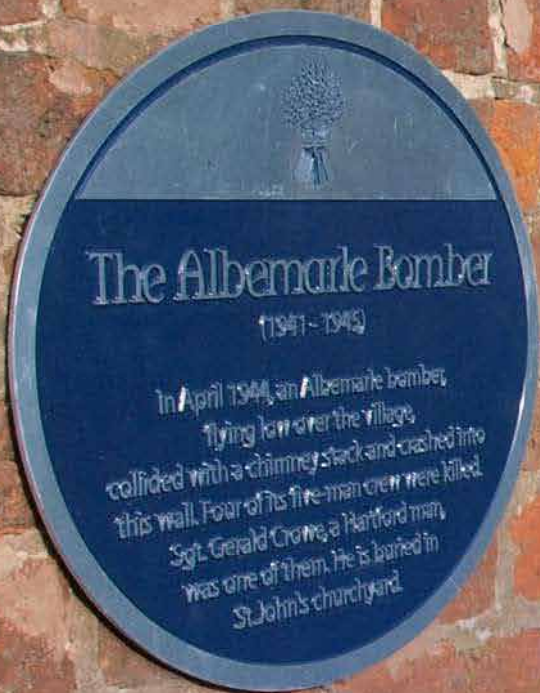




A walk visiting Hartford's Blue Plaques

Hartford Civic Society
Cherish the Past, Protect the Future

Blue Plaques

Blue Plaques commemorate a link between a location and a famous person or event. The idea was conceived, initially for London, in 1863. Similar schemes have been adopted elsewhere. Hartford's Blue Plaques are oval in shape (which is more practical than the round plaques used in some areas) and are headed by an image of a sheaf of wheat, which has been associated with Cheshire since the late 12th century.

Hartford sites

Civic Society Trustee Pat Hatfield championed the project, and the first three sites she chose were at The Old School House, The Red Lion and The Coachman. Between 2013 and 2017 a total of thirteen plaques were fabricated and installed. Some highlight important events or people, whilst others are on our listed buildings. We are grateful to the owners of the buildings for granting permission to fix the plaques. Historic England lists buildings or structures in order to protect them. Hartford has fourteen Grade II listed structures (including one listed Grade II*), with another eighteen listed locally.

Images and descriptions of our nationally listed sites are shown on a lectern in the centre of the village, near the Albemarle Bomber plaque, opposite the shops



on Chester Road. The lectern, which the Civic Society erected in 2016, also has a map showing the boundary of the Hartford Conservation Area.

Conservation Areas were introduced by the Civic Amenities Act of 1967, aimed at identifying areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Hartford's Conservation Area was designated by Cheshire County Council in February 1974 and revised and extended in 2004.

Who paid for our plaques and lectern?

