

The Mayor of Tunbridge Wells

Leonard Price

Leonard Price was born and raised in West London during the 1930s and 1940s. He was educated locally before studying engineering at Brunel College. In 1950 he was employed as an apprentice draughtsman at a structural engineering company specialising in heavy plant installation at the Ford Motor Company in Dagenham. He subsequently qualified as a Design Draughtsman. In 1951 he enlisted in the 11th Battalion Parachute Regiment Territorial Army until he was conscripted in 1953 to National Service as a radar operator in the Royal Air Force.



After his time in National Service he and his family relocated to the Kent countryside in 1956. He has lived in Royal Chase (Tunbridge Wells) for over thirty years in the family home he designed and built in 1976. With a broad ranging career as an engineer, property developer and restaurateur, he now operates with his daughter, Victoria, a family Architectural Design company for the construction industry.

He has considerable experience of local Government including 12 years as Kent County Councillor for Tunbridge Wells where he served as Chairman of several committees including Arts & Libraries, Youth Service, Careers Service and Further Education. He was elected as a Councillor to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council in 1998 as a representative for the Culverden Ward in central Tunbridge Wells. He has served on several committees including time as the Chairman of Western Area Planning Committee and the Audit Committee.

During this time as a local Councillor he has strived to serve the interests of the residents in a practical manner to improve the town in which they live. He believes that the elected Councillors should provide the contact on behalf of the residents with the Local Government Officers to ensure that their requirements are justly heard and acted upon.

His leisure interests include cricket and football, cooking and foreign travel.

He believes it is a great honour to serve as Mayor for the Borough of Tunbridge Wells and looks forward to supporting the local schools, charities and voluntary organisations within the communities of the Borough that has been his home for over thirty years.

The two appointed Mayor's Charities that he will support and promote during his Mayoral Year are The Pickering Cancer Drop-in Centre and The Tunbridge Wells & District Multiple Sclerosis Society, both of whose dedicated volunteers provide such committed and invaluable care and support for members of our local community.

The Deputy Mayor of Tunbridge Wells

Councillor David Jukes

David was born in Wandsworth, South West London during the Second World War. He left school at 15 and took up an apprenticeship as an electrician with the London Electricity Board. He was only 18 when he was selected as the youngest ever to attend a management Summer School at Kings College, Cambridge. On completion of his apprenticeship, he married Wendy and then joined a national contracting company as a junior engineer.



Within two years he found himself in Jordan as project manager on a 500 bed hospital for the Jordanian Armed Forces followed by nearly two decades in the USA and the Caribbean, where he was involved in building airports, hotels, casinos and club Meds.

In 1980 he started his own Project Management company based in Southborough and moved to Tunbridge Wells with their children, Nigel and Katie, to a small farm in Speldhurst, where he lived for twenty years. In 1988 he was asked to join the Speldhurst Parish Council where he served until 2008. Being elected to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council in 1990, representing Speldhurst & Bidborough with a promise that he would only have to serve for six months, he was soon appointed as Chairman of Environmental Services Committee, a position which he has held twice and has subsequently been Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, a director of the Enterprise Agency West Kent, Chairman of the Licensing Committee, is a director of the Tunbridge Wells Regeneration Company and serves on the Corporate Services Select Committee.

Although officially retired some years ago, he still acts as a consultant for various well-known corporations and enjoys country pursuits when he is not looking after his two-acre garden and enjoying his four grandsons!

Since joining the Council he has endeavoured to bring his experience in the construction industry and commercial world into the decision-making and operation of the Borough Council, he is also passionate to preserve the 'green cordon' around Tunbridge Wells, to ensure that the towns and villages keep their own identities.

The Tunbridge Wells Mace

The Mace, in its form and decoration, symbolizes both the office of Mayor and the history and character of the Borough. Made of silver gilt by T and J Bragg of Birmingham in 1891, the Mace is 3 feet 8^{1/2} inches long, and has a weight of 7lbs. It was a gift from Alderman Hori Pink and Philip Jackson on 7 October 1891.

Mayors and Maces

The derivation of the title Mayor – from the Latin *maior* and the French *maire* – may point to its origins, and the position of the Mayor as the first citizen suggests links with the Anglo-Saxon *ealdorman* (later Alderman) – the local elders from amongst whom one would emerge as the greatest.



