

Item No. 7.2	Classification: Open	Date: 28th January 2004	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Freedom of the Borough	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Borough Solicitor & Secretary	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Assembly considers the award of Freedom of the Borough to Douglas Bartles-Smith, and Norman Grigg.

BACKGROUND

2. The terms of reference of the Standards Committee include making recommendations to Council Assembly for the award of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough. Standards Committee at its meeting on the 12th January, 2004 considered and agreed to recommend to Council Assembly the award of the Freedom of Borough to Douglas Bartles-Smith and Norman Grigg.
3. The Council has power under Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 to confer the title of "Freeman of the Borough" on persons who have in the opinion of the Council rendered eminent services to the Borough.
4. Such conferment must be agreed by the Council by resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present at a meeting specially convened for that purpose with notice of the purpose being set out in the summons for the meeting.
5. The Council has power under Section 249(6) to spend a reasonable sum as thought fit for the purpose of presenting an address or a casket containing an address to such Honorary Freeman.
6. The Honorary Freedom of the Borough is the highest Award the Council can bestow. Since 1965 Southwark have conferred the award on 27 recipients including the four most recent on 4th September 2002. They were Sister Hoskison, Frau Kruckeberg, Rio Ferdinand and Lord James Callaghan. The previous recipient to this was Sir Montague Levine in April 1997. On each occasion the Council has considered the nomination on its individual merit. On the 17th September 2003, and 29th October 2003, Council Assembly agreed to award the Freedom of the Borough to Jack Jones OBE, and Sir Philip Harris, the ceremony for which has yet to be arranged.
7. Council Assembly agreed on the 30th October 2002 the following criteria for conferment of the Freedom of the Borough.
8. That nominations may be received from Councillors, Officers, MPs, outside organisations and members of the public who are on the Council's Electoral Register.
9. That nominations be limited to one per person/organisation and be submitted to the Standards Committee via the Borough Solicitor's Office – nominations must show by

- example that the nominee is a “person of distinction who has rendered eminent services to the Borough”;
10. That Serving Councillors be ineligible for this award other than in exceptional circumstances;
 11. That Organisations be ineligible to receive the Honorary Freedom of the Borough; and
 12. That there be no restriction as to how often this award may be conferred.
 13. Nominations are initially considered by Standards Committee, which then makes recommendations to Council Assembly. If Council Assembly agrees to confer the honour, then a Ceremony for presentation of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough is arranged at a Special Meeting of the Council which is currently held in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall.
 14. A framed Certificate and Honorary Freedom Badge on ribbon is presented to Honorands.
 15. The office of Honorary Freedom of the Borough does not convey with it any legal rights or responsibilities other than a ceremonial role at Civic functions.

KEY FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION

Douglas Bartles-Smith

16. A nomination for Douglas Bartles-Smith to be awarded the Freedom of the Borough, in recognition of his service to the community of Southwark, has been received from Peter Challen and Neil McKinnon. The following information is in support of this nomination.
17. Douglas Bartles-Smith was born in 1937 and educated at St Edmund Hall, Oxford and Wells Theological College.
18. He has been concerned with inner city issues since his ordination in 1963, and has always worked within two miles of the Thames.
19. Douglas began his ordained ministry in the Diocese of London as Curate of Stephen, Rochester Row from 1963 to 1968.
20. Douglas was Priest-in-Charge (and then vicar) of St Michael & All Angels, Camberwell from 1968-1975. during this time Douglas oversaw the rebuilding of St Michael and All Angels Church Camberwell and the extension of the Archbishop Michael Ramsey Secondary School. While Vicar of St Michael's he wrote Urban Ghetto and Opportunities for a Strong Church. Even then Douglas was an advocate for church involvement in the community.
21. In 1975 Douglas became Vicar of St Luke, Battersea and from 1981 was also the Rural Dean of Battersea.
22. In 1985 Douglas returned to the Borough as Archdeacon of Southwark. This was the year when the Faith in the City report was published. All that Douglas had stood for was independently vindicated.

