

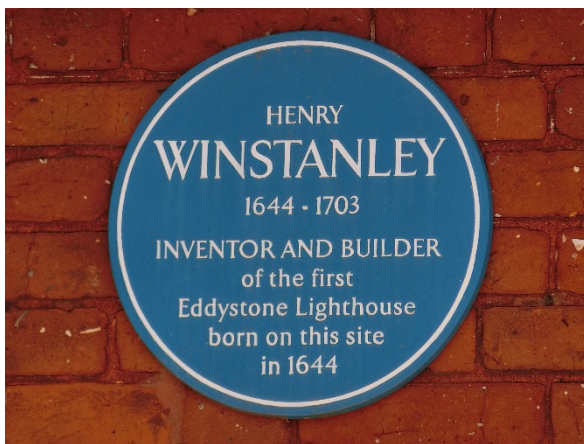


The Hundred Parishes

An introductory article about BLUE PLAQUES

London has almost a thousand blue plaques, but we also have some in our area.

London's Blue Plaque scheme commemorates worthy people by installing a distinctive plaque on a building with which they were associated. London's scheme has been run by a succession of organisations and for the last 30 years by English Heritage. Their involvement does not extend beyond London, but a number of organisations have been responsible for installations over the years within the Hundred Parishes.



In recent years, six blue plaques were installed in Saffron Walden. A leaflet can be obtained from the Tourist Information Centre showing locations of the plaques to poet Gabriel Harvey, inventor Henry Winstanley (shown here), banker George Stacey Gibson, composer Gordon Jacob, artist Edward Bawden and film director Jack Cardiff, with a brief description of their achievements.

Thaxted has two blue plaques – to composer Gustav Holst and also to the “red vicar” Conrad Noel.

Holst lived in the High Street in the early 20th century, about the same time as Conrad Noel lived in Newbiggen Street.



In Great Bardfield, the village's historical society installed two blue plaques in 2015. One, at Place House, commemorates two people who had lived there: William Bendlowes, a 16th-century serjeant-at-law and local benefactor, and John Aldridge, a 20th-century artist. The second blue plaque commemorates another artist, Edward Bawden, who lived at Brick House between 1930 and 1970. He is also commemorated on the house where he subsequently lived in Saffron Walden.

In the parish of Finchingfield, a blue plaque on thatched The Barretts commemorates it as the former home of Dodie Smith, author of the children's novel "*The Hundred and One Dalmatians*". The story was adapted into a successful Disney animated film.

Stebbing's blue plaque is on Rose Cottage, in front of the parish church. This was the former home of Henry de Vere Stacpoole, author of "*The Blue Lagoon*", a novel that was made into a feature film several times.

In The Sampfords, a blue plaque on Sudbury Cottage commemorates composer Alan Rawsthorne who lived there between 1952 and 1971. He composed the musical scores for many successful British films.



Widford commemorates well-known essayist Charles Lamb (1775 – 1834) who was a regular visitor to the village. His blue plaque can be found at the corner of Bell Lane, on the house that once functioned as The Bell Inn where he was a frequent customer.

In Great Dunmow, The Clock House on Beaumont Hill displays a plaque which tells us that it was the birthplace of Sir George Beaumont in 1753. In 1824, he helped to found the national Gallery in London, donating 16 paintings from his personal collection.

Please use the Feedback form on www.hundredparishes.org.uk to advise of any additional blue plaques. The Society would be pleased to update this article.

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Any comments or suggestions for improvement may be submitted by using the Feedback form on the website. The website has many short articles on various aspects of The Hundred Parishes, as well as introductions to individual parishes and to a number of local celebrities, and an extensive What's On section. More than a hundred walk route descriptions can be freely downloaded, with each of the hundred parishes featuring in at least one walk.