



**Dorothy Whipple nee Stirrup 1893-1966**

**Writer**

Dorothy was born in Blackburn where her father was an architect. She married Henry Whipple in 1917 and moved with him in 1925 to Nottingham where he became Director of Education. She was a prolific and successful novelist of 1930's and 40's writing 16 novels as well as collections of short stories eg *They Knew Mr Knight* (1934) and *They were Sisters* (1943). According to J.B. Priestley she was a kind of 'North-Country Jane Austen'. Two of her novels were made into films in America and her novels are widely distributed in the states. Many Nottingham locations are apparent in her novels, for example *The Priory* was based on Newstead Abbey where she had a country cottage South Lodge on the estate. Dorothy lived at 35 Ebers Road, Carrington from 1925 – 1939 and 8 of her novels were written there. Her last novel was written in 1953 -*Someone at a Distance*. She also wrote her autobiography in 1950 '*The Other Day*.' Her work has recently enjoyed a revival with her books available from Persephone Books and 5 of her short stories were read as the afternoon reading on BBC 4 in 2007. After her husband's death in 1958 Dorothy returned to Blackburn where she died; there is some detail of her life in the Blackburn archives. On Sept 26<sup>th</sup> 2020 a plaque was unveiled on her house in Ebers Road thanks largely to Helen Lewis and Bromley House Library crowdfunded with support from NWHG.