

# **Annual Mayor Making and Town Council Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

## **Annual Mayor's Awards**

Awards are to be presented as follows.

*Please note that we print details as supplied by the recipients.*

### **Award to Mrs Helen Flynn for services to the community, through her volunteer work with AbiBinit! Organisation.**

My name is Helen Flynn and picking up litter has become a natural habit and an everyday obsession for me. AbiBinit! Is attached to the friends of Abingdon Civic and Community Section. We hold monthly litter picks and have a busy Facebook page with over a hundred members, many of whom litter pick every day.

My philosophy is that only by regularly picking up litter and nudging others to follow suit will we become a litter free world.

Every piece of litter picked up is a victory for our wildlife, our environment, and ultimately our planet.

Helen Flynn requested it to be on record that she has collected this award on behalf of all supporters of AbiBinit! and everyone who regularly litter picks throughout Abingdon.

### **Award to Mrs Penny Clover for services to the community, through her volunteer work with various organisations including Abingdon Carousel and the Guild of Town Criers**

I have been involved with and a supporter of many of Abingdon's clubs and societies since I came here in 1988.

With interests in environment and conservation I helped on local nature reserves, and later was involved with the planned hydro generation scheme. Also currently Chair of the Oxford Naturist Club.

I started at Oxfam as a professional fundraiser. I worked in this role for over 20 years for a wide range of charities, particularly for local ones as an officer with VWHD Council, including Friends of Abingdon raising vital funds for Abbey Building repairs. As a Speakers Club member, I became one of Abingdon Town Criers supporting Heritage Weekends and events. Now as Trustee for Abingdon Carousel at the recently re-opened Family Centre, my fundraising skills and contacts are again useful.

I have volunteered for charity shops, events and with other regular roles such as at Carswell School. I enjoy travel and meeting people from different countries and cultures, so I learnt to teach English as a volunteer welcoming Syrian families.

For all these projects I hope to make one plus one equal three – the third being joint benefits and FUN!

## **Award to Mrs Sue Hammersley for services to the community, by starting up the Blue Sky Eco Café in North Abingdon**

I have always had an interest in whole foods and healthy eating. While considering what to do after retirement I met 3 people who, because of their disabilities, were finding it challenging finding jobs. I thought 'if I had a cafe, I could employ them!' First I got my level 3 hygiene certificate which enabled me to sell vegetarian meals at the monthly country Market (formerly WI), This continued for a year but was not involving my disabled friends and so Blue Sky Eco cafe was launched in June last year.

Blue Sky eco cafe operates in Long Furlong Community centre serving vegetarian lunches to include soup, a selection of hot savoury dishes and a variety of salads using unusual, wholesome beans, lentil and pulses. Our ingredients are organic, seasonal and locally sourced wherever possible and some of the vegetables have been grown by Abingdon Horticulture members. Our small band of volunteers including those with disabilities enjoy preparing, cooking and serving the community from noon till 2 pm monthly on Tuesdays. We were delighted to welcome Cllr Crick who left a clean plate! Our web address is [BlueSkyEcoCafe.org.uk](http://BlueSkyEcoCafe.org.uk) .Do come and enjoy lunch with us. Thank you so much for this award which we accept with great pleasure.