

The Arkwright Society Cromford – PROTECTING DERBYSHIRE.

The Arkwright Society has a proud reputation for working hard to preserve Derbyshire's environment and historic heritage.

Slinter Cottage, at the Western Edge of Cromford in Bonsall Brook, is one of the society's most recent success stories.

The mill was bought by the group along with a silted mill pond and 29 acres of ash woodland known as Slinter Wood. This has added to land preserved by the society, which currently stands at nearly 40 acres of Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

The society was nominated by Sarah McLeod.

The Brimington Over 70s Treat Brimington – FUNDRAISING

An annual treat for the over 70s has been offered in Brimington since 1926, with a short break during the war years of 1939 to 1945, thanks to fundraising by committee members past and present.

Each year the treat has developed and grown. It was originally hosted in the church hall and catered for 150 people who enjoyed tea and entertainment. In recent years the Winding Wheel in Chesterfield or The Pavillion in Buxton have been the venue for the meal, following a trip out to Chatsworth, Matlock or Buxton. More than 230 people attended the last treat.

The committee were nominated by Ann Thomson and Councillor Walter Burrows.

The Chesterfield Branch Of The Leukaemia Research Fund Chesterfield – FUNDRAISING

The branch has worked hard to raise funds for the charity for more than 42 years and recently celebrated raising more than half-a-million pounds in Chesterfield.

Nominator Kaylet Smedley says she "could write a book about the people who have helped to raise money to support the vital research to combat these terrible diseases".

The Leukaemia Research Fund has always prided itself, since it was started in 1960, that its success lay in the fact that fundraisers were a family team which was strongly bonded and motivated by their connection to those with leukaemia and related diseases. The Chesterfield branch is a shining example of this.

Valerie Thorpe Fritchley – FUNDRAISING

Valerie was nominated by her proud husband Terence for her fundraising and volunteer work.

Despite having severe osteoporosis and a heart defect, Valerie does more than 50 hours of volunteer work a week. In the past seven years, she has helped 41 groups and two schools get £480,000 in grants and materials. She volunteers with elderly groups, three playgroups, South Wingfield Miners' Welfare, parish rooms, scouts and guides. She also helped get funding for a stairlifts and ramps for local disabled groups.

Derbyshire Excellence in the **Community** Awards 2007

It isn't just Derbyshire County Council that's working to improve life in our communities.

Every day thousands of individuals, groups and charities help make life better for us all.

An army of volunteers across Derbyshire make a regular commitment to turn up and do their bit to help people who may be vulnerable or in need of support.

Ordinary people achieving extraordinary things because they are prepared to go the extra mile to raise money, look after our landscape and heritage, or even help others stay safe.

We want to thank you all for the difference you make and celebrate your outstanding achievements.

That's why we set up the Derbyshire County Council Excellence in the Community Awards.

I hope you really enjoy the evening. Tonight is about each and every one of you and how special you are.

Thank you for coming.



Councillor John Williams

Leader, Derbyshire County Council

Programme

- 7pm Welcome reception and canapés
- 7.45pm Awards ceremony
- Welcome address by Councillor John Williams,
Leader of Derbyshire County Council
- Awards ceremony hosted by Councillor Joyce Sanders,
Chair of Derbyshire County Council, joined by
Andy Potter and Matt Barlow of BBC Radio Derby.
- Presentations by Councillor Joyce Sanders
and politician, author and journalist Roy Hattersley.
- 9.00pm (approx) Closing remarks by Nick Hodgson, Chief Executive,
Derbyshire County Council



Music performed by The Curteis String Ensemble

Sue Lloyd

Spondon – IMPROVING LIFE

Selfless Sue has volunteered for more than 17 years as a buddy and management committee member on the Derbyshire Positive Support group which helps Derbyshire people living with HIV. Sue attends regular volunteer management meetings to organise the support that is offered and prepares meals for people with HIV.

The former district community nursing sister does this in addition to her work as a staff nurse for Treetops Hospice, where she offers support and night sitting services for people with terminal cancer and other life-limiting conditions. David Hill nominated Sue for what he describes as “an outstanding contribution to people in need of care and support.”

Susan Daykin

West Hallam – VOLUNTEERING

Sue has a long and distinguished history of volunteering in Derbyshire, having been a Girl Guide leader for 23 years and a St John Ambulance officer for 20 years.

She is assistant county nursing officer for Derbyshire’s St John Ambulance and does many hours of public duty a year, offering first aid care at major events and sporting activities. Sue works with the 8th Ilkeston Guides in Cotmanhay and holds county posts of senior section advisor and Queen’s Guide co-ordinator, helping Derbyshire members obtain the highest guiding award. Proud husband Adrian nominated Sue for her award.

Sylvia Jones

Beighton, near Sheffield – VOLUNTEERING

Sylvia devotes her spare time volunteering to help develop community projects in Derbyshire.

Her work contributes greatly to community life in Killamarsh – even though she does not live in the village herself. She has dedicated much of her spare time to working with numerous community groups, in particular youth groups. This includes Dreams drama group and uniform groups such as scouts and guides.

Sylvia was put forward for her award by Councillor Alan Charles.

Tansley Development Association

Tansley – IMPROVING LIFE/VOLUNTEERING

The association has had many successes in the seven years since it began.

Fundraising events organised by the group include an annual mid-summer fair, bonfire nights and Tansley Hill Run and fun run. These events helped the association raise £9,000 for the Fete Field Recreation Ground project, stimulating a successful bid by the parish council for £167,800 from the Football Foundation and to sponsor an application to Waste Recycling Environmental Limited to bring in a further £24,000. The association has also given £3,000 to Tansley Primary School and £3,000 to the village hall committee.

Resident Reg Whitworth nominated the successful group for their award.

Richard Barnes MBE

Bakewell – IMPROVING LIFE

Talented musician Richard Barnes has been dedicating his spare time to choirs in and around Bakewell for 33 years. As head of music and later head of Lady Manners upper school, he has also inspired hundreds of children in the area to realise their musical potential. He now teaches part-time at Lady Manners and works in the community as organist and choirmaster at Holy Trinity Church, Ashford-in-the-Water, and conductor of Bakewell Choral Society. Awarded an MBE in June 2007 for his services to education and music, his drive and enthusiasm are legendary says his nominator Rosemary Wolfe, who adds that the community would be a lot poorer without his musical inspiration.

