

GEORGE HEPBURN OBE- CURRICULUM VITAE

CAREER HISTORY

2014 - Bewick House Enterprises, Proprietor

Consultancy to voluntary organisations including Hope North East, St. Anthony's Care Lorne House Care Trust and Cumbria Community Foundation

2009 – 2013 Warden, Shepherds Dene, the Retreat House for the Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle.

Appointed to refurbish the Edwardian house and grounds and develop its role as a residential centre for spiritual growth and reflection. Clients include local authorities and charities as well as church groups.

1988 –2009 , Chief Executive, Community Foundation serving Tyne & Wear and Northumberland

- Founder Chief Executive who developed the largest and most successful Community Foundation in the United Kingdom, managing charitable funds for families and companies and awarding grants to community groups averaging £7m a year.
- Leadership of North East Social Capital Forum, which has developed strategies for building social networks and organising the 'Healthy, Wealthy and Wise' conference
- Consultant to community foundations in the United Kingdom, Europe and Australia and author of articles on community philanthropy.

1995 – 1998, Director, Greater London Alcoholic Advisory Service

- Leadership of a London wide agency developing services for problem drinkers
- Pioneered London Drink Wise Campaign in partnership with London Weekend Television – which was later adopted nationally.
- Developed strategies on alcohol services for London Boroughs Association

1977 – 1985, Organiser, Thamesmead Family Service Unit

- Developed an innovatory social work and community work facility on a modern GLC Estate in South East London.
- Supervised social work students and led an interdisciplinary training project
- Honorary Lecturer in General Practice at Guy's Hospital Medical School and external examiner at Goldsmith's College and London School of Economics.

1974 – 1977, Social Worker, Alcohol Treatment Unit, Bexley Hospital

- Member of an inter-disciplinary psychiatric team working with problem drinkers in hospital and in the community.
- Member of a parliamentary working group on alcohol services and chaired innovatory Alcohol Recovery Project.

1971-1972, Trainee Social Worker, City of Birmingham

Member of social work team in a multi racial inner city area

VOLUNTARY AND NON-EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

2016 - National Trust – Cherryburn – volunteer at Thomas Bewick’s birthplace

2015 – Citizens Advice – volunteer adviser in Hexham

2015 - Edberts House,- trustee of community project in Gateshead

2014 – Durham Community Action - trustee

2014 – Hexham Debates - Chair of debates on peace, democracy and justice

2013 - Trusthouse Charitable Foundation

Trustee of endowed charitable trust awarding £2.5m in annual grants throughout U K

2008 – 2013 Seven Stories, The Centre for The Childrens Book,

Chair of trustees, responsible for the national archive of childrens literature and an award winning visitor centre with exhibitions and educational programme .

2006 – 2007, Pendower Good Neighbour Project, Benwell, Newcastle

Chair and volunteer (during sabbatical leave) of a faith based community project.

2003 –2014 , St Mary Magdalene’s Church, Prudhoe

Treasurer and previously co ordinator of a link with Bethany Church near Bangalore

2001 – 2010 , Millfield House Foundation

Trustee and Chair (2005-2008) of endowed charitable awarding grants on social policy in the North East.

2000 – 2007, Pele Tower Project, Sunderland

Treasurer (to 2002) and Chair (2002 – 7) of a therapeutic community for people with personality disorders and negotiated incorporation into Richmond Fellowship

2000 – 2004, Community Foundation Network (now U K Community Foundations)

Chair (to 2003) and Board member leading a strategic review and managing Fair Share Trust

1998 – 2002, Northern Arts (now Arts Council North East) Board member

1994 – 1998, eaga Charitable Trust

Founder Trustee awarding grants for action research on fuel poverty

1995 – 2000, MEA House

Trustee successfully leading a major appeal to refurbish a community building.

1993 – 1998, Traidcraft Exchange

Non-Executive Director of an educational charity promoting fair trade.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1968 – 1971 University of Sussex BA Honours 2i in Victorian Social History

1972 – 74 University of Kent Postgraduate diploma in social work.

1977 – 1979, North London Polytechnic Training in group dynamics.

1992 – 1994, Tavistock Institute Post professional training in work place consultancy.

2000 – 2006, Bertelsmann Foundation, Germany Member and group co-ordinator, Transatlantic Community Foundation Network.

2004 – 2008, Roffey Park Institute Training and learning set participant in strategic leadership

AWARDS AND HONOURS

1999 – North East Alternative Businessman of the Year.

Awarded by the business community to someone their admire for running an organisation in a business like way.

2005 – Order of the British Empire, for services to charities in the North East.

2007 – Lay Canon, St Nicholas’s Cathedral, Newcastle upon Tyne.

ABOUT GEORGE

George lives at Mickley Square, Northumberland with his wife Jan, a psychoanalytic psychotherapist and registrar, British Psychoanalytic Council. His son, Edward, is a secondary school teacher in Essex. He is 66.

He and Jan are active members of St Mary Magdalene’s Church in Prudhoe and have been involved with a link with Bethany Church, Channapatna, South India, which has taken George four times to Bangalore in what were eye opening experiences of understanding faith in different cultures.

In the last few years, George has also become a keen supporter of the ideals and practice of the Iona Community. This was influential in his application to work at Shepherds Dene.

George writes a fortnightly column in the Newcastle Journal (the regional daily paper) on social and political issues and anything he is annoyed about.

George is a keen member of the ‘early birds’ at Prudhoe Waterworld and is proud to have walked the Pennine Way, Coast to Coast twice and the Inca Trail in Peru, but he feels most at home on the moors above Allendale.

Since leaving Shepherds Dene at the end of 2013, George has run a consultancy practice to the non profit sector. See www.bewickhouse.com for details.

January 2016