A CELEBRATION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

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2005
A CELEBRATION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS
This book celebrates the achievements of 68 local heroes: people who have made a real difference to their communities by getting involved and tackling local problems. Their stories show how much can be achieved when people get together in their communities and work together with public bodies to make life better.

Their stories are inspirational and we are recognising their contributions in the publication of this book.

It is all about people becoming involved in finding local solutions to local problems and working with the community, the voluntary sector and public sector organisations. Through their efforts, their communities become stronger, people feel safer and more secure, and more people feel confident and able to fulfil their potential – as so many of our local heroes demonstrate.

An important role of the Government is to help make this happen and that is why we are supporting local communities to do this. The Year of the Volunteer was announced in the 2004 budget statement, and we are pleased, as part of the local heroes celebration, to join together to launch Year of the Volunteer 2005. The Home Office will be supporting the Year through a partnership with Community Service Volunteers and Volunteering England.

The heroes celebrated in this book have been helping make life better by involving their communities in bringing about change. Many are working on issues and with people who live in their local area, others with special interest communities that are linked by a common cause across the country. They have all selflessly given their time and energy to making a difference.

We hope that when you read these people’s stories and see the pride in their pictures, you will be inspired to go out and make a positive difference to someone’s life today.

Charles Clarke, Home Secretary

Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer
What makes a local hero? It is someone who has a go – tackles issues to make a difference. But the people whose achievements are highlighted here make a difference to more than one issue. Their passion has had an effect that benefits a stable community and inspires others to get involved, often sharing the results with the whole community.

From the evidence of these people whose achievements are being celebrated by the Home Office, these are individuals who provide the energy and motivation to get people working together to make life better. Their example encourages others to take control of their lives, get involved in making decisions and take responsibility for what happens in their community.

As many of these heroes show, it takes one committed individual or a group of committed people, to kick start the solutions. They can’t do it on their own, although many of them start out alone. There are important lessons for Government and the public sector to learn from these heroes. How did they get to where they are now? What helped them along the way and what hindered them? What barriers have they had to overcome and what do we need to do differently to help more people like them succeed in making their communities thrive? We can see from their examples how successful they can be: we must celebrate their achievements and share the lessons.

The results of their efforts are outstanding. The local heroes celebrated in this book have helped regenerate their local areas, combated anti-social behaviour and crime, worked with excluded and disadvantaged young people and with people on the margins of society because of drug abuse, with ex-offenders or in divided communities. They have helped tackle some of the most violent crime in our communities, they have worked with minority groups to give support and build people’s confidence to find a voice in society.

It is people like these who we need to recognise, celebrate their work and hold up as models to others, to show just what can be achieved when a community is mobilised and active. I look forward to meeting all these local heroes and hearing more from them about what they have achieved – both for their communities and for themselves in their own lives.
As chairperson of the Abbots Road Tenants and Residents Association Jean has instigated improvements to services and the appearance of the housing estate, which in turn has helped people to feel more secure in their homes and daily lives. Her personal commitment to improving the area for all to enjoy has been invaluable. She worked with residents of one problem area to enclose their open plan gardens and improve street lighting because of the high level of crime. Successful applications were made for Community Safety Partnership Funding, Home Office monies (through the anti-social behaviour fund) and Selby District Council funding to carry out this work.

Working with Groundwork she helped to obtain funding to install three play areas and a youth shelter, providing much needed facilities for local children. Jean attends regular walkabouts to identify problems on the estate such as litter or dumped rubbish and has worked on the Estate Action Plan with Selby District Council.

A trader in Willesden High Road for 23 years, Tony is actively involved with local issues and concerns on crime and community safety. He has worked in partnership with Brent Council, the police and the local community to address issues of parking, crime and graffiti and regularly attends local meetings to ensure that the resident’s voice is heard. Specific projects initiated by Tony include setting up a partnership scheme between local businesses, Brent Council and the police to remove rubbish and graffiti, organising a skip clean-up day in residential roads and introducing a warden service (five wardens as the eyes and ears of the community reporting on crime and rubbish dumping).

In July 2004 he organised an Educational Fun Day at Willesden Library Centre for young people. Leaflets on personal and road safety as well as advice and information on drugs were distributed at this event to over 300 attendees.
Campbell played a key role in establishing a project in Portadown, which aims to engage directly with vulnerable young people from all backgrounds and across the religious and sectarian divide.

The Y Zone provides a range of diversionary activities, including an after school club and drop-in centre. It aims to support young people in all aspects of their lives, who are involved in crime, antisocial behaviour, alcohol or drug misuse or from dysfunctional family backgrounds. The project has made a marked contribution by engaging with young people who are involved in substance abuse, a particular problem in the neighbourhood.

Campbell’s experience as a youth worker coupled with his personal faith and leadership has resulted in Y Zone significantly helping vulnerable young people in an area of social deprivation and political tension.

David is locally recognised as a community champion by local residents and local agencies. He has lived and worked on the West View estate for the majority of his life, and strives to improve the environment for the local residents.

In his role as chairperson of the local Community Centre he has helped people feel safer in their neighbourhood, made them more aware and responsible for the cleanliness of the estate and more willing to get involved in tackling problems.

Recently 100 local residents joined together with local agencies to clean up the estate and 25 tons of rubbish were removed.

David’s hard work has also resulted in greatly improved relations with the police and he was nominated for a Taking a Stand award.

CONTACT CAMPBELL BEST AT THE Y ZONE ON 028 3833 5414

CONTACT DAVID BLOWER ON 01253 870133

WESTVIEW@COPPERSTREAM.CO.UK
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David
Blower
Community Centre and
Fleetwood, Lancashire

Pat
Boydell
Founder and chairperson of the Harbour Project –
a support group for parents of drug users in Bolton

Steven
Bridgett
Student – Alnwick, Northumberland

The Harbour Project is a group run by parents for parents in Bolton. Founded by Pat, it is the only group in the area that provides advice and support to those affected by drugs and alcohol abuse. Its primary aim is to educate and support parents and keep them up to date with legislation, mental health issues and Home Office guidance.

Pat is instrumental in organising the running of the group and ensures that any issues parents might have are fed back to the Drug Action Team. In addition, Pat also mans a 24 hour helpline.

The Harbour Project aims to support parents of drug users and contributes to the Home Office objective that “Fewer people’s lives are ruined by drugs and alcohol”.

Steven is a dedicated 17-year-old who, although still studying at school, has inspired youth groups in the Alnwick area of Northumberland to become actively involved in forcing local change. He is well known as a youth activist determined to play a part in solving the problems of a rural area.

His mantra is “don’t moan about it – do something about it”. Local authorities, youth groups and schools have become more proactive and involved in various initiatives, which funnel into the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Think-Tank. As a result of his encouragement and determination Steven is currently charged with developing further the LSP’s Youth Empowerment initiative.

