

### ***Address given at awards***

Without volunteers many of our community services would fail. Some will point out and quite rightly that volunteering is unpaid work. But it is but done with a different purpose.

There have been lots of wise words about volunteering, so forgive me for mentioning a few of them in this address. Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections, when called to do so, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in". To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity." People often assume that as a Mayor of a Town Council I am someone special and that I am paid a lot of money and live in a big house with a chauffeur driven car..... Ah if only! Council house kid, Secondary Modern school education, Apprenticeship, 43 years working for same company, there is nothing special about me. So we, Parish Councillors are volunteers. So why do it? Well I can only speak for myself. I care about the community I live in, I think, I hope that I make a difference in some way. Every man, every woman who takes up service in local government, must ask themselves two questions: 'Do I care for my community in order to serve them better? Am I humble and do I listen to everybody, to diverse opinions in order to choose the best path?' If you don't ask those questions, your governance will not be good. Volunteers are the only human beings on earth who reflect their community's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another.

### ***How did the awards come about?***

As I started my second term as Boroughbridge Mayor I started to think about what makes a community and how much a community relies on its volunteers. Volunteers are everywhere in our community, even some paid jobs require voluntary hours to make things a success. Sports clubs, social groups, work with the young and old alike, scouts, guides, school governors, the list is endless. Even as Parish Councillors we volunteer to be elected in to office and if our community choose to elect us we serve our community as volunteers. There is no remuneration at parish council level. So I decided it was time that some of these groups and individuals were recognised, not exclusively to Boroughbridge but to the surrounding district. Once I launched the awards early in 2017 I was amazed at the uptake in nominations and the very kind offer of sponsorship from Richard Kay of Rabbit Hill Business Park. I hope that these awards will grow over the coming years as those that serve our community really do deserve to be recognised in some way

## **WINNERS**

### ***2017 Young Volunteer Of The Year***

#### ***Toni Diclemente***

This young person is a very active member of one of our uniform groups and to quote from one of the nomination forms "She is the first to volunteer for any activity or project, however much hard work or uncomfortable it may be and she uses everything she learns to pass on and help others with an enthusiasm and joy that never waivers"!

## **2017 Community Achievement Award**

### ***Mike Collins***

This person has been in, and part of so many groups and organisations it is hard to list them all, Scouts, BACLA, Walkers are Welcome, Parish Councillor. He was recently honoured by the queen, but I am sure that this award will mean just as much. An award from the people he seeks to serve

## **Community Spirited Shop / Business Of The Year 2107**

### ***Fink***

This shop since its arrival on the high street has made an impact on the local community. Going the extra mile to support local events and doing everything possible to promote the town in the best possible light.

## **Community Event / Project Of The Year 2017**

### **The Easter Walking Festival**

This group provides a variety of guided walks, giving visitors and members of the community a chance to explore our beautiful surroundings as well as promoting the area.

## **2017 Volunteer Group Of The Year**

### **BOROUGHBRIDGE AREA COMMUNITY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (B.A.C.L.A.)**

This organisation took over the running of our library services just over a year ago, and has achieved a thriving community hub and has become a benchmark service for others to aspire to, run by a very enthusiastic team of volunteers.

## **2017 Volunteer Community Worker Of The Year**

### ***John Helliwell***

This person has volunteered in many ways, School Governor, Boroughbridge Community Care, Boroughbridge Emergency Committee, but this person is the inspiration behind the team of volunteers at BACLA. One Quote from a nomination form said "he gives 110%.