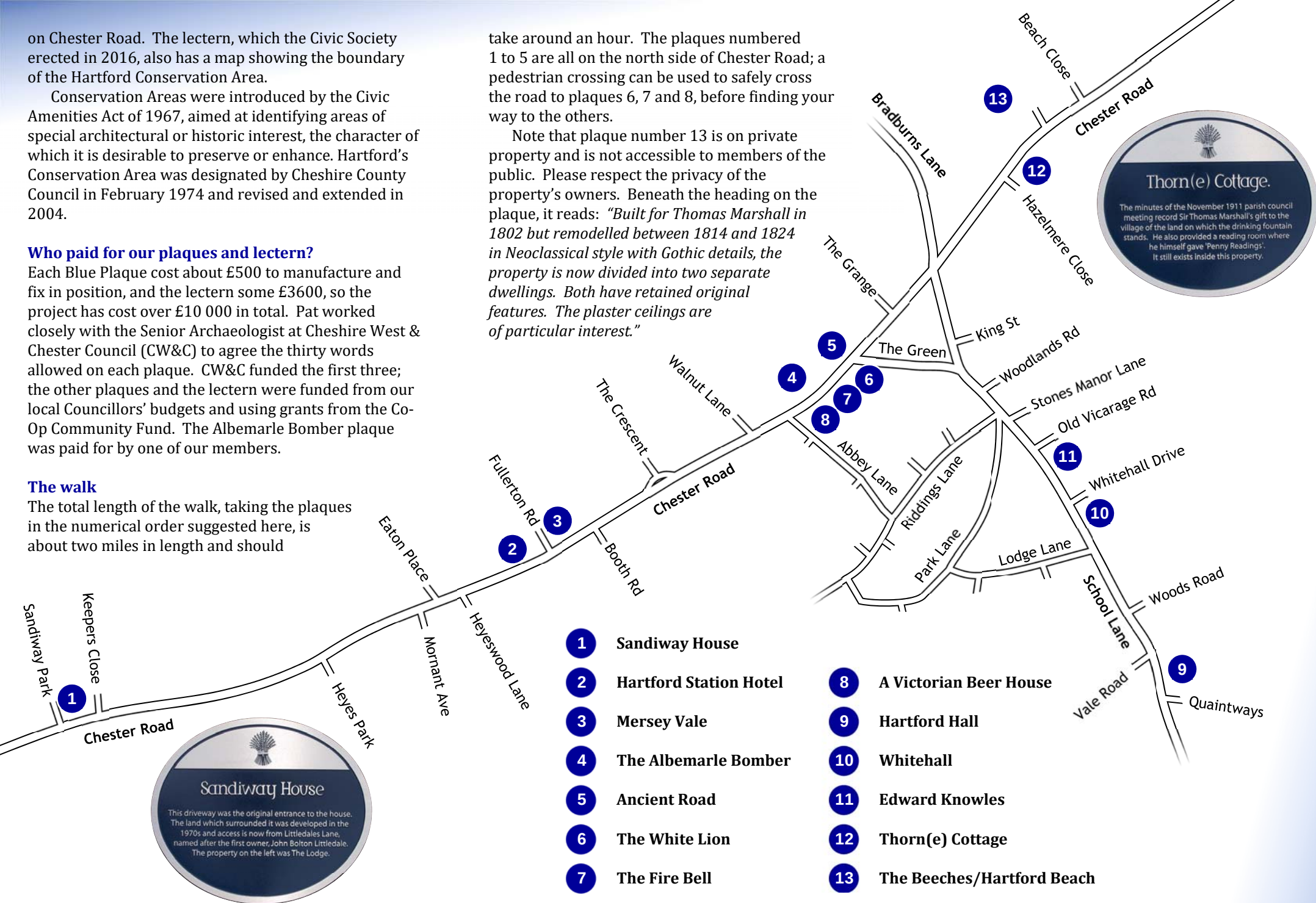
Each Blue Plaque cost about £500 to manufacture and fix in position, and the lectern some £3600, so the project has cost over £10 000 in total. Pat worked closely with the Senior Archaeologist at Cheshire West & Chester Council (CW&C) to agree the thirty words allowed on each plaque. CW&C funded the first three; the other plaques and the lectern were funded from our local Councillors' budgets and using grants from the Co-Op Community Fund. The Albemarle Bomber plaque was paid for by one of our members.

The walk

The total length of the walk, taking the plaques in the numerical order suggested here, is about two miles in length and should

take around an hour. The plaques numbered 1 to 5 are all on the north side of Chester Road; a pedestrian crossing can be used to safely cross the road to plaques 6, 7 and 8, before finding your way to the others.

Note that plaque number 13 is on private property and is not accessible to members of the public. Please respect the privacy of the property's owners. Beneath the heading on the plaque, it reads: *"Built for Thomas Marshall in 1802 but remodelled between 1814 and 1824 in Neoclassical style with Gothic details, the property is now divided into two separate dwellings. Both have retained original features. The plaster ceilings are of particular interest."*



Hartford Civic Society

We hope that this leaflet, our Blue Plaques and our lectern, encourage you to appreciate Hartford's past. Hartford Civic Society is also about the present and the future of our village.

We care about where we live.

- Join us on one of our regular litter picks.
- Enjoy our hanging baskets and planters.
- Explore the local area on one of our guided circular walks.
- Come on one of our coach visits.
- Enter one of our competitions.
- Use the street furniture we have provided for our village.
- Get involved in planning the Society's future projects.
- Borrow from our Library, or use our online archive.

We would love to welcome you to the Society. Membership costs just £7 *per annum* for an individual, or £10 for a couple. Included in your membership are two issues of our newsletter, delivered to your home.

More details can be found on our website:

www.hartfordcivicsociety.org.uk

Alternatively, send an email for more information:

supporters@hartfordcivicsociety.org.uk



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