

BLUE PLAQUE SCHEME

TASK & FINISH GROUP UPDATE to Finance & General Services Committee 1/2/24

The current official Blue Plaque scheme only applies to Greater London, and a new nationwide process is under development for launch in summer 2024. This Task and Finish Group are considering options for Kenilworth.

In particular, Edward Langley Fardon invented and demonstrated the wire-spoked wheel in Kenilworth in the 1860s. He literally reinvented the wheel. Initially, we are gathering more evidence and sources with the help of a resident, with a view to creating a Wikipedia page about Fardon.

Fardon was born in Royal Leamington Spa, he was raised and set up a workshop in Kenilworth, then eventually relocated to the forge in the centre of Stoneleigh. We may have some competition, in that residents in Leamington and Stoneleigh are also considering applying for a Blue Plaque for Fardon.

Blue Plaques are only allowed on original buildings. The Stoneleigh forge is still standing, but Fardon's Kenilworth workshop is now the site of the Shell garage on Warwick Road. Maybe Fardon's original Kenilworth home can be identified.

A series of books called "Kenilworth People and Places" includes Fardon, and the books may inspire the Task and Finish Group on Blue Plaques for other illustrious Kenilworthians.

Councillor D Bailey
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