



*Honorary Freemen
of the
Borough of Guildford*



Introduction

In past centuries, admission to the Freedom of a Borough conferred upon the recipient possession of recognisable privileges. In order to carry out certain trades or professions in a particular Borough, one had to be enrolled as a freeman and admission to the freedom was frequently necessary in order to have a vote in parliamentary elections.

To become a freeman of Guildford, one had to be:

- (a) apprenticed to a freeman of the Borough for at least seven years, or
- (b) the eldest son of a freeman, or
- (c) by admission into the "Corporation".

Records kept in the Guildford Muniment Room contain the names of 1,061 persons admitted to the freedom of the Borough between 1655 and 1933 and also record the production of indentures of apprenticeship between 1655 and 1903.

Typical entries in the two volumes of Borough Records known as the Freemen's Books are reproduced below:

39. BARRETT, John, of Ockley. Appr. by ind. 7 Nov. 1796 to Jos. Jennings of H.T., plumber and glazier, Jos Jennings having died. Adm. 10 Oct 1803. (Jos. Jennings was one of the Society of Bailiffs.)
2/41. 2/43. 2/101. 3/1

52. BAVERSTOCK, John, son of Wm. road-surveyor. Appr. Wm. Elkins, brewer and one of the Aldermen, by ind. 6 Jan. 1826, for 7 yrs from that date, "to learn the Art of a Brewer's Clerk", Adm. 14 Oct. 1833.
2/80. 2/133

186. COBBETT, Wm., of High St., G., son of Wm. of Littleton, St.N. Appr. by ind. 12 Feb. 1829 to Wm. Lockwood, jun., of St.N., baker, for 7 yrs from that date. Premium £10 paid from Caleb Lovejoy's charity? Adm 14 Aug. 1838.
2/85. 2/139/ 3/4

Abbreviations and Notes

Adm. = Admitted to the Freedom

Appr. = Apprenticed

Ind. = Indenture (dated)

G. = Guildford

H.T. = Holy Trinity parish, Guildford

St.N. = St. Nicolas' parish, Guildford

The Freeman's Oath in Victorian Times

You shall Swear, that you shall be good and true to our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, and to her Heirs of our said Sovereign Lady the Queen, Obeysance and Obedient you shall be to the Mayor and Ministers of the Town of Guldeford, the Franchises, Liberties, Orders, Laws, Constitutions and Customs Thereof, you shall to your power maintain, and this Town keep harmless in that which in you is, you shall be contributory to all manner of Charges within the said Town, as Summonses, Watches, Contributions, Tasks, Tallages, Lott, and Scott, and all other Charges bearing your part as a Freeman ought to do to your power, you shall take no Apprentice for less term than seven years, and that by Indenture; within one year next after the taking thereof, you shall cause his Indenture to be inrolled and at his terms end, you shall make him free of this Town, if he have well and truly served you.

You shall also keep the Queen's Peace in your own person, all these Articles you shall well and truly keep, according to the Laws and Ordinances of this Town, to your power.

SO HELP YOU GOD.

The Honorary Freedom of the Borough Act 1885, reproduced in the Local Government Act 1933 and subsequently the Local Government Act 1972 (Section 249(5)), first gave borough councils authority to admit to be honorary freemen "persons of distinction and any persons who have rendered eminent services to the borough".

This office is a purely honorary distinction.

A list of persons included in the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the Borough of Guildford is appended hereto.



Thomas Wilde Powell

October 27th, 1896. The Honorary Freedom of the Borough was conferred on Mr. Thomas Wilde Powell “ in recognition of his eminent services to the borough and his generous donations in support of many public institutions in the borough.”

T.W. Powell (1818-1897), after a professional and business career in London, came to live at Piccards Rough, Sandy Lane, in 1878. He interested himself in social, cultural, religious and educational activities in the borough. His “generous donations” included a gift to the Guildford Institute towards the purchase of its premises in Ward Street, one half of the cost of restoring the Royal Grammar School in 1889, an annual contribution for many years to the Congregational Church to encourage its work in adjacent villages and a similar contribution to the Royal Surrey County Hospital towards the stipend of a chaplain. He built a number of cottages in St. Catherine’s Valley, and before the days of municipal housing he built the Wycliffe Buildings to provide small flats for people in reduced circumstances.

