

Camden's Civic History



Mayor of Camden



The Coat of Arms of the London Borough of Camden



Camden's coat of arms is comprised of parts of the armorial bearings of the former boroughs of Hampstead, Holborn and St Pancras.



Hampstead

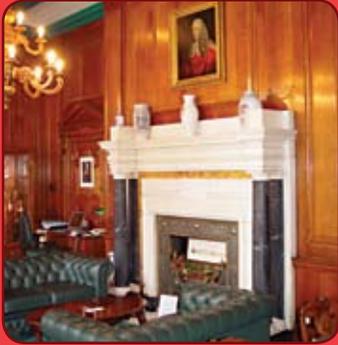


Holborn



St Pancras

The gold mitre in the centre of the cross is taken from the Hampstead coat of arms and represents the Abbey of Westminster. The holly around the elephant's neck commemorates the seal of the old Hampstead vestry. The motto "non sibi sed toti" – translated: not for oneself but for all – was taken from the Hampstead coat of arms. The supporting lion and gryphon come from the arms of Lincoln's and Gray's Inn. The blue and white "barry wave" on their chests refers to the River Holeburne which was known as the Fleet from which Holborn took its name. The two original parishes of St Andrew, Holborn and St Giles-in-the-Fields are represented by the crest and the helm. The red cross represents the parishes of St George, Bloomsbury and St George-the-Martyr. The escallop shells are taken from the arms of the Duke of Bedford whose family have been associated with Holborn since 1669. The elephant represents the Marquess of Camden.



The Mayor's Parlour

Is used as the Mayor's working office during their mayoral year. It is also used for meetings and hosting receptions.



Display Cabinet

Mayoral regalia and civic gifts are displayed in the cabinet.

The mayoral chain, badge and mace are referred to as regalia. Regalia have always been, and are still, regarded as essential to the dignity and importance of the Council and its Mayor. The Mayor wears the chain of office at public events in the borough of which he or she is Mayor. It may also be worn in other boroughs, but only with the permission, or at the invitation of the Mayor of that borough. The Mayor of Camden traditionally wears the Camden badge and chain but on occasions where the event has a specific association to either Holborn or St Pancras these chains may be worn.



Robes

The Mayor wears a robe of office on ceremonial occasions.

Traditionally the fur on robes was real fur but Camden now uses fake fur. A lace jabot is worn at the neck. A hat is also worn. A black cocked hat with gold embellishment on the right is worn by men and a black tricorne hat by women. White gloves are worn as well.

The Deputy Mayor also wears robes on civic ceremonial occasions.

Maces

The mace is the most important item in mayoral regalia.

The mace must not be carried into a non-Camden borough (as this would symbolise an invasion into that borough by an invading army). There are exceptions such as London Mayors' Association Annual Civic Service where all London Mayors are invited to wear their robes and carry their maces.

There are also rules about the wearing and carrying of regalia when the Sovereign visits the borough. The mace must not be carried in the presence of the Sovereign. When the Mayor receives the Sovereign the Macebearer will be

present with the mace reversed. The mace is then withdrawn or laid on its stand and covered until the Sovereign departs.

These customs suggest that the mace represents force and power but submission to the Sovereign from whom all mayoral authority is considered to derive.

These rules do not apply to any other member of the royal family. On these occasions the Mayor will receive the member of the royal family and if required the mace will be carried and displayed as at any other function at which the Mayor presides.



St Pancras Mace – is made of solid silver water-gilt, and was presented by Sir Horatio Regnart, J.P., in 1901. The Imperial Crown surmounts the head, which has four shields containing the borough arms, a view of the old church of St Pancras, the borough seal, and the inscription.

The head is supported by figures illustrating Authority, Commerce, Prudence and Temperance, standing on a platform at the head of the shaft, which is encircled by chased work introducing the national emblems.

The St Pancras mace was adopted as the Camden mace in 1965. This is the mace most often used by Camden, including at regular meetings of the Council. At meetings of the Council the mace is carried in front of the Mayor when he/she processes into the Council meeting. It is a symbol of the power of dignity of the Mayor and of his/her authority.



The Holborn Mace – was presented to the borough by the Mayor, Councillor William R. Smith, D.L., J.P., M.D., V.D., in 1906, the silver-gilt mace has four shields on the head containing representations of St Andrew, St George, St Giles and Minerva, the Goddess of Wisdom, patroness of arts and crafts and the protectress of all who wished to excel in mental and manual pursuits. This last refers, like the motto on the coat of arms, to the academic features of borough life.

