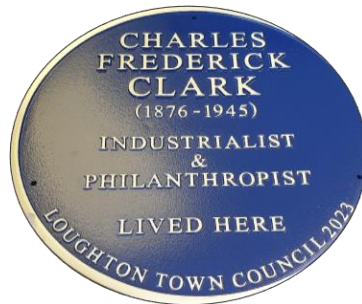




PRESS RELEASE

BLUE HERITAGE PLAQUE



**Charles Christopher Clark
Industrialist & Philanthropist
8 Connaught Avenue, Loughton IG10 4DP**

In its endeavour to raise awareness of the town's rich history, as part of its blue heritage plaque scheme, Loughton Town Council installed its 49th commemoration on 20 October 2023 at 8 Connaught Avenue to acknowledge Charles Frederick Clark, Industrialist and Philanthropist.

Charles Frederick Clark was born on 15 November 1876, in Knaresborough, North Yorkshire. In 1911 he moved from Yorkshire East Riding to Leyton, opening his Caribonum factory in 1918 where he derived his fortune from the manufacture of carbon paper and typewriter ribbons; he was known as the "carbon paper king".

The name *Caribonum* on carbons and typewriter ribbons carried the prestige of one of the finest global products; with the company's experimental and research laboratories acknowledged as the most advanced in the world.

Clark later moved to Loughton, one of his residences being 8 Connaught Avenue. He also had built for him by the distinguished architects, Wallis Gilbert and Partners 'Limber' in Church Lane and 'Ripley Grange'.

Following a two-year search, in 1928, he purchased 40 acres of farmland in Loughton, where he had built 'Ripley Grange', the house he regarded as "*the crowning success of his life*". The house was set in 18 acres of spectacular gardens which Clark opened up to the public for free. As the number of visitors grew, he had seven thatched summer houses built. During the Second World War, Clark had the grounds ploughed up in order to grow vast quantities of vegetables that were sent to the Voluntary Hospitals and other charitable institutions free of charge.

On 1 January 1945, at the age of 68, having returned to his home county, Charles Clark died in Selby, Yorkshire.

It is hoped that an official unveiling of this plaque will be arranged for a later date. Our thanks to the residents of 8 Connaught Avenue for agreeing to this latest installation.

End

Note to Editor:

Photo attached:

- Blue heritage plaque and inscription

The plaque inscription reads:

Charles Frederick Clark (1876 – 1945) Industrialist & Philanthropist Lived Here

This latest plaque brings the total installed by the town council to 49.

More information can be found on the town council's website at

<http://www.loughton-tc.gov.uk/2bhpl.htm>

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