

Honorary Freewoman

Zadie Caudle became the first Honorary Freewoman of Godalming Town and was honoured for her generosity and services to Godalming, its residents and the natural and built environment. This honour was bestowed to her on Thursday 15 March 2019 in the Council Chamber, Godalming

CITATION

Mrs Zadie Caudle has resided in Godalming for many, many years, and along with her late husband Peter, has played an active part in the life of Godalming. The town and villages have gone through many changes, yet the town has retained its identity and inherent history to which Peter and Zadie have contributed in many different ways.

Peter and Zadie, throughout their lives, worked together to preserve the historic heart of the town, not only by ensuring that Church Street's historic buildings are maintained to the highest standard, but also by nurturing new and small independent businesses. As a leading opponent to the demolition of significant parts of Church Street for the construction of a relief road in the 1970's, which led to the creation of the original Town Centre Conservation Area, Zadie has continued to work for the protection of the towns historic character.

Although a private person, who does not seek the limelight, Zadie does have a deep love of Godalming and its people, which through her philanthropic ethos has been of inestimable benefit to local organisations and community groups over the years and with the sad departing of Peter, and despite her loss, Zadie has unstintingly carried on, and built upon this long commitment to 'their' town where they enjoyed their life together. As part of her commitment to the town, Zadie created The Peter Caudle Memorial Trust, which, has supported many town initiatives that have or will provide benefit to the community for many years to come.

These initiatives include –

- the reinstatement of the historical Boarden Bridge; once the only access across the River Wey, which had deteriorated to the point that it had to be closed for public safety (without Zadie's support it is unlikely Boarden Bridge would have ever been restored for public use);
- as one of the last generation with a direct memory of those who fought in the Great War, Zadie supported the dedication of the 'New' 'Godalming War Memorial, which for the first time commemorates all those from the town who died in 20th century conflicts;
- beautification of the town centre by being instrumental in the creation and design of Floral Godalming and providing the required infrastructure to launch the scheme;
- supporting the patient reception area of the Mill Medical practice;
- supporting The Burys Scout HQ to create an outside learning centre;
- supporting the internal refurbishment of the historic and iconic Pepperpot.
- supporting improvements to the communal facilities at Broadwater Park Community Centre;
- providing a public bench for people to enjoy the beauty of Church Street and heritage bollards to protect the listed iron stones;
- the provision of a state of the art kitchen in the newly refurbished Wilfred Noyce Centre and retractable tiered seating, which now provides a much sought after and popular modern community facility;
- supporting the renovation of the Cellar Café.

Zadie's love of the town, in which she met and married her husband, shines out in every conversation and she has, by her actions, kept Peter's memory alive and does so with such grace.

Zadie Caudle has more than demonstrated, through her actions, her outstanding commitment to the wellbeing of the town and its residents, and has without doubt, made an exceptional personal contribution to the promotion, achievement and delivery of community services.

Zadie Caudle should be honoured by the Town in her own right, though of course any honour, and Zadie would want it thus, will also encompass the memory of her beloved husband, Peter Caudle.

Accordingly, this nomination is commended for the consideration of the Council that Zadie Caudle be given the freedom of the town. That she be granted the honour of being awarded the **Honorary Freewoman of the Town** for her generosity and services to Godalming, its residents, and the natural and built environment.”