

Unsung Hero Awards

Nominees in full

EVELYN Cosham, of Old Trafford, was nominated by Councillor Whit Stennett for her work with the St John's Centre in Old Trafford, St John's Church and Old Trafford Credit Union. He said: "Evelyn is one of the truly unsung volunteers who contribute and make a difference in their community."

SIXTY-year-old Mike Green, of Stretford, has been helping cancer sufferers for 16 years and was nominated by Mrs L Bezzina of the Macmillan Care Centre in Davyhulme, who said he was "very committed".

RITA Jones, of Stretford, is involved in 'Trees Residents' and Tenants' Association and was nominated by Trafford's mayor, Councillor Stephen Adshhead, who said: "She has been involved with the group for 20 years or more and has helped to hold it together at times when it could have folded."

ENOCH 'Charlie' McLennan of Firswood, was nominated by Councillor Whit Stennett for his "dedicated service" to the Old Trafford community, particularly its Afro-Caribbean members, for whom he has cooked up Caribbean meals at weddings, funerals, fundraisers and christenings. Enoch also sings for the Jamaica Folk ensemble and was a founder of the Trafford African Caribbean Care Group.

SIMIAN McIntosh, 18, is a young community leader working for the charity G-Force. He was nominated by Fontella Binney, who said: "He is a rising star."

KEVIN Morris, 40, runs Traffic X in Stretford which teaches teenagers sports and citizenship. Nominator Claire Rimmer of Stretford Housing Unit, said: "Kevin has tirelessly sacrificed his time and energy in the pursuit of helping young people."

JOAN Draper, of Stretford, is a governor at Stretford High School, joint chairwoman of the school's Friends group, a volunteer with the Guides and a foster carer. She was nominated by Councillor Karina Carter, who said: "She does everything she can to promote Stretford and look after our most valuable children and she should definitely be honoured for this work."

EILEEN McDonnell was nominated by Jan Lancaster for her work with a HomeWatch scheme and a tenancy association. She said: "She has a word to say to everyone she passes, particularly young people on their way to school."

GORSE Hill Scout leader Andrew Farrell has played a key role in the movement. He was nominated by Councillor Mike Cordingley, who said: "He has been a committed supporter and member of the Scouting movement all his life."

EIGHTY-year-old Christie Power, of Partington, has a number of voluntary roles ranging from being a town councillor to a governor at Forest Gate and Our Lady of Lourdes School and was nominated by James Clarke. He said: "Everybody knows Mrs Power. She has made dresses for weddings, confirmations, plus curtains for school, church, organised social evenings for Our Lady of Lourdes church and school, the town council and the Labour group over a period of 30 years."

PAUL Guest, 51, of Urmston, is a paramedic who has dedicated 10 years to building the Manchester Peace Park in Kosovo. He was nominated by Jean Smith, who said Paul got involved in transporting aid there and went on to create a 22-acre facility in Partington. "They set up the group every week and provide a friendly, supportive and fun environment for children and their carers."

MARIA and Brian Chastiy, of Urmston, along with **Cara Jennings**, of Stretford, were nominated by Caroline Standish. They have been running the Playtots Playgroup at Humphrey Park Community Centre for five years. Mrs Standish said: "They set up the group every week and provide a friendly, supportive and fun environment for children and their carers."

JOE Malaka, 39, of Old Trafford, is a peace campaigner and founder of Old Trafford Independent Advisory Group made up of residents and community workers who have an interest in policing. She was nominated by police officer Debra Rasmussen, who said: "Whilst living in London for 10 years, she was inspired to try and put something back into the community, having seen many young people murdered near to her home through the gun and gang culture."

MAUREEN Cullshaw, 55, of Flixton, has been campaigning to improve a local road since the death of a young cyclist. Jane Curran, who nominated her, explained: "Maureen had ideas as to how the road could be redesigned to avoid further problems."

JANE Curran also nominated **Frank McGrath**, a member of Woodsend Community Group and Trafford Housing Trust West Area Panel. She said: "He is a gentleman, always helping out."

RAY Howarth, 55, of Flixton was also put forward by Jane Curran. He is chairman of the Woodsend group, who Jane described as a "shining example of community action."

ANNE and Brian Taylerson, of Urmston, were nominated by Jane Curran for their work with North Trafford Crime Prevention Panel. She said: "They give their time willingly and at very short notice to assist victims of crime."

PAT Whaites, 52, has been secretary of the 17th Stretford Scout group for six years. She was nominated by Matt

MP Bev's pride

Over heroes



TODAY we can reveal our five unsung heroes chosen for their selfless dedication to their communities.

Wendell Willis, Daniel Hatton and Asifa Ahmed, along with Steve and Irene Brown, have been picked as the winners of the Stretford and Urmston Heroes Awards. The hunt for the finalists was launched by MP Bev Hughes in January and since then we have been inundated with nominations. After much deliberation, the panel of judges - made up of Ms Hughes, Trafford Metro News editor Kate Striupp, health trust chairwoman Fay Selvan, Trafford College principal Sir Bill Moorcroft and youth worker David Esdaille - picked the winners.

This lucky person, or people, as the Browns count as one entry, will get to enjoy tea on the terrace at the House of Commons. Ms Hughes said: "My Stretford and Urmston Unsung Hero Awards have been a real showcase for all the fantastic volunteering going on locally. "I'd like to thank everyone who's taken part and congratulate the four winners, and wish them the best of luck with the public vote. "It's now up to Metro News readers to crown the winner and vote for the Stretford and Urmston Unsung Hero Champion 2009." You can find out more about our winners - and how to vote for them - by reading their profiles on the next four pages.

