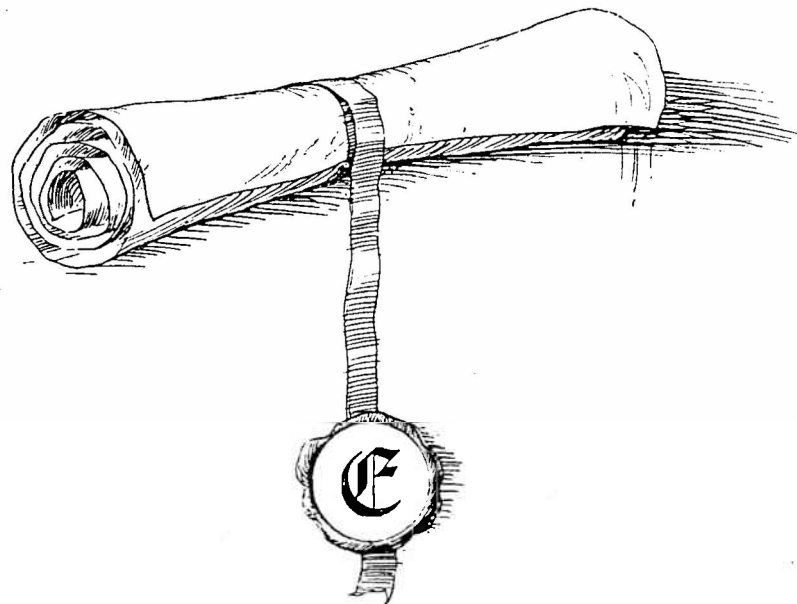
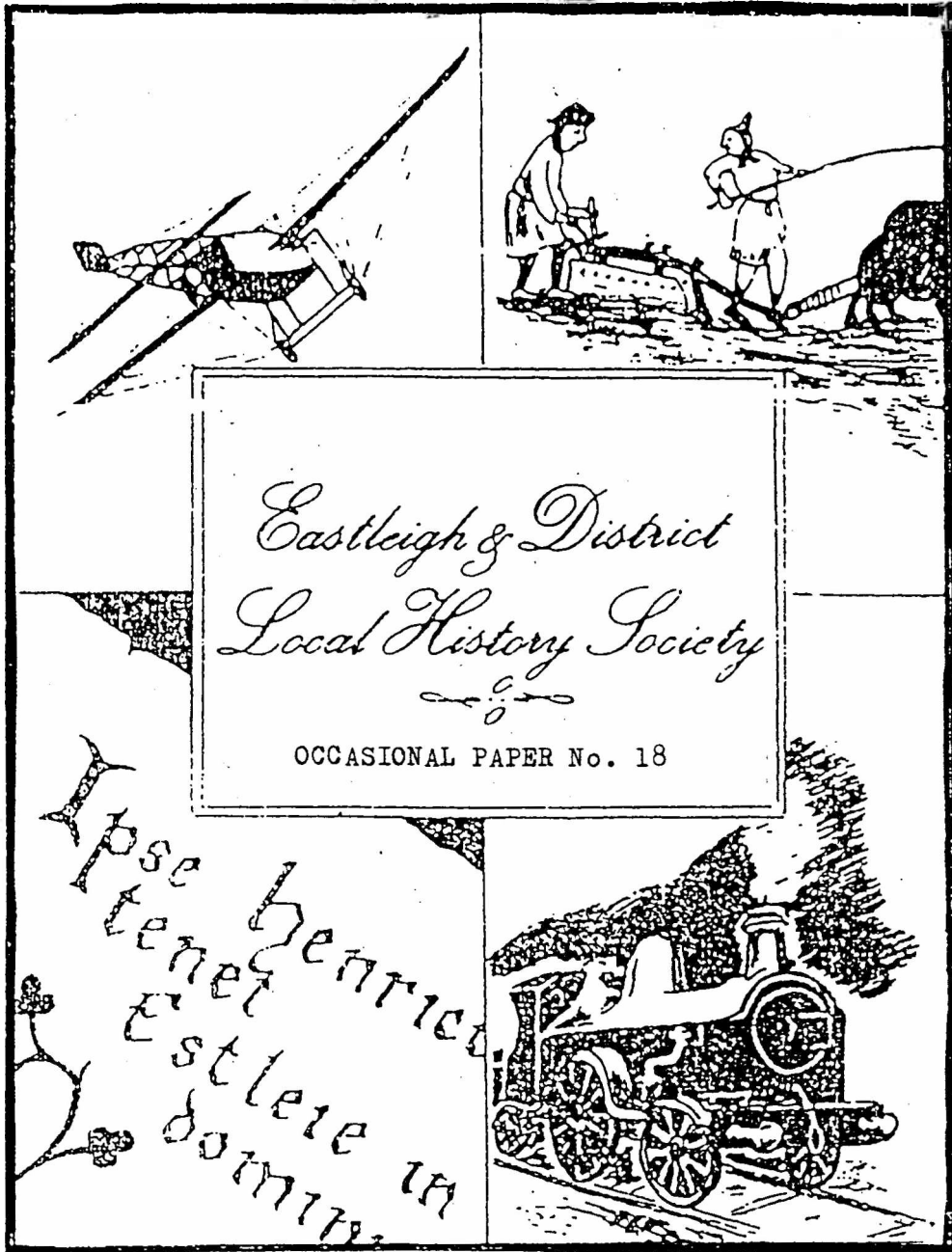


