



**LORD MAYOR'S
ANNUAL REPORT
2013/14**

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1. Introduction

1.1 This report provides a review of my year in office and includes recommendations for improvement.

2. Thanks

2.1 It was a great honour and a privilege to serve Sheffield as Lord Mayor for 2013/2014.

2.2 I would like to thank my colleagues on the Council for enabling me to serve Sheffield as Lord Mayor.

2.3 My thanks go to Anne Flounders and Zoe North, formerly of the Lord Mayor's office, for their help and support during my year. Thank you also to the Mace Bearer, the Chauffeurs, the catering staff and Kier front of house staff.

2.4 I would also like to thank the Events Team and the City Centre Manager and all those in the background who made the amazing events in Sheffield the success they were. Thank you to the people of Sheffield for inviting me to be a part of the various special celebrations; you made my year a year to remember.

2.5 My thanks to Reverend Alan Isaacson and his wife for his time and support during my year in office. I was very grateful to them for allowing me the opportunity to hold my civic service at Saint Nicholas church in High Bradfield. This was followed by refreshments at Bradfield village hall on a lovely sunny afternoon in May.

2.6 I would also like to record my thanks to Lloyd my husband and Consort for his support, my daughters Victoria and Stacey, my son-in-law Mark and my grandchildren Benjamin, Harry, Emma, and George who shared this special year with me.

3. My Year In Office

3.1 The year was filled with a vast amount of engagements. The people of Sheffield respect the role of Lord Mayor and our attendance at the many organisations we visited was always appreciated.

3.2 Organisations and the people of Sheffield respect the non-political role of the Lord Mayor. It is important that the integrity of the Lord Mayor's office remains, as there are a few organisations and groups that could try to use the Office inappropriately.

- 3.3 The Lord Mayor's Parlour is a very grand and impressive room in which to receive the many visitors to Sheffield; this should continue.
- 3.4 During my year in office, engagements took us across the length and breadth of the City. It is wonderful to see so many activities taking place in both the voluntary and paid sectors.
- 3.5 It was an important part of my year to promote Sheffield in an ambassadorial role, supported by my Consort.
- 3.6 The Lord Mayor receives so many invites that I can only give a few examples during the summer where there are a lot of Galas and community events. Throughout the year there was an ongoing programme of major sports events at our world class sporting facilities. We also had the pleasure to visit many different religious organisations, award ceremonies at both Universities, anniversary celebrations, concerts and amateur theatre productions.
- 3.7 I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with Lord Lieutenant, Mr David Moody, whose help at official functions was appreciated, the High Sheriff, Lady Ruby Sykes, Mr McDonald and Mr Pedder former Master Cutlers.
- 3.8 My Charities for the year were the Sheffield Children's Hospital and St Wilfred's. I also supported the Special Olympics Sheffield.
- 3.9 I chose to support the Children's Hospital because my youngest Grandson was previously very ill and the great care he received was appreciated.
- 3.10 The work undertaken at St Wilfred's is set up to support the many vulnerable people in Sheffield where their work is invaluable. I was so impressed I have offered to become a volunteer.
- 3.11 The Special Olympics is a great organisation that has very little funds to put on the sporting events they organise.

4. **Conclusion**

- 4.1 My year in office was wonderful and it was with great pride that I represented Sheffield but most of all it was the people of Sheffield that made my year so special.
- 4.2 Finally I would like to thank everyone who gave their time to help and organise the many charity functions I held during the year.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Concerns have been previously raised regarding corporate gifts. When Sheffield receives any overseas visitors they come with gifts and unfortunately the Lord Mayor has very little to give in return. I therefore recommend that a budget be given to allow the Lord Mayor to offer gifts to the visitors.
- 5.2 I have concerns regarding some of the invitations the Lord Mayor's office receives. Through conversation, this is a view also held by past Lord Mayors. I therefore recommend that past Lord Mayors meet to discuss their concerns with a view to making proposals for the future management of invitations.
- 5.3 I would ask that the Council Meeting notes this report and gives consideration to the specific recommendations I have made.

Councillor Vickie Priestley,
Lord Mayor 2013/14