



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Well ... he did it..!

Dave Simcock is this year's Whitchurch 'Citizen of the Year' and I'm happy to let the Herald newspaper cover the story.

Dave insists that it's a team effort ... and, yes, the delivery of the prostate screenings is definitely that. But the vision, the creation and the driving force behind the whole project is 100% Dave Simcock.

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Whitchurch Citizen of the Year award a 'great surprise'

WHITCHURCH'S 'Citizen of the Year' has said the nomination and award win came as a "great surprise" to him.

Dave Simcock, who was nominated for his work through The Rotary Club of Whitchurch, Shropshire and annual prostate cancer screening activity, was named by Whitchurch Town Council as its Citizen of the Year for 2024.

Mr Simcock was announced as the winner ahead of the town's Christmas lights switch on, but was not able to attend in person to flick the switch, so was represented by his daughters and grandson.

On receiving the award, Mr Simcock said: "Being nominated for the Citizen of the Year award was a great surprise to me and very humbling, however I was even further surprised to have won it."

"I was very sorry not have been there to accept the award, but my daughters and grandson did a wonderful job for me."

"The other nominees were all

equally worthy of the award as they like myself are passionate about their area of charity work."

Other nominees included Iris Field, Judy Glover, Stephen Price, Jodie Meredith, Neil Moore. Mr Simcock received over 800 votes from Whitchurch residents, according to mayor Andy Hall.

He was recognised for raising awareness for prostate cancer, introducing the annual check event for local men with more than 900 testing this year.

Mr Simcock added: "We have had over three thousand men through the testing evenings over the last nine years at a cost of £80,000 but because it's confidential to that particular person and unless they inform us we don't know how many need further treatment to stop the Prostate Cancer. However, this year we have been gifted £1,800 from various grateful families for further testing, after finding out they need the treatment."

"Once again may I thank all the persons who voted for me."



■ Dave Simcock, Whitchurch Citizen of the Year 2024. Image: Whitchurch Rotary Club

THANK YOU

A massive 'thank you' to the friends and supporters of Whitchurch Rotary who are giving their time to make our Christmas programme of community service as successful as it can be.

The growth of new housing estates in and around the town makes it increasingly difficult to deliver Santa's tour without their help.

And to those who volunteer to make our festive meals happen, for more than 125 people who will receive them on Christmas Day, I can only quote one e-mail we recently received:

"I thank you and your marvellous team for the work they do. Last Christmas was a very difficult time for me, and without your help, I don't know what I would have done. I will not forget the kindness shown."





A FAMILY AFFAIR

The latest new member of Whitchurch Rotary occupies a special place in our history.

Not least because Victoria Sugden (*pictured with this year's president David Ryder*) is the daughter of a long-standing and well-respected Rotarian who sadly died only last year. Richard Persson was a past president of the club and his work for Rotary earned him the recognition of a Paul Harris Fellowship. He is still missed.

Victoria, who now continues Richard's legacy, is the Charity Director for the League of Friends and RJA Charity at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust where she is also a Lead Governor.

A university graduate in Business Administration with post-graduate qualifications in higher education and management studies, her initial marketing career took her alongside entertainment and sporting figures like Tom Jones and Ryan Giggs as well as handling BUPA and Safeway accounts before Victoria moved into healthcare sector, initially with the Royal Marsden Hospital in London.

She ran her own marketing consultancy for a while until her appointment at RJA for which she has since raised more than £2.25 million towards facilities and equipment there. In 2015 her team was presented with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

**YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN DOWN
... AND THE 'BIG RED MAN' IS ABOUT AS GOOD AS THEY GET.
SO, CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM HIM ... AND US ...
WITH OUR BEST WISHES FOR A WONDERFUL 2025**

