

At a Special Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Arundel in the County of Sussex held at Arundel Castle on Thursday the Sixth day of August One thousand nine hundred and fifty three

IT WAS RESOLVED

THAT the Council do confer upon

The Most Noble Bernard Marmaduke, Duke of Norfolk, Earl of Arundel, Surrey and Norfolk, Baron Maltravers, FitzAlan, Clun and Oswalstre, and Herries of Terregles; Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England; One of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council; Her Majesty's Lieutenant in and for the County of Sussex; Major, 4th Battalion, the Royal Sussex Regiment (T.A.); an Alderman of the West Sussex County Council

the Honorary Freedom of this Ancient Borough in recognition of his unfailing generosity and the close interest which he has always taken in the welfare of the inhabitants of this Borough in which he was born and of which he was Mayor in the years 1935/1936 and as an expression of the high esteem in which he is held in Arundel and particularly in token of the admiration which is felt by his fellow Burgesses in respect of his outstanding and distinguished services in connection with the recent Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second

AND IT WAS FURTHER RESOLVED

That the name of His Grace be this day enrolled on the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the Borough.

GIVEN under the Corporate Seal of the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the said Borough on the day and year first aforesaid.

L.S.

A.G. Whittaker
Mayor.

Geoffrey Campbell
Town Clerk.

Mayor's Speech

X-052440

We are met here this evening to do honour to a man who for some years has been known to the public, but never before in his lifetime has he been so much in the public eye as during the past twelve months. No one has received more praise and congratulations in connection with the Coronation than has His Grace the Duke of Norfolk, and I am very proud to see so many people here this evening, and particularly do I welcome my friends, the Mayors of the Sussex Boroughs, and the Chairman of the West Sussex County Council, who are attending to support us and do honour to one who so richly deserves every tribute we can pay.

When my Council happily thought of asking His Grace to accept the Freedom of this Borough, and His Grace graciously agreed to accept, we knew the Town Hall would not be large enough to hold all those who would want to see the ceremony. When the Duke became aware of this he immediately offered this Hall for this evening's event. It is, therefore, due to His Grace's generosity

that we are met in Arundel Castle, which has been the home of His Grace's ancestors for over 800 years, and I feel it very fitting that the presentation should be made in this ancestral Castle, because so far as is known, this is the first occasion upon which a Duke of Norfolk has been given the Freedom of Arundel, and as we have waited for the 16th Duke, you will see we have not been hasty in our decision, but have waited until we were assured we had the right man.

From time immemorial Boroughs have been admitting Freemen according to their own peculiar customs and by-laws. This generally included the right to vote at parliamentary elections and exemption from all tolls and dues. It is traditionally reported that in Arundel it also included the right to tastering, free of cost, the wares of licensed houses, and should a Freeman have exercised this right too liberally, the police had no right to interfere with him should his peregrinations through the Town be

unready or noisy. May I hasten to assure the Duchess, however, that this privilege no longer exists, and also to assure the ratepayers that there is no longer exemption of payment of tolls and dues. The admission of Freemen is now regulated by the Municipal Corporations Act and persons are only admitted Honorary Freemen for exceptional merit and distinction.

In the years 1935/36 His Grace was Mayor of Arundel, a position he filled with exceptional ability, and those of us who had the privilege of serving under him, will remember how ably he conducted the Council Meetings, There were occasions when we had cause to be grateful to His Grace for his firm and tactful handling of controversial matters.

His Grace takes a great interest in the work of the West Sussex County Council of which he is an Alderman, and until recently was Vice-Chairman. Last April, owing to the illness of the Chairman of the Finance Committee, His Grace took over these duties in the midst of

his preparations for the Coronation, and those of us who were privileged to hear him present the Budget for 1953/54, are all agreed that it was one of the finest and clearest explanations of the vast expenditure, which has been heard in the County Hall for many years. His grasp of the figures was wonderful and the presentation will be remembered for a long time.

His Grace was formerly Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and one wonders, having regard to his abilities, what heights he would have achieved had he taken up politics more seriously than he has done.

