



Grantham's **Blue Plaque** and Information Trail



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Introduction

Home to scientists, writers, philosophers, and war heroes, Grantham boasts many surprising and notable people. Some, like Isaac Newton, are internationally recognised, whereas others may not be so well known. All deserve to be commemorated by Blue Plaques.

Follow the Blue Plaque Trail to discover the stories of some of the town's remarkable people and explore some of Grantham's key landmarks such as the magnificent medieval St Wulfram's Church, or the stunning Angel and Royal – one of the oldest inns in the country. Despite not gaining its true regal connection until a visit from the future Edward VII in 1866, the hotel has played host to British royalty throughout its fascinating history, including Richard III and Charles I.

The QR code on the front of this guide can be used to instantly access more information through the Grantham Civic Society website, which can also be accessed at www.granthamcivicsociety.co.uk





1 EDITH SMITH (1879-1924)

Britain's first woman police officer with the full power of arrest.

Edith worked seven days a week and took no holidays during her service, which focused on wayward women and girls in and around Grantham.

She resigned from Grantham police in 1918 and became a nurse in Halton, Cheshire.



2 QUEEN ELEANOR OF CASTILE (1241-1290)

Queen to Edward I, Eleanor died in Nottinghamshire in 1290. She was devoted to the King, assisted him in battle and accompanied him on crusade. Edward ordered ornate crosses to be placed in every town in which her funeral cortege rested overnight. Grantham's cross stood until c. 1645, when it was destroyed by Parliamentary troops.



3 HENRY PRESTON (1883-1964)

Local Water Engineer, Philanthropist, Geologist, Archaeologist and Collector. Henry Preston was a founder member of Grantham Scientific Society and founded the Grantham Museum.



4/14 ISAAC NEWTON (1642- 1727)

Born at nearby Woolsthorpe Manor, Newton attended Grantham Grammar School (now the King's School) between 1655 and 1661 and lodged with apothecary William Clarke in the High Street. Both sites are marked with plaques. Newton would go on to deliver his most important works and key discoveries while living at Woolsthorpe.



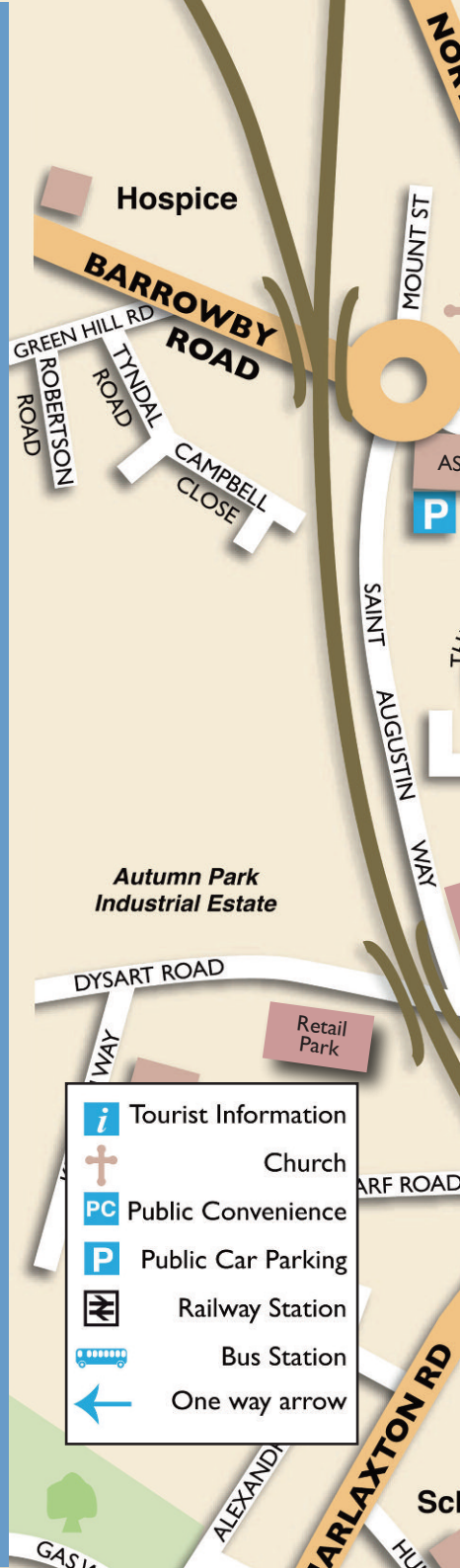
5 CHARLES DICKENS (1812-1870)

