The Armorial Bearings

The Earl Marshal’s warrant of 2nd April 1976, sealed by the Kings of Arms, granted armorial bearings to the new borough. Composed by Somerset Herald (with assistance from Mr H F F and Councillor Mrs M B Streeten), every detail of the blazon signifies some aspect of the four earlier authorities.

The Blazon: Arms ‘Or on a Pile Vert a Fountain charged with a Saxon Crown Or in base a Bine of Hops leaved and fructed and a Sprig of Apple leaved and flowered in saltire proper’. Crest ‘On a Wreath Or and Gules Issuant from a Stone Well-Head a Ram’s Head proper’. Supporters ‘On the dexter a Demoiselle Crane proper & on the sinister a Horas Argent each gorged with a Collar gobony Or and Gules upon a Compartment of Sandstone Rocks proper’.

The pile represents the geological fault giving rise to local springs. The fountain denotes Tunbridge Wells. The saxon crown marks the renewal of the 1909 privilege of designating the town (but not the Borough) Royal Tunbridge Wells. The hop bine and apple blossom symbolize the rural areas of the Borough.

The ram’s head derives from the Southborough arms, and the well-head from the former Tunbridge Wells crest.

The crane was used by Cranbrook Rural District and the silver horse by the Tonbridge Rural areas. Collars were required on the supporters as an ‘heraldic difference’. The compartment upon which the supporters stand reflects the characteristic rock outcrops of the area.

The mantling and the motto ‘Do Well Doubt Not’ are taken from the bearings of the old Borough of Tunbridge Wells.

The Armorial Bearings were granted for the exclusive use of the borough and they cannot be alienated. Accompanying them there is an heraldic badge, wreathed with fifteen hop leaves representing the Parishes and Southborough.

Mayor’s Charity

Founded in 1986, Compaid supports disabled people, in and around Kent to overcome the multiple barriers of social, digital and economic exclusion that they face every day. Through our core services of digital skills training and accessible transport, disabled, frail elderly and other vulnerable people are able to live confidently and independently to maximise their opportunities. Last year saw over 1,600 adults and children using one or more of our services.

We provide digital skills training to adults with learning, physical and sensory disabilities, as well as those recovering from strokes or acquired brain injury. Our training includes use of the internet and social media to reconnect with family and friends, build support networks and access online services such as recruitment websites and benefits advice.

We also provide accessible transport to disabled adults and children, enabling them to get to school and further education and training, go shopping and get their prescriptions, attend day centres and access community support, and to keep hospital and other medical appointments.

Compaid is reliant on the generosity of our donors and other supporters to continue to develop and improve our services for disabled and other vulnerable people. Volunteers are regularly in demand so we would welcome any contribution to our valuable work.

www.compaid.org.uk Email: enquiries@compaid.org.uk Call: 01892 834539
Charity number: 1064160

Governement of the Borough of Tunbridge Wells

On 1 April 1974 the Tunbridge Wells District Council became the local authority responsible for the areas previously administered by the Cranbrook Rural District Council, Tonbridge Rural District Council (except the Parishes of Hadow and Hildenborough), Royal Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Southborough Urban District Council.

On 20 December 1974 borough status was conferred on the district which thus became the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. Reference was also made at that time to the Letters Patent which had been granted on the application of the Charter Trustees for the town of Royal Tunbridge Wells re-authorising the style ‘Royal’ to prefix the name of the town.

Twinned Town: Wiesbaden, Germany

Corporate Priorities

A prosperous borough: We expect to achieve growth and shape our local economy by enhancing the built environment within our thriving town centres and rural settlements.

A green borough: We expect the borough to remain a clean and beautiful place to live, work and visit, as a result of the continued effort put in to protect the quality of the local environment.

A confident borough: We expect the borough to remain a safe place to live, work and visit where communities enjoy good health, are adequately housed and resilient to deal with the challenges they may encounter.

If you require this information in large print or in any other format, please contact us on 01892 526121.
James was born in Oldham, Lancashire and at the age of 10 moved to Sheffield. From a Grammar School he went to Leicester University and attained a BSc (Hons) in mathematics. He then quickly discovered an interest in computers and became a programmer/analyst. Following a spell as a computer consultant to the Post Office in London he joined a large firm of stockbrokers rising from a project leader to the Computer Manager. During that time he passed the International Stock Exchange exams and eventually became a Capital Partner. The firm was taken over by Kleinwort Benson and James became an Assistant Director.

James met Jane in London and they married in 1969 and then moved to Hutton in Essex but due to the office function relocating moved to Tunbridge Wells in 1971. They have a daughter and son both living locally and have six grandchildren.

James became a Councillor in 1976–1986 for the Pantiles ward and then after a two year break became Councillor for Pantiles St Mark’s from 1988 to the present day.

James has been Chairman of the Environmental Committee, Mayor 1991–1992, Chairman of Leisure, Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Cabinet Member for Finance, over 30 years on the Planning Committee, Chairman/ Vice Chairman of the West Kent council for Voluntary Services, Claremont School governor for 27 years and is a Commons Conservator. He was a KCC Councillor from 1993–2017 with 16 years as Chairman of the Kent Superannuation fund and was made an Alderman in recognition of his service to the people of Kent. He is a Freeman of the City of London.

His hobbies include playing chess for England in the European and World Senior Team Championships, playing Bridge, gardening, walking, touring and is a member of King Charles the Martyr Church.

When asked, Joy describes herself as community spirited, pro-active and collaborative.

After leaving school, she went to work for Balfour Beatty before marrying Bob in 1969. They now have three children and seven grandchildren who all live locally. Working in finance, Joy continued to enjoy a successful working career whilst raising her family.

In the late 1990’s, Joy moved to Speldhurst and volunteered in assisting a group of residents before becoming a Trustee of the Village Hall. During the Fireman Strike in 2002, a devastating fire broke out where the Green Goddess failed to save the hall. Joy set about raising funds and was highly involved with the rebuild.

As a member of the Parish Council, she is the current Chair of the Highways and Amenities Committees and a member of the Finance Committee. In 2015, she was elected as Borough Councillor for Rusthall and can be regularly seen shopping, visiting residents and participating in village life. She is a Trustee of the Molyneux Aims Houses and a member of Tunbridge Wells and Rusthall Commons.

A lover of the outdoors and the environment, Joy is concerned with the use of single use plastic. She chaired a cross-party working group, driving a number of changes which have resulted in significant plastic and cost savings.

Joy is a member of several TWBC Committees, including Planning, Licensing and currently Chair of the General Purposes Committee.

As active members of Kent U3A network, Joy and Bob enjoy walking, gardening and visiting places of interest.