

Freemen of the Borough of Middlesbrough – ‘New’ Board



The information contained in this booklet relates to the people listed on the Middlesbrough Borough Council Freemen of the Borough Board which is located in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, also known as the 'New Board'.

Those people named on the Board are also documented in the 'Roll of Honour' which is a book that is signed at the Freedom Ceremony and states why the person was given the Freedom.

Research is still ongoing to find photographs and background information on some of those listed.

Any items from the civic collection or photos/paintings linked to the people who received Freedom of the Borough are featured in this booklet.



Background information – Cllr Mary Ann Daniel (d 23 December 1983)

Councillor for the Acklam Ward - 1949 – 1968 and 1973-1979

Alderman - Teesside County Borough Council in 1967

Retired from the Council in 1979

In 1964 she lived 123 Oxford Road, Linthorpe

The wording that appears in the Middlesbrough Borough Council Roll of Honorary Freedom states:

Resolution – that Councillor Mrs Mary Ann Daniel being a person who has rendered eminent services to the Borough of Middlesbrough within the meaning and in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act, 1972, be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Middlesbrough the most honourable distinction which it is their privilege to bestow in recognition and appreciation of those services which have been given by her during a long public career in so many capacities particularly the services she has rendered as a Member of Middlesbrough County Borough, Teesside County Borough and Middlesbrough Borough Councils. Remembering also her particular interest, endeavours and unselfish service in the care of old people. Her long and honoured association with the Royal British Legion has added to the services so willingly rendered to the people of the town.

Mrs Ethel A. Gaunt - 16 October 1974



Background Information - Ethel Ann Gaunt (1899 - 10 June 1990)

Councillor for the Cleveland Ward 1949 – 1959, Berwick Hills Ward 1959 – 1968, Ayresome Ward 1973 – 1978, Park Ward 1979 - 1983

Mayor of Middlesbrough in 1967

Represented Cleveland Ward on Middlesbrough County Borough 1949 and Teesside County Borough in 1967

Committees: Vice Chair of Housing Committee, Education, Welfare, Parks and Town Planning

Ethel was born near Bolton, Lancashire and came to Middlesbrough at the age of two. She worked as a shell stripper at the Britannia Works where she met her husband Arthur and had a son in 1926. In 1960 she was installed as Serving Sister of the Order of St John and in 1967 she lived at 238 Newport Rd. She moved to 32a Hereford Close, Linthorpe in 1977 and in 1983 she was a Guest of Honour at the Labour Party Conference and received the National Order of Merit for Long Service. Ethel retired from local politics at the age of 84, lived in Levick House in 1988 and died on 10 June 1990.

The wording that appears in the Middlesbrough Borough Council Roll of Honorary Freedom states:

Resolution - that Councillor Mrs Ethel Ann Gaunt being a person who has rendered eminent services to the Borough of Middlesbrough within the meaning and in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act, 1974, be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Middlesbrough, the most honourable distinction which it is their privilege to bestow, in recognition and appreciation of

those services which have been given by her during a long public career in so many capacities, particularly the services she has rendered as a member of Middlesbrough County Borough, Teesside County Borough and Middlesbrough Borough Councils. Remembering also her particular interest in Leukaemia Research and the care of old people. Her care for the sick is exemplified by her long and active association with the St John Ambulance Brigade.

Civic Collection - Cylindrical perspex Memorial Charter holder with Silver caps at each end, mounted on wooden base. Plate engraved: Middlesbrough Arms, County Borough of Middlesbrough Memorial of transfer of all assets and services to Teesside County Borough Council on 1st April 1968 E.A. Gaunt, Mayor



The Rt. Hon. Lord Bottomley OBE of Middlesbrough in the County of Cleveland - 21
December 1976



Background Information – Lord Arthur Bottomley OBE (1907 – 3 November 1995)

Before entering parliament, Arthur was a trade union organiser of the National Union of Public Employees (which later became part of UNISON). From 1929 to 1949 he was a councillor on Walthamstow Borough Council, and in 1945–1946 he was Mayor of Walthamstow. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 1941 Birthday Honours. He was first elected to parliament in the 1945 general election for the Chatham division of Rochester and he held the seat (later renamed Rochester and Chatham) until losing it in the 1959 general election. He returned to parliament by winning Middlesbrough East in a 1962 by-election and held the seat, and its successor Middlesbrough, until his retirement in 1983. Announced in the 1984 New Year Honours, he was created a life peer as Baron Bottomley of Middlesbrough in the County of Cleveland, on 31 January 1984. Lord Bottomley died on 3 November 1995 aged 88.

