Anne's take your first left onto King Edward Avenue towards the sea. Taking a right at the end onto Inner Promenade you will see the former residence 'Beryldene' of George Formby the famous war time entertainer, comedian and musician (12).



George Formby, OBE (born George Hoy Booth; 1904 -1961), was an English actor, singer-songwriter and comedian who became known to a worldwide audience through his films of the 1930s and 1940s. On stage, screen and record he sang light, comical songs, usually playing the ukulele or banjolele, and became the UK's highest-paid entertainer.

Born in Wigan, Lancashire, he was the son of George Formby Sr, from whom he later took his stage name. After an early career as a stable boy and jockey, Formby took to the music hall stage after the early death of his father in 1921. His early performances were taken exclusively from his father's act, including the same songs, jokes and characters. In 1923 he made two career changing decisions – he purchased a ukulele, and married Beryl Ingham, a fellow performer who became his manager and transformed his act. She insisted that he appear on stage formally dressed, and introduced the ukulele to his performance. He started his recording career in 1926 and became the UK's most popular entertainer during the 30's & 40's.

This concludes all the Blue Plaque locations.

COMMEMORATIVE BLUE PLAQUES:

The LSA Civic Society has a dozen Blue Plaques around St. Anne's on the Sea. This ongoing programme is funded by St. Anne's on the Sea Town Council in order to commemorate significant events, people and buildings in the town and are made of top quality cast aluminium. The society and the Town Council welcomes any suggestions for more plaques. If you know of any places that you feel deserves a plaque please contact either the Civic Society or St. Anne's Town Council.

CREDITS:

The Blue Plaque Trail was revised and produced by St. Anne's on the Sea Town Council in 2018 and was based on the 2010 edition of the Town Trail produced by St. Anne's on the Sea Town Council & Lytham St. Anne's Civic Society. Text revised by Darrel Treece-Birch from work completed by Marion Coupe, Tony Ford, Barbara Mackenzie, Margaret Quigley and Peter Shakeshaft. Information also extracted from Wikipedia.



Lytham St. Anne's Civic Society

KEY:

1. Tram Waiting Room
2. Frank Dickinson
3. Sir Nigel Gresley
4. Parish Rooms (1911)
5. Captain John Alcock
6. War Memorial Hospital (1922)
7. Alpha House (1875)
8. Public Offices (1900)
9. Old Lifeboat House (1886)
10. Carnegie Library (1905)
11. Queen Mary School (1930)
12. Beryldene - George Formby



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