

It's great being a Mayor!

By **Lola Aroun**

FOR a start you get to wear some big expensive heavy gold jewellery (yes I have been informed that it is real gold - I wonder if you get to keep it though?). I am at the Wembley Plaza Hotel in Wembley North West London and in the company of the Worshipful Mayor of the London Borough of Brent Joyce Bacchus MBE, JP. Joyce who is in her mid fifties has been the Deputy Mayor since last year. 'It's a very, very busy life. Everyday there is a different function that I have to attend. I open shops and stores, attend churches etc. Last night I was at the Naverati Festival, I visited 3 schools in Brent and also the Town Hall but tonight I'm at the Plaza for an art exhibition and Shelly Crawford's 'Big Girls Have Fun Too' event. People seem to think that being a Mayor is easy but it is not. For those who have their hearts set on becoming a Mayor they will have to become a Councillor of a borough and after successfully serving time in that position there is an election where you can be voted



Councillor Heather Johnson and Sister Christina Peters

in as Mayor. I was voted Mayor unanimously, there was no objection to me being Mayor. I love working for the people of Brent and received an MBE from the Queen on February 9th for the work that I have done

for the people of Brent and I will continue to work for the people of Brent' stated the Mayor. Councillor Heather Johnson, the Mayor

of Camden also met with Enterprise. The Mayor aged 48 stated 'I'm probably quite unusual in terms of being a Mayor because I am also working in a paid job as well. I work part time for a Law project so some days I may have to get up to perform a mayoral function and other times to go to work and then go from there on to a function. The functions that you carry out as Mayor can be anything from meeting school children at assembly, going to a fete or gala dinner, local theatre performances, church services, all sorts of different things. We have a charity committee because we have a charity that we are raising money for so we

organise charity events and have charity committee meetings. Other times I am dodging backwards and forwards from my office carrying out casework for the Law project that I work for. Also as Councillor I still have council responsibilities. The question was biting for a while now so I asked her if the job is paid. 'As Mayor I get an allowance which enables me to be able to work part time because I rely on my own income and if I did not have an allowance it would be very difficult. The allowance would not be enough to allow

me to work full time as a Mayor which I would love to do'

Councillor Heather Johnson the Worshipful Mayor of Camden & her sister Christine Peters in her honorary post of Mayoress of Camden.



Joyce Bacchus MBE,JP

Race leader honoured

HE has worked tirelessly in the community for a considerable period now and his efforts has not before long been recognised with a top award.

Maxie Hayles, who has been pro active in the community since 1986, was a winner of the actier Community Award 2000 star studded gala dinner held at the Millennium Dome.

Celebrities like Sir Cliff Richard and boxer Nigel Benn were present at the day long event which had speakers, including Prime Minister, Tony Blair and US Gulf War Hero Colin Powell singing the unreserved praises of all the award winners at the spectacular ceremony.

Maxie, Chair of B.R.A.M.U [Birmingham racial Attack Monitoring Unit] Received the award for 'Bulldozing a fair and just community.

He is committed to the regeneration of this community.

And is presently working on the regeneration Network in the borough of Sandwell in the West Midlands.

He is, probably, best known for the high profile Alton Manning Justice campaign, against deaths in Police and prison custody and her has made a remarkable contribution to the community and made a significant change to the lives of the people he serves.



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