

# Guernsey Blue Plaques Guidelines

## Introduction

The Guernsey Blue Plaque scheme recognises past Guernsey people who have made important contributions to the Bailiwick and the wider world. It is also intended to enhance awareness amongst the island population and visitors about these people and where they lived or worked.

Each nominated person (“a nominee”) has to meet basic selection criteria before being considered. A building associated with the nominee must survive in Guernsey. The nominee must have been dead for 20 years or have passed the centenary of birth. This means that a nominee’s career is complete, work evaluated and reputation established. It guards against short-term sentimentality shortly after a nominee’s death or transitory popular enthusiasm for a living person whose future actions and achievements cannot be predicted.

The public is asked to send in detailed proposals for nominee’s name to be put onto a blue plaque. The proposals will be evaluated by Guernsey’s Blue Plaques Panel and administered by the Museums Service, which will retain a “long list” of all the nominations which meet the basic criteria. Guernsey’s Blue Plaques Panel will meet twice per year to draw up a short list of 5 then vote on the next plaque(s) to be erected. It is not expected that less than 1 or more than 2 plaques will be erected in any one year.

The Panel will include:

- The Bailiff or in his absence the Deputy Bailiff (Chair)
- One nominee of the Committee for Education, Sport and Culture
- One nominee of the Council of La Société Guernesaise
- One nominee of the Museums Service
- One nominee of the Arts Commission
- One further member co-opted by the Panel who will act as Secretary

Only one plaque will be allowed per person. Factors which will be considered will include principally whether the nominee was born in Guernsey, the length of residence and his/her accomplishments during the years spent living or working at the site. A place where a significant event took place can also be considered.

Before a plaque can be erected, the owners of the building in question have to give their consent and relevant permissions need to be obtained. A nomination will fail if permissions are not received. The cost of plaque manufacture and installation will need to be covered by sponsorship, and the proposer should consider the availability of likely sponsorship when making the proposal. The Plaque Panel itself will not have a budget enabling it to commission plaques.

The plaque will belong to the Museum after its fixture to the building. If a building is redeveloped or its owners wish the plaque to be removed it shall be returned to the care of the Museum.

## How the Scheme Works

1. Nominations should be submitted to Guernsey Museums using the Nomination Form.
2. Museum staff will log the nomination and send an acknowledgement by email/post. The Panel will not engage in correspondence with the proposer.
3. All nominations will be put forward for consideration by the Blue Plaques Panel.
4. The Blue Plaques Panel will meet to consider nominations, which will either be
  - (a) rejected as not meeting the criteria ;
  - (b) shortlisted; or
  - (c) put onto a published “long list” of eligible nominees who might be considered in the future.
5. The panel will shortlist up to 5 nominations in order of preference. It will carry out sufficient research to establish that the preferred options are valid and that the owners of the properties are willing to have plaques erected. The nomination will fail if a property owner refuses consent, and may fail if other objections are received.
6. The Panel meets again and makes its decision from the shortlisted nominations which remain valid.
7. The Panel will arrange for a local historian to verify bibliographic details of the chosen nominee(s), obtain images of the site and prescribe the wording on the plaque. Proposers may be involved at this stage.
8. The Panel will verify that sponsorship is available for the plaque and where not already forthcoming may seek such sponsorship.
9. The Panel will arrange for necessary planning consents, in conjunction with the building’s owners.
10. Museum staff will commission the manufacture of the plaque. Each plaque will be branded “Guernsey Blue Plaques”.
11. The plaque will be erected, with appropriate unveiling ceremony and publicity.

## Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible for a Blue Plaque:

1. Each nominee must have been dead for 20 years, or have passed the centenary of his/her birth, whichever is the earlier.
2. Each nominee must:
  - a. Have been born in Guernsey or;
  - b. Have lived in Guernsey for a period of significant importance in life or work;
3. Each nominee must also:
  - a. Have made a significant contribution to Guernsey's culture, embracing in its broadest sense the arts, literature, language and heritage; or
  - b. Have made a significant contribution to the welfare or happiness of the people of Guernsey; or
  - c. Have been associated with a significant event in Guernsey's history; or
  - d. Is considered eminent within their own profession or calling and made a significant contribution to this vocation whether in Guernsey or elsewhere; or
  - e. Would satisfy criteria a to d, but achieved eminence elsewhere than Guernsey.
4. Each nominee, or the event with which the nominee is associated, must in addition be recognisable to the well-informed passer-by and/or deserve recognition beyond Guernsey.
5. A building associated with the nominee should survive in Guernsey. This preferably will be the place the nominee was born, or where the nominee lived during the significant period. In some cases the most appropriate building may be the place where the nominee carried out significant work. Consideration may be given in cases where buildings have been replaced or reconstructed on the site.
6. A plaque will not be erected in honour of a nominee in respect of whom there is already a plaque of some sort or other public memorial other than a grave marker.
7. Plaques will not be erected to honour a fictional or legendary person, nor where a site is better marked by, for example, a historical interpretation sign.
8. A Nomination may be for two or more people who were closely associated with a significant enterprise. A Plaque may therefore honour more than one person or a group of people.
9. Consideration will also be given for a Plaque to mark a significant historical event.

Notes on 3(d): this is expected to cover people in the fields of sport, science & technology, industry, medicine, other professions, the military and the arts in its broadest sense.

## How to Make a Nomination

The Guernsey Blue Plaques Panel invites nominations from members of the public.

1. Please consult the eligibility criteria before making a nomination.
2. Check the published long list of persons already nominated, and the list of those already rejected (if available). You may write and support a nomination already received, without needing to furnish additional information requested under 3 or completing a nomination form.
3. Write to the Panel, including a Nomination Form. This asks for:
  - a. The name, dates of birth and death of the nominated person.
  - b. Reasons why the nominee should be considered for a blue plaque, with reference to the appropriate criteria.
  - c. Information about his or her life and achievements or include bibliographic references or sources.
  - d. The address(es) where the nominee is known to have lived in Guernsey or the address at which the nominee carried out significant work.
  - e. Alternatively, if you are proposing that a significant event is marked, you are asked to provide details of the event and its location.
  - f. If you have access to potential sponsorship for the plaque, please set out the source of this sponsorship. A plaque will cost in the region of £500-750 (2008 prices).
4. Give your own contact details, including preferably an email address. You will receive a short acknowledgement.
5. Please do not nominate more than one person at a time, unless your proposal is for two or more people who lived at the same address (such as a couple or a family) or who were involved in a significant event.
6. If your nominee is selected you may be asked to assist further with the project to research and produce the plaque. The Panel will otherwise not enter into any correspondence over persons rejected or nominated.
7. The Panel will from time to time publish lists of persons proposed and those rejected.

Please note that there are many reasons why a proposal may be rejected, some of which may arise due to personal or confidential information received by the Panel (for example, objections by close living relatives or the owners of the relevant property). It will therefore be the policy of the panel not to discuss or publicise the reason a plaque proposal has been turned down.

Nominations should be sent preferably by email to;

[helen.glencross@gov.gg](mailto:helen.glencross@gov.gg)

Otherwise to:

Helen Glencross  
Guernsey Museums  
Candie Gardens  
St Peter Port  
GY1 1UG