

**Around 60 Hadnall residents gathered on 20<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate all that's great about our community.** At the first Annual Community Meeting and Awards Evening, we shared fantastic stories of wonderfully public-spirited individuals and organisations that help to make Hadnall a really special place to live and work.

Here are the recipients of our 2022 Community Awards:

**Young villagers of the year (under 11) - Carter McGarry and Connor Harris**

Carter McGarry (aged 5) proved a little angel when he heard of the theft of audio equipment and wall speakers worth £700 at St Mary Magdalene church and took it upon himself to try and raise the money. He decided to do a series of sponsored walks and by the time he had collected all the money from four walks of four kilometres in four days he had raised £1,155.

Over recent months Connor Harris (age 10) has been collecting frontline supplies from the village for Ukraine. He has been bringing in collections, sorting out donations into groups and packing up all items received ready for distribution. He has spent his evenings loading and unloading the car and delivering all donations to the collection points. He also helped at the Ukraine fundraising evening held in the village hall where around £1500 was raised in a single night.

**Young villager of the year (11-18) - Barney Leary**

Barney (12) has raised over £2000 in aid of Shrewsbury Ark. When he was 8 years old Barney saw a homeless person and decided that he wanted to help! Over a number of years, he has set about raising money by creating and selling loom bands, attempting a sponsored silence, and organising bring and buy sales. His fundraising efforts went to a new level in 2021 when he set himself the challenge of cycling 75 miles from Hadnall to Barmouth on the Welsh Coast. All the money raised by Barney has gone to supporting 'The Ark', helping a wide range of people and raising awareness of this much needed local charity.

**Overall Community volunteer/group of the year - Neil Duxbury**

Neil (72) has dedicated over 37 years of service to the village of Hadnall being an active member and previous Chair of the Parish Council, a significant member of the Village Hall Committee and a governor at Hadnall C of E school. Never shy of volunteering and getting things done, he has been a vital part local community for all that time. Whilst recently stepping down as a member of the village hall committee he remains a local parish councillor and a school governor. Described by his daughter as 'my wonderful, brilliant dad', Neil is a much-treasured member of the Hadnall community.

**Special mention - Tom Slack**

Tom, aged 92, has rung the bells at Hadnall Church for well over 20 years. He has co-ordinated the annual Poppy Appeal for Hadnall for as long as we care to remember, co-ordinated the Neighbourhood Watch for Hadnall, and has been the leader of Hadnall Walking for Health group for a considerable time, only recently passing on this role earlier this year. He calls the bingo numbers at every fund-raising event where one is needed. All in all, he has volunteered so much of his time for the benefit of our village and is a wonderful example of someone who has served his community tirelessly for so many causes over such a long time.

Thanks also go to **Helen Morgan MP** and **SC Cllr Simon Jones**, who joined us to present the awards, and to all who helped to organise this very special evening. We can't wait to do it all again next year!