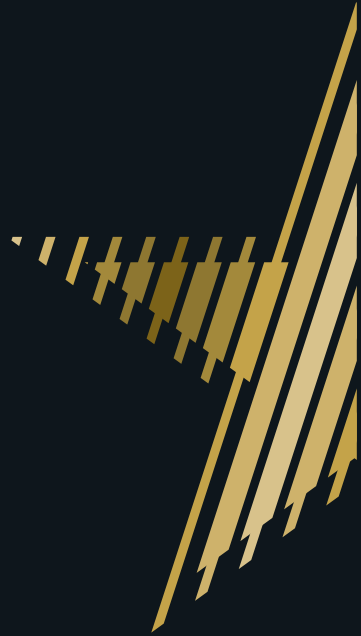




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# Civic Community Awards 2021

## Celebrating Middlesbrough's unsung community heroes

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# Mayor's Introduction

The Civic Community Awards are a celebration of our amazing communities and the extraordinary people who make them tick, and it's more important than ever that we recognise the contribution they make on behalf of us all.

The Awards are back for their third year in 2021, and after last year's virtual ceremony it's fantastic to be able to hold them in person again at our historic Town Hall.

They were established in 2019 as a celebration of the local people who make a real difference to their local communities and the lives of those around them – and never has that community spirit been more important or more evident than over the last 18 months.

In some of the most challenging and unsettling times many of us can recall, we've been privileged to witness countless extraordinary acts of kindness from people all over the town, and so it's right that this year's Awards throw a much-deserved spotlight on the incredible local spirit which has seen residents and organisations pull together in support of the vulnerable and those in need.

Once again I'd like to sincerely thank our sponsors for enabling us to recognise the heroes at the centre of these awards – as ever their generosity and support has been outstanding.



**Andy Preston**  
Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough

# Menu

Selection of Artisan Breads from Coghlan's Bakery with dipping oils

\* \* \* \* \*

Slow braised Paupiette of Cleveland Beef served on a chive butter mash,  
with tender stem broccoli and roasted carrots, rich red wine Gravy

Or for Vegetarian guests

North African spiced Vegetable and Chick Pea Tagine,  
served with aromatic Couscous

\* \* \* \* \*

Chocolate Tart served with Fruit Compote and Vanilla Cream

\* \* \* \* \*

Coffee and hand made chocolates



# Evening Programme

6.15pm

**Drinks on arrival**

**Welcome & Short Film**

**Presentation of awards**

**Dinner (Starter + Main)**

**Presentation of awards**

**Dessert**

**Presentation of awards**

**Citizen of the Year Award**

**Official photographs**

10.30pm

**End**

## Middlesbrough Children Matter Award



### Ben Lynas

Ben volunteered with the Genesis project at St Oswald's Church Grove Hill during the first lockdown, he still pops in to lend a hand when needed and since January this year he has been volunteering with the White Feather Project in North Ormesby. He is doing this whilst helping his mum to care for his Nanna who lost her husband and son within 6 months. Ben has been an amazing support to his Nanna being on call for her whenever she needs any help.

He does her weekly shopping and is currently re-organising her garden so it is a usable space for her. He is also a member of the Cleveland Police Cadets unit which he enjoys. He received a Chief Constable's commendation for his work with suicide prevention with the cadets, and last year took part in the 'Samarathon' event to raise awareness and much needed funds for them. Ben is doing all of this while studying for A levels in business, politics and law at Macmillan Academy.

Ben deserves recognition for being an amazing young man and caring for everyone else.



### George Martin

George, aged 7, has been a member of Boro Champs for 2 years and is an inspirational, fun, bubbly and caring young man. During the lockdown George raised over £1,000 to buy iPads and collected used laptops with the help of his mum for his school St Pius RC Primary. He realised that there were friends and pupils who were less fortunate than him and he wanted to help ensuring everyone had access to a device. George is a "litter Hero" and attends as many litter picks as he can and is passionate about the environment we live in, explaining to others the importance of looking after wildlife. He helped the group install 12 bird boxes at his school so the children could watch the birds nesting and also suggested planting fruit bushes for the pupils and wildlife to enjoy the fruit. He helped paint the allotment boxes at the school and also helped paint the dinosaurs. George is also a keen photographer and went on CVFM to talk about his achievements and how much he cares about the environment. Everyone who has met George is very proud of him and believe he will go far in life and continue caring very much about his local environment.



