

Civic Award

We are delighted to report that Society member Mike Saynor has been presented with a Civic Award by Wokingham Town Council in recognition of his voluntary work in the community. For the past sixteen years, ten of them as chairman and coordinator, he has been a key member of the Holt Copse Community Volunteers team, maintaining, enhancing and improving the nature reserve in Joel Park and Holt Copse. He and the HCCV team have worked tirelessly in all sorts of conditions to ensure the people of the town can derive huge benefit from being able to observe nature and the seasons close up on the edge of an urban environment.

The Society has supported Mike's work financially on several occasions, and his tenacity, resourcefulness and unflagging commitment as a fund-raiser have made him a force to be reckoned with. The Volunteers' most recent task was to preserve the future of a Victorian avenue of oaks by improving and renovating the drainage. It is a great tribute to Mike that he was able to secure the funds required to complete the project alongside ongoing maintenance and enhancement work.

In 2019 Mike spoke at a Society Open meeting about the work of the Volunteers, and his enthusiasm was readily apparent. It was typical of the man that he emphasised the value of teamwork and pointed out the benefits of working as a team in a natural environment. Wokingham residents have good cause to be grateful to Mike, and his award is thoroughly deserved.