

## **NEWBURY TOWN CIVIC AWARD & NEWBURY TOWN YOUNG PERSONS CIVIC AWARD**

The 2017 Newbury Town Civic Award and the Newbury Town Young Persons Civic Award were presented at the Annual Town Meeting of Newbury Town Council on Monday 20 March 2017 by the Mayor of Newbury, Cllr Julian Swift-Hook.

**Katy Hawthorne** was presented with the Black Horse trophy as the winner of The Newbury Town Civic Award Scheme 2017. The award recognises the town's unsung heroes, those people who have made an exceptional contribution to our community on a voluntary basis.

Katy has volunteered at the Volunteer Centre for 31 years, regularly attending on Tuesdays but swaps and does extra days to fit the requirements of the team. She is a vital member of the volunteer car service team organising transport for Newbury residents who are unable to use public transport. Over the years, Katy has been an amazing fundraiser for Naomi House Children's Hospice and for the Swings & Smiles charity and now for the West Berkshire Community Hospital Rosemary Appeal. Katy gives generously of her time to neighbours and friends taking them for hospital, doctor and optician appointments.

Diane Batten received an award and was highly commended, for her work assisting vulnerable young people in Newbury. She worked in a Bank and often encountered people having problems and issues in their life. She has since changed her job and works as Manager at the Helen & Douglas House Charity Shop where she is calm and supportive of her volunteer staff and particularly of those with special needs. She continues to help young people on a one to one basis, e.g. she found shoes and a suit

Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury, RG14 5AA

 (01635) 35486     [towncouncil@newbury.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@newbury.gov.uk)  
 (01635) 40484     [www.newbury.gov.uk](http://www.newbury.gov.uk)  
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for a young man who had to make a court appearance and has given vulnerable people food parcels. She recently put out a plea for a pair of shoes for a young man and she often counsels and acts as an advocate for young people in distress. Sadly, not all the people she helps make it and she has attended the funerals of more than one person she has befriended.

The winner of the Newbury Town Young Persons Civic Award, sponsored by the Swift Group of Companies, was **Natasha Williams** who received the crystal trophy and an experience day of her choice. Natasha volunteers at 'Swings & Smiles' and the Guides as well as helping at the lunch time club at Trinity School, where she is at 6<sup>th</sup> form, mentoring younger students. She selflessly sacrifices so much of her time for the benefit of other young people with great empathy, humour and kindness.

The Mayor of Newbury, Councillor Julian Swift-Hook, congratulated all of the nominees for the Awards and thanked the Swift Group of Companies for their continued sponsorship of this event.

**END**

Cllr David Goff – Leader of the Council ([david\\_goff1@hotmail.com](mailto:david_goff1@hotmail.com)) 07717 865752

Cllr Anthony Pick – Deputy Leader of the Council ([Anthony.pick@newburyweb.net](mailto:Anthony.pick@newburyweb.net)) 01635 32095

Hugh Peacocke – CEO, Newbury Town Council ([Hugh.Peacocke@newbury.gov.uk](mailto:Hugh.Peacocke@newbury.gov.uk)) 01635 35486

Note to editors: details of all the nominees attached.

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