

Mayor of Folkestone – A Brief Biography Councillor Roger West



Roger West was born and educated in Folkestone.

Roger was involved in the music and entertainment industry in the 1960s to 1980s and for the past 30 years has owned and worked for Roger West Ltd, a heating services business.

Roger has a daughter and two grandchildren in New York along with two sons in Folkestone and a further five grandchildren and has been married to Pat for 23 years.

Many charities have benefited from Roger's fundraising over a period of 20 years which has included raising money for the first hospice in the area. A lot of his involvement in fundraising occurred during the course of his Folkestone Lions membership which lasted nearly 20 years and included the annual Donkey Derby, Boxing Day Dip and Quiz and Race Nights only to name a few.

Roger and Pat have also been involved in supporting many past Mayors in their charity events such as comparing and helping in the organisation of race nights, quizzes and auctions.

In his younger days, Roger enjoyed running marathons and competed in many, including the London Marathon, like our past Mayor Councillor Martin Salmon who still has not beaten Roger's best time of 2 hours 57 minutes!

Roger's charity work does not stop at humans, he is also an animal lover. Particularly the residents of Monkey World where he sponsors a monkey who happens to be called Patricia!

Roger is now deeply involved with;

- ❖ the organisation of the Youth Festival of Remembrance at the Leas Cliff Hall in his capacity as Vice Chair. This is very close to his heart working closely with the Sea Cadets of which both Roger and Pat are Vice Presidents.
- ❖ the Armed Forces Day production for the last 4 years, again this is very close to his heart.
- ❖ Armed Forces welfare.

Roger was elected as a Town Councillor and Shepway District Councillor in May 2011 and as well as being appointed to Deputy Town Mayor on two occasions, Roger previously served as Town Mayor during the Civic Year 2014/15. Pat was also elected as a Town Councillor in May 2005 and, after a short break, again in May 2011. Roger has since stood down from Shepway District Council in order to concentrate on the Town Council and both he and Pat were re-elected as Town Councillors in May 2015.

Under the Town Council, Roger serves on the following Committees and Working Groups:

- ❖ Community Service Committee
- ❖ Shepway District Council/Folkestone Town Council Partnership Working Group
- ❖ Armed Forces Day Working Group

Roger's hobbies are family, football and socialising.

The Mayor's nominated charities for 2017/18 are The Folkestone and Hythe Sea Cadets and Community Network.