

# THE Moorsider



## KIRKBYMOORSIDE CELEBRATION DAY & COMMUNITY AWARDS 2024

The first Kirkbymoorside Community Celebration Day took place on Saturday 12th October. Throughout the day there were demonstrations of everything Kirkbymoorside has to offer. Many of the town's community groups had stalls in the Memorial Hall and in The Moorside Room there was a fascinating exhibition by the History Group. With flower arranging demonstrations in All Saints church, a live recital by the wonderful Friday Rehearsal Orchestra and lots of children's activities, there was something for everyone. The town centre looked great dressed with bunting and beautifully decorated shop windows. Despite the rain, the events were very well attended and visitors and participants were able to soak up the lovely community atmosphere.

The evening saw a shift in focus to the Community Awards event, to which shortlisted nominees, nominators, sponsors and their guests were invited. No public funds were spent on this event and the Town Council greatly appreciates the generous support of Rack Systems (Engineering) Ltd, Sylatech, Marshall Slingsby Advanced Composites and Forum Energy Technologies.

The ceremony began with a short concert of music from Oscar-winning films by Kirkbymoorside's Brass Band, conducted by Sarah Woodward.

This fabulous introduction to the proceedings was followed by the presentation of awards by Angus Ashworth, 'The Yorkshire Auctioneer' and Kirkbymoorside's Town Mayor, Cllr Joe Coughlan.



### VOLUNTARY / CHARITY ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

There were many deserving nominations for the 'Voluntary / charity organisation of the year'. The following organisations were shortlisted:

**Kirkbymoorside In Bloom** The hard work of volunteers evident in the beautiful planters and the annual Open Gardens give a great deal of pleasure to residents and visitors, making the town an attractive place to visit and to shop and instilling a great sense of pride in the community.

**Kirkbymoorside Community Library** Run by dedicated volunteers the library in Kirkbymoorside is much more than a place where you borrow books it is a community space accessible to everyone.

You can use a computer, access a wide range of information or get help filling in a form. It's a place that provides holiday activities for children and the opportunity to kick start a child's lifelong love of reading.

**Kirkbymoorside Fruit Project** For over 12 years, John and Chris Simmonds, together with a team of volunteers have taken tonnes of apples grown locally and turned them into delicious apple juice and cider. All profits from sales are donated to community groups and projects. They have rescued traditional varieties of fruit trees that once grew in Kirkbymoorside and have prevented large quantities of fruit from going to waste.

**VOLUNTARY/CHARITY  
ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR  
KIRKBYMOORSIDE COMMUNITY  
LIBRARY**



**MEMBERSHIP ORGANISATION  
OF THE YEAR  
KIRKBYMOORSIDE TOWN  
BRASS BAND**



**MEMBERSHIP ORGANISATION  
OF THE YEAR**

The following nominations were shortlisted for the 'Membership organisation of the year' award:

**Kirkbymoorside Town Brass Band**

Kirkbymoorside has had a band for over 200 years during which it has played in celebration of eight coronations. They have won countless competitions and awards, generating a great sense of pride in the community. The Band tutors volunteer their time, unpaid, to offer children and young people opportunities they may not otherwise have had, not least of all a sense of belonging and pride. The band is part of the fabric and identity of the town, much loved, and is called upon to celebrate most of the town's events, including leading the parade on Remembrance Sunday, playing at the annual 10k race, Christmas events, and giving concerts and performances throughout the year.

**Woolcrafters** The Woolcrafters, under Carol Messham's leadership, develop members' skills and confidence through crafting, and also provide a welcome environment for people to talk and support each other. The Woolcrafters raise funds and give spiritual support and exploration connected with the church year as well as bringing joy to all through their regular exhibitions.

**Friends of Moorsbus** In an area of limited public transport, the Moorsbus enables people to explore the North York Moors National Park, visit local villages and towns and meet up with friends, using shared transport so reducing the number of cars on the road and the subsequent pollution. For some people it's a lifeline, offering an opportunity to socialise when they would otherwise be isolated. The Moorsbus also brings visitors to Kirkbymoorside, which supports local shops and cafes.

