



Walsall Council

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall to be held on **THURSDAY 30TH day of JANUARY, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.** at the Council House, Walsall.

Dated this 22nd day of January, 2014.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Executive.

The business to be transacted is as follows:

1. To elect a person to preside if the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are not present.
2. Apologies.
3. Mayor's announcements; to extend a welcome to visitors.
4. To agree the following motion:

"That in pursuance of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act, 1972, in grateful recognition of the eminent service he has rendered to Paediatrics and Child Health in Walsall for over thirty years, this Council do hereby admit **Professor Abdul Rashid Gatrad OBE** to be **Honorary Freeman of the Borough**.

Following confirmation of the said motion by Council, the Roll of Freeman will be signed by Professor Abdul Rashid Gatrad OBE and witnessed by the Mayor and Chief Executive.

The Mayor and Chief Executive will sign the illuminated scroll of **Professor Abdul Rashid Gatrad OBE**.

Professor Gatrad will have the opportunity to reply after which the Mayor will present him with a silver casket containing the illuminated scroll recording his admission as Honorary Freeman of the Borough and a bouquet will be presented to Mrs. Gatrad.

The Mayor will declare the meeting of the Council and presentation ceremony closed.

Members, their guests and other visitors present in the Chamber are asked to remain in their seats whilst the Mayor and Professor Abdul Rashid Gatrad OBE leave the Chamber.

There will be a buffet reception in the Town Hall.



Professor A Rashid Gatrad OBE

Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health - University of
Kentucky (USA) and University of Wolverhampton (Hon)
Consultant Paediatrician - Manor Hospital, Walsall
Hon Senior Lecturer - University of Birmingham

Professor Abdul Rashid Gatrad was born in Blantyre Malawi, Africa and went to a Gujarati school until his father helped to establish the first English school in Nyasaland (Malawi) in 1951. As a young boy Rashid was the first Asian 'cub' scout and was presented to Lady Baden Powell, the wife of founder of the Scout movement, at a Scout Jamboree.

At the age of 11, he sat a scholarship exam to go to Rhodesia where he completed his secondary education before attending Harrow College to complete his 'A' levels and then Leeds University as a Medical Student in 1966. Rashid graduated with Honours in Anatomy in 1971 and continued his training at Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield. It is here that he met Valerie, a staff Nurse, who he subsequently married in 1975.

Professor Gatrad's training as a Junior Doctor was at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and the renowned Perinatal Centre at St Mary's Hospital in Manchester. In 1977 he took a sabbatical and worked at the Mlambe Catholic Mission in Lunzu, Malawi. As he had anticipated being the only Doctor there, he trained himself in common surgical procedures such as caesarean sections, dealing with ectopic pregnancies, anaesthetics and some orthopaedic procedures. Rashid returned to the UK in 1979 and completed his Senior Registrar training in 1982. He had spent eight years as a Registrar and Senior Registrar, working for two years in Paediatric Cardiology. He took up the post of Consultant Paediatrician at the Manor Hospital in 1983 and during his 30 years there has been a Clinical Director for Paediatric Services and Post Graduate Tutor for the West Midlands Deanery.

His appointment at Walsall was to help build the Newborn Unit and decrease the number of babies dying during/after birth. Death in newborn babies (neonatal mortality) was approximately eighteen per thousand when he took up his post, which he was able to bring down to single figures in 5 years - best in the Midlands. He was instrumental in convincing the Health Authority and in particular Sir Arthur Hill to provide intensive care through ventilation of new born babies in the 1980's, in addition to raising funds for nursing staff to attend special courses to support this innovation. Rashid successfully bid for the purchase of equipment for safe transfer of ill babies and was instrumental in raising funds for the purchase of the first MRI Scanner in Walsall. For his work and improving access to all children, by providing one of the first Paediatric Assessment Units in the UK, he was commended by the then Secretary of State Frank Dobson and was subsequently awarded his first National Clinical Excellence Award (Bronze) in 2006.