We look forward to hearing and seeing more of Steven in the future – he has already made a real difference to community engagement in the area although there is still much to do.

www.alnwick.gov.org
CONTACT IAN HUMPHREYS, COORDINATOR ON 01665 511276
Drug dealing and anti-social behaviour by a minority group on the New Rough Hey estate was causing extreme problems for residents. Tenants were too scared to give evidence to the police because of the fear of recrimination.

Pauline persuaded the housing association to allocate a flat, in the centre of this group of problem houses, to the residents association which she in turn persuaded the police to use as a police post. Despite two arson attacks on the flat prior to opening, Pauline drove the project on which had an immediate impact on the drug dealings. Furthermore, information received from the cameras and the community have allowed eviction proceedings and an Anti-Social Behavioural Order (ASBO) to be taken out against the ring leaders.

Drug dealing is now almost non-existent and crime and arson are rare. Pauline’s persistence and determination united the tenants and the estate has been transformed.

Sandra has been actively involved in community crime reduction for 14 years, recently taking on the voluntary role of Crime Reduction Centre Association Trainer. As part of her Crime Prevention Officers’ course Sandra developed Data-Link, an emergency medical information scheme aimed to help the elderly feel more secure in their homes. The initiative involved giving each vulnerable member of the community a plastic wallet marked with a green cross to hold their medical details. Cornwall has a high proportion of elderly residents and Sandra was able to reach them through her Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators as well as via Age Concern and Help the Aged.

As the Data-Link package established a relationship with the elderly community, Sandra was then able to give home security and general crime reduction advice. Funding for the initial pilot was obtained from The Rotary Club and more recently from Cornwall’s Primary Care Trust.
In 1997, a group of local women in the Scotswood area of Newcastle upon Tyne identified a gap in the provision of support and counselling services for families of drug and alcohol misusers. This group, led by Val, set up a self-help group and after obtaining funding became the first support service in Newcastle to provide a service solely to carers and families affected by substance abuse. The organisation now hosts four support groups across the city and has close working links with the Drug Action Team and others.

Future plans include respite care, a 24-hour telephone helpline and closer ties with the Prison Service. Also in the pipeline are Family Support Workers who will concentrate on helping those close to misusers. The organisation receives referrals from a number of different sources and at present finds it difficult to cope with demand.

In 2002 the charity was awarded the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Award for Services to Local Communities.

Sue devotes a great deal of her spare time working to improve the quality of life for residents who live on a large estate which has higher than average levels of socio-economic deprivation. She is one of the lead members of the Hollywood VBay Estate Problem Solving Process, which develops ideas and makes recommendations to tackle youth disorder, antisocial behaviour and environmental crime.

A recent project involved liaising with the Community Policing Team, residents, council and Registered Social Landlord Housing Officers to organise a clean-up day for the area. The project made a real improvement in the local community, not only with environmental enhancements, but also with raised awareness of partnership activities and police presence. Several tons of rubbish were removed on the day and residents expressed relief at how much better the area looked.

WWW.BEXLEY.GOV.UK
Lesley and Paul are co-founders of the Communities United Project (CUP), a registered charity, which works in the most deprived areas of Kirklees.

On invitation from a community, CUP offers training, support, and resources to enable local people to develop, manage, and deliver programmes to meet the demands of the local community.

Lesley and Paul work closely with community groups providing resources and practical support and training of local volunteers to enable the setting up, running and promotion of constructive opportunities for young people. The problems that CUP addresses are those identified by most communities i.e. anti-social behaviour, crime, community cohesion and lack of facilities for young people.

The primary target group are boys and girls, aged 8 to 16 years of age, who are most at risk from crime, anti-social behaviour and drugs.

CUP uses football as its initial focus, providing an alternative to ‘hanging out’ and anti-social behaviour cultures. However, the projects initiated by CUP are wide and varied and include dance/drama projects, exchange visits, work placements, training and mentoring programmes as well as health and drug education and diversionary and crime reduction projects.

Paul and Lesley believe that local volunteers are key to the success of CUP, but the greatest success is its ability to bring young people together from different areas within Kirklees, many of whom don’t normally mix.

WWW.C-U-P.ORG.UK
CONTACT INFORMATION: C-U-P.ORG.UK
Communities United Project

Mike Croft
Founder, Campitor – a multi-faith, multi-ethnic community scheme in Wakefield providing equality of opportunity and tackling social problems

Joyce Daniels
Founder member of Guyanese Organisation for Cultural Advancement (GOCA) – Croydon

Campitor and its various projects are based at the St Catherine’s Church Centre in Wakefield. The church community of St Catherine’s set up Campitor as a social enterprise to promote faith-led regeneration in hard-to-reach areas, like those surrounding the church. Campitor provides numerous services to the community including a cafe and day care centre for old people and is the largest provider of non-statutory ethnic minority youth work in the district of Wakefield.

Mike’s experience gained over the last 15 years has established Campitor as a lead agency and delivery mechanism for community and economic development. It has a proven track record as a catalyst for change and has secured the employment of 220 people to date and training for over 400.

Campitor is now a point of national consultation and dissemination on faith-led community development.

www.campitor-ltd.com
Contact info@campitor-ltd.com

Joyce was a founder member of GOCA, initially as a volunteer, but once it was fully funded became a member of the management committee.

GOCA’s service has made a substantial difference to the lives of a considerable number of African Caribbean elders, helping them to live in the community and maintain their independence.

Joyce has raised local interest and motivated many in the community to support the service and thus ensure long-term sustainability. She has been particularly active in raising local funds and encouraging volunteers to deliver services.

GOCA has been funded by the local authority for many years and now has a full service agreement to provide day services for African Caribbean elders. Joyce’s efforts were recognised in 1998 with the award of an MBE.
Chris set up SCRATCH ten years ago in an attempt to do something about poverty in the Southampton area. He is now Chief Executive of an organisation consisting of around 100 people, mostly volunteers.

Chris initiates and manages almost all of the projects, including the distribution and delivery of furniture and household items to people. He also manages a food bank and provides a distribution service to hostels. SCRATCH also provides work experience for people with mental health needs, young people leaving care and the long-term unemployed, amongst others.

SCRATCH is now a registered charity and directly assists over 7000 people a year. It even has a positive impact on the environment by re-using tonnes of goods destined for landfill.

VOICES is a Children’s Society project funded through the Newcastle Children’s Fund. It supports the development of strong and active communication in which young people under 13 years of age are valued and participate on equal terms.

Through this initiative, children and young people have been inspired to work with politicians, local and regional government officials, local communities and service providers to ensure their views are heard.

Michelle has played a key role in guiding and supporting the children and young people to explore ways of working with decision makers to influence events affecting their lives.

The Wicked Planners, supported by VOICES, won the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Learning to Listen competition in 2003.

www.childrenssociety.org.uk

CONTACT SCRATCH ON (023) 80773132
CONTACT MICHELLE DEANS AT VOICES ON 0191 224 5367
Voices project funded through the Newcastle Children’s Trust provides a platform for strong and active communication in which young people are valued and participate on equal terms.