### Isabelle Playford

Isabelle is an inspirational young lady and a fantastic role model to her peers. She volunteers at the community allotment and has encouraged her Mam to grow vegetables at home this year. She is always looking for things to do to help her community and encouraging her friend's to do the same.

She brings sunshine to her neighbour's days by cooking for them. She has recently become a volunteer on the Climate Action Middlesbrough project and wants to help her community with litter picking.

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## Improving Job Opportunities - Community Award



### Linx Project

Linx have been engaging and supporting generations of families in Hemlington and wider Middlesbrough for many years. Linx have a long history of delivering employability support services for young people aged between 16-25 years old, who are at risk of/or are NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training).

Their approach has been creative, person-centred, and non-judgemental. Linx started a Youth work Apprenticeship Scheme, where four local young people, at risk of being involved in 'risk taking behaviours' were recruited as volunteers. They were given the opportunity to gain a youth work qualification whilst earning a decent income. These young people have changed their lives around and are now fully qualified as youth workers with Linx and working for other local youth organisations.

The journey these young people have been on has allowed them to become role models helping change the lives of other young people in Middlesbrough. This wouldn't have been possible without the support, guidance, and belief of the Linx Youth Project.



### Prince's Trust

The Prince's Trust Middlesbrough Team work really hard throughout the year to engage with young people. They work with delivery partners across Middlesbrough and the surrounding areas to offer hundreds of free courses, grants and mentoring opportunities to inspire young people to build their confidence and start a career. They are always there to support any young person to achieve their full potential.

The Prince's Trust ethos is to give more young people the opportunity to create a better future through employment, education and enterprise. They work tirelessly to help young people to register and take part in courses and over the last 12 months they very quickly moved all their courses online. They have provided an amazing resource to young people who would otherwise be cut off and disengaged from formal education.

The team work exceptionally hard and really deserve some recognition for the work and effort they put in to making the lives of young people in Middlesbrough happier and making them better equipped to enter the work force.



### Kim Dixon

Kim loves the buzz of helping people and supporting them to get involved, enabling them to find suitable training, volunteering or employment opportunities. She works hard to ensure that people have the support they need to be able to achieve their aims.

She helps people to identify how they can be supported and address any barriers that might prevent them getting into work and how volunteering can help them gain skills and valuable work experience. Kim has supported many people into work, training and volunteering both within and outside of the Hope Foundation. Kim also supports the volunteers within the organisation ensuring they gain real work experience for the jobs market.

Covid did not weaken her resolve to support people and she engaged with them by phone and internet. Kim was able to support people to volunteer where they were needed offering vital volunteer support during the pandemic across Middlesbrough and help them into online training opportunities.

Kim has excellent links across Middlesbrough and goes over and above what her job role requires of her.



# Congratulations to all the winners and finalists of the Civic Community Awards



## Job Opportunities - Business Award



### Active Tees Valley

Over the course of the last 24 months Active Tees Valley have made a massive impact on the lives of Middlesbrough residents, especially in East Middlesbrough by identifying the importance of upskilling and offering employment opportunities for local people.

They have helped lots of people into work placements, supported them by mentoring, secured employment opportunities and, in some cases, to start their own business.

All of the staff go above and beyond to help people back into work and find the right role for them. Active Tees Valley have managed to create many full time roles within their own business as well as opportunities for casual staff.

These roles are spread across the facilities they run and include the Pallister Park Centre, Brambles Farm Community Centre, EMEC - (Old Middlebeck Club), Community Choices (Eco Shop), Charwood Kinship Centre. They focus on supporting people to achieve their aspirations in life. They also offer start up business support with affordable rents to allow people to take the next step to setting up their own business.



### Ctees

Ctees is a training provider based in Middlesbrough who started out in 2013. Paul Marshall and his small team put those from a less advantaged background at the forefront of their business model by offering training, support and guidance in order to help them gain employment in the local community.

They are a helpful friendly team who believe that communicating openly and transparently with all stakeholders' learners and partners formulates a great working partnership for all.

