

Merseyside Civic Society

Registered Charity No: 221700

RITA CHEESMAN HERITAGE INTERPRETATION AWARDS 2023

CITATION FOR RICHARD MacDONALD

Some five years ago local residents and visitors to Prescott town centre in Knowsley quickly become aware of a set of a dozen, distinctively coloured, heritage plaques – Prescott's Red Plaques. Taken together they form a coherent town trail, rather than just a collection of individual items as might be found elsewhere. Their content, design and location provide all who see them with insights into the town's past, and some of its buildings, people and events such that MCS recognises them as being exemplary and deserving of wider recognition.

Such examples do not come about by accident and obviously many hands and eyes have been involved in preparing and installing the Prescott plaques. Among those to whom credit is due are:

- **Knowsley Council**, which oversaw the whole project as part of wider activities to bring new life to the town centre and re-discover its past;
- **The National Lottery Heritage Fund**, which supported the project through its financial and advisory resources for the Prescott Townscape Heritage Initiative; and,
- **Leander Architectural**, who created the plaques, and, **Cass Associates**, as townscape conservation architects.

Today, however, we come together to recognise one of the individuals who became quite particularly involved with Prescott's Red

Plaques.

Richard MacDonald started as a Heritage Intern with the Townscape Heritage Initiative as part of the training programme funded by the HLF, which combined work experience (including some of the historic shop fronts) with studying for a master's degree in Building Conservation and Adaptation at the University of Central Lancashire.

After the main project finished, Knowsley Council decided to keep Richard on for a few extra months, and it was during that time that he worked on the Red Plaques scheme. In Richard's words:

"The idea was to create a heritage trail, celebrating the stories behind the buildings and places that made the town special, to open people's eyes to the more intangible values and history they have beyond their aesthetics. It required a lot of research and judicious editing to ensure that the plaques were succinct without being cursory and informative without being dry and bookish."

In recognising this individual contribution among the many institutional, financial and professional contributions which came together to create Prescott's Red Plaques scheme, Merseyside Civic Society is pleased to nominate **Richard MacDonald** for a Tenth Anniversary Rita Cheesman Heritage Interpretation Award 2023.

COLLABORATE \ CAMPAIGN \ CELEBRATE