



## Welcome to my Christmas newsletter as **Champion for Disabled People**

My role is to assist the Leader and the appropriate Cabinet Members by advising on service issues which support and encourage active, independent and healthy lives for disabled people, and to raise the profile of disabled people and their needs in the development of policy across Directorates.

*County Councillor Carolyn Evans*

## The "Be Inspired" Lancashire Sports Award was won by Skem-menaces Disabled Football Team



I attended the Lancashire Sports Awards Dinner held at the Hilton Hotel in Blackpool, which was hosted by the Chief Executive of the Lancashire Sports Partnership, Adrian Leather.

County Councillor Andrea Kay accompanied me, as she has a personal interest in a few of the finalists including The Outdoor Adventure Group from Wyre, which were the kayaking group we helped with some funding earlier in the year.

I had been a judge on the panel back in September so it was lovely to put faces to the names of the participants. We had such a great night and I was honoured and humbled to meet such dedicated and hard working people.

The Coach of the Year was won by Sarah Oxley from Wyre

The Adult Volunteer of the Year was won by Brian Crossley from Burnley Aqualions

The Lifetime Achievement Award was won by Jim Clegg from Preston Table Tennis

The School of the Year was won by The Ridgeway Community High School in Burnley

The Community Club of the Year was won by the Outdoor Adventure Group in Wyre

And the "Be Inspired" Award was won by the gentlemen, led ably by Carl Eaton, above.

## **The Bradbury Special Needs Scout Group in Leyland**

I met the Scout Leader, Roy Accumb, who started this group approximately 7 years ago in South Ribble to offer children who have special needs, and for one reason or another cannot fit into the mainstream Scouting, the chance to experience the world of scouting and all it offers. They currently have 13 members with an age range from 7 to 16, which covers a range of disabilities including Autism, ADHD, DeGeorge Syndrome, Down's Syndrome and other mobility problems, they are also in a position to accept children with wheelchairs.

The evening I called in the children were making Nativity Calendars and were enjoying gluing and pasting lots of cotton wool and glitter all over their calendars, the tables and eventually me too.

They are asking for funding to buy another 6 man tent and a cooker so that they can go camping in the summer and take some extra children with their families or carers.

PRESTON FM asked me to speak about my work with the Disability Groups in Lancashire, they were also especially interested in the work of the Preston based Roughriders Downhill Club. They have four wheel drive vehicles which they can now adapt for disabled people to use.

Midstream Garden Centre, who employ disabled people with learning difficulties, were opening their brand new Garden Shop, and I was asked to attend with Hayley Cropper from Coronation Street on 10 December. Unfortunately the paths were not ready, so my eagerly awaited meeting with Hayley has been put on hold until the spring.

## ***Sporting Challenge in Burscough***

I had an interesting evening with the Chairman, John Haggart, and some of his Trustees of



the Sporting Challenge, whose objectives are to assist in providing opportunities and facilities for individuals who need these facilities by reason of their infirmity or disability, and in particular people with learning difficulties, with the opportunity of improving their condition of life.

They hold many activities, and have just received a curling golf set, presented to them by the Skipton Building Society. Other organised activities include walks, ten pin bowling, aerobics,

swimming and now curling.

They have also set up an Office Administration Service providing organisations with leaflet dropping, filing, shredding, photocopying and card making for all occasions.

E-mail address is [info@timesavers.org.uk](mailto:info@timesavers.org.uk) and their website is [www.timesavers.org.uk](http://www.timesavers.org.uk)

## **West Lancs Disability Helpline**

The Manager of the Helpline, Tony Lewis, has piloted a scheme which has funded a debt adviser to go into the Mental Health Unit at the Scarisbrick Ward in Wigan Infirmary, to help those patients with extreme learning difficulties to make the change from a hospital ward to integrating back into society and their own home. So far this has been extremely successful.

## **Earby Mining Museum, East Lancashire**

This beautiful museum was desperate to have the facilities to allow disabled visitors to see how mining in the last century was accomplished. With funding it has been able to purchase handrails and outside lighting, which will give any disabled people the confidence to explore this unique Museum .

**I would now like to wish all of you at County Hall and further afield a very merry Christmas, and a successful and happy New Year.**