Ctees offer fully accredited 'in-house training' programmes, which are both short and long and mainly work within the manufacturing sector alongside local people and local employers.

Ctees has continued to put people in the local area back on to the path of employment and they only work with local trainers and tutors, local recruitment agencies and local business' to offer employers new employees with valuable skills to help the Tees Region as a whole.



### Skins & Needles

Skins and Needles Education are providing top level barber training to clients of all backgrounds in the area of Middlesbrough to push more people into the barbering industry.

Their learning methods are delivered in a working barbershop environment which are proven to be the best preparation for a professional career in barbering and they also offer CPD accredited courses.

The majority of all clients that complete the course now have jobs within the barbering industry including partnerships within the academy. Skins & Needles acquired further funding in order to help those who aren't fortunate enough to have the funds available to pursue a career as barbers.

This will help those who are unemployed pursue a career in the barbering industry and give them skills which they will have for life.



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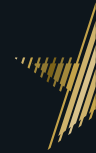
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## Health & Wellbeing - Community Award

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### Nite Light CIC

Nite Light CIC have been running for just over a year, they work at ground level and really connect with people in need from the homeless and pensioners to families both in and out of employment. They help with basic essentials such as meal cards and hygiene bags for men, women and children. Keeping clean, washing regularly and having the means to do this without worry greatly increases people's health and wellbeing. They offer volunteering opportunities, digital upskilling and a new project was launched called 'Litter, Leaflet, Laugh' for Middlesbrough residents which gets people talking whilst cleaning up local areas.

A free market stall has also been set up to help people make up a meal, give away clothes which have been donated and acts as an outdoor space where people can come and have a chat and talk about their struggles. Nite Light really have grown from strength to strength and really help people to improve their health and wellbeing. The work that Nite Light CIC do for the community is absolutely outstanding and contributes to all corners of the community, they are truly at the forefront of charitable acts and kindness.



### White Feather

The White Feather Project, under the guidance of Mark Horkan, has been running for over a year with a number of volunteers who have worked tirelessly since the start of pandemic. They have delivered emergency food care packages to people in crisis, those who are vulnerable and NHS staff.

They have also supplied meals to school children over the school holidays. They now have 3 community food hubs staffed by volunteers which are open 7 days a week to help low income families. Any profit raised from this project goes back in to help fund this free provision. They have collected food donations and distributed them to vulnerable people in need. As well as helping local families access food they have also helped new parents who don't have very much with everything they need to help with their babies. They held a toy appeal for those families who are less fortunate to ensure that as many children as possible didn't miss out at Christmas and also arranged a Christmas dinner.

The team have worked equally hard at raising funds and the volunteers give their time every day of the week with little recognition and deserve to win a Civic Award.



### Hart Gables

Hart Gables are a specialist charity for the LGBTQ+ community providing support and celebrating diversity in a safe space for people to feel valued and empowered to be themselves and reach their full potential. They work to ensure that all LGBTQ+ people are given equal life chances and have services that meet their health and wellbeing and emotional needs. Hart Gables are the only LGBTQ+ support group in the north east with groups in Middlesbrough, Hartlepool and Stockton and have a weekly Well Being Wednesday group. They are an extended family for those attending to be themselves in a non-judgemental setting. During covid they delivered arts and crafts provisions to people at home for activity sessions, 1-1 telephone and zoom support, face to face group sessions and, as and when restrictions lifted, they adapted their way of working. They are a small team, yet this does not reflect the support they offer, supporting clients with complex needs they have excellent working relationships with many other local organisations and offer training sessions around LGBTQ+, education on support around hate crime, Trans phobia awareness and much more.



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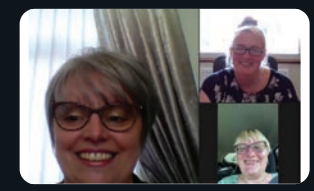
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## Health & Wellbeing - Business Award



### Step Forward Tees Valley

Partnership working between Step Forward Tees Valley and Pioneering Care Partnership gives customers in Middlesbrough a range of opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing. One project is a series of weekly workshops – ‘Healthy Me, Confident Me’. These are small, friendly group sessions which focus on goal setting, relaxation, mindfulness, as well as the benefits of physical activity and healthy eating. During the sessions, participants are supported to identify and make small, positive lifestyle changes which can lead to significant improvements in their overall health and wellbeing. Due to covid restrictions, Step Forward and Pioneering Care collaborated to set up digital ‘Healthy Me’ workshops on Zoom. As well as these workshops, participants have been invited to join online wellbeing social groups to support them to make even more meaningful connections. This has been especially important for participants who’ve been experiencing increased isolation during the pandemic.



