

## **St Albans Sea Cadets take 3<sup>rd</sup> place in countywide prestigious volunteering award**

The third year of the Valuing Volunteer Management Awards in Hertfordshire awards brought in a record number of nominations. Garden House Hospice shop in Royston had been named the overall winner with Age Concern Dacorum taking second place and St Albans Sea Cadets coming third.

The annual award which is kindly sponsored by the Hertfordshire Community Foundation is presented to an organisation who demonstrates excellent volunteer management.

Michelle Hart from St Albans Volunteer Centre who presented the St Albans Sea Cadets with their award said 'what makes this award so special is that nominations can only be made by volunteers. This means that we find out what procedures and policies they have in place to ensure volunteers have an enjoyable and fulfilling experience.'

Receiving the award Mrs Pat Gosling, Chair of St Albans unit said 'The award came as a great surprise but acknowledges the work undertaken to ensure all our volunteer staff be they uniformed instructors, committee members or working behind the scenes. We have a great committed volunteer team and I am very proud to accept the award for the unit. We are looking for new staff and especially female volunteers to help with the growing number of female cadets.'

The unit meets on Tuesday and Friday evenings and prides itself on being Serious Fun with a nautical theme. Activities include sailing, canoeing (kayaking), shooting, first aid, drill and much more for children and young people aged 10 -18

This volunteer opportunity will suit people with an interest/background in the Royal Navy (or other uniformed services) and is open to male and female volunteers. Skills particularly sought are:

Sailing, canoeing, windsurfing, shooting, cooking, mechanical/electrical engineering, first aid, general seamanship, navigation, radio communication, Duke of Edinburgh, expeditions.

Commenting on the award to TS ST Albans, Cllr Christine Crawley – Mayor of St Albans said:

'I'm delighted that the volunteers who run the St Albans Sea Cadets have won such a prestigious award. I was warmly welcomed by the Sea Cadets during my year as Deputy Mayor and spent an evening listening to the volunteers' enthusiastic and caring aims and values for the group. They think of everything and grab every opportunity with open arms, always giving back to the community. Long may the St Albans Sea Cadets continue.'

**For more information please contact the St Albans District Volunteer Centre: 01727 852657. The Volunteer Centre is at St Albans District Centre for Voluntary Service, 31 Catherine Street, St**

Albans. Opening times: Monday to Thursday 10am to 4pm, Friday 10am to 1pm and 4pm to 7pm on the second Wednesday of each month. You can e-mail [carol@cvsstalbans.org.uk](mailto:carol@cvsstalbans.org.uk), visit [www.cvsstalbans.org.uk](http://www.cvsstalbans.org.uk), or pick up a list of current requests for help from St Albans Library or Harpenden Town Council Information Point.