Fifty years of Borough status.





THE FIRST GRANT OF ARMS to Eastleigh was made in 1934. The Crest is made up of a chequered stripe indicating that Eastleigh was a manor held by a Chamberlain of the Royal Exchequer. The three roses superimposed are Hampshire roses. The Bishop's mitre reflects the association with the Bishops of Winchester and Bishopstoke. The lily is of St. Mary, patron of the churches at Bishopstoke and South Stoneham. The rising sun behind the winged wheel and helmet reflect respectively progress and transport, both appropriate associations for the growing town.

A NEW GRANT OF ARMS WAS MADE IN 1974 to reflect the increase in the Borough's area. A chequered stripe across the middle remains to indicate the association with the Royal Chamberlain and the winged wheel indicates the transport association. On each side of the chequered stripe are parallel lines to represent the railway and cable-making interests of the Borough. In addition to the Bishop's mitre showing its connection with the Bishops of Winchester, the shield also contains sheaves of corn and a ship representing the rural nature of the Borough and shipbuilding activities on the Hamble River. Hampshire roses and St. Mary's lilies are incorporated in the helmet.



FIFTY YEARS OF BOROUGH STATUS

The original Petition of the Eastleigh Urban District Council for Incorporation is dated 10th January 1935, and it is addressed to the King's Most Excellent Majesty in Council, the King referred to being George V.

The Petition sets out in the scholarly English of F.W. Cuthbertson, then Clerk of the Urban District Council and subsequently Charter Town Clerk, the reasons of history, geography and achievement upon which Eastleigh's claim to be incorporated as a Municipal Borough was based.

He starts curiously enough with the words:

"Pericles' criterion of womanly excellence and a popular view of individual and social happiness concur in pronouncing fame and history not merely superfluous but undesirable."

Continuing in this vein, he then sets out the arguments for incorporation and concludes:

"YOUR PETITIONERS therefore most humbly pray that Your Majesty may be graciously pleased, in the exercise of Your Royal Prerogative, to grant a Charter of Incorporation creating the Urban District of Eastleigh a Municipal Borough, and to extend to such Borough and the Inhabitants thereof all the powers and provisions of the Municipal Corporations Acts".

And the Common Seal attached is attested by A.H. Quilley, then Chairman of Council, whose name is commemorated in an Eastleigh school, and F.W. Cuthbertson. The Petition is also countersigned by all 21 Members of the Urban District Council, including Charles Arthur Soar, who died recently. It is incredible to think that Councillor Soar, as he then was, had been first elected to the Urban District Council 17 years before the Charter was granted and that he was to serve almost another 40 years before his retirement in 1974.