The wording that appears in the Middlesbrough Borough Council Roll of Honorary Freedom states:

Resolution - that the Right Honourable Arthur George Bottomley OBE, MP being a person who has rendered eminent services to the Borough of Middlesbrough within the meaning and in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act, 1972 be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Middlesbrough, the most honourable distinction which it is their privilege to bestow, in recognition and appreciation of those services which have been given by him during a long public career in so many capacities, particularly the services he has rendered since 1962 as Member of Parliament for the East Division of Middlesbrough and Teesside Middlesbrough, remembering also his particular interests and endeavours in the field of Commonwealth relations and the Trade Union movement; and as an expression of the high esteem in which he is held by the people of Middlesbrough.

Councillor Edwin Albert Dickinson MBE – 8 May 1981



Background Information - Edwin Albert Dickinson MBE (d 2001)

Councillor for the Ayresome Ward 1945 – 1947, Newport Ward 1948 – 1954, Ayresome Ward 1973 – 1983
Alderman 1954 – 1968

Mayor of Middlesbrough in 1958 and an Alderman at Teesside County Borough Council

Committees: Chairman of Public Libraries and Museum 1958-1964, Welfare Services 1958

Edwin was born in South Bank and was a former Chairman of Middlesbrough Trades Council. In 1954 he was a brush-maker and opened the Newport Branch Library on 13 May 1964.

The wording that appears in the Middlesbrough Borough Council Roll of Honorary Freedom states:

Resolution – that, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council do confer upon Councillor Edwin Albert Dickinson, MBE, the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Middlesbrough in recognition of the eminent services rendered to the said Borough during a long public career in so many capacities, particularly the services he has rendered since 1945 when he was first elected as a Councillor for the former County Borough of Middlesbrough; his particular interest in visually disabled people, exemplified by his outstanding contributions to the National League of the Blind and Disabled, the local Cleveland Institute for the Blind of which he has the honour to serve as President, the Royal National Institute for the Blind, and as a expression of the high esteem in which he is held by the people of Middlesbrough and surrounding area.



Civic Collection - Shield – the Albert Dickinson Trophy, hard wood with silver plated shields.

Mrs Rose Margaret Haston – 9 May 1986



Background Information - Rose Margaret Haston (1900 – 22 January 1991)

Councillor for the Grove Hill Ward 1954 – 1960, 1963 – 1968, Gresham Ward 1973 - 1979

Committees - Cemeteries, Education, Health, Housing and Welfare Services, Development Services

Rose was born on 30 April 1900 in Parliament Street, Middlesbrough and educated at St Paul's School. She qualified as a tailoress with the Middlesbrough Cooperative Society Ltd and commenced her working career at age of 13 at one shilling per week. In 1920 she married Richard Haston and had one son, one daughter and four grandchildren and in the same year joined the Labour Party. Rose was nominated for the Board of Management of the Middlesbrough Co-operative Society Ltd on two occasions and was selected in the 1920's. She was a member of the Co-operative Education Committee, a long standing member of the Co-operative Women's Guild and served as a delegate to National Conference and working parties. In 1968 she retired from Local Government on re-organisation. Rose then re-entered the political field in 1973 at the time of the second local government reorganisation in this area. She retired for a second time in 1979, but continued to attend Labour meetings and Co-operative Movement Meetings. In 1985 she received the Labour Party Long Service Award and for many years organised over 50's clubs in central Middlesbrough. Rose worked with the local NSPCC for many years and was particularly involved in fundraising. She died on 22 January 1991 aged 90 and had lived at 12 Willerby Green (Levick House).

The wording that appears in the Middlesbrough Borough Council Roll of Honorary Freedom states:

Resolution – that, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council do confer upon Mrs Rose Margaret Haston the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Middlesbrough in recognition of the eminent services rendered by her to the said Borough during a long public career in so many capacities; particularly the services she has rendered as a Councillor of the former County Borough of Middlesbrough and to the present Middlesbrough Borough Council; her contribution as a member of the Board of Management of the Co-operative Society and the Co-operative Women's Guild; for her work with the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. And as an expression of the high esteem in which she is held by the people of Middlesbrough and surrounding area.

