

11. **2A Sir Alfred East's** plaque can be seen on a plinth at Morrison's marking his birthplace.

12. **2B Thomas Cooper Gotch** was born in the Mission House, Lower Street. He attended Kettering Grammar School but did not follow the family tradition of working in the shoe industry. Instead he became a highly acclaimed artist and member of the Royal Academy. His paintings can be seen world-wide including in the Alfred East Art Gallery.

2B Mission House, here the Baptist Missionary Society was founded in 1792.

2A Chesham House is located opposite the Mission House both date from 1762. These are two of the best examples of pre-Victorian houses in the town. Previously home to the Gotch and Stockburn families, the building has been restored, and now provides offices for starter businesses under the management of Northampton University.

13. **2B William Knibb**, was born in Market Street. He played a crucial role in the education and the emancipation of slaves in the British colonies in the 19th century. This is recognised in Kettering's coat-of-arms which features a black man with broken manacles, and the Kettering Mosaic which includes images of five slaves with broken chains. William and his wife are buried at the William Knibb Memorial Chapel, in Falmouth, Jamaica.

2B Fuller Baptist Church; as well as Knibb exhibitions at the Manor House Museum, there is also a museum dedicated to him and Jamaica in Fuller Church in Gold Street that is open by appointment. The 8-year-old son of Knibb, Gotch and Wallis founding families members are buried in the graveyard here.

14. **2B HSBC Bank High St. John Alfred Gotch**, attended Kettering Grammar School and established his architectural practices in Kettering in 1879. He became a noted Architect and, in association with Lutyens, designed the main headquarters of the Midland Bank in Threadneedle Street, London. He designed numerous buildings elsewhere including many in Kettering. He was an architectural historian and became President of the Architectural Association in 1886-7, Vice President of the Royal Institute of British Architects 1914-19, its President 1923-25, President of Kettering & District Art Society and the first Charter Mayor of Kettering in 1938.

15. **2B The Great Meeting**; following the 1662 Act of Uniformity, Christian Non-Conformists Meetings commenced in Kettering around 1966. At that time Mr Maydwell, the Rector of Kettering, left the Parish Church to establish the Independent Meeting.

Present-day celebrities born in Kettering

James Acaster; comedian, Hugh Dennis; comedian, Sean Dyche; Premier League Football Manager, Charley Hull; professional golfer, Faryl Smith; Soprano Singer, Andrew Steve; Pineapple Dance Studio Star; The Temples; Rock Band.

It is said that Queen Victoria stopped at the White Hart Inn, afterwards named the Royal Hotel.

Charles Dickens stayed at the Royal Hotel when he covered a by-election whilst having a parallel career as a journalist in Kettering for the Morning Chronicle in 1835. He is widely considered one of the greatest English authors and it is said that he used the workhouse in Kettering (St Mary's Hospital) as inspiration in his novels.

SATRA (Shoe and Allied Trades Research Association) In 1952 SATRA received a request to produce 34 pairs of boots to meet the requirements of the British Expedition attempting to conquer Mount Everest completed by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953. A sample of the boot can be seen in the Manor House Museum.

Timsons (Engineering) designed printing and ticket machines including those for printing braille. This is recognised in the images of three wheels in the Kettering Mosaic.

For more information of great places to explore in Northamptonshire take a look at:

- www.northamptonshireheritageforum.co.uk
Tel: 01780782575
- www.friendskagam.org
- www.thisiskettering.com
- <https://wicksteadpark.org>
- www.boughtonhouse.co.uk
- www.4locals.net
- www.villageconnect.com

Useful numbers:

Kettering Borough Council: 01536 410333

Kettering Library :01536 261000

Kettering Police Station: 101

National Rail Enquiries: 08457 484950

Kettering General Hospital: 01536 492000

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EXPLORE KETTERING



Kettering Civic Society
Registered Charity 1131165

1. **3B Swimming Pool** and opposite,

3B London Road Cemetery, the story of Kettering can be told through those buried here. The two chapels with graves on either side reflect on the left; those of the Church of England and on the right the Non-Conformists. Businessmen, world renowned academics, artists, philanthropists and soldiers are amongst the many buried here with fascinating tales to tell. **Contact Kettering Civic Society if you would like to have a guided group tour.*

2. **3B Council Offices** designed by J.A. Gotch, formerly the Girls High School and Boys Grammar School. Kettering Grammar School educated some famous people including Thomas Toller; William Knibb, Emancipator; John Alfred Gotch, Architect; Sir Alfred East, Artist; HE Bates, Author.

School Masters Geoffrey Perry and Derek Slater tracked Sputnik 4 in May 1960. They were portrayed in a Channel 4 drama based on their achievements at the school called "*Sputniks Bleeps and Mr. Perry*", which was broadcast on TV in March 1987.

3. **3B Alfred East Art Gallery** holds ever changing exhibitions, a *must* to explore more often than once. See www.kagam.org and www.kdas.co.uk for details of talks, exhibitions and workshops.