Roger Green

West Hallam – IMPROVING LIFE

Roger is the hardworking chairman of the West Hallam Community Centre. The centre opened 20 years ago and provides accommodation for clubs and organisations to meet and take part in a wide range of activities.

In addition to leading the volunteers who make up the centre management committee, he is also a youth leader. His role sees him organise and run youth clubs at the centre on a weekly basis throughout the year as well as providing training to other youth leaders. According to nominator Peter Briggs, Roger's hard work, dedication and commitment has seen him make a vital contribution to the community over many years.

Ron Hubbard

Dronfield – VOLUNTEERING

The community of Coal Aston has benefited from the hard work and efforts of Ron Hubbard. As chairman of the Coal Aston Village Hall Management Committee since 1992, and treasurer since 1999, Ron has devoted many hours to developing the hall as a vital resource for local people.

Ron has been nominated by Dr John Bennett who praised his work to secure lottery funding to renovate the facility in 2000. He "makes himself available at all hours" and dedicates himself to the running of the hall so that many local people can enjoy the benefits.

Steve Sherratt

Burton On Trent – VOLUNTEERING

Steve has done tremendous work in supporting young people's music-making in Derbyshire since the late 1980s. In 1991 he formed a non-profit making company of 60 instrumental teachers who worked with county schools. He also helped establish Music Centre Trusts throughout Derbyshire to provide opportunities for young people to play in bands and orchestras each week.

For the past 17 years Steve has been the chair of the South Derbyshire Music Centre boosting membership from just over 100 young people to 650. Steve has been nominated by Philip King who said: "Few people in the county have given more freely of their time and energy to support young people's music-making".

Alan Bellinger

Hathersage – IMPROVING LIFE

Hathersage healer Alan Bellinger works selflessly to help improve life for other people. He offers comfort and peace to people with physical problems or anyone coping with caring for a loved one with serious conditions.

He has devoted his life to caring for people and animals with health problems and physical difficulties.

Alan received lots of nominations for this award for his goodness and kindness over the years. But despite devoting all his time to helping others, Alan does not charge for his services. Patients make donations which he sends to various charities.

Ann Haddon

Waingroves – FUNDRAISING

Waingroves resident Ann Haddon has worked voluntarily as the secretary of the community centre for 22 years where her support and organisation of events has been endless – despite living with crippling rheumatoid arthritis which causes her a lot of pain. She plays a key role in church activities and has many other roles and responsibilities too numerous to mention.

Ann was nominated by community centre chair Mick Hooley for the incredible work she does to support and improve the community.

Ann Rosser

Ashbourne – IMPROVING LIFE

Ann is one of the directors of Ashbourne Arts Ltd which runs a two week festival in Ashbourne each year. Launched eight years ago, the festival has grown over the years and now entertains around 12,750 people at more than 25 events.

The festival raises the profile of local artists, brings in valued custom to local businesses and means that residents can enjoy the arts on their doorstep.

Its continued success is owed to the hard work of Ann, directors of the group and the army of 350 volunteers. Sir Richard Fitzherbert nominated Ann for an award.

Arthur Kerry

Ripley – VOLUNTEERING

Caring Arthur has volunteered for years for a number of groups in his local area.

His nominator, Lynn Allison: said "His input has always reached out to those in society most in need". Arthur has volunteered as a driver and assistant to a severely disabled person and co-ordinated a lunch club in Somercotes. His role with the lunch club includes working with the management committee, raising funds, keeping the budget, co-ordinating volunteers, arranging transport and many other tasks.

Arthur has also supported families with young children by helping them fit child safety equipment.

Ashbourne and District Stroke Support Club

Ashbourne – IMPROVING LIFE

Ashbourne and District Stroke Support Club offers invaluable support to stroke victims and their carers. The club helps people during the initial recovery period and through the following months and years. Club members can take part in various social, leisure and learning activities in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The benefits and friendship help prevent them from becoming socially isolated, improve their health and help them continue to lead active lives in their community.

Marion Beloe nominated the club for their award.

Belper and District Neighbourhood Watch Support Group

Belper – SAFER DERBYSHIRE

Members of Belper and District Neighbourhood Watch Support Group are helping to make their community even safer. Since it was formed 10 years ago, the group has provided advice and support to residents and helped raise over £6,000 for safety and security measures. This year the group is focusing on children, older people and vulnerable residents to help make sure they stay safe and can be seen when out and about. Members of the group give their time free of charge and their continued effort and enthusiasm has made them a top candidate for this award. The group was nominated by Lynn Farrar.

Bill Pickering

Overseal – ACHIEVEMENT

Record-breaking Bill Pickering netted his award for outstanding achievement as a cross-channel swimming champion.

The 86-year-old broke a world record by swimming the English Channel in 1955 and is honorary life vice-president of the Channel Swimming Association.

He is one of the few people to have swum the Firth of Forth and he has swum Morecombe Bay 17 times.

He was nominated by Fred Taylor.

Bolsover Civic Society

Bolsover – PROTECTING DERBYSHIRE

Bolsover Civic Society is a leading voluntary group in the town. Over the past 28 years members have worked on a number of projects to improve the community.

Some of their successes include restoring the plaque on the town's war memorial and raising awareness in Derbyshire and on a national level for restoration projects including Market Place/ Station Road and St Bernadette's Church Barn Scheme.

They also opposed plans to demolish a former Georgian farm house in the town centre which has since been restored. Kim Wyatt put the society forward for an award.

Philip Bradburn

Dronfield – VOLUNTEERING

Philip has given "crucial support" to his local community according to his nominator, Dr John Bennett. He has been secretary of the Coal Aston Village Hall Management Committee for 31 years during which time he has worked tremendously hard to help develop the opportunities on offer to local people and make sure they know what is available to them. He is described as a "driving force" behind the annual gala and the Village Voice newsletter.

Philip is also a member and chairman of the Dronfield and District Natural History Society.