Councillor Arthur Pearson CBE – 9 May 1986



Background Information - Arthur Pearson CBE (d 23 February 1997)

Councillor for Ayresome Ward 1951 – 1954, Park Ward 1955 – 1968, Acklam Ward 1973 – 1979, Kader Ward 1979 – 1995

Teesside County Borough Council Alderman

Arthur lived at 457 Newport Rd, Middlesbrough in 1964 and died on 23 February 1997. Arthur was the second Leader of Cleveland County Council and represented the Conservative Party from pre-1978 to post-1979.

The wording that appears in the Middlesbrough Borough Council Roll of Honorary Freedom states:

Resolution – that, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council do confer upon Councillor Arthur Pearson CBE the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Middlesbrough in recognition of the eminent services rendered by him to the said Borough during a long public career in so many capacities; particularly the services he has rendered since 1951 when he was first elected as a Councillor for the former County Borough of Middlesbrough as a County Councillor for Cleveland County Council and a Member of the present Middlesbrough Borough Council; his work as a representative of the area as a member of many National Committees relating to local government affairs; through his business interests as a Past Chairman of the National Council of the British Association of Removers. And as an expression of the high esteem in which he is held by the people of Middlesbrough and surrounding area.



Background Information - Robert Innes Smith (Bob) (1906 – 23 February 1993)

Councillor for the Ayresome Ward 1954 – 1968, Gresham Ward 1973 – 1979, Southfield Ward 1979 – 1983, Park Ward 1983 – 1987

Mayor of Middlesbrough in 1977

Bob was a pupil at East Street School and from 1920-1969 he worked for the Co-operative Teesside Branch, he was Secretary of the Shop Workers Union USDAW. He was the Treasurer of Middlesbrough Trades Council (for over 25 years). He had a wife Alice, two sons and two daughters and his sister, Doris Taylor, was Mayoress/Consort during his term as Mayor because of his wife's ill health. Bob died 15 October 1993 and lived at 15 Levick Crescent at the time of his death.

The wording that appears in the Middlesbrough Borough Council Roll of Honorary Freedom states:

Resolution – that, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council do confer upon Councillor Robert Innes Smith the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Middlesbrough in recognition of the eminent services rendered by him to the said Borough during a long public career in so many capacities; particularly recognising the services he has rendered as a Councillor of the former County Borough of Middlesbrough and to the present Middlesbrough Borough Council; recalling his interest in the Trades Union Movement, especially the Co-operative Society of which he was a member of the Board of Directors. And as an expression of the high esteem in which he is held by the people of Middlesbrough and surrounding area.



Background Information – Walter Ferrier MBE (1925 – 4 March 2015)

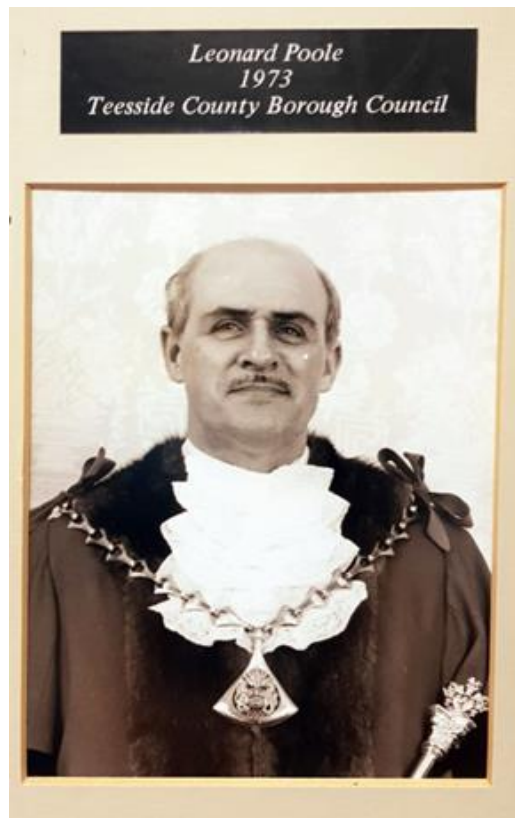
Walter Ferrier first became active in politics through the Labour League of Youth. His interest in civic matters can be traced back to the Second World War when in 1941, at the age of 17, he volunteered for the Auxiliary Fire Service at Middlesbrough Fire Station. He joined the Royal Navy at 18 and served in the Middle East and Far East before being demobbed in 1946. He was first elected to Council in 1954 and for the majority of his years as Councillor represented the Thorntree area. He also served on Teesside County Borough Council and Cleveland County Council, as well as Middlesbrough Council. He was Mayor in 1974-75, leader of Middlesbrough Council in 1981-83 and Chairman of Cleveland County Council in 1985/86.

