

SOUTHWOLD AND REYDON SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2017

This month's news is a report on our 2017 AGM held on May 2nd where we presented this year's Awards for Excellence.

Climate Change Keynote Speaker

Professor Joanna Haigh, CBE, FRS, Co-Director of the Grantham Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, gave a fascinating talk on "*Climate Change: Evidence, Impacts and What We Can Do About It*".



Prof Haigh delivers her talk on Climate Change

Her detailed presentation ended with five very clear conclusions:

- The fundamental physics of global climate change is well understood.
- Regional effects are more difficult to establish over the globe but indications are clear in some areas.
- The world is currently more than half way to the 2 degree centigrade temperature rise threshold of "dangerous change"
- Global decarbonisation of energy and industry is necessary to constrain global warming.
- International agreement is in the right direction; many stakeholders (including businesses) understand that swift action is necessary.

In the lively discussion that followed her talk, stress was laid on the importance of action at all levels (personal, business and government) to reduce carbon emissions and thus work to avoid the dangers posed by climate change.

Annual Excellence Awards

Deputy Mayor of Southwold, Cllr Ann Betts once again presented the awards for outstanding contributions to the community, which were introduced by Tony Evans, Chairman of our Awards Committee. This year's winners were:

Local Postman, Ian Southgate

Ian Southgate has been delivering post in Southwold for a number of years and has built up



Guy Mitchell, Post Office Manager, receives the award on behalf of Ian Southgate, Postman.

a strong understanding with the more elderly residents and so is aware of their usual behaviour. As a result, if he notices any changes or anything unusual he will make enquiries with the neighbours to check. His general attention, community spirit and social conscience goes way above the general remit of a postman. It is pleasing to see that some still have the presence of mind to communicate with the customers and show social awareness. The award was presented to Ian Southgate in recognition of the interest he takes in the community and the exceptional service he provides.

1st Southwold Scouts

The First Southwold Scouts celebrated their centenary in 2008 and the Cubs last year with the publication of a special booklet that included contributions from local former members and national



Bob Mole and Alison Forward with their award for 1st Southwold Scouts, presented by Cllr Ann Betts

figures including the Queen, two Prime Ministers and the Chief Scout. The Group Scout Leader Bob Mole has, since he took up the role, been the driving force behind the development of the Headquarters at Mights Bridge, it now having a new roof, wheelchair access and a front door you cannot miss. Bob and Alison Forward, the long serving Beaver Scout Leader, have worked to develop and keep scouting relevant for young people today whilst still providing them with important expertise, social skills and self-confidence at an early age. The award was presented to 1st Southwold Scout Group, founded 1908 and still continuing to develop in 2017.

Leading Bellringer, Helen Price

It was just after the war as a teenager that Helen Price started to learn the intricate art of bellringing,



Helen Price, Bellringer, receives her award from Cllr Ann Betts.

which became a lifelong passion and has continued for 72 years and there is a brass plaque in St Edmunds ringing chamber that records this. She has been ringing bells in both Southwold and Reydon churches, for many years she was Ringing Master at St Edmunds Church and in 1996 was instrumental in the installation of a six-bell ring at St Margarets Church. She has also rung special peals on major occasions such as a royal birth when she led the bells being 'fired' and, at other times, peals of over 5000

changes. She is also an avid hand bell ringer, and has a group of young people who give performances at events around the area raising money for charities. Her skill and enthusiasm over the years has been the inspiration for many young and old to take up ringing for the enjoyment and satisfaction of mastering this tradition and continuing it into the 21st century. The award was presented to Helen Price in recognition of her lifelong dedication and service to bellringing in the community of Southwold & Reydon.

Southwold Shuttle Bus

The launch of the shuttle bus by Southwold Town Council was 1st May 2013. The drivers were all volunteers, Malcolm Brown and John Baker being some of the first along with Simon Tobin and Michael Ladd. When the numbers of drivers reduced in 2015 Adnams sponsored the drivers to be paid, Malcolm and John were still on board and Malcolm is still there to this day, a very loyal driver together with his relief Peter Newton and John as emergency backup.



Malcom Brown holding the award for the Southwold Shuttle, presented by Cllr Ann Betts (left), after the citation from Tony Evans (right) Chairman of the Southwold and Reydon Society Awards Committee.

The service runs all day Monday to Friday, excluding Tuesday, and Saturday mornings, is operated by Southwold Town Council and in addition to Adnams is also sponsored by Suffolk County Council and Reydon Parish Council. The award was presented to Southwold Shuttle in recognition of its dependable service and invaluable benefit to the community and visitors and was collected by Malcom Brown.

AGM Elections

The officers and Committee of the Society for 2017-18 were elected as follows: President; Michael Rowan-Robinson; Chairman: Dexter Kirk; Vice Chairman and Treasurer: Ridley Burnett; Secretary: Philip O'Hear; Membership Secretary: Andrew Wallington-Smith; Committee Members: Pam Cyprien, Sue Doy, Wendy Mantin, Stephen Chessher, Tony Evans, Simon Flunder and Brian Harrild.

Philip O'Hear, Secretary.

AGM Pictures taken by Bill Hancock