

PRESS RELEASE



HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire presents The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to Bedford and District Handicapped Riders' Association.

On Wednesday 8th July the Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Mrs Helen Nellis, attended Willington Riding Centre, the purpose built facility of the Bedford and District Handicapped Riders' Association (BDHRA). The BDHRA were recently told they were to receive a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest accolade a voluntary group can receive; in fact the equivalent to an individual being awarded an MBE.

Mrs Nellis presented the official Certificate, signed by HM The Queen, to Mrs Sue Hayhurst who has been a volunteer for 39 years, and the beautifully designed domed glass crystal to Mrs Helen Dunster who has been a volunteer for 36 years.

The Queen's Award is all about volunteering and without volunteers the BDHRA would not be able to operate. Mrs Nellis read out a commendation from the Queen in which she specifically thanked the Godber family, the Twigden family and Mrs Jean Bedford MBE for their involvement in the charity, but her most expressive thanks were to the volunteers who give up their time each week to ensure that Riding Days are always Happy Days.

Mrs Rebecca Twigden said "This is such a proud moment in our history as a group, one we will treasure for many years to come. Everyone who helps us here at our centre is valued for the work they do. We feel immensely honoured to have been singled out in this way. Now we will be able to use the Queen's Award logo in our applications for funding and it will certainly help us. We receive no public funding and rely entirely on voluntary contributions to cover our annual running costs of approximately £26,000. Capital expenses incurred are in excess of this figure."