



PAUL HOLDEN



**Sutton Coldfield's last Town Clerk from 1960
until its merger into Birmingham in 1974**



(Photo courtesy of John Holden)

Janet Jordan, 2023



Memorabilia of



PAUL HOLDEN

**Sutton Coldfield's last Town Clerk from 1960 until
its merger into Birmingham in 1974**

It seems fitting, as we already have Sutton Coldfield's first Town Clerk featured on this website, that we should now include its last Town Clerk, John Paul Holden (or Paul Holden as he was always known).

In October, John Holden, his son, deposited with the Sutton Coldfield Local History Research Group a collection of photographs that had been gathered together by his father during his term of office, recalling several events with which he was involved.

We are delighted, therefore, to be able to reproduce copies of those photos in the following pages.

You will also see a newspaper cutting about Mr Holden's retirement, which gives a splendid resumé of his career. Interestingly, one reads of his involvement with negotiations for the town centre redevelopment scheme in 1973, sounding very familiar news to us in 2023!

Janet Jordan
Member of Sutton Coldfield Local History Research Group
November, 2023



Remembrance Sunday, 1965, Saluting Base in Anchorage Road
Paul Holden wearing wig.



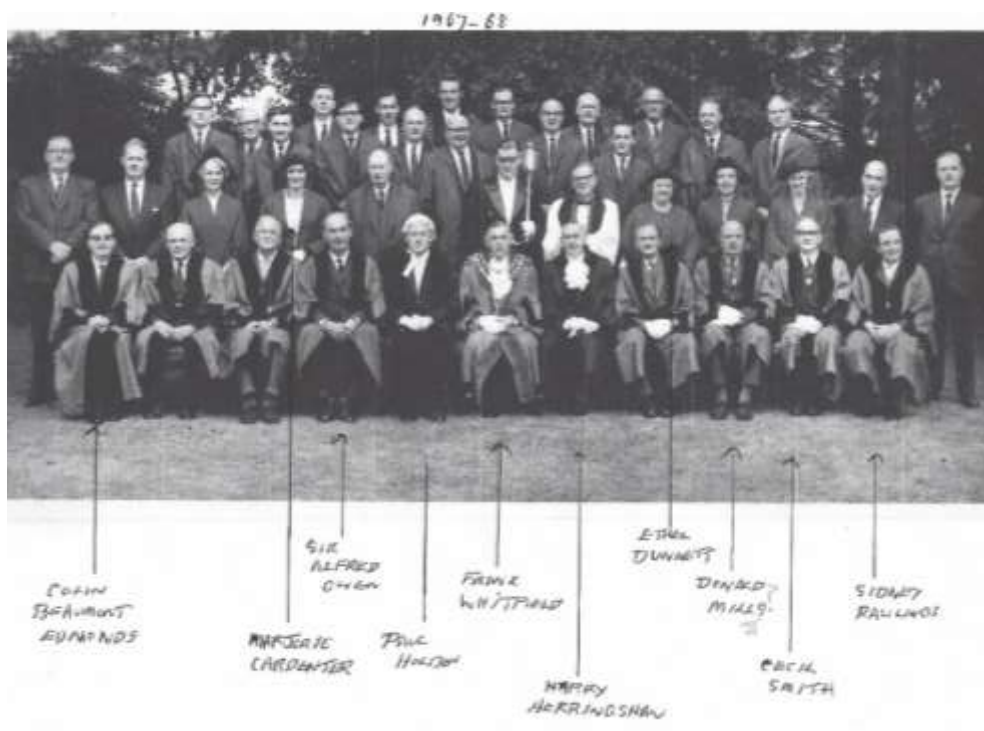
Speech day Boldmere School 1965
Mayor and Mayoress, Paul Holden talking to a pupil
Left to Right: Pupil, Dick Phillips, Blanche Whitfield (Mayoress 1967-68), Bill Simson?
Paul Holden



Royal Show, 1965
L-R: Audrey Rawlings, Paul Holden, Stella Holden, Sidney Rawlings (Mayor 65/66)



1967-68
Town Council (Frank Whitfield, Mayor) 1967-68

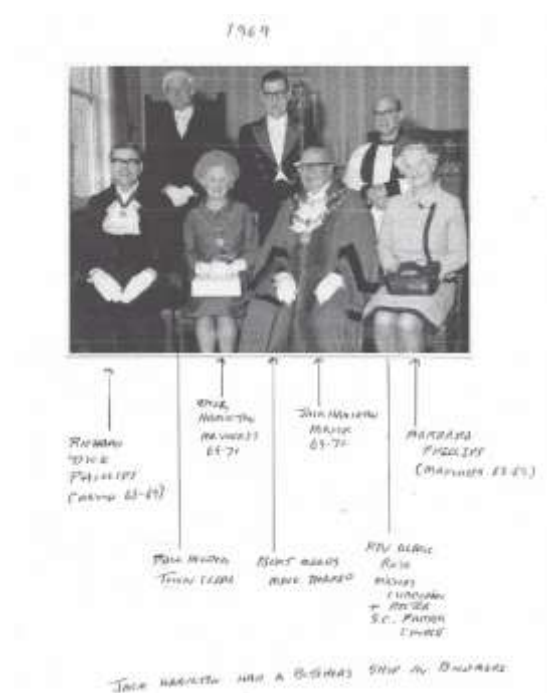


Copy of above photo with some members identified.
"Donald Mills" is thought to be Councillor Smallwood



1969

Left to right: Richard 'Dick' Phillips (Mayor 68-69), Paul Holden (Town Clerk), Doll Hamilton (Mayoress 69-70), Bert Meers (Mace Bearer), Jack Hamilton (Mayor 69-70), Rev Aleric Rose (Mayor's Chaplain & Rector of Sutton Coldfield Parish Church), Barbara Phillips (Mayoress 1968-69)



Copy of above photo with identification.



