



Battle Town Council



CLLR ANDREW BARTON
CHAIRMAN

CAROL HARRIS
TOWN CLERK

OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY – FRIDAY 9am – 2pm

The Mayor of Battle's statement on his Charities – June 2024

Last month I was extremely humbled to have been elected the Chair of Battle Town Council and Mayor of Battle. The town and its historic significance is very special and is the reason why my civil partner and I moved to Battle to retire. I originate from the East Riding of Yorkshire, grew up not far from Fulford and



Stamford Bridge which are synonymous with the Battle of Hastings. I moved to London in 1984 for work. I have a background in health, education and trade unions. I have a number of professionally related qualifications (nursing, management, education) and a MSc in public health. My greatest achievement was being awarded my Doctorate (EdD) in Education from the University of Greenwich and being proud to wear my gold tudor bonnet and gown. This month

I was privileged to receive a distinguished service award from the British medical association, where I worked for the last fifteen years and retired at the end of 2023.

Coming from a working class background in the north and being part of the LGBTQ+ community I believe we should recognise and celebrate our differences and aim to learn to trust and work alongside everyone in an equal and inclusive way. If we can work together for the civil good, regardless of our cultural or class differences then we will make Battle a better place to live, work and visit. Since retiring I have been trying to engage various aspects of society to demonstrate this thinking and improve our lives together.

During their term of office Mayors identify charities that they support and I have tried to embody my thinking when choosing my own charities. This is why I hope you will see a flavour of equality and inclusion in my choices.

THE ALMONRY, HIGH STREET, BATTLE, EAST SUSSEX, TN33 0EA

Web-site: www.battletowncouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01424 772210

e-mail: enquiries@battletowncouncil.gov.uk



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Firstly, I am currently the Chair Trustee of the Hastings & Rother Rainbow Alliance (HRRRA) so I am compelled to put this local group front and centre stage. This group aims to provide support and friendship to members of the LGBTQ+ communities when loneliness or discrimination makes their lives hard.



Secondly, our older generations often face isolation and I believe the Battle Area Community Transport (BACT) is an excellent local charity providing an important service to help counteract

these problems. Finally, we all know the world faces some major environmental issues but it can be difficult to see what you can do to change anything. So the final community group that I hope you will join in supporting is the newly formed Battle for Trees (BfT) group. I have recently become a Tree Warden in Battle so I want to fully support the work of this group over the next few years.

I hope I have given a bit of an insight into myself and what drives me on a daily basis. I hope we can work together and make our little part of the world here in East Sussex better. I am no politician and I do not have all the answers but I am committed to making an effort alongside anyone else who wishes to do so. I would like to set myself an objective; during my term as Mayor we organise some form of event, open to all, to consider Why, in 2024, is Equality and Inclusion important? My challenge to you is to ask if you will get involved in this idea. I am looking for anyone, any group, any suggestions that will help take this idea forward over the next year. You can get in touch with me by emailing me at: cllrabarton@battletowncouncil.gov.uk

I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months.

Dr Andrew Barton