Pleasley Pit Nature Study Group

Pleasley – PROTECTING DERBYSHIRE

The group works with Derbyshire County Council and other agencies to help maintain and develop the 150-acre former colliery spoil heap. More than 100 members are in the group, which was formed in January 2000 by local enthusiasts who wanted to monitor, record and maintain all aspects of wildlife. They also work to improve facilities for local people and habitats for wildlife at the site. A working party carry out improvements on site and manage information display boards, cases and marquees which are available for open days, galas and meetings.

The group was nominated by Arthur Bowers.

Pollyanna Pickering

Oaker, near Matlock – ACHIEVEMENT

Pollyanna is one of Europe's most successful wildlife artists. She represents Derbyshire internationally with her fine art prints, books, cards and giftware exported to 83 countries worldwide. Pollyanna, nominated by Anna-Louise Pickering, has received numerous awards for her work, including first place in the UK Wildlife Artist of the Year competition. In 2001 she established the Pollyanna Pickering Foundation to support wildlife rescue and conservation. She devotes more than 100 evenings a year to raise funds for the foundation. She is also honorary president of the North Derbyshire and District RSPCA and the Derby and District Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, honorary life president of the Chesterfield Art Society and patron of both the Matlock Operatic Society and the Gamelea Countryside Training Trust.

Readycall

Ashbourne – IMPROVING LIFE

Using more than 65 volunteers, Readycall offers a vital lifeline to older people living in the southern Derbyshire Dales, helping many to live independently in their own homes. Their work includes visiting and befriending, shopping, minor DIY, letter writing, form-filling, escorting and driving. More than 25 of the volunteers are students from Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School sixth form who give up an hour of their school day every week to help the service. Currently more than 150 people are regularly helped by the team who are part of the Volunteer Centre Derbyshire Dales.

A big thanks should go to all those involved says Ian Hutchinson who nominated the group for an award.

Nadine Dart

New Tupton – ACHIEVEMENT

An “outstanding contribution” to raising awareness and increasing the rights of disabled people prompted Tony Ashwell to nominate Nadine.

She has been a leading campaigner in local disabled people’s group Aspire and has helped bring about access improvements to shops in the county.

Her campaigning has also had success on a national level, with Nadine winning an award from Leonard Cheshire Disability for her work.

According to Tony, she shows “endless courage and enthusiasm”.

North Derbyshire Stroke Support Group

Brimington – IMPROVING LIFE

This group has significantly improved the life of people who have had a stroke and their carers according to nominator Audrey Feilding.

Members offer information about services which are on offer to help support stroke sufferers and their carers and help people to build confidence and deal with day-to-day challenges.

The group raises money to make sure that anyone without transport can get to meetings and take part in activities so they can feel supported and included.

Peter Barber

Long Eaton – VOLUNTEERING

Peter has made an outstanding contribution to his local community over many years including helping to raise thousands of pounds for charity.

A lifelong Methodist, Peter was managing treasurer of Queenswood Methodist Home for the Aged in Chilwell for more than 25 years and is currently social secretary of Sandiacre and District Probus Club.

Since 1959 he has also conducted Sandiacre Male Voice Choir during which time members have raised tens of thousands of pounds for charity. Colleagues say Peter’s sense of commitment, loyalty, versatility and responsibility in any role he fulfils is unchallenged. He was nominated by William Foulke.

Peter Stearn

Staveley – IMPROVING LIFE

Peter has been nominated by several people for his tireless work to support community groups in Staveley. Busy Peter is the founder and secretary of the Staveley Forum for Seniors; a board member of Staveley Neighbourhood Management; welfare officer for the North East Derbyshire’s Royal British Legion; was national chairman of the Merchant Navy Association; is secretary and founder of the Midlands branch of the TSVa Merchant Navy group and for four years he was also the chairman and organiser of the Staveley Music Festival. Peter is also the liaison officer between the local doctor’s surgery and the community and in the past two years has run a chiropody clinic and helped over 1,000 people who cannot trim their own toenails. He has also helped raise considerable sums for the Army Cadets for a computer system, laptop and sports equipment. He was nominated by John Moorhen and Margaret Twomlow.

Brenda Wilson

Draycott – FUNDRAISING

Brenda was nominated by her daughter Yvonne for the tireless work she does for Treetops Hospice in Risley. Brenda works Monday to Saturday voluntarily managing the hospice’s two charity shops even though she is a pensioner. She has been involved with the charity from the first meeting 25 years ago.

Sadly Brenda’s husband, who also worked for the charity, died 23 years ago. When she is not busy working at the shop Brenda also finds time to chair a widow and widowers support group in Long Eaton.

Brian Davies

Long Eaton – SAFER DERBYSHIRE

Brian was Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator in Derbyshire’s first ‘no cold calling zone’, supported by Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire police.

He worked very hard on the initial setting up of the zone and nominator Sarah Stringer said: “It’s proving to be very effective thanks to Brian’s enthusiasm and hard work”. Brian is now chairperson of A Division (Amber Valley and Erewash) Neighbourhood Watch Association and devotes a great deal of time to helping keep the area safe. He is always willing to attend training events or meetings which help him in his role or to educate others.

Buxton Mountain Rescue Team

Buxton – VOLUNTEERING

For the past 43 years Buxton Mountain Rescue Team has provided a search and rescue service, saving lives of countless people in some of the most wild and remote places in the county. Nominated by Ian Hurst, the team is a registered charity and all members are volunteers, on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Last year the team attended 65 incidents, helping 69 people to safety, working over 2,200 hours. The team works with police and ambulance services, together with other agencies. Throughout the year the 53 team members take part in thousands of hours of training.

Cameron Philpot

Brimington – VOLUNTEERING

Older and disabled people and carers have benefited from the hard work of Cameron. Since he retired in 1993 he has been an active volunteer with the Chesterfield and District Pensioners Action Association – often working with statutory and voluntary organisations to improve the lives of Derbyshire’s older people. He advises a local council on disability issues and how access can be improved for disabled and older people. Among his many other volunteering commitments he is also vice-chairman of Chesterfield Law Centre management committee, having been a committee member of the group since 1993. Teresa Waldron nominated him for his excellent networking and the “unstinting” volunteering on behalf of others.

