

### PAUL BARTLETT

---

A. St Paul's Square. Originally built 1777-1779, it is the last remaining Georgian Square in Birmingham, which gives it a self-contained district feel of its own. Present day buildings combine its early history, mid-nineteenth century elegance and desirability, frontages replaced by shop fronts or factory entrances, restoration in the 1970s, and more recent apartment schemes etc.

B. Consecrated in 1779, St Paul's in the centre of the square was the church of Birmingham's early manufacturers and merchants including Matthew Boulton and James Watt. Its important stained-glass window was designed by Benjamin West and made by Francis Eginton.

C. Royal Birmingham Society of Artists Gallery, on the corner of James St and Brook St just off St Paul's Square. Although its origins centred on the Life Academy in 1809, and its royal charter dates from 1868, it was officially opened in its present home by Charles, Prince of Wales, on April 12th 2000. This highly influential society promotes artists in the Birmingham area and exhibits their work. I have been an RBSA member for many years, and this is my main reason for being familiar with St Paul's Square.

D. Pasta Di Piazza Restaurant, Brook St, viewed from an RBSA window.

E. Corner of St Paul's Square and Caroline St.

F. St Paul's House. Now a 4-star hotel, historically a rope factory.

G. The blue plaque says: Samuel Malkin, bucklemaker to George III worked here, 1786-1798

H. Corner of St Paul's Square and Ludgate Hill, viewed from the verdant centre of the square.

I. Corner of St Paul's Square and Mary Ann St.

J. As we leave St Paul's Square, thought provokingly "COMPARED TO WHAT..." is painted onto a building opposite the corner to Charlotte St