Dickens stayed at The George Inn in Grantham in 1838 while researching *Nicholas Nickleby* and the town is mentioned in the novel. Dickens stated that The George was 'the very best Inn I have ever put up at'.

- 1** EDITH SMITH
- 2** QUEEN ELEANOR
- 3** HENRY PRESTON
- 4** ISAAC NEWTON
- 5** CHARLES DICKENS
- 6** THOMAS PAINE
- 7** MARY ANNE RAWLE
- 8** BARONESS THATCHER
- 9** ALBERT BALL VC
- 10** JOSEPH TOMBS VC
- 11** ARTHUR BLISSET
- 12** WILLIAM WAND
- 13** ARTHUR STORER
- 14** ISAAC NEWTON
- 15** WALTER PARKER VC
- 16** MADAME AUGUSTA MONTANARI
- 17** WILLAM STUKELEY

INFORMATION BOARDS

- A** ST PETER'S HILL
- B** MARKET PLACE
- C** ST WULFRUM'S CHURCH
- D** RAILWAY STATION (ON PLATFORM)





North Parade
New Street
Sidney Street
Gladstone Terrace
Prospect Pl
Chambers St

Slate Mill Place
A607
Park Road
Alford Street
Redcross Street
School
St Wulfrum's Church
School

PC
Wyndham Park
Sandon Road
School
College

A52
8
9
10
13
14
C
LIDL
P
100 spaces
P
47 spaces
B
7
4
5
6
George Centre
Library
Westgate
Mkt Pl
High Street
Green Woods
P
88 spaces
P
328 spaces
P
58 spaces
A
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PC
i
Museum
PC
328 spaces
P
58 spaces
P
260 spaces
PC
Morrisons
Isaac Newton Centre
School
College

St Wulfrum's Church
School
College
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16
17
Avenue Road
East Street
Welham Street
Stonebridge Road
School

Westgate
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Fletcher Street
Commercial Road
Brewery Hill
Rycroft St
Laundry Ter
D
Railway Station

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Commercial Road
Brewery Hill
Rycroft St
Laundry Ter
D
Railway Station
Sainsbury's
School



6 THOMAS PAINE (1737-1809)

Thomas Paine lived at The George Inn, which stood on the site of the present George Centre, while serving as an excise officer in the town between 1762-1764.

Paine's works include *Common Sense*, *The Rights of Man* and *The Age of Reason*. His radical views influenced the American revolution of 1789 and he was an advocate of the French revolution.



7 MARY ANNE RAWLE (1878-1964)

Mary Anne was born into a family of Lancashire cotton workers before marrying Francis Rawle from Denton in 1900. In 1907 she was arrested in her first suffragette protest and sent to Holloway Prison, earning her a brooch from Sylvia Pankhurst in commemoration of her imprisonment.

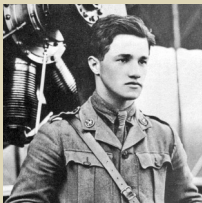
Mary Anne continued to be active within the suffrage movement after moving to Grantham in 1910, presiding over meetings, as chair of the local branch, and supported the march from Edinburgh to London. Some of the marchers stayed overnight at the Angel and Royal Hotel. She died in 1964 and is buried in Grantham Cemetery.



8 BARONESS THATCHER (1925-2013)

Margaret Thatcher, Britain's first female Prime Minister, was born above her parents' grocery shop in North Parade, Grantham and attended Kesteven and Grantham Girls School. While undoubtedly controversial, her place in British history is undeniable.

