



Newham London

**The London Borough of Newham presents
Honorary Freedoms of the Borough
Commander Nick Bracken, OBE
Frances Clarke
Marie Gabriel
Michael Grier
Jack Petchey, OBE**

Thursday 27th May 2010
Old Town Hall, Stratford, London, E15





The Honorary Freedom

Introduction

The Honorary Freedom of the Borough is the highest distinction a local authority can bestow on an individual. Parliament maintained the traditional power of Councils to admit as Honorary Freemen and Honorary Freewomen “persons of distinction and any persons who have rendered eminent services to the Borough” in the Local Government Act of 1972. This Act requires that a special resolution conferring the Freedom of the Borough must be passed by two-thirds of the Council voting.

The Honorary Freedom of the Borough is an honour sparingly awarded. Since the formation of the London Borough of Newham in 1965, only eleven people have been awarded the Honorary Freedom of the Borough. In the histories of the County Boroughs of East Ham and West Ham which preceded it, only 35 people were accorded this high distinction.

The origins of the office of Freeman can be traced back to ancient Rome when to be “born free” gave a citizen special status and privileges. All others owed allegiance to someone of superior rank. In Anglo-Saxon

times, an individual's freedom was dependent on the degree of obligation for service to the Lord of the Manor. Later the Merchant Guilds, growing in power and influence in the towns, gained freedom for their members from tolls of the overlords and Crown. In many places, the Freemen of the Guilds assumed the functions of local government. The craft Guilds were similarly organised and their members were admitted as Freeman after a long apprenticeship. Before the Reform Act of 1832, Freedom was derived from birth, apprenticeship, gift or purchase and in many Parliamentary Boroughs the electorate consisted solely of such Freemen.

In today's modern local government, Freemen and Freewomen are honorary positions. They do not possess the practical benefits once enjoyed by their predecessors although they do play a part in the civic and ceremonial life of the Borough. It is the rare distinction of the awards that confers on the recipients a special esteem and status in the Borough.

This will be the seventh award ceremony in the history of Newham.

Order of Proceedings

1. The Mayor will welcome the recipients of the Honorary Freedom of the London Borough of Newham and their guests.
2. The Mayor will call upon the Chief Executive to read out the resolutions of the Council authorising the conferment of the Honorary Freedom of the London Borough of Newham upon Commander Nick Bracken, OBE, Frances Clarke, Marie Gabriel, Michael Grier and Jack Petchey, OBE.
3. The Chief Executive will invite each recipient in turn to sign the Roll, acceptance of which is in the following terms:

“I hereby accept the Honorary Freedom of the London Borough of Newham and solemnly declare that I will at all times uphold the dignity of that office.”
4. After the Roll has been subscribed by the Mayor and the Chief Executive, the Mayor will present each recipient with a casket containing an illuminated copy of the appropriate Resolution inscribed on vellum and will congratulate them on behalf of the Council and people of the Borough.
5. The Honorary Freemen and Honorary Freewomen will be invited to reply.
6. The Mayor and the Chief Executive will leave the platform accompanied by the newly elected Honorary Freemen and Honorary Freewomen.
7. Conclusion of ceremony followed by refreshments.

The Scroll

Each person who is admitted as an Honorary Freeman or Honorary Freewomen is presented with an illuminated scroll. Each scroll incorporates the decision of the Council to confer to those persons being honored at this Ceremony the Freedom of the London Borough of Newham.

The text contained on each scroll at this ceremony is as follows:

We, the Council of the London Borough of Newham, in pursuance of Section 249 of the Local Government Act, 1972, and in accordance with a Resolution passed at a Special Meeting of the Council held on the Twenty Second day of February Two thousand and Ten hereby confer Honorary Freedom of the London Borough of Newham in recognition of distinguished service to the borough of Newham.

Each scroll is witnessed by the Mayor of Newham, Sir Robin Wales, and the Chief Executive, Joe Duckworth, and the Common Seal of the Council is affixed to each scroll and dated 27th May 2010.

Each scroll is presented in a silver casket.

Outline of Achievements

Commander Nick Bracken, OBE

Nick Bracken has over 30 years policing experience most of which has been as a detective. He transferred to the Metropolitan Police Service from British Transport Police as a Chief Superintendent, taking up the post of Borough Commander at Newham in 2006. Following promotion to the Association of Chief Police Officers he was appointed an Area Commander in June 2009 and is currently Commander of East London with responsibility for five London Boroughs.