Young and older people have been inspired to work with government officials, local communities and service providers in guiding and supporting the children and young people in their pursuit of decision makers to influence events affecting them.

David, who has been working with youths from the local community of Old Trafford for the past 10 years, giving his time voluntarily to improve community spirit and quality of life. Engaging with the young people through sporting activities and initiatives, he has been actively involved in a number of high profile activities. These projects include the ‘Kick-start Youth Project’ which educates young people about the harmful effects of drugs; the ‘Old Trafford Sports Academy’, which aims to improve health through participation in sporting activities and empowering young people to become qualified coaches and future youth leaders; and the ‘Unity in the Community’ project which educates young people in Old Trafford about the dangers of drugs and gun crime.

As a person of mixed ethnic background, David is personally aware of the problems faced by young people of diverse backgrounds living in deprived areas. His work has resulted in a significant reduction in juvenile crime and anti-social behaviour.

Diana has worked for two years building bridges between divided and fearful communities. She has achieved this by strengthening and opening up further education opportunities. Last year alone, 1,500 learners directly benefited from her initiatives.

Representing the college in all outreach work with some 60 community groups, she manages programmes including the Second Chance Project, a cultural diversity programme on behalf of the college and provides support to the Saver/Naver project.

The Second Chance Project develops essential skills for Loyalist ex-prisoners and their families living in disadvantaged areas which have experienced relatively high levels of violence. The cultural diversity programme ensures that all communities using the college face no barriers accessing college services and no inequality through racism or sectarianism. The Saver/Naver project was established to bring relief to victims of the 30 years of violence and civil unrest through a series of community awareness meetings.
The From Boyhood to Manhood Foundation was set up by Decima and Uanu in 1996 after they identified a real need in their community.

The project delivers an innovative and successful approach for young people who have been failed by mainstream education and are in danger of eventually being socially excluded. Excluded pupils are most at risk of being drawn into criminal or anti-social behaviour and depriving themselves, their families and communities of the benefits and opportunities of being valued members of society.

FBMF runs full-time day programmes for excluded boys as well as evening programmes of education and self-development, including basic literacy and numeracy training. Summer programmes and residential courses offer social and life skills as well as work placements.

It has links with schools, agencies, special needs departments, social services and youth offending teams as well as other voluntary and community bodies. FBMF has also just completed a large anti-gun project for schools and youth organisations that was supported by the Greater London Authority.

The Foundation has made significant life changes to many vulnerable young people’s lives by supporting and helping them to turn away from gangs, gun crime, anti-social behaviour and drugs.

Since it began, FBMF has helped over 450 young people. Most have returned to school or college, many have gained academic qualifications, all have re-assessed their abilities, behaviour and direction in life.

From Boyhood to Manhood Foundation is a beneficiary of the Damilola Taylor Trust.

WWW.USATFBMF.COM
CONTACT 020 7703 6415
From Boyhood to Manhood Foundation

In 1987 Doris founded a Neighbourhood Watch Association in York and subsequently created Broadway Area Good Neighbour Residents Association (BAGNARA).

At the age of 87 she still works tirelessly to promote and expand the work of BAGNARA with the primary aim of ensuring people are and feel more secure in their homes and daily lives. She is instrumental in ensuring BAGNARA continues to forge strong partnerships with the police, city council and many other agencies.

Doris’ interests are wide and varied and she has been active in raising funds for community initiatives such as playground equipment for local children and in supporting the activities of the City of York Neighbourhood Watch Association.

Since completing a drug rehabilitation programme in 1998, Chris has dedicated his life to supporting young people in his area. He has developed strong links with the community as an active member of the Rowner Tenants Association and the local church.

Supported by his wife, Chris established premises for Timeout, secured funding and even decorated it himself. Since the centre opened drug misuse has dropped and police report that street crime has halved on the estate.

Chris inspires the young people around him because he has ‘street cred’, imagination and vision which gives them hope that they can do something to make their lives worthwhile. One example illustrates Chris’s impact on the area – an infamous street gang which roamed the estate terrorising many of the older residents, is now involved in outward bound trips and activities or preoccupied with the football team, winning competitions wherever they play.

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The Haulgh Community Partnership is a residents’ group that has been successful in engaging their community in a wide range of social issues, with the result that people are and feel more secure in their homes and daily lives.

The biggest issues facing the Haulgh community were on-street prostitution, kerb crawling and related drug dealing and anti-social behaviour.

Walter was instrumental in forming the Partnership and as Chairperson of the group he is committed to making the community a better place for all with the support of his team.

Working closely with the Police and the Local Authority, Walter and Madeleine have forged an invaluable link for their community in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Haulgh Community Partnership produces regular and professionally printed newsletters which are distributed to every household and holds several public events through the year. Walter and Madeleine work hard to make sure a cohesive action plan is communicated as broadly as possible.

The community has seen the virtual elimination of on-street prostitution and more people are moving into the area. There have been significant reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour and most significantly there have not been any unnatural deaths for over a year.

Residents’ feedback is consistently positive; a recent survey indicates an increase in community confidence.
Rachel became involved with community safety following crack-related shootings near a run down, derelict space close to her home. She spearheaded a campaign with other concerned residents to raise nearly half a million pounds to turn the site into an area with playground, basketball court, gardens and community buildings.

She was instrumental in the nationally recognised No Room for Crack and Smack Campaign which sent out an important message that Brixton communities would not tolerate drug dealing and drug misuse. The campaign also provided information about treatment and support services available to people with substance misuse problems, and a hotline to report drug dealing and concerns about drug and sex issues.

The Safer Lambeth Partnership has achieved significant reductions in priority crimes over the last two years and Rachel’s drive, commitment and advocacy for local communities have been an important part of this success.

Margaret works tirelessly to improve conditions in her community, providing activities for young people, ensuring the estates are well maintained and even arranging effective policing. The estates are large and difficult for beat police to cover so Margaret initiated fund raising for the purchase of two cycles for the local Community Beat Manager and Police Community Support Officer. Funds were raised by organising a psychic evening and through the support of a local school and local business. Soon her enthusiasm persuaded other local groups to take part and eventually over £800 was raised.

Margaret is actively involved in local youth nights, organising events for the young people of the area so that they are off the streets and less likely to get into trouble.

Margaret also spends much of her time working for Roadpeace and Aftermath Support, helping people who have been bereaved or injured in road traffic crashes and campaigning for safer roads.

Web site: www.roadpeace.org
www.aftermathsupport.org.uk
When Keith joined Superdrug in Dalston as store manager he was immediately struck by the high level of retail crime and determined to do something about it. He organised other traders so they could share information and began many years of leading the fight against crime in Dalston.

