

GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL



PRESS RELEASE

TOWN MAYOR'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTEERS 2010 & MAYOR'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE

The successful recipients of the Mayor's Award for Volunteers 2010 were presented by the Town Mayor, Councillor Joy Poulter, with a framed certificate and a small token of gratitude at the Annual Town Meeting on Thursday, 15 April 2010 in the Council Chamber, for all their efforts and community spirit.

The nominees were:

Mrs Pam Pearson, Mr Simon Crowther, Mrs Sheila Mitchell, Mrs Marion Davies and Mr Malcolm Keene.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Joy Poulter, is holding a Service to celebrate all Godalming's volunteers at St Peter & St Paul Parish Church, Godalming on Sunday, 9 May 2010 at 6.30 pm, anyone wishing to attend is welcome.

Ends

In case of query please contact:

Louise Goodfellow

Godalming Town Clerk – 01483 523575 or townclerk@godalming-tc.gov.uk

Release date: 30/04/10

Notes for Editors:

Mrs Pam Pearson

Nominated by Councillor Andrew Wilson nominated Pam for her outstanding service to the local community.

Councillor Wilson said that after retiring from the Leisure Centre at the age of 75, Pam began, what she called an Active Life programme which encouraged the over 50s to take regular exercise at Broadwater – chiefly aquarobics and aerobics. Numbers in these classes have grown to the extent that demand has exceeded capacity and extra classes have had to be introduced. She makes everyone feel welcome serving half-time free coffee and biscuits. She also runs the Farncombe

History Society and has been a guiding force with the local cubs and scouts and, until very recently, played a major role at DisCASS.

Mr Simon Crowther

Mr Richard Gidlow nominated Simon for his long-standing service to local groups and the local community.

Mr Gidlow said that Simon has supported many local organisations in the 30 years he has known him; two constantly in that time, namely Godalming Cricket Club and Hascombe Church. He has supported Godalming Cricket Club in a number of roles, initially on the field of play but over the last 25 years his role has been off the field in the capacity of Chairman and more recently as Vice Chairman. He was a founder mover in obtaining Lottery Funding for the new pavilion at Holloway Hill, a project also supported by Godalming Town Council and continues to hold the Chairmanship of the Holloway Hill Sports Association.

He also, tirelessly gives of his time fundraising for Hascombe Church and has been connected to the church for many years.

Simon is also involved in the Godalming Woolsack Rotary Club. He joined the club in 1995 and has held various positions within the organisation of the club and was President in 2003/04. His charity for his presidential year was the Warehouse Christian Trust where he subsequently became a Trustee. Another initiative that emerged in his presidential year was the launch of the Charity Golf Day, which is now in its 6th year. His involvement in the Rotary movement has recently become on a worldwide basis and has travelled to America to give guidance on how Rotary should be seen to be acting on the World stage. Simon has freely given his time to numerous charity events and continues to do so and is a stalwart member of our local community.

Mrs Sheila Mitchell

Mrs Dot Hayler nominated Sheila for her service to Godalming Red Cross.

Mrs Hayler said that Sheila has been a volunteer of Godalming Red Cross for over 55 years and spent much of that time teaching local girls and boys first aid and nursing.

Sheila also spends a lot of her time caring for the community as she also looks after many elderly people, helping them to have a bath and to do their shopping, or assisting with transportation. She is also an active member of the Home from Hospital scheme, which helps the frail when they return home from hospital.

Despite being so busy with all these activities Sheila is also involved in regular duties at the Borough Hall assisting the blood donors as well as regular shifts at the Denningberg Centre for the over 60s.

Sheila is a truly worthy applicant as on top of this she cares for an elderly aunt who is in her late 90s. Mrs Hayler has never known Sheila to refuse anyone in need of any kind of help and feels she is deserving of the recognition of her duty to the community.

Mrs Marion Davies

Ms Annabel Foster of the Citizens Advice Waverley nominated Marion for her service to the Godalming Citizens Advice Bureau.

Ms Foster said that Marion has been a volunteer for nearly 10 years, visiting people in their own homes who need advice and support but who cannot make it into the bureau due to illness or disability. She has helped more than 100 such people of the last year, and in her calm and patient way steering many of them through the long, complex process of claiming their full financial entitlements. In this way she has contributed significantly to Godalming Citizens Advice Bureau this year gaining nearly £600,000 in previously unclaimed financial entitlements for its clients. This is only a small part of Marion's story; her work enables many elderly and disabled local people to stay in their own homes, to afford vital adaptations and to retain their valued independence and dignity.

Marion also finds the time to act as Chair of the Governors of Farncombe Infant and Nursery School and is an active member of the Binscombe Church Fellowship.

Mr Malcolm Keene

Mr Alan Steele nominated Malcolm for his unstinting work, both with charity and events held by the Godalming United Church.

Mr Steele said Malcolm moved to Godalming in 1965 and since that time has been a tireless worker and fundraiser in the local community, particularly initiating a range of activities that have become, in various guises, a regular part of the town's life. For example, Malcolm was a founder member and President of Godalming Woolsack Rotary Club; he has also been President of the 41 Club and also of the Godalming Round Table. Malcolm has also established such fundraising activities as the Lowland Games, which subsequently became the Town Show, on the Burys Field and the Waterside Games on the Lammas Lands. Another annual Town Event that was initiated by Malcolm was the Town Bonfire and Fireworks, which were started in 1980 and for many years he led the team that built the bonfire. Through this event there has been substantial fundraising for both local charities and for the modernisation of the community facilities at Godalming United Church.

Malcolm was a member of the Godalming United Reformed Church and was significantly involved in the joining of the United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church to form the Godalming United Church where he remains a stalwart member. He has for many years been involved in running youth activities for 10-14 year olds and also in organising holidays for disadvantaged children across the south east.

Malcolm continues to use his electrical engineering skills in a voluntary capacity with the British Red Cross Society.

Together with his wife, Barbara, he plays a major part both backstage and onstage (regularly playing a very fetching pantomime dame) in the church pantomime performed by some 40-60 young children each year.

Malcolm is a devoted family man and has been supported by his family in his many activities for the local community whether dressed as Father Christmas in Santa's Grotto or wielding a large sledge hammer to erect temporary fencing.