During his career Nick has lead numerous high profile investigations. He was the Senior Investigating Officer for the Winsford, Paddington (Ladbroke Grove) and Selby train crashes and the reviewing officer for the Tebay rail accident. He was also appointed the Senior Identification Manager following the Yarl's Wood Immigration Centre fire in Bedfordshire, and 16 years after the incident he lead the successful re-investigation into the previously unidentified victim of the 1987 King's Cross underground fire.

In 2004, following the Tsunami, Nick was appointed the Senior Identification Manager for the UK's response

and subsequently was appointed as the International Disaster Victim Identification Commander.

In March 2006 Nick was the sole foreign police officer sent to Bahrain following the capsizing of the pleasure craft Al Dana in which 58 people died. He identified all 15 British victims.

In June 2007, Nick was the Senior Identification Manager responsible for identifying five British victims of an air crash in Malawi and is currently the lead of the review of the UK's response to the Phuket air crash.

Nick has lectured extensively to Senior Identification Managers, Senior



Investigators, Coroners, Pathologists and other experts in the UK and abroad. He has also lectured for the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, and Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry as part of their Diploma programme in Forensic Human Identification. He is also an examiner in this area of study.

He is a member of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Major Disaster Advisory Team (MDAT) and has been commended on numerous occasions.

His expertise was recognised in the 2006 New Years Honours List when he was awarded an OBE for services to policing.

Nick was born in Plaistow and went to St. Helen's Primary School in Canning Town, and then on to Plaistow Grammar School which became Cumberland school. He is currently chairman of East London Rugby Club.

Outline of Achievements

Frances Clarke

Frances has been involved in community projects in Newham for over 30 years.

Frances' first job at Community Links involved driving a double decker Community Bus delivering a variety of services to local estates. From this work developed a range of projects including a women's welfare rights and health advice service and the highly influential tower blocks campaign which worked locally and nationally to improve the quality of life in high rise housing. As a result of this campaign hundreds of Ronan Point-style blocks all over the country were demolished or reinforced to ensure they were structurally safe.

In 1993, Community Links moved to the derelict Canning Town Hall, and Frances was part of the team that brought the building back into community use and turned it into the community centre that continues to deliver projects across Newham today.

For many years Frances led the team that developed and ran Links Services for Adults. She introduced a range of innovative services including welfare benefits advice sessions in

doctors' surgeries, training courses for local people in welfare rights advice and community work and Legal Aid services.

In 2004, Community Links co founder, David Robinson, founded We Are What We Do (WAWWD) the global movement inspiring people to use their everyday behaviour to change the world. Frances runs the We Are What We Do community project in Newham.

In 2007, Frances promoted the highly successful I'm Not a Plastic Bag campaign in partnership with designer Anya Hindmarch. This brought together local schools, the Local Authority and businesses to reach people in new



ways and spread the message that plastic bags harm the environment and must be reduced.

Frances was at the heart of the creation of Teach Your Granny to Text & Other Ways to Change the World, the new We Are What We Do book of actions produced for children, by children. Frances supported thousands of children in coming up with ideas for the book and made schools across Newham part of an exciting national project.

For the last two years, she has supported the growing numbers of We Are What We Do Young Speakers, a group of sixth formers and Year 11 pupils from schools across Newham. The students give presentations and run campaigns to inspire their peers to change the world through simple positive actions, from recycling to learning to be friendly in a different language.

Frances is currently harnessing the positive 'pester power' of local children to bring to life the WAWWD action Walk Your Dad. In the run up to the Olympics this walking campaign is successfully

targeting those who are the least active, it challenges their sedentary behaviour in a fun way and gets families across Newham to be more active and at the same time to spend more time together. Frances would love to have the resources to extend this campaign and reach all our couch potatoes!

Frances lives in Forest Gate and is active in the neighbourhood where she has also been a School Governor at Godwin Junior School and Essex Road Primary School.

Outline of Achievements

Marie Gabriel

Marie was appointed as non executive Chairman of NHS Newham in November 2003, before that she was Vice Chairman of Newham University Hospital Trust and previous to that, Chairman of Newham Community Health Council.

In 2009 Marie was appointed Sector Chair of the East London and City Alliance, a partnership of the three inner North East London Primary Care Trusts.