As we know, the Petition was successful and on 4th August 1936, the Royal Charter was signed by Warrant of His Majesty King Edward VIII. It was handed over to the Charter Mayor, Councillor E.J. Bradshaw, by Lord Mount Temple, Deputy Lieutenant of the County, on behalf of His Majesty on 3rd October, 1936. Part of it reads as follows:

EDWARD THE EIGHTH, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, Ireland
and the British Dominions beyond the Seas King, Defender of
the Faith, Emperor of India.

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting!

WHEREAS the Council of the Urban District of Eastleigh in the
County of Southampton did in the month of January One thousand
nine hundred and thirty-five petition His late Majesty King George
the Fifth for the grant of a Charter of Incorporation under Section
129 of the Local Government Act, 1933 :

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 130 of the Local Government
Act, 1933, such Petition stood referred to a Committee of the Privy
Council and one month at least before the same was taken into
consideration by the said Committee notice thereof and of the
time when the same was to be taken into consideration was duly
published in the *London Gazette* and otherwise as directed by the
Committee :

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 130 (2) of the Local Govern-
ment Act, 1933, notice of the said Petition was given to the
Minister of Health and also to the County Council of the County
of Southampton and the said Committee of Council have considered
such representations as were made by the Minister of Health
and the said County Council together with the Petition for such
Charter :

AND WHEREAS Our Privy Council have recommended Us to grant
a Charter of Incorporation to the Inhabitants of the said Urban
District of Eastleigh :

WE, THEREFORE, as well by virtue of Our Royal Prerogative
as in pursuance of and in accordance with the Local Government
Act, 1933, or any other Acts or Act and of all powers and authori-
ties enabling Us in this behalf by and with the advice of Our
Privy Council do hereby grant order and declare as follows :—

1. The area comprised within the urban district of Eastleigh the
boundaries of which are shown on the deposited map by a firm
black line is hereby created a Municipal Borough by the name of
the " Borough of Eastleigh ".

2. The Inhabitants of the said District and their successors shall
be and are hereby declared to be One Body Politic and Corporate
by the name of " The Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the
Borough of Eastleigh " with perpetual succession and a Common
Seal and may continue to use the Armorial bearings already duly
enrolled in the Heralds' College and may take and hold any lands
tenements and hereditaments which may be vested in them by
any Scheme made under Part VI. of the Act of 1933.



The first Councillors of the Borough were elected on 2nd November 1936 and the first meeting of the Council was held at 7.00 in the evening on 9th November, when the first Mayor and Aldermen were elected. The number of Councillors was 21, the borough being divided into 7 wards, each ward electing 3 Councillors.

The quest for incorporation had been a long one. Discussions about whether incorporation was possible and desirable started as early as 1918 and grew vigorous in the winter of 1919. A Charter of Incorporation Committee was formed and enquiries were made of certain Municipal Boroughs which had recently been incorporated. In January 1920, the Town Clerk of the then new Borough of Bromley was invited to address a Public Meeting in Eastleigh. At that meeting a Resolution was passed unanimously in favour of taking the necessary steps to secure incorporation.

In those days, a Guarantee Fund was necessary, independent of official funds, and this was where the movement foundered. A £500 Fund was instituted, a big sum in 1920, which was thought at the time to be sufficient. After all, Aylesbury had spent less than £200 in achieving Borough status. However, enquiries revealed that Buxton had spent nearly £1,900 and further financial adjustments still had to be made with Derbyshire County. Everyone's enthusiasm apparently waned and the rush towards incorporation halted. Even so, the movement did not die, nor did the Incorporation Committee.