The Mayoral Chain

The **Chain**, supplied in 18ct gold by Payne and Son of Tunbridge Wells and donated in 1889 by the first Mayor, has twenty-three links; five enamelled with the Arms of England, Kent, Sussex (pre-1972), the see of Canterbury, and the rose of England, and eighteen formed by the monogram TW. In the centre is the crest of the former Borough, from which is suspended the **Badge**.

Government of the Borough of Tunbridge Wells

On 1 April 1974 the Tunbridge Wells District Council became the Local Authority responsible for the areas previously administered by the Cranbrook Rural District Council, Tonbridge Rural District Council (except the Parishes of Hadlow and Hildenborough), Royal Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Southborough Urban District Council.

On 20 December 1974 Borough Status was conferred on the District which thus became the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. Reference was also made at that time to the Letters Patent which had been granted on the application of the Charter Trustees for the town of Royal Tunbridge Wells re-authorising the style 'Royal' to prefix the name of the town.

Twinning Town: Wiesbaden, Germany

Corporate Priorities

Confident

- Lifelong learning for staff.
- Explore partnership with other councils and local organisations to achieve resilience, cost effectiveness and development opportunities.
- The workforce to be broadly representative of the community in terms of diversity.
- Secure the dignity at work of all staff at all times.
- Provide opportunities for development for all staff and to work in partnership to ensure these are maximised.
- Encourage community involvement by staff at all levels in order to promote community engagement and local democracy.

Green

- Agreeing a travel plan for the Council, to reduce traffic congestion.
- Leading the way on green issues for the Borough and ensuring that our staff are all well informed on green issues.
- Developing a workplace for staff that is pleasant, fit for purpose and conducive to effective work.

Healthy

- Promote healthy lifestyles for all staff.
- Work in partnership with the PCT and other local employers to raise awareness of health issues and ensure that best practice is shared.

Prosperous

- Council as an employer of choice – being the best employer we can be and setting an example, including with contractors.
- Working with partners to upskill our workforce and give people in the community better work opportunities such as through supporting apprenticeships, Pathways to Work etc.
- Developing expertise in issues that will have relevance for the future, such as sustainability.
- Developing key partnerships with other Councils and businesses in our Borough.

The Armorial Bearings

The Earl Marshall's warrant of 2nd April 1976, sealed by the Kings of Arms, granted armorial bearings to the new Borough. Composed by Somerset Herald (with assistance from Mr H F F and Councillor Mrs M B Streeten), every detail of the blazon signifies some aspect of the four earlier authorities.

The **Blazon: Arms** 'Or on a Pile Vert a Fountain charged with a Saxon Crown Or in base a Bine of Hops leaved and fructed and a Sprig of Apple leaved and flowered in saltire proper'. **Crest** 'On a Wreath Or and Gules Issuant from a Stone Well-Head a Ram's Head proper'. **Supporters** 'On the dexter a Demoiselle Crane proper & on the sinister a Horse Argent each gorged with a Collar gobony Or and Gules upon a Compartment of Sandstone Rocks proper'.

The **pile** represents the geological fault giving rise to local springs. The **fountain** denotes Tunbridge Wells. The **saxon crown** marks the renewal of the 1909 privilege of designating the town (but not the Borough) Royal Tunbridge Wells. The **hop bine** and **apple blossom** symbolize the rural areas of the Borough.

The **ram's head** derives from the Southborough arms, and the **well-head** from the former Tunbridge Wells crest.

The **crane** was used by Cranbrook Rural District and the **silver horse** by the Tonbridge Rural areas. Collars were required on the supporters as an 'heraldic difference'. The compartment upon which the supporters stand reflects the characteristic rock outcrops of the area.

The **mantling** and the **motto** 'Do Well Doubt Not' are taken from the bearings of the old Borough of Tunbridge Wells.

The Armorial Bearings were granted for the exclusive use of the Borough and they cannot be alienated. Accompanying them there is an heraldic badge, wreathed with fifteen hop leaves representing the Parishes and Southborough.



The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Leonard Price
2009–10



If you require this information in large print, on audiotape or in any other format, please contact us on 01892 526121.