He worked at Anderstones Foundry, ICI Billingham, Middlesbrough Transport, British Steel Corporation and ICI Wilton and received an MBE in 1984 for services to local government. On 16 June 1992 he was granted the Freedom of the Borough and in 1994, was presented with the Cross of The Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany to recognise his work forging links between Middlesbrough and German twin town Oberhausen. He played important roles in providing new youth clubs for the town and in buying the Stainsacre Hall at Whitby for visits by Middlesbrough children. He died on 4 March 2015.

The wording that appears in the Middlesbrough Borough Council Roll of Honorary Freedom states:

Resolution – that, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council do confer upon Councillor Walter Ferrier MBE the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Middlesbrough in recognition of the eminent services rendered by him to the said Borough during a long public career in so many capacities; particularly recognising the services he has rendered as a Councillor of the former County Borough of Middlesbrough and the former County Borough of Teesside, as a County Councillor for Cleveland County Council and a Member of the present Middlesbrough Borough Council; recalling his interest in the Trades Union Movement; recalling his interest in the youth of the town, especially his involvement in the school and youth exchanges with Oberhausen. And as an expression of the high esteem in which he is held by the people of Middlesbrough and surrounding area.

Councillor Leonard Poole BEM JP – 16 June 1992



Background Information - Leonard Poole BEM JP (1920-15 May 2011)

Councillor for Exchange Ward 1957-1968, St Hilda's Ward 1973-1995

Alderman 1970

Leonard was born in Middlesbrough in 1920, one of a family of eight. After various jobs, he was granted a Craft Apprenticeship (Electrical) Dorman Long & Co, Britannia Works, Iron & Steel Co. He then went on to night school study at the local polytechnic. Leonard went into the RAF in 1939 September for War Service. He was demobbed in 1945 and returned to work in the Steelworks. He was first elected in 1957 after winning a by-election 4 February. In 1965 he was appointed as a Justice of the Peace - Teesside Bench. He was awarded BEM in New Years' Honours List for work as a Councillor and Industrial Relations in 1975. On 16 June 1992 Len was given Freedom of the Borough of Middlesbrough. He retired from the Council in 1995 and did not seek re-election. He died 15 May 2011.

The wording that appears in the Middlesbrough Borough Council Roll of Honorary Freedom states:

Resolution – that, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council do confer upon Councillor Leonard Poole BEM JP the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Middlesbrough in recognition of the eminent services rendered by him to the said Borough during a long public career in so many capacities; particularly recognising the services he has rendered as a Councillor of the former County Borough of Middlesbrough and the former County Borough of Teesside, as a County Councillor for Cleveland County Council and a Member of the present Middlesbrough Borough Council; recalling his interest in the Trades Union Movement; recalling his interest in the Trades Union Movement; his involvement in the work of the Tidy Britain Group, being a member of the Finance and General Purposes

Committee; and his work for many other local and national bodies. And as an expression of the high esteem in which he is held by the people of Middlesbrough and surrounding area.

Civic Collection - The 'Len Poole' National Society for Clean Air 'Chairman of Council' Chain of office (1983 - 2010) comprising of the Chairman of the National Society for Clean Air Medallion and 30 name links made from hallmarked silver and gold plated, 90 cms long; for formal occasions.



The first National Society for Clean Air 'Chairman of Council' Chain of office (1980 - 1987) together with seven (7) names badges.