Marie took up her first Director role at the age of just 23 and subsequently worked for over 20 years in senior roles within local government and the voluntary sector; building expertise in the areas of organisational transformation, neighbourhood regeneration and equalities.

Marie currently runs her own consultancy company which specialises in action research, the delivery of regeneration projects and developing the third sector. Whilst this work has taken her around the country much of her work has taken place in Newham. Renowned projects, such as Stratford Advice Arcade and the

Newham Food Access Partnership, are a direct result of her work with Newham's communities.

Marie's achievements within the area of equalities were recognised in 2008 when she selected to participate in a national advisory group on this subject.

Marie's work experience reflects her commitment to realising and building the capacity of residents, organisations and communities to deliver their own solutions to the challenges that they face. In just the last few years, for example, this commitment has meant that Marie has raised more than £1million in grant aid for Newham's voluntary sector.



Marie is also very committed to brokering productive partnerships. This has involved her in working with the statutory, voluntary and private sectors to develop agreements that will improve both how they work together and the added benefits they will bring to the people they serve. The Newham Compact and the report Pointers to Better Outcomes are just two results of this work.

Marie was born and grew up in the East End, starting out in Canning Town and, after her studies, returning to live in East Ham, where she still resides with her family.

Those who think they know her will not be surprised to read that she fills her limited spare time volunteering for three community organisations, (ELBWO, Your Space E16 and the Bright Street Project.) They will, however, be surprised to read that she also enjoys exploiting her National Trust card and listening to Classic FM!

Outline of Achievements

Michael Grier

Michael was Tate & Lyle's Community Relations lead from 1996 until his recent retirement. During this time, his contribution to the community in East London has been highly significant, devoting himself to an almost uncountable number of organisations, events and initiatives.

Peter Ellis, Chief Executive of Richard House has acknowledged the phenomenal support Tate & Lyle led by Michael Grier has given Richard House Children's Hospice since 1993. Tate & Lyle is their longest-standing corporate supporter with thousands of pounds being donated over the years.

Michael's involvement with Community Links began in 1996. Tate & Lyle became the Charity's first corporate supporter when it was founded more than 25 years ago and Community Links remains a key partner in Tate & Lyle's community involvement work.

In 1997 Michael became Director of Newham Education Business Partnership, an organisation helping young people develop the skills they need for employment by bridging the gap between school and work.

Michael started working on the Newham Education Action Zone in 1998, initially on a two day a week secondment from his human resources role at Tate & Lyle. From this he identified the need for a full-time community relations position at Tate & Lyle and persuaded management that he should take on this role.

The Newham School Reading Scheme was originally set up in 1996 by David Tate who encouraged Tate & Lyle to invest in the programme with the Borough receiving £500,000 over a three year period. Michael continued to support this programme after David's retirement.



Since 2000, Michael has co-ordinated the Junior Citizens scheme on behalf of Tate & Lyle. Now in its 9th year, Junior Citizens, an interactive child safety scheme, is organised by the Metropolitan Police and hosted by Tate & Lyle at Thames Refinery. In 2009 around 2,400 children benefited from the scheme.

Michael has been involved with Newham Citizenship Week since 2001, managing Tate & Lyle's contribution to the event, and compering the event in 2006.

Between 2001 and 2006 Michael managed Tate and Lyle's sponsorship of the Newham Shining Through Awards, a scheme dedicated to celebrating the academic, sporting, artistic and civic achievements of Newham's young people.

Michael has been a Trustee of the Royal Docks Trust (London) since January 2001, working to ensure the continued regeneration of Newham's Docklands.

In association with Tate Britain, Michael set up the Newham and Greenwich

Ideas Factory (now called VerbalEyes) a programme to help children develop their art and literacy skills by engaging with original works of art.

Michael was instrumental in establishing a link between Tate & Lyle and Community Food Enterprise, an organisation that believes that everyone in the community has the right not just to food, but to the right food. They are passionate about lowering or eliminating any barriers that might prejudice this including poor diet, ignorance, disability, poverty and location.

Michael was a Governor at Langdon School between 1995 and 1999 being instrumental in putting together the School's bid to become a Sports College. He has also been a Governor at Keir Hardie School since 2007.