He worked closely with local crime reduction officers and was instrumental in the re-instatement of Dalston’s local policing project after the service was briefly suspended.

In his role as chairperson of the local Dalston Retail Partnership he works hard to forge bonds between retailers and the police and has helped launch anti-crime schemes to ensure more offenders are caught and punished.

He is also key to ensuring new businesses are ‘up-to-speed’ with local issues and preventative measures. His efforts continue to help reduce crime and fear of crime.

Working for the community since 1983, and until his retirement in 2002 as Community Development Manager at Kirklees Metropolitan Council, Manzoor has worked consistently and actively beyond the call of duty. He has set up many projects over this time, most of which are still providing advice and raising awareness.

A community contact project Manzoor set up and runs encourages ethnic minority access to further education. Actively engaged with the community, he personally visits local residents to develop relationships and trust and help them overcome barriers to using the support services available.

In addition, he is chairperson of Medina Mosque Association, chairperson of Muslim Welfare Association and secretary to the Muslim Burial Committee.
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The Southwark Muslim Women’s Association (SMWA) is a group for empowering
and integrating Muslim women into society.

The association works on behalf of all Muslim women working or living in Southwark
and provides guidance and advice on matters such as housing, finance, welfare rights
and legal issues.

Zafar is an important part of the management team and works tirelessly to ensure
Muslim women receive the help, support and guidance they need to help them adjust to
living in a new country and different culture.

The aims of SMWA are far reaching and it is responsible for education, training,
recreation and social welfare for over 3500 Muslim women and children.

SMWA is a role model for community-strengthening and integration, which also
makes a major contribution to the borough’s cultural festivities.

WWW.SMWA.ORG.UK

Pastor Les Isaac established the innovative Street Pastors Scheme on the streets of
South London. Street Pastors walk the streets every Friday and Saturday night, from
10pm to 4am, in small groups, aiming to stem the flow of urban problems in their area.
They speak to young people involved in, or on the fringes of gangs, defuse conflict
situations where possible and provide a listening ear for vulnerable people.

The Street Pastors’ work is an ongoing project to help young people turn away
from street crime and gangs. They do not take the place of police officers, but their
work does provide a conduit for young men involved in crime or on the fringes of
criminal activity.

Following success in the London boroughs of Hackney, Lambeth, Lewisham and
Southwark, the scheme has now expanded to Birmingham, Brent and Manchester.
Similar schemes are planned for Leeds, Leicester and Liverpool.

WWW.STREETPASTORS.ORG.UK
Oxygen builds relationships with some of the most difficult young people in Kingston. During the last three years it has become well established amongst local young people as a credible and reliable organisation.

Richard co-ordinated a two-week project in the Kingston area called **Soul in the City**. The participants worked closely with the police, council and local residents to tackle community problems such as graffiti and litter. Richard is also currently piloting a project in Kingston Town Centre, which aims to reduce antisocial behaviour through providing a late night refuge and transport access service for clubbers.

The environmental benefits can be clearly seen through the improvement of many areas of Kingston, but more importantly the work of Oxygen has made a difference to many young people’s lives.

**WWW.OXYGEN-ONLINE.ORG**
**CONTACT RICHARD JAMES AT OXYGEN ON 020 8547 0566**

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The Flaxley Road estate in Selby is in one of the most deprived wards on the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Sue has worked hard as chairperson of the Tenants and Residents Association driving forward many good works on behalf of the residents. She has led the Association on all of its projects, using her experience and innovative thinking to get new ideas off the ground.

Sue was very proactive in working with Groundwork Selby and the District Council to run a ‘planning for real event’, to identify what the community would like to see altered on the estate. Under her guidance, the association has grown in strength and many projects have been successfully undertaken. The group holds monthly meetings and produces newsletters on its projects and Sue has encouraged many people to get involved.

The community police have noticed a decrease in crime and there is growing civic pride.

**WWW.SELBY.GOV.UK**
**CONTACT FLAXLEY ROAD TENANTS AND RESIDENTS ON 07759 366803**
Selby is in one of the most deprived wards on the Index as worked hard as chairperson of the Tenants and forward many good works on behalf of the residents. All of its projects, using her experience and innovative ground.

Working with Groundwork Selby and the District Council to identify what the community would like to see altered on the association has grown in strength and many projects. The group holds monthly meetings and produces news. The group has noticed a decrease in crime and there is

Mohammed’s unswerving commitment to his community and to improving the life chances of the young people on the estate have been exemplary. His example has inspired others to become fully engaged in community life.

He founded the Mansell Street Football Club for 14-16 year olds and has organised and run a wide variety of activities and events for all members of the Mansell Street Estate, including community day trips and fun days.

Through the football team, the young people have learnt social skills, taking responsibility for themselves and others, team work and, of course, improved general health and exercise. Members of the team have been diverted from using drugs and engaging in anti-social behaviour.

All Mohammed’s time is given voluntarily and the events and activities he organises have brought all age groups and ethnicities in the community together.

Anti-social behaviour and general disregard of the law by young individuals prompted Derek to set up the Pond Park Forum and later the Pond Park Community Association (PPCA). Hundreds of residents were experiencing alarm and distress day and night due to the actions of unruly youths and Derek’s aim was to bring the residents together with statutory agencies to help revitalise the area.

Derek campaigned and secured funding for a multi-sports area. It now generates an incredible community spirit, with inter-generational activities taking place there as well as at the local Free Church, proving that young and old can play together without the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour. Sport is one area where these young people feel they can contribute and be heard. As a result they keep coming back for more. Residents now feel more secure as anti-social behaviour has fallen and more young people are beginning to play a part in the community.

CONTACT DEREK LACEY AT PPCA ON 01494 771 508
Twin Towns aims to strengthen family relationships between children/young adults (10-25 years) of minority ethnic origin and their parents by providing support to resolve conflicts of cultural and generational differences.

Evelynda developed the project to work with families of Ghanaian origin to help them achieve a balance between two conflicting cultures. She is now shaping it in response to needs expressed in the community by both parents and young people of other minority groups.

Evelynda’s enthusiastic promotion of the project has helped many families with these sensitive issues. She promotes the development of community pilot projects for young people, parents and peers to encourage inter-generational interaction.

Twin Towns works closely with local faith groups, continues to work with families to help them adjust to a new culture and received a Community Champion award in 2002.

Joyce has been a great source of assistance to the police in the Branksome and Parkstone area, working relentlessly to forge strong links with the community to help cut crime and antisocial behaviour.

She started a local residents group, which now has regular meetings with over 60 residents. Together they have embarked on a variety of projects ranging from litter picks, painting a local hall for a youth club and daffodil planting schemes.

Joyce regularly gives up her free time to make the area a safer and more pleasant place to live and has helped the police obtain funding for new security lighting on a recreation ground. She has also been actively involved in making the Branksome area an alcohol-free zone. Joyce is a key player in the local Neighbourhood Watch and is currently assisting mothers to get funding for a toddler group.
Maureen Lodge

Maureen is well known for her vibrant, hands-on approach in the community. When it was decided a community base was needed it was Maureen who took the lead.

