

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

Report to: Full Council

Date: 24/05/2023

Subject: Freedom of The Borough

Report of: The Leader of the Council – Councillor Stephen Cowan

Responsible Director: David Tatlow – Strategic Director of Corporate Services

SUMMARY

In recognition of the achievements and contributions of Beryl Foster OBE, Bear Montique OBE, and Barrie Stead to the wellbeing of the residents of our borough and London as a whole, this Council is requested to confer on them the “Freedom of the Borough”.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council confer the “Freedom of the Borough” of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham” on:

- **Beryl Foster OBE**

Beryl, one of the two founders of Advance, has been supporting domestic abuse survivors in London. She worked for Women’s Aid in many capacities until 1997 when she was seconded to the Council’s Community Safety Unit to develop the unique partnership which became the ‘Standing Together Against Domestic Violence’ (STADV) project. She established STADV as an independent charity and was instrumental in funding and running the organisation until she retired in 2013.

This award is conferred in recognition of her selfless service to preventing domestic violence and supporting survivors.

- **Bear Montique OBE**

Bear, one of the two founders of Advance, has been supporting domestic abuse survivors in London. She headed Advance for 10 years, continually expanding and building its services for survivors. She also developed a training package for advocates that was used as the basis of what we know today as the professional accreditation. Bear played a key role in bringing the revolutionary Duluth Model to Hammersmith, which takes shifts blame and responsibility away from the victim to the community.

This award is conferred in recognition of her selfless service to preventing domestic violence and supporting survivors.

- **Barrie Stead**

Mr Barrie Stead has been a dedicated public servant throughout his life, being an advocate for more open government and public involvement in decision-making. He has been dedicated to the promotion of, and access to, the arts in the borough, the legacy of which we still enjoy in our community today.

He was elected as a White City Councillor in 1971, a position he held for 8 years until 1978. During his time as the Leader of the Council, he enabled the founding of Riverside Studios Arts Centre, the rebuilding of the Lyric Theatre, and the acquisition of Fulham Palace. Barrie also established Age Concern (now Age UK) Hammersmith & Fulham, a charity which offers lots of services for older people and their carers in the Borough.

This award is conferred in recognition of his selfless service to the Borough.

Wards Affected: All

Our Values	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Values
Creating a compassionate council	The prevention of violence against women and girls one of the Council priorities. The Council's support for Advance is a demonstration of the Council's commitment to protect the health and wellbeing of our residents.
Taking pride in H&F	Voluntary work in the civic life is a cornerstone of how residents are able to contribute to Civic renewal.

Financial Impact

The cost of a small reception for the friends and family of the recipients will be met from the existing Mayor's budget. There are no additional financial implications of conferring the "Freedom of the Borough" of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham on the individuals.

Alex Pygram, Head of Finance (Corporate Services), 12 May 2023

Legal Implications

Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a Council by resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members at a meeting of the Council, specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, to admit 'persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent

services to the borough' as "honorary freeman", "honorary aldermen", "honorary freewoman" and "honorary alderwoman".

Grant Deg, Assistant Director Legal Services, 12 May 2023

Contact Officer

Name: Kayode Adewumi

Position: Assistant Director, Democratic, Registration and Coroner's Services

Email: Kayode.Adewumi@lbhf.gov.uk

Background Papers Used in Preparing This Report

None.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

1. The conferring of the title Freedom of the Borough is the highest civic distinction that can be bestowed upon individuals or collective bodies in recognition of outstanding service or particular civic association. The overriding principle is that these awards should be made on merit. Merit for awards is defined as:
 - Achievement
 - Exceptional Service
2. The Council supports the request that the Freedom of the Borough be granted to:-
 - Bear Montique OBE
 - Beryl Foster OBE
 - Barrie Stead

REASONS FOR DECISION

3. The reasons for the awards are attached as Appendices 1 to 3.
4. Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009) allows the Council to confer the titles "honorary freeman", "honorary aldermen", "honorary freewoman" and "honorary alderwoman" on an individual where appropriate.
5. The Council may confer the title of honorary aldermen or honorary alderwomen on persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the council as past members of that council, but who are not currently serving on the council.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Beryl Foster OBE

Appendix 2 – Bear Montique OBE

Appendix 3 – Barrie Stead

Appendix 1 – Beryl Foster OBE (Statement of Support and Reasons for the Award)

The following statement is provided in support of Beryl Foster OBE being nominated for a Freedom of the Borough award for Hammersmith & Fulham.

Beryl Foster is one of the two founders of Advance. This year is the 25th anniversary year of the founding of Advance (founded here in H&F) which is now a major leading charity working for and with victims of domestic abuse.

