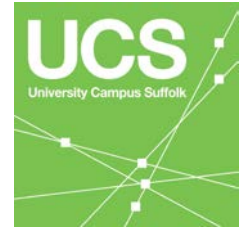


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PRESS RELEASE

UCS Fine Art student has brush with the Mayor

When UCS student Steve Shiells was asked to collaborate with an outside agency as part of his BA (Hons) Fine Art studies, he decided to go straight to the top.

As part of the Professional Practice module, students were tasked with producing a piece of artwork for an external partner on a commercial basis, and mature student Steve decided to approach the outgoing Mayor of Ipswich, Cllr Hamil Clarke, with a proposal to paint his portrait to commemorate the end of his term in office.

Steve has long had a passion for drawing and painting life, which led him to preferring portraiture for this collaboration, and when he heard of the proposal Cllr Clarke was happy to oblige.



The portrait, painted in oil on canvas, has been created in a contemporary style and is different to the traditional images of the Mayor that are often seen. This more relaxed image perfectly captures the end of Cllr Clarke's term of office.

"On meeting the Mayor, I explained that my desire was to paint something contemporary and different to the traditional formal image," said Steve. "I wanted to capture the man leaving his robes behind and he was very positive in accepting my ideas."

Cllr Clarke, who is now Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year, said: "I was a little apprehensive about seeing myself captured in portrait form but I was delighted to see the result. Steve has captured a relaxed looking me – and that is exactly what I am ... most of the time!"

The final painting, which was produced in oil and acrylic on canvas from a series of photographs, was unveiled recently at a special session with the Mayor.