23. Douglas became the Faith in the City Officer for the Diocese of Southwark, and helped organise two major conferences on urban issues jointly with the Council.
24. In the Diocese Douglas was responsible for raising the millions of pounds that established the Church Urban Fund from which the Borough's residents have benefited so greatly.
25. Douglas' vision transformed the Southwark (later to become the Southwark and London Diocesan Housing Association to develop church land for social housing throughout the Diocese. This Borough alone has sixty-five properties.
26. As Archdeacon of Southwark he convened regular meetings of the Borough Deans (senior members of each of the major Christian denominations). Soon afterwards the borough Deans began quarterly meetings with the leader, the Chief Executive and senior officers of Southwark Council. These meetings have taken place whichever political party was in power.
27. Together with Professor Noyby, Douglas has been the driving force behind the establishment of the Multi-Faith Forum.
28. Douglas served for many years on the Borough's Education Committee.
29. In March 1996 he was appointed a Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen.
30. Douglas includes Shrewsbury Town Football Club amongst his interests.
31. He is married to Anne and they have three grown up children.

Norman Grigg

- 32.. A nomination for Norman Grigg to be awarded the Freedom of the Borough, in recognition of his service to the community of Southwark, has been received from Councillor Columba Blango, the Worshipful Mayor of Southwark. The following information is in support of this nomination.
33. Rev Grigg has been a minister of Clubland Church – as it is more commonly known – since 1994. Under his ministry it has developed into the largest Methodist Church in London, with a membership of 450.
34. While serving members from all backgrounds, the congregation is drawn predominantly from West Africa, in particular from Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, and Mr Grigg has had an outstanding ministry in addressing the particular social and cultural, as well as pastoral and spiritual, needs of that dynamic community.
35. Norman has a strong commitment in ministry to community partnership and has encouraged the widest possible use of the extensive premises at Clubland. Currently hospitality is offered to over 40 groups from the local community and a community worker is employed to foster these significant links.
36. Norman is well-known and respected within the Borough for his involvement in and commitment to a variety of community activities. Most notably these include Committee Member and Treasurer of the Southwark Race and Equality Council, Treasurer of the Young People's Project; Free Church representative on the Borough SACRE, Governor (since 1994) and currently Vice-Chair of the John Ruskin Primary

School and member of the area groups concerned with regeneration issues for the Aylesbury Estate and the Walworth Triangle.

37. This is the final year of Mr Grigg's ministry in Southwark. From September 2004 he will assume a new appointment as Methodist Chairman in the Gambia - an indication of the Church's recognition of his achievements and ability in relating and ministering within a cross-cultural setting.

Other Issues

38. The Standard Committee on 12th January 2004 expressed the view that the process for considering nominations should be formalized and that a specific meeting of the committee should be set a side to consider all nomination each year in early March. This would allow all nominations to be referred to Council Assembly before the end of the municipal year and thereafter a special awards meeting could be arranged. The Committee requested that officers prepare a report for the committee setting out options for considering future nominations. The report should include the following:-
- How the awards/nominations are presently advertised and future options
 - A review of the current criteria for awards
 - Views on how the criteria should relate to the nominations.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

39. Occasional Honorary Freedom of the Borough Ceremonies could be managed within existing staff and financial resources.
40. If the Council were to increase the frequency of these awards further staff resources may become necessary.
41. The cost of framed scroll and badge is currently £275 per recipient.
42. It is proposed that the next Freedom of the Borough Ceremony will likely take place in June 2004.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

43. Legal issues are outlined in the body of the report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Standards Committee Agenda – 12 th January 2004	Southwark Town Hall Peckham Road London SE5 8UB	Paula Thornton - 020 7525 4395

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Deborah Holmes, Borough Solicitor & Secretary	
Report Author	Gillian Allwright, Member Services Manager Sonia Sutton, Mayor's Civic Officer Lesley John, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	15 th January 2004	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	Yes	Yes
Chief Finance Officer	No	No
Executive Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services	15 th January 2004	