### Depaul UK

Depaul UK run 2 services in Middlesbrough to prevent homelessness. Nightstop provides emergency accommodation for homeless individuals in the homes of volunteer hosts who provide a safe place to sleep on a night by night basis, a hot meal and washing facilities. Nightstop staff support people to explore their longer term housing options. Positive Pathways is a homelessness prevention programme in Middlesbrough, specifically designed to help people with experience of homelessness move forward in life, focusing on developing a broad range of life skills and improve their health and wellbeing. They run a drop-in service offering one to one support to people over 18 years old around many different issues: homelessness, substance and alcohol misuse, loneliness, isolation and general wellbeing. They have continued working during the national lockdowns providing advice and support for homeless people and even Nightstop accommodation.



### Recovery Connections

Recovery Connections deliver residential and community support for people on a recovery journey out of addiction. They are proud to support individuals and families achieve their potential and contribute to the local community. The whole organisation has worked tirelessly throughout the covid pandemic to ensure the service could still run as effectively as possible, giving vital support to vulnerable individuals in their time of need. They also arranged food parcels to people struggling and Isolating. Mobile phone top ups were also provided for people in need to ensure they could access online support. The organisation went above and beyond and all staff deserve the recognition for their efforts.

Everyone Active manages these facilities in partnership with Middlesbrough Council.







## Helping People Learn - Community Award



### Ubuntu

Ubuntu Multicultural Centre CIC has come a long way since being founded in February 2020, just before the pandemic hit. A husband and wife team, John and Irene Kabuye, their vision is to offer education, advice, support and advocacy for migrants - whilst remaining impartial, non-judgmental and non-directive. In addition, they aim to provide a place for individuals to explore their options in a safe, comfortable and trusted environment through training, workshops, cultural recreation, dance, sports activities and meetings. Ubuntu's model is to provide outreach to ethnic minority communities and earlier this year Ubuntu established the physical centre on Clifton Street. The aim is for the centre to deliver activities such as coffee mornings, sit and chat sessions, job search workshops, gardening, teaching: basic maths, basic computing and ESOL. Over the summer they ran projects aimed at providing learning and positive activity along with food and refreshments to children on free school meals. Ubuntu also shared advice and information on covid out to the people they work with in a number of different languages.



### Prince's Trust

The Middlesbrough Prince's Trust Team have worked really hard throughout the year to engage with young people and liaise with delivery partners from across the local areas, to offer free courses and mentoring opportunities to inspire young people to build their confidence and start to look at developing their own employability skills. Throughout this time, they are there all the way to support the young people to achieve their full potential, getting the young people back into either training, education or employment. Over the months of lockdown, they very quickly moved their courses online and have provided an amazing resource to young people otherwise cut off and disengaged from formal education. The team are currently starting their second on line course that is due to finish on the 28th August. They work exceptionally hard and deserve recognition for the work and effort they put in to making the lives of young people in Middlesbrough happier, whilst making them better equipped to enter the world of work.



### Kim Dixon

Kim loves the buzz of helping people and supporting them to get involved, enabling them to find suitable training, volunteering or employment opportunities. She works hard to ensure that people have the support they need to be able to achieve their aims. She helps people to identify how they can be supported and address any barriers that might prevent them getting into learning or work and how volunteering can help them gain skills and valuable work experience. Kim has supported many people into work, training and volunteering both within and outside of the Hope Foundation. Kim also supports the volunteers within the organisation ensuring they gain real work experience for the jobs market. Covid did not weaken her resolve to support people and she engaged with them by phone and internet. Kim was able to support people to volunteer where they were needed offering vital volunteer support during the pandemic across Middlesbrough and help them into online training opportunities. Kim has excellent links across Middlesbrough and goes over and above what her job role requires of her.

