

LEEDS AWARD



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| NOMINEE: | Freda Matthews |
| <p data-bbox="188 454 625 488">REASON FOR NOMINATION:</p> <p data-bbox="188 528 1374 645">Freda Matthews is what you would call " a pillar of society ". She has lived in little Woodhouse for all the time I have known her - I have known Freda Matthews for around twenty years. We first got together in the early 90's through the late Cllr Brian Dale who represented University Ward at the time.</p> <p data-bbox="188 680 1401 770">Freda and Brian set up the Little Woodhouse Community Association which is still going today. During this time she has dedicated her life to her local community and has given much of her time to help improve the area and the lives of the people who live in it.</p> <p data-bbox="188 801 1286 864">She has without doubt changed the lives of people in Leeds by continually demonstrating an exceptional commitment to the local community.</p> <p data-bbox="188 896 1390 1012">If you read the testaments to her below from members of the local community you will see how much she is valued and loved by those you have had the pleasure of working with her. I can think of no one more deserving of recognition from our community in Hyde Park and I take great pleasure in nominating her for the Leeds Award.</p> <p data-bbox="188 1077 817 1106"><u>Testament 1: Director Swarthmore Education Centre</u></p> <p data-bbox="188 1111 1385 1200">Freda Matthews has devoted her retirement to helping her community for the past twenty years. Now going on 80 years old Freda is still an active trustee of Swarthmore Education Centre as well as Claremont local History society.</p> <p data-bbox="188 1232 1394 1321">Freda was Chair of Little Woodhouse Community Association until December 2010 and has worked tirelessly since 1993 helping local residents by liaising with Council officers and ward Councillors over local issues and making improvements happen in the area.</p> <p data-bbox="188 1352 1209 1415">Freda has brought extra money into the area by applying for grants and instigating the Neighbourhood Design statement.</p> <p data-bbox="188 1447 1385 1509">Through Freda's love of local history she has produced a range of booklets about the area creating a sense of community identity and pride.</p> <p data-bbox="188 1541 1394 1603">Last years first Picnic in the Park on Hanover Square, where a successful and enjoyable day was had by all, was down to Freda's hard work and stamina.</p> <p data-bbox="188 1635 1378 1751">Freda has brought her local knowledge and expertise to the board of trustees at Swarthmore where she has been Chair for several years in the past. She has helped Swarthmore acquire funding in the past for the refurbishment of room 3 (Ellen Heaton's drawing room) which is also a great community resource as well as a teaching room.</p> <p data-bbox="188 1783 1369 1814">Freda was paramount in the creation of the Rosebank Millennium Green from the late 90s onwards.</p> <p data-bbox="188 1845 1343 1877">Freda was also a member of the local Burley Network where her expertise was extremely valued.</p> <p data-bbox="188 1908 1372 1971">When the multi cultural centre on Woodsley Road had challenges a few years ago Freda stepped in to help them sort everything out with the Charity commission and succeeded.</p> <p data-bbox="188 2002 1362 2033">Freda is the Big Society and everything she does is for the greater good of the community in which</p> | |

she lives. No one is more deserving of this Leeds award than Freda.

Testament 2: Rosebank Millennium Green Trust

I first met Freda about twenty years ago (possibly 1992 or 1993), when she and others set up Little Woodhouse Community Association. Originally from Keighley, I believe she's lived in Hanover Square for about fifty years and has therefore had a long association with the Little Woodhouse area. She's something of a local historian, having built up a wealth of knowledge of the buildings, streets and open spaces which constitute the locality, as well as knowing much about the people and their lives. An active member of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, and of the Civic Trust, she frequently conducts walks around - and gives talks on - this special part of Leeds.

Her interest in green spaces led her and others to establish the Rosebank Millennium Green Trust in 1998 in order to begin the process of turning a five-and-a-half acre overgrown hillside into Leeds's first millennium green and a site of unusual peace and tranquillity. She is still very active in this organisation and spends much of her time meeting and liaising with organisations and charities which help to provide some of the valuable funding, without which the project could not survive.

Trustee

Rosebank Millennium Green Trust

Testament 3: LWCA Committee Member and resident of Dennison Hall

When I first moved to Hanover Square, Freda made herself known to me as a neighbour and local historian. We arranged for her to come and talk to the new intake of residents after the refurbishment of Denison Hall in 2001 which she had been keenly involved in over the past few years.

It was immediately clear that the local knowledge Freda had acquired over the 50 or so years of living and bringing up a family in Hanover Square, was fascinating for incomers, invaluable as a local history resource, and delivered with a passion that is hard to match.

It was with a sense of pride that she told us of the most recent changes in our immediate area: railings around Hanover Square; conversion of derelict tennis courts to 5 a-side football pitch for all to use. Tarmac-ing of previously muddy paths in the park and new benches. It was some years later before I learnt just who had been instrumental in these changes, just who had filled in the endless application forms for grants, just who had gone to meetings with council officers and send hundreds of e-mails in order to make all these things happen - Freda Matthews. And that was just on our doorstep, there was so much more...

Freda has been a tower of strength leading the Little Woodhouse Community Association over the last decade or so and will be greatly missed by all on the committee and wider community.

Fortunately Freda has only 'retired' from one area of her interest. No doubt she will now use the time gained to continue working on her local history archive; keeping an eye on safety in the area through BCOS and supporting the Rosebank Millennium Green Trust, as well as enjoying more time with her family and friends.

LWCA Cttee Member and
Resident of Denison Hall

Testament 4: Leeds Central

I would like strongly to support the nomination of Freda Matthews for a Leeds Award.

Freda has given outstanding service to the people of Little Woodhouse – a vibrant community and a priceless part of Leeds' Georgian and Victorian past - through her work in the Community Association. Freda has both helped to tell the story of the area's history – including through the publication of her walking guides - and played a leading role in preserving what remains through the Conservation Area Partnership Schemes and keeping a close eye on plans for development.

She led the campaign to create the Rosebank Millennium Green which has been such an addition to the area, and has been Chair of the Swarthmore Adult Education Centre. She also helped to organise last year's very successful Little Woodhouse Picnic. And when I got a card from her recently I learned that Freda is also a talented cartoonist!

Freda's determination, energy, wise counsel and concern for others mark her out as a very special

individual. She really deserves this recognition for everything that she has done for her neighbours and her community over the years.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ATTACHED: