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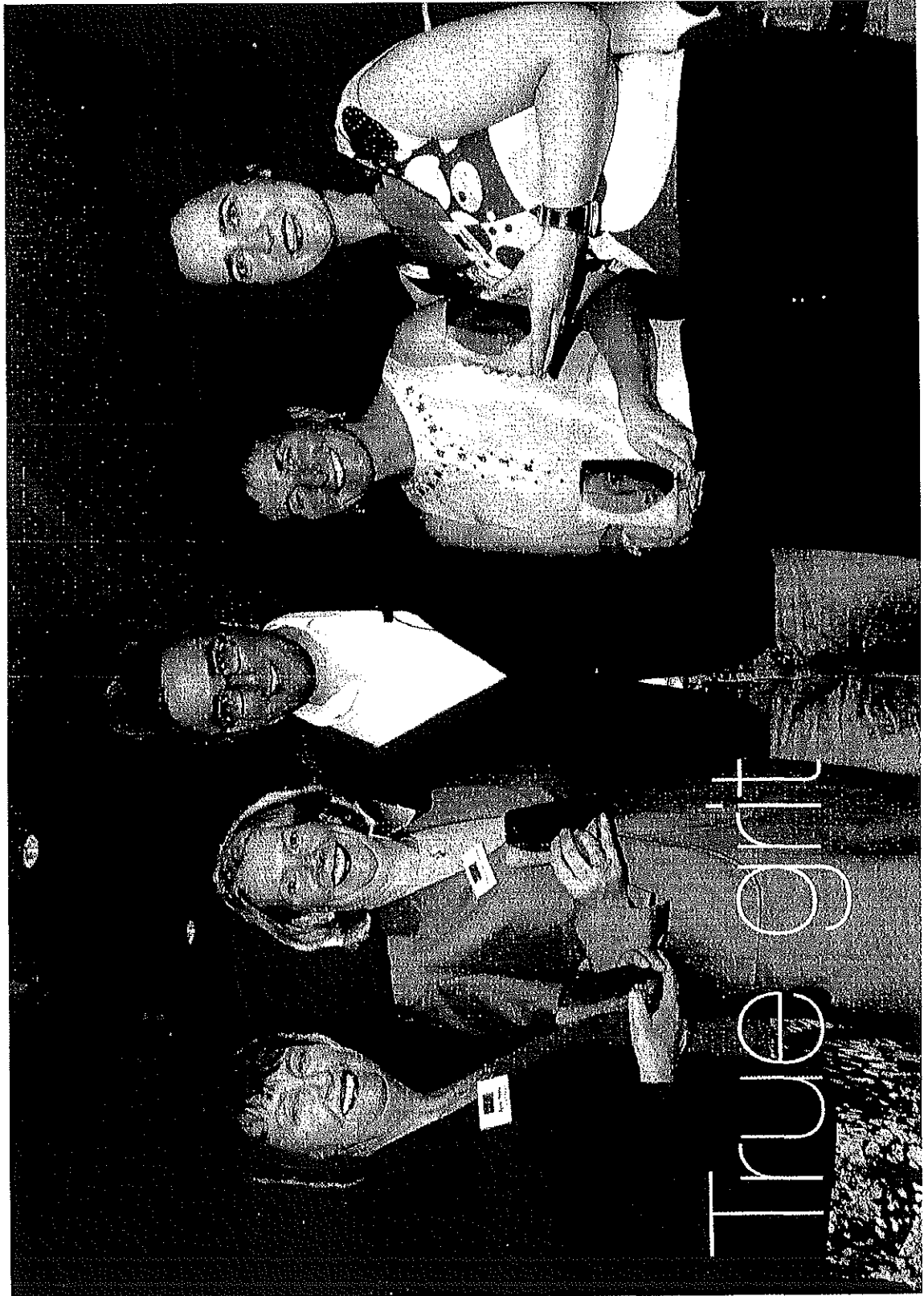
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21 Little Peter Street  
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**Media**  
**Lancashire Life**

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**Above: Awards presenter, Danny Wallace, with the winners: (from left to right); Anne Parry who co-founded Papryus, a charity committed to the prevention of young suicide; Karen McCormick who is Cheshire Building Society's Chief Executive; Donna Hall, who is Chief Executive of Chorley Borough Council and Claire Moore of Certain Curtain Theatre, Preston.**

association with Britannia Building Society, were presented by Danny Wallace, comedy writer, TV and radio presenter, and the lunch was compered by Trevor Hunt, BBC Radio Manchester commentator.

