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## CONNECTING IN THE COMMUNITY



Liz Barker receiving the Community Impact award sponsored by Morrisons at the Sue Ryder Yorkshire Women of Achievement Award ceremony.

It is one year since the county was painted yellow and festooned in seemingly endless strands of bunting. For for my part, this time last year I was immersed in Fields of Vision, a landscape art project that placed the Worth Valley in the eyes of a global audience, culminating with significant media coverage throughout the weekend of the Grand Depart and a great swell of pride in everything Yorkshire.

Local schools enthusiastically supported and participated in the spectacle and the various opportunities for engagement. Worth The Tour, the community group set up to make the most of the Tour de France in Keighley and the Worth Valley, was equally active in pulling resources and people together.

On reflection, some of the biggest 'take aways' from the experiences of last year have to do with the benefits of building community cohesion and connectedness. A shared vision along with shared resources enables big ideas to flourish. In addition to the obvious interest in

everything cycling, a renewed willingness to work with others with different perspectives continues to be a legacy of the Tour de France.

The truth is, we can achieve so much more when we pull together; like the saying goes, we are stronger together. Focussing on the things that unite us and not getting hung up on taking 'sides' frees us up for real collaborative and creative work. Understanding that each individual has a unique part to play and is valued is also essential for sustaining vibrant community life.

In May this year I was honored to receive the very first Community Impact award at the Sue Ryder Yorkshire Women of



Achievement ceremony held at the Royal Armouries in Leeds. It was humbling to be in a room with seven hundred guests, many of whom were community champions and committed contributors to various companies, organizations, and schemes fixed on making Yorkshire a better place to live and work.



I was inspired by the enthusiasm in the room and went away thinking about how I could continue to support the good work that is going on in the Aire and Worth valleys. It is sometimes difficult to know in which

direction to put ones energies, but I feel excited by the prospect of continuing along the collaborative and creative routes that were established when the greatest cycling race passed our doors. Liz Barker, editor

Say you saw it in the Worth Valley Mag!