Carers Sitting Service

Based at Creswell – IMPROVING LIFE

The Carers Sitting Service offers carers a well needed break and gives them the time to make outings which would not be possible otherwise.

There were many nominations for this service, which makes such a difference to the lives of many Derbyshire people.

The care support workers received high praise from their nominators who said this “wonderful service” offers people a lifeline and gives superb support.

Caroline Cooper

Ashbourne – VOLUNTEERING

Caroline is always putting other people before herself and for the past 20 years has worked tirelessly for various charities and groups including the Chernobyl Children’s Life Line and Station Road Play Group. She has also helped to raise funds for the Mayor’s Charity and Riverside Disabled Club.

Caroline was nominated by Phil Chell who believes her commitment to others is outstanding.

Carsington Water Volunteer Ranger Service

Carsington – PROTECTING DERBYSHIRE

Members of the volunteer ranger service put great time and effort into helping to look after the reservoir, its visitors, habitats and wildlife. According to their nominator Rose Day the group has helped create and extend wildlife habitats to improve landscape and biodiversity since it was launched in 1994. This has included volunteers establishing reed beds, islands, nest boxes, meadows and otter holts to provide homes for otters and encourage them to breed. They also help host public events to raise awareness and give pleasure to local people.

Chesterfield Canal Trust Volunteer Work Party

Chesterfield – PROTECTING DERBYSHIRE

Chesterfield Canal Trust Volunteer Work Party has done wonderful work to help improve the Chesterfield Canal. The work party, nominated by David Trickett, has been involved in restoration work along parts of the 46-mile long canal for approximately 20 years.

Among the good work carried out by the group is the restoration and rebuilding of 400 metres of the towpath wall from under Mill Green Bridge to Constitution Hill Bridge crossing in Staveley.

The work party is currently completing a major improvement at Mill Green, Staveley, before beginning restoration work at Renishaw.

Mary Ridley

Ashbourne – IMPROVING LIFE

Foster carer Mary Ridley was nominated by Annie Overall for the work she does for young people in Derbyshire. Mary supports looked after young people while representing her local community and foster carers as a community in their own right.

She has been a member of the planning group of Derbyshire County Council’s Big Book Bash since 2003. Annie said Mary’s energy, ideas and commitment help make sure the event is a positive and enjoyable experience for looked after children and their carers. Since losing her daughter Veronica to cancer, she has also been a tireless supporter of Cancer Research, taking part in the annual Race for Life.

Maureen Carter

Chesterfield – IMPROVING LIFE

There’s no business like show business, so the saying goes. And Maureen, from Woodthorpe, has been making it her business for 30 years. Since joining Woodthorpe Choral Society in 1977 Maureen has been choreographing shows ever since – and all in the name of charity. When the choral society split, some of the members formed Harlequin Productions with Maureen at the helm. Vera Nicolson nominated Maureen for her ongoing work. Years have passed but the group is still going strong staging a pantomime and concert each year for the local community and helping to raise money for local causes into the bargain.

Maureen Salt

Ripley – VOLUNTEERING

Young people have been given plenty of opportunities to take part in activities in their area thanks to the efforts of Maureen.

She has been an active member of the Girl Guide movement for more than 45 years, with the majority of that time spent as a guider in charge of the 1st Ripley Guides.

According to her nominator Lisa Simpson, the group has thrived under her leadership and there is always a long list of girls who want to join.

Lisa added: “There are many young women in Ripley and its surrounding area whose lives have been enriched by all her hard work and dedication”.

Michael Nelson

Belper – VOLUNTEERING

Michael Nelson is a Cub Scout through and through.

He started scouting in 1964 as an assistant Cub Scout leader in Belper, where he lives.

More than 40 years on, Michael’s roles have included assistant district commissioner, district chairman, county secretary and currently district secretary.

Michael has helped provide a positive pastime for generations of Cub Scouts and his hard work has been recognised within the Cub Scout movement with various long service and excellence awards.

Margaret Parkin

Belper – FUNDRAISING

Margaret has raised thousands of pounds for charity by taking part in sponsored walks and events despite fighting recurring cancer since 1994.

Throughout the years Margaret has refused to let her condition stop her tireless commitment to helping others. She has taken part in a huge range of sponsored events ranging from sponsored dog walks for Derby City Hospital's Cancer Research Unit to fun runs, half-marathons and street collections. Margaret was nominated by Dorothy Stevenson for her ongoing fundraising efforts.

Marjorie Launders

Mansfield – VOLUNTEERING

Marjorie has given over 40 years of her life to volunteering with the guiding and scouting movement. Now retired as a brownie and guide leader she continues to give up her time to give guides the benefit of her wealth of knowledge and experience. Marjorie attends activity days and camps – her specialities being 'weaseling' and archery. She is loved by several generations of brownies/guides/scouts in the Langwith area, who have benefited from her dedicated lifetime of work with the young people in her community. She was nominated by Janet Newton who feels she deserves recognition for her ongoing enthusiasm and dedication.

Martin Cruttenden

Bonsall – VOLUNTEERING

Martin works tirelessly for the Bonsall community. He organises the annual open gardens weekend, is active within Bonsall Gardening Association and the Allotment Society and helps members of Bonsall School Gardening Club with their allotment.

He plays an active role in fundraising events, including heading the programme of events which raised £9,000 to improve the village park. Martin has organised the planting of village Christmas trees, village flower boxes and plants spring bulbs throughout the park. On top of this he looks after the garden of an elderly neighbour and is actively involved with Wirksworth Rotary Club. Martin was nominated by Councillor Winnie Engelbregsten.

Martin Thacker MBE

Chesterfield – VOLUNTEERING

Martin is active in youth organisations such as Chesterfield Air Training Corps and the scout movement. He has also raised thousands of pounds for good causes organising quiz nights, concert evenings and gala dinners. Jean Spencer, who nominated Martin, said he "works tirelessly for the community of Chesterfield".

Martin volunteers with the Chesterfield Deaf Society, acting as an interpreter, assisting with documentation and raising thousands of pounds.

