

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

### **MR ALAN BOTT OBE, THIRD FREEMAN OF GODALMING**

On Sunday, 22 September, Mr Alan Bott OBE became only the third person to receive the freedom of Godalming and the title of Honorary Freeman of Godalming Town; he was presented with his award by the Mayor of Godalming, Cllr Paul Rivers at a ceremony at Godalming Museum.

Godalming owes a great debt of gratitude to those who in the early 1980's had a vision for the town's quite "inadequate and unsuitable" existing museum, which was located in The Pepperpot, for it to become a focal point to promote the enjoyment and understanding of the heritage of the town and to support and encourage lifelong learning.

The Godalming Museum Trust was established to bring this vision to life. With his extensive knowledge and enthusiasm for the town's history, Alan Bott was ideally suited to be recruited as one of the initial trustees of the newly formed Godalming Museum Trust.

Whilst along the way there have been many supporters of the Museum, few, if any, have been as dedicated and determined as Alan. For 40 years, 30 of which he has served as the Chair of Trustees, Alan has been instrumental in creating the environment and ethos in which the museum and those who support it could flourish. Alan has been pivotal in securing the future of Godalming Museum, its collections and its place as a centre of learning within the community.

Through his work with the Godalming Museum Trust, and as an author of many books and pamphlets detailing the history of the area, Alan has made a truly outstanding contribution to the cultural life of our community. Alan has without doubt, made an exceptional personal contribution to the promotion of the Museum and the history of the Town with his generosity of skills, knowledge, and support to Godalming Museum for the benefit of past, present, and future Godhelmians. To read Alan Bott's citation in full, please visit <https://godalming-tc.gov.uk/honorary-freeman-woman-scheme/#mralanbottobehonoraryfreemanofgodalming>

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For more information on this release or images, please contact: Suzie Gortler

Email: [community@godalming-tc.gov.uk](mailto:community@godalming-tc.gov.uk)

Tel: 01483 523075

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