He was a governor of the Royal Grammar School from 1889 to 1897, and in addition to previous gifts, presented to the school the classroom named after him.



Frederic Ferdinand Smallpeice

July 9th, 1902. The Honorary Freedom was conferred on Mr. Frederic Ferdinand Smallpeice "in recognition of valuable services rendered to the town during the 25 years he held the position of Town Clerk."

F. F. Smallpeice (1843-1933), one of a family noted in Guildford since the 16th century, was educated at the Royal Grammar School and Tonbridge School. He was a partner in a well-known firm of Guildford solicitors from 1864 to 1930. He succeeded his father as Town Clerk of Guildford in 1875, when the duties were part time only and were chiefly performed at the Clerk's private business office. He was also Clerk to the Hambledon Guardians (1864-1930), Clerk to Hambledon Rural District (1894-1925), Clerk to the Justices, Guildford Petty Sessions (1876-1923). As Town Clerk at a time when the Borough Surveyor was a part time official and there was no Borough Treasurer, and when the size of the town and the powers of the Corporation were steadily increasing, he exercised a far reaching influence and authority. He resigned in 1902, and it was for his services as Town Clerk that he received the freedom.

A new period of public service began with his election to the Council in November, 1904. He was Alderman from 1904 to 1929. He was Mayor in 1905. He was Justice of the Peace for the Borough from 1905 to 1929 and for the County from 1924 to 1929. He was chairman of the Committee of Management of the Royal Surrey County Hospital from 1913 to 1929, a period of crisis and rapid development. He was chairman of the governors of the Royal Grammar School from 1909 to 1925.

To Hospital and Grammar School he was a generous benefactor. He bought and presented to the Borough in 1911 additional premises for the Museum in Quarry Street. He retired from public life in 1929 at the age of 86 and was presented with his portrait in oils as a mark of affection and esteem.



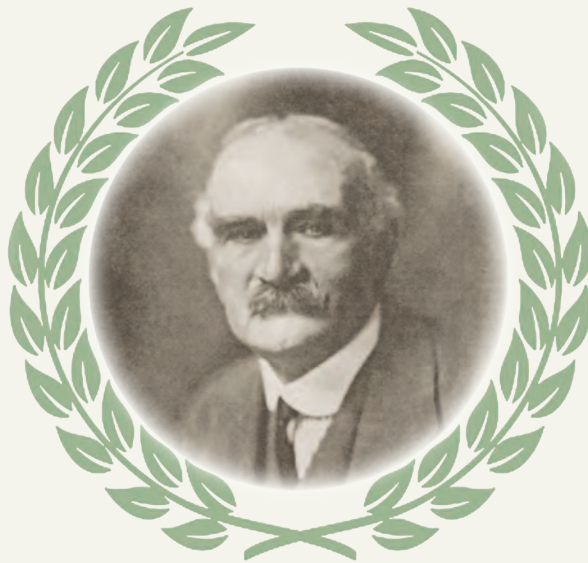
Robert S. S. Baden-Powell

June 10th, 1903. The Honorary Freedom was conferred on Major-General Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, C.B., "in recognition of the distinguished services he has at all times rendered to his country, and more especially his ever memorable defence of Mafeking during the Boer War in South Africa."

R. S. S. Baden-Powell (1857-1941) was educated at Charterhouse, and commissioned in the 13th Hussars in 1876. He served in India, Afghanistan, Zululand, Ashanti and Matabeleland. In the Boer War, as Colonel, he commanded the small forces in Mafeking during the siege of 215 days, 1899-1900. In 1900 he became Major-General, and Inspector General of the South African Constabulary. His defence of Mafeking had made him a popular hero in England and gained for him the only Honorary Freedom conferred by Guildford on purely national grounds.

The work that gave "B.-P." a world-wide fame came later. In 1908 he founded the Boy Scout movement. In 1910 he retired from the active list of the Army with the rank of Lieutenant General and devoted the remainder of his long life to the work of Boy Scouts and kindred organisations, Girl Guides, Cubs, Brownies and Rovers.

