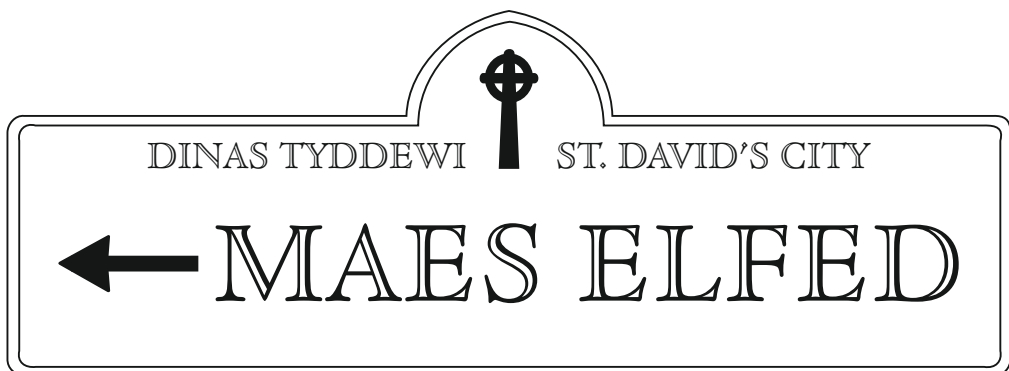


TRADITIONAL & CONTEMPORARY STREET NAMEPLATES

We've been making cast street nameplates for more than 100 years and many of our early plates can still be found all over the Britian. They can often be identified by "Royal Label Factory" or "RLF" cast into one corner. At one time, almost all street nameplates were of cast metal, until sheet metal, plastics and vinyls began to take over. Cheap and practical as these modern upstarts are, they don't look very appealing - particularly in old town or conservation areas - and there is still a demand for "the real thing".

We have retained many of our original nameplate patterns and fonts and can make new nameplates to match surviving originals. We also create new designs, perhaps the most notable being the 1,400 plates we've made for Glasgow city centre, with different typefaces for each area of the city. We tackle unusual projects too, such as plates for Belfast where the plate frame was cast but the letters were in the form of individual clay tiles.



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Most traditional designs of name plate are very simple with a raised border on the edge or inset slightly from the edge. Many earlier plates have concave corners while convex corners became very popular from the 1930s onwards.

We have a **lot** of patterns for simple plates to these designs in many depths & lengths.



The design below can be seen in many English towns and seems to date from the late 19th century. We have this design in several depths, lengths and variations.



....and then we get on to the more unusual nameplates. The example below is one of many plates supplied to the London Borough of Merton for their conservation areas. Each area had a different border theme to the plates. Not hard to see what this theme was!



Glasgow City Council decided to replace all their inner city nameplates some thirty years ago. The plates were always to the same design but the typeface changed for each district - City Centre, Merchant City etc. In total, 44 Sauchiehall Street plates were needed to cover every intersection!



Like many early nameplates, the Glasgow plates had the lettering and borders in high relief - 5mm - rather than the 'modern' low relief of 2 or 3mm. High relief does look good, especially in sunlight when the letters cast strong shadows.

STRYD Y CASTELL
CASTLE STREET

GOLDSMITH'S TERRACE

HILL STREET

SOUTH PARK AVENUE

WILKINSON PARK WEST

BLEEDING WOLF LANE

TERRACE ROAD

Above: some of the many unusual nameplate patterns we have in our stores. These drawings are at 1:10 scale which gives an idea of the range of sizes. Generally, village nameplates have always tended to be on a smaller scale than town & city plates.

Right: some of the several hundred plates supplied to Rotherham for urban enhancement projects. They incorporated the Rotherham coat-of-arms in relief and Gill Sans lettering. Our "hump-topped" patterns are very useful for incorporating logos and heraldic details.



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Vitreous-enamelled name plates

Steel name plates, with a vitreous enamel (think sanitary ware!) finish, were and are very popular in France and were quite widespread in Britain around 80 to 120 years ago. They are economical to make and surprisingly long-lived. Graffiti can easily be removed, though a very hard impact can locally crack the enamel. It is important to fix the plates using nylon or composite washers under the screw heads, so that the screws don't tighten directly against the enamel.

A couple of years ago, we 'nameplated' the whole of Aberystwyth with vitreous-enamelled plates using a special typeface we derived from photos of old plates in the town.



The 271 new nameplates were very well received and are commented on by many visitors to the town. **The total cost per plate was just under £100!**



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