Taking **Middlesbrough** higher

A huge congratulations to everyone at the Civic Community Awards from Middlesbrough College.







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## Helping People Learn - Business Award



### Step Forward Tees Valley

Step Forward Tees Valley support local people to learn new work and life skills in order to meet their personal learning goals and take steps to improve their lives.

The programme works in partnership with Groundwork NE & Cumbria to offer bespoke support for local people who are economically inactive and furthest away from the job market. Specialist navigators are employed to work with participants to identify learning goals and together they identify suitable local learning providers to help achieve these goals.

During covid they adapted and collaborated to provide digital devices and mobile data to continue participants' learning and other elements of the programme remotely.

In collaboration with Furbdit they were provided with laptops which helped them to access online functional skill sessions and meet with Citizens Advice staff, as well as boosting their confidence in learning to start to look for work online.



### Thirteen

Thirteen employability service work in partnership with MCL to support customers into bespoke, meaningful training, helping improve self-confidence, motivation, and self-esteem.

The delivery model is holistic and includes a creative recruitment function, dedicated caseworkers providing 1-1 support identifying barriers and action planning to help with progress.

They have access to training opportunities, support securing volunteer placements, employer engagement activities providing access to exclusive vacancies within Thirteen and 6 months in work support to help sustainment. Due to Covid, service delivery was remodelled and all elements delivered virtually.

Customers are at the heart of everything they do, and the partnership has supported them to complete the My Future Self course, a non-accredited recruitment programme linked to live vacancies and opportunities.

Learners have been supported into employment including exclusive roles helping them be more financially stable and having a positive impact on their lives.



### The Hope Foundation

The Hope Foundation has delivered learning and skills in Middlesbrough for over 25 years in the community. Concentrating on the skills that people need for life they deliver maths, english and IT.

The quality of the learning is excellent, demonstrated in retention and achievement rates.

They are passionate about providing equal opportunities to everyone to improve personal learning and knowledge and ensure they have access to the education they deserve.

The students enjoy the centre so much that they progress through all of the course available to them. Focus is shown to those from disadvantaged backgrounds to ensure they are set in good stead for the rest of their life after education. The centre goes beyond providing qualifications and has a 'family' approach to learning.

As well as supporting the community by delivering learning, the Hope Foundation has a great track record of training the staff to a very high level.







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## Making People Happier - Community Award



### Tracy Hunter

Tracy is an absolute credit and asset to the Easterside community, she delivers paper to at least 4 elderly people on the estate and regularly shops for others. Tracy does this is every day, come rain or shine.

On the weekend, Tracy and her husband Eddie, regularly cook meals and give them out to less fortunate people on their street. She has provided so much comfort and company to elderly people on the estate who have nobody and the last 18 months has been tougher.

Tracy regularly looks after kids, watching over them and providing snacks for them in the sunshine. Tracy and Eddie have regularly taken young children under their wing and are a massive part of the community.

Tracy does all of this whilst holding down a full time job, sometimes getting up at 5:30 every day to complete these tasks before work.

Tracy deserves this recognition and if you ask anyone on the estate, they would agree that the community is a much happier place for all the selfless work that she does.



### Abi Witherden

Abi runs the Teesside Breast Buddies breast feeding online group, giving clear and concise information to Breast Feeding mums and offering support to mums facing feeding issues.

She also helps run The South Tees Maternity Voices partnership as a lay rep, helping and encouraging Middlesbrough mums to be involved in maternity services in South Tees and making sure that mums to be have a strong voice standing up for their needs.

Abi has also helped to run and organize the Big Latch on In Middlesbrough, helping mums overcome their shyness of breastfeeding in public.

She is an amazing advocate and tirelessly helps mums and mums to be across Middlesbrough and Teesside who are struggling to breastfeed, by offering support, extensive knowledge and a shoulder to cry on when necessary.



### Harry Staines

Harry has attended Myplace youth sessions for over six years as a young person (he is 24) with a special educational need.

During the past eighteen months they have had to revert to virtual youth sessions on many occasions.

During this time Harry has stood out in the way he makes all welcome to sessions, encourages participation and has a knack of making everyone happy with his positive outlook.

