

News

24th September 2015

Prime Minister gives award to Bolton man who dedicated 27 years to wildlife conservation

By Craig Archer



HONOUR: Rick Parker

Mr Parker is the latest recipient of David Cameron's Point of Light award, which recognises outstanding individual volunteers, people who are making a change in their community and inspiring others.

Mr Parker said: "I feel honoured to receive this award, which recognises our achievements over the last 30 years. This wouldn't have been possible without the support and commitment of my amazing volunteers who have dedicated hours and hours of their time."

As well as his dedicated work over the last 27 years, Mr Parker has successfully collaborated on a year-long project with the Bolton Wildlife Project and Lancashire Wildlife Trust to develop a motorway-side habitat to save the local dragonfly population.

He has reached out and recruited more than a hundred volunteers, giving talks and running workshops to over 750 groups of young people, particularly those involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Mr Parker is the 334th winner of the new Points of Light award which has been developed in partnership with the hugely successful Points of Light programme in the USA and was first established by President George H. W. Bush. Over 5,000 US Points of Light have been awarded and both President George H. W. Bush and President Barack Obama have publicly supported the partnership with Points of Light UK which honours shining examples of volunteering across the country.

Prime Minister David Cameron said: "Rick has dedicated almost three decades to conserving and cultivating the wildlife in his local area. Thanks to his hard work leading Bolton Conservation Volunteers, hundreds of wildlife habitats have been created and preserved in Bolton for future generations to enjoy. By inspiring young people to get involved, Rick has laid the groundwork for conservation to continue in Bolton long into the future."