Councillor Miss Gwendoline Popple – 16 June 1992



Background Information – Miss Gwendoline Popple (1925 – 10 May 2003)

Councillor for the North Ormesby Ward 1968, Acklam Ward 1976 – 1979, Brookfield Ward 1979 – 1987, Acklam Ward 1987 - 2003

Also served on Cleveland County Council

Gwen was born on 11 May 1925 in Middlesbrough and had a sister, nephew, 2 nieces, 2 great nieces, and 1 great nephew. She was educated at Derwent Street School, North Ormesby & Middlesbrough High School for Girls. She left school to work in mother's business and went on to become Chairman of Levick Trust Bungalows, President of East Middlesbrough District Scout Executive, was a Founder member & Chairman of North Ormesby Youth & Community Centre and a long serving member on the Management & Visiting Board of "Newhaven" Hostel (Salvation Army). In 1995 Gwen lived at 14 Parkfield Avenue, Tollesby and moved into Belle Vue Nursing Home, Middlesbrough in 2001. In 2003, after many years, Gwen retired from council duties and died on 10 May 2003

The wording that appears in the Middlesbrough Borough Council Roll of Honorary Freedom states:

Resolution – that, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council do confer upon Councillor Miss Gwendoline Popple the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Middlesbrough in recognition of the eminent services rendered by her to the said Borough during a long public career in so many capacities; particularly recognising the services she has rendered as a Councillor of the former County Borough of Teesside, as a County Councillor for Cleveland County Council and a Member of the present Middlesbrough Borough Council; recalling her interest in the youth of the town, especially her involvement in the Scout Association. And as an expression of the high esteem in which she is held by the people of Middlesbrough and surrounding area.

More photos from the Freedom of the Borough Ceremony for Walter Ferrier, Len Poole and Gwen Popple on 16 June 1992



Mr John Robert Foster OBE – 6 February 1996



Background Information – Mr John Foster OBE (died 12 May 2022)

John was Chief Executive of Middlesbrough Council from 1973 to 1995. He had a long and varied career spanning a period of economic, social and cultural change. As Chief Executive he oversaw the development of Coulby Newham, pursued a wide range of public and private sector partnerships and forged links with Teesside University. Following his retirement in 1996 after local Government reorganisation, John Foster was made a Freeman of the Borough of Middlesbrough, as well as serving as a former Deputy Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire and being made an OBE in 1986. John was awarded an honorary degree from Teesside University in 2007 and also served as a member of its board of governors and as chairman of South Tees NHS Hospitals Trust. In 2011 the university named the Foster Building on Stephenson Street in his honour. He died on 12 May 2022.

The wording that appears in the Middlesbrough Borough Council Roll of Honorary Freedom states:

Resolution – that, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council do confer upon Mr John Robert Foster OBE the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Middlesbrough in recognition of the eminent services rendered by him to the said Borough during a long public career in so many capacities; particularly recognising the services he has rendered as Chief Executive of Middlesbrough Borough Council from 1973 to 1995; recalling particularly his dedicated services during a period of economic, social and cultural change; the development of Coulby Newham; pursuit of public and private sector partnerships, including Urban Programme schemes, City Challenge and Teesside Tomorrow and links with the University of Teesside and acknowledging generally the many achievements of the Borough which reflect great credit upon Members of the Council, employees, volunteers and the local community.



Civic Collection - Pewter tankard presented to J R Foster by Trafalgar House



Background Information – Alma Collin MBE (d 3 January 2014)

Alma was born in Gilkes Street in Middlesbrough in 1924, she moved with her family to Brookfield and started working at Thornaby Swimming Pool at the age of 14. In 1945 she was asked to coach private swimming lessons and went on to marry Lawrence in the same year. In 1947, Alma was asked by Thornaby Pool if she would set up a weekly class which she did and dedicated her entire life to teaching people how to swim and had been a tireless champion of disabled swimmers. Even on her 90th birthday, she was still giving up her Sunday afternoons voluntarily to teach people how to swim. Alma received an MBE from the Queen in March 2000 and has also received the Citizen of the Year Award from Middlesbrough Council, an Evening Gazette Unsung Sports Hero Award and a Character of Britain Award from Germany.

