

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CITY COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

8 JULY 2013

MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR CHAPMAN

To consider motion in the name of Councillor Chapman:

“That Sir Peter Mansfield, being a person of distinction within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972, be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the City of Nottingham.

That Dr Stewart Adams, being a person of distinction within the meaning of the Local Government Act 1972, be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the City of Nottingham.

That Certificates of Admission, in suitable caskets, be presented to Sir Peter Mansfield and Dr Stewart Adams at a presentation ceremony immediately after the appointment on 8 July 2013.”

Sir Peter Mansfield

Sir Peter Mansfield obtained his first degree in Physics and his PhD in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance at Queen Mary College, University of London. His supervisor was Professor J G Powles who went on to be the Foundation Professor of Physics at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

After his PhD Sir Peter went to the University of Illinois at Urbana, USA, to work with Professor C P Slichter on NMR in metals. Following a two year sojourn in the states he returned to England to work in the Physics Department at the University of Nottingham. He took a one year sabbatical leave in 1972-3 to work with Professor Karl Hausser at the Institut für Medicinische Forschung in Heidelberg. Sir Peter was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2003.

Dr Stewart Adams OBE

Stewart Adams was born in Byfield (Northants) the son of a railwayman and educated at Doncaster and March (Cambs) Grammar Schools. He left the latter aged 16 to begin a three year pharmacy apprenticeship at the March branch of Boots The Chemists. At the end of that period he decided to leave retail and pursue a scientific career and, with the aid of a Boots' scholarship, he went to University College Nottingham where he gained a B Pharm degree. He re-joined Boots to work on penicillin (these were early days for penicillin) and then moved to the Research Department. Later, in 1952, on a Pharmaceutical Society Scholarship he was awarded a PhD in Pharmacology at Leeds University.

Returning to Boots' Research Department he started work on a Rheumatoid Arthritis project. Cortisone-like drugs were effective at that time but with potential side effects and Adams decided to look for safer compounds that were not corticosteroids: he was one of the first workers in this field. The project was a difficult one and the problems were exacerbated by the fact that Adams' laboratory was the front room of a Victorian house on the outskirts of Nottingham (part of the Research Department had been destroyed in the war). Nevertheless, starting with one technician, he worked there for seven very productive years during which, in co-operation with chemist J S Nicholson, the first active compounds that eventually led to ibuprofen were discovered.

On moving to new laboratories in Pennyfoot Street in 1960, the project expanded with many more scientists contributing and Dr Adams became the Project Leader. But success did not come easily and the first four compounds that went to clinical trial failed before the fifth, ibuprofen, was successful.

In 1969 it was launched as a prescription drug for the treatment of the rheumatic diseases – 16 years after the project started.

Further clinical studies proved ibuprofen was effective in many forms of pain and because of its good safety record it was approved in 1983 for general pharmacy sale for relief of mild to moderate pain – 30 years after the project started.

In 1987, Stewart Adams was appointed OBE.