During the early 1990's, Rashid worked with his very good friend and mentor the late Mr Yusuf Patel on Milton Street Mosque and Community Centre which was completed in 1994. It was the late Mr Patel, who with various others including MP's and local councillors, put his name forward for the Queen to award him with an OBE which he received in 2002 – this was for his work in improving access for all children and in particular addressing issues relating to paediatric services for minority ethnic groups in the West Midlands.

In 1996, Rashid met up with Aziz Sheikh (later professor) who was a Registrar in Paediatrics at Imperial College. They struck up a friendship which has resulted in groundbreaking international publications varying from 'how to deal with crying babies' to 'the provision of chaplaincy services in hospitals'. Rashid has also co-authored two books with Professor Sheikh and published over fifty articles in professional journals.

His main achievements are briefly outlined below:

Local

- In thirty years he has undertaken a number of research projects starting with the 'study' of levels of lead in the blood of children from various areas of the borough of Walsall. This research confirmed that despite different housing and socio-economic disadvantage there was no overall difference. He was then involved in the multi centre study of Hepatitis B vaccine which became the benchmark for the first national schedule of how much and how often the vaccine should be administered. He was instrumental in establishing the 'hearing service' at the Manor Hospital for children after birth, whilst his work on reducing outpatient non attendance was undertaken with local community groups in the 1990's and was commended by the Department of Health, who invited him to London to present his findings.
- Later in 1996, as Clinical Director (Head of Paediatrics) he put into practice the clinical governance principals of risk management, auditing and continuous medical education which were emulated by other departments within the hospital.
- He was Head of Child Protection for six years until 1998 and working with the Asian community and local mosques he advised the Child Protection Board of his findings and went on to publish the paper 'Child Protection in Madrassas' which has been a template for dealing with vulnerable children in religious institutions from different communities.
- He has been instrumental in facilitating Link workers to improve accessibility and acceptability for non English speaking patients.
- Whilst full time employed with 'on call' duties at night and a young family, he completed a Doctorate in Philosophy in 4 years from the University of Wolverhampton on 'growth of children from different communities in Walsall' and is now recognised as an expert in transcultural medicine. His booklet with Lord Hunt and others for Medicine Partnership on alternatives for gelatine containing medicines (being of relevance to some religious groups) has been an excellent guide for pharmacists and health professionals.
- Other cities are emulating the establishment of a blood donor/bone marrow Registration Centre for Minority Groups at weekends following his work with the National Blood Transfusion Service and the Anthony Nolan Trust.
- Rashid has successfully raised money for computers and established a library at Mayfield Preparatory School in Walsall, as well as being a past Governor there for three years.
- In May 2013 the incoming Mayor, Councillor M. Nazir invited him to help raise money for his charity appeal. Within 6 months he almost singlehandedly raised over £42,000 and broke the record for the highest amount of money raised by any mayor in the history of Walsall.

