

The origin of the Blue Plaque



**The first blue plaque programme started in London in 1866 on the initiative of reformer William Ewart (1798-1869), supported by the Society of Arts.**

Did you know that the first erected blue plaque commemorated one of Rochdale's most important figures?

Lord George Gordon Byron, the poet, was an important figure for the town as he inherited the Manor of Rochdale in 1808 and was the last Byron to be Lord of the Manor of Rochdale until 1826. In 1867 a blue plaque was erected to commemorate Lord Byron at his birthplace, 24 Holles Street, Cavendish Square, London.

Later in 1909, London City Council took the responsibility of the Blue Plaque Scheme. It played an important role in the preservation of the built heritage as it designed the round and blue plaques as we all know today. Over 800 plaques now celebrate the history of London.

It was only in 1960 that Manchester erected its first commemorative plaque. Over 100 coloured plaques celebrate people, events of importance and buildings of special architectural and historic interest across the city.



Look out for signs along the route to help you find your way.

## Our Vision

**This Blue Plaque Map will take you on a journey through the town centre to discover its rich cultural history.**

This map shows the location of the 20 blue plaques erected up to the end of summer 2013, coupled with information on listed and historic buildings of great interest. We hope you enjoy your walk into Rochdale's past and discover fantastic local stories!



Link4Life

Visit the web page and download the leaflet at: [www.visitrochdale.com](http://www.visitrochdale.com)

For more information, contact the Visitors Information Centre at Touchstones Rochdale 01706 924928 - [vic@link4life.org](mailto:vic@link4life.org)

Explore the Five Ways to Wellbeing at: [fiveways.rochdale.gov.uk](http://fiveways.rochdale.gov.uk)

Download the free mobile app 'Blue Plaque Rochdale' on Google Play (for Android phones)



## Blue Plaque Map Rochdale Town Centre



## Discovering The Blue Side Of Rochdale...

**From the Old Duke of Wellington Hotel to the gothic marvel of the Town Hall, you can now use the map to discover the rich history and influential people behind the pride of Rochdale.**

The Blue Plaques commemorate famous people, places and historic events. They are there to surprise and to inform, and to help tell a story that can be as revealing to life-long residents as to those visiting for the first time.

Few can resist glancing at them to see what they say. Was someone famous born here? Is there something unusual about this ordinary-looking building? Or did it play an important part in the history of the place?

## How To Contribute To The Scheme?

**In producing this leaflet, Rochdale Council wants to continue this project initiated by Rochdale Civic Society and re-launch its Blue Plaque Scheme in the town centre.**

More blue plaques will be created in the future to enliven the streets and inform visitors of our rich and vibrant cultural heritage.

If you have suggestions for further blue plaques and potential funding sources to cover the cost of purchase and erection, then these can be considered, so please contact the Council's Planning Service.







**20**  **St Edmund's Church**

**Church of St Mary in the Baum**

**Rochdale Pioneers Museum**

**KEY**

-  Blue plaque
-  Listed and historic buildings
-  Tourist information
-  Metrolink stop

**12**

**Rochdale Town Centre Metrolink Stop**

**Bus Station**

**Number One Riverside**

**Town Hall**

**Touchstones**

**Memorial Gardens**

**Broadfield Hotel**

**St Chad's Partnership Church**

**Packer Spout**

**st Chad's Gardens**

**Wet Rake Gardens**

**Broadfield Park**

**Sparrow Hill**

**Church Stile**

**Saint Mary's Gate**

# Rochdale Town Centre

## Blue Plaques

1. Town Hall
2. Roch Bridge
3. Rochdale Remembrance Gardens
4. Blue Bell Inn
5. Union Flag Inn
6. The Duke of Wellington Hotel
7. Butterworth Jewellers
8. Fashion Corner
9. Kenion Street Music Building
10. Rochdale Market
11. St Chad's Vicarage
12. John Bright
13. Touchstones Rochdale
14. Bull Brow
15. The Walk
16. County Court
17. Church Steps
18. Champness Hall
19. Wet Rake Gardens
20. Church of St Edmund
21. The Roebuck Public House