Finding a suitable venue has proved to be long and difficult, but her perseverance and focus have paid off and the new community centre is due to open in December 2004. She liaised with landlords, planning and building control to identify an appropriate site and ensured that residents were consulted throughout the negotiations.

The building will help the community group operate effectively and provide them with the experience of running a community centre. Events organised to date have included an environmental clean-up day, including weeding gardens for the elderly, car boot sales and street parties.

Community Chest Funding has been secured for the centre and additional funding has been secured through the Police Reassurance Project to assist with training.

Formerly a community warden living and working in Stoke Aldermoor, Pat initiated The Lindfield Project, which has been successful in developing the skills, self-confidence and self-esteem of young people.

Following complaints from residents about the antisocial behaviour of young people, Pat approached youths and helped them set up their own activities, including organising football and cheerleading. Initially Pat was running everything from her home, storing equipment and welcoming more and more young people to join in.

Other members of the community joined Pat and together they created the project. The project now has a base, which is a drop-in centre for young people, called The People’s Place, and is run by local residents with full involvement from the young people.

The Project is well regarded within Coventry and was featured as best practice in a workshop organised by the Community Empowerment Network.

www.coventry-vsc.org.uk
Contact the People’s Place on 024 7663 5229
Ken MacGregor

Volunteer, Neighbourhood Watch Scheme – Hillingdon

Ken and his team of community volunteers have renewed interest in some failing Neighbourhood Watch schemes and supported the introduction of new ‘Watches’ across Hillingdon. There are now over 400 active Neighbourhood Watches operating in the borough of Hillingdon, who assist the Crime Prevention Officers in their task of reducing crime and making people feel more secure in their homes and daily lives.

Ken leads by example through his enthusiasm, commitment and general willingness to help. His IT and design skills have proved an enormous asset in making the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme such a success. Ken’s NHW team is the envy of other police borough command units, many of whom have sent representatives to Hillingdon to assist in developing their own NHW systems.

Burglary in Hillingdon has reduced every year for the last four years and residential burglary is currently showing a 20% reduction in this policing year compared to 2003/4.

Farhana Masuk

Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations (CEMVO)

Farhana initially volunteered at CEMVO for three months to raise awareness and encourage volunteering amongst black and minority ethnic people. She now works full time at an Asian women’s centre where she mentors, teaches and is a great ambassador, encouraging new volunteers from the Asian community.

In order to reach potential volunteers from the Asian community Farhana decided to take volunteering into the heart of the neighbourhood by organising volunteering roadshows. The roadshows, supported by the Alex Dixon Trust, have encouraged people from black and minority ethnic communities to volunteer their services. They had an immediate effect: a number of volunteers were recruited and they, in turn, have brought fresh ideas and new thinking to the council.

During UK Volunteering Week Farhana also helped organise the Volunteers Achievement Award, the Young People’s Talent Show and even the raffle.

www.emf-cemvo.co.uk

Contact Farhana Masuk on 0117 969 0662
Farhana Masuk

Volunteer, Mactaggart Cyber Cafe – Islay in Argyll

George McGilvary

Chairperson, Poole Crime Prevention Panel

Volunteer, Melanni Cyber Cafe – Islay in Argyll

PHOTOGRAPHED BY SAM JOHNSTONE AT A TABLE TOP FUNDRAISING SALE

PHOTOGRAPHED BY DEBBIE KELLY, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MANAGER

Farhana at CEMVO for three months to raise awareness and get black and minority ethnic people. She now works full-time where she mentors, teaches and is a great ambassador, olling from the Asian community Farhana decided to of the neighbourhood by organising volunteering supported by the Alex Dixon Trust, have encouraged ethnic communities to volunteer their services. They had of volunteers were recruited and they, in turn, have brought this to the council. Farhana also helped organise the Volunteers People’s Talent Show and even the raffle.

George, known to many as ‘Spike’, helped create the Cyber Cafe project on the island of Islay in Argyll and continues to run this excellent project for, and most importantly with, the involvement of the young people on the island. Spike suffers from Multiple Sclerosis but it hasn’t stopped the Cyber Cafe making a significant contribution to youth engagement and to reducing teenage crime on the remote island. The young people of Islay are now actively involved in solving local problems and volunteer their services for the good of the community.

Since the establishment of the Cyber Cafe alcohol-related anti-social behaviour has been reduced to almost nil.

The Cyber Cafe is listed in online guides to the island and receives positive endorsement from users.

Chairperson of the Poole Crime Prevention Panel since 2002, Jim leads by example, getting involved at all levels and attending every event at which the Panel meet the public. The Panel works closely with the Crime Reduction Partnership and was instrumental in promoting the 25 Sticker Project, where residents displayed a sticker in their car window alerting police to the fact that no one under the age of 25 had permission to drive their car. The project was initially piloted in Poole and now covers the whole of Dorset. Jim was also involved in the planning and organisation of the Trickster Shows – a musical performed for elderly Poole residents to raise awareness about bogus callers in the area. The shows were very effective in raising awareness of distraction burglary and it is planned they will be updated and repeated next year.
Martha is tackling serious issues for women in the community from Southern Sudan. Life is difficult for them because of language and cultural barriers. She uses her experience working on similar activities within other ethnic communities to help members develop skills in social enterprise, share ideas, raise self-confidence and empower themselves to become independent.

Martha started the groups by running activities in members' homes, organising and teaching skills. She has now established a committee and the group has office premises. The organisation is growing from strength to strength and has support from Barnet Council and enterprise development support from the London Rebuilding Society Mutual Aid Fund.

The group won a Community Champions award in 2002 for the African handicrafts and needlework project.

Kiln and Minerva Action Way Group was set up by Gerry to support regeneration of the area and to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

The group developed a master plan for the estate based on its own observations and residents' needs. Young people were brought into activities through funding for football teams and providing voluntary coaches. In response to fly-tipping a 'Greener Cleaner Day' was organised with free barbecue and bouncy castle to attract community involvement.

As a direct result of the activities of Gerry and the Kiln and Minerva Action Way Group community spirit has improved greatly and the group is recognised as a valuable and powerful voice in local multi-agency partnerships.
Way Group was set up by Gerry to support regeneration and anti-social behaviour. A plan for the estate based on its own observations was put into action. People were brought into activities through funding for voluntary coaches. In response to fly-tipping a ‘Greener Kiln’ project proved greatly and the group is recognised as a local multi-agency partnerships.

Following the murder of her son in 2002, Lucy founded Mothers Against Guns. The organisation has raised the profile of the anti-gun message and works with many other groups to ensure that the issue remains in the media.

The main focus of Mothers Against Guns is to campaign for tighter laws on guns, and longer sentences for those found in possession, as well as providing a range of support and services to victims of crime and their families.

