

## NOEL BARRETT-MORTON

After nearly 14 years Councillor Noel Barrett-Morton stepped down as a Councillor at the Full Council meeting held Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March.

At the meeting Town Mayor, Councillor Nicholas Fogg said “we are losing one of our stalwarts. Noel has been a splendid Town Councillor with a great record of achievement and was a much-appreciated Mayor supported by his Mayoress, wife Susan.”



Noel told us he had enjoyed his time on the Council, especially when Mayor in 2016/2017. He completed 120 Mayoral assignments to various Councils and outside bodies including the Lord Mayor and City of London, with a full album of pictures to remind him of that busy time.

In summary, Noel said it has been time well spent and he hoped that he had served his community well.

Noel won't be able to forget his time as a Marlborough Town Councillor in a hurry: the Mayor presented him with a Colin Palmer painting of the Town Hall. Fellow Councillors wished him well and thanked him for his service.

Noel is originally from Ulster. He has had a long and successful career firstly in stockbroking in the City of London and then in civil aviation as a pilot with British Eagle and then British Airways. He also owned a financial services company and was Chairman of a property development company. This experience was beneficial to the Town Council in general, especially when he was elected Chair of the Property Committee. He is now mainly retired and lives in the centre of the town.

Noel served as a Town Councillor from October 2011 until March 2024. He was Mayor in 2016-17 with wife Susan by his side as Mayoress. During his service he has been Chair of the Property Committee as well as chairing Full Council meetings during his Mayoral year. It was at these meetings that the Town Council agreed to take over the public toilets at George Lane and refurbish them and to take on the Youth Centre at St Margaret's Mead, both of which were to be closed by Wiltshire Council. Noel was also a member of the [Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group](#) from the very beginning. In that time Noel has sat with four Town Clerks: Liam Costello, Derek Wolfe, Shelley Parker and Richard Spencer-Williams.

### Councillor duties

Council terms last for 4 years, and Noel has served with 4 different councils covering the terms 2009-2013, 2013-2017, 2017-2021 and 2021-2025. During that time he has represented the views

of residents at Council meetings attending Full Council, Planning Committee and various other committee meetings, seen the Neighbourhood Plan through to completion in March 2023 as a member of the Steering Group, and attended annual events such as the Remembrance Parade. He also had a long involvement with the local Mencap group.

If all of this sounds like a very busy full-time job, it's important to remember that Town Councillors are volunteers and are not paid for their role. As Mayor, they receive a small allowance to cover expenses and other costs. Having a passion for the town where you live and a desire to support the community and local business is what drives most people to become a town councillor.

We'll be sharing information about how Noel's seat at the Council table will be filled soon. If you think this might be a role for you, please watch this space.

Here's a look back at Noel's service.

### The 2009-2013 council term

Noel was elected to represent the Town Council (West Ward) in October 2011 in a mid-term by election and attended his first Full Council meeting on 17 October that year, chaired by the Mayor for 2011-2012, Councillor Alexander Kirk Wilson.

*Photo: Mayor Making, May 2013*



L-R: Cllr Richard Allen, Rev. Andrew Studdart-Kennedy, Noel Barrett-Morton, Justin Cook, Peggy Dow, Town Clerk Shelley Parker, Bryan Castle, Stewart Dobson, Mayor Guy Loosmore, Andrew Ross, Alexander Kirk Wilson, Deputy Mayor Marian Hannaford-Dobson, Margaret Rose, Billy Lam, Lisa Farrell and Nicholas Fogg

Officers of dignity: Alfie Johnson, John Yates, Bob Dobie and Geoffrey Snell, David Sherratt

## The 2013-2017 council term



L-R: Cllrs Mervyn Hall, Bryan Castle, Alexander Kirk Wilson, Susie Price, Peter Cairns, Lisa Farrell, Noel Barrett-Morton, Andy Wilson, Guy Loosmore, Ed Northeast, Mark Cooper, Harry Forbes and Peggy Dow

## The 2017-2021 council term



L-R: Back row: Councillors Andrew Ross, Noel Barrett-Morton, Guy Loosmore, Alexander Kirk Wilson, Peggy Dow, Dr Janneke Blokland, Ed Northeast, Harry Forbes, Peter Cairns, Susie Price, mark Cooper, Andy Wilson

Front row: Mace Bearer Bob Dobie, Mayoress Cath Hall, Town Mayor Councillor Mervyn Hall, Deputy Mayor Councillor Lisa Farrell, Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Troughton and Lady Marland, the High Sherriff, Mace Bearer Barry Mercer, and Town Crier Mike Tupman at front

