

# Heritage Panels Project Update



**New Statue of Liberty Heritage Panel**

# Key Figures

Since September 2020 34 new heritage panels have been installed across the City.

There are currently 150 heritage panels across the City.

44 panels are in development and will be installed from September 2021-February 2022.

The Heritage panel project will be completed in March 2023. Between April 2022-March 2023 we will be installing 87 new heritage panels.



Image from Abbey Park Buildings panel – the team that built the Garden of Friendship  
Leicester Mercury Archive at the University of Leicester



# Panels Installed Since September 2020

Goode's Corner	Abbey Park Buildings
The Raw Dykes	Kirby and West
King Power Stadium	5 Grey Friars
Leicester Fosse FC 1884	Leicester Union Workhouse
Welford Road Tigers Rugby Club	The Wimbledon Works
Asfordby Street Police and Fire Station	Savoy Cinema
Gas Workers' Cottages	Statue of Liberty
Aylestone Road Gas Works and Gas Museum	20 Glebe Street
The Blitz in Highfields	Welford Road Cemetery
The Blitz hits Freeman Hardy and Wills	The Imperial Typewriter Factory
The Vulcan Works	Bow Bridge House
Development of Highfields	Leicester Central Railway
Housing at North Braunstone	Green Dragon Square

# Panels Installed Since September 2020

Housing at North Braunstone	Green Dragon Square
Housing at Eyres Monsell	Pork Pie Library
Housing in Saffron Lane	St Peter's Church
4 Belmont Villas	Evington Cinema



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# Race Equality Panels

Race equality heritage panels which have been installed:

- **Imperial Typewriter Factory**
- **Development of Highfields**
- **Bow Bridge House** (focussing on the 19th century abolitionists Elizabeth Heyrick and Susannah Watts).

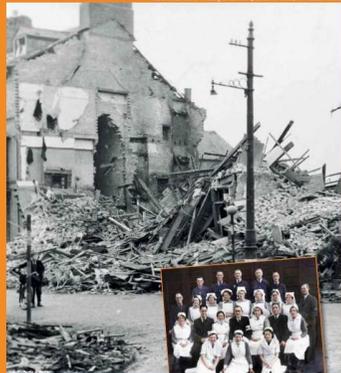
Race equality heritage panels currently in development:

- **African Caribbean Community Centre**
- **Highfields Centre**
- **Palais de Dance**



CHANGING PASTS

# The Blitz in Highfields



The bombed corner of Stary Street and Sparkenbow Street, near Main Arcade.

**Blitz Night**

Leicester's worst night of Second World War bombing was around Highfields in November 1940. 108 people died in the City, on this 'Blitz Night'. On 13 November, at 10.40pm, three large bombs fell on the crossroads of Sparkenbow, Saaby and Stoughton Streets. Saaby Street Methodist Church received a direct hit. Luckily 40 people in the Wesleyan Chapel schoolrooms next door (now Sparkenbow Primary School) only had minor injuries. At 56 and 58 Saaby Street, six people died.

**Help raced to the scene**  
18 members of the local Air Raid Precautions (ARP) Mobile First Aid Unit, led by Dr Ernest Garrett, came to help. They set up a first aid station for the injured, at 80 Sparkenbow Street. Their bus, parked in Stoughton Street, was hit by a bomb and three police officers nearby. Detective Sergeant Leonard Norman and Detective Constables Brian Hawkes and George Trump, were injured.

**Certificates of Merit**  
On 11 January 1941, four members of the ARP team received certificates of merit from the Duchesses of Gloucester, Deputy Commandant-in-Chief, Order of St John.

Medical Officer Dr Ernest Garrett  
Sister Ivy March  
Senior First Aid Officer Carrie Wells  
Nurse Hilda Hedford

For displaying 'the utmost gallantry and devotion to duty in most trying circumstances.'

Leicester's local ARP mobile first aid unit.



The bombed corner of Sparkenbow Street.

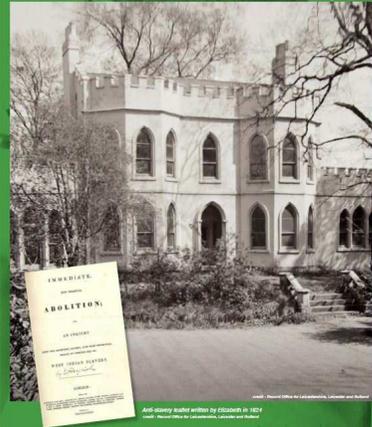
Sparkenbow Street, near J.A. Clark & Co, where the ARP bus was hit by a bomb during the Blitz.



ARP bus after being hit by a bomb during the Blitz.