Collectively, the organisation continues to ensure that gun crime maintains a high profile. Individually, Lucy has helped a number of families following gun incidents whilst well-respected by many national organisations Mothers Against Guns continues to receive considerable local and national media coverage. Lucy has also had her efforts recognised internationally, the US branch of Mothers Against Guns honouring her with the 2005 International Award Against Gun Violence.

The organisation received funding from the Connected Fund in 2004, a fund established by the Home Office to provide a simplified funding stream for small community groups working on gun crime projects.

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The organisation received funding from the Connected Fund in 2004, a fund established by the Home Office to provide a simplified funding stream for small community groups working on gun crime projects.
Dee and Lyn founded Mothers Against Murder and Aggression (MAMAA), to provide support for families and friends who have lost loved ones through murder. It has been their personal commitment and desire to help that has kept MAMAA going. They have often had to resort to using their own funds to ensure that they could contribute to help those in need of support in the wake of a tragedy. MAMAA provides a valuable service to people at a traumatic time in their lives by giving them general support during the police investigations and also, when needed, help to attend court. MAMAA’s support also continues after court cases for as long as it is needed.

Dee and Lyn are both members of the Home Secretary’s round table on gun crime, providing valuable advice and ideas to support the Home Office’s work in this area.

The work of MAMAA is frequently covered in both local and national press and on television and Dee was recently interviewed on Sky News. Both Dee and Lyn are frequent interviewees on pertinent issues in the news.

MAMAA has received funding through the Government Office for London to support their work both now and in the future.
Following the murder of her son in 1999, Patsy set up Mothers Against Violence (MAV), and together with Angela they have both worked relentlessly to develop the organisation. MAV brings people together who share a concern and are committed to see change in a city where young people feel so alienated from society that they are drawn towards a gang culture, and violence. The meetings are attended by parents and children, probation personnel, councillors, charities, residents and church leaders. Patsy and Angela work to address the factors that lead to gang involvement and support victims and offenders of gun crime. In addition, the group provides a valuable service to people at a traumatic time in their lives by giving general support and also, when needed, help to attend court.

MAV has received a grant from the Connected Fund to tackle gun crime and was recognised with the Queen’s Award for Community Service in 2004. MAV aims to create life changes for people by linking existing organisations working for the benefit of young people, to provide a united voice to government, council, fund providers and the media. Patsy and Angela are frequently interviewed on national and local media on gun crime issues and are members of the Home Secretary’s round table on gun crime.
Elizabeth, with the support of her team, has worked tirelessly over the past year on developing the right structures and systems to ensure The African Community Partnership (ACP) operates effectively and efficiently.

The partnership, based in New Cross Gate, South London, is a non-profit organisation representing all people who define themselves as being of African origin. Their core objective is the improvement of the socioeconomic status of members of target communities. This is achieved through education and capacity building in the skills that will fit them for employment, thus enabling them to fully participate in the community.

Elizabeth has worked closely with many other community groups in the area to ensure that activities undertaken by the ACP are supported by residents. She is famed for her presence at every community event, meeting, activity and get-together.

Thelma has spent many years tackling social problems in the deprived areas of Thetford, acting as Town, District and County Councillor. After a period as chairperson of the Thetford Partnership she is now a trustee of the Keystone Development Trust, using her wealth of experience to help to regenerate the area and ensure residents are fully engaged and involved.

Working closely with partner organisations and communities, the Partnerships aim to ensure that the area is safe, healthy, inclusive, and socially and economically vibrant. Through projects such as BizzFizz, Thelma has been involved in much of the Partnerships’ impact in Thetford and surrounding areas. Another project, MultiMobile, was instrumental in bringing telecommunications to rural areas.

Thelma is also extremely active in fund raising and gained financial support from the EU.
When youth disorder problems reached a climax in February 2004, the Oval Traders Association convened a public meeting with the Lamorbey Residents’ Association with the primary aim of tackling youth disorder and environmental crime.

Both Roger and Diane, representing the traders, decided to use the opportunity to instigate a Problem Solving Process (PSP) to address residents’ concerns. The Oval’s problems ranged from window etching, graffiti and litter, damage to flowerbeds and a local bus shelter, to fly-tipping.

The Oval Traders Association worked closely with Adshel to arrange a new type of anti-graffiti paneling on the bus shelter and organised a summer fete on the green for the local community. The association also raised funds themselves to replant the flowerbeds.

Roger and Diane’s combined efforts have ensured the success of this project. Their advice to local traders and residents on the importance of reporting crime and disorder has helped to eradicate problems in the community.

The project has made a real improvement to the area. With a local beat policeman now dedicated to the area there has been a reduction in the number of reports of disorder. In addition, there is raised awareness of the partnership activities and police presence.

Roger Savage
and
Diane Wisdom

The Oval Traders Association – working with local residents to help overcome youth disorder problems in the community

PHOTOGRAPHED BY PAUL CASTLE, TREASURER, THE OVAL TRADERS ASSOCIATION

WWW.BEXLEY.GOV.UK
CONTACT THE OVAL TRADERS ASSOCIATION ON 020 8308 9777
Mary works tirelessly to reduce crime in Poole, initially persuading beach hut owners to form their own watch group. Under her guidance, the group was set up by the owners in Hamworthy Park to report any problems such as vandalism, storm damage or break-ins.

Prior to the formation of the group, incidents were reported by the beach warden or a member of the public to either the police or the council. Now the beach hut owners keep an eye on each other’s property and contact owners directly to notify them of any problems.

The activities of the Dorset Watch Liaison Group have been well received locally. Since its inception, not only has the appearance of the beach hut area improved significantly but also incidents of vandalism have lessened.

Mary is now one of the four Poole representatives on the Dorset Watch Liaison Group as well as being a member of many other local watches and crime prevention organisations.

As chairperson for the Lilliput and Lower Parkstone Neighbourhood Watch Group, Joan organises much of their administration, organising AGMs, election of officers, booking guest speakers and defining roles and responsibilities of 100 co-ordinators.

Joan prefers to tackle small groups in an informal but informative way and her enthusiasm and dedication is a source of comfort to many members of the community.

She attends Poole Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator meetings as well as Partnership Burglary task group meetings and the Dorset Watch Liaison Group meetings. She also finds time to be a trained volunteer on the Youth Offenders Panel and is the contact point for the Directory of Recommended Trades People.

Through her involvement as a volunteer in many groups she is uniquely placed to bring her knowledge, gained through the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, to the benefit of the residents of Lilliput and Lower Parkstone.
Jan has worked in the Plymouth area as an unpaid accredited probation volunteer for over five years.

In Jan’s role as probation volunteer, her work can often bring her into contact with at-risk individuals. Her personal commitment to support and help these people to her best ability is unprecedented and highly praised by her colleagues.

