

Sage Person of the Year - Pat Reading, Marlow FM

The managing director of Marlow FM, Graham Duthie, says of Pat Reading: "I really don't know where she gets all her energy from. She hates to say 'no', and always tries to find a way to make things happen, however challenging they are. The whole town of Marlow owes her a lot."

Pat, 65, has been a central figure at Marlow FM for nearly its entire 14-year history. A director of the station, and a member of the management team, she holds the title of Head of Fundraising - but that only scratches the surface of what she does.

Pat is the driving force behind our outside broadcasts and other appearances. We usually do around a dozen events every year, and Pat oversees all of them. She deals directly with the organiser of each event, gees up our volunteers, and does all she can to make our coverage the best it can be. Each year people expect to see Marlow FM at the big events, like the Marlow Town Regatta and Pub in the Park, and hear our coverage of them on the radio - and it's all down to Pat.

She's always on hand to help other volunteers turn their ideas into reality. It's one thing to think up some new fundraising event or initiative; it's another to get it off the ground and make it a success. Pat revels in this. She's probably done it before, and she knows the potential pitfalls.

Having been brought up in Marlow, she has ties across every corner of the community. She talks to the Town Council, the Round Table, the Chamber of Commerce, the clubs and societies, and the churches. If you need a way in, Pat's usually already holding the door open for you. And given this network of contacts, Pat also spearheads our coverage of local news. She's the first to pass on news and details of local events, and get the word out there.

Pat is also comfortable in front of the microphone. She presents 'Breakfast' every Monday morning, and co-ordinates the show's presenters for the other days of the week. She also co-presents our Remembrance Sunday coverage live from the Marlow War Memorial each year, showcasing her commitment to local traditions.

Championing the best of our community is dear to Pat's heart. Several years ago she devised our Hidden Gems Awards (this became Hidden Heroes during covid), where we ask listeners to nominate and vote for individuals, organisations, and businesses in different categories. Pat looks after the entire process, and organises the black tie event where the winners are revealed.

In short, Pat's the perfect role model for volunteers at a community radio station. Her passion for radio and commitment to the community make her an outstanding candidate for this award.