AN ELEGANT TOWN

# Bow Bridge House



Bow Bridge House, c1850

**A New Home for the Heyricks**  
Elizabeth Colman, the daughter of a Leicester hosier, married John Heyrick in 1783. The happy couple soon moved into the newly built Bow Bridge House, expecting to live out their lives in their new home. However, John died just eight years later, forcing Elizabeth's life to take a new direction. In 1802 she opened Bow Bridge House as a girls' boarding school.

**Elizabeth and Susannah**  
In 1812, there was an outbreak of the infectious disease typhoid nearby. Elizabeth moved the school to Welford Road and then to London Road. Elizabeth's close friend, Susannah Wallis, who lived nearby at Darnsett's Hall, joined her at the school to teach French.

As well as girls education, Elizabeth and Susannah shared an interest in campaigning for the ending, or abolition, of slavery. In 1824, they went door-to-door asking people to stop buying sugar made at slave plantations in the West Indies.

**The Immediate Abolition of Slavery**  
In 1824 Elizabeth wrote a leaflet calling for an immediate stop to slavery. It was distributed across England and America. In April 1825, Elizabeth became treasurer of the Birmingham Female Society for the Relief of British Slaves. The Leicester group started a month later.

Elizabeth died in 1831, although Susannah continued to campaign for the ending of slavery. In 1833, American campaigner William Lloyd Garrison would later claim: "Who not given the world the doctrine of immediate emancipation? It was a woman of England - Elizabeth Heyrick." While his statement clearly overlooks the contribution of contemporary Black campaigners in the fight against slavery, Heyrick's role in raising awareness of the issue was undoubtedly a major factor leading to the Abolition Act of 1833.

Bow Bridge House was demolished in 1965.

Anti-slavery leaflet written by Elizabeth in 1824.

Only known image of Elizabeth Heyrick.



Location of Bow Bridge House.



Portrait of Susannah Wallis, c1824.



# Housing at Eyres Monsell



Christopher St John Eyres Monsell, 1860, MP and Lady Eyres Monsell with Colonel William Ansell, Stroudwater, 1860s.

**Leicester's housing crisis**  
Leicester had a housing shortage before the Second World War and with little new building during the War, it got worse. By the late 1940s, Leicester had a housing crisis with thousands of people still living in town centre slums.

In 1950 the City Council approved the layout of the new Eyres Monsell housing estate. The land was purchased from Mrs Sybil Eyres-Monsell. She had previously sold land to the Council to build the Saffron Lane Estate in 1923.

**Ambitious plans**  
Plans included 2,300 homes including three and four bedroomed houses, flats and bungalows. The new estate would also have schools, playing fields and a health centre. With materials and skilled workers scarce, a mixture of brick and concrete houses were built.

The new 'Eastlow' construction method was fast and cost-effective. Grey concrete walls were painted cream and terrazzo could choose brown or green for their front door. The first two houses were completed in 1951 and another 470 in 1952.

**Creating a community**  
In 1952 a Community Centre and nearby playing area was built on Hillsborough Road. 1954 saw the opening of a boys' club on Whitterny Drive and St Hugh's Anglican and St John Bosco Catholic churches. Two years later a reading room's club was opened. A new shopping arcade opened in 2013 on the site of the Inevitable pub and Sturdee Road Health and Wellbeing Centre opened in 2019. Today Eyres Monsell has approximately 11,230 residents and 4,669 homes.



Plans for the development of the Eyres Monsell housing estate.

Early Eyres Monsell Estate in 1951.



Early development of the Eyres Monsell Estate, 1952.



A selection of the newly installed heritage panels





## Recently Installed Heritage Panels

# Panels in Development

St Mary's Triangle	Bow String Bridge/Braunstone Gate
Infirmery Square	Red Hill Circle
African Caribbean Centre (Race Equality Panel)	Monk's Rest Garden
Highfields Centre (Race Equality Panel)	Magazine Gateway
Palais de Dance (Race Equality Panel)	William John Higgott
Dolphin Square/Historic Market	Bowling Green Fire Station
Fish Market	Rutland Street Fire Station
The Pavilion Western Park	Guru Tegh Bahadur Sikh Temple
Beaumont Leys House	Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Temple
Beaumont Lodge	Leicester and Swannington Railway /West Bridge Wharf

# Panels in Development

Fosse Neighbourhood Centre	Wycliffe Hall & Society Houses
Narborough Road Tram Depot	Wycliffe Society for the Blind
Westcotes	Wakerley's House – Gwendolen Road
Haymarket Theatre	Electric Tram Terminus
Bede Island	Evans Weir Industrial Area
Filbert Street Football Stadium	All Saints Church
St Margaret's Baths	Priests House



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# Panels in Development

St Margaret's Baths	John O Gaunt's Cellar
Braunstone Leisure Centre	Railway Powerhouse
Sir Johnathan North School	Bede House Towpath
Former Turkish baths	Uganda Heritage
Leicester Cathedral	Coffee v Ale



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# Positive Publicity

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The new heritage panels have been very well received.

Recently, there was a very positive article in the Leicester Mercury.

