



Earlier plaques installed by others:

- A** Holywell House (site of), home of John & Sarah Churchill
- B** Eleanor Ormerod (residence), entomologist
- C** Charles Williams (site of residence), writer & poet
- D** The Zombies (meeting place), rock band, formed in 1961
- E** Edward Strong (residence) Chief Stone Mason at St Paul's Cathedral

JOHN BALL
(c.1338 - 1381)
PRIEST & LEADER OF THE PEASANTS' REVOLT
was tried on this site in the presence of King Richard II before execution



1
Museum + Gallery,
St Peter's St, AL1 3DH
John Ball was an English priest who was executed for his part in the Peasants' Revolt of 1381. He stood for the people against taxes imposed by King Richard II. His trial was held in the Moot Hall in St Albans, which was demolished in 1572 and replaced by the Town Hall (1832), now the Museum + Gallery.

PERCIVAL BLOW
(1873 - 1939)
ST ALBANS & HARPENDEN ARCHITECT
designed this building
1 - 7 Victoria Street
1915



2
St Peter's St on the corner with
1-7 Victoria St, AL1 3JG
Percival Blow was a prolific local architect with many of his existing buildings being Grade II listed. Among his varied designs are Arts & Crafts style houses, two Gothic Revival style buildings for St Albans School, the former offices and the Art Deco exhibition hall for Ryder & Son on Holywell Hill, and this building originally for W.S. Green's department store.

BETTY ENTWISTLE
(1912 - 1975)
ENGLAND'S FIRST WOMAN TOWN CLERK
First CEO of St Albans City & District Council
worked here



3
The Saint & Sinner,
16 St Peters St, AL1 3NA
Betty Entwistle was born in Lancaster. In 1939 she worked for St Albans Council, which was at that time housed in this fine 18th-century building. In 1960 she became the first woman to be appointed as a Town Clerk in England and in 1973 became the CEO of the new St Albans City and District Council.

SARAH CHURCHILL
(1660 - 1744)
Duchess of Marlborough
COURTIER, POLITICIAN & LOCAL LANDOWNER
had these almshouses
built 1734-36



4
Marlborough Almshouses,
Hatfield Rd, AL1 3RW
Sarah Churchill (née Jennings) married John Churchill and, as a confidante of Queen Anne, became the second most powerful woman in Britain. Her husband's military success led to the titles of Duke and Duchess of Marlborough. Sarah commissioned Marlborough Almshouses, remodelled in 1850, for 18 men and 18 women, servants and veterans of her husband's battles.

ELSIE TOMS
(1889 - 1982)
POLITICIAN, HISTORIAN
MAYOR OF ST ALBANS
lived here



5
11 Normandy Rd, AL3 5QG
Elsie Toms was a Councillor, Alderman, Mayor, Magistrate, local historian and author – and Honorary Freeman of the city. She wrote "The Story of St Albans" and later "The New Book of St Albans". She helped found St Albans Civic Society in 1961 and Tour Guides in 1964. She lived in this house, built by her father.

EDWARD ("TED") WARNER VC
(1883 - 1915)
FIRST WORLD WAR HERO
lived here



6
38 Canon St. AL3 5JS
Edward Warner was posthumously awarded the VC. On 1st May 1915, the Bedfordshire regiment was holding a vital position near Ypres when they were attacked by artillery and poison gas. All except Edward retreated. He singlehandedly repelled the attack and then ran back to gather help, but was overcome and died from the effects of the gas.

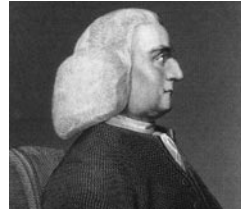
St Albans Blue Plaques Trail



7

College St on the corner with
20 Lower Dagnall St, AL3 4RR

Nathaniel Cotton was an early mental health practitioner and published poet who founded his "Collegium Insanorum" on this site, from which the street takes its name. He practiced a humane form of treatment and care that contrasted with the incarceration and neglect typical of 18th-century asylums, such as the infamous Bedlam.



8

7 Fishpool St, AL3 4RS

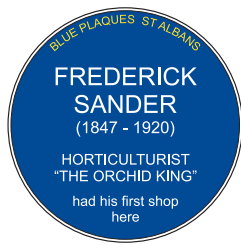
Thomas Kitchin was an engraver and cartographer. He produced 170 maps for the London Magazine and his larger maps were used as reference for international peace treaties. He moved to this house in St Albans in about 1768 and continued map-making to the end of his life. In 1773 he was made Royal Hydrographer to King George III.



9

3 Romeland, AL3 3EZ

E R Hughes, an artist, worked at the end of the Pre-Raphaelite movement and is often considered its last member. He and his wife moved to this house in 1913, when he was producing what became known as his 'Fairy paintings'. In 1914, he was taken ill with appendicitis and died in St Albans Hospital on 23 April.



10

21 George St, AL3 4ES

Frederick Sander began business in a shop here and became the focus of European orchid culture in the Victorian era. He was one of the original holders of the Royal Horticultural Society's Victoria Medal of Honour as well as the Belgian Order of the Crown, the French President's Prix d'Honneur and numerous other awards.



11

40 Holywell Hill

Margaret Annie Wix was the first woman to be a St Albans City Councillor (1919), Mayor of St Albans (1924) and Alderman (1936). She engaged in civic matters and the life of the Cathedral. She helped fund poor women during maternity and was a champion of education. In 1955 the Margaret Wix Primary School was named in her honour.



12

Address?

Frederic Kitton was a Victorian writer, illustrator and conservation campaigner, who recorded the ancient and medieval buildings of St Albans when they were under threat of redevelopment. He was also an expert on the works of Charles Dickens. He worked to save the most iconic ancient buildings in the city, including this one known as 'The Gables'.



13

Odyssey Cinema,
166 London Rd, AL1 1PQ

Arthur Melbourne-Cooper was a photographer and film-maker, known for his pioneering work in stop-motion animation. His newsreel company, Kinema Industries, shot the 1913 Derby when the suffragette, Emily Davison, threw herself in front of the King's horse. In 1908 he opened Hertfordshire's first cinema, Alpha Picture House, here on London Road. It burned down in 1927.



14

14 Hillside Rd, AL1 3QR

Stephen William Hawking was a physicist and scientific writer. He attended St Albans School and then Oxford University. At 21 years old he was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. He discovered Hawking Radiation and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1974. His ashes are in Westminster Abbey, between the tombs of Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin.



Blue Plaques St Albans, founded in 2019, is a voluntary body representing many local heritage associations. The aim is to commemorate significant men and women who have lived and worked in St Albans, by placing blue plaques on buildings or sites associated with their lives.

For more details about these people scan the QR code and follow the links



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Photograph of Margaret Wix courtesy of St Albans Museums

