

PLAQUES

We've been making plaques for well over 100 years and, whilst the range of materials and techniques available has changed dramatically, our approach remains the same. From the first tentative enquiry, we help people as much as we can with designs, choice of materials, colours, languages, grammar and fixings.

We design, manufacture and install plaques in cast aluminium, iron and bronze ; engraved and etched stainless steel, brass, copper and zinc; stone and hardwood. This brochure illustrates the range and quality of our work and provides useful information for trusts, civic societies and others wishing to commission plaques.



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Every day, as we prepare layout drawings for plaques, we learn fascinating facts about famous (and not so famous) people, listed buildings, mediaeval sites, inventors, battles and protest marches. All over Britain and overseas are local authorities, civic trusts and local interest groups committed to recording these facts for posterity.



Once installed, the plaques are a source of considerable civic pride and we take great pains to ensure that every plaque is grammatically precise and laid out to best advantage. After the plaques have been made, we can help further by installing them on site and providing stone plinths, lecterns or more unusual mountings - we've even fixed them to sawn off cast iron litter bins!



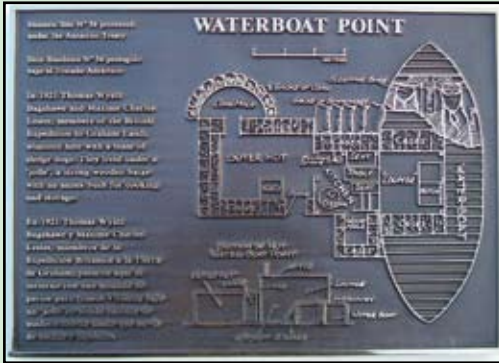
Although the circular blue plaque is much the most common format, we make plaques in many different shapes and in sizes ranging from 100mm across to 1200mm diameter. Many incorporate not only text but logos, badges and coats-of-arms. We offer a range of standard typefaces and can create any other typeface that's required, even hand drawn ones. Text in any language can be produced, including Arabic, Gaelic, Spanish and different versions of Japanese.



There is equally no restriction on colours - any from the BS, RAL, Dulux or Pantone ranges can be matched. Every plaque we produce is first drawn to scale giving the customer the opportunity to request changes or simply approve the layout.



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Etched and Engraved Plaques

In addition to cast metal plaques, we also work in etched and engraved metals, hardwood and stone.

Because engraving is a mechanical process, albeit computer-controlled, engraved plaques tend to be most cost effective where the amount of text is relatively small.

By contrast, etching is a photographic process, so the amount of text, logos and illustrations has little bearing on the cost. Complex maps, graphics and some photographs can be very accurately produced, providing that the artwork is supplied at high resolution and in a suitable format. We can advise on artwork requirements, resolution and file formats for all types of artwork.

Etched and engraved text is usually infilled in colour(s) against a polished metal background. Complex multi-colour infills are achievable in stoved or vitreous enamel.

As etched and engraved plaques are relatively thin, we can provide attractive hardwood or metal backing plates or frames on which to mount them.



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Many different skills come together to produce a cast plaque :

Design - patternmaking - sculpting - letter cutting and applying -proof reading -moulding - casting - fettling - painting - highlighting.



Mould making.

↑ A plaque, lettering and graphic expertly applied in the pattern shop, ready to move on to the mould making stage.



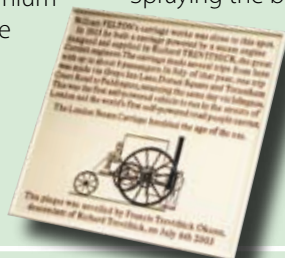
← Sculpting a coat-of-arms.



Poring molten aluminium into the mould in the foundry.

Spraying the basecoat onto plaques.

At a hand-paint station a plaque is in the process of being finished. Virtually any colour combination can be expertly applied.



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The Leander Group includes:



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