There has also been a positive response on social media.

***“Most of my childhood is now reflected in panels in Leicester.”*** (Twitter)

***“Loving the new heritage boards denoting the place where Leicester Fosse was founded in 1884.”*** (Leicestershire and Rutland Heritage Forum Facebook page)



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News **From famous lady to FA Cup win, panels tell city's story** News

**FROM the Clock Tower to the Guildhall**, Leicester has its share of historical landmarks. A series of heritage panels put in place around the city in recent years celebrates the most prominent structures – and people associated with them.

Now nine more panels have been put up as part of the city council's Story of Leicester project, ranging from a distinctive statue to a family of industrialists and designers.

**STATUE OF LIBERTY** Values in the city – including many travelling football and rugby fans – are often reminded to consider a smaller replica of the United States of America's most well-known landmark.

It even stands on Liberty Island, about the extent to a small island west of the river on the approach to Valence Street from the approach to the city from the west.

The monument is also dedicated to an information board explaining its rights.

It tells how a visit to New York inspired a man, Charles Anson, to suggest a statue. When the city council agreed to fund the statue, it was the first time the city had ever spent money on a statue.

The statue was presented to the city by the American people and was unveiled in 1901.

**ART DECO DAIRY** A brand dedicated to taking Western dairy has been placed in Western Boulevard, where the company's distinctive Art Deco premises once stood.

The city council spokesman said: "From humble beginnings in the 1860s, the dairy was processing and bottling more than 17,000 gallons of milk every day by the 1960s."

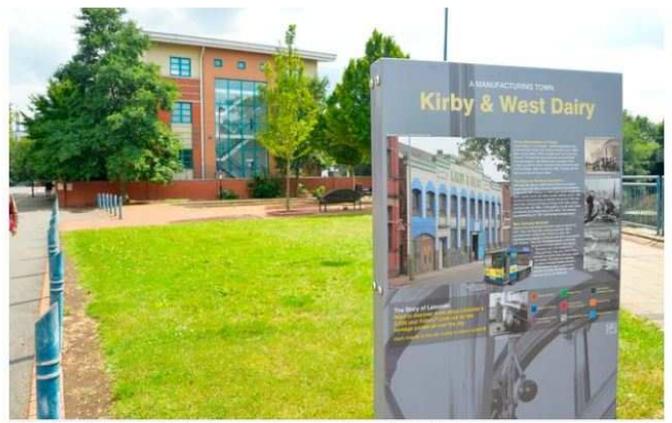
Other new panels feature the Gimson, founder of the engineering firm who created Alamy Park and its buildings, the architect, house built by the Gimson family, and the Gimson family's involvement in the city's history.

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**LATEST HERITAGE PANELS INSTALLED**



**The Art Deco dairy**



The Kirby & West dairy, Western Boulevard (Image: Leicester Mercury / Chris Gordon)

Another board dedicated to Leicester's famous **Kirby & West dairy** has been placed in Western Boulevard, where the company's distinctive Art Deco premises once stood.

The city council spokesman said: "From humble beginnings in the 1860s, the dairy was processing and bottling more than 17,000 gallons of milk every day by the 1960s."

**Weather**

**Around the Country**

City	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Birmingham	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29
Bristol	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29
Cardiff	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29
Edinburgh	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29
London	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29
Manchester	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29
Newcastle	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29
Nottingham	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29
Sheffield	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29
Southampton	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29
Stockholm	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29
Wellington	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29	cloudy 21-29

**Today's Weather**

Shiny but cloudy today. Afternoon highs will range from 21 to 29°C.

**Four-Day Outlook**

Day	Temperature
Monday	23°C / 73°F
Tuesday	23°C / 73°F
Wednesday	14°C / 57°F
Thursday	13°C / 55°F
Friday	25°C / 77°F
Saturday	14°C / 57°F
Sunday	25°C / 77°F
Monday	13°C / 55°F

**Anglia** **LARGEST MOBILITY SHOWROOM**

Healthcare & Mobility IN THE REGION WITH 1000'S OF MOBILITY AIDS AND FURNITURE

**THE WORLD'S LIGHTEST FOLDING SCOOTER** **HALF PRICE SALE ON LIFT AND RECLINE CHAIRS** **15KG NEW ULTRA LIGHTWEIGHT CHAIR WITH ATTENDANT CARE**

**GOOD SELECTION OF NEW LIGHTWEIGHT AUTO FOLDING SCOOTERS** **A HUGE SELECTION OF THE LATEST IN WHEELCHAIRS - COVERED NEW & SECOND HAND** **STRAIGHT AND CURVED SEATBELTS - ALL BRANDS** **RIGID & HIGH BACK CHAIRS** **ADJUSTABLE ALL SIZES AVAILABLE**

**Leicester Mercury 13th July 2021**

**Leicestershire Live website**  
10th July 2021



# Heritage Panel Project Team

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