Reliant birthplace is marked with plaque

By Nick Reid

A SPECIAL plaque to honour the birthplace of the Reliant car company has been installed pride of place on a Tamworth home to commemorate the legacy of the vehicle manufacturer.

Tamworth Heritage Trust has teamed up with the Reliant Motor Club to unveil the new plaque, which will celebrate the impact Reliant has had on the town in the 20th century and beyond.

Charlotte Oliver, granddaughter of co-founder Ewart Thompson was on hand to officiate the unveiling of the plaque in the house where it all began, on George Road.

Margaret Clarke, chairman of Tamworth Heritage Trust, said: “It was a really great event and a pleasure to recognise the importance of the Reliant as part of the town’s history.”

“It is so important that we remember our heritage, especially in Tamworth. We need to be the capital of the county and the first English town and it is something we should always remember.”

What makes the Reliant Robin so iconic is that it was tiny; it was small and it was easy to drive.

“People have always held the car in great affection and Princess Anne has always been a fan and a member of the club.”

To think that the company started from a shed in the town is amazing and it is known all over the world.

“We hope everyone enjoys to raise the profile of Tamworth as it is something to be proud of to the town.”

The group hope to install two more in the town in the near future to remember other notable characters from the town’s past.

Ewell Payne, chairman and historian for the Reliant Motor Club, said: “We are delighted to mark the site of the Reliant with a blue plaque and indeed pay tribute to its founders.

“The plaque has been a long time coming and there have been conversations about it going back several years.”

“We recognised that joining the Tamworth Heritage Trust would be of great benefit and we hoped to create a partnership with them in which we could meet our goals.”

Charlotte Oliver, granddaughter of Reliant co-founder Ewart Thompson, officially unveiled the plaque.

The 1934 Reliant prototype was just one of the famous creations.