

## **Outstanding Contribution to the Community Award**

This evening we have a special individual award which is being made as a result of popular demand. This award is going to someone who puts an enormous amount of time into many events, societies and organisations around Hatherleigh and was nominated so frequently by the residents of Hatherleigh that we have included this extra award tonight.

He is someone who is often seen around town, offering his time and energy to ensure that many of the things that make Hatherleigh special are there for us. He is willing to do the extra work that makes the difference and always steps up to help out even with difficult and challenging jobs.

Everyone in Hatherleigh will have had some benefit from his contribution, as he has helped out with so many things over the last 10 years, from Moor Management committee to Youth Club, Festival Committee to School Governors. Even when he is not directly involved, he is happy to help out in whatever way he can.

He has been a key member of the Island Park Play Park group, spending many long hours completing the complex paperwork to obtain the funding for all of the equipment, helping with the installation, and ensuring that the necessary safety standards continue to be met.

He is a Trustee of the Community Centre, where he can often be found running the bar, locking up late at night, and carrying out all sorts of odd jobs to keep the Centre in great condition, not to mention countless hours behind the scenes assisting with planning and administration for the Centre.

He has been involved with the Ruby Run since it started, helping to ensure it always goes smoothly. Whilst he may not **yet** have run it himself he has been known to follow the route on a Harley Davidson.

He has also been a Councillor on Hatherleigh Town Council for many years, and was elected as Mayor for 3 years. During this time he attended many events on behalf of Hatherleigh and was an excellent representative of the town.

I am sure you have all guessed by now that the award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community goes to Gary Bush.