



Northampton Borough Council Scrutiny Panel – Northampton Post Unitary 4 July 2018

Civic Pride and Ceremonies

Main source of Information for this presentation: The Borough of Northampton and Its Guildhall and Civic Traditions - RJB Morris

The Mayoralty of Northampton

- Mayors of Northampton are recorded back to 1215 and are listed at the Guildhall
- The first recorded Mayor was William Tilly.
- The current Mayor of Northampton is the 778th Mayor
- The Mayor must be a Northampton Borough Councillor; the Mayor has a Mayoress or Mayor's Consort for the Mayoralty year
- The Mayor is politically impartial during their year of office
- The Mayor occupies the Mayor's Parlour and the William Tilley Room at the Guildhall for their Mayoralty year
- The Mayor of Northampton is perceived as tradition but this is an evolving tradition, one that is not fixed.
- Each Mayor can undertake his/her Mayoralty year in their own way; within the parameters of the Office and the budget available

A non-exhaustive summary of Civic Processions that take place within the Borough of Northampton:

➤ Mayoral and Charity Sunday

Should the Mayor decide to hold both Mayoral and Charity Sunday on the same day, it takes place at All Saints Church, the Mayor can, if they so wish hold Mayoral Sunday at the local Parish Church

➤ Charity Sunday at All Saints Church – June/July

➤ High Sheriff Crown Court Service - Annually in October

➤ Remembrance Sunday Service - November

Further Annual Civic Events and Processions led by the Mayor of Northampton

- Mayoress/Mayor's Consort Tree Planting** – February/March each year
- Heart of the Community Awards** – Take place March or April annually
- Mayor making** held in May each year
- Oak Apple Day** – 29 May each year
- Armed Forces Day Parade** – on or around 30 June
- The Mayor usually holds a **Gala Dinner** during November
- Mayor's Fund for the Housebound** - December

Additional Civic Events that take place annually

- 7th January – Holocaust Memorial Day**
- 1st March – Tibetan Flag Raising**
- 1st March – International Women’s Day**
- 2nd March – Commonwealth Day**
- 1st April – ANZAC Day**
- 17th May – International Day Against Homophobia**
- approx. 25th June – Armed Forces Flag Raising**
- 11th July – Remembering Srebrenica**
- 1st September – Merchant Navy Day**
- October – Black History Month**
- 19th November – International Men’s Day**
- 1st December – World Aid’s Day**
- 3rd December – International Day for People with Disabilities**

Additional Events which may be added to the Civic Calendar

- Honorary Recorder Ceremony
- Honorary Aldermen Ceremony
- Hereditary Freeman Ceremony
- Honorary Freedom Ceremony
- Exercising Freedom of the Borough Parade

Supporting Charities (previous Mayor')

The Mayor of Northampton supports and raises funds for its chosen charity(ies) during their year of office.
Examples of the charities supported:

- Marie Curie Cancer Care
- Mencap Northampton
- Alfie Bear's journey Fund
- Northampton Hope Centre
- Home-Start
- Crazy Hats
- Breast Cancer Appeal
- Northampton General Hospital – Children's Ward
- SSAFA
- The Alzheimer's Society

The Great Mace

- The Great Mace dates back to the 17th Century. It is around 113 cm long and weighs just under 4 kg in weight.
- There are four smaller Maces as at one time Northampton had five Serjeants at Mace
- The Mayor's Serjeant carries the Great Mace before the Mayor on formal occasions.
- The Great Mace is placed before the Mayor while full Council meetings take place.

The Mayor's Chain of Office

- The Chain of Office is a badge of nine carat yellow gold; it has scroll sides and a centre shield on the crossed maces. There is black lettering on a white enamelled background with pink shading to the edge.
- "MAYOR" is detailed to a blue enamel arch to the top of the badge and at the base there is the wording "CASTELLO FORTIOR CONCORDIA"
- On the back of the badge there is engraving

Civic Silver

➤ An inventory of the Borough's silver has been compiled and includes:

Pair of candelabra

Pair of cups with covers

Pair of goblets

Armada dish

Dish

Salver

Tray

Punch Bowl

Ladle

Soup tureens

Oval box

History - Freedom of the Borough

The Freedom of the Borough was acquired by one of:

By birth – all sons of Freeman born within the Borough after the enfranchisement of their father could have admission to the Freeman roll on coming of age. They had to pay one pound two shillings

By Marriage – to a daughter of a Freeman, there was a payment of nine pounds, four shillings

By Apprenticeship – After a seven year apprenticeship to a Freeman within the Borough; there was a fee of one pound, fifteen and sixpence. In 796 when the Charter was passed, there was restrictions on trade existed in favour of Freeman

By Purchase – People living in the borough could be admitted to the Freedom of the Borough upon payment of a set fee

By Gift - Before 1835 the Freedom was occasionally conferred as an honour or as recognition of services

Honorary Freemen and Aldermen

The Honorary Freedom of the Borough is a civic honour and is separate from Freedom of the Borough.

Section 29 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 changed the heading of section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 from 'Honorary alderman and freeman' to 'Honorary titles'.

This acknowledged the inclusion of Honorary alderwoman and honorary freewoman.