He ensures everyone is happy with whatever task we are doing and congratulates other members of the group and if they feel they are not doing well he reassures and encourages others to keep trying. He really does make you smile.



# LUXURY WATCHES

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## Making People Happier Business Award



### Sag Hussein

Sag opened the Avenue Premier store 3 years ago and during this time has developed a real sense of community spirit and support, especially during the worst moments of the pandemic. During the bleakest moments of the lockdowns, Sag, Linzi and their colleagues were, for many isolated people, the only friendly faces they regularly saw – and their only real, human connection to the outside world.

Whilst this may also be true for many local shops, Sag certainly went above-and-beyond the call of duty; whether it be providing free deliveries of newspapers to senior citizens, or, free deliveries to those having to isolate and unable to access online shopping – generally lifting spirits and building a sense of confidence and resilience in the Nunthorpe area and beyond.

Working with Nunthorpe Community and Parish Councils, The Avenue Premier also contributed funding and a location at the store for a new defibrillator for the shopping parade. A community-minded business that deserves an award.



### Community Ventures

Community Ventures is a support hub based in the Thorntree area of Middlesbrough which has provided ongoing support throughout the lockdown with a particular focus on people's mental health and wellbeing.

The hub has become a lifeline to many members of the community and makes a big difference to their quality of life knowing they can go into the community centre weekly and meet up with new friends and have support from staff.

Sessions ranging from therapeutic art, sport, tapestry, gardening and poetry have helped the community both during and after the lockdown. Community Ventures have grown over the last few years and now attract a wide range of local residents who have not only taken part but have become volunteers and staff members of the team.

Community Ventures is a safe, warm, welcoming place that makes everyone feel happy and supported.



### Youth Focus North East

Youth Focus North East are a breath of fresh air when it comes to making people feel happy within the community. Over the course of the last 3 years they have responded like many to the needs of young people but also their families during some challenging periods.

They delivered family zoom nights, gave out food and activity packs and also worked with young people to develop and enhance new skills and, in particular, give back to their community through social action projects. A few of which included creating a logo for a local eco shop, creating hampers for the elderly and creating wellbeing packs for their peers right at the beginning of lockdown. YFNE are based in the Pallister Park Centre providing youth provision for local young people – three years on they are still delivering.

They continue to extend their offer out to more wards in East Middlesbrough to continue to support young people encouraging them to raise their aspirations and positively challenge them to be the best they can be! They have such a positive impact on the community and are truly inspirational.

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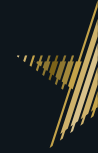
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## Improving our Neighbourhoods Community Award

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### Frances Graham

Frances is an amazing person who lives and breathes the area. She has lived in North Ormesby for over 70 years and has spent most of that time helping people and improving the environment.

Over the last couple of years she has transformed the alley where she lives virtually single handed, once the residents saw the changes taking place they also became involved due to Frances' determination. She has now created one of the safest, calmest places in the North Ormesby area where everyone feels safe and relaxed and can enjoy the environment and this in turn has brought the community together.

Other residents are now motivated to do the same in their back alleys and this is helping with community integration as well as improving the area. She has been community council chair for a number of years and always has the good of North Ormesby and its residents at heart.

Frances deserves to receive recognition for the work she has done over many years.



### Paul Cutter (Friends of Fairy Dell)

Paul Cutter is one of the original 8 people who set up the Voluntary Group the Friends of Fairy Dell, in August 2005, with the primary aim to work with the council and create a safe, welcoming and beautiful area for people to enjoy.

Due to his 'hands on' approach, skills, knowledge and personality, he has been instrumental in achieving this aim over the last 16 years, increasingly so following his retirement. Despite major surgery, he has continued in his role as the organiser of all things practical within Fairy Dell, taking a major role in the annual Events and activities for children and local schools. Paul organises the weekly 'Tasks' when others join him in all manner of work to maintain/improve Fairy Dell. A community allotment in Newham Grange Farm also comes within his remit and, along with others, Paul takes responsibility for its general maintenance and organisation.

His outgoing personality, supportive attitude and approach provide the leadership which such a Voluntary Group requires in order to function to its best ability especially over the last year.



