

**DEDICATED COUPLE CELEBRATE 47 YEARS OF COMMUNITY WORK**

A couple who have ran the same youth club for 47 years were applauded for their outstanding commitment to young people in their community at the House of Lords this week.

Mid-Lothian residents Jeanette Marshall, 62, and her husband Kenny, 65, have landed one of the country’s highest accolades – a British Citizen Award (BCA).

Launched in January 2015, the BCA, in partnership with InMoment, recognises extraordinary achievements by everyday people who have made a positive difference to the lives of others that may otherwise have gone unnoticed.

The local heroes received their BCA Medal from InMoment’s president Lonnie Mayne at the Palace of Westminster.

Jeanette said: ‘It’s an amazing feeling being awarded a BCA for something that has given me so much joy throughout the years. It’s an even better feeling being able to share this award with my husband, because without our teamwork the success of the youth group would not have been possible.’

Jeanette and Kenny started a youth club together - aimed at 8-15 year olds – in their local village. Now, 47 years on, the club still meets every Tuesday night during half term.

The youth group has remained successful due to its energy, enthusiasm, compassion and willingness of others to volunteer. It offers young people a range of activities in a village which has poor transport links in the evening.

Recently the couple faced the tough decision of having to move the club from the school where it was originally operating but, within a few weeks of the move, the sounds of young people enjoying themselves could be heard again. While many people would have given up and walked away, the couple proved the cost of the club would not be a barrier.

Despite their children growing up and moving away, Jeannette and Kenny stay sensitive to the needs of the young people in their village. They have seen many drastic changes in the community, but the vibrancy of the youth group still lives on.

Kenny said: ‘Being honored with a BCA alongside my wife is an indescribable feeling. Our main goal is to bring happiness and excitement to children, and the youth group we started together is doing just that. We want every child to feel like they’re in a comfortable and supportive environment so they’re able to develop, grow and learn new skills.’

The BCA is in partnership with customer experience management company, InMoment and proud to be supported by the world’s largest optical retailer and audiologists, Specsavers; one of the largest property and leisure management, development and regeneration companies in the UK, Places for People; leading ethical law firm Irwin Mitchell; palletised freight company, Pall-Ex; and creative communications group, Beattie Group ~~-~~who will each have representatives at the awards ceremony.

October 2016 will also see the introduction of the British Citizen Youth Award, recognising young people under the age of 16 who have positively impacted communities or particular groups and have contributed through their own endeavours to making a difference. Nominations can be made now until September 30th 2016.

To find out more about the BCA or British Citizen Youth Awards, and to nominate someone for the next awards in January 2017, please visit [britishcitizenawards.co.uk](http://britishcitizenawards.co.uk/)

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

**Dates of issue:**

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**Notes to Editors**

The British Citizen Award recognise individuals that positively impact others and highlights the positive aspects of multi-cultural communities, workplaces, community groups and charities throughout the UK. It is accessible to all and serves to celebrate the good things that make Britain great.

There is no fee for making a nomination. Nominees who are granted a BCA will be invited to attend the Presentation Day at the Palace of Westminster. Presentations are held twice annually in January and July.

The full list of categories for the British Citizen Award:

BCAc for Service to Community  
BCAi for Service to Industry  
BCAa for Service to Arts  
BCAe for Services to Education  
BCAh for services to Healthcare  
BCAb for Service to Business  
BCAv for Volunteering & Charitable Giving  
BCAo for International Achievement

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BCA founding supporters include medal manufacturer, Bigbury Mint; Places for People; Pall-Ex and Church House Conference Centre.