

WANTED – new Mace Bearer for Truro City Council

Truro City Council is looking for a new Mace Bearer who will accompany and support the Mayor at civic events.

Originally dating back to the Middle Ages when Serjeants-at-Mace were appointed to protect and defend the honour of the Mayor, the role is now ceremonial and involves escorting the Mayor at civic or official events when they are dressed in their full Mayoral robes.

In Truro this means being in attendance at four key events in the civic calendar: the annual Mayor making ceremony; the Mayor's Civic Church Service; the Remembrance Day parade and the Legal Service. They may also be asked to accompany the Mayor at civic charity and sporting events as appropriate.

Dressed in a ceremonial cloak and tricorne hat and wearing white gloves, each Mace Bearer carries an 18 inch long silver Mace which represents the power, authority and dignity of the office of the Mayor. Whilst there are no records of when the current Maces were bought, each Mace has a silver coin at either end which have been dated back to the 1620's.

The Council currently has two official Mace Bearers – Barry Cooper and Matthew Phillips – and is now seeking to recruit a third Mace Bearer who will act as a reserve to provide cover when required.

The main requirements of the role are to escort and support the Mayor before, during and after civic events, and to assist with robing and securing the chains of office. The Mace Bearers generally walk in front of the Mayor in civic processions and can also provide support to other invited civic dignitaries. Some evening and weekend work may be required.

“It is a real privilege to be a Mace Bearer and accompany the Mayor to civic events across the city” said Barry Cooper, whose “day job” is Head Gardener at Victoria Gardens.

Barry, who has worked in the City Council's parks and gardens department for 36 years, had previously been involved with supporting civic events when covering for the caretaker. In 2010 he was asked to stand in for one of the main Mace Bearers at a Mayor Making ceremony. This led to him applying for and subsequently securing his role.

During his 23 years as a Mace Bearer Barry has been involved in a number of different civic events. As well as the four main civic events, he has fond memories of the annual Beating the Bounds ceremony organised by the local Lions Club which involved the Mayor visiting 12 boundaries around the city in a single day.

“The Mayor was expected to walk to each of the 12 boundaries in turn which would take all day to complete” he explained. **“As they could not be expected to wear their full robes and chain all day while walking across the city, we would ride around in a van so we could meet them with their regalia when they arrived at each place”**.

Other memorable events have included accompanying the Mayor at the ceremony to mark the centenary of the RAF in 2018, and being in attendance during the 2009 parade by The Rifles to mark being given the Freedom of the City. More recent civic events have included the service to give thanks for Queen Elizabeth 11 at the Cathedral in September and the parade to mark the Coronation of King Charles.



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“I have always been very proud of the traditions of the city and feel honoured to be able to play my part in ensuring that they continue to be upheld” said Barry.

There are no formal qualifications required for the role of Mace Bearer; although some understanding of the role of Mayor, and of civic protocol and civic ceremonial arrangements would be helpful.

Ceremonial uniforms are provided and the post holder is paid an annual honorarium of £310 (pro rata depending on start date)

Anyone interested in applying for the post is asked to email HR@truro.gov.uk