



The Mayor of Camden
**CLLR RICHARD
COTTON**

WE ARE

We are of all
faiths and none;
We are many,
We are one.
Camden.

ONE

During his year, the Mayor will be promoting the idea of, **'We are one'**. A borough which celebrates diversity and an idea of multi-culturalism based on engagement not separation.



About the Mayor

Richard was born within the sound of Bow Bells in 1952 and is proud to call himself a Londoner. He has never lived more than five miles from his birthplace, including over 28 years in Camden, and is proud of Camden's history of welcoming diverse cultures. "Ours is a community with roots in every corner of the world – We are of all faiths and none, we are many, we are one".

He worked in local government for almost 40 years (starting in Camden) including 24 years advising four successive Leaders of Brent Council.

Richard lives in Camden Town and is a councillor for the Camden Town with Primrose Hill ward. He is a regular volunteer at the Primrose Hill Community Library and a member of the Library Board. He has served on the Planning, Licensing and Housing Scrutiny Committees, has chaired Licensing Panels and has been Co-Chair of the Carers' Forum, having

helped to care for his disabled father for many years. Richard is the Council's representative on the Commonwealth Local Government Forum and is a staunch supporter of the Commonwealth.

He's a lifelong Spurs fan and in his spare time, organises a pensioners' walking club which has completed a number of long distance walks, including the 'Capital Ring'. A keen local historian, Richard has also led local history walks to raise money for charity.

Richard's Mayoress will be Lesley Daisley, widow of the late Paul Daisley, MP and Chair of The Paul Daisley Trust, which raises awareness of colon cancer. His escorts will be his sister Laura Cotton, Ann John OBE, Cllr Rishi Madlani, Cllr Sue Vincent and local residents Brenda Sutherland, Margaret Gavin, Nigel Harris and David Williams.





Mayor's chosen charity for the year

C4WS Homeless Project is a grassroots charity that assists homeless people all year round, helping them to rebuild their lives. Opening their doors for the first time in January 2005, a group of seven churches took it in turns to provide free shelter and food for 13 of the coldest weeks of the year. Since then C4WS Homeless Project has expanded the shelters to support more people in crisis and evolved its services to become a project that combines this continued immediate support with real, long-term change.

Their Welfare Team works with each guest coming through the doors to help them secure appropriate move-on accommodation. As part of their unique approach they also look at the issues that led someone to becoming homeless and the possible barriers they may face when in their new home to ensure that this change in their lives is supported and long-lasting. As a result of this holistic approach, 96% of those engaging with this service last year successfully found housing.

Their main activities are:

- ▶ A winter night shelter running from 1 November through to 31 March every year, providing emergency accommodation to 16 homeless people per night across 13 different churches.
- ▶ A weekly drop-in lunchtime club providing food, showers, clothing and professional support for those in need in the area.
- ▶ A Mentoring and Befriending Scheme providing support to former guests of the winter night shelter to help them with the transition to independent living in their new homes.
- ▶ English classes supporting homeless people with limited literacy and communication skills.
- ▶ A Jobs Club that supports guests with learning the job-ready skills needed to access employment, training and education and helping them to secure appropriate paid work and other opportunities that will enhance their employability.

Mayoral theme

For centuries, people have come to this area from across the world. The Spanish community fled autocracy in the eighteenth century and French emigres fled the revolution. The Irish fled famine and helped to build the railways that were central to Camden's development and many Jews came to Camden fleeing persecution in mainland Europe. After the Second World War, many citizens of Commonwealth countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean settled in Camden. More recently, the borough has been home to a significant Bangladeshi community and communities from other European countries. All have made Camden what it is today.

All are Londoners and all are members of the great British family. Unfortunately, increasing economic inequality and a shortage of affordable housing has led to social exclusion and homelessness. The number of people sleeping rough on any one night has doubled

since 2010 and there are thousands more who are 'sofa surfing' and are not therefore included in the official figures. The Mayor's efforts will be directed at working with the C4WS Homeless Project, which was founded by local faith leaders and is tackling the problem in a holistic way, offering homeless people pathways to re-integration into the community through employment and housing.

"I see my role as promoting community cohesion and the idea 'We are One', but our community will only succeed if everybody has the opportunity to thrive and that means ending the scandal of homelessness and rough sleeping." Richard Cotton, Mayor of Camden



To make a donation to the Mayor's charity visit:
mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/mayorofcamden



Contact C4WS:

-  c4wshomelessproject.org
-  [C4WSHomelessProject](https://www.facebook.com/C4WSHomelessProject)
-  [@c4wscamden](https://twitter.com/c4wscamden)
-  [c4wshomelessproject](https://www.instagram.com/c4wshomelessproject)

Contact the Mayor:

-  camden.gov.uk/mayor
-  mayor@camden.gov.uk
-  [themayorofcamden](https://www.facebook.com/themayorofcamden)
-  [@mayorofcamden](https://twitter.com/mayorofcamden)



Supporting C4WS
Homeless Project