**QUIET CONTRIBUTOR  
OF THE YEAR**

This award is for the unsung heroes, the people that go that extra mile to help others and support our community.

**Kathy Robson** Kathy has always been an active member of the Kirkbymoorside Community. She has been secretary of the Allotment Society, leader of the Ladies Fellowship Group, church warden at All Saints and she is also a sacristan. Whether it's arranging flowers, delivering leaflets or cleaning she's always willing to do whatever she can to help in any way.

**Dian and Nick Hunt** from the Moorside Store always make everyone feel welcome. Their community mindedness is also exercised in their business where they are happy to sell produce on behalf of local charities, and they are environmentally conscious, making efforts to reduce packaging waste and food miles. During COVID lockdowns they were a lifeline to many, responsibly making deliveries to those in isolation.

**Michael Stephens** Of all the 'quiet contributors', Michael Stephens is by far the loudest! He has rung church bells for almost 80 years, the last 30 of those in All Saints', Kirkbymoorside. Michael has been the Tower Captain for 13 years and, as principal recruiter and trainer Kirkbymoorside has always had a full complement of ringers. He ensured that the bells rang out not just Sunday mornings but at weddings, funerals, the late Queen's death and funeral, the King's coronation and the 80th D-Day Anniversary. During his period of leadership the Kirkbymoorside Ringers have won several awards. This year, at 95, Michael retired from bell ringing, leaving a legacy to the town of an enthusiastic and competent band of ringers who will continue to serve and enhance the town's life.

**Nigel Richardson** Nigel has been involved with most of the towns activities, committees and interests. For example, on Remembrance Sunday,

## QUIET CONTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR

**MICHAEL STEPHENS**



with great dignity he carries out the role of standard bearer for the British Legion, and by contrast MC's with aplomb at the annual 10k race (invariably wearing one of his trademark colourful suits). Whether it's clearing public footpaths and gulleys, walking to Germany to raise money for Marie Curie, keeping the town clock to time or hoisting flags, there's not much he won't do in the name of community.

## YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR

**ANNABEL KENT**



Band competing at a national level. She tutors and leads a band, taking sole responsibility for conducting, organising programmes and teaching her players. She often arranges and transposes music and always takes an active role during concerts. Now a secondary school music teacher, Annabel still finds time to play in the Senior Band, Community Band and conduct the Roots section of the band.

## YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR

There were four individuals shortlisted for the Young Person of the Year:.



Shortlisted Nominees for Young Person of the Year Award  
(Left t- right) David, Annabel, Sophie & Storm

**David Screepton** Despite his relative youth, David has the ability to interact with other Tennis Club members of all ages with great maturity. He makes sure any newcomers feel welcome, introducing them to other players and is always courteous, providing encouragement and recognising good play in the opponents. David has been Head Boy at Ryedale School, which is further evidence good role-modelling.

**Storm Horvath** Storm has shown a massive amount of personal growth since joining the Scouts, overcoming her own fears and insecurities. She actively participates in all of the community activities and at the last camp she took on a role supporting the adult leaders with tasks such as cooking, organising the tents and looking after younger members of the troop.

**Annabel Kent** Annabel has been a member of the Town Brass Band for over 10 years, starting out in the Training Sections of the band when she was eight and being promoted to the Senior

## KIRKBYMOORSIDE TOWN COUNCIL'S AWARD

**NIGEL RICHARDSON**



**Sophie Maxwell** Being very enthusiastic and always motivating her fellow Scouts to do their best, Sophie excels in the role of patrol leader. She is a hard worker and this was particularly evident in the exercise of planting over 200 trees along the banks of the River Rye and her contribution to the Scouts Scarecrow Trail this year.

## THE TOWN COUNCIL'S AWARD

The Town Council's Award is a discretionary honour, only awarded by the Council for outstanding contributions to the Community of Kirkbymoorside.

Although this individual was nominated in another category, the Council overwhelmingly felt he deserved to be singled out. He was born and bred in the town and has dedicated his life to supporting his local community. Whatever he is involved in, he always gives 100% of himself, and in this year, when he has retired, Kirkbymoorside Town Council are delighted to present **Nigel Richardson** the Town Council's own award for his services to the community.