The wording that appears in the Middlesbrough Borough Council Roll of Honorary Freedom states:

Resolution – that, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council do confer upon Mrs Alma Collin the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Middlesbrough in recognition of four decades of service to the local community; in particular her voluntary work with disabled people of all ages for whom she has organised and led swimming classes throughout these years. Her work has allowed hundreds of disabled people to enjoy a more active social life and has contributed greatly to their welfare and self-esteem. She has also been a tireless fundraiser for many local causes, including the annual Swimathon event. Mrs Collin's achievements have been recognised by the medical profession and her fellow citizens and through honours conferred on her in the USA, Italy and Germany.

HMS Marlborough – 15 March 2000

HMS Marlborough was a 'Duke'-class Type 23 frigate of the Royal Navy, and the sixth ship to bear the name. She was named after John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough.

Royal Navy service - Marlborough was the third 'Duke' class Type 23 frigate to be commissioned, the first being Norfolk, F230 and the second Argyll, F231. Marlborough was the first naval ship on the scene to assist the stricken USS Cole after she was attacked in Aden, Yemen in October 2000. Marlborough played a key role in the second Gulf War, under the command of Captain Mark Anderson. In July 2004, it was announced that Marlborough would be one of three Type 23 ships to be decommissioned by the end of 2006. Prior to her decommissioning, Marlborough had a US Navy officer permanently assigned to her crew. Reciprocally, a Royal Navy officer is permanently assigned to the destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill.

The wording that appears in the Middlesbrough Borough Council Roll of Honorary Freedom states:

Resolution – that, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council do confer upon HMS Marlborough the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Middlesbrough in recognition of the special place which she occupies in the hearts of the people of Middlesbrough, the Council grants to Her Majesty's Ship Marlborough the Freedom of Entry into the Borough and the privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of Middlesbrough on ceremonial occasions with colours flying, bayonets fixed, drums beating and bands playing.



Civic Collection - Wooden plaque with crest of HMS Marlborough and Brass Shell Case presented by HMS Marlborough 2001, engraved coat of arms.





Background Information – Hazel Pearson OBE (d 5 February 2016)

Councillor for the Acklam Ward 1973 – 1979, Kader Ward 1979 – 2003

Hazel was a ward Councillor for 47 years as a Conservative Councillor for Acklam then Kader Ward. She was born and bred in Middlesbrough and attended Denmark Street School but left when she was 14. She went on to work at Prices Factory and on a lathe at Brown's Brass Factory. She was married to Stan and had two sons Stanley and John. Hazel was first introduced to politics by her brother-in-law Arthur Pearson – also a Conservative councillor. The first time Cllr Pearson stood for election was for the Gresham ward and she was successfully elected to Acklam, Kader and Brookfield in 1968. She went on to become the first female chairman of Cleveland County Council and in 2003 she was granted the Freedom of the Borough. She was Chairman of Governors at Acklam Grange School, Kader Primary School and Middlesbrough College who have a performance Theatre named after her. Hazel received an OBE from the Queen in 1989, was awarded with an Honorary Degree from Teesside University in November 2004 and made Honorary Life President at Middlesbrough College in 2010. She

The wording that appears in the Middlesbrough Borough Council Roll of Honorary Freedom states:

Resolution – that, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council do confer upon Councillor Mrs Hazel Pearson OBE the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Middlesbrough in recognition of the eminent services rendered by her to the said Borough during a long public career in so many capacities; but particularly in respect of her commitment to education and especially recalling the 35 years she has served as Chairman of Acklam Grange School and Kader Primary School, and more recently as the Chairman of Middlesbrough College.

