THE Moorsider

2026 COMMUNITY AWARDS

The Community Awards acknowledge the many individuals and groups that volunteer their time and effort for the benefit of others. Nominations are made by members of the community, making it a celebration of the community by the community. Notably, the initiative is entirely funded by sponsorship. This year's Community Awards were made possible through the generous support of Rack Systems Engineering Ltd, for the third consecutive year, and Smailes Goldie, to whom the Town Council is most grateful.

2026 AWARD NOMINEES

Voluntary/Charity Organisation of the Year

- *Kirkbymoorside 10k Committee* ~ who arrange the annual 10k event to raise funds for Kirkbymoorside and Gillamoor Primary Schools. The event attracts a large number of competitors and supporters and helps promote the town.
- *The Team at Ginger Hall Café and Courtyard* ~ who, beyond a café, provide a community hub, events and employment.
- *The Christmas tree scheme run by Julie Watson and Frances Woodhams* ~ who together make arrangements for the small Christmas trees which perch in the brackets above people's houses throughout the town, making the town distinctively festive each year.
- *Kirkbymoorside History Group* ~ who undertake local history research, in order to produce books, talks and tours of local historic interest.
- *Litter Picking Network run by Julia Bullock* ~ who have a big impact on the town by keeping the area clean and attractive, inspiring a sense of pride whilst also improving the environment for people and wildlife.
- *The Team at Wainds & Son* ~ who collectively, are welcoming and hospitable, giving a real sense of being part of the community.

Individual or 'Quiet Contributor' of the Year

- *William (Bill) Breakell* ~ public transport campaigner, most notable for his fundraising, and management of the day-to-day operations of the Moorsbus.
- *Andy Carnall* ~ proactive member of the Veterans' Breakfast Club and the Memorial Hall Committee.
- *Carol Messham* ~ nicknamed the 'Kirby knitting bomber' for organising craft classes and events including the Woolcrafters' Exhibition.
- *Louise Mudd* ~ longest standing member of the History Group, she has been instrumental in researching, and recording the town's history.
- *Sheila Ridley* ~ former Administrator of the Memorial Hall until she retired from the role at the end of 2025, after 30 years service.
- *Mark Robinson* ~ for his involvement with the town's Christmas decorations including putting the trees in the brackets and installing the town Christmas tree every year for at least 15 years.
- *Revd Paul Sunderland* ~ vicar at All Saints' Church who has become a prominent member of the community since his arrival in 2024.
- *Julie Watson and Frances Woodhams* ~ who deftly organise the St Chad's Bookworms.

THE AWARDS & HONOURS BOARD



Local metalwork artist, *Mike Bennett of MUST Forge* was commissioned to make this year's awards. Mike also made the livestock sculptures that are corralled in the town pound on Manor Vale Lane.

Thanks to the generosity of Manor Woods developers, *Vistry Group.* the town now has an Honours Board, which will be on public display in the Memorial Hall. The board was made locally by *Tom Trimmins* Woodwork and sign writing by *Paul Gamble*.

The Town Council would also like to thank photographer *Martin Sheppard* and musicians *John Lane* and *Richard Hayes* for setting the tone beautifully with their background music at the event itself.

THE RESULTS

Presented by Town Mayor, Joe Coughlan and Angus Ashworth, 'The Yorkshire Auctioneer'.

THE VOLUNTARY / CHARITY ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

Awarded to the Kirkbymoorside 10k Committee

The success of this event is testament to hard work and dedication of the Committee. In 2026 there were a record number of participants. This inclusive event encourages participation by all ages and abilities, from tiny tots to senior citizens, couch potatoes to competitive runners. There is something for everyone.

As well as being a local highlight, the Kirkbymoorside 10k event is a well established and popular fixture on the sporting calendar. In addition to raising funds for Kirkbymoorside and Gillamoor Primary Schools, it also promotes the town and elevates the profile of Kirkbymoorside. For the 10k committee to be able to run this event annually, with such success, is a tremendous achievement.



Kirkbymoorside 10k Committee
2026 Voluntary/Charity Organisation of the Year

THE INDIVIDUAL OR 'QUIET CONTRIBUTOR' OF THE YEAR

Awarded to William (Bill) Breakell

Bill has been an active campaigner for public transport in Kirkbymoorside and the Moors area for over 50 years. For 30 or so years he was professionally involved with the North York Moors National Park at Danby Lodge and Helmsley. For a time, he also worked for North York Moors Railway, becoming increasingly involved in planning for tourism, with a focus on sustainable transport in rural areas.

Bill helped create and sustain the Moorsbus when it was run by the National Park Authority, and has continued to do so voluntarily since retiring in 2006. His involvement has intensified since funding was stopped by the National Park in 2013, meaning that the Moorsbus could continue to serve the public only with the considerable contribution of its three volunteer directors and many supporters. The task of fundraising, timetable planning, fostering relationships with local organisations and agencies have consumed Bill's free time.



The 2026 Individual or 'Quiet Contributor' Award presented to ***Bill Breakell.***

YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR

Awarded to Jess Ackroyd

Jess Ackroyd was awarded the 'Young Person of the Year' for her commitment to training for the 10k and her model behaviour.

