

*25th
Anniversary
Whitchurch Community
Awards
2018*



Citations



These Annual Awards were the brain-child of the late Cllr. Peter Pelling. His intention was to honour those who work voluntarily for the good of our local community, or who inspire others through their achievements.

The first Ceremony was held in 1994.

Sarah Owen

Sarah Owen had a number of nominations recognising the variety of ways she has contributed to the town community since moving to the area in 2012.

Her work for the community has included:

- Taking on the running of Tea and Tots
- Helping to run the Toy Library
- Volunteering as Chair of Rising 5's (and her support helped them to get an Ofsted rating of outstanding)
- Helping to edit the Parish Magazine
- And most recently, she has joined the campaign to save the Cricket Club

Sarah has done a lot for the whole community, especially young families. She has shown tireless enthusiasm in all of these undertakings to help make Whitchurch such a great place to live.

Clare Datta

Clare Datta has served as the Chair of the Governing Body at Whitchurch Primary School since 2016.

This was a particularly challenging period as the Headteacher announced she was moving on. This meant that Clare had to step up to provide leadership within the school during this period, including recruitment of the new Headteacher.

Clare did this with distinction, building good relationships, communicating well with the school community and encouraging when this was hard. She has made a real difference to the lives of hundreds of people.

Paula Jacobs

Paula Jacobs has also had a number of nominations. She has played a really important role in the Rotations Charity Shop in the town centre. She helps all the charities ensure a smooth transition and ensures that the shop runs well and raises lots of money for good causes. The shop raises around £52,000 each year for various charities which helps improve the lives of some many people.

As well as this major volunteering role, Paula has also supported St Michaels' Hospice selling raffle tickets, regularly volunteers at All Hallows Church keeping it neat and tidy, and supports the Sip and Stitch group.

Her efforts help to support a wide range of people in the town.

Elizabeth Bayliss and Tina Hills

Elizabeth Bayliss and **Tina Hills** have been nominated for their work with Whitchurch Wocks. For those who don't know, Whitchurch Wocks are painted and decorated rocks which are hidden around the town; find a Wock, post a picture on Facebook and then re-hide.

This new initiative has helped to draw together so many different ages and people within the town. Elizabeth's idea has had a huge positive impact on our community. Since she set up the Whitchurch Wocks Group it has grown to almost 700 members and spread to Overton, Basingstoke and beyond. A new community group has been created and has helped Whitchurch residents to interact who otherwise would not, from the very young to very old. It has encouraged the involvement of the whole community no matter what your abilities! It has helped get so many people out and about exploring the town and presented it in a positive way.

Tina Hills is a key member of this group, who has helped grow and keep up the momentum of this initiative. She plays an important role in the group by using social media to help create that community feel, and is one of the most prolific posters in the group.

This is testament to the enthusiasm and commitment of both of these women to show how an activity which all can enjoy can help draw together our community.

Lauren Blake

Lauren Blake has been nominated for her dedication to sport in the community. Lauren has helped support a wide variety of sports in the town for all ages. Her volunteering includes:

- Welfare Officer for the younger football teams keeping the children safe and sound
- Dealing with the administration for the U13 and U7 football teams
- Running the Rotten Hill Cup between our town and Overton
- Running the successful Whitchurch Warriors netball club. Started 4 years ago this has gone from strength to strength and Lauren now runs and coaches 2 teams, supports the teams at league matches and has qualified as an umpire. The teams are a diverse group of ladies who may not have met but now share their passion for netball.

As if this isn't enough, in 2017 Lauren raised just over £3000 for Clic Sargent by shaving her hair. Much of this money came from the people of Whitchurch.

Lauren brings people together, is fun and recognised as a bubbly person – she is a great asset to our town.

Jackie Browne

Barry Carter and Charmaine Hoey

Jackie Browne is the driving force behind Walkers Are Welcome in Whitchurch and as a result the town is now recognised throughout the country as a destination for walkers. Jackie has made strong ties with other locations helping those places to set up their own Walkers Are Welcome groups. She has liaised with local authorities such as Test Valley Borough Council and Hampshire tourism groups to put Whitchurch firmly on the map for wider promotion. Walkers Are Welcome have developed “Bus Walk” trails linking public transport and walking in the wider area.

Every week **Barry Carter** and **Charmaine Hoey** plan and lead many of the two weekly walks for all. They have built a strong leadership team and a local network which has encouraged so many people to get out, get fit and be happy.

There is much cross-over with the work which Jackie, Barry and Charmaine do. The groups they are involved with support the maintenance of local footpaths through clearance work, litter picking and bigger projects such as changing stiles to gates thus making the countryside more accessible for all. The work of these three people is deserving of recognition as the result benefit so many in the town, and we would all be much poorer without it.

Youth Award

Katie Paterson

Katie Paterson has been nominated for this year's Youth Community Award for all the work she has done over the past few years with Girl Guiding in Whitchurch.

Katie has helped keep one of the Rainbow units going when it was threatened with closure, helping every week along with helping at Guides and Brownies. Last year whilst on a trip to PGL with Brownies she broke her thumb en route but insisted on staying to encourage the girls to try all the activities especially the younger ones even though she was in a lot of pain. She did this for the girls whilst studying for her GCSE exams.

In September she had to give up helping at Rainbows and Guides on a regular basis as she has secured an apprenticeship in a Hairdressing salon in Basingstoke, working 40 hours a week including college, although she does call in to see them when she can. However, she still wanted to be involved at Brownies and asked if she could have one of her days off on a Thursday so that she could still help out at Brownies who have been struggling for help. She is also doing her Adult Leadership Certificate organising activities, badge work etc. so that she can be qualified to help as an adult in January as soon as she is 18.

She has been an inspiration to all the girls she has helped and made friends with through Rainbows, Brownies and Guides over the years helping them if and when she can.