By 1929, Eastleigh was being described as "the most progressive town in Hampshire". A local newspaper article of the time said that Eastleigh had achieved rightful civic pride and saw the future only as an independent authority. In September 1929, there was a Debate in the Town Hall, described at the time as "friendly, not official, for education only". The subject of the Debate was "Should Eastleigh be a Borough?" A press report of the event states: "*In his 16th affirmative argument for the motion the proposer stressed pride of township*". We are told that the only effective negative point was "*progress still possible without incorporation and cocked hats no condition of dignity*". In spite of this latter view, the 16 affirmative arguments prevailed and the movement grew in strength until eventually the requisite Resolutions of the Council were passed at Special Meetings in 1934 and the Petition was finally presented in January 1935.

It is hard to assess the effect of incorporation in tangible terms or even to describe what it meant in legal or functional terms. We know that the Council could now have a Mayor instead of a Chairman; that it could elect Aldermen (now abolished since the 1974 reform of local government); and that it could exercise certain privileges such as creating Freemen. But what else? Really, it was more a matter of civic pride, of status, rather than of function - and that pride continues today.

Nowadays, since the great reorganisation of Local Government in 1974, the powers and functions of all shire districts are more or less the same. But those districts which are Boroughs like Eastleigh still retain their status and privileges, their Mayoralty and their right to grant honorary freedom.

But above all, they retain their sense of civic pride and it is that pride which Eastleigh has demonstrated this year through these 50th Anniversary celebrations. The Charter of 1936 and the efforts of all those who have strived so hard to achieve Borough status are still valued and cherished today. It is in recognition of the value placed upon its Borough status that the Council resolved to hold a special Anniversary Meeting on Thursday 2nd October 1986, during which to confer upon two worthy men, Frank Brown and Dennis Tranah, the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.

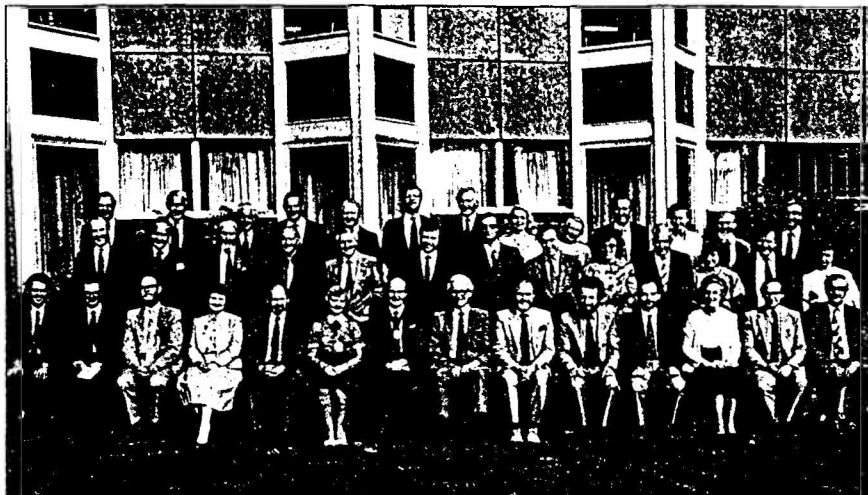
Michael Brainsby

October 1986



THE GRANT OF ARMS TO EASTLEIGH
DATED 16TH JANUARY, 1934

COUNCIL MEMBERS



TOP ROW: *Left to Right*

- 1 P. F. W. Hoadley
- 2 D. A. Felton
- 3 Lt. Cmdr. S. Galley
- 4 R. B. Underdown
- 5 W. J. Pepper
- 6 E. J. Jones
- 7 C. G. Bull
- 8 Mrs. D. S. Challen
- 9 Mrs. C. Duffy
- 10 W. W. W. Martin
- 11 Mrs. D. Wellfare
- 12 P. J. Molyneux
- 13 G. G. Olson