### Jackie Young & Community Champions

Community Champions Middlesbrough, founded by Jackie Young, is a grassroots organisation that has enabled people across the town to become involved in litter picking. Jackie and the Community Champions have targeted very large areas, including the River Tees Big Tidy Up from the Transporter Bridge to Newport Bridge in conjunction with Cleveland Fire Brigade. Another brainchild was the restoration of the Dinosaurs at the 10 acre Teessaurus Sculpture Park which had fallen into disrepair and with sponsorship from businesses for paint and materials, the Dinosaur Park has been brought back to life. Community Champions operate thanks to the help of dedicated volunteers of all ages, from children to elderly residents and, through their efforts, they have made Middlesbrough a cleaner, nicer place to live. Jackie, in particular, is also helping people recover with mental health issues following lockdowns and has been involved in a number of charitable/fund raising activities. Their ongoing efforts improve mental and physical health and bring communities together, improving community cohesion and resilience.





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### Community Ventures

Community Ventures have made a visible difference to the outside spaces in Thorntree, especially around its community centre on the Greenway. They have carried out several litter picks and painted over graffiti in the area. They encourage residents to go out and take pride in their local environment. In addition to this Community Ventures run outdoor activities that people of all ages can be involved in ranging from Boro Active Explorers for families to Progress and the outdoor learning project. Community Ventures play a vital role in keeping the community in Thorntree connected and happy.



### Step Forward Tees Valley

Step Forward Tees Valley support local people to learn new work and life skills in order to meet their personal learning goals and take steps to improve their lives.

The programme works in partnership with Groundwork NE & Cumbria to offer bespoke support for local people who are economically inactive and furthest away from the job market. Specialist navigators are employed to work with participants to identify learning goals and together they identify suitable local learning providers to help achieve these goals.

During covid they adapted and collaborated to provide digital devices and mobile data to continue participants' learning and other elements of the programme remotely.

In collaboration with Furbdit they were provided with laptops which helped them to access online functional skill sessions and meet with Citizens Advice staff, as well as boosting their confidence in learning to start to look for work online.



### Middlesbrough Environment City

Middlesbrough Environment City work closely with the Council and other partners from the public, voluntary, community and private sectors. They deliver a diverse range of projects each year including food growing, energy efficiency, cycling and outdoor play using the One Planet Living approach to describe sustainability and our impact on the earth's resources. The challenge is to bring our use of resources down, ensuring a sustainable future whilst maintaining quality of life for all. One Planet Living helps residents to save money, enables communities to make positive contributions to their local area and improve quality of Life for people. MEC, together with other local partners, recently transformed Jellystone Park in Grove Hill from what was previously a very underutilised site into a hive of activity. During lockdown they held virtual sessions on gardening, Forest School, Cycle Maintenance and lunchtime walks as well as many others. Their aim is to encourage everyone to consider how they can contribute to One Planet Living and help others make positive changes to a healthier, sustainable lifestyle.







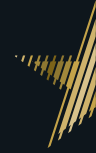
# We are diverse

Inclusive, vibrant and accessible, we bring together Middlesbrough's flourishing artistic community.

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## Covid Hero Award



### Revd Sister Jane Emson

Since the start of covid Jane has worked tirelessly by making up food parcels for vulnerable families along with activity packs for children, this continued for the duration of lockdown.

Meals were also delivered to the children which were kindly provided by MFC. At Christmas Jane was involved in providing toys for children, most were brand new and kindly donated. She also put together a Hamper containing the essentials to cook a Christmas dinner along with selection boxes and activity packs for the children explaining why we celebrate Christmas.

At Easter, she distributed Easter eggs with activity packs and in January 2021 Jane set up an ECO shop in Thorntree and Brambles Farm. She has also set up an after school club involving Kidz Kabin and runs two sessions for different age groups.

Jane is able to motivate people and has had many volunteers throughout this time to help her to do the shopping, put the parcels and packs together and run the ECO shop. Her enthusiasm and passion is infectious and without Jane's driving force none of this would have happened.



### White Feather

The White Feather Project, under the guidance of Mark Horkan, has been running for over a year with a number of volunteers who have worked tirelessly since the start of pandemic. They have delivered emergency food care packages to people in crisis, those who are vulnerable and NHS staff.

