

## CIVIC AWARDS 2010

At Mayor Making 2010, Town Council took the opportunity to say thank you to some very special residents of Ludlow who have put others and the community first.

Mayor John Aitken (pictured left with Mayoress Pam Aitken) felt privileged to be able to make five Civic Awards.

Picture: Ludlow Advertiser



The two young ladies to receive the first Civic Award, **Emmy James** and **Abi Morgan** (pictured) are exceptional individuals, who celebrated their 16<sup>th</sup> birthdays in a selfless way inspired by a friend for the benefit of the hospital that administered her life saving treatment. Their thoughtful and caring actions are a credit to themselves, their families, their school and the community.

Their close friend, **Sophie Caley**, who is now in remission, had been diagnosed with Leukaemia. This required six months of intensive treatment, spending months away from family and friends. Abi and Emmy decided to organise a double birthday party, but with a special twist – there were no presents – they asked for donations towards the new facilities for the Teenage Cancer Unit at Birmingham Children's Hospital where Sophie was treated.

This led to a hugely successful party, which raised over £550 which will help make the new unit more comfortable for teenagers undergoing treatment.

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Picture: Lillian Tomlinson



The recipient of the second Civic Award, **Graeme Perks** (pictured), has been involved in many spheres of life in Ludlow including serving on the Town Council and promoting twinning with the Welsh town of Narberth. However this award recognises his outstanding contribution to young people in Ludlow.

Nine years ago, Graeme established Skillbuilders, which has helped over 500 young people aged 14 – 25 to sample various artisan skills through initiatives such as Education Days at Ludlow Food Festival.

Working with local schools and colleges, Skillbuilders has helped students gain a recognised qualification in Elementary Food Hygiene, attend educational visits, and young chefs have gained work experience in Michelin starred restaurants for young chefs and even experienced the kitchens at Buckingham Palace.

Graeme continues to develop Skillbuilders, recently grant funding has helped create a paid co-ordinator position. Graeme continues to work tirelessly to offer opportunities that are accessible to all young people in Ludlow.



Picture: Lillian Tomlinson



The recipient of the next Award, **Jen Davies** (pictured), was evacuated to Ludlow during the war, and went on to become Head Girl at Ludlow Girl's High School. In-between her career and family, she has worked in support of many organisations in the town.

If you look at a recent book co-authored by the late David Lloyd titled 'Festival Ludlow, eight centuries of Art, Culture and Entertainment' you will read that she was involved in the festival from the start – no, not eight centuries ago but from 1960 when the A mid-summer nights dream was produced at the Arts Festival and still keenly supports the event. She works tirelessly for St Laurence's Church – as an enthusiastic gardener helping to create the beautiful wildlife garden. Her creative talents are also used in the Conservation Trust for St Laurence. She is also part of the team of volunteer stewards that welcomes visitors to St Laurence's all year round.

She was also instrumental in rescuing and restoring the Horse's Head sculpture by Adrian Jones, once a feature of the Town Hall and now in the Old School in Mill Street.

Jen is an enthusiastic supporter of Teme Weirs Trust, and the Friends of Whitcliffe Common. She has been the Chair of the Old Ludlovians, and is currently the president and proud to be called a 'Ludlovian'



Picture: Lillian Tomlinson



Last but by no means least, **Kathleen Bills** (pictured) is a woman, who has been a passionate and enthusiastic volunteer at South Shropshire Furniture Scheme since 2004 when she responded to a shop window advert to help unload the dishwasher. Six years later, she is still there and she now runs the tea room.

On the recommendation of her colleagues, her home

cooking and baking skills are second to none – the wonderful aroma of her delicious traditional recipes waft through the Renaissance Centre, making it's hardly surprising that people come back time after time, and her welcoming nature means they often become friends.

Kathleen is admired by everyone within the organisation because of her unfailing commitment. She is always willing to contribute as much as possible and go the extra mile to support the Furniture Scheme. It is thanks to her and others working there that the Furniture Scheme has become so successful and an example to others.

Kath is the perfect example of a person using a lifetime of skills for the good of the community.

