



Press Release

Date: 7 April 2017

Community heroes recognised at glittering event

“A very special evening”, “Inspirational”, “Unsung heroes getting some well deserved recognition” – just some of the positive comments from guests attending Cheltenham Borough Homes’ ninth annual community awards event.

At the special awards ceremony, held on Tuesday 4 April 2017, the local community were out in force to crown the winners of this year’s CBH Awards 2016 which celebrate and recognise those people who go the extra mile and make a difference in the neighbourhoods they live in.

The awards ceremony, held at the Jury’s Inn, attracted over 100 people including tenants, leaseholders, CBH staff, board members and representatives from Cheltenham Borough Council.

There was a special appearance from BBC Gloucestershire Reporter Steve Knibbs who did a great job of compering this inspiring occasion.

Now in its ninth year, CBH created the awards to recognise individuals and groups in the neighbourhoods they manage, for their personal successes and sterling community work.

After much head scratching and deliberations the CBH judging panel declared this year’s CBH Award Winners 2016 to be:

- **Tenant of the Year 2016:** Hanan Abdo Khsara
- **Young Tenant of the Year 2016:** Abbie Hunt
- **Personal Achievement:** Harry Doxsey
- **Best Community Project:** St Paul’s Community Group
- **Good Neighbour – Joint Award:** Dave Dee and Maureen Brookes
- **Active in the Community:** Mike Little

After opening and closing the awards ceremony, Paul Stephenson, Chief Executive at CBH said: "It is a real privilege to hold yet another successful evening that recognises the undying commitment and dedication of some of the most remarkable individuals and groups who have endeavoured to improve the lives of those in their community. The standard of nominations this year was very high and it was a very difficult task for our panel to pick the winners as all the nominees were deserving of an award. I'd like to personally thank all the nominees and unsung heroes in our community for their sterling work in going the extra mile to make a difference. I would also like to extend thanks to Steve Knibbs who did a fantastic job of compering this special occasion and to our partners for their astounding support in providing sponsorship for the event."

This year CBH was delighted to receive sponsorship from Liberty Gas, Nationwide Windows and Masterdor.

Full details of winners and highly commended below:

Tenant of the Year 2016 –

Presented by: Cllr Peter Jeffries – Cabinet member for Housing

Winner: Hanan Abdo Khsara

Hanan has been an inspiration to all families looking to start a new life in Gloucestershire. She has a real passion for helping those who are in need of support and has raised awareness about the plight of refugees, the work of GARAS and Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees through an interview for Gloucestershire Radio. Hanan is also a public speaker at community events and is a phenomenal individual who has volunteered at a local toddlers group and a nursery school to develop her English. In her spare time she teaches Arabic to local people and is a fantastic role model for refugees and has touched many people in Cheltenham with her story of life in Syria.

Highly commended: Beata Szadkowska

Young Tenant of the Year 2016

Presented by: Bernard McBride, CBH Tenant Board Member (Vice Chair)

Winner: Abbie Hunt

Only 11 years old, Abbie has overcome many personal challenges. Her passion for making a difference in her community inspired her to lead and organise an event for charity. She

designed her own promotional materials and researched the market to work out where she could raise the most funds. Her hard work resulted in her raising a staggering £600 for charity. Abbie is very thoughtful, kind and nothing fazes her as she is always keen to take on new challenges

Highly Commended: Carys Lindsay

Personal Achievement

Presented by: Craig Mortiboys – Cheltenham Trust – Healthy Communities

Partnership Manager

Winner: Harry Doxsey

Harry has overcome many personal challenges and refuses to let this hold him back from achieving his goals. His persistence and determination to succeed has helped him to overcome the many difficulties and barriers that he faces as a young carer. Harry is passionate about helping others and is an ambassador for Gloucestershire Young Carers in which he is an inspirational public speaker. He plays an active role in talking about the work that they do and continues to help raise funds for the charity.

Highly commended: Sarah Godfrey

Active in the Community

Presented by: Peter Hatch – CBH Executive Director for Property and Communities

Winner: Mike Little

A true community hero, Mike has established a fantastic gardening club at St John's Primary School, where he has worked as a caretaker for the past 3 years, after discovering that many of the kids didn't have their own gardens. His volunteering work at the school has had a positive impact on the children, especially those with additional needs who have enjoyed building a chicken coop with Mike's help. This resulted in the welcome arrival of two chickens called Henrietta and Kentucky who the kids look after with additional support from Mike. His enthusiasm in making opportunities for others is inspirational.

Highly commended: Julie Watts and Lucy Barnett

Best Community Project

Presented by: David Clowes – CBH Board Member

Winner: St Paul's Community Group

This influential group was created in January 2016 as a result of the feedback received from residents who were keen to get more involved in the activities that we deliver. It offers people of all ages the opportunity to come along and brainstorm new ideas to bring the community together. Since it began, the group have come up with new incentives to raise funds and have been proactive in the organisation of fantastic events which have been enjoyed by the whole community.

Highly commended: Cheltenham Polish TARA, Lynworth Residents Group, Oakley Resident's Association

Good Neighbour Joint:

Presented by: Lawrence Miller, Barnwood Trust – Head of Housing and Community Spaces

Winner: Dave Dee

Dave's dedication to helping his neighbours makes him a positive example to others. He always goes the extra mile to provide help to those who are struggling with their daily tasks. Dave is an active member of the Oasis Ability Hub which he attends weekly and he is always the first one in the kitchen to cook up a delicious storm for the rest of the members. He is very aware of the people who live around him and is very considerate, kind and helpful to everyone that he meets. Dave's commitment to helping others makes him an excellent neighbour.

Winner: Maureen Brookes

Maureen plays an active role in helping her neighbours and is always around to help anyone who might need her support. She is always on the go and continues to have a positive impact on those who need her help. Her kind and generous nature makes her a wonderful neighbour to have as she is always keen to help others with their shopping and is on hand to collect their prescriptions if they are struggling to get out and about. Maureen currently supports her neighbour who had a stroke by taking his dog for a walk regardless of the weather. Without her help he would have had to rehome his faithful companion.

Highly commended: Jean Vanstone and Tracy Johnston

ENDS

Notes for editors

Cheltenham Borough Homes:

- CBH is one of the top rated ALMOs (Arms Length Management Organisations) in the country. ALMOs are not for profit companies that run social housing services for their local council
- Currently CBH manage and maintain around 5,000 tenant and leasehold properties with high satisfaction and performance levels, when compared nationally with other housing providers
- CBH put their customers at the heart of what they do; working with them to shape services and ensure the company focuses on local need
- CBH deliver more than high quality core landlord services: they have an ongoing programme building new homes and regenerating communities; they support people to find work and employment; work to improve financial inclusion and develop stock to make it more energy efficient

For further information visit: www.cbh.org

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