In April Jess joined the lunchtime running club which was launched as an incentive to get the Primary School children running in readiness for their respective races at the 10k event in May. Jess became a dedicated member of the club, reliably and enthusiastically attending every lunchtime. As Jess became aware of the improvements to her ‘best’ time she committed herself to also attend some evening running practice sessions.

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Jess is not outspoken, but quietly she became one of the pre-10k constants and completed the 10k run in her best time despite having an ankle injury.

Kirkbymoorside Primary School is very proud of Jess for her commitment to training leading up to the 10k race and her positive attitude.



The 2026 Young Person of the Year Award presented to ***Jess Ackroyd*** *(resplendent in Halloween costume)*

THE TOWN COUNCIL'S OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Kirkbymoorside Town Council is delighted to confirm ***Sheila Ridley*** as the recipient of this year's ***Outstanding Achievement Award.***

After 30 years, at the end of 2025 Sheila retired from her role as Administrator/Manager of the Memorial Hall. During that time Sheila's role and responsibilities were wide and varied. First and foremost, Sheila was the central figure in the smooth day to day running of the Memorial Hall, the primary contact for all matters relating to hire of the Hall and the market stalls. She was solely responsible for all administrative duties, reporting directly to the Memorial Hall Committee. This included preparing for, attending and taking the minutes of all meetings of the Committee, as well as ensuring all members were kept informed of all pertinent matters.

Sheila made arrangements for any necessary remedial repairs and servicing at the Memorial Hall as well as liaising with the caretaker to ensure the building was ready for the next hirer. She managed the weekly markets, overseeing the logistical arrangements of the market set up and take down, collection of rents from stallholders and the banking of all monies. Her relationship with stallholders has been key to the stability of the market through uncertain times.

There can be no question that Sheila's commitment to her role as Administrator/Manager of the Memorial Hall has spread beyond the parameters of her job description and this excess has been to the benefit of Kirkbymoorside.



The Town Council's Overall Achievement Award presented to ***Sheila Ridley***

MOST INSPIRED WINDOW DISPLAY

Each year the Lex Cup is presented for the best window display. This year Stuart Temple of Kitching Walker Solicitors was invited to decide the winner as the Lex Cup was originally provided by Lesley Temple in the 1970's when she was a founding member of the Kirkbymoorside Carnival. In 2016, to mark 50 years at Kitching Walker, Lesley also gifted the town the Christmas festoon lights that are displayed on the A170 roundabout every year.

The theme for the window displays was predetermined by the date of the event, being on Halloween. Essential Beauty, Penny Bank Café and Love My Hair were highly commended for their displays. The recipient of The Lex Cup for consistently creative displays throughout the year was Children in Distress.



The Lex Cup presented to Simon Errington, CEO Children in Distress by Lesley Temple, Kitching Walker

Photographs courtesy of Martin Sheppard

CONGRATULATIONS & THANKS

Huge congratulations to Kirkbymoorside In Bloom. Having received the 2025 Community Award Kirkbymoorside In Bloom were recently awarded the maximum 5 Golden Roses on their first application to the RHS Golden Rose Award!

Whilst acknowledging local achievements, the Town Council extends heartfelt thanks to Chris Dowie, who recently resigned from the Office of Town Councillor, after 16 years of service. Chris has made many significant contributions to the Town Council during her tenure. Most recently, Chris was responsible for the conception and delivery of the very successful Lewis Creighton Exhibition which was held in The Moorside Room over the Yorkshire Day weekend. The exhibition was very well attended, not least of all by three generations of the Creighton family. As a direct result, the Town Council is delighted to now be custodians of a Lewis Creighton landscape painting, kindly gifted to the town by Chris Feather. The painting, which was unframed, had been in storage for 27 years since the sale of the Feathers Hotel. The Town Council commissioned Anthony Bentley to frame the painting which is now prominently featured in The Moorside Room.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF KIRKBYMOORSIDE



Town Investment Plans



North Yorkshire Council is developing Town Investment Plans which will be used to help guide future funding bids by ensuring they are targeted to local priorities. This project is supported by David Skaith, Mayor of York and North Yorkshire, and part-funded by the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.

The Kirkbymoorside Town Investment Plan is being developed collaboratively with local community organisations to ensure it reflects the town's ambitions and builds on its many strengths, delivering meaningful and lasting benefits. The key themes expected to feature include:

- Business, tourism and the local economy
- Health, wellbeing, community and sport
- Culture, heritage and events
- Environment, infrastructure and public realm

To make sure Kirkbymoorside's Plan reflects local priorities, residents, business owners and visitors are invited to share their views on Kirkbymoorside and how they think it could be improved. This consultation will help shape the draft Town Investment Plan and identify future investment priorities for the town.

Please have your say by completing the online survey: https://survey.northyorks.gov.uk/t/6M1GX1/

Paper copies are available from the Library, Church House, 7 High Market Place and the Community Hub on Westfields.

The consultation closes on 13 January 2027.



There will be stalls in the Memorial Hall, on the Market Place cobbles and in All Saint's Church.

Homemade Crafts ~ Decorations ~ Food & Drink

The market will be opened at 10am to a Christmas medley performed by Kirkbymoorside Junior band. Between 11am and 1pm Santa will be in his Grotto in All Saint's Church. To really get into the spirit of Christmas join in the carol singing at midday.