



**Corks Lane
Hadleigh
Ipswich IP7 6SJ**

**MEDIA RELEASE
8th January 2003**

**"AMAZING ENERGY AND COURAGE" OF COMMUNITY AWARD
WINNERS**

Babergh District Council is due to formally recognise the hard work and inspirational activities of a number of unsung local heroes. Babergh is gearing itself up to celebrate the 2003 Community Achievement Awards, now in its 11th year, at a ceremony in February where it will present the 24 winners with their certificates and prizes.

The winners reflect the full range of the many diverse communities within Babergh: four residents are under the age of 19 and a number over 80 and there are people from Sudbury and Hadleigh as well as many from the surrounding villages such as Sproughton, Great Waldingfield and Washbrook.

Over 40 nominations from local Parishes, Towns and Schools were received, before being whittled down to the final number of winners. "As ever, the judges were faced with some very difficult decisions" noted Jill Barton, Organiser of the Awards. "Every year there are just so many community-minded individuals who command respect for their voluntary work. We do feel, however, that this year in particular, the standard of entries was very high indeed with so many of the winners showing amazing energy and courage in carrying out their community-minded activities."

A number of the winners have contributed enormously to their communities in spite of facing serious challenges themselves. One winner heads a national charity in spite of being blind, wheelchair-bound and having cerebral palsy. Another, although having Downs Syndrome and a severe heart condition continues to collect, each year, RNIB envelopes from every house in her village.

The Awards ceremony, to which all the winners and their families have been invited, will take place at the Stoke by Nayland Golf Club on the evening of 26th February, at which Mark Murphy, BBC Radio Suffolk's breakfast presenter, will preside. ENDS

Notes to editors: The full list of winners, including short biographical details, will be sent to the media a few weeks in advance of the awards ceremony.

For further information: Paul Simon, Communications & PR Officer (01473) 826634