His genius and the magnitude of his work in training boys and girls in good citizenship were recognised by many honours in many lands. In this country he became K.C.B. (1909), G.C.V.O. (1923), G.C.M.G. (1927), Baron (1929), and O.M. (1937). He died in Kenya in 1941 at the age of 84.



Leonard Ashby Ellis

February 2nd, 1921. The Honorary Freedom was conferred on Leonard Ashby Ellis, J.P., "in recognition of his eminent and distinguished services to the borough as a member of the Council for 18 years and as chairman of various important committees, particularly of his invaluable services as chairman of the Finance Committee of the Council."

L. A. Ellis (1859-1939) was born in Guildford and educated at the High School, Coventry. His public work began with his election to the Council in 1902. He became chairman of the Finance Committee almost immediately and remained chairman until 1920. He was Alderman 1904-1920, and chairman of the Education Committee 1916-1920. He was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1906. In 1911 he bought Racks Close and presented it to the Borough. He was elected to the County Council in 1918, and two years later withdrew from the Borough Council to devote himself to county work. It was at this moment that the Borough conferred on him the Honorary Freedom. He remained a member of the Council from 1918 to 1939. He was an Alderman from 1924 to 1939. For 18 years, 1921 to 1939, he was Chairman of the Highways and Bridges Committee at a time when the development of motor traffic had made the improvement of old roads and the making of new ones an important function of the County Council. The Guildford By-Pass, opened in 1933, was one of his responsibilities. When the Mayor's parlour at the Guildhall was enlarged in 1933, L. A. Ellis presented to the Borough oak panelling for the new room. He was a governor of the Royal Grammar School for many years and Vice-Chairman 1931-1939.



Viscount Cave

May 5th, 1923. The Honorary Freedom was conferred on Viscount Cave, G.C.M.G., Lord High Chancellor of England, "in recognition of distinguished service he has at all times rendered to the State, to the County of Surrey, and the Borough of Guildford during the time he held the office of Recorder thereof."

George Cave (1856-1928) was educated at Merchant Taylors' School, St. John's College, Oxford, and the Inner Temple. He was called to the Bar in 1880. He was elected a member of the Surrey County Council in 1889 and became an Alderman in 1892. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1891 and was chairman of Surrey Quarter Sessions from 1894 to 1910. He took silk in 1904 and was Recorder of Guildford from 1904 to 1915.

His political career began with his election to Parliament as Unionist member for Kingston in 1906. He was Solicitor General in the Asquith Coalition Government (1915-16) and Home Secretary in the Lloyd George Coalition Government (1916-1919), having to deal with the multifarious problems that war brought to the Home Office. After three years as Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, he was Lord High Chancellor in the Conservative Governments of Bonar Law and Baldwin (1922-1928).

He retired in 1928, shortly before his death. He was knighted in 1915, made a Viscount in 1919 and received the G.C.M.G. in 1921. He was Chancellor of the University of Oxford from 1924 to 1928.



William Alfred Harvey

March 27th, 1934. The Honorary Freedom was conferred on Alderman William Alfred Harvey, O.B.E., M.M., J.P., " in recognition of the eminent services rendered by him in the alleviation of unemployment, and as an expression of the high esteem in which he is held by his fellow members of the Corporation and the burgesses of the borough."

W. A. Harvey (1884-1946) was born at Ashford, Kent, and educated at the Grammar School. After training in London business houses, he came to Guildford in 1911 to join the firm of Cable, Reeks. He served as motor despatch rider in France, 1914 to 1918, and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field. Returning to Guildford, he founded and directed the firm of Harvey's, 1919-1946. He was elected to the Council in 1926. He soon became Chairman of the Public Grounds Committee and took a large part in the planning of the municipal gardens in Stoke Park, when purchased by the Corporation.

He was Mayor in 1931 and 1932, and in the second year of his Mayoralty, when national efforts to reduce unemployment were meeting with little success, and when local authorities were not empowered to use the rates for this purpose, he launched the Guildford Work Fund Scheme for the relief of local unemployment, raising a voluntary fund wherewith he provided work for many local unemployed, mainly in the construction of the Lido in Stoke Park. This scheme was adopted by a number of local authorities.

