

Axbridge Community Civic Award

2015

Citation

This award is given to **Graham Page** for his outstanding contribution to the community of Axbridge.

Graham is a very well-known figure within Axbridge and the wider community. Graham and Trish moved to their home in Moorland Street 21 years ago, where they still live with their 2 children, Gabriella, aged 13, and George, aged 10.

Graham is very much a local person, having received his education at Kings of Wessex School and been very involved with the local rugby clubs. In his youth he played colts' rugby for Cheddar followed by Winscombe, moving back to Cheddar RFU to continue playing for the senior team, for the next 25 years. Also, during this time, Graham played for a charity rugby side called Briarwood Barbarians raising money for a Special Needs School in Bristol. Graham is passionate about his rugby and it is a testament both to him and various friends and colleagues that they have joined us today, sacrificing the Ireland/England Six Nations game being televised live as we speak!

At the time of moving to Axbridge Graham was involved with running Cheddar Scouts. He continued with his Scouting involvement for some years until other responsibilities, such as small children, took over. More recently he returned to the Scouting movement to run the local Beaver Colony (I think that is what they are called!). Although this is based in Cheddar it serves both the Cheddar and Axbridge communities. Graham's commitment to the Scouting movement is illustrated by the fact that he has just been presented with his 20 years long service award.

Soon after their move to Axbridge Graham attended a Sports and Social Committee AGM and the rest, as they say, is history. Graham is a key member of the Sports and Social Club and the various events the committee has organised over the years. Currently the 2 main events are Father Christmas Night in the Square and the Axbridge Fun Day on the Furlong. Graham works tirelessly for both these events (with other committee members!). The

events involve a great deal of time in preparation and planning, a full day's commitment for the actual event and another day clearing up afterwards.

The Sports and Social Committee is responsible for the Christmas trees and lights for our town during the festive season. Graham organises checking all the lights prior to December (usually only just!!) and ensures that we have everything that is needed to provide the excellent display that Axbridge enjoys. He works with other members of the committee spending a day putting the trees and lights in place and rectifying any problems. As with other events, when the Christmas period is over Graham is in the town dismantling the trees and lights and storing them ready for use the following year.

Graham is a governor of Axbridge 1st School where he is chairman of the Premises Committee. He takes this role very seriously and is very proactive when any work is required within the school, helping install equipment as and when required. He can also be seen helping at PTA events where physical strength and expertise is required!

Graham is a very keen cyclist and can be seen with his friends, sporting his lycra outfit on Thursday evenings, heading for the Mendips and outlying villages. He is the member of the group the others go to for advice about their bikes and for necessary repairs! His love of cycling led to a very nasty accident at the beginning of last summer which meant his leg was in plaster for many weeks. Although he was not able to cycle during those long months Graham was still involved with the other activities. He could still repair bikes for friends, if somewhat slower! And he was still a very key worker at the Fun Day, directing other members to carry out tasks he was physically unable to carry out – these were mainly tasks that involved climbing ladders! He seemed to manage to complete the other jobs.

Graham has been involved with various organisation entries in the Carnival and we mustn't forget his important role with the illustrious Red Barrow Squadron, attending School Fetes, Father Christmas Night in The Square, Carnivals, The Showcase, The Church Fete and probably other charity events.

In summary Graham is the man in Axbridge people go to or are directed to, when they need help with something they are organising within the town. He will always do what he can, cheerfully and without complaint.

It is my pleasure to be able to call Graham my friend.

Councillor Pauline Ham