

BABERGH COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2015

RECIPIENT FOR NAYLAND: LORRAINE BROOKS

Lorraine's contribution to the Parish of Nayland with Wissington is invaluable. She has lived in Nayland for many years and in that time has become an indispensable member of our community.

NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Through the Community Council, of which she is Secretary, Lorraine supports the work of the many clubs and societies that make Nayland with Wissington such a vibrant community. She tirelessly organises and minutes the meetings of the Community Council which brings together all the different societies to fund-raise and organise important village social events such as the annual Bonfire Night Firework Display and Christmas Family Fayre as well as community events such as the Jubilee celebrations. Without Lorraine's organisational skills on the Executive Committee and her attention to detail and planning these events would be much harder to put together and the significant funds raised by the Community Council, used in part to provide grants to support the work of community organisations, would be much harder to achieve.

NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON COMMUNITY TIMES

As Editor of the Community Times, a role she has held for the past ten years, Lorraine produces a bi-monthly newsletter which comprises 44 pages of 'all anyone needs to know' about what is happening in our community. It has a circulation of over 700 and is distributed free to the door of every home in the Nayland with Wissington Parish as well as being available at Nayland Post Office, village stores, pub, shops and the doctors surgery and a copy being provided to each child at Nayland Primary School. Regular reports from Parish Council meetings and the Community Council; the village diary and publicity for village events; society reports; historical articles; practical advice and bus timetables; church news and services; advertising from local businesses and all of the key contact details for the village - Lorraine co-ordinates it all, sets it out and basically does all the production until it goes to print (indeed Lorraine was the first editor to digitise production when she took over in 2004). She does all this virtually single handedly and with good humour, ensuring that all necessary information is included which often involves prompting and cajoling the various societies to meet the publication deadline! The Community Times won runner up in the Suffolk Association of Local Council's Newsletter of the Year Award 2013, a credit to Lorraine's hard work. In addition to her work as editor, Lorraine will always go the extra mile. Reports of Parish Council meetings are an important part of the newsletter and when the usual correspondent retired Lorraine filled the gap, attending every meeting for some considerable time and reporting for the Community Times and also sending reports to the press.

NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON VILLAGE CALENDAR

As part of her work with the Community Council, Lorraine leads the team that has produced the village calendar for the past six years. It is very much a community project involving a photographic competition in which everyone has the opportunity to participate and every year has raised several hundred pounds for good causes in the village. Planning, co-ordinating the competition, and then producing the calendar and selling it takes a great deal of time and organisation but Lorraine contributes this willingly and the result is a project that both involves and benefits the community and builds a sense of pride in where we live.

COMMUNITY WEBSITES

Lorraine has a better grip on technology than many of the members of our local societies and has put her graphic design skills to good use by developing websites for a number of the village organisations. The Community Council, the Horticultural Society and the Conservation Society have all benefited from her skills and the products of her efforts can be seen if you follow the links below. In developing these sites Lorraine has voluntarily committed a lot of her own time to ensuring that village societies are able to communicate with the wider community and also provide an important historical document of their activities and achievements.



www.naylandconservation.org.uk

www.naylandhortsoc.org.uk

www.naylandcommunitycouncil.org.uk

CONSERVATION SOCIETY, PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

This commitment to retaining a historical record of our community is demonstrated by the months of voluntary work that Lorraine put in, recording and archiving a huge library of historical photos and documents of our Parish. This laborious and detailed task has produced an amazing resource of photographs of the village through the ages that is now available to everybody - local residents and those with links to the village around the world - through the Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society website.

NAYLAND AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Not content with all of the achievements and commitments listed above, Lorraine is also Secretary of the Nayland and District Horticultural Society, a role which she has embraced wholeheartedly as she does all of her projects. Lorraine doesn't just join societies - she looks at what she can do to improve and develop them and how she can widen their appeal. As well as developing the website for the Horticultural Society, Lorraine has compiled an archive history of the organisation which is available on the site, organises interesting speakers and trips and takes a lead in organising the annual Village Flower Show which is a significant and popular event on the village calendar.

In summary, Lorraine is a hub of our community. Through the different 'hats' she wears she brings together many different individuals and organisations and through her websites and the Community Times she ensures that the Nayland with Wissington 'news network' is both highly effective and inclusive. Without Lorraine many of us would struggle to keep track of what is going on in the community, important community information would be missed and members of the community who are less able to get out and see people face to face would feel much more isolated from the 'goings on' in the village.

Neil Barbrook, Chairman

Nayland with Wissington Community Council

