



Annual Mayor Making and Town Council Meeting

15 May 2023

2022-23 Mayor's Awards

Awards are to be presented as follows. Please note that details are printed as supplied.

Mayor's awards

Hilary Beale

Hilary is making a huge difference to the community in around Abingdon, having served as a volunteer for decades in various capacities with local groups. In particular, Hilary has volunteered with Abingdon Foodbank since its inception in 2009, giving a major part of each week to supporting its work. Hilary became Chair of the six-person strong Management Group. She grew a substantial network of 40 volunteers which enabled the work of the Foodbank to flourish. Under her leadership the Foodbank expanded steadily to meet growing local need; in the last year over 950 three-day emergency food parcels were given to people in crisis. In December the Foodbank gave out 250 Christmas Hampers to those in need. So, Hilary helped make a real difference to people facing significant levels of poverty and distress.

Under her oversight Abingdon Foodbank has a good standing in the local community, resulting in generous support from the locality, with food, finances, and volunteers. Nearly all clients are referred through a network of local agencies, community groups and medical practices. So, Hilary helped to engender and release a truly local collaborative effort.

Hilary led Foodbank through a process of joining the Trussell Trust, which brings the advantage of ensuring governance is to the best national standards, and the Foodbank can now be part of a wider network seeking to address the root causes of food poverty. She enabled the Foodbank to continue to operate during the covid lockdown, when client numbers grew by a third; she oversaw the introduction of covid safe working policies, and the move to new, larger premises. She also successfully oversaw the appointment of a paid Coordinator, and the introduction of a listening resource for Foodbank Clients.

Hilary has also spent many years as a key volunteer in the Girlguiding movement. Generations of girls in Abingdon and beyond have benefitted from the hard work that she has put in to show them just how much they can achieve and how far they can go.

John Killick

We wish to acknowledge John Killick, a regular attendee at Town Council committees and town events alongside his expertise in the field of botany and biodiversity.

As a professional botanist, John has given huge amounts of his free time and energy to both chronicling the flora of Oxfordshire and actively promoting biodiversity. Soon after moving to Oxfordshire in 1978, he started systematically recording plants for a "Botanical Society of the British Isles" study, and two years later was asked to become the County Recorder, a role which entailed receiving and collating records from botanists across the County. A retirement hobby saw John spend eight years turning the many card-based records into a book - "The Flora of Oxfordshire" - which was published in 1998, is still in print, and is the definitive guide to the County's flora.

John has also been active in and around Abingdon for many years, gathering data about the flora and fauna in Drayton, writing a chapter in the "Celebrating 150 years of Albert Park" book, and more recently being a key part of team planning Abingdon's new Community Woodland, and being an enthusiastic promoter of, and judge of, the Town Council's biodiversity competitions for schools and the community in general.

We duly applaud John's passion, commitment, and great sense of humour in his overall contribution to Abingdon Upon Thames

Paul Shipman

Paul was involved in scouting from a young age. He joined cubs in Abingdon in 1965 on the condition that his father, Frank, joined as a cub leader. Thus began the Shipman dynasty at 2nd Abingdon (or 1st North Berkshire as it was back then) which carries on today. Frank served as a cub leader for many years with his daughter, Ann, serving as Akela and District Cub leader for many years.

Paul later returned to 2nd Abingdon in 1994 when his own children were old enough to join Beavers and has been Beaver Leader, District Beaver Leader, and Deputy Group Scout leader in his time with the group. Paul's dedication and tireless commitment to the young people, leaders and parents involved with 2nd Abingdon are deeply appreciated. To many in the scouting community, though, he has always been and will always be "Badger".

ATOM Festival

The ATOM Festival has been part of Abingdon life for over 10 years, and has brought events, talks, workshops and even comedy to our town to help our community to discover the world-class science and technology taking place right here, as well as learning about the companies, organisations and scientists who make it happen.

They have been supported by local organisations including Oxford University, UKAEA, Abingdon School and Oxford Brookes University, as well as many local companies and individual scientists. Their events have brought many household name speakers to our town, including Hannah Fry, Jim Al Khalili and Helen Czerski.

Their contribution to the public understanding of science and enthusing the next generation of scientists in our town has been outstanding.

Mayor's Charities

The Archway Foundation

The Archway Foundation helps people in Oxford and Abingdon who feel unwanted, excluded and forgotten, matching them with volunteer befrienders and social networks that give them back a sense of belonging.

Serving those in our community who are hurt by loneliness.

Yellow Submarine

We are an award-winning Oxfordshire charity that believes people with learning disabilities and autism deserve to live life to the full!

We offer a variety of services to those with mild to moderate needs including social clubs, activity days, residential holidays, and a traineeship. These projects increase confidence and independence in our members as well as provide respite for families and carers.