

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Date: 5 April 2011**

### **NEWBURY TOWN CIVIC AWARD & NEWBURY TOWN YOUNG PERSONS CIVIC AWARD**



Junior Mayor Cameron Smith; Adrian Smith of Swift Group; Elizabeth Leigh and Newbury Mayor Dr Ian Grose



Bethany Coopey and Adrian Smith of Swift Group

Elizabeth Leigh has been presented with the Black Horse trophy as the winner of The Newbury Town Civic Award Scheme 2011. This award which recognizes the town's unsung heroes, (those people who have made an exceptional contribution to our community on a voluntary basis) held its presentation evening on Monday 4 April 2011.

The winner of the Newbury Town Young Persons Civic Award, sponsored by the Swift Group of Companies, is Bethany Coopey who was delighted to receive the crystal trophy. She will also enjoy a personalised 'Experience Day' of her choice.

The Mayor of Newbury, Councillor Dr Ian Grose, thanked his fellow judges and explained that the amount of volunteering carried out by each of the nominees for both

awards made the task of selecting a winner almost impossible; he considered all the nominees were worthy winners.

Newbury Town Civic Award winner, Elizabeth Leigh, was nominated for her 50 years as a Red Cross volunteer giving very many hours selflessly to the community, providing First Aid cover at many hundreds of public events. In addition, she has organized the monthly Disabled Club meetings and twice yearly outings, arranging transport for members to and from their homes, entertainment and refreshments (baking 36 scones each month for the last 50 years). She has organized and collected for the annual Red Cross Week collections and continues to assist with medical equipment loans and office work in the Newbury Red Cross Centre.

Newbury Town Young Persons Civic award winner, Bethany Coopey, volunteers with PALS, a local charity that helps disabled young people in the area. She has helped take young disabled people swimming, bowling and helped them to participate in craft activities as well as attending residential trips and helping to run a youth club. In addition, for five years Bethany has regularly devoted more than 4 hours a week to being a young leader for a Beavers group.

If further information is required, please contact:-

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Photographs by Colin Lewis