In 1934 W. A. Harvey was awarded the O.B.E. " in recognition of his services in the relief of unemployment." He was elected an Alderman in 1933, and from 1933 to 1946 as chairman of the Electricity Committee of the Council, he presided over a very successful venture in municipal trading. He founded Guildford and District Rose Society in 1925 and was its president for many years. He was president of the Rotary club in 1930. He was president of Guildford and District Boy Scouts' Association. When the Mayor's parlour at the Guildhall was extended in 1933, he presented to the Corporation appropriate furniture for the new room.



Sir Claude F. De La Fosse

December 17th, 1943. The Honorary Freedom was conferred on Sir Claude Fraser de la Fosse, C.I.E., D.Litt., M.A., " in recognition of the eminent services rendered by him in the sphere of education, both in India and afterwards in the borough, and in the county of Surrey, and as an expression of the high esteem in which he is held by his fellow members of the Corporation and by the burgesses of Guildford."

C. F. de la Fosse (1868-1950) was educated at Bath College and Trinity College, Oxford. He entered the Indian Educational Service, and became Principal of Victoria College, Kuch Behar (1893-1896); Professor in Queen's College, Benares (1897-1900); Assistant Director (1901-1907), and Director (1908) of Public Instruction, United Provinces; Member of the Legislative Council, United Provinces (1909-1910); Member of the Legislative Council of the Government of India (1920-1923); Vice-Chancellor of the University of Allahabad, 1922. He was awarded the C.I.E. in 1918 and was knighted in 1922.

On retiring from the Indian Service he came to live at Merrow. As a member of the Guildford Rural District Council he opposed, unsuccessfully, the incorporation of Merrow into the Borough of Guildford. He was elected to the Borough Council in 1933 and became at once Chairman of the Education Committee, 1933-1943. His tenure of office saw the opening of the County Technical College, of which he became the first chairman of governors, and the completion of the reorganisation of the schools in the northern area of Guildford. He opposed that part of the Education Act of 1944 which involved the abolition of Guildford Education Committee, but when the Act was operative he became a member of the South-Western Divisional Executive, which took over the work of the Education Committee (1945-6). He retired from the Council in 1945. He was a keen supporter of the Guildford Art Society and a frequent exhibitor at its exhibitions.



William G. L. Sheppard

November 14th, 1951. The Honorary Freedom was conferred on Mr. William George Lamport Sheppard, J.P.; "to mark the great esteem in which he is held and in recognition of the services rendered to the borough during the period 1919 until his resignation in 1951, as a Councillor, Alderman and Mayor, and more particularly of his work as chairman of the Water Committee of the Council from 1935 to 1951, his services to the borough as a justice of the Peace from 1928, and of his services to the County of Surrey as a Councillor and Alderman during the period from 1934 to 1951."

W. G. L. Sheppard (1878-1954) was born and educated at Hambledon, Hampshire, where he served his apprenticeship as carpenter and builder. He settled in Guildford in 1898, became a master builder and founded and directed the firm of W. G. Sheppard, Ltd., building contractors. He was a member of the Council from 1919 to 1951, first as a Labour representative for Stoughton Ward, and after 1933 as an Independent representative for Onslow Ward. He was Alderman from 1929 to 1951 and Mayor in 1933 and 1934, Before his Mayoralty he was chairman of the Housing Committee. From 1935 to 1951 he was chairman of the Water Committee at a time when a rapidly expanding town and population were creating problems of supply and distribution of water. He was a member of the Surrey County Council from 1934 to 1951 and was elected a County Alderman in 1950. He was a Justice of the Peace from 1928 and was a life governor of Abbot's Hospital. He retired from all his public work on account of ill-health in 1951.



Wykeham Price

February 16th, 1955. The Honorary Freedom of the Borough was conferred on Alderman Wykeham Price, O.B.E., J.P., "to mark; the great esteem in which he is held and in recognition of the services rendered to the Borough since 1934, as a Councillor, Alderman and Mayor, and more particularly of his work as chairman of the Finance Committee from 1941-1949, and also of the way in which he has carried out his duties as a Justice of the Peace from 1942, and as a Councillor and Alderman of the Administrative County of Surrey since 1937."