Outline of Achievements

Jack Petchey, OBE

Jack Petchey is one of the UK's most successful businessmen. Born in East London in July 1925, Jack came from a working class background with very few advantages. From an early age he showed the entrepreneurial skills that have aided his success.

Having left school at 14 Jack worked as an office boy before joining the Fleet Air Arm in 1943. At the end of the Second World War Jack left the Navy and became a clerk. He applied for a management position but was told by the company: "You'll never make a businessman!"

So Jack decided to go it alone. With £60 to his name, he bought a motor car and founded his first car hire business. From there a thriving car sales business was formed. By 1959 he was selling nearly 20 cars per week and had over 40 hire cars on the road.

Jack eventually branched into property and in 1969 was introduced to the idea of a holiday complex in the Algarve, Portugal, which he still runs today.

Soon to be celebrating his 85th birthday, there is no sign of Jack

slowing down. He currently manages Petchey Holdings Plc and Petchey Leisure, a management company for several holiday resorts in Spain, Portugal and the UK.

In 1999, he set up the Jack Petchey Foundation as he wanted to give opportunities to young people in London. Over the past ten years he has donated more than £65million to schools, clubs and projects which benefit young people across London.

In 2004 Jack was awarded an OBE at Buckingham Palace by Her Majesty the Queen for Services to Young People in East London and Essex.



The Honorary Freedom

Past Recipients

List of persons on whom the Honorary Freedom of the London Borough of
Newham has been conferred by the Council

24th May, 1979

Walter Edwin Hurford, MM
Margaret Scott
George Edward Smith

12th May, 1983

John Alfred Kemp

28th November, 1985

John Albert Hart, MBE

12th October, 2000

Colonel Michael John Dudding, OBE TD DL
Thomas James Duncan
Squadron Leader Mohinder Singh Pujji, DFC PCS BA LLB

15th January 2004

Irene Poole
Khizr-E-Azam

14th May 2009

Christine Ohuruogu, MBE

Those conferred with the title of Honorary Aldermen

12th October, 2000

Marjorie Edith Helps, MBE
Stanley Hopwood

15th January 2004

Arthur Frank George Edwards
James Charles Riley

Members of the Council of the London Borough of Newham 2010 / 2011

The Mayor of Newham

Sir Robin Wales

Councillors

Shama Ahmad MBE

Jose Alexander

Andrew Baikie

Freda Bourne

Steve Brayshaw

Paul Brickell

Leanora Cameron

Nirmal Kaur Chadha

Akbar Chaudhary

Ayesha Chowdhury

David Christie

Bryan Collier

Marie Collier

Ian Corbett

Jo Corbett

Richard Crawford

Unmesh Desai

Charity Fibresima

Clive Furness

Omana Gangadharan

John Gray

Alan Griffiths

Patricia Holland

Lester Hudson

Gorhad Hussain

Kevin Jenkins, OBE

Khalil Kazi, OBE

Alec Kellaway

Joy Laguda

Sharaf Mahmood

Ron Manley

Anthony McAlmont

Conor McAuley

Charlene McLean

Riaz Ahmed Mirza

Patrick Murphy

Farah Nazeer

Firoza Nekiwala

Michael Nicholas

Mukesh Patel

Salim Patel

Terry Paul

Gavin Pearson

Rev. Quintin Peppiatt

Rohima Rahman

Ellie Robinson

Paul Sathianesan

Paul Schafer

Kay Scoresby

Lakmini Shah

Pearson Shillingford

Amarjit Singh

Mary Skyers

Ted Sparrowhawk

Rustam Talati

Alan Taylor

Sheila Thomas

Winston Vaughan

Harvinder Singh Virdee

Neil Wilson

London Borough of Newham Coat of Arms



The Arms consist of a shield divided horizontally into two bands of colours, the top red and the bottom gold. In the top left-hand corner is a ship in full sail (Commerce and Docks). In the top right-hand corner are two hammers crossed diagonally (Thames Ironworks and Railway Works). In the bottom half are three red chevrons. A pale ermine band runs perpendicularly through the

centre of the shield, and on this is a Bishop's crosier in gold (the Abbey). The shield is surmounted by a wreath in red and gold, with a helmet in gold in the centre, above which the sun is rising in full splendour. Inclined to the left is the pommel and hilt of a sword in gold, and to the right the crook of a crosier, also in gold. Motto: "Progress with the People".