She came to London from Ireland in 1966 and after 8 years of community work in Notting Hill she moved to Hammersmith in 1975. She was a founding member of Hammersmith Women's Aid who opened the first Refuge in the Borough in 1976, one of the first in London.

Beryl worked for Women's Aid in many capacities until 1997 when she was seconded to LBHF Community Safety Unit to develop the unique partnership which became the 'Standing Together Against Domestic Violence' (STADV) project. She established STADV as an independent charity and was instrumental in funding and running the organisation until she retired in 2013.

Beryl, a former council officer, together with Bear Montique established Advance in November 1998 to provide services to domestic abuse women survivors working closely with the Police, Criminal Justice agencies, A&E and Housing, based initially near the current centre in Hammersmith.

Standing Together worked closely with Advance, within the multi-agency partnership to keep victims safe and to hold their abusers accountable for their actions. She explains that "Advance was our key partner, making our initiatives safe for survivors".

She was awarded an OBE in 2003 in recognition of her work to tackle domestic violence.

Beryl and Bear developed the Council's Violence Against Women and Girls policy, then established a small community charity in Hammersmith, which has grown into one of the largest Domestic Violence charities in the London.

This award is conferred in recognition of her selfless service to preventing domestic violence and supporting survivors.

Appendix 2 – Bear Montique OBE (Statement of Support and Reasons for the Award)

The following statement is provided in support of Bear Montique OBE being nominated for a Freedom of the Borough award for Hammersmith & Fulham.

Bear Montique is one of the two founders of Advance, its first employee and leader. This year is the 25th anniversary year of the founding of Advance (founded here in H&F) which is now a major leading charity working for and with victims of domestic abuse.

Bear was born in Ireland and came to the UK in the early 60's. She started work in the sector as a therapist, moving into refuge work in Hammersmith where, in the first partnership with police, she started the first borough outreach project for survivors.

Bear played a key role in bringing the revolutionary Duluth Model to Hammersmith, which takes shifts blame and responsibility away from the victim to the community. Bear and other activists brought the model to Hammersmith and created the UK's first coordinated response for survivors.

In 1998, Bear Montique and Beryl Foster OBE set up Advance Advocacy and Non-Violence Community Education, known as Advance, to provide a new service delivery response to survivors in the community, by improving advocacy and access to support in a coordinated way. At the same time, they set up the sister organisation Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (referred to as Standing Together) aiming to deliver innovation in the strategic and operational response of agencies working with survivors, their children and perpetrators, resulting in the Coordinated Community Response (CCR). She headed Advance for 10 years continually expanding and building its services to survivors. She also developed a training package for advocates that was used as the basis of what we know today as the professional accreditation.

She was recognised for her work with survivors and Advance by receiving the 2008 Justice Award. As Interim Chief Executive Officer, Standing Together Against Domestic Violence and Founder, and founder, Advance Advocacy Service, she was awarded an OBE in 2022 for services to the prevention of violence against women and girls.

Together, Bear and Beryl developed the Council's Violence Against Women and Girls policy, then established a small community charity in Hammersmith, which has grown into one of the largest Domestic Violence charities in the London.

This award is conferred in recognition of her selfless service to preventing domestic violence and supporting survivors.

Appendix 3 – Barrie Stead (Statement of Support and Reasons for the Award)

The following statement is provided in support of Barrie Stead being nominated for a Freedom of the Borough award for Hammersmith & Fulham.

In recognition of selflessly serving the residents of this Council for eight years as a Councillor and acting as a community champion for the area. Mr Barrie Stead has been a dedicated public servant throughout his life, being an advocate for more open government and public involvement in decision-making. He has been dedicated to the promotion of, and access to, the arts in the borough, the legacy of which we still enjoy in our community today.

While Barrie was Councillor for Norland Ward in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea from 1964 to 1968 he founded Kensington & Chelsea Arts Council.

He was elected as a White City Councillor in May of 1971, a position he held for 8 years (1971 to 1978). In 1973 he became the Leader of the Council until he stepped down in 1978. During his time as Leader, he enabled the founding of Riverside Studios Arts Centre, the rebuilding of the Lyric Theatre, and the acquisition of Fulham Palace.

In 1978 Barrie established Age Concern (now Age UK) Hammersmith & Fulham, a charity which offers lots of services for older people and their carers in the Borough.

Barrie had a keen interest in education. From 1980 to 1990 he served as Chair of Governors at Fulham Cross School. He was Chair of the Schools Committee of the Inner London Education Authority from 1983 to 1988. Then from 1986 to 1990 he was the Labour Member of the directly elected Inner London Education Authority.

Barrie was also the Labour Member of the Greater London Council for Fulham from 1981 to 1986.

For his selfless commitment to Hammersmith and Fulham, Barrie Stead is being proposed for Freedom of the Borough.