

# Blue plaque honour for master mariner



Goole Civic Society has unveiled its sixth Blue Plaque, to commemorate Sir Bertram Fox-Hayes, a master mariner and Commodore of the White Star Line, Captain of the SS Olympic, sister ship to the Titanic.

The blue plaque was unveiled by Paul Eeles who sponsored the plaque with his wife June and David Billany who with his wife Kelly own the house where the plaque is sited in Heber Terrace Old Goole.

Sir Bertram lived in the house as a child from 1870 to 1880.

Also present was Linda Helliwell, who owned the house previously with her husband Andrew.

Civic Society trustee Stephen Walker, carried out the research into Sir Bertram Fox-Hayes and organised the Sunday, June 16 event, along with Rachel Walker.

After tea, Kathryn Walker's wonderful cakes were on offer at the Old Goole Social Club to celebrate the occasion.

Sir Bertram was born in Birkenhead in 1857 and moved with his family to Goole when he was four years old.

He lived in Goole from 1870-1880, during which time he was educated and started his career as a clerk with the Goole Steam Shipping Company.

In 1880 he went to sea, the start of a distinguished career that saw him sailing around the world and achieving the rank of Commander for the White Star Line.

He was captain of the SS Olympic, a troop carrier in the first world war and his brave service was marked with a knighthood in 1919.

Interestingly he also served on the Board of Inquiry for the Olympics' sister ship, the Titanic.



**Goole CIVIC SOCIETY**  
**SIR BERTRAM FOX HAYES**  
KCMG DSO RD RNR  
Master Mariner  
lived here c. 1870 - 1880  
Commodore of the White Star Line  
Captain SS Olympic

The event was well supported helping Goole Civic Societies' vision to celebrate the unique heritage of Goole and build on it to create a better future for everyone.

Blue Plaques are just one of the many ways Goole Civic Society do that.

Goole Civic Society Chair Mrs Hicks-Clarke added: "We welcome anyone to come and join the Civic Society."

"We are currently working on plans to

celebrate Goole's 200th anniversary in 2026.

"We also have a seat on the Goole Town Deal board, advising on heritage."

Goole Civic Society meets at 7.15pm on the last Wednesday of each month at the West Park cafe in Goole and welcomes new members.

For more information contact [goolecivicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:goolecivicsociety@gmail.com) or visit its website [www.goolecivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.goolecivicsociety.org.uk).

Discover more about other local and regional civic societies by visiting [www.yhaos.org.uk](http://www.yhaos.org.uk).

**TOP: Civic Society members with Paul Eeles Mr & Mrs Billany and Mrs Helliwell. (27-06-033 SU)**

**ABOVE: Goole Civic Society trustee Stephen Walker, Giving a presentation at Old Goole Social Club about Sir Bertram Fox-Hayes. (27-06-034 SU)**

**LEFT: The Blue Plaque to Sir Bertram Fox-Hayes. (27-06-035 SU)**