He was elected vice-president of the society for life in 1988, and awarded the MBE in 2000 for services to the Chesterfield Deaf Society.

Chris Goodwin

Breadsall – FUNDRAISING

Chris has devoted 25 years to making life better for people in her local community in Breadsall.

She raised funds for the new extension to the community hall. Chris leads the fundraising committee and every year organises Open Gardens Day, Christmas lunch, garage sale, live concerts and many other events that happen in the village.

Chris also serves on the village hall committee and parish council. She was nominated for an award by Ann Goddard.

Christine Hibberd

Owler Bar, near Holmesfield – IMPROVING LIFE/PROTECTING DERBYSHIRE.

Christine Hibberd has worked tirelessly to give Holmesfield a playground to be proud of. She gave up many hours to obtain funding and attend courses on safety and risk management and showed unrivaled enthusiasm for the project from beginning to end. The playground includes; modern play equipment, a new football area and basketball surface, willow play structures, wildflower and other conseration areas, picnic table, shelter and cycle track. Christine was nominated for an award by Bernard Hoare.

Church Gresley Luncheon Club

Church Gresley – VOLUNTEERING

For the past 36 years the dedicated ladies of the Church Gresley Luncheon Club have been providing freshly cooked hot meals on a weekly basis for elderly people living in the area. The people they cook for generally live alone and can find it difficult to cook for themselves. Some of them hardly ever leave their homes and really enjoy a healthy meal cooked on the church premises in the company of other people their own age. The volunteers who prepare and cook the meals are a group of ten ladies who work on a rota basis and have given many thousands of hours of service between them. Denis Barratt nominated the group for their award.

Clare Gage

Chesterfield – ACHIEVEMENT

Talented Clare Gage from Chesterfield has been awarded Fellowship of the Royal Society of Arts after receiving the 2007 Ceramics Futures Award. The competition is open internationally to art students and Clare was among the 11 students shortlisted.

Clare is a real Derbyshire success because her early love of ceramics was nurtured by family pottery classes at the Hunloke Centre, in Chesterfield. Without the encouragement and enthusiasm of the teacher who runs the family pottery classes Clare might not have begun the journey to designer success. She plans to return to Chesterfield and establish a workshop. Clare was nominated by Deirdre Gage.

David Orford

Belper – ACHIEVEMENT

David from Belper was nominated for putting Derbyshire on the map thanks to his outstanding achievement in cycling. The seven-time gold medallist in world veteran road and time trial championships has also won a gold medal in a European championship. He has been honoured by Age Concern for hosting the best sporting event in the UK for older people in 1995 when he promoted the World Cup Veterans' Time Trial Championships in the county. His talents and passion for the sport are put to good use in his role as President of the British League of Racing Cyclists Association.

Dennis White

Ilkeston – FUNDRAISING

Dennis from Ilkeston has been a member of the Royal British Legion for almost 60 years during which time he has held many different posts within the branch and group. He has also been a member of the Royal British Legion Derbyshire County Committee for many years.

Over the years he has spent long hours raising money for the Poppy Appeal and many in the local community have benefited from his efforts. Dennis was nominated by Kenneth Foster.

Doreen Bills

Bolsover – VOLUNTEERING

Doreen was nominated for an award in recognition of all the voluntary work she has done for the people of Bolsover. Doreen, despite poor health, is still an active committee member as treasurer of Bainbridge Hall in Carr Vale.

She organises fund raising events to help improve and maintain the well used community facility. In addition she runs a self-help group and assists at the local primary school with fetes and open days. Doreen was nominated by fellow committee member Marilyn Redfern.

Doreen Holmes

Ripley – VOLUNTEERING

Doreen is retired and tirelessly devotes her time to many worthy causes. She volunteers for Ripley Hospital twice a week. She helps staff out by fetching shopping and newspapers for patients, helping out at lunch times and tirelessly raising money for the hospital. Doreen was nominated by Emma Baker on behalf of the hospital who said that nothing is ever too much trouble for Doreen. "She comes in without fail twice a week – whatever the weather – with a gleaming smile on her face, bringing happiness to all who know her," she said.

Long Eaton and District Talking Newspaper for the Blind

Long Eaton – IMPROVING LIFE.

For the past 29 years, this organisation has been providing a vital service to the communities of Long Eaton, Stapleford, Sandiacre, Sawley, Breaston, Draycott, Ockbrook and Borrowash. The 30 volunteers give up their time to make sure that blind and visually impaired people are kept abreast of the local news by recording it onto tape each week. Up to 200 people currently benefit from this free service – and are even provided with a free cassette recorder to listen on. Jean Knight, who nominated the group for this award, says they are self-funding – relying on the public's generosity and donations. "It would be lovely for our volunteers to be recognised for helping local people enjoy local life," she said.

Madeline Hardy

Alfreton – IMPROVING LIFE

When Neal Jones lost both his parents as a teenager and found himself having to run a household, it was his neighbour Madeline Hardy who stepped in to support him and helped him to stay in his family home. Madeline was still there for Neal and his family when his wife, Denise, died after a six year battle with cancer a few years ago. When Denise was ill Madeline and her husband, Willis, were there for the family whenever they were needed. Neal moved around the corner from his former neighbour a few years ago but Madeline still calls at his house every morning to check on his two children Mark, 16 and Sarah, 13, as Neal has to go to work early. In addition to helping Neal and his family Madeline volunteers two afternoons a week in her local Oxfam shop and looks after an elderly neighbour. Madeline was nominated by David Holmes on behalf of Alfreton Town Council.

Maggie Webster

Walton – VOLUNTEERING

Maggie works as a volunteer receptionist for Chesterfield Law Centre, an independent organisation that offers free, confidential legal advice to individuals and groups in the Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire districts.

Maggie is the centre's longest serving volunteer and is always able to deal calmly and professionally with situations and treat people with empathy and respect. She helps to train and support new volunteers and is a highly valued and respected member of the volunteer team. Maggie was nominated by Lizzie Ruse – volunteer co-ordinator at Chesterfield Law Centre.