Wykeham Price (1880) was born at Romford, Essex, and educated at Durham School. After 30 years in the East, first in Burma (1901) and later in Java (1907), as tea and rubber grower, he settled in Guildford in 1931. He was one of W.A. Harvey's chief helpers in the Guildford Work Fund Scheme (1933). He was elected to the Borough Council in 1934 and was chairman of the Finance Committee from 1941-1949. He was Mayor from 1942-1945, three very full and exacting war years. As Mayor, he initiated in November, 1942, the opening of Borough Council meetings with Prayers read by the Mayor's Chaplain, and the Mayor's entry with the maces; in December, 1943, the war time devotional services known as "Link with the Forces"; in May, 1944, the wearing of the jabot as part of the Mayor's robes; and in December, 1944, the Boxing Day meet of the Chiddingfold Farmers' Hunt in Tunsgate. He strengthened the bonds between the Borough and the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, and moved the resolution authorising the Regiment to march through the Borough with Bayonets fixed, colours flying and bands playing, a privilege first exercised in September, 1945. He was elected an alderman in 1945 and was the last chairman of the Electricity Committee before nationalisation ended a successful experiment in municipal trading. Among many chairmanships he held in Guildford were those of Onslow Village Ltd. and the Guildford Council of Social Service. He was elected to the Surrey County Council in 1937 and became a County Alderman in 1948. He became a Justice of the Peace in 1942 and was awarded the O.B.E. in 1954 in recognition of his public services in Guildford.



Lawrence Powell

May 1st 1957. The Honorary Freedom of the Borough was conferred on Lawrence Powell in recognition of the eminent services rendered to the Borough over many years as Councillor and Alderman since first elected in 1933.

Alderman Powell was elected Mayor during the years 1935 and 1936 and was appointed a Magistrate in 1946 and was made Chairman of the Borough Justices in 1958, a position he held for several years. He was actively involved in the work of many voluntary organisations in furthering the religious, educational and cultural life of Guildford. He followed the tradition of voluntary public service inherited from his father Mr H.A.Powell and his grandfather Mr Thomas Wilde Powell, the first Honorary Freeman of Guildford. Lawrence Powell was awarded the Military Cross for bravery in the 1914 - 1918 War, was an architect by profession and designed many notable buildings in Surrey. His last home, Rivermead, Flower Walk, a handsome Regency residence, was presented by Councillor Powell to the National Trust for preservation in 1957. He had previously given a strip of land at Waverley Mead, a new cut in a River Wey Improvement Scheme, to the town as a Jubilee gift in 1935 and eight years earlier had donated an adjacent piece of land opposite Paddock Gardens.

Lawrence Powell, as Chairman of the Library, Museum and Arts Committee, was involved in the founding of Guildford's first public library and of the Guildford House Exhibition Gallery. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the North Street Repertory Theatre for 17 years and a Trustee of the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre. He was Chairman of Guildford's Education Committee until the 1944 Education Act and subsequently became Vice-Chairman of the Divisional Education Committee and a member of the County Education Committee for 22 years. He was Chairman of the Governors of Guildford School of Art and a member of the Governing Body of Guildford Technical College. He was a leading member of the Cathedral Council and Chairman of the Diocesan Board of Finance from 1940 to 1952 and a member of the Diocesan Advisory Council. He was for many years President of the Guildford Society and President of the local branch of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. After a long illness Lawrence Powell died in St.Luke's Hospital at the age of 84.



Alderman Vernon George Wilkinson OBE, JP

November 4th 1959. The Honorary Freedom of the Borough was conferred upon Alderman Vernon George Wilkinson OBE in recognition of his eminent services to the Borough and his indefatigable efforts and outstanding individual contribution in the provision of housing in the Borough.

Alderman Wilkinson (1897-1960), a former Labour candidate for the Guildford Parliamentary Constituency was a prominent trade unionist and a Justice of the Peace. He was an insurance official by profession, was District Secretary of the AEU for 14 years, being awarded the Trades Union Congress Medallion in recognition thereof and a member of the Guildford and District Trades Council for 25 years and a member of Surrey County Council for 17 years.

