

The Chain That Bears

*Pulchritudo et Salubritas**

The chain that bears the badge helps make the mayor
Custodian of a passing heritage,
Faceless yet familiar; who would wear
It wears the best intentions of the age.

The chain that bears the badge is heavier
Than one man or woman's cares, a prestige
That honours many, graven reminder
Such shared responsibility takes courage

And that the one who would be leader leads
With truth, from sense of fairness, for the needs
Of all in the town that she or he serves,

And serves not self, 'success', nor fear, nor wealth
But acts from compassion held in great reserves,
Appreciating beauty, cherishing health.

James Manlow

Poet Laureate for Bournemouth

A poem written for and read at Bournemouth's Mayor-Making ceremony 2015.

**Translated into English from the latin, Pulchritudo et Salubritas means 'beauty and health'.
The motto appears on Bournemouth's Coat of Arms, along with the crest made up of four
English roses surmounted by a pine tree.*