

SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

SWINDON VILLAGE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

18th April 2018

FREEMAN PRESENTATION TO DAVID ILIFFE

HISTORY is to be made this evening as the Parish Council have unanimously agreed to confer the Honorary Freedom of the Parish on David Iliffe in recognition of his lengthy service to this community as Parish Councillor until June 2017.

The Council thought that it was fitting that David Iliffe should be the first to receive this honor but hope that this will commence a tradition whereby the Council will bestow the title 'Honorary Freeman' upon individuals, or past Members, who have, in the opinion of the Parish Council, rendered eminent service to the Council, or conducted exceptional work, service or other worthy undertakings that benefit the community.

I should like to say at this point that the Council realise that David has benefitted greatly from the support and probably not a small amount of tolerance from his wife Marlene.

David has now left our community to live in Stroud but before leaving he provided us with a summary of his community involvement during the 40 years that he has been a Parish Councillor.

David points out that he has stood in and survived a few elections. This is worthy of note because it shows that historically there were more than enough people who wanted to be on the Council and it must have been heartening to realise that the community wanted you to be one of the people who should represent them.

It would be silly to try to reconfigure the summary that David provided therefore the following are David's own words:

'Farewell to Swindon and the Parish Council

Marlene and I say a fond farewell to Swindon Village. We came here from Prestbury in 1966 with our two children, Caryn four and Jonathan two years old. We all enjoyed our time together here in this quiet rural village. As one expects, the children flew the nest, married and raised their own families. It is now our turn to move with much sadness from our friends here in Swindon Village.

Marlene and I entered into village life with Marlene starting the Swindon Village Guide Unit as soon as our the children started school. She went on to become the Bishop's

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Cleeve District Commissioner, then Tewkesbury Division Commissioner and County Arts Adviser. She then produced the Guides County Show for some twenty years covering over forty years in total.

Marlene has also served as a Volunteer at Cheltenham General Hospital for 27 years.

Over 40 years ago I joined the Swindon Parish Council and, having survived a few elections, have remained on the council since early 1970s to the present day with periods as Chairman. During this time we helped to prevent the development of the fields behind Manor Road and Stantons Drive at appeal, and later supplied the Parish comments on the Regional Spatial Strategy (the forerunner of the infamous Joint Core Strategy.)

I have been an Editor of the Village News since its inception. In its early days most of the articles for inclusion were sent in as manuscripts and we had to count the words to determine whether the layout would be OK. For many years the Editors were Rev. Michael Bennett, Alan Studd and myself. Today the main editor is Karen Evans who receives the input by email and then juggles it into a good layout.

I also served on the Swindon Village School Parent-Teacher Association including a period as hon. Treasurer, as a Primary School Manager from 1984 to 1987 and as a Bishop's Cleeve Secondary School Governor from 1972 to 1987 (with a 2 year break).

I was a Gloucestershire Magistrate 1983 to 2004 (retired from the Bench at 70 years of age) having served on the Adult Criminal Court and the Family bench. I was the Magistrate's rep on both the Cheltenham Road Safety Group and the Cheltenham Branch of Stonham Housing Association (inc a period as Hon Treasurer). Our life in the village has been a full and happy one. Our thanks to all the folk in the village who have helped to make our lives so happy and fulfilled. Swindon Village will always be 'home'.

David Iliffe

June 2017

*Peter Allen
Chairman, Swindon Parish Council
17th April 2018*