



Unsung Hero



Stretford and Urmston MP Bev Hughes presented her Unsung Hero Award at Trafford College, Talbot Rd, in July. The evening was most memorable with entertainment provided by Footlights Theatre School Chloe Boden of 17th Stretford (1st Lostock) Quest Scout Group who designed the Unsung Hero logo was presented with a colouring set. Prior to announcement of the overall winner Bev presented the nominees with a certificate Community Times Stretford was proud and amazed to be one of the nominees along with Gay Smith from The Gorse Hill Community Action Group and Dennis Yarwood present Band Master of 3rd Davyhulme Scout Band who nominated past Band Master Jim Field (below) who I omitted last time and have had my legs slapped for doing so. Jim and Dennis normally play tuba but they can now blow their own trumpet as well as beating drum.



Other nominee from Stretford was Ann Guttridge from Intergen which bridges the gap between the old and young generations and Sally Quinton chair of Friends of Victoria Park who was nominated by Cll Tom Ross. Daniel Hatton former Lostock High School pupil was one of the four who were shortlisted, Daniel runs Lostock Youth Club as well as being a member of the Lostock Community Partnership and does voluntary work as a part time teaching assistant at his old primary school Victoria Park. Asifa Ahmed from Old Trafford who runs a women's support group in Addison House also made the last four along with Wendell Willis from Partington who teaches amateur boxing, all three received House of Commons gifts from Bev.

The overall winners as were Urmston Couple Steve and Irene Brown who have run a soup kitchen for the last decade two nights a week in Manchester they have befriended the homeless, alcoholics, drug users and prostitutes, I think their win was most deserved and home they enjoyed the prize of tea on the terraces at the House of Commons with Bev.

Bev is stepping down as MP at the next General election but she hopes her successor will continue the Unsung Hero Award have will give it her support.



Sally Quinton-Hulme (far left) Chair of Friends of Victoria Park (FOVP) was also nominated as a Unsung Hero The group have been responsible for providing a lot of family entertainment making Victoria Park a pleasurable place to spend some quality family and community time. Recent events have been a Scruffs Dog Show featured in June at Stretford, A Start Of Summer Community Picnic which proved to be a rip-roaring success, with more than 150 locals turning out to celebrate both the Summer Solstice and Father's Day in style.



Park to enjoy their picnics and to meet new friends from their neighbourhood. And the smiles on the faces of the children treated to the impromptu entertainment offered by local clown, Joy Melody, such as the balloon animal making, more than made up for the lack of sunshine.

The event, held on June 21, was intended to bring local residents together and to show them what one of the finest parks in South Manchester has to offer.

Shelly Quinton-Hulme, Chairperson of the Friends of Victoria Park said 'this was a new event for the park, and I think it was a huge success. Everyone said how lovely the day was and how nice it was to see everyone enjoying the park. I loved the fact that a spontaneous game of cricket broke out and was played by mums, dads, kids and grandparents – it looked such fun, I wish I could have stopped serving

tees and coffee and played!' FOVP are holding rounder's evenings every Wednesday until the end of August it all kicks off about 6pm if you don't fancy playing yourself go along and support it and enjoy the beauty of the park. FOVP would like to thank the Manchester Airport Community Trust Fund who has awarded the group with £3,125. Shelly Quinton-Hulme the chairperson for the group received the letter containing the news on Friday 10th July and she said she was 'giddy with delight'.



The award will enable the group to bring their favourite chainsaw carver, Mick Burns, back to the park for 5 days to create some amazing pieces. The plan is for an outdoor classroom, another boat and a train for the under 5's play area, a duck for the over 5's play area which was suggested by one of the youth group associated with the Friends, and a new totem sculpture.

'Once the carvings have all been done we will have a celebration to mark this work – perhaps a picnic, depending upon the weather, and all will be invited' said Shelly Quinton-Hulme.

Friends of Victoria Park, Stretford are a small community group who formed because we wanted to try and reverse the decline in our local park. Friends of Victoria Park can be contacted via parkfriends@btinternet.com or visit www.foyps.org.uk.