Margaret and Eric Parker

Dove Holes, Buxton – IMPROVING LIFE

Twinkle-toed couple Margaret and Eric Parker have run not-for-profit line dance socials in the High Peak Area for the past 12 years. They also run a class for Alderbrook special needs students, a summer club and Thursday clubs in Buxton and New Mills. The groups are a great opportunity to make friends and get exercise.

For many years they have regularly run social evenings raising funds for charities including Blythe House Hospice. According to their nominator Councillor Beth Atkins their raffles are legendary. They provide some of the prizes and everyone is welcome and enjoys themselves thoroughly. Both are in their 70s and have been a massive asset to the community.

June Powell

Baslow – VOLUNTEERING

June has been the mainstay of Baslow Senior Citizens' Club for over 20 years – taking on the roles of programme secretary and social events organiser. During that time she has also worked tirelessly to raise money for the Home Farm Trust, a charity that supports adults with learning difficulties. June, who lives in Baslow, is heavily involved with St Anne's Church in the village, being a member of the Mothers' Union and past branch and Deanery president. She is also the local organiser for Christian Aid. Anne Tempest, who nominated June for this award, adds that she "cares for anyone in need, either through sickness, bereavement or with any other problem they need support with".

Kathleen Turner

Brampton – VOLUNTEERING

Kathleen – or Jackie as she likes to be known – has spent many years volunteering with Derbyshire Red Cross. Starting as a member and then leading the Chesterfield Detachment 502, she has given up hours of her time to provide voluntary first aid cover at many events across Derbyshire, including Chatsworth Horse Trials. Kathleen, who lives in Brampton, has also worked with the Blood Transfusion Service becoming the centre organiser for Chesterfield and was also involved in twinning activities with Chesterfield's twin town Darmstadt – winning awards for her work. Despite her own ill health she still runs a social group for visually impaired people she set up 34 years ago. Elizabeth Drew, who nominated Kathleen for her outstanding contribution to volunteering, said: "She has led by example and is able to inspire others – both young and old."

Kinder Mountain Rescue Team

High Peak – VOLUNTEERING

This group of 50 volunteers are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to rescue people who are lost, injured or reported missing in and around Kinder Scout in the High Peak. They go out in all weathers, often putting their own lives in danger to make Derbyshire a safer place to visit, says nominator Sally Barnett whose husband is a team member. In their spare time, members visit local schools to speak to pupils and are often seen at village fetes with their Land Rover, showing youngsters the rescue equipment. "They receive no Government funding. They just need someone to tell them how much their work is appreciated. All you need to do is ask the people that they have rescued," said Sally.

The Langwith Society Ltd

Langwith – IMPROVING LIFE

The Langwith Society Ltd has helped to improve life for others by offering their support to a number of important local projects, says secretary Kath Sharpe, who nominated the society for this award. Among its achievements, the society has helped to resurrect Langwith Bassett Hall from an old ramblers' cottage into a vital community venue which hosts exercise and art classes, birthday parties and provides a base for local organisations. The community bus – which ferries football teams, pensioners and youth groups around – keeps running thanks to the support of the society and people from around the world are now visiting the new Langwith Whaley Thorns Heritage Centre which has been set up and is run by the society.

Elmwood Seven

Chesterfield – VOLUNTEERING

Elmwood Seven are a group of young men from Elmwood House in Chesterfield who work as volunteers alongside Peak District National Park rangers and the countryside rangers helping to keep Derbyshire clean and tidy.

In the past they have raised money for the special care baby unit at Chesterfield Royal Hospital and this year they are raising money for the Chesterfield Mayor's appeal. The group make a positive contribution to the Derbyshire countryside and its upkeep and were nominated for their hard work by carer David Goodwin.

Emma Hibbert

Chapel-en-le-Frith – VOLUNTEERING/IMPROVING LIFE

Hard-working Emma runs Rainbows Parent and Toddler group on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday mornings at St Thomas Beckett Church in the village.

Emma was nominated by Michelle Bosworth who says that she "always has a big smile for everyone and is very enthusiastic about the many projects she gets involved with".

In addition to running the parent and toddler group, which has now been going for 21 years, Emma is an active member of the church and makes cards to help fundraising efforts.

Eyam Street Elite

Eyam – IMPROVING LIFE

Eyam Street Elite was formed in 2006 and provides weekly social and sporting activities for young people aged 11 to 18 in the village.

The group's management committee is made up of young people, older village residents and the community police officer. Together they have looked at pro-active ways of tackling anti-social behaviour and other problems in the village.

Young people have also made a film about their experiences of life in Eyam and youth representatives from the group attend village plan meetings to make sure their views are heard. The group were nominated by Adele Metcalfe.

Findern Footpath Group

Findern – PROTECTING DERBYSHIRE

Since forming in 1997, the group has worked hard to ensure rights of way in their area are clear and well-maintained. They have been responsible for the planting of around 8,000 native trees and about 10,000 wildflower bulbs and plants, supporting and enhancing key habitats such as lowland meadows, hedgerow, veteran trees, ponds and heath land. The group also produces leaflets showing walks in the area and organises popular regular guided walks along the paths. Wherever possible, they try to use materials from local firms, boosting the local economy, and have secured around £10,000 to fund their work. Liz Froggatt nominated the group.

First Taste

Matlock – IMPROVING LIFE

For the past 10 years First Taste has been enhancing the quality of life for older people in nursing and residential homes and attending day care in the Derbyshire Dales by getting them involved in the arts, music, crafts, pottery, drama and dancing.

The group successfully applied for hundreds of thousands of pounds in grant aid to run its programmes and has just been awarded £120,000 for a major project which will teach older people new skills. All the achievements stand out even further when you realise that everyone involved in the administration of the group gives their time for free. The group was nominated by Graham Hunt.

Geoffrey Speed

Dronfield – IMPROVING LIFE

Geoffrey devotes much of his time to improving the lives of others in his home town and local community. The 82-year-old has served as a magistrate for the Scarsdale division and was appointed secretary of Derbyshire Older People's Welfare Committee in 1962 and worked tirelessly to improve the lives of older people.

