



**Queen pays tribute
to Crewkerne Aqua Centre volunteering group
with prestigious Award**

The Aqua Centre Volunteers from Crewkerne has been announced as one of 79 volunteering groups from across the UK winning this year's Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, recognising the outstanding contributions made to local communities by groups voluntarily devoting their time for the benefit of others.

The prestigious National Honour, which is equivalent to the MBE, sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering, and the activities of those awarded have been judged of the highest standard.

The Aqua Centre Volunteers has received the Award from Her Majesty for its work in initially running a local school pool for the benefit of the community during the evening, weekends and school holidays and for the work they did in getting an all year round indoor pool for Crewkerne.

The 2008 Award winners were selected from 379 groups nominated by members of the public who have been helped personally or witnessed the benefits of a group's work in their community. The Aqua Centre Volunteers will be presented with an exclusive crystal trophy marking their success at a special local ceremony being given by the Queen's Lord Lieutenant for Somerset.

Speaking of their success, Rusty Jackson from the Aqua Centre Volunteers said: "It is fantastic that the work of the volunteers in getting the Aqua Centre for Crewkerne, and before that their work at the Maiden Beech Pool, has been recognised in this way"

Phil Hope, Minister for the Third Sector, said, "I'm sure everyone in Crewkerne will join me in offering the Aqua Centre Volunteers our congratulations and sincere thanks.



“The work of the Aqua Centre Volunteers demonstrates the positive impact that volunteers have on communities, work they undertake without seeking any kind of accolade. That is why I’m particularly pleased their efforts are recognised by the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service.”

More than 600 groups around the UK have now won the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service, over the six years since it was created by Her Majesty to mark the occasion of her Golden Jubilee in 2002.

For details of all this year’s Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service winners and information on how to nominate a group that really makes a difference, visit www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk, where a nomination form can be downloaded.