Vernon Wilkinson was a member of Guildford Borough Council from 1929 - 1940, was elected Mayor of Guildford from 1940 - 1942 and was elected an Alderman in 1940. He was Chairman of the Borough Housing Committee for a number of years from 1934. He was President of the Guildford and District Co-operative Society; Chairman of Northmead Secondary School, President of Allen House Bowling Club and a Director of Guildford City Football Club. Alderman Wilkinson died in 1960 at the age of 63.



Alderman Archibald William Graham Brown FCIB

May 5th 1964. The Honorary Freedom of the Borough was conferred on Alderman Archibald William Graham Brown FCIB in recognition of eminent service to the Borough in the offices of Councillor and Alderman since 1937 and of Mayor during the years 1945 and 1946 and in appreciation of his inspiring and prodigious efforts towards making the town of Guildford a centre of learning and culture.

Archibald Graham-Brown, educated at Wanstead School, served in the 1st Bn. London Scottish in the First World War, Royal Observer Corps in the Second World War. He founded the business Graham Brown Ltd., Incorporated Insurance Brokers, in 1929. Alderman Graham Brown was one of the founders and promoters of the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre and as Chairman of the Library Committee, was prime mover of the provision of the Civic Hall.

Alderman Graham Brown, first elected to serve on Guildford Borough Council in 1937, was elected Mayor in 1945/46, was elected an Alderman in 1950, was a founder member of the Guildford Round Table and a member of the Rotary Club and served as Chairman of the former and president of the latter. He was one of the founder members of the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Management Board and became its Chairman and actively participated in amateur operatics and was Chairman of Guildford Repertory Theatre from its inauguration in 1946. He represented the Borough Council on the Association of Municipal Corporations for a number of years, was Chairman of the Council's General Purposes Committee and of the Library, Museums and Arts Committee.



Alderman Horace Harold Kimber OBE, JP

July 25th 1973. The Honorary Freedom of the Borough was conferred on Alderman Horace Harold Kimber, OBE in recognition of eminent service to the Borough.

Alderman Kimber had first been elected to the Borough Council in 1945, was elected Mayor in 1955/57 and served as an Alderman for 18 years. He was Chairman of the Borough Council's Finance and General Purposes Committee for nearly 25 years and served with distinction as a County Councillor following his election in 1962. During his Mayoralty the Borough welcomed Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip in 1957 on the 700th anniversary of the granting of the Town's Charter. Alderman Kimber received the Papal Award of Knight of St. Gregory in 1978.



*The Right Honorable
The Lord Nugent of Guildford*

June 12th 1985. The Honorary Freedom of the Borough was conferred on The Right Honorable The Lord Nugent of Guildford in recognition of eminent services rendered to the Borough and having served his fellow men and women in Guildford with particular and outstanding distinction.

Lord Nugent, educated at the Imperial Service College, Windsor, went to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich and in 1926 was commissioned in the Royal Artillery. Upon leaving the army in 1929 he took up farming, became a member of the Executive Council of the National Farmers Union, founded the Merrist Wood Farm Institute and the Surrey County Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, was one of the Minister of Agriculture's personal advisors and became a Justice of the Peace. He was President of the Grammar School Appeal to raise funds at the time of independence, was Joint Chairman of the Mount Alvernia Trust and was involved with the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Appeal to provide new air conditioning and a studio theatre and to equip a scenery workshop. He took a leading role in organising fund raising to complete the new Cathedral and was also involved in helping to establish the University of Surrey in Guildford, being actively involved with raising support and help in the County. He joined the Guildford Conservative Association in 1933, became Divisional Chairman of the Junior Conservatives and after the War, became Chairman of the Constituency Association. He was elected to the County Council in 1944 and retired in 1951, an Alderman. He was adopted as Parliamentary Candidate for Guildford in 1950 and within a year of becoming a Member of Parliament, was appointed by Winston Churchill as a Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. He occupied many Ministerial appointments until 1959 when Harold MacMillan granted him a Baronetcy. He was appointed a Privy Councillor in 1962 and in 1966 given a Life Peerage. Having become an active Member of the House of Lords he became Deputy Speaker of the Upper House. In 1960 Lord Nugent became Chairman of The Thames Conservancy Board and later President of the National Association of River Authorities. When the Water Industry was re-organised in 1973, he became Chairman of the National Water Council.



