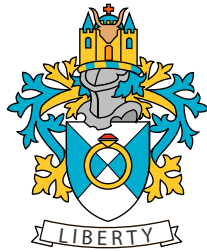




Election of the 49th

Mayor of Havering





Heraldic description of the Coat of Arms

- Arms:** *Per saltire Argent and Azure a Gem Ring Or set with a Ruby proper.*
- Crest:** *On a Wreath Or and Azure a Castled Gateway with three Towers Or masoned Sable the windows and middle Tower domed Azure ensigned with a Cross Gules and the outer Towers each with a Steeple Azure issuant above the port a Bull's Head and Neck affronty proper.*
- Badge:** *A bull's head caboshed proper within a gem ring Or set with a ruby proper.*
- Motto:** 'LIBERTY'

Granted 1st March 1965

Coats of Arms stem from the signs that knights of the Middle Ages painted on their shields in order to be distinguished, as friend or foe, in battle. In later times noble families displayed these "armorial bearings" as proof of their ancient lineage.

Cities connected with such families often asked permission to use the same coat of arms, and when towns and boroughs also wished to be distinguished with arms, the College of Heralds was ready to design suitable crests. The simple statement on a knight's shield – a sword dripping with blood to show that he was mighty in battle, for example – has been overlaid with complicated symbols and the language – based on ancient French – of chivalry.

When the London Borough of Havering was formed in 1965, application was made for a coat of arms, and the heralds combined some of the symbols from those previously held by Romford and Hornchurch, and the Royal Liberty of Havering which extended over most of the area from 1465 to 1892. There is a tower to represent the old Palace of Havering, a bull's horned head for Hornchurch, a shield in segments to represent the cross of St. Andrew (St Andrew's Hornchurch was for centuries the parish church for the whole Liberty), and the ring which, according to legend, Edward the Confessor gave to a beggar with the words "Have a ring".

The Coat of Arms is now kept for traditional use; it appears on the side of the Mayor's official car and in the Council Chamber.

The motto 'Liberty' represents the present free and democratic way of life but is inspired by the fact that Havering was a Royal Liberty from 1465 to 1892.

The Office of Mayor

This is one of the oldest public offices in this country. The role has, over the years, changed from being entirely responsible for the government of a City or Town into a largely ceremonial and civic role as First Citizen of the borough. Havering has had a Mayor since its inception in 1965: the former Borough of Romford had a Mayor from its incorporation in 1937 whilst Hornchurch, as an Urban District, had a Chairman of the Council rather than a Mayor.

When Councillor Lynden Thorpe is elected Mayor tonight, she will be the 49th Mayor of the Borough. Over the years, only three Councillors have held the office twice: Councillor Denis O'Flynn in 1991/92 and 2001/02; former Councillor Louise Sinclair in 1988/89 and 2004/05; and former Councillor Jack Hoepelman in 1994/95 and 1995/96.

The Annual Meeting of the Council

This is held every May. At it, the Council elects the Mayor for the coming year and carries out a number of 'housekeeping' tasks.

The Mayor is elected from among the Councillors of the borough and generally holds office for one year; once elected, the Mayor appoints another Councillor to be Deputy Mayor, who will carry out Mayoral duties if the Mayor is unable to do so.

The Council may also consider awarding to "any person of distinction or who has rendered eminent service to the borough" the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.

The meeting tonight will be in two parts.

First, nominations for the conferment of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough will be dealt with, and conferred by the outgoing Mayor (Councillor Melvin Wallace), who will also make a presentation to this year's Mayor's Cadet.

Then will follow the 'Mayor Making' (see the centre pages), comprising the election of the Mayor, the Mayor's appointment of the Deputy Mayor.

This will be followed by the appointment of Committees, their Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen. Finally the Leader of the Council (Cllr. Michael White) will give an address to the Council and the appointment and investiture of their respective Consorts.