Jan is totally committed to helping rehabilitate offenders and helping vulnerable members of the community, often, according to her colleagues, working beyond the call of duty.

Her efforts and ongoing mentoring of former offenders have made a significant contribution to public protection and crime reduction in the area.

In an area where criminals are often role models to youth, Joe has worked relentlessly to forge a sense of community spirit.

In 1992 Joe set up a scheme called Enthusiasm which is committed to providing diversionary activities for young people to prevent them from being sucked into crime.

The activities organised by the scheme range from youth clubs to outreach activities and many young people have been inspired to become youth workers themselves as a result of his work and philosophy. Most importantly, offending and re-offending have been almost completely eradicated amongst young people involved in Enthusiasm.

Enthusiasm’s work with young offenders was recognised recently when it was a finalist in the Community Care Awards.

CONTACT JOE.ENTHUSIASM@TISCALI.CO.UK
As Race Equality Officer, Gurvinder’s professional role involves promoting cultural diversity. However his commitment and passion go well beyond professional norms. He has been the architect of many events and functions aimed at creating more cohesive communities, including Kick Racism Out of Football, organising the first North West Kent Community Calendar; a Diversity Youth Conference, the Vaisakhi Education Day for Schools and the Ethnic Minority Health and Social Care Conference.

Gurvinder’s proactive approach has inspired many people to get involved with their community and help to generate much funding themselves for new groups and activities.

In addition to his work with local people in Dartford and Gravesham, Gurvinder has also set up some Kent-wide initiatives, such as The Kent Football Partnership.

His achievements in promoting cultural diversity and understanding were recognised recently when he was awarded the Gravesham Civic Award.

Community Links is the community engagement arm of the local Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) and recognised as an innovative organisation delivering good practice in the field of community engagement. Anna, in her role as chairperson of the project, commits a lot of time ensuring that people are involved in all aspects of the local regeneration process. She has been instrumental in co-ordinating efforts to instigate improvements in town centres and public parks.

Anna has been the driving force behind many projects which have, in turn, helped improve the quality of life for residents and she has shown particular interest in the drugs problem prevalent in her community. She is also a member of the local Substance Abuse Group led by the Drug Action Team and has been involved in the development of several successful programmes targeted at individuals with addiction problems.

Anna’s efforts were recognised in 2003 when she received a Community Service Award from South Lanarkshire Council.
Anna, in her role as chairperson of the project, has been instrumental in coordinating efforts to instigate community engagement aimed at residents. She has shown particular interest in the drugs community and the local Substance Action Team. She is also a member of the local Substance Action Team and has been involved in the development of initiatives targeted at individuals with addiction problems. Anna received a Community Service Award in 2003 when she received a Community Service Award from the Community Integration Partnership (SIP).

Ph: 1698 420042
WWW.DRUGLINELANCS.CO.UK
CONTACT DRUGLINE – LANCASHIRE LTD ON 01772 535 840

 Drugline – Lancashire Ltd provides education, information, counselling and treatment to people with drug misuse problems. Kathryn has been a vital part of Drugline – Lancashire Ltd for 18 years and cares passionately about people who have substance misuse problems. She has worked tirelessly to encourage people in the community to get involved in what is a particularly difficult area. She is also Chairperson of the Voluntary Sector Forum, a group of over 40 voluntary sector agencies whose common objective is to allow greater access to drug treatment. Without their contribution to the needs of the people of Lancashire, the ability to cope with the ever-increasing demand for services could not be met.

In 2002, Kathryn initiated a national pilot scheme to determine the needs of crack cocaine users. In the two years of the project, over 350 people have received training on the effects of crack cocaine and understanding the treatment of users.

Maureen is a team player and actively aims to build capacity in the community, passing on knowledge and ‘know-how’ to other community groups.

She was instrumental in the First Responder Team initiative and secured funding for two defibrillators and training in their use for on-the-spot first aid treatment. Her drive also successfully secured the use of a Cop-Shop, a multi-agency support unit, which provides information and support to the community.

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme is a great success, burglary has been reduced by nearly 15% and as a direct result, people feel more secure in their homes and daily lives. Activity days, such as skip clean-up days have contributed significantly to the appearance of the estate and regular newsletters communicate issues to residents.

Maureen doesn’t stop there, however. She recently acquired funding for the purchase of portable CCTV cameras for use on the estate.

Maureen Tennison
Neighbourhood Watch Area Co-ordinator – Royal Estate – Doncaster

PHOTOGRAPHED BY MARGARET ADAMSON, NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COMMITTEE MEMBER
Steve was concerned that there appeared to be a widening gulf between the elderly and young generations in the previously close-knit community of Briercliffe. The young claimed there was nothing to do and older residents reported feeling intimidated by groups congregating in the street.

Steve secured funding and resources to set up the Briercliffe Youth Group which, despite setbacks along the way now has a membership of some 150 young people. It provides an outlet for the young to channel their energy. Recreational activities are organised for them to take part in and parents have been encouraged to get involved with the group and take responsibility for their children’s attitudes and actions.

Elderly residents in particular have noticed a change of attitude in the community and there is growing mutual respect between the generations. Police have reported a reduction in juvenile anti-social behaviour.

Linda has worked diligently on behalf of her local community to ensure equality of opportunity and respect for people of all races and religions.

As a local resident, she helped to set up the Coney Hill Community College, which now provides a wide range of classes to 490 students from the local community. The College provides classes to local people in an area where there is poor educational attainment and social exclusion.

Historically, Coney Hill had a bad reputation and experienced a range of social problems. It was an area where, for example, buses would not run at night due to the drivers being beaten up. The bus service has now been re-instated.

Linda’s no-nonsense approach has helped to regenerate the area by working closely with local agencies and this in turn has helped to tackle anti-social behaviour and restore community pride.
on behalf of her local community to ensure equality of
people of all races and religions.

She helped to set up the Coney Hill Community College, which
provides classes to 490 students from the local community. The
school has helped to regenerate the area by working closely
with the community, for example, buses would not run at night due to the
crime rate; this service has now been reinstated.

Matthew and Terry have both worked tirelessly on behalf of the Friends of Carter
Park, using their personal skills to encourage community participation and to help
regenerate the community.

Carter Park was a piece of wasteland where a derelict building was being used for
alcohol and substance misuse. Many people felt intimidated by the activities within the
park and therefore avoided walking through or using it for recreational purposes.

A group of 20 residents, adults and young people, formed the Friends of Carter
Park. Together, they have successfully transformed the park so it is now a focal point for
the area. They have also refurbished the church hall, which is now a community centre.
A youth club opens on two nights a week and other projects run on other evenings. The
whole community now benefits from the centre as it provides a much needed resource
which is accessed by young and old alike.

Together, Matthew and Terry have inspired young people and residents to work
more together by demonstrating that they can make a difference to their community by being
involved and committed.

