

Community

Gold? You're clearly worth it!

COLLEGE House Junior School has received the highest level of award available from Arts Council England for the level and quality of arts-related activities provided at the school.

The ArtsMark Gold award was made after two members of staff, Louise Strickland and Stephanie Ward, attended a two-day course to find out what would be involved if

the Chilwell school was to apply for the coveted award.

Louise Strickland then spent a further day completing the 35-page application form! She said: "As it turned out, the course proved very useful when it came to completing the form. There were a number of

areas where the information provided on the course was very useful, otherwise it might have taken even longer."

Steph Ward added: "When making the award, the Arts Council told us it was very unusual for applicants to go straight to the top level and be awarded an ArtsMark Gold, but that is what we'd done. Normally, schools find themselves working up through the lower level awards, but we went straight to 'Gold' on the merits of our application alone, which had been verified externally before it was submitted."

An ArtsMark is awarded according to the level of provision of all arts-related subjects. At College House,

pupils can participate in art, music, drama and dance, both in school and at after-school clubs. All year groups have the same level of access to arts-related subjects and boys as well as girls are involved – this last detail an important one as far as the Arts Council is concerned.

Schools submitting an application that leaves the Arts Council unsure generally receive a visit from an auditor, but such was the quality of the College House application that no visit was necessary – and they went straight to Gold.

Steph Ward said: "We now do more dance and more drama than we've ever done, and to receive the Gold award at first attempt was just fantastic."

After the Oscars, the Baftas, and now... The KATs Awards

by *Kate Shaw*

THERE was anticipation and excitement in the air. Everyone had on their best summer garden party chic. They were gathering to attend the prestigious KATs award ceremony being held in the Beeston garden of the Treetops Hospice Ripple Appeal fundraising manager.

The 'KATs' stands for Kate's Action Team and consists of a team of 15 volunteers who were recruited by Kate Shaw some 2½ years ago to help her with the Ripple Appeal. The team could so nearly have been called RATs had they been named after the Ripple Appeal itself, but KATs won the vote!

Kate Shaw said: "My team of volunteers have been nothing short of brilliant in the level of commitment they have shown to the Ripple Appeal. They are an incredibly motivated bunch of totally selfless people who have made my job so much easier and fun. The KATs committee meets at least once a month and tasks are distributed. Each individual has given many, many, hours of their time each month in assisting with public speaking, attending events, office administration support, distributing materials and contributing to fundraising ideas. My colleague, Alex, and I wanted to show our

volunteers just how much we value them, so we decided to host an Official KATs Award Ceremony."

The Award Ceremony was hosted in Kate's Beeston home and awards were awarded in a number of categories.

John Griffiths of Draycott won the 'Charmer of the Ripple Appeal' award because of his incredible powers of persuasion in motivating ladies to come on board with the Ripple Appeal fundraising! Kate said: "John never failed to amaze me. He would go out to speak to groups and regularly came back with pledges of £1000 or more!"

Bramcote resident and a long time supporter of Treetops Hospice, Geoff Saville, won the 'Best All Rounder of the Ripple Appeal' category, whilst American Tom Keeley won the 'Best Networker for the Ripple Appeal' award.

Janice Wilson from Ockbrook won an unusual commendation: "The Best Political Commentator in the Corner' due to her fiery opinions, which she had openly shared in the office throughout the run-up to the general election!"

The Treetops Hospice Vice President, Dawn-Elisabeth Rudd, attended the event. "It is a privilege to be involved

with such an outstanding team of volunteers," she commented.

Afterwards, Kate Shaw said: "We had a great and fun afternoon celebrating the success of the appeal and recognising the great team of volunteers that I have been very lucky to work with."

The Ripple Appeal has been raising funds for a new Care Centre at Treetops Hospice, and building work is nearing completion. The additional space will enable Treetops Hospice to double its capacity and support, and care for some 5,000 Day Care patients each year.

Anyone interested in getting involved in fundraising for the Ripple Appeal is asked to contact the hospice on tel: (0115) 939 4551.

Trent College cadets head for tea at the Palace

TWO cadets from Trent College in Long Eaton will be taking part in a special parade next month and will also enjoy tea at Buckingham Palace!

Will Moon and Dan Robinson are both part of the RAF division of the school's Combined Cadet Force (CCF), the youth organisation sponsored and supported by the Armed Services. They also play in the Air Cadet Organisation (ACO) Marching Band, which recently performed to the public at the RAF

Museum in Hendon, North London. Will and Dan also spent a week at Fort Blockhouse in Portsmouth during the Easter holidays, where they practiced with over 80 musicians from the band. Will was awarded Best Instrumentalist for his achievements during the week.

2010 marks the 150th Anniversary of the Cadet movement. This anniversary will be celebrated through a number of events and competitions across the country, and Will and Dan

will play a special part in the celebrations as they have been chosen to play in the ACO Marching Band in a parade through Central London and down the Mall on Tuesday, July 6. They are the only CCF RAF cadets in the country to have been selected; all the other members of the band are part of the Air Training Corp (ATC).

To complete what is sure to be a very exciting day, both pupils have been invited to the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.