

# Axbridge Civic Award

2018

## Citation

This award is given to **Barry Hamblin** for his outstanding contribution to the community of Axbridge.

In Somerset terms he can be described as a *Foreigner* having arrived from somewhere outside of the Cheddar Valley, and as a *Newcomer*. He only arrived in Axbridge around the year 2000.

But what an impact he has made in that short time!

Mayor of Axbridge in 2006 and again in 2011 where he supported the Babe Appeal (Children's Hospice) and was instrumental in sending Stationery & Equipment to a school in Zimbabwe. He could also be seen wearing different hats either at the last two Pageants, on various floats during the carnival or making a significant contribution to ACT in one of his many other characters or roles.

Initially Barry, or Baz as he is better known, was ex-RAF and heavily involved with the Bristol Groundschool based in Cheddar, teaching navigation & mathematics. Indeed he is still active in the flying world, as Chairman of the Bristol Airport Consultative Committee which aims to improve the understanding between the different communities and the airport.

Never one to be pigeon-holed as a *Taxi Driver* (that's an Air Navigator Instructor to you and I) Baz Hamblin branched out and used his energy and enthusiasm to set up and manage the Axbridge and Cheddar Valley Sea Cadets unit, TS Goathland. Since 2013 it has been going from strength to strength and is helping to give the best possible head start in life to numerous young people in the Axbridge and Cheddar Valley area. In supporting the cadets, of which there are around 30 now, Baz arranges a Trafalgar Night in October each year. This is a celebration that has seen speakers from the land, air and sea. From what I remember it's a very enjoyable event and one that is certainly in the Naval tradition!

Baz has been chief gardener for his wife Carole, helping to develop the Lavender & Co. business off the by-pass. He has also given his time and energy to the Axbridge Chamber of Commerce, being a founding member, and the Museum Trust as well as running a successful Antiques business in the Town. And more.

It is difficult to summarise such a full and varied contribution to our community but the establishment and development of the Sea Cadet unit within the Cheddar Valley will stand as a lasting legacy to the Town.

On behalf of the Axbridge community, thank you Baz for a magnificent contribution.