Meanwhile, working on the environmental aspects of the park, the group also worked with a
local filmmaker to produce an animated film about the problems and issues of Carter Park.
The film appeared on BBC 2 and won a Royal Television Society of Young
Filmmakers award.
Elsie has lived on the Lowerhouses Estate for 55 years and has led a personal crusade against crime and anti-social behaviour for many years. She has developed links with many local agencies and through working with the police established the local Safer Communities Panel and Citizens Council. These bodies have given residents the confidence to talk to the police (the first meeting was held in secret). The partnership aims to tackle crime and disorder in the community to meet national crime reduction targets and other local priorities.

Elsie is involved in numerous community projects, including a local neighbourhood cafe, and was instrumental in providing a breakfast club for local children. She also helps school children with reading difficulties (Reading Friends). She has also campaigned for refugee housing and has been known to personally confront problem people and families. Her drive and commitment to improving the community and tackling social problems is much admired.

Mary is in charge of East Surrey Domestic Violence outreach and associated services. She coordinates their activities with tireless commitment, ensuring they provide the highest quality of service to victims of domestic violence.

She was instrumental in setting up the forum and has shaped and driven its development for over a decade. The forum publicises its work through posters and displays in public places and it provides training across the county for people dealing with domestic violence such as police, magistrates, health and social care professionals.

The major fund providers of the forum believe that it is an extremely worthwhile and valuable service and recognise its impact in reducing repeat domestic violence offences. Significantly, there has also been an increase in first time reporting of domestic violence.

Mary Whitfield

East Surrey Domestic Violence Forum – providing support and guidance to victims of domestic violence

Local Resident – Lowerhouses Estate, Huddersfield

Elsie Wheatley

PHOTOGRAPHED BY PC PAUL DENTON, COMMUNITY CONSTABLE

Mary Whitfield

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANNE, OUTREACH WORKER

WWWSDDVF.ORG.UK

CONTACT MARY WHITFIELD AT THE FORUM ON 01737 771 350
Edna devotes much time and energy to many local community groups and is passionate about getting local residents involved in identifying and helping solve local problems in their communities.

She is actively involved in Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, local church groups, the Tenants Federation, the Safer Guildford Partnership’s Strengthening the Community project and is also a Community Action Project representative.

The Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the area have been particularly successful due to Edna’s enthusiasm in promoting them to the community. This has involved explaining how they work and encouraging local residents to come together for mutual gain.

Her personal enthusiasm and commitment has encouraged many local residents to get involved in projects such as Community Clean-Up Days. These have identified local environmental eyesores and brought residents together to clean up the problem areas.
Volunteers make a huge contribution to the wellbeing of local communities throughout the country. Every day volunteers give their time to help older people through befriending schemes, improve the environment by cleaning up public spaces, help tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, provide support and advice to people on the fringe of society and to those in areas of deprivation, help young people by giving some friendly advice or provide comfort and reassurance for those who are ill.

The Citizenship Survey, the Home Office’s major research on community life, shows that in England in 2003 around 25.1 million people contributed on average 70 hours each in some type of voluntary activity.

Volunteers come from all walks of life and all backgrounds. Some may have been encouraged to help out in their local community by their employer, others want to make a difference in their own neighbourhood by improving local facilities or tackling local problems. Volunteers can offer a lifeline to those who face personal problems or feel excluded from society.

YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER 2005

Whatever their background or motivation we want to recognise and celebrate the achievements and contributions volunteers make and encourage others to come forward and get involved.

That is why we have designated 2005 as the Year of the Volunteer. The Home Office, working in partnership with Community Service Volunteers (CSV) and Volunteering England, will be undertaking a major programme of events, awareness raising and practical help all designed to recognise the contribution which volunteers make to all our lives and encourage more people to get involved.

We want to reach out to everyone but in particular those people from within our communities who might not normally volunteer: young people; people from disadvantaged backgrounds; people who represent the diversity of the communities we live in.

We also want to encourage employers to get involved by encouraging employee volunteering. This could be individuals helping out in their local community or a team of staff undertaking a specific project.
or motivation we want to recognise and celebrate the contributions volunteers make and encourage others to come.

2005 was designated as the Year of the Volunteer. The Home Office with Community Service Volunteers (CSV) and undertook a major programme of events, designed to recognise the contribution which everyone, but in particular those people from within our normal volunteer: young people, people from Whitehall departments, regional Government Offices and local government will be encouraging staff to get involved too. This will be part of a cross-government programme increasing the number of employees actively involved in volunteering.

Voluntary and community organisations including YouthNet, TimeBank, The Media Trust, Business in the Community, and Youth Action will be helping to take the message across the country, and a host of organisations will be working on monthly themes to focus attention on specific groups such as older people or particular activities such as sport.

Year of the Volunteer 2005 will cover the whole of the UK with the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland all developing their own programmes.

Throughout the year you can log onto our dedicated website www.yearofthevolunteer.org to find out what is happening in your area or to register your interest in volunteering. Or you can contact your local Volunteer Centre or agency which you will find in the phone book.

WHAT’S YOUR PASSION?
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This is the first local heroes book and event. Many people have worked together to make this happen and we would like to thank all those people who have made it possible. In particular we would like to thank:

**For identifying nominees:**
The Government Offices for the Regions
Northern Ireland Office, Office of the Permanent Secretary
Northern Ireland Executive, Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister
Scotland Office, Office of the Permanent Secretary
National Assembly for Wales, Office of the Permanent Secretary
Home Office ministers and senior officials

**Members of the selection panel:**
Dr Dick Atkinson of the Balsall Heath Forum
Helen Edwards, Director General, Communities Group, Home Office
Fiona MacGregor, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Race Equality, Community and Civil Renewal
Abdal Ullah, a member of the Metropolitan Police Authority and of SureStart, Tower Hamlets

**Advice on setting up and running a selection process:**
Pauline Wallington and Clare Vernon of Crime Concern

**Technical support for the event and production of the video:**
Prison Service Technical Support Unit and in particular for the video, Paul Bunyard and Anna Flood of the Home Office Internal Communication Unit

**Production of the book, local heroes logo and supporting material:**
Ian Wilson and team at Folio Creative Communication

**Local photographers:**
All the local people who took the photos of local heroes that appear in this book

**Travel arrangements:**
Carlson Wagonlit Travel for setting up a special travel desk for local heroes

**Project team:**
This has been a team effort bringing people together from across the Home Office to work on a shared project. In particular Jana Moss and Marion Hood of the Civil Renewal Unit, Faye Wilson and Justin Merry of Internal Communication, and Pam Bland of Reform and Change. We would also like to thank all the people who helped, at a moment’s notice, to process nomination forms, send out letters and take phone enquiries.

For more information contact 020 7035 5293, www.active-citizen.org.uk
Heroes logo and supporting material:
Fizzy Communication
Photos of local heroes that appear in this book
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video, and in particular for the video, Paul Bunyard and Anna
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