During the summer months His Grace throws open his Castle for inspection by all who are willing to pay a very small entrance fee. This is the main attraction in Arundel and nearly 150,000 people annually go over the Castle. Apart from giving the visitor the opportunity of going through one of the most stately homes of England, the benefit it gives to the Town is very considerable, and we are very grateful to

His Grace for the privilege granted.

I feel I must mention the great benefit we gain from Arundel Park and Swanbourne Lake. The Park embraces an area of about 1,250 acres and here the visitor can wander without interference from anyone. The pleasure this give to countless numbers of people cannot be over-estimated.

His Grace is always anxious and willing to give the inhabitants the opportunity of playing practically all out-door games. He grants facilities for cricket, football, tennis, croquet and bowls, at such nominal rents as if mentioned here would make the representatives of other authorities so jealous and envious that they would not be able to remain seated. In fact, I can safely say His Grace is the County's Sportsman No. 1.

It is not generally known that for about fifty years he and his father before him provided the Town with water for domestic purposes practically free of charge. The Burgesses became so accustomed to this privilege that I feel it

was scarcely known or sufficiently appreciated. This privilege ceased some two years ago, so that for the first time in history the rate-payers are now paying a small water rate. I use the word "small" as we are now buying water from His Grace in bulk, but again I will not mention the price we are paying, otherwise the envy of my Mayoral friends would be greatly increased.

During the summer His Grace arranges several cricket matches in the beautiful grounds of the Castle. These matches give endless pleasure to a large number of people who can see cricket in ideal surroundings without charge for admission to the grounds. Last Sunday was an example of the popularity of these matches.

Everyone knows what His Grace has done for cricket in this County. As President of the County Club he has brought us out of the doldrums to a position at the head of the championship table, of which we are all justifiably proud.

We all know what the Duke and Duchess have done in regard to racing in this country. He is a Steward of the Jockey Club and many race courses. His training stables at Arundel provide labour in the Town for a large number of people, and in addition, provide some of us on occasions with a little additional pocket money.

Coronation. The many kindnesses and benefits which His Grace has bestowed on Arundel are dwarfed by the greatest achievement of his career which was the organisation and arrangements made in connection with the recent Coronation of our gracious and beautiful young Queen. We have all seen either on the television or at the cinema the ceremony in the Abbey, and we were struck by the smooth running of this great English occasion. Not a foot was put wrong, not a person taking part did the wrong thing. The thought, the detail, the rehearsals which must have taken place, and the great amount of arrangement necessary cannot,

sitting in this Hall tonight, be imagined, and we are proud that a fellow burgess has done such a tremendous job in such a successful manner. It has won the admiration of the whole world. We are given to understand that his salary as Earl Marshal is £20 per annum, (less tax), and as the deputy Mayor said in the Council Chamber in June, never has one been paid less for doing so much for so many.

We are proud that he is an Arundel man bred and born in the Town, and we all individually take great pride in what he has done and the high respect in which he is held. The country and the County respect him; we in Arundel go further, we love him.

Local Coronation Celebrations. His Grace was determined that the local inhabitants should celebrate the Coronation as it should be celebrated, and gave us every encouragement. He placed this beautiful hall at our disposal for a Ball to help raise money, he gave us permission to use his private grounds

on Coronation day to entertain the children, and he gave us a very handsome donation towards the funds. No one could do more than he has done on this and countless other occasions.

I do apologise for being so long, but I could talk for hours and then not do justice to the task I am pleased to do, but one word more before I close. I have all the time spoken of His Grace, but I know he will agree with me that many of his successes would not have been possible had he not have received the full support and encouragement of his wife, Her Grace the Duchess of Norfolk. Here is a lady who has endeared herself to all with whom she has come in contact. Arundel is a small town and very conservative in its ways. We do not make friends quickly, but when the Duke brought his bride to Arundel in 1937, we all felt that here was someone who we could love and respect, and, Ladies and Gentlemen, our intuition was correct. By her grace and charm the Duchess has captured the hearts of all and we are just as proud of her as we are of her husband.

May they both be given strength and health
to live amongst us for many years to come.

As officially this is a Council Meeting, I
formally move that the Honorary Freedom of the
Borough of Arundel be conferred on His Grace the
Duke of Norfolk.

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John Clark
Luke Signe Sewell
Presentation
Luke Spinks