## The 2021-2025 council term

A reminder of Coronavirus restrictions – the 2021 Mayor Making took place at a socially distanced meeting with no invited guests



L-R: Cllrs James Sheppard, Jane Davies, Caroline Thomas, Nicholas Fogg, Kym-Marie Cleasby, Town Clerk Richard Spencer-Williams, Noel Barrett-Morton, Mark Cooper, Jo Waltham, Lisa Farrell, Guy Loosmore, Donald Heath, Andrew Ross and Mervyn Hall. Also Mace Bearers Bob Dobie and Barry Mercer, Town Crier Mike Tupman and Fr John Blacker (Mayor's Chaplain)

## MAYORAL YEAR

9 May 2016 – 15 May 2017

Mayoress: wife Susan

Mayoral charities: [Swift Medics](#) (£988.59 raised) and [Wiltshire Air Ambulance](#) (£1,559.29 including £500 generously donated by 4<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion)

A busy year attending many civic services across the county and beyond, opening the Mop Fair, attending Remembrance events, community groups and concerts, chair of the local Mencap group, presenting grant cheques and attending every council meeting – the Mayor is a member of every committee by default.

You can read about his Mayoral year in his own words in his [blog](#), but here are a few highlights:

May



Elected [Town Mayor](#), with wife Susan by his side as Mayoress

June

A civic service and reception at the Town Hall to celebrate [HM Elizabeth II's 90th birthday](#). With Neil Goodwin's assistance he took the first (and only?) Mayoral [selfie](#).

July

A [visit to Parliament](#) and, linked to the opening of Marlborough Jazz Festival, Noel met with [Councillor Cynthia Brooks](#) from Marlborough, New Zealand, to exchange books relevant to the two Marlboroughs which were later displayed at the Library.



Every Mayor is asked to cut ribbons and Noel was no exception. These included businesses, care homes and, especially, to open a [new children's play area at Orchard Road](#) just in time for the summer holidays, the culmination of a long campaign spearheaded by former Councillor Alec Light.

September

September saw St Peter's Church as the glorious setting for the Mayor's Charity Concert in aid of Wiltshire Air Ambulance and Swift Medics with members of Marlborough Concert Orchestra playing music from Mozart, Saint-Saens and Schubert.

Another highlight was [high tea](#) with the Lord Mayor of London.

## October

Accompanied Anne Crawley (Chair of Marlborough in Bloom) and a group of volunteers to the [South West in Bloom awards ceremony](#) at Somerset County Cricket Ground in Taunton. Lord Julian Fellowes and his wife, Lady Emma Fellowes, presented the prizes: our town was welcomed onto the stage to collect awards throughout the day. And the awards kept on coming, with an incredible 16 in total!

October also saw the traditional opening of the Mop fair

## November

Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday



At the Christmas lights event he led the [countdown](#) with Anne Crawley, who he had announced as Citizen of the Year for 2016.

As Chair of Marlborough in Bloom, Anne was nominated for all her hard work in the town's successful entry.

### *December*

There was an early Christmas present for [Prospect Hospice](#) when Councillor Noel Barrett-Morton presented a new lifting cushion to the [Outreach Centre](#) at Savernake Hospital. He watched a demonstration of how it is used and even tested out the equipment himself. [Outreach Centre](#) Co-ordinator, Zoe O'Reilly, thanked the Mayor saying "This new equipment will be a valuable resource and help our patients in a dignified manner".



There were a number of Christmas concerts and events, including a highlight of each civic year - the Marlborough College Carol Service.

### *January 2017*

Meeting community groups and attending civic services.

### *February*

Hosted a Civic Dinner with honoured guests 4 Military Intelligence Battalion

### *March*

A reception at the Town Hall to celebrate Marlborough achieving Fair Trade Town status.

### *April*

Out and about at more civic services and engagement with local groups.

### *May*

As outgoing Mayor, at the Mayor Making ceremony at the end of his term he presented a lifetime achievement award to [Tony Gray](#) and surrendered the robe and chain to Councillor Mervyn Hall, Mayor for 2017-18.

Speaking to Neil Goodwin of Marlborough.News, in summary, Noel described his Mayoral year "as an interesting and memorable time as Mayor; all in all I have enjoyed my many years of service as a Councillor on Marlborough Town Council. I have learned a lot and would like to think I have served my community well. Thanks Marlborough...."

Read the full [MNO article](#)  
[Town Council's Annual Report for 2016-17](#)