National

- He has appeared on many television programmes (particularly 'Gharbar' on BBC2) which educated ethnic minorities in how to deal with certain medical conditions and the appropriate use of the health service.
- He was invited to meet Princess Diana when she was Patron of the Rubella Society to present the video he had worked on about Rubella (German Measles). This video has been translated into a number of languages, as was his production for the Department of Health on 'Normal and Abnormal Development in Children' and dangers of 'Surma' an eye makeup which housed dangerous levels of lead.
- Whilst Senior Postgraduate Examiner for the Royal College of Paediatrics, in 1995 he co-authored the document 'Withholding and Withdrawing Care' for the Ethics Committee which became a gold standard in all UK Paediatric Units. He also responded on behalf of the College to a consultative document on modernising hospital chaplaincy services.
- His leaflet on Health at Hajj (pilgrimage) in 2012 is now used nationally and has been endorsed by the Royal College of General Practitioners and Royal Pharmaceutical Society.
- He has served on the editorial board of international journals such as 'Archives of Disease in Childhood' – a sister journal to the British Medical Journal.
- He has co-authored over fifty papers in review journals such as The Lancet and the British Medical Journal (on areas as far reaching as protecting children from the effects of hookah smoking, knowledge of end of life issues, birth customs, palliative care, etc).
- He has been president of the Midland Paediatric Society which represents all Paediatricians in the West Midlands.
- Whilst Postgraduate Tutor he was responsible for all Doctors' education at the Manor Hospital and he amalgamated training of all medical and nursing staff and got it all under one roof. The Learning Centre for Doctors, Nurses and other health professionals is a legacy of his work and with the level of clinical care he provided for children (<https://www.iwantgreatcare.org/doctors/prof-rashid-gatrad>), he received his second National Clinical Excellence Award (Silver).
- In 1998 he formed the Palliative Care Group for the West Midlands with a view to completing an authoritative book on palliative care needs for South Asians - Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. In 2000 his book on 'Palliative Care for South Asians' was launched and explored this important yet often neglected area.
- His second book 'Caring for Muslim Patients' provides healthcare professionals with an insider's feel for the health needs of Britain's religious minority and it has been recommended that this work be incorporated into the British Medical curriculum. A Spanish edition has been published and an international version is currently being prepared. HRH the Prince of Wales kindly provided the 'Foreword' to this book which was launched to high acclaim, as happened with his previous book, in the House of Lords.

- He was approached by the University of Kentucky to teach their Undergraduate Students in Walsall and in 1999 was appointed Professor of Paediatrics and recognised with an award of merit and selected as International Clinical Tutor of the Year 2000.

International

- He has been on three international editorial committees and as a result of his special interests, he is sought after to lecture.
- He built an orphanage in 1998 by converting a large derelict building owned by his family and has amalgamated it with another in North West India - now 1200 children are looked after. Every year he raises over £25,000 to support these children with food, board and education. Three workshops have been recently built and will ensure further vocational training in sewing for the girls and carpentry for the boys.
- The Nutrition Fund for orphans of AIDS victims in Malawi was established by Rashid in the 1980's and continues with his support through the Mlambe Catholic Mission Hospital. He has in the past twinned the Manor Hospital in Walsall with Tobateksing in the Punjab and sent discarded but operational medical equipment there and now to other parts of the world through International Hospital Relief, a UK registered charity.
- Through Dr Walji in Birmingham he gives free medical advice to children in various parts of the world and arranges appropriate treatment in the UK. Even after he was awarded the prestigious Paul Harris Fellowship from Rotary International in 1990 he continues to support the Polio Eradication Programme.
- After working with Midland International Aid Trust for a number of years he was invited to become Patron in 2007 and later its Chief Executive. Both he and Mohammad Aslam MBE had worked together since 1991 when humanitarian aid was needed for Bosnia and Kosovo. With strategic planning and fund raising, this organisation now boasts work throughout the world (15 countries) with its most well known projects being cleft lip/palate operations, cataract and heart operations for third world countries. Rashid has established a Breast Care Clinic and Limb Reconstruction Centre in Gujarat and is building a Maternity Hospital and a New Born baby Unit. All these projects are underpinned by regular travel of health professionals from the US, UK and N Ireland.
- In 2010 he undertook two of his most challenging projects in South Africa with the help of the Islamic Medical Association of South Africa – the 'have a heart' and 'let me see'. Dr De Giovanni, an eminent Paediatric Cardiologist, travelled to South Africa and operated on twenty two African children who would have otherwise died. In the process many local Cardiologists were trained in the procedures.
- In 2009 Rashid was made a Professor at the University of Wolverhampton and in 2010 he was invited to join a national experts group to help decrease the burden of meningococcal disease (meningitis) particularly for travellers. This work is a collaboration with the Department of Health and the Meningitis Trust.

A very keen tennis player and a cricketer who has played international cricket whilst in Zimbabwe, Rashid and Valerie have two children – Sabina and Adam.