Ospourne who said she had worked "tirelessly" for the group. MATT Ospourne also nominated **David Maltby**, 44, of Davyhulme, district commissioner for the Scouts in a region stretching from Old Trafford to Lostock. He said: "Dave has been in Scouting all his life and now works tirelessly to ensure that all the Scout groups in Stretford are supported."

MOHAMMED Adnan Ali, 23, is a special constable at Urmston Police Station. He was nominated by Jane Curran, who said: "He is an extremely dedicated individual who managed to combine a full-time role as an assistant manager for a large retail firm with a college course and at least two nights a week dedicated to serving the communities of Trafford."

FELLOW special constable **Lorraine Billingham**, 48, was also nominated by Jane Curran, who said: "She works full time and on Friday nights she can always be found out in Urmston in her role as special constable dealing with anti-social behaviour."

DENNIS Yarwood, 42, of Flixton, has been a volunteer for 20 years. His name was put forward by Sean Ankers, who works at Urmston Police Station and said: "He runs the 3rd Davyhulme Scout/Guide Band, which represents the Borough at a variety of local and national events."

STEVE Leathwaite makes sure the views of Trafford Housing Trust tenants are represented in his role as chairman of the West Area Community Panel. He was nominated by Superintendent Steve Charvill of Urmston Police station, who said he was "well regarded by all panel members and tenants."

ANN Christian, a HomeWatch scheme co-ordinator of Oak Road, Partington, was nominated by police community support officer Charles Lee. He said: "She is always on hand to deal calmly and efficiently with any housing related issues."

MS Marvyn Ellis, 90, of Urmston, helps at the Macmillan Care Centre. She was nominated by Mrs Sydney Herbert, who said: "Ms Ellis used to push trolleys with patients but now works in the shop. She also volunteers in the local library and with Conservative Ladies' Club and Delamere Toy Library."

ANN Day is secretary of 'Lostock Tenants' and Residents' Association and serves on the Lostock Partnership. She was nominated by Councillor Mike Cordingley, who said: "She has been a key component of Lostock's revival as an area no longer feeling forgotten but confident in its own worth."

HAZEL-Gibb Shacklock, of Stretford, publishes monthly newsletter the Stretford Community Times. She was put forward by Councillor Mike Cordingley for her work with the newsletter and as chairwoman of Gorse Hill action group. He said: "She supports many events, particularly the pageant and Remembrance Day."

CLLR Cordingley also nominated **Gav Smith**, who he described as a "tireless community activist." He said the former Gorse Hill Action Group chairwoman "continues to be involved in the Gorse Hill partnership representing the community in working with Manchester United to ease the pressure on the neighbourhood."

MAUREEN Reilly is a chair of governors at Barton Clough Primary School and is chairwoman of Lostock Partnership, as well as a 'friend' of Lostock Park. She was nominated by CLLR Mike Cordingley who said: "Her work on the partnership has really been a key component in Lostock's regeneration."

PAULINE Law, of Stretford, is a "key member" of the Friends of Victoria Park and was nominated by CLLR Tom Ross, who said: "She is always cheery and has done a lot to make Victoria Park a better place to visit."

ALISON Sprott, 53, of Sale, volunteers for Delamere Toy Library, a registered charity providing toys, tapes and CDs for under-eights and children and adults with additional needs, as well as services like music therapy. She was nominated by Irene Coulson, who said: "Her reliable, calm experience as our figurehead is a beacon of light to us all."

ANN Gutteridge, of Stretford, runs a project called Intergen that bridges the gap between young and old and has dedicated 30 years to volunteering. Claire Rimmer, of Stretford Housing Unit, who put her name forward, said: "For many years she has selflessly volunteered her time and energy to helping others."

MABEL Cartwright, 83, is known for helping others at the sheltered housing scheme where she lives. Nominator Beverly Foster said: "Mabel is an inspiration to all of us and always presents a happy, helpful, compassionate face to the world."

A PAVILLION Lodge Tenants Association member, **Sharon White** was nominated by council officer Nicola Ward, who said Sharon had devoted much of her time to help others at the Trafford Housing Trust property. Nicola added: "What's different about Sharon is her positive attitude, driving efforts and strong relationship building with officers and agencies."

THE chairwoman of the Friends of Victoria Park was nominated by Councillor Tom Ross. He described **Shelly Quinton-Hulme** as being "the main driving force behind the group and an inspiration to local residents."

LONE parent **Samantha Matthews**, 36, of Partington, has worked for 12 years on the Children's Society's Unity Project. Nominator Suzanne Clements said Sam had "given her" time and commitment every week and in school holidays.

DEDICATED volunteers **George and Agnes Webster** were nominated by Jane Tilley for their work with various community groups, including Trafford General Hospital's League of Friends. Jane said: "Between them, George and Agnes tirelessly work for six charitable organisations."

A FOUNDER turned treasurer with the group Our Independence, **John Parker** was praised by Barbara Blecker, who said: "I do not think as treasurer he receives any recognition at all, but it is essential that the finances and books are kept in order. John is truly an unsung hero."

TOM Jarratt, of Urmston, was praised by Jane Tilley for his work with Trafford NHS Healthcare Trust. She said Tom took on a range of duties from volunteering to fundraising.

MUSICALLY gifted Scout leader **Jim Field**, a member of the movement for 50 years, was put forward by another nominee, Dennis Yarwood, who said of the 62-year-old's involvement with the 3rd Davyhulme (Lostock) group: "Jim took over as Band Master when he was just 17 and was in charge for over 25 years. He now plays the tuba and still never misses an event!"

VOTING OPENS AT 9AM ON FRIDAY, MAY 8 AND CLOSES AT 5PM ON FRIDAY, MAY 22. TEXTS COST 25P PLUS STANDARD NETWORK CHARGE