1969?

Photo in Council Chamber of above mayor (Jack Hamilton) and deputy (Dick Phillips)
- changing over roles? Paul Holden, Town Clerk



1971

(1) HRH Princess Anne visit to Sutton to open Lingard House, 26th May 1971, part of the development of almshouses in Walmley which is run by the then Sutton Coldfield Municipal Trustees (now Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust).



(2) HRH Princess Anne visit to Sutton to open Lingard House, 26th May 1971. Paul Holden, also in the picture, was clerk and solicitor to the Sutton Coldfield Municipal Trustees



(3) HRH Princess Anne visit to Sutton to open Lingard House, 26th May 1971



(4) HRH Princess Anne visit to Sutton to open Lingard House, 26th May 1971

By Order of the Mayor,

J. P. Holden

Town Clerk.

Paul Holden's signature



Town Council, 1972-73



1972 - ST. BREVIN COUNCIL

- 1 RICHARD PHILLIPS
- 2 SIDNEY RAWINGS
- 3 PAUL HODGEN
- 4 ?
- 5 MARJORIE CARPENTER
- 6 ETHEL DUNNETT
- 7 DONALD MILLS
- 8 COLIN BEDFORD - EDMONDS
- 9 FRANK WHITFIELD

Copy of previous photo with identification
 No. 4 is thought to be Donald Mills and No. 7 is Councillor Smallwood



1973?

Photo handing over petition to 'save Sutton' outside Parliament



Copy of previous photo with identification.
The question mark is thought to be Donald Mills.

Sutton Coldfield News: September 21, 1973

Town Clerk retiring

Tributes to his 17 years of service to Sutton



Mr. Holden

Sutton Coldfield's Town Clerk, Mr. John Paul Holden, is to retire on March 31, when the borough amalgamates with Birmingham.

Mr. Holden has been with Sutton Coldfield Borough Council for 17 years, 14 of them as Town Clerk, the last in the council's history.

His letter of intended resignation has been received by Councillor Douglas Hoblyn in his

capacity as chairman of the borough's policy and finance committee.

"One appreciates all the work that Mr. Holden has done for the borough. He took part in the discussions and negotiations for the town centre redevelopment scheme which is now becoming a reality."

He praised the work Mr. Holden had done in his years of service. Mr. Holden is at present

attending the Municipal Corporation Conference in Bournemouth, with the Mayor and Mayoress of Sutton Coldfield, Alderman Donald and County Councillor Mrs. Julia Mills. They return today.

The immediate past Mayor, Alderman Mrs. Marjorie Carpenter, said: "I think that the Town Clerk has always fulfilled his role with dignity, courtesy and professional acumen. I

would like to pay a personal tribute to his help and guidance in procedural matters during my mayoral year."

"Both Mr. and Mrs. Holden accompanied us on many official occasions and helped us to entertain members of the many organisations in the borough and civic dignitaries of other towns. They have both taken an active part in the voluntary work in the town."

Mr. Holden, who is 53, is married and has a 17 years-old son. He lives at Somerville Road, Sutton Coldfield. He was a senior assistant solicitor at Finchley, London, between 1949 and 1953, when he took up the position of deputy Town Clerk at Kidderminster.

In 1956, Mr. Holden came to Sutton Coldfield as deputy Town Clerk and three years later was appointed Town Clerk.

He is also the clerk and solicitor to Sutton Coldfield Municipal Trustees; clerk to Sutton Coldfield Education Committee; a member of North Birmingham and District Hospitals Management Committee and a member of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Management Committee.

Last year, he was elected to the annual office of president of the West Midlands Branch of the Society of Town Clerks.

When interviewed by the "News" for a feature about his work, Mr. Holden said: "I can truthfully say I enjoy every minute of it. I have an excellent council to work for and an excellent town in which to work. I am quite sincere in that."

He explained his feelings about local government: "It is not enough, to my mind, for people to know a decision has been made. I believe they should also know why it has been made."

HOMELESS FAMILY

R.S.P.C.A. Inspector Peter Curran is looking for a home for a stray bitch and her four puppies which were found underneath a foreman's hut at Sutton College of Further Education.

The bitch, a black poodle, has been hanging around the college since Easter and has been fed by students, kitchen staff and workmen.

Now she has had four puppies, two black and two white. Living under the hut, she did not allow people to enter and she snarled at passers-by, said Mr. Curran.

"The poodle was overgrown and her hair was matted, but that is understandable as she has been wild. She was in good condition though a bit hungry."

She allows only Mr. Curran to touch her at the moment, but when the puppies are older she should be friendly. Anyone interested in providing a home for any of the dogs, available in about eight weeks should contact R.S.P.C.A. Headquarters at Barnes Hill, Harborne, telephone 427 8111.



e' dead in bath

Mrs. Gwendoline Chester, of 218, Lichfield Road, a friend of Mr. Maer, said she had known him for two years and considered him to be "a bit of a recluse."

She said that on September 14 she was contacted by Mrs.

"Mr. Maer had locked the door from the inside and left the key in the lock. We managed to gain entry with another key after pushing the other out of the lock."

The Inspector said Mr.

Sutton Coldfield Newspaper Cutting, September 21, 1973