

Lifetime achievement award

I am in the fortunate position of being able to introduce to you the person who has been nominated for the lifetime achievement award.

Born on a farm just outside Hatherleigh, she started life working on the farm when horses were used to do all the ploughing and fieldwork. She then attended Hatherleigh Community School until she was 15, before starting work in the town.

During her working life, she worked in Edwards' bakers shop, delivered meat for Colin Kidby and also worked in the Fish and Chip shop. More latterly, she was the friendly face of the school lollipop lady, seeing generations of Hatherleigh children safely across the road, and if I remember rightly she knew most of them by name. Her 25 years of service as a lollipop lady brought her a long service award.

The Methodist church has always been important to her, and she applies the essence of her religion in her life, she loves people and regularly welcomes friends into her home for a cup of tea and piece of homemade cake.

This lady was a voluntary home start worker, and to this day, does a ferrying service to chapel and many other events – wherever they might be. Someone told her only recently that she should be the one being picked up – not the other way around. She continues to do a lot of voluntary visiting. An active supporter of the British Legion, local church groups, the Women's' Institute and she also loves the tradition of the Carnival, and was honoured to be the Carnival president in ????. She is also a keen supporter of the Hatherleigh Silver Band.

She is married to Derek, has a loving family and is immensely proud of her two grown up grandsons.

Ladies and Gentlemen, for those of you who haven't already guessed, the Hatherleigh Town Council Lifetime Achievement award this year goes to Mary Sanders