

NEWS



SMILES OF SUCCESS: Helen Barnett of Bracknell Regeneration Partnership, Sue Lewis and Becky Pierce, assistant manager and manager of Shopmobility, town centre manager Graham Mountford and Mary Purnell who chairs the Bracknell Forest Partnership

AWARDS: Celebrate the people, place and community

Honouring the great and good

By MIKE PYLE

ORGANISATIONS who work to make life for people in Bracknell Forest better have been rewarded for their dedication.

The Bracknell Forest Partnership Awards, supported by the The Standard, were held in a glittering ceremony at the Grange Bracknell hotel in Charles Square on Friday, November 27. Figures from all areas of society turned out to see a range of awards being given to worthy members of the community. Host Helen Barnett, marketing manager for

Bracknell Regeneration Partnership (BRP), introduced guests who handed out gold, silver and highly commended awards in three categories: People, Place and Community.

Gold award winners were given £400 to reinvest in their organisation while silver award winners were given £200.

The gold award in the people category, for people or groups that benefit individual people, went to Bracknell Shopmobility, which provides old and disabled people with scooters to help them with their shopping in the town centre.

Handing out the award Mary Purnell, chairman of the partnership and NHS Berkshire East, said: "This partnership between Bracknell Forest Council, Bracknell Town Council and BRP has been described as a lifeline."

Manager Becky Pearce said: "It's wonderful to win and now we're looking forward to moving onwards and upwards."

The silver award in this category went to the Children's Centres based across the borough and highly commended certificates were handed to Local Safeguarding Children's Board Raising Awareness Sub-Group, the Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health Service, the anti-bullying group, Telehealth, Carers' emergency respite care and Homestart Bracknell.

The gold award in the places category went to Breathing Spaces - a partnership between Bracknell Forest Natural History Society, Bracknell Conservation Volunteers, Bracknell Forest Gardening Club and others which has improved Scott's Hill in Bullbrook by cutting back scrub and planting native trees, shrubs and wildlife.

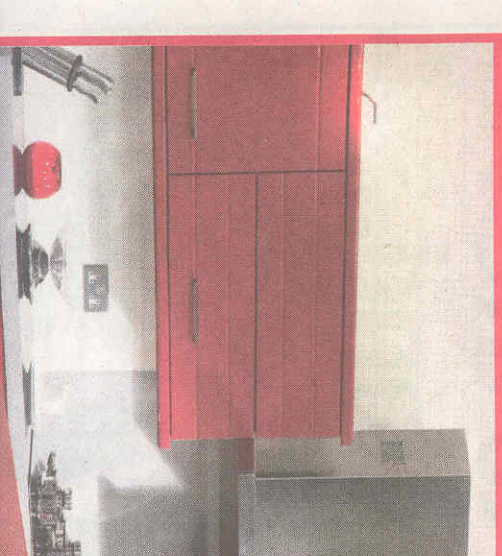
Award presenter Paul Jacques, community safety manager for Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue,

Groups join up to improve lives of all

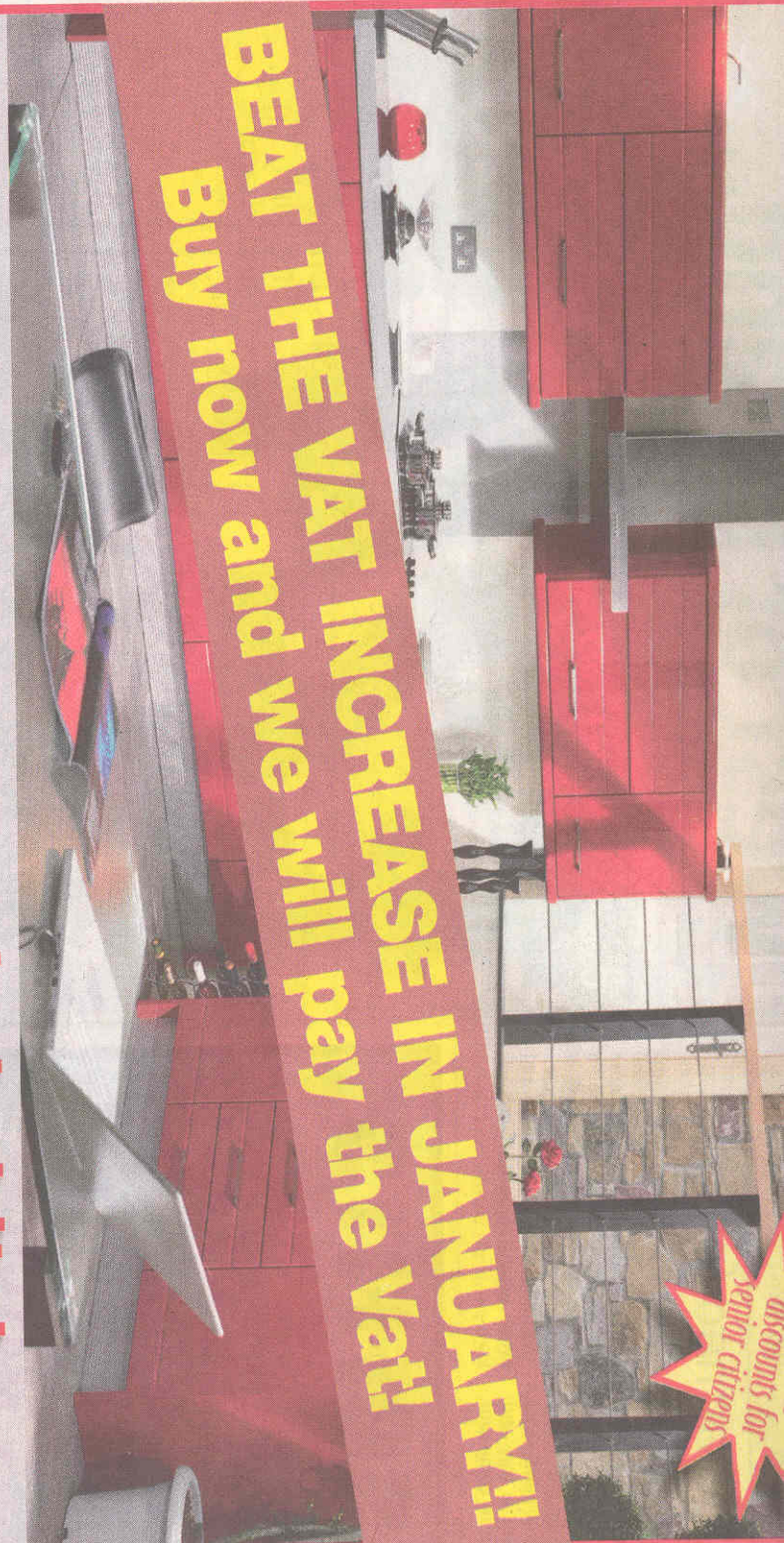
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Groups join up to improve lives of all

