



**Servant to the community:** David Chandler

# Council clerk retires after 18-year service

**THE clerk of Bradley Stoke Town Council has retired after 18 years serving his community.**

David Chandler was signing off today and looking forward to enjoying the future with his wife Karen, and his music.

Mr Chandler, 65, was elected as the first town clerk when the council formed in 1992.

"I have mixed feelings at the moment," he told the *Evening Post*. "It's the first time, really, that I've left a job without a job to go into."

"I'm rather assuming the next couple of weeks will feel like a holiday and then I'll see what happens next."

"Above all, I'll miss the staff here and the people."

"I'd like to thank the staff who have been with me all these years for their loyalty, their capability, their friendship and their humour."

"I shall miss the councillors too. They've been a good bunch to work with and I can't say we've had many set-tos."

"The whole point of a council is to serve its residents. When the council was formed there were only a few thousand people in Bradley Stoke, now there are about 20,000. To be part of that development as a community has been a great privilege."

## Organ recitals and time with wife on David's new agenda

**Daniel Evans**  
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The classical organist is filling his post-work diary with recitals and weddings at Almondsbury Parish Church, as he looks to spend more time indulging in his passion.

Having learned to play the organ at Bristol Cathedral School, he went to Winchester College to study English and Music, playing at the cathedral there.

Before returning to South Gloucestershire and joining the council, the grandfather-of-one was secretary of the Incorporated Society of Musicians in London.

Mr Chandler, of Apsleys Mead, Bradley Stoke, said his highlight of the calendar is the community festival, which has become a major event for the town.

"To help a lot of the groups in the community has been a really great experience because we've provided no

end of facilities over the years," he added.

Mr Chandler's last meeting as clerk was the Youth Committee on Monday, but he has been asked by councillors to be present at the next full meeting on Wednesday.

But will he return as an interested member of the public, or as a councillor one day?

"I'm going to have a break, a sabbatical," he said. "Everyone's got to make a break at some point and allow your successor to grab the reins."

That successor, the new clerk, is Sharon Petela, who started on January 4.

Bradley Stoke town mayor Mark Forsyth said that Mr Chandler left with the best wishes of all councillors and staff.

He said: "David has served the council and the community with distinction, dedication and good humour."

For more information on Bradley Stoke Town Council visit [www.bradleystoke.gov.uk](http://www.bradleystoke.gov.uk).

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