

To consider motion: -

That Alan Sillitoe, 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 a Certificate of Admission, in a suitable casket, be presented to Alan Sillitoe at a presentation ceremony immediately after the appointment on 6 June 2008.

Councillor Jon Collins

Alan Sillitoe

Born at 38 Manton Crescent, Lenton Abbey Estate, Nottingham on 4th March 1928. His father, Christopher Sillitoe, was an unemployed labourer, and mother was a blacksmith's daughter

Alan's first school was on Canal Street. Later he went to Forster Street School, Radford and then to Radford Boulevard School, until the age of fourteen, when he went to work at the Raleigh Cycle Works in 1942.

Later that year Alan joined the Air Training Corps, a wartime cadet organisation, 209 Squadron, whose headquarters were at Whitemoor School. He enlisted at seventeen into the Fleet Air Arm, and passed the aptitude tests of the aircrew selection board to be trained as a pilot.

When the war ended he remustered into the Royal Air Force and trained to be a wireless operator. Alan then went to Malaya on active service for two years. When he came back for demobilisation he was found to have tuberculosis. He left the RAF in December 1949, and decided to become a writer.

Alan lived in France and Spain on a pension, and in 1958 his first novel was published: *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*; followed the next year with a book of stories: *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner*.

Since then he has written some forty books, half of which have been set in Nottingham and four titles have been made into films. In 1962 he was awarded the Hawthornden Prize for Literature. He is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and has a degree from Manchester Polytechnic (1976) as well as one from Nottingham Trent University, De Montfort University, Leicester and the University of Nottingham.