The arms are engraved on top of the mace, with the rose, shamrock and thistle entwined round the stem. At the base are the donor's arms in relief and an inscription commemorating its presentation.



The Hampstead Mace – Edward Brodie Hoare, Member of Parliament for the borough, presented the mace in 1901. Modelled in sterling silver gilt, the mace bears the arms of the Hampstead Borough, and in an encircling band the inscription "The Mace of the Borough of Hampstead", surmounted by the initials of the borough, and with acanthus decorations. The lower part of the stem is ornamented with the English rose and crossed sceptres, emerging into fluted work and oak embellishments at the foot, whilst the fillet of the crown is studded with amethysts, aquamarines, carbuncles and white coral.



Chains & Badges

The Camden mayoral chain and badge – a new chain was made when the Borough of Camden was formed. It has 20 links, joined by a small chain top and bottom. The centre front link has a large C standing for Camden; of six other links, two each contain the shields of the three former boroughs. The remaining links include a fleur-de-lys from the arms of St Pancras, a shell from the arms of St Pancras, a shell from the arms of Hampstead.



The badge embodies the Borough symbol of four pairs of clasped hands. This symbol, currently used as Camden's borough logo, was adopted soon after the formation of the new Borough as a more forward-looking image than heraldic coats of arms. It is based on the motif of hands voting, giving, receiving and helping, and symbolises the purpose and structure of local Government, using communal effort for communal help.



St Pancras mayoral chain and badge – made of gold and presented by Sir John Blundell Maple Bart, M.P. The badge features the arms of the borough in fine enamel, while the chain is composed of links of the initial “P” entwined with the prefix “St” in the centre, alternating with shields bearing the names of successive mayors.



Holborn mayoral chain and badge – presented by the Duke of Bedford, first Mayor of Holborn, in 1901. The gold chain has 24 links, eight of which contain enameled devices indicating: the Borough of Holborn; the parishes of St Giles, St George Bloomsbury, St Andrew Holborn and St Giles-the-Martyr; Lincoln’s Inn and Grays Inn; and the donor. Between each of these devices are two links suggesting the letter “H” and set with small roses. Beneath the “Holborn” link is a lion’s head, forming a small intermediate link to support the badge.

The design of the gold badge is based on the borough seal, its principal features being three niches, containing standing figures of St Giles, St George and St Andrew. Above the niches is a representation of the old houses still existing in Holborn; from beneath an arch in the base flows the Holebourne, teeming with fish, between banks, studded with flowers and strawberries, in allusion to the gardens mentioned in Shakespeare’s Richard III.



Mayor’s Corridor

Flags and Memorial Plaques displayed:



Spanish International Brigade Plaque –

this plaque was donated by the people of Camden and unveiled by the Mayor, Councillor Bill Budd on 29 April 1995. The plaque commemorates the volunteers who set off from the borough to fight in the International Brigades in Spain from 1936-1939 and also those citizens of Camden who supported the Spanish Republic in its fight against fascism.



Royal Canadian Air Force Ensigns –

two flags were originally donated by the Wing Commander W.G. Attewell, MBE, Royal Canadian Air Force and commemorates the comradeship of the peoples of the United Kingdom and the Royal Canadian Air Force during the years of the World War 1939 to 1945 to Holborn Borough Council. They were relocated to Camden Town Hall on 9 June 1997 when the Canadian High Commissioner, The Honorable Roy Maclaren, PC presented the Mayor, Councillor Ray Adamson with two new ensigns.



Holocaust Plaque – this plaque was organised by Councillor Barry Peskin and dedicated by Rabbi Hugh Gryn on 2 April 1996. Funding for the plaque was raised by public subscription. The artist is Zena Flax.



The Great Irish Famine Plaque – was commissioned by the Irish Group of Camden Councillors and Camden Irish Forum with contributions from the Irish community of Camden to commemorate the Great Irish Famine 1845-1852. It was unveiled by the Irish Ambassador to Great Britain, Edward Barrington on 16 December 1997 during the mayoral year of Councillor Ray Adamson. The artist is Liadin Cooke.



Civic Floor

On the marble walls on the civic floor outside the Council Chamber the names of the Mayors of St Pancras from 1900-1965 are engraved and the Mayors of Camden from 1965 to date.