Bill Bellerby MBE

Born in Penarth, South Wales in 1917, Bill Bellerby married Doreen in 1941 while he was serving with the Queen's Royal Regiment and they moved to Guildford in 1946. His career as a teacher saw him working in Guildford, Worplesdon, Farncombe, Woking and Albury until 1960 when he was appointed Headmaster of Knollmead Primary School, Tolworth, a post that he held until his retirement in 1979. Bill Bellerby was first elected to Guildford Borough Council in 1953 and he retired, after 42 years' continuous service, in 1995. He also served as a Surrey County Councillor from 1965 to 1967 and again from 1981 to 1989. He twice contested the Guildford parliamentary seat and held the office of Mayor of Guildford in 1972/73 and 1973/74. During his time as a Councillor, Bill Bellerby served on almost every Council Committee, but took a particularly keen and active interest in the arts, activities for young people and disabled groups. He was closely associated with numerous arts organisations including the South East Arts Executive, the Guildford Amateur Theatre Association, the Herald Players, Guildford Symphony Orchestra, Guildford Choral Society, Guildford Opera Company, the Nomads Theatre Group, the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford Arts Council, the Book Festival, the South East Music Trust, and the Guildford Philharmonic Society.

His tireless work for the young people of the Borough saw him actively involved over many years with the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Guildford Children's Holiday Play Scheme Association, Henley Fort Outdoor Centre for Young People and Guildford Sports Council. He also served as President of the Guildford & District Mentally Handicapped Association, the Lockwood Association and the Surrey Branch of the British Sports for Disabled Association. He has also been patron of Guildford Sport for All and Disability Challengers and a Governor of Pond Meadow School for Children with Severe Learning Difficulties.

Together with his wife Doreen, he was awarded the MBE in 1991 in recognition of his services to the community and in the same year they were both awarded Honorary Degrees by the University of Surrey.

At a special meeting of the Council held on 25th March 1995 the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Guildford was conferred on Bill & Doreen Bellerby in recognition of their long and distinguished public service both as members of the Council and its predecessor authority and for their contribution to the work of local voluntary organisations the arts, sports and recreation and their commitment to the welfare of Guildford and its citizens.



Doreen Winifred Bellerby MBE

Doreen Bellerby and her husband Bill moved from South Wales to Guildford in 1946 and in 1954, Doreen followed in Bill's footsteps by being elected to the Council. She served as a Labour member for no less than 41 years, retiring in 1995. She also served four terms, totalling twenty years, as a Surrey County Councillor, 1958 - 1961; 1965 - 1967; 1970 - 1977 and 1981 - 1989.

During her time on the Council Doreen Bellerby served on a wide range of Council committees, but took a particular interest in furthering the interests of local organisations involved with the arts, sports, and recreation as well as the disadvantaged. She has served as Vice-Chairman of Surrey Voluntary Association for the Disabled, as Patron of the Rape & Sexual Abuse centre and took a very active part in the work of the Surrey Voluntary Association for the Blind, the South East Regional Association for the Deaf, the Guildford Committee for Equipment for Disabled Children and Guildford Community Mediation Service.

As well as being a member of the Court of the University, she has served on the governing bodies of both Abbot's Hospital and Stoke Hospital, Grafham Grange School, Bramley and Thornchace Special School Merrow and has been a member of the Guildford Hospice Appeal Committee and Surrey Early Years Learning Liaison Group. She has served as Vice-President of Guildford Choral Society and Guildford Symphony Orchestra and her wider interests have embraced the Guildford Freiburg Association, the Guildford Welsh Society and the Guildford Branch of the National Council of Women.

Together with her husband Bill, she was awarded the MBE in 1991 in recognition of her services to the community and in the same year they were both awarded Honorary Degrees by the University of Surrey.

At a special meeting of the Council held on 25th March 1995 the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Guildford was conferred on Bill & Doreen Bellerby in recognition of their long and distinguished public service both as members of the Council and its predecessor authority and for their contribution to the work of local voluntary organisations the arts, sports and recreation and their commitment to the welfare of Guildford and its citizens.