Since he retired, Geoffrey served for 10 years on the North Derbyshire Community Health Council, becoming chairman of the council for the last three years of his membership. He continues to help people through his role as chairman of the Chesterfield Care Group and in developing the service delivery of Age Concern in Chesterfield and district. Geoffrey was nominated by his wife Jeanette.

Glenice Stokes

Shirebrook – VOLUNTEERING

Glenice has devoted more than 20 years to tirelessly volunteering so she can champion the causes of her community.

She works with children at the local youth club and is a member of the local strategic partnership sub-group on housing. For the past 10 years she has raised funds for the Shirebrook Model Village Residents' Association, of which she is a member. Glenice was nominated for an award by Graham Hales.

Great Hucklow Community Spirit

Great Hucklow – PROTECTING DERBYSHIRE

The group was set up 20 years ago by young people and since then it has been involved in a number of projects and has notched up many successes. Each year the group organises the village well dressings and wakes week, which help to fund the Christmas lights. In the past five years they have restored the Butter Cross as a focal point of Great Hucklow Village, researched the history of lead mining in the area and with the help of a grant from the Local Heritage Initiative are compiling a book and setting up a lead mining heritage trail. Adele Metcalfe nominated the group for an award.

John Davis

Ilkeston – VOLUNTEERING

Energetic John has volunteered as an athletics coach for more than 20 years, working five and six evenings a week at times. He teamed up with other volunteers to form the Kirk Hallam Athletic Club in 1982. The group recently merged with Amber Valley Athletics Club.

As a senior coach John's average weekly commitment is three evenings a week plus weekends and this dedication has resulting in him helping many young athletes to achieve national recognition on many occasions. His nomination comes from Councillor Louis Booth.

John Powell

Linton – VOLUNTEERING

John has given many hours to helping make his local community and surrounding neighbourhoods safer. For a number of years John was a special police constable and developed an interest in tackling anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

According to his nominator Philip Marriott, he deserves recognition for the effort he has put into creating a youth focus group. Derbyshire County Council's youth service, Derbyshire police and the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership now all work together to develop ideas with the young people.

John Wheatley

Ilkeston – IMPROVING LIFE

When it comes to volunteering John started early. By the age of 15 he and a friend had set up a youth club in his village for 20 boys and girls and by 23 he was churchwarden at his local church. When he moved to Ilkeston he became treasurer at his local church and established a Sunday School there. Following early retirement he got involved with the Women's Royal Voluntary Service meals on wheels and Age Concern, Ilkeston – where he served as chairman for over a decade. He has served as president of the Ilkeston Probus Club and is chairman of Ilkeston and District Council for Voluntary Service based at the Flamsteed Centre – whose manager, staff and volunteers have nominated John for this award.

Judy Flack

Alvaston – PROTECTING DERBYSHIRE

"Extraordinary effort and dedication over many years" makes Judy thoroughly deserving of her award according to David Bartrop.

She has co-ordinated the Derby and Sandiacre Canal Society towards restoration of the historic waterway, helping to apply for funding, encourage local communities to adopt a stretch of the canal and regularly giving lectures to the public.

Judy has involved members in the restoration of two bridges and a lock, which will add to the enjoyment of people who walk the canal route.

Jean Baker

Inkersall – IMPROVING LIFE

Jean was nominated by her mother Jean Jones for her work as secretary of the Inkersall Women's Club. She first took up the post in March 1978 and ever since has devoted endless hours to running the group. This involves organising speakers, trivia quizzes, treasure hunts and ensuring the club runs smoothly. To mark the club's 30th anniversary Jean also organised a weekend away for members. In almost 30 years as secretary she has only missed about six meetings and even managed to keep the club running while her husband was ill. All the members of the group say Jean deserves an award to recognise the time and effort she has put in for them over the years – and say the club would not be able to run without her!

Jean Hardy

Borrowash – VOLUNTEERING

Jean has helped out at Ashbrook Infant and Nursery Community School for more than 25 years. Former pupil Hannah Hardy nominated Jean, who she describes as "an amazing lady who is a friend to everyone – whether they are adults or children".

She has regularly helped children with their reading, volunteered over lunchtime breaks and has been a tireless fundraiser for the school.

Her contribution has been so great that a new computer room at the school has been named after her.

Jill Watts

Barlborough – FUNDRAISING

When Jill, from Barlborough, was diagnosed with breast cancer seven years ago she didn't sit back feeling sorry for herself. Instead she embarked on a campaign to raise cash for the breast cancer unit at Chesterfield Royal Hospital and other breast cancer services in the area. So far Jill's efforts – including brass band concerts, snowdrop teas, strawberry teas and the Barlborough to Clowne Pink Walk – have raised a staggering £25,000. Jill has been asked to advise the hospital on waiting room facilities and she provides counselling to newly-diagnosed patients. She is also chairman of Barlborough Daysaway Club and organises monthly outings as well as helping out at Park View Luncheon Club. Norma Machen, who nominated Jill, said: "She is bubbly and good humoured with a ready wit and sympathetic manner."

Joan Cook

Glossop – VOLUNTEERING

"An unsung hero" – that's how nominator Ishbel Cooke describes our next award winner Joan Cook. For the past 30 years, Joan, from Glossop, has given her time to ensure that Glossop Women's Aid and Glossopdale Furniture Project are outstanding charitable organisations. An active member of Glossop Women's Aid since 1979, Joan initially welcomed victims of domestic abuse in to her home and, along with other local residents, was instrumental in setting up a refuge to help them make a new life for themselves. She was also involved in setting up Glossopdale Furniture Project in an old school building in 1997. Since then it has gone from strength to strength – collecting and recycling tons of furniture while helping people in need.

Green Health Partnership

ShIPLEY Country Park – IMPROVING LIFE

The Green Health Partnership was nominated for its significant contribution to improving the quality of life for people with mental ill health in Amber Valley and Erewash.

The partnership, run by mental health charity Rethink, gives people the chance to learn new skills, contribute to local communities and achieve a sense of well-being and self-worth by getting involved – on a voluntary basis – in various projects, mainly with a horticultural, environmental or artistic theme. Their work includes tree-planting, footpath construction, hedge-laying, dry-stone walling and woodland management. The group has also opened a new café in the area. Shaun Hallam nominated the partnership for an award.

