



## **MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**15<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

#### **A Lifetime Achievement Award to Mr Tony Gray**

At the well-attended Mayor Making ceremony at the Town Hall on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 where guests included the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Rose Troughton and the High Sheriff of Wiltshire, Lady Marland, the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Noel Barrett-Morton, presented Mr Tony Gray with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Tony Gray, a former Marlborough Borough and Town Council Mayor and Chairman of Kennet District Council was brought up and educated in Marlborough and carried out his National Service in the Wiltshire Regiment. He was a school governor for both St Mary's and St Peter's schools and Chairman of the Marlborough Round Table.

His many achievements in local government include working with the Showmen's Guild to ensure the future of the Mop Fairs in the High Street, negotiating a lease of Cooper's Meadow to the town rather than a sale to developers as well as being the driving force behind the purchase of the Merchant's House and setting up of its Trust. A largely unknown achievement is that he was instrumental in persuading Lord Brooke to move an amendment in the House of Lords in the 1970s enabling former Borough and City Councils to retain the office of Mayor without which this historic tradition may not have continued.

Within his various roles and outside of them he helped to raise thousands of pounds for charity and organised many community events including the memorable celebrations around the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Tony will, of course, also be remembered as the owner of the famous Ducks Toy Shop, a family run business and magical place in the High Street and though no longer open, still remembered by generations of children.

Councillor Noel Barrett-Morton said: "I feel honoured to have been able to present this award to Tony who has given so much and so generously to Marlborough and has had such an important impact on the running and administration of the town and Wiltshire. Many of his achievements are largely unknown and it's right that we have had a chance to acknowledge him and them properly by presenting him with this award."

Mr Gray was presented with an engraved crystal bowl.

**For more information, please contact Shelley Parker, Town Clerk,  
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