



**London Borough of Merton
Annual Council Meeting
Wednesday 15 May 2019 at
19:15
Council Chamber
Merton Civic Centre, Morden**

**All present are asked to rise on the entrance of
the Mayor of Merton, Councillor Mary Curtin**

Entrance of the Mayor

The Mayor's attendant carrying the ceremonial mace will precede the Mayor's party into the chamber and ask everyone to stand.

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant and the Mayor's chaplain will enter and go to their places on the dais.

The Mayor's attendant will place the mace on its stand and ask all to remain silent for the Mayor's chaplain.

After prayers the Mayor will ask everyone to be seated.

The Mayor will ask if there any apologies for absence from councillors.

The Mayor will ask if any councillors have interests to declare.

Election of the new Mayor

The Mayor will call for nominations for the election of Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the Municipal Year 2019–2020.

Councillor Nicholas McLean will move and Councillor Stephen Alambritis will second: "That Councillor Janice Howard is elected Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the Municipal Year 2019-2020".

The Mayor will announce the result of the election.

Councillor Janice Howard will be escorted into the chamber by Councillors Oonagh Moulton and Edward Gretton.

The retiring Mayor will congratulate Councillor Janice Howard on her election as Mayor and leave the dais.

The new Mayor and the Chief Executive will sign the declaration of acceptance of office and the Mayor will receive her chain and badge of office.

Appointment of the Deputy Mayor

The Mayor will announce that Councillor Edward Foley will be her Deputy Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor and the Chief Executive will sign the declaration of acceptance of office and the Deputy Mayor will receive his badge of office.

Consorts and chaplain

The Mayor will announce that her consorts will be Councillor Andrew Howard, Benedict Howard and Isabella Howard. Her chaplain will be Father Simon Peat.

One of the Mayor's consorts will receive the badge of office and the chaplain will receive the cross.

The outgoing Mayor's group

Councillor Mary Curtin, Councillor Geraldine Stanford, Roger Norman, Marie Bateman and Dolores Bisnouth will be presented with their badges.

Flowers will be presented to Councillor Mary Curtin, Marie Bateman and Dolores Bisnouth by the Mayor's Executive Assistant.

Vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis, and the Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Nicholas McLean, will move and second a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor. The Leaders of the Merton Park Ward Independent Residents Group, Councillor Peter Southgate; and the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Anthony Fairclough will also speak to the motion.

Councillor Mary Curtin will then be presented with a framed citation (see below for text of citation).

Business items of meeting:

- Minutes of the meeting of Council, 3 April 2019
- Constitution of committees and other bodies

End of the meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting councillors, officers and guests are asked to stand and remain standing until the Mayor has left the council chamber

Mayoral Citation

Councillor Mary Curtin, Mayor of Merton 2018-2019

Resolved unanimously: that the council places on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to Councillor Mary Curtin, for the dedicated manner in which she has served as Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the year 2018-2019.

At the time of her election as Mayor, in May 2018, Councillor Curtin had served four years as a councillor for Lower Morden Ward in Morden.

In her inaugural speech as Mayor, Councillor Mary Curtin pledged to unite people of different generations, creating a warm and compassionate Merton family. Looking back at her year, she has certainly worked hard to achieve this.

Councillor Curtin's concern for the wellbeing of older and vulnerable people was already evident in the Friends in St Helier (FISH). This friendship group, which she set up and administers, has been helping isolated older people to socialise for the past 35 years.

The group has grown from humble beginnings and now operates five days a week. It offers everything from a cup of tea, a chat or a healthy lunch, to speakers, film shows and even holidays.

It is no surprise that Councillor Curtin made FISH an official charity of her year of office. She also selected the Colour House Children's Theatre, Merton Abbey Mills, which has been bringing the wonder of live theatre to children for more than 20 years. This is a cause close to her heart.

Councillor Curtin has raised more than £70,000 for the two charities during her year as Mayor. Fundraising highlights include a summer cabaret night and a murder mystery event, both of which took place at the Colour House Theatre. A traditional Christmas carol service was held at the Sacred Heart Church in Wimbledon.

In 1960, aged 18, Councillor Curtin left her home in County Tipperary, Republic of Ireland, in response to the UK government's call for nurses to work in the expanding

NHS. She would go on to spend many years in the NHS, working in both general and mental health nursing.

Her Irish roots, and a love of the music and dance of the country, were reflected in mayoral events. An evening to mark St Patrick's Day was held in Wimbledon's Irish Centre and the annual Mayor's Ball had an Irish theme.

The ball, at the All England Tennis Club, was a sell-out and featured a fresh Gaelic menu of lamb, colcannon and spring greens. Young dancers from world-medal-holding Irish dance academy, Ní Cholmáin wowed the audience with their skilled display.

Many of Councillor Curtin's 350 engagements were aimed at families. She presided over the first Easter egg hunt to be organised by a Mayor in the borough. This was held in Morden Park over the Easter weekend and attracted more than 1,700 people.

Councillor Curtin opened the new family-friendly leisure centre in Morden and was delighted to launch Merton's first sensory library. Located in Morden Library, this forest of sounds, smells and things to touch is a unique space for young children, especially those with sensory needs.

She also took part in the borough's annual Local Democracy Week, which was an opportunity to talk to young citizens about the role of the Mayor and the responsibilities that come with the chain of office.

There were functions aimed at elderly residents too. October saw Silver Sunday, when Councillor Curtin hosted a party at Tooting and Mitcham Community Sports Club. A delicious afternoon tea was served, accompanied by sparkling entertainment. The day was a fitting celebration of achievements by older residents and a chance to share some amazing life stories.

Councillor Curtin attended the annual Remembrance Day service, one hundred years after the hostilities of World War I ceased. She also helped mark this important centenary at a special service at Mitcham War Memorial, where she commemorated the war hero William Allison White, a recipient of the Victoria Cross.

For Councillor Curtin, the year brought many highlights – from a seat in the Royal Box at the Wimbledon Championships to being inspired by Merton's homeless drop-in at the Salvation Army Hall. Putting aside her chain of office, Councillor Curtin hopes to return to help in the kitchens whenever she can.

Another legacy of her time as Mayor will be a new friendship group for people recently bereaved, which will meet in Mitcham and be a valuable resource in the east of the borough.

The Mayor has been supported in her work by Deputy Mayor, Councillor Geraldine Stanford and her consorts; her son William and friends Marie Bateman and Dolores Bisnouth. She has also expressed thanks to her personal assistant, Sandra Folkes, and her driver, Carl Brown.

According to Councillor Curtin, being elected Mayor was a privilege and an honour. She has approached her many engagements with dignity, compassion and a sense of fun, during a year of office dedicated to bringing people together.