Please note that her birthplace is marked by a rectangular grey plaque and not by a Blue Plaque.



9 ALBERT BALL VC (1897-1917)

First World War flying ace Albert Ball attended the King's School between 1906-1907 and went on to become one of the greatest British fighter pilots, recording a record 44 confirmed hits before he was killed in combat in May 1917, aged just 20. He was praised by the infamous Red Baron as "by far the best English flying man". He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order three times, along with the Military Cross, and was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross on the 8th June 1917.



10 JOSEPH TOMBS VC (1888-1966)

Lance Corporal Joseph Tombs attended the King's School in the early 1900's. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions during the Battle of Festubert in May 1915.

Despite being under heavy fire, Joseph repeatedly crawled into No Man's Land to rescue wounded men. He succeeded in rescuing four men and was himself injured by shrapnel. He survived the war and died in Canada aged 78.



11 ARTHUR BLISSETT (1878-1958)

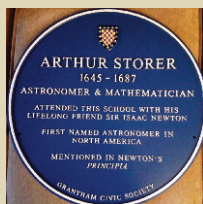
Arthur Blissett was one of the Royal Marines to join Captain Scott on the *Discovery*. He was actively involved in the Antarctic expedition and was famed among his crewmates as being the first person on the expedition (and the second ever recorded) to discover an intact Emperor Penguin egg.

Like most of the men, Arthur suffered from scurvy and frostbite, but returned safely home.



12 WILLIAM WAND (1885-1977)

William Wand was born in Grantham and attended the Grammar School, and later Oxford University. During the First World War he saw service as a Chaplain to troops at Gallipoli, and later in France. He was made Archbishop of Brisbane in 1925 and would go on to become Bishop of Bath and Wells (1943-1945) and Bishop of London (1945-56).



13 ARTHUR STORER 1645-1687

Arthur Storer was the first colonial astronomer to be known by name in North America. His observations and recording of the great comet - later known as Halley's Comet - were considered to be among the best of the time, and his work is referenced in Newton's Principia. Arthur emigrated to Maryland in the late 1660s. Storer and Newton were childhood friends, attending school together, and Newton lived with Storer's family (the Clarkes) while studying in Grantham.



15 WALTER PARKER VC (1881-1936)

On the night of 30th April 1915, just two days after landing at Anzac Cove during the Gallipoli campaign, Lance Corporal Walter Parker volunteered to join a party of stretcher-bearers attempting to reach 40 men, pinned down by heavy fire. Parker was the only man to survive crossing the 400 yards of open ground. He assisted the stranded men, and helped evacuate the trench the next morning, during which he was shot twice.

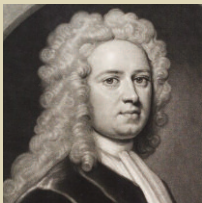
Never fully recovering from his injuries, Parker was invalided from the army in 1916 and was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1917. A further memorial plaque to him is on the town war memorial at St Wulfram's Church.



16 MADAME AUGUSTA MONTANARI (1818-1864)

Augusta Montanari (nee Charlotte Augusta Dalton) was born in Grantham. Her parents were publicans, and ran the Nags Head. Augusta married Richard Napoleon Montanari, a wax modeller, and together they became known as the finest makers of wax dolls in England. Augusta specialised in producing finely dressed dolls, many of which were portraits of royalty, such as Queen Victoria.

Examples of her work can be seen in the Victoria and Albert Museum.



17 WILLIAM STUKELEY (1687 -1765)

William Stukeley practised medicine in Grantham from 1726 to 1730 when he moved to Stamford, becoming vicar of All Saint's Church. He was a great friend of Isaac Newton, and became his biographer. Stukeley had a varied career which included medicine, archaeology, and ministry. He surveyed Stonehenge and Avebury stone circles, becoming the first person to describe the alignment of Stonehenge with the solstice. He also helped to found the Freemasons in Grantham.