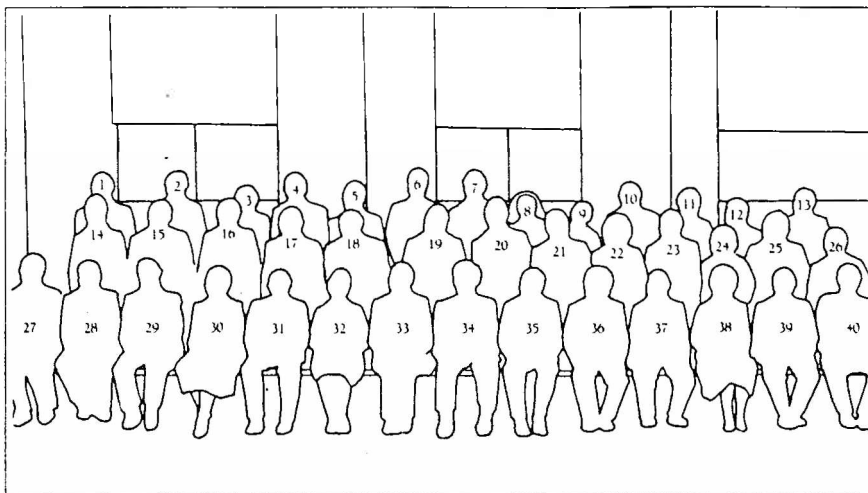
MIDDLE ROW: *Left to Right*

- 14 C. T. H. Amery
- 15 E. C. B. Perry
- 16 M. J. Kyrle
- 17 D. G. S. Petty
- 18 R. D. Newton
- 19 R. J. Knasel
- 20 D. J. A. Airey
- 21 A. Walker
- 22 Mrs. C. M. Fraser
- 23 G. E. Raymond
- 24 Mrs. S. S. M. B. Jessup
- 25 P. Luffman
- 26 Mrs. M. M. Garnett

FRONT ROW: *Left to Right*

- 27 D. Smith (*Director of Housing and Health*)
- 28 R. Read (*Director of Administration*)
- 29 J. Kennedy
- 30 Mrs. M. R. Kyrle
- 31 M. Brainsby (*Chief Executive*)
- 32 Mrs. J. Sanders (*Mayor*)
- 33 P. E. Spearey (*Deputy Mayor*)
- 34 D. Home
- 35 G. J. Smith
- 36 G. B. Fraser
- 37 R. Furnell
- 38 Mrs. J. V. Watson
- 39 P. Argent (*Director of Finance*)
- 40 D. Gosling (*Director of Technical Services*)

Councillors not shown in photograph: Mrs. R. D. Hamilton; M. D. Buckingham; Mrs. B. J. Compton; R. E. Brimecombe; D. G. E. Cox; G. Howe-Piper; W. Irish; E. A. Staton; D. Williams.



SECOND SCHEDULE.

Persons to Retire.	Date of retirement (subject to the provisions of Section 295 of the Local Government Act, 1933).
The first Mayor shall retire on the The Councillor in each Ward who is elected by the smallest number of votes shall go out of office on the	Ninth day of November, 1937.
The Councillor in each Ward who is elected by the next smallest number of votes shall go out of office on the	First day of November, 1937.
The Councillor remaining in each Ward shall go out of office on the	First day of November, 1938.
The first three Aldermen to go out of Office shall be those elected by the smallest number of votes and they shall go out of Office on the	First day of November, 1939.
The remaining four of the Aldermen shall go out of office on the	Ninth day of November, 1939.
	Ninth day of November, 1942.

Note.—If any Councillors in any Ward or any Aldermen have obtained an equal number of votes or have been elected without a poll so that it cannot be determined which of them has the smallest or next smallest number of votes the Councillors or Aldermen who are to go out of office at the times above specified respectively shall be determined by lot by the Mayor or Chairman at the first meeting of the Council of the Borough.

Any such determination by lot of the order of retirement of Councillors shall take place after the election of the first Mayor of the Borough but before the election of the first Aldermen of the Borough.

IN WITNESS whereof WE have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster the *fourth*
day of *August* in the first year of Our Reign.

BY WARRANT under The King's Sign Manual.

Schuster

