



Maidenhead Civic Society Plaques

The Civic Society is keen to see sites of historic interest in the Town Centre identified by plaques, and has over the years taken the initiative to commemorate important events in the town's history, and we have actively supported other to do likewise. Maidenhead & District Civic Society (MDCS) was inaugurated in May 1960 and was renamed Maidenhead Civic Society (MCS) in 1991. All the plaques, with the exception of the "Blue" plaque, were paid for by the Society.

Outside the NatWest bank in the High Street, Maidenhead



On the west end of the road bridge across the Thames



“Maidenhead’s first bridge was built about 1280. In 1400, earls in rebellion against King Henry IV fought a three day battle here. The Guild of St Andrew & St Mary Magdalene founded 1451, who were the forerunners of the bridgemasters and the Corporation, built the second bridge in about 1460. Sir Robert Taylor designed the present bridge which was built in 1772-7 and freed from toll in 1903”



On the east end of Brunel's railway bridge across the Thames



Plaques on both entrances to Guards Club Park



Blue plaque, on Chapel Arches bridge

Maidenhead Civic Society proposed this plaque and drafted the inscription. It was erected in 1996. In 1995 the pedestrianisation of part of the High Street near the Bear Hotel brought to light foundations of the early church after which Chapel Arches is named. In 1451 John Norreys and his brothers helped to found a guild based at the chapel. In 1997 the Civic Society provided a commemorative plaque on the site of the chapel, set in the ground in the forecourt in front of the Bear Hotel (see below). The guild's responsibilities included maintaining Maidenhead Bridge. It was the precursor of the Borough Council, and every year the new Mayor still goes in procession from the Town Hall to the present church of SS Andrew & Mary Magdalene for a civic service.



On ground outside the Bear Hotel in the High Street, Maidenhead



At the junction of Oldfield Road with Chantry Road



Maidenhead grew because it was a place where the River Thames could be crossed. Roads and then railways contributed to the growth. Maintenance of roads and bridges led to the growth of civic life. This is reflected in the plaques put up by the Society.

Ann Darracott, March 2018