



**Mrs Hilary Russell
The Lady Mayoress 2019-2020**

Hilary Russell (nee Chaplin) is married to Alderman William Russell, who took office as the 692nd Lord Mayor of London on 8th November 2019.

Hilary was born in Cambridge where she was educated until the age of 11 years old. She then went on to Wycombe Abbey School before reading Natural Sciences at Durham University. She specialized in Zoology with her final year spent studying Entomology.

After university Hilary moved to London to join the Press and Marketing Office of Andry Montgomery Ltd, an exhibition organizing company. During this period Hilary spent a year at the Victoria and Albert Museum studying 19th and 20th Century Art.

Hilary and William have lived in Hong Kong and New York, having been posted there by Merrill Lynch. Whilst in Hong Kong Hilary ran a small business importing Halcyon Days Enamel boxes and Limoges porcelain.

Hilary is currently a Trustee of Best Beginnings, a Heads Together charity, which works to give every child in the UK the best start in life. She is an Ambassador for Bees for Development and a Launch Ambassador for Blue Smile, a Cambridge-based charity supporting children in primary schools through early intervention and arts-based therapy. Hilary has an active interest in the prison and probation service and the rehabilitation of offenders, also serving on the Advisory Council of the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund based at the Old Bailey. Like the Lord Mayor she is a member of the Campaign Board for Durham Inspired, a landmark philanthropic campaign focused on ensuring Durham remains at the forefront of learning, research and education for generations to come. Hilary has also been actively involved in fundraising for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Music in Hospitals.

The Russells' family home is in Cambridgeshire with their four children, Edward (27), Nicholas (24), Alistair (22) and Helena (17) – when they are at home from university and school. Four dogs, two goats and a variety of chickens complete the home farm.

Hilary is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Farmers where she helps on the Fellowship and Communications Committee. Hilary is a beekeeper with a keen interest in biodiversity and the environment. She enjoys playing tennis, garden design and walking.

November 2019