

Honouring those who help



Greta Bickley

THE Bletchington villager has lived in the area for 55 years, devoting much of that time getting involved with community groups and events.



Chrissie Philips Tilbury

MRS Philips Tilbury has worked tirelessly for the residents of Sonning Common. She launched the Village Gardeners which led to Sonning winning a silver medal in the 2014 Britain in Bloom competition. She has been an active member of the Sonning Common Magazine, the village hall committee, the 'Save the Sonning Common Library' and she organises the annual lunch on Christmas Day for those people who would otherwise be alone.



Anna Moon

MRS Moon, of Oxford, has been involved with the Oxfordshire Community Foundation since it began in 1995. She first got involved with the charity, which works to connect donors with local causes, 19 years ago as a trustee and has been the chairwoman for the past six. She said: "I was very surprised. One doesn't do volunteer work to be recognised and I felt it was a great honour. I have been involved because I want to contribute and give back to the community where you live."



Rosemary Arnold

A SOMERTON villager since 1967, Mrs Arnold, 74, has spent her time fundraising and organising a number of community events to get people together. Events that she played a vital role in include the village's jubilee celebrations for a big lunch and BBQ and she also helped set up the village website somertonoxon.co.uk The mother-of-eight said: "I do things that I enjoy and I like to see people enjoying themselves. If we are raising money it is a bonus."



Ailine Griffiths

MRS Griffiths, 70, of Adderbury, has worked on many community initiatives having been involved with community fundraising for many years. Over the past year she has continued her work to help raise about £3,200, despite suffering from a number of serious health issues. The mother-of-two said: "The more you do the better, it gives you something to get up for in the morning. I couldn't do anything without my husband, David. I don't believe in sitting down moaning and groaning."



Richard Bailey

AS GENERAL manager of Chef Direct in Didcot, Mr Bailey and his team have supported the Oxford Food Bank by donating good food that would otherwise be disposed of. The company donated more than 74,000 meals in 2014 and any food not suitable for human consumption is used for animal feed.

Clare Sands

FOLLOWING her success as a cadet Mrs Sands joined the Army Cadet Force as an instructor for the past 13 years to 'give back' to the community and give others the experiences that she had.

She said: "With everyone there, we were all volunteers and all usually doing activities behind the scenes so it was really nice for everyone to be recognised."

"It is hard work and it is nice for it to be recognised by an outside organisation."

"I was a cadet myself and had great experiences, so for me it is about giving back and to give those the opportunity I had which is very important to me."

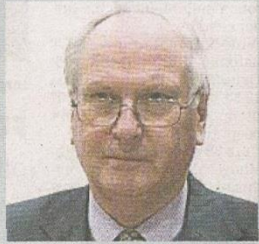


Polly Preedy

MRS Preedy, 63, of Banbury, has been providing food for those in need everyday for 26 years. She cooks, buys and sources food from the community and hands it out to those in need at St Mary's Churchyard. She is also known for her work with ex-offenders, helping them get their lives on-track when they come out of prison.

Explaining how she got involved, she said: "It was all a bit daunting when I first got the call. I didn't intend or set out to start it all, I don't know what it was but I had this strange voice telling me to go for a walk. I went out through People's Park and across Banbury market place and there were two men."

"I asked if they were okay and they said they were homeless so I went back the next day to give them food and it started from there."



Philip Holmes

DR Holmes proposed to commemorate the 18 names listed on the village war memorial to mark the centenary of the start of WW1. He arranged for the planting of Lombardy poplar trees together with a memorial stone and plaque and organised local primary school children to research and write letters to the 18 fallen men.



Peter Hetherington

FOR more than 37 years, Mr Hetherington has played a key role in improving the parish of Aston Rowant and helped launch a Discovery Trail to promote countryside appreciation and restore stream habitats. A new initiative 'Fiveways' has seen a new walkway created by the stream with plants commemorating WW1.



John Lubbock

THE High Sheriff made a personal citation to Mr Lubbock of Music for Autism.



Jeanette Barrington

MRS Barrington has served St Mary's Church in Chalgrove for more than 30 years by organising fundraisers, Sunday Teas for the bereaved and 50 lunches a week for Age Concern.



Graham Shelton

MR Shelton has played a vital role in recognising threats to the survival of the Northmoor village and brought together the community to find innovative ways to address issues.



Barry Grinham

THE High Sheriff made a personal citation to Mr Grinham "for exceptional support to the High Sheriff during the High Sheriff Challenge"

keep communities thriving



Naomi Herring
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THEY make the community a better place to live in.

On Monday the Oxfordshire High Sheriff Awards saw more than 20 people from across the county recognised for their hard work and contributions to the community.

A record number of nominations were made by the public highlighting the achievements from all walks of life, from working with the homeless to encouraging community integration.

High Sheriff of Oxfordshire Tony Stratton said: "These awards make me realise how dependent we are on the good will and incredible generosity of time from so many people in Oxfordshire and I am delighted we are able to recognise and honour a few."

Every county in England and Wales has a High Sheriff who is appointed for a year for civic, ceremonial and voluntary duties.

This year's Oxfordshire High Sheriff Awards took place at Christ Church college in St Aldate's. One of those honoured was Ben Wilkins, 27, from

DEDICATED: Ben Wilkins gets his award from the High Sheriff Tony Stratton

Also receiving awards were Joyce Minnear, a member of the management committee at Deddington Windmill Community Centre since it was built in 1985 and Wantage Rotary Club members John Humphries, Derek Miller, Hugh Chamberlain and Ian Campbell. The group, the eldest of whom is 98, has dedicated over 200 years of service to their community.

Marston. Mr Wilkins is an ambassador of Oxford Brookes University social entrepreneurship programme which supports students and staff looking to set up businesses that trade to tackle social problems, improve communities, lives or the environment.

Mr Wilkins was a key player in establishing a local network of social entrepreneurs operating in and around Oxford extending beyond the university community and has even taken his role in the programme as far as Washington DC at the Ashoka Exchange World conference this month.

The graduate said: "It was a bit unexpected and there are so many people who dedicated years of their life to projects and the community."

"I was involved in the first year as a student and was given the chance to think of new ideas and now I am involved as an ambassador."



Margaret and Peter Biggs

A KENNINGTON couple devoted to community life after they moved to the area in the early 1970s. Since then they have been involved in all walks of community life, organising fortnightly lunches and trips for those who may not always be able to go out.



Martin and Celia Evans

VITAL contributors to The Launton Village Players, the couple were nominated three times for their work with the community organisation since starting in 1986. The group, now with over 100 members, has staged 29 pantomimes and raised more than £65,000 for local charities. Retired teacher Mrs Evans said: "It was a great surprise and very humbling when you see the other awards that people get." Mr Evans said: "We were totally amazed, you never think of these things happening to you and it is lovely to be recognised."



Amy Rew

THE Oxford resident has set up and led the Oxford Eagles Wheelchair Basketball Club, organising players, recruiting volunteers and planning sessions and transport. Ms Rew has played a key role in fundraising nearly £1000 for special adaptive sports wheelchairs and basketballs for the Blackbird Leys club. Her award was collected by Kieran Calvert, left, and Olivia Marriot.



Robert Lott and Mike Tibbets

MR Lott and Mr Tibbets set up the UPTONOGOOD mountain bike festival based in the village of Upton, near Didcot, to raise money for local amenities and encourage cycling in the village. The event is now in its fifth year and to date has raised £36,585.

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