Award presenter Paul Jacques, community safety manager for Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue, said: "They have achieved a true transformation of an area of land."
Gillian Martin of Bracknell Forest Natural History Society said: "We are delighted.
"We hope this will help us do even more work on improving biodiversity."
Competition in this category was so close judges had to give a joint second place to Home Energy Monitors and the Pines School for its children's allotment.
Home Energy Monitors is a scheme which allows people to hire equipment from libraries to monitor the amount of energy their home uses at any given time.
The Pines School Children's Allotment is a small area of land that the Hanworth Road school uses to teach pupils about how food is grown and nutrition.
A highly commended certificate was given to Bracknell In Bloom for the flower planting around the borough.
The gold award in the community category was given to Be Heard – a member-led group of learning disabled adults that tries to enrich the lives of its members
Presenting the award, Insp Jon Goosey, deputy commander of Bracknell police, said: "This group shows excellent collaboration, knows the core values of community to engagement and makes a real difference to people's lives."
Be Heard chairman Chris Nuttall said: "I feel honoured and proud."
The Silver Award went to Sandhurst Pride – an organisation which aims to promote pride in the town by improving the environment and organising events.
Councillor Carole Cupper Sandhurst mayor described the award as "absolutely fantastic".

NEWS

PROUD WINNERS: The gold, silver and highly commended recipients of the Bracknell Forest Partnership Awards display their certificates and beaming smiles

*Pictures by Stewart Turkington W7568
www.getbracknell.co.uk/photosale*



MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE: From left, Helen Barnett and Be Heard chairman Chris Nuthall who was presented with his award by Insp Jon Goosey and Sally Coulson from the council's parks and countryside department Below, council leader Cllr Paul Bettison

Partnership work key to success

COUNCILLOR Paul Bettison, pictured, leader of Bracknell Forest Council, opened the awards with a speech on the importance of partnership working, *writes Hugh Fort.*

He highlighted a wide range of examples from mobile phone companies joining together to quoting England cricketer Stuart Broad on teamwork.

He even mentioned a children's book called *The Giant Turnip*, where a sneaky fox refused to help a team of people pull the giant turnip out of the ground and then did not get any of it when they cooked it for dinner.

He said: "It is a big thing for an organisation to admit it needs help, that it can't do everything itself."

"Partnership working means there is less duplication of work and greater efficiency."

After Cllr Bettison, council chief executive Tim Wheadon took to the stage.

He spoke on the results of the Government's Place Survey, which was distributed around 3,500 homes around Bracknell.

The survey was returned to the council by 47 per cent of the people surveyed, better than the national average.

He revealed 83 per cent of people were satisfied with life in Bracknell, but people were concerned about things including the way the council works to keep old people living at home and crime.

Visitors to the awards were then asked to write their own priorities, hopes for the future and fears for the future down.

The results were placed on boards at the hotel and featured priorities including speeding up the regeneration

of the town, more to do for children and getting the Bracknell Healthspace up and running.

Hopes included more people volunteering to work with children and more things for them to do.

The fears board included mass redundancies at Bracknell companies, a rise in bullying and the regeneration of the town being scrapped.



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