Harold Cox MBE

Derby – IMPROVING LIFE

Harold has been the chairman of the Southern Derbyshire Pensioners Association for 24 years and has been nominated for his unstinting work to improve the lives of older people. He has served as a councillor with Derbyshire County Council and has been involved in the creation of community transport, shop mobility and the Live at Home scheme. He has represented Rolls Royce retired members in the past, currently runs an adults' centre in Derby Market Hall and organises lunches for older people living on their own. On top of this Harold is the proud owner of 12 certificates of merit and an MBE. He was nominated by Jeffrey Roland Walker.

Harry Perkins

Chesterfield – SAFER DERBYSHIRE

Harry's hard work in driving a successful intergenerational project, bringing older and younger people together in the Doe Lea and Bramley Vale areas, has led to his nomination. The Two Generations project aimed to reduce the number of reports from older people about anti-social behaviour and has paid dividends, leading to the setting up of a permanent community partnership group where Harry continues to play a central role. The new Doe Lea Valley Community Partnership holds regular action days and weekends with Harry as the main contact point and organiser. It also notched up successes around the River Doe Lea including a disabled-friendly path, a memorial garden, raised flower beds and benches. Katie Western nominated Harry for an award.

Harry Redfern

Fairfield, Buxton – FUNDRAISING

Harry was nominated by his friend Angela Buttrill for his amazing efforts to raise funds for prostate and bone cancer research. Harry has both bone and prostate cancer and as a thank you for the treatment he has received he began organising fundraising concerts three years ago, playing piano in them himself. Well-known in musical circles in the High Peak as a musical director, music is still a big part of his life and Harry has helped to raise thousands of pounds. Angela says Harry is an inspiration and everyone is proud to know him.

The Hathersage Village Plan Group

Hathersage – IMPROVING LIFE

The village plan group was formed four years ago and since then members have worked tirelessly on behalf of the community, consulting with residents and attracting more than £30,000 of grant aid to put towards local projects. Among the successes are a new security light system for the Memorial Hall and the organising of the first 'Hathersage Village Day'. The group has drawn up a well-respected village plan and as well as village centre redevelopment, issues on their agenda include young people, the environment and transport. Their good work earned them a nomination from Adele Metcalfe.

Hayfield Civic Trust

Hayfield – PROTECTING DERBYSHIRE

Judith Lanham nominated the Hayfield Civic Trust for its work over the past 30 years to promote Hayfield as a place for residents and visitors to enjoy by protecting its environment and heritage. The trust's most recent venture was to open the Calico Trail, a short circular walk that celebrates the industrial history of Hayfield. The trust has made three information signs and an information pack to help walkers along the route, backed up by information on a website. The project also involved more than 60 people giving up more than 1,500 hours to conserve Wood Mill Lock and Sluice, one of the last remaining reminders of this important part of Hayfield's history.

Hearon Hospital League of Friends

Hearon – FUNDRAISING

Hearon Hospital League of Friends was nominated by Bernice Sanby to mark the efforts of its members over more than 60 years. The group has raised thousands of pounds during this time to pay for improvements at the hospital. These have ranged from providing sitting rooms for patients through to upgrading the physiotherapy department. The league of friends has also bought the latest medical equipment for different departments at the hospital so patients can be treated locally instead of having to travel to Derby or Nottinghamshire. The group has also fought to stop the hospital being closed.

Holymoorside and District History Society

Holymoorside – IMPROVING LIFE

For the past 34 years the Holymoorside and District Historical Society has been actively involved in a range of projects to record and preserve the history of the area. In recent times the group has restored 10, large stone guide direction markers, produced two videos about the village and created a heritage trail with 20 plaques at strategic points around Holymoorside. The society meets monthly and attracts both local and national speakers to give talks on history and heritage. It also organises outings for its members to places of historical interest. The society was nominated for an award by Brian Hutchinson.

Ian Green

Bakewell – VOLUNTEERING

Ian has been involved with community transport in Bakewell and Eyam since the group was first set up in 1987. Since then he has been working to provide affordable transport for people who cannot access public transport. The group, which Ian was chairman of, became Bakewell and Eyam Community Transport in 1989. He has continued to be chairman since that time, apart from two years in the early 1990s. In November Ian will retire from this role. He was nominated for this award by Edwina Edwards who said Ian was instrumental in ensuring that Bakewell and Eyam Community Transport continued to develop and expand to meet the needs of local people. She believes this award will recognise his hard work over the years.

Jackie Tunnicliffe

Matlock – VOLUNTEERING

Jackie was nominated by her proud son Jonathan Shimwell for her work as a volunteer with the Matlock and District Mencap Society for more than 25 years. As well as being the society's secretary and treasurer Jackie runs a Thursday club for adults with learning disabilities. Every September Jackie is involved in running the society's Festival of Transport and each summer she attends shows and steam rallies selling toys and fancy goods to raise funds for Mencap. Despite spending hours each week doing paperwork for the charity Jonathan, who is disabled, says his mum still finds time to look after him.

Jane Carver

Chesterfield – FUNDRAISING

Jane will be familiar to many of you as the person who spearheaded the £1 million Pool for Megan and Her Friends fund raising appeal. It was launched in 2003 to build a swimming and hydrotherapy pool at Ashgate Croft School in Chesterfield for children and adults with disabilities. Jane was supported in her charity work by her daughter Megan, a 10-year-old pupil at the school, and friends. During the past four-and-a-half years Jane has attended functions and fundraising events in both the day and evenings, while still managing to look after her three children. The £492,909 which Jane and her friends raised was boosted with £450,000 from Derbyshire County Council to make sure the project went ahead. Jane was nominated by Pat Cooper.

Jan Melland

Buxton – IMPROVING LIFE

Football coach Jan has been nominated by Julie Coles for the work she does in running three successful girls' teams. Julie says Jan does everything for the football teams ranging from coaching, providing transport and doing the paperwork through to offering support to team members and carrying out fund raising. This year she took a group of girls to Holland to compete in tournaments and is now busy planning a trip for next year. Julie hopes this award will show Jan how much she is appreciated, respected and admired by the girls in her football teams and their parents.