David Watts

Mr Watts retired as Chief Executive of the Council on 6 May 2002 having been appointed to that post in 1984. He had been with the authority since 1973 having been appointed as Legal Administrator to the “shadow” Council prior to local government re-organisation. This post was then reclassified as ‘Clerk and Solicitor’, a role he undertook until his later appointment as Chief Executive.

Prior to that, Mr Watts had been with Esher and Wembley Councils, having started his local government career as an articled clerk with Twickenham Borough Council in January 1955.



Andrew Hodges

Andrew Hodges was first elected to the Council in 1976 representing the Christchurch ward and has served on all the main committees. He was Mayor in 1987-88, Leader of the Council from 2003 to 2010 and Deputy Leader and Lead Councillor for Finance and Resources in 2010-11.

In his earlier years on the Council, he was Vice-Chairman of the former Personal Services Committee from 1977 to 1983 and became chairman of that Committee in 1983 which he held until 1987. Mr Hodges was also chairman of the successor Housing and Health Committee from 1993 to 1995. He was Vice-Chairman of the former Arts and Recreation Committee between 1990 and 1992.

In addition, Mr Hodges has served on a myriad of outside bodies as the Council's representative including:

Guildford Youth and Community Centre from 1976 to 1995
Governor of George Abbot School from 1977 to 1988
Guildford Old People's Welfare Council 1979 to 1988
Guildford Area Unemployed People's Centre from 1984 to 1989
Guildford Adventurers/Disability Challengers from 1986 to 1999
South East Regional Council for Sport and Recreation from 1988 to 1993
Surrey County Playing Fields Association from 1990 to 1994
Guildford Area Community Care from 1991 to 1998
Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Management Board from 1992 to 2003
Surrey Local Government Association from 1999 to 2011
South East England Regional Assembly from 2003 to 2009



Jennifer Eleri Powell

Jen Powell was first elected to the Council in 1987 representing the Clandon and Horsley ward and served on most of the committees of the Council – both prior to, and following, the adoption of executive arrangements in 2001. She was Mayor of Guildford in 2001-02, having served as Deputy Mayor in the preceding year. Mrs Powell served on the Executive for 13 years with the following portfolio responsibilities:

Lead Councillor for People and Partnership: 2003-2009

Lead Councillor for Culture and Heritage: 2010-11

Lead Councillor for Culture and Leisure: 2011-12

Lead Councillor for Sport, Leisure and Culture: 2012-13

She was also chairman of the former Arts & Recreation Committee in 1994-95, having been its Vice-Chairman from 1991 to 1994; chairman of the former Policy Panel (Leisure) in 2003-04 and one of the designated Licensing Sub-Committee chairmen in 2006-07 and 2010-11. She was Vice-Chairman of the Licensing Committee between 2003 and 2005 and of the Licensing Act 2003 Committee in 2005-06.

In addition, Mrs Powell served on many external bodies and organisations as the Council's representative, including:

Age Concern (Surrey): 2005-2011

Area Museums Service for South East England Executive Council (Surrey District Councils Association Rep): 1990-1994

Ash Manor School Joint Committee (Dual use of Sports Facilities): 1991-1995

Guildford Access Group: 1990-1999, 2002-2013

Guildford Community Liaison Group: 1990-1992

Guildford Road Safety Advisory Council: 1987-1993

Southern Home Safety Council: 1987-1990

SCC Guildford Local Committee: 2002-03

SCC Guildford Partnership Area Transportation Sub-Committee: 1993-1995

South East Arts General Advisory Council: 1998-2000

South East Arts Local Authority Forum: 2000-01

South East England Tourist Board Executive Committee: 1990-1995

Surrey & Continuing Adult Education Service (Guildford Area Advisory Group): 1993-1999

Surrey Historic Buildings Trust (Surrey District Councils Association rep): 1995-96

Surrey Museums Consultative Committee: 1991-2001, 2003-2015

Tourism South East: 2005-2015

Waterside Centre Guildford: 1995-96

Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Board of Management Ltd: 2004-2015

Yvonne Arnaud Theatre Trust: 2006-2015

