

Local heroes invited to attend the opening ceremony of The Scottish Parliament

At this Saturday's opening ceremony for the sixth session of The Scottish Parliament a shopkeeper from Oxbgangs will join other local heroes invited to the event.

MSPs from other parts of Scotland have invited their own local heroes, but Linda Williams was invited by the Presiding Officer, Alison Johnstone MSP. Linda set up the coronavirus hardship fund at the Premier Broadway Convenience Store in Oxbgangs. Having raised over £10,000 to help her local community, it helped hundreds of locals pay for essentials such as utility bills and food.



pictured during the election of the Presiding Officer at the Scottish Parliament. 13 May 2021. Pic – Andrew Cowan/Scottish Parliament

Alison Johnstone MSP, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament said: “Our local heroes initiative is all about celebrating people from across Scotland for their contributions to their communities throughout the pandemic and beyond. The many actions and achievements of those nominated are truly inspiring. So many of our local heroes have put others before themselves, for the good of others.

“I am proud the Scottish Parliament will recognise people like Linda and that our local heroes will play a part in our 2021 opening ceremony.”



Linda Williams said: "I am very happy to have been nominated, although I certainly wasn't looking for any thanks or recognition.

"It has been such a hard 18 months for everyone, and I think we played a small part in making life a bit easier for our customers and neighbours by setting up a free same day delivery service and starting a hardship fund to help those who slipped through the cracks of the financial help that was available.

"Our community rose to the occasion magnificently; people were incredibly generous with their donations, and the whole experience became a shining light of hope during a hard time."