## WINDOW DRESSING COMPETITION

Local businesses dressed their windows for the Community Celebration Event. This provided the ideal opportunity to once again award the historic Lex Cup, kindly provided by Kitching Walker, which was last presented for the 'best dressed window' nearly 50 years ago.

Shortlisted were 5 West End, Thomas the Bakers, Towler's Chemist and the Home Decorating Centre. Winner **Towler's Chemist**.

*"The revamp of our Community Awards, spearheaded by Cllrs Jean Illingworth, Andrea Moffat and Simon Woodhams, has been a delight... built on hard work and careful preparation. Thanks to all who helped, thanks to all who participated and warmest congratulations to all nominated, shortlisted and the winners! Constructive feedback is welcome. As for next year... watch this space!"* Town Mayor, Joe Coughlan

## TOWN COUNCIL GRANT POLICY

The Town Council's Grant Budget for 2024/25 is £8000. Whilst this is a modest amount, the Town Council aims to support as many local groups and initiatives as possible. To date the following grants have been awarded:

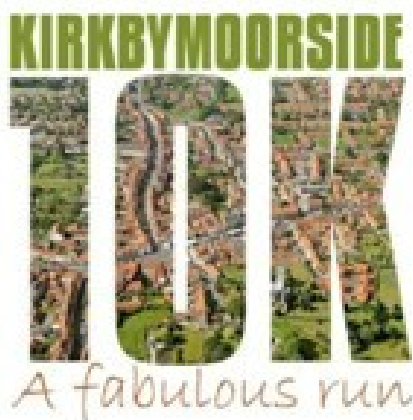
£780 to Ryedale Community Foodbank \* continued financial support since March 2022;

£80 to Kirkbymoorside Horticultural Society to hire the Memorial Hall for the Annual Horticultural Open Show;

£1500 to Kirkbymoorside PCC to contribute towards the cost of maintenance of All Saints' churchyard and Millennium Garden; and

£895 to Kirkbymoorside bell ringing band to purchase and install a bell simulator.

In addition to the awarding of grants the Town Council also factors into the annual budget expenses associated with several initiatives and events that benefit the community. These include supporting Kirkbymoorside In Bloom by paying for the supply, installation and watering of the town's hanging baskets, to complement the superb displays of their flower tubs throughout the town, and the cost of traffic management for the annual Remembrance Day Parade. The Town Council is also delighted to support the annual 10k event by making budgetary provision to cover the traffic management element of the race costs.



Possibly the longest running town charity event, raising funds for Kirkbymoorside and Gillamoor children through their respective 'Friends' charities (aka PTA committees), it also attracts many visitors to the town, increasing custom for the pubs, hotels, shops and cafes over the bank holiday weekend.

Entries for the 2025 10k event on Sunday 4th May are now open!

If you want to be involved as a marshall, helper or sponsor email [kirkbymoorside10k@gmail.com](mailto:kirkbymoorside10k@gmail.com)

## REWILDING THE VERGES

The Spring Issue detailed the Town Council's trial to encourage wildflower growth on the verges, led by Cllrs Dowie and Illingworth. Areas of the A170 verge at the junctions of West Lund and West Lund Lane were planted with native wild flowers and left uncut to rewild over the summer. Members of Ryedale Environment Group have surveyed the areas and identified 40 different wild flowers. These areas have now been cut and planted, by volunteers, with yellow rattle seeds to reduce the strength of the grass and give the existing wild flowers a better chance next year.

Lessons learnt from this trial are that only cutting the grass early and late in the year allows wildflowers to grow, so there are no plans to plant more flowers next year, but hopefully the trial areas will be extended to give wildflowers the chance to grow in more areas.

**KIRKBYMOORSIDE**  
**CHRISTMAS MARKET & SANTA'S**  
**GROTTO**  
30th November 10.00am-3.00pm  
Craft Stalls, Food and drinks stalls, Town Brass Band.  
Kirkbymoorside Market Place and The Memorial Hall  
Sanat's Grotto in The Kings Head  
FREE PARKING