Mayor Making

The Mayor Making Ceremony follows a time-honoured pattern:

- » Council assembles
- » The Civic Party, comprising the retiring Mayor (Councillor Melvin Wallace), Deputy Mayor and their Consorts, the Deputy Lieutenant, the Leader of the Council, the Chaplain and the Chief Executive enter the Chamber and take their seats
- » The retiring Mayor conducts the election of his successor. As there is only one candidate, the election is a formality but it is nevertheless conducted by formal vote and will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting
- » The election completed, the retiring Mayor invites his newly – elected successor – who has been the current Deputy Mayor – to come forward and be invested with the Mayor’s Chain of Office
- » Councillor Lynden Thorpe, as Mayor-elect, then makes and signs the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and, now as Mayor, takes formal charge of the meeting
- » The Mayor declares the name of her Consort and invests him with the Consort’s Chain
- » The Mayor then presents the retiring Mayor with mementoes of his year in office and he then returns to his seat on the floor of the Chamber
- » The Mayor announces the name of the Deputy Mayor, who comes forward. The Deputy Mayor is invested with his Chains of Office and, having made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, takes his seat at the dais
- » The Deputy Mayoress is similarly invested with the Deputy Mayoress’s Chain, and takes her seat beside the dais
- » A vote of thanks is proposed to the retiring Mayor, to which he will respond.

The Insignia of Office

The Chains

The **Mayor's Chain** was originally that of the Mayor of Romford. It was donated to the people of Romford by Ind Coope & Allsopp Limited when Romford became a borough in 1937. The Badge is that of Havering.

The **Mayoress's Chain** was given to the Borough of Romford, also in 1937, by the Romford Gas Company.

The **Deputy Mayor's Chain** was originally the Chain of the Chairman of Hornchurch Urban District Council, and was presented to that Council in 1949 by several local business concerns.

The **Deputy Mayor's Consort's Chain** comprises a chain presented by the Romford Silver Jubilee (of King George V) Committee in 1935, and the Badge was formerly that of the Mayor of Romford.

The Robes

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor, and their Consorts, wear Robes on important civic and other occasions. Their weight and fabric make wearing Robes impractical at normal Council meetings.

The Robes are derived from court dress in mediaeval times and comprise an over mantle of crimson fabric with fur collar.

In addition, the Mayor wears a lace cravat known as a jabott, lace cuffs and a traditional Mayor's hat (there are slightly different designs for male and female Mayors; men have a cocked hat and women a tricorn hat).

The Mace

The Mace is the traditional symbol of the embodiment of the borough and of the authority of the Mayor, derived from a mediaeval weapon carried by serjeants-at-arms escorting the monarch.

The Mace of Havering bears a Royal Crown at its head, with the Borough Coat of Arms on its shaft.

The Mace is carried by the Mace Bearer, whose office derives from the ancient tradition of serjeants-at-arms acting as body guards to the monarch or other important officers of state.

A photo of the Mayor's Chain, Robe, Jabott and Hats with the Mace on its stand appears on the back of this brochure.

Civic Badges

Former Mayor's Badge

On leaving office, each Mayor is awarded a Former Mayor's Badge, consisting of an enamelled Badge of the Arms of the Borough, supported by a neck ribbon in the colour of the political group to which the former Mayor belongs.

This Badge is worn at Civic events and may be worn at full meetings of the Council.



Honorary Freeman's Badge

Those on whom the Honorary Freedom of the Borough has been conferred for eminent service to the Borough are presented an Honorary Freeman's Badge, comprising a medallion suspended from a breast ribbon.

Honorary Alderman's Badge

Any former Councillor who has rendered eminent service to the Council may be appointed an Honorary Alderman. Appointees are presented an Honorary Alderman's Badge, comprising a medallion suspended from a breast ribbon.

Mayor's Civic Award

The Mayor personally presents Civic Awards to local people who have given eminent service to the community.

Recipients receive a pin badge of the Borough Shield, to be worn on the lapel.



Mayor's Cadet Badge

The Mayor selects a member of the one of the uniformed youth organisations within the Borough as Mayor's Cadet. The Mayor's Cadet accompanies the Mayor to events of major Civic importance, such as Remembrance Sunday parades, or with a specifically youth orientation.

Mayor's Cadets receive a pin badge of the Borough Shield, to be worn on the lapel.