Alfred East's bust can be seen in the small garden between the Library and the Art Gallery. Born and brought up in Kettering. A landscape painter of considerable talent, he became an A.R.A. in 1889 and President of the Royal Society of British Artists in 1906. He presented some fine pictures to the town and the Art Gallery, designed by Gotch, was built specially to house them. A plaque commemorating his birthplace stands on a plinth in the gardens in Northall Street near to Morrison's supermarket. **3B**

3B World War II Cenotaph

4. **3B Manor House Museum** contains everything you want to know about Kettering and more can be found in this impressive award winning museum where exhibitions are continually changing. Workshops take place throughout the year, for details see; www.thisiskettering.com
Amongst many other fascinating exhibits is one dedicated to William Knibb. There are always fun activity sheets for children to complete. Kettering Civic Society with Wicksteed Trust secured the Robinson car for the town; a popular exhibit, which belonged to Dr Roughton. It is said that he performed operations on the lid of the car boot!

3B Parish Church of SS Peter & Paul, the oldest building in the town which can be seen for miles around is well worth a visit. Occasionally the spire is open for the public to climb getting a bird's eye view of the town.

5. **3B Kettering Library** was designed by Goddard, Paget and Carlow. The original lending library was first established in the old Corn Exchange on Market Place in 1896. Its second home was in Silver Street 1901. It moved in 1904 to this handsome building, a 'jewelled casket of learning.' The building was made possible by a gift of £8,000 from Andrew Carnegie who broke his usual practice of anonymity to open the building in person. Built of red brick with Ketton stone dressings it has a Collyweston slate roof. A surprisingly uninhibited design for 1904.

3B Dryland Memorial John Winter Dryland was a Kettering doctor who played a major part in the hard-fought struggles of the 1860s and 1870s to make Kettering a healthier place. With others he founded in 1871 a water company to provide the town with a purer supply than was available from the wells. He was Medical Officer of Health to the Local Government Board, and is remembered as a town benefactor. His Dryland Memorial facing the Public Library included a drinking fountain, horse troughs, and a lower trough for dogs; they were dismantled half a century ago. The Civic Society campaigned to have it saved, restored and reinstated outside the library.

3B Piccadilly Buildings Designed by J.A. Gotch.

6. **3A Kettering Station** was to become a major contributor to the town's growth. The original cast iron canopy was due for demolition in the 1970s. Protests led by Kettering Civic Society persuaded B.R. to retain the structure replacing the glass with modern plastic sheeting. This restoration together with other improvements gained a commendation in the Civic Trust Award Scheme in 1982. Now it is possible to travel from London St Pancras through the Channel Tunnel on Eurostar to Paris.

3A H.E. Bates blue plaque on the 1st Class waiting room on platform 3. A prolific writer best known for *The Darling Buds of May* which was made into a TV series. H.E. Bates attended Kettering Grammar School between 1916 -1921. In 1919 when he was only 14, he met and fell in love with Constance Ginns, a pupil at Kettering High School for Girls. Two years older than Bates, she persuaded him to abandon his ambition to be a painter and start writing poetry.

In his autobiography H.E. Bates wrote;

"if there is no practical reason whatever for there ever being erected a plaque on a house in London saying 'H. E. Bates lived here'; but if there were any justice whatever in the history of railways and twentieth-century novelists there should be a plaque on the door of the First Class waiting-room on Platform Number Three at Kettering station, saying 'H. E. Bates loved here'."

7. **4D J.L.Carr** was a prolific English novelist, publisher, artist and sculptor. He designed quirky county maps and miniature books. An example of his sculpture can be seen over the North Porch of the Parish Church of SS Peter & Paul. He was headmaster of Highfield School (now Greenfield School). Amongst his many books he wrote *A Month in the Country* which was made into a film starring Colin Firth and Kenneth Branagh.

8. **5D Wicksteed Park 3A Hall Lane & 1C Digby Street.** Two plaques are dedicated to Charles Wicksteed; on his former home, Bryn Hafod in Hall Lane and his engineering factory, now Wicksteed Playgrounds, in Digby Street. An engineer, in 1907 he designed a motor car gearbox amongst other inventions. A philanthropist; in 1920 he opened the park covering over 150 acres, including a 30-acre boating lake, miniature railway, banqueting and conference facilities.

9. **1C Frank Bellamy's** blue plaque is on his former home in Bath Road. He was voted at a New York Awards Ceremony as the best non-American illustrator in the world. On leaving school he produced a regular comic strip for the Kettering Evening Telegraph's 'Pink 'Un' sports paper whilst working for William Blamire on Kettering's High Street designing film posters for local cinemas. His most memorable creative work was the Eagle Comics famous Dan Dare strip. Throughout the late sixties and early seventies, he contributed to many publications including the Sunday Times and the Radio Times.

10. **2B Anthony Ireson's** blue plaque is on his former home Beech Cottage, in Tanners Lane. The Kettering-born author and a founder member of Kettering Civic Society, opposed the scheme to build a new indoor shopping centre at the expense of the town's Victorian Post Office buildings and historic Beech House. Amongst other books, he wrote six books recording the town's social history including *'Old Kettering and Its Defenders'* which tells the story of the Civic Society.

EXPLORE KETTERING

The Blue Plaque Heritage Trail and MORE



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6.



12.



13.



11. Sir Alfred East 2A

12. Thomas Cooper Gotch 2B

13. William Knibb 2B

14. John Alfred Gotch 2B

15. The Great Meeting 2B

6. Kettering Station

7. H.E. Bates 3A

8. J.L. Carr 4D

9. Charles Wicksteed 3A 1C

10. Frank Bellamy 1C

11. Anthony Ireson 2B

1. Swimming Pool 3B

2. Council Offices 3B

3. Alfred East Art Gallery 3B

4. Manor House Museum 3B

5. Library 3B



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