

**Distinguished Guests**, fellow councillors, friends, family ladies and gentleman; as the New Mayor may I welcome and thanks you all for taking part in Newquay's Mayor making ceremony this evening.

The civic office of Mayor brings with it over 800 years of tradition and loyalty to the Crown, hence our allegiance to the crown during this ceremony.

The continuity of this tradition provides an important point in our ever changing and often conflicting and troubled society. This evenings ceremony is an opportunity for Newquay to demonstrate how fortunate it is, and how blessed we are as individuals to live in a democracy and enjoy the freedom to choose how we all live our lives.

We live in a troubled world with countries further afield who do not enjoy what democracy brings, as a result we can sometimes be complacent and inclined to take our democratic processes and freedom for granted. Town councillors will concur that a number of our Council meetings which are open to the public are often poorly attended.

It is a real honour to be standing here in front of Newquay's' community leaders who put so much personal effort into working for the good of our town, ordinary people like me who take up the mantle in different guises to volunteer for the community we live in. Thank you for attending this evening and representing your organisations.

This Mayor making ceremony which is open to the public needs to be promoted fully so that the wider public audience is engaged and future generations participate in this process and ultimately be aware of the importance of the chain of office to ensure that as Mayor and fellow councillors we oversee sound, local governance on their behalf.

To be elected as Mayor is a huge honour and I feel immense pride to have been selected by my peers to fill this role. I wish to thank my fellow town councillors for having the confidence in my ability to undertake this role, it is truly humbling.

As Chair of the Council I will urge members to address the challenges that we face as a town. Newquay is an exceptional place; a vibrant town boasting stunning beaches and coastline coupled with a rich heritage of success; firstly as a fishing port then as a busy trading hub during the industrial mining era and latterly as a major tourist destination. We should be proud, in the knowledge that our town welcomes a million visitors annually a number unsurpassed by any other town. This popularity comes at a cost, the down side being that it leaves our infrastructure looking worn and tired year on year.

Our previous Chair endeavoured to remedy this by developing a sound business plan and we need to ensure that we continue to work on this gaining endorsement from the wider public and continue to develop schedules of work, establishing our priorities, as we strive to improve and maintain our public spaces.

As Mayor I am aware that my most important responsibility will be to act appropriately as Newquay's first citizen. I will work tirelessly to be an exemplary and passionate ambassador for Newquay and its residents.

I will endeavour to facilitate, promote and encourage the many local organisations and initiatives aimed at benefiting our town and its diverse communities.

Newquay is fortunate with its wealth of organisations and volunteers who are always ready to step up to the plate regularly or at the drop of a hat in an emergency situation this benefits not only the town and residents but our reputation demonstrating our compassion and care for others.

Our previous Chair has been an inspirational leader raising our profile near and far. He has also set Newquay on a trajectory taking the Town forward.

As new Mayor with the members we will continue with this work, ensuring Newquay is a town we are proud to live and work in and we need to sustain Newquay's future as a growth area for creating work for our future generations.

So far as my personal background is concerned, I was born in Dublin and in the late fifties moved with my family (parents and 2 elder sisters) to Coventry.

Employment in the Republic of Ireland at that time was poor we would call it a recession today and many families crossed the pond to USA or further afield to OZ.

My parents took the shorter route across the Irish Sea. I was educated in Coventry and undertook my Nurse training in 1970, graduating as a State Registered Nurse.

In the early 70's my father suffered a stroke and my parents decided to move to Cornwall and as a family we all soon followed having no immediate family in Coventry. We left behind many friends some who have travelled down to attend this evening's ceremony. **Thankyou**

My father enjoyed 12 years here in Newquay and felt very much at home and part of the community sadly he passed away at the tender age of 60. My mother lived on for another 32 years surrounded by 3 daughters and their families. She was full of life a huge presence and regularly involved with Holy Trinity RC Church and only became house bound in the last 6 months of her life. She passed away 18 months ago at 92; sadly neither are here to celebrate this day with me. They would have been immensely proud and I know they are here in spirit.

I was widowed in my 30s but was fortunate that I was able to continue with my nursing and raise my 3 children Claire, Rachael and James. I may well be accused of being biased when I say that my 3 children are amazing, bright, considerate, focused, determined, honest and loyal with a great sense of humour. I am extremely proud of all their achievements to date.

Rachael and James are unable to attend due to work commitments in London; my eldest Claire is here. She served me incredibly well as Consort whilst I was Deputy Mayor **thank you Claire.**

I still work 2 days a week in the NHS as a Registered Nurse in a Rapid Response Team in Kerrier. It never ceases to amaze me day on day the wide range services that the NHS continues to provide. I am truly blessed that I work in a role that I thoroughly enjoy.

After my children had 'flown 'the nest' I felt I wanted to give something back to the town and community I had shared for over 39 years. I realised I had the necessary time commitment, skills and aptitude so put myself forward as a candidate for Pentire Ward as Town Councillor and was duly elected over 3 years ago.

I have learnt considerably over this time how local government works and the wheels grind very slowly but with tenacity support and commitment together we can achieve.

As you may be aware as Mayor I can elect charities /good causes which I will support over the coming year with charitable donations. Buckets as you leave will accept any credit card.

As Registered Nurse I have chosen 3 and all have a health element to enrich their own and others' lives.

**1.Newquay in Bloom**, mostly made up of women and this band of volunteers work tirelessly to make our Town look beautiful and have won many awards. The health benefits to the volunteers are they socialise, work really hard and this gives one a sense of wellbeing, they always have a listening ear.

**2.Newquay male Voice Choir** another amazing volunteer group who represent this Town locally, this group (clue is the name) comprises of men. Men are reluctant visitors to GP etc health settings generally unless pushed. Research has shown that men who sing in choirs have a lower incidence of mental health problems, and the camaraderie of such groups also improve their well-being.

**3.Last but not least Cornwall Leukaemia Trust** which benefit the families and individuals who have leukaemia in Cornwall. This charity is very dear to me my nephews best friend Neil Moffatt passed away at 18 years of age over 24 years ago and I know the CLT help the family through this harrowing time.

Finally (I'm nearly there) I wish to thank the outgoing Mayor Carl Leadbetter. He has been an exemplary Mayor, injecting enthusiasm and has motivated the members with his meticulous planning, attention to detail in all he undertook on the town's behalf. He has worked tirelessly for the town and residents.



For me personally he has been an outstanding role model for my future development and always available for advice or support whilst I undertook the role of DM. Thankyou Carl applause.

On behalf of the town and council I wish to express our sincere thanks to Carl Leadbetter for the leadership he gave us as a Town Council, and the amount of time he gave voluntarily representing and undertaking his duties of office. His concern for the welfare of Newquay and its residents has been second to none.

It gives me great pleasure to present you with your past Mayors' badge and for us to stand together to deliver a toast to Newquay.