

Honoured for scouts service



David Smith with the beautiful Silver Acorn.

Photo: 0405071w12

FOUR South Holland residents who have dedicated their lives to the scout movement have been honoured for their service.

District chairman Stephen Hull, district treasurer David Smith, and Sheelagh and Derek Elphee, who are both members of the district scout fellowship, have all been awarded the Silver Acorn.

All four are involved with the Holbeach and Spalding scouting district and have been chosen for the award by Chief Scout and former Blue Peter presenter Peter Duncan.

The Silver Acorn is one of the highest scouting awards and is not normally awarded until after at least a medal of merit has been gained, and a further five years of service has been completed.

It is therefore seldom awarded for less than 20 years' service.

The award, which is worn on an orange ribbon around the neck, is presented annually on St George's Day.

Sheelagh and Derek, who live in Crowland, have clocked up almost 70 years' service to the scouts between them.

Although the couple are no longer involved with a group they still help out when necessary with things such as fundraising and more recently pinning flower heads onto the scouts' float for Spalding Flower Parade.

Sheelagh said: "Derek and I have always loved scouting and it's a huge honour for us to receive the Silver Acorn. It really means a lot to us."

Derek has been a scout leader, while Sheelagh was cub scout leader and both have held the position of district commissioner.

The couple were presented with their awards by Holbeach and Spalding District Commissioner Alan Scott at the St George's Day parade and service at Spalding's St Mary and St Nicolas Church.

Stephen Hull was surprised to hear he was receiving the award.

Stephen, of Holbeach, had been involved with the scout movement for about 40 years.

He started as a cub before moving on to become a scout, a venture scout, an assistant leader and a cub scout leader.

When he gave up being a leader Stephen kept up his interest in



Crowland couple Sheelagh and Derek Elphee.

Photo: 0305074w53

Right - Stephen Hull, of Holbeach.

Photo: 0405072w26

the movement by joining the executive committee, of which he is now chairman.

He added: "The award makes me feel like all my hard work has been recognised."

District treasurer David Smith (69), of Spalding, has been involved with scouting most of his life and joined the executive committee when he gave up the role of scout leader.

Scouting is a passion David shares with his wife Wendy, who was given the Silver Acorn about six years ago.

He said: "It is quite an honour to have been given the award. I really didn't expect it but it's certainly very nice."

