

Peoples' Mayor

for Jack Blalock

Sweet Portsmouth opens wide her doorways,
Embraces with welcome arms her new mayor.
In kindness may we all proceed, refreshed,
As the new year brings in this crisp air!

Consensus is both the word and the goal.
True leaders listen, idea-driven,
Speak up freely, agree to disagree,
Guide all decisions with a clear wisdom.

Our lovely brick Portsmouth, sown by the sea,
Emerges always historic and direct.
With her intrinsic charm, inherent traits,
She forever garners widespread respect.

So blessings be on this inauguration,
On our community, artistically rare,
Appreciation to this city council,
And Glad Tidings towards our peoples' new mayor.

Kate Leigh
10th Poet Laureate of Portsmouth