They have also supplied meals to school children over the school holidays. They now have 3 community food hubs staffed by volunteers which are open 7 days a week to help low income families. Any profit raised from this project goes back in to help fund this free provision. They have collected food donations and distributed them to vulnerable people in need. As well as helping local families access food they have also helped new parents who don't have very much with everything they need to help with new babies. They held a toy appeal for those families who are less fortunate to ensure that as many children as possible didn't miss out at Christmas and also arranged a Christmas dinner.

The team have worked equally hard at raising funds and the volunteers give their time every day of the week with little recognition and deserve to win a Civic Award.



### Adele Bowen

Adele started volunteering at UCA Eco Shop in December 2019 after completing her Food Hygiene award just before. Since then Adele has volunteered each week, not missing a single Eco Shop Day (77 consecutive weeks) all while volunteering throughout the pandemic. Adele now runs the Shop at UCA as a parent and community member. Her efforts have seen the following: 7.5k kg of food saved from land fill;

28 tonne of Carbon Emissions reduced; 24,000 meals given away and 750 food hampers delivered to most vulnerable. This has been for the parents, carers and community members of East Middlesbrough. Adele has been the helping hand that has held it all together during this time and the one that will still be here long into the future. We cannot thank her enough.

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## Citizen of the Year Award



### Tony Wedlake

Since 2015, Tony Wedlake has dedicated much of his time voluntarily to help change people's lives and create happy memories.

He co-founded Boro Real Fans Believe in Dreams who provided Boro matches for match day experiences, Riverside tours and children's parties. He has also arranged many fundraising events raising thousands of pounds to help provide treatment for poorly children and specialist equipment for children with disabilities.

In 2017 he co-founded the Teesside Family Foundation which not only supports many local activities but also provides specialist equipment for disabled people, support for the elderly, homelessness help and support for forces veterans.

In 2018, Tony's involvement was instrumental in purchasing a holiday home at Primrose Valley enabling 65 families a year to have a free respite holiday. 2019 saw the Foundation's biggest project to date, a £40,000 Sensory facility at Kirkleatham Hall School.

Tony works full time at Chemoxy but still finds countless hours to support his own and is committed to the foundation which has raised somewhere in the region of £400,000 over the last 4 years.



### Mark Horkan

Mark is one of the founders of the White Feather Project who filled a gap initially during covid in North Ormesby and other parts of Middlesbrough ensuring that no child went without food. Since the first lockdown he saw the need to keep the White Feather Project going and has opened eco shops so that residents can purchase items for a few pounds. He supports families with new born babies ensuring that they have everything they need. He works tirelessly to ensure that people have access to the foodbank, delivering parcels himself to make sure that no family went hungry and emergency food care packages have been delivered to hundreds of people. There are now 3 community food hubs, staffed by volunteers which are open 7 days a week. Mark ensures that the White Feather Project team up with other local organisations and help bring the community together. Over the last few months Mark and the White Feather Project have helped people without access to transport to get to their Covid jab appointments. Mark and his brilliant group of volunteers give their time every day of the week with little recognition to provide a vital service at a time of great local need.



### Jackie Young

Jackie is an amazing person with boundless energy and enthusiasm who works tirelessly for her community and has made a huge difference in our town. Organising the River Tees Big Tidy Up from the Transporter Bridge to Newport Bridge in conjunction with Cleveland Fire Brigade is a recent example. Another brainchild of Jackie that took place during lockdown was the restoration of the Dinosaurs at the Teessaurus Sculpture Park which had fallen into disrepair and have now been brought back to life with help from local businesses who supplied paint and materials. During the onset of the pandemic and beyond Jackie has provided wool, materials for mask making, food shopping for elderly and so much more. She has kept so many vulnerable people happy during a difficult time and continues to do so. Jackie is involved in a number of charitable/fund raising activities including a sponsored litter pick which raised approximately 800 pounds for the Riverside Juniors under 11 Football Kits at Middlebeck. Jackie is one inspirational lady and really deserves this award. Her passion to help people in life's difficulties will continue, in a positive approach. She is a truly unsung hero.





**Civic  
Community  
Awards  
2021**



We are  
Middlesbrough