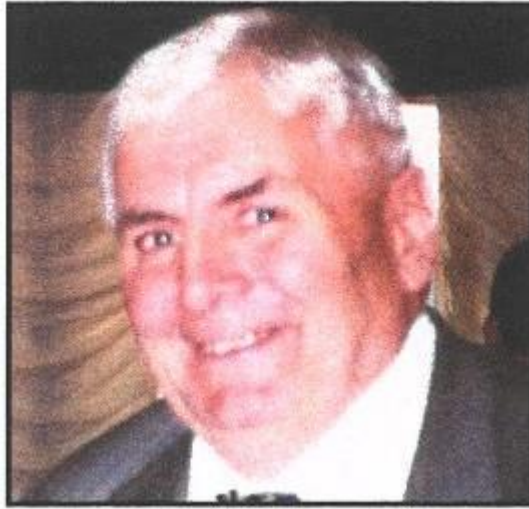


Background Information – Stephen Gibson OBE

Stephen was born on 9 January 1958 in Middlesbrough and lived in Park End. He went to St Pius X Primary and St Mary's College. In 1979, he became Middlesbrough's youngest ever Labour councillor, being elected to represent Park End at the age of 21. In 1981, he founded Bulkhaul Limited, a global transportation company of bulk liquids, powders and gases. He joined the board of Middlesbrough Football Club as the club's youngest ever director at the age of 26 while Willie Maddren was manager. He helped save the club from liquidation by forming a consortium in 1986. In 1993, he bought Scottish & Newcastle's shares in the club and succeeded Colin Henderson as the club's chairman in 1994. In 1995 he oversaw the club's move to the Riverside Stadium and remains as the chairman and owner of Middlesbrough Football Club. He was given an OBE in the 2016 Birthday Honours for services to the economy, sport and the community on Teesside.

The wording that appears in the Middlesbrough Borough Council Roll of Honorary Freedom states:

Resolution – that, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council do confer upon Mr Stephen Gibson the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Middlesbrough in acknowledgement and grateful recognition of the eminent services rendered by him to the economic and social wellbeing of the community; particularly in respect of his commitment to developing the sporting and leisure activities of the town and especially acknowledging his work for the benefit of young people.



Background Information – Jack Hatfield (d Jan 2014)

Jack was a former Army and county champion swimmer and runner-up in three English championships and was the son of North-East Olympic medal-winning swimmer John “Jack” Gatenby Hatfield. His father founded the Middlesbrough store Jack Hatfield Sports in 1912, which is still trading today on Borough Road. Jack started swimming at the public baths in Gilkes Street, Middlesbrough, at an early age and by the age of 14 was Middlesbrough schoolboy champion. He attended Barnard Castle School and helped its swimming team to win national trophies before going on to complete National Service in the early 1950s, becoming the Army 220 yard and 440 yard swimming champion. In 1954, on leaving the Army he won North-East and county titles and came second in the English Championships three times. Jack Jr – whose three brothers Peter, Tom and Richard were also talented swimmers – played water polo into his 50s and was a director of Middlesbrough Football Club for more than a decade.

The wording that appears in the Middlesbrough Borough Council Roll of Honorary Freedom states:

Resolution – that, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council do confer upon Mr Jack Hatfield the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Middlesbrough in recognition of the eminent services rendered by him to the said Borough in respect of his contribution to the social and economic wellbeing of the town and to the provision of sport and sporting facilities therein, his nurturing and encouragement of aspiring young sportsmen and women and his role as ambassador for the town.

Mr Mackenzie Thorpe – 11 April 2019



Background Information – Mackenzie Thorpe

Mackenzie Thorpe was born in 1956 in Middlesbrough and is a British artist. Mackenzie was one of seven children and initially worked in the local shipyards. In 1977, following encouragement of a friend he successfully applied to study art at Cleveland College of Art and Design going on to study for a Fine Art BA at Byam Shaw College of Art in London and graduated in 1982. In 1989 he decided to become a full-time artist moving from London to Richmond, North Yorkshire, where he opened the Mackenzie Thorpe Arthaus gallery. In 2000 he was awarded an honorary degree of Master of Arts from Teesside University and was then awarded an honorary professorship by Seisa University in Japan in 2019.

In 2019 he celebrated 30 years of artistic practice with a world tour, *From the Heart*. He was also appointed as the official artist to the Tour de Yorkshire and the "Welcome to Yorkshire, Official Chelsea Flower show artist". Mackenzie unveiled a new temporary public sculpture in Middlesbrough which is entitled 'Waiting for me Dad' was placed next to the Middlesbrough Transporter Bridge. He and his wife, Susan, have been married since his twenties, and have children and grandchildren.

The wording that appears in the Middlesbrough Borough Council Roll of Honorary Freedom states:

Resolution – that, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, that the Council do confer upon Mr Mackenzie Thorpe the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Middlesbrough in acknowledgement and grateful recognition of his thirty years of artistic endeavours and achievements, which have shown the spirit of Middlesbrough around the world. He continues to be a great example of aspiration and ambition to the people of Middlesbrough.