

## **Steward and Bailiff Award**

There are many residents of Hexham who help their neighbours, support local groups or go out of their way for others in their community. That is why, on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2001, Hexham Town Council created the title of “Honorary Steward and Bailiff” as a way to recognise, thank and celebrate those special people who work hard to make the town a safer, more vibrant and happier place to live.

The title “Steward and Bailiff” dates back to Saxon times when small freeholders, for their own protection, commended themselves to a powerful Lord of the Manor to rent land from that Lord. Lords of the Manor (in the case of Hexham this was originally the Archbishop of York) appointed officers known as the Steward and Bailiff to ensure they received what was due to them. Manorial Courts were held to ensure the governance of the town ran smoothly with responsibility devolved to the Lord direct from the Crown (or in the case of Hexham originally from the Archbishop of York and later from the Lord of the Manor) to deal with criminal offences, the Lord’s Steward presiding at the regular hearings of the Court. The office continued until 1891 when the Hexham Urban and Rural District Councils were formed.

Since the launch of this honorary title Hexham Town Council has made an annual award to a local individual to acknowledge their voluntary contribution to the town. People can be nominated for a wide range of work: examples include charities, creative arts, sporting achievements, music, and different types of service to the community.

Each year Town Councillors nominate someone in the community who they think deserves recognition, and the Council then chooses the recipient. The only criteria are that the person being nominated must be a volunteer and live, work or study in Hexham – although any special case may be considered on its own merits.

Please see the next page for a list of Steward and Bailiffs since 2001:

- 2001 Stan Batey (service to the Community Centre and to Hexham)
- 2002 Ernest Robson (service to the Salvation Army and to Hexham)
- 2003 Mrs Mary Robinson MBE (service to the British Red Cross and to Hexham)
- 2004 Mrs C A (Patsy) Clark MBE (service to Northumbria in Bloom and Hexham in Bloom)
- 2005 Bob Hubbuck (service to scouting and to Hexham)
- 2006 Dr Stan Beckensall (service to prehistoric research and to Hexham)
- 2007 Mrs Rosemary Foston (service to Hexham)
- 2008 Colin Dallison (service to local history and to Hexham)
- 2009 Philip Clark (service to the Town Council and to Hexham)
- 2010 Mrs Hazel Nandy (service to Oxfam and to Hexham)
- 2011 Mrs Rosemary Theobald (service to Hexham voluntary organisations and to Hexham)
- 2012 Matt Wells (service to QEHS rowing and to Hexham)
- 2013 Nick Short (service to RAFA, Royal British Legion and Local Dialects)
- 2014 Peter Robson (service to the community and to Hexham)
- 2015 William (Billy) Hudson (service to St Mary's Parish and to Hexham)
- 2016 Dave Hignett (service to Tyne Valley Big Band and music in Hexham)
- 2017 Mrs Helen Milner (service to Hexham Priory School, Hexham Abbey and Hextol Tans)
- 2018 Mrs Ann Reed (services to the Community Centre)
- 2019 No award made due to the Covid-19 pandemic
- 2020 David Oliver (services to music in Hexham)