Council Chamber

The council chamber is where the Mayor chairs Council meetings and the Annual General Meeting of the Council, which traditionally takes place in May when the new Mayor is appointed.

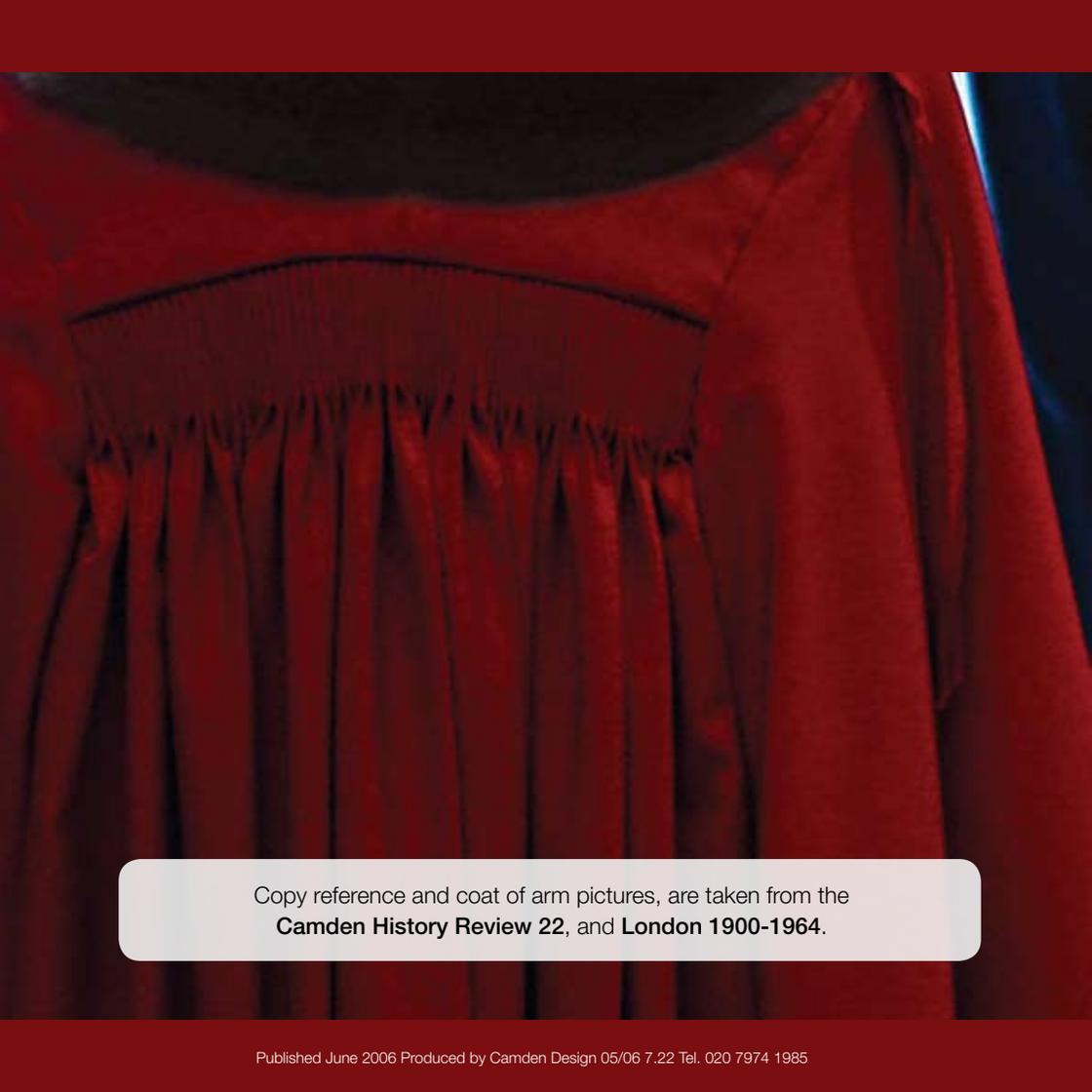
Décor is green to mimic the House of Commons and to create the right atmosphere for council meetings.

Full Council sits here 7-8 times a year. There are 75 seats in the central area.

The majority party sit on one side of the chamber and the opposition

parties on the other. During Council meetings the Mayor sits on the dias with the Deputy Mayor on one side and the Chief Executive on the other. The Director of Law and Admin also sits on the dias.





Copy reference and coat of arm pictures, are taken from the
Camden History Review 22, and **London 1900-1964**.