

# Greenwood

## *news release*

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### **Nottinghamshire County Council's Environmental Volunteers Recognised at Greenwood Awards**

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Volunteers working in partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council were recognised for their hard work and commitment at the Greenwood Community Awards Ceremony this Monday evening (June 29<sup>th</sup>) at the Bestwood Lodge Hotel, Bestwood Country Park.

Nominations were received from many groups, organisations and schools, for environmental work carried out over the year 2008 working towards the creation of Greenwood, Nottinghamshire's Community Forest.

Colin Barson, Chair of the Friends of Greenwood, thanked everyone who nominated volunteers for awards. He said: "Thank you also to you folks for coming tonight, for nominating people you know deserve a medal, and particularly for continuing to turn out in all weathers for the good of your local community and help improve your environment for the community's benefit"

Groups receiving awards included:

- Rufford Country Parks Volunteers who won Practical Task Group Award
- Glen Hanson, received an Endeavour Award for his achievement at Bestwood Country Park
- Bestwood Country Park Volunteers
- Friends of Quarry Lane, who scooped Volunteer Team Award

**Continued**

Sue McDonald, Ranger at Bestwood and Leanne Diver, Ranger at Rufford took to the podium to tell a packed hall of over 160 invited guests why the volunteers they had nominated deserved an award. Each tried to outdo the other, and in the end Colin Barson Chair of the Friends of Greenwood Community Forum, decided the dedication of both groups entitled them to be presented with a joint award.

Leanne spoke with real emotion when she told of Rufford Country Park's volunteers and how much they were valued.

After listing all their achievements over the past year she said: "I could go on a lot longer but we'd be here all night. We think our volunteers are fantastic and deserve an award. Most of the time we have trouble stopping them working and many have been helping out at the park for some years. It's because of them that the park is what it is and how a lot of the conservation work gets done."

Following presentation of the two awards by Greenwood Partnership Board Vice Chair, Cllr Wendy Golland, Sue remained on the platform to talk about one particular volunteer in the shape of the one and only Glen Hanson, who was presented with the Greenwood Endeavour Award.

Sue explained that Glen joined the Bestwood Volunteers on a short term education package with two supporters from Daybrook Learning Centre. Once this support ended, Glen joined the volunteers full time, and overcame many barriers, not just practical, but physical & emotional ones as well.

Now his tutors report that Glen is able to work independently and with his peers and older people. Volunteering has greatly improved his communication, speaking and listening skills.

Sue gave us an insight into life at Bestwood, when she said: "Picture the scene, it's Monday morning, you're looking out of the window waiting for the volunteers to arrive. A taxi turns up and your whole frame of reference is taken up by a big lad with an even bigger grin. Ladies and gentlemen, Glen Hanson has arrived and Monday morning feels a bit brighter!"

Friends of Quarry Lane, who work on part of Nottinghamshire County Council's Green Estate were also recognised with the coveted Volunteer Team Award presented for outstanding contribution from a Friends Group. The group has worked with Phil Kimbrey and the Green Estates Team on the Mansfield Way, encouraging many diverse groups of all ages and abilities to get involved.

Four schools were also recognised with school involvement certificates.

They were:

- Ashfield School, Kirkby-in-Ashfield
- Garibaldi School, Forest Town
- Sutton Road Primary School, Mansfield
- King Edward Primary School

Fifteen awards were presented on the night to volunteers from all areas of Greenwood and included awards for individuals and teams of all ages and abilities who take part in conservation tasks or work behind the scenes.

Gill Grievson, Community Liaison Officer for Greenwood, said” “Volunteers are thrilled to get recognition for the hard work they do, but it isn't all about being recognised with an award. The whole evening allows groups to get together and let all the other groups know what has been achieved”.

Ends

Photo 1: Rufford Volunteers and rangers including Leanne Diver, 2<sup>nd</sup> left

Photo 2: Bestwood volunteers including Glen Hanson 2<sup>nd</sup> right

Images also available: group photo of all nominees and award winners and schools receiving their awards.