**PROPOSAL:** Installation of a Seven Dials Trust People’s Plaque commemorating **EDWARD JOHN DENT (1790-1835).**

A famous watchmaker, noted for his highly accurate clocks and marine chronometers, Dent was employed by several leading watchmakers before entering into partnership with John Roger Arnold, a leading chronometer maker in 1830. The partnership was dissolved in 1840 and Dent traded as E.J. Dent, London, obtaining the Royal Warrant in 1842. Dent won the tender for the clock to be installed in the tower of the new Palace of Westminster (now known as Big Ben).

**INSTALLATION ADDRESS:** 33, Neal Street, London WC2H 9PR

**DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT**

**Background**

Listing NGR: NGR: TQ3015581138

National Grid Reference: TQ 30155 81138

Grade II

**Summary of Building**

This early eighteenth century terraced house and shop was restored in the early nineteenth century. It comprises yellow stock brick with an architraved stucco panel at second floor level. It has a wooden shopfront with pilasters carrying entablature with a projecting bracketed cornice. The square-headed house doorway has an overlight. There are gauged red brick flat arches to recessed sash windows and a continuous third floor workshop window with a segmental arch and parapet.

**The Seven Dials Trust People’s Plaque**

The proposed plaque is of the standard design and layout for the Seven Dials Trust’s People’s Plaques. Measuring 458 x 418mm overall, it is made of vitreous grade steel flat plate, enamelled white and screen printed in four colours to face with one of them being gold. The background colour is blue with the lettering in white. The inscription will read:

Edward John Dent (1790-1853)

noted clockmaker famous for ‘Big Ben’

worked here 1814-1831

A roundel bearing the device of a golden hind (the ancient parish symbol of St Giles in the Fields, adopted for use on all street furniture in Seven Dials) sits half proud on the upper edge of the rectangular plaque. The whole is framed in black. This matches the shape of the Trust’s Seven Dials Street Name Plates adopted by Camden. The plaque will be fixed with four dome-headed screws passing through the front frame and the rear backing plate. Apart from the fixing of the plaque to the building there are no other external or internal works proposed.

**Location**

It is proposed to install the plaque on Neal Street elevation of the building, sited as per the attached photograph. This site has been identified and verified by local historian and author Steven Denford.

**Access**

The plaque will be located facing the footway. Legibility at this height from ground level has been tested and proved effective.

**The Plaque Nomination**

The plaque is proposed by The Seven Dials Trust as part of its People’s Plaque Scheme. This scheme celebrates the individuals, companies and institutions who have made a contribution to the area and, in some cases, nationally. Over 120 names have been identified and researched in detail by historian Steve Denford, author of The Streets of St Giles. Thirty-one have been shortlisted by a group of local residents and businesses and trustees. Plaques are installed as sponsorship is secured. The plaque design, by trustee Paul Draper, complements the Trust's street name plates and other street furniture as part of the holistic approach to the public realm as set out in the Seven Dials Renaissance Study. Our Neighbourhood Street Name Plates and 'People’s and Street History Plaques projects won the prestigious London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies’ London Forum Media Awards 2015 in the category of Promoting Local History. The judges described it as ‘an absolutely brilliant and wide-ranging scheme.’

The Dent plaque has been sponsored by Dr James Nye FSA for the Antiquarian Horological Society.