It was a celebrity event, to which Cheshire Life and Lancashire Life magazines continue to be media partners. The Awards were broadcast live by BBC Radio Manchester, and four Salford City Reds rugby players graced the stage for the charity appeal for The Prince's Trust which raised £4,500.

Nominations were sought from the public to find four women who had excelled in the North West from different walks of life – public sector, arts, business and community – women who had made a difference to the lives of others. After a mix of humorous and moving stories, four women triumphed, receiving a standing ovation as they picked up their Inspiring Women trophies.

Founder and Award organiser, Jacqueline Hughes-Lundy says: 'These Awards provide recognition, a public appreciation of the difference women can make and how they motivate others. Through the Inspiring Women Awards I hope that by recognising our finalists, we play some small part in encouraging other women. Winners always mention that they don't feel they do anything special or they felt humbled in comparison to the achievements of other nominees; their humility is always the hallmark of their inspiration to others.'

**Local women with awesome tales of courage, determination and achievement were honoured at this year's Inspiring Women Awards  
Words: Lynne Arnold  
Photography: John Cocks**

**T**HE remarkable stories of 12 women nominated for their inspirational achievements were heard by over 350 guests at a prestigious lunch and awards' event at the Midland Hotel, Manchester.

Women who think nothing of 'going that extra mile' impressed and moved diners at the 16th Inspiring Women Awards, which clearly continues to live up to its name.

We all know there are truly inspiring women but many go unrecognised and do not realise how they become role models for others. At a lunch at the Midland Hotel in Manchester, guests felt privileged to hear the personal and sometimes heart-rending stories of the shortlisted women. But there were laughs too. The 2008 Awards, in

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**Community Award sponsored by  
Oakridge Training and Consultancy**

**Anne Parry** channelled the personal tragedy of her son's suicide in 1994 into helping prevent other young deaths. With commitment, empathy and great hard work, she co-founded a self-help group and continues to work tirelessly towards its aims. Papyrus is a voluntary UK charity, based in Burnley, committed to the prevention of young suicide and under her leadership, it has grown from a small group of bereaved parents to a national network. Anne, from Mold, North Wales, has been instrumental in personally creating valuable resources: suicide prevention literature, a teachers' pack, a DVD tackling school bullying, and a booklet for young offenders. Still enthusiastic and motivated, she is the impetus behind yet more projects: a resource pack for universities, a national helpline 'HopeLine', and new offices in Burnley.

**Arts Award  
sponsored by tdc creative**

**Claire Moore** set up Certain Curtain Theatre in Preston nearly 20 years ago, passionate about encouraging new writing and producing issue-based plays. She is an inspiring role model for young artists and writers and willingly offering support and advice. Claire uses theatre as a powerful tool for positive social change and revels in taking performance to the heart of communities. With tenacity and artistic flair, Claire has touched people's hearts and minds, using ground-breaking plays to help raise awareness of many subjects but especially domestic violence, writing and performing award-winning plays. She is immersed in the arts in its widest sense – a writer, director, producer, actor, tour-organiser, budget planner and fundraiser!

**Business Award sponsored by  
accountants Deloitte**

When **Karen McCormick** took over as Cheshire Building Society's chief executive in 2005, she was the first woman to take charge of a building society for a decade. They were troubled times for the mutual, including pre-tax losses for the first time in its 140 year old history. Yet Karen, based in Macclesfield, has turned round the Society's fortunes. She has a reputation for great business acumen combined with an open management style. She demonstrates great people skills with employees and customers alike, and her personal values of honesty, integrity and tenacity enable her to be practical and highly regarded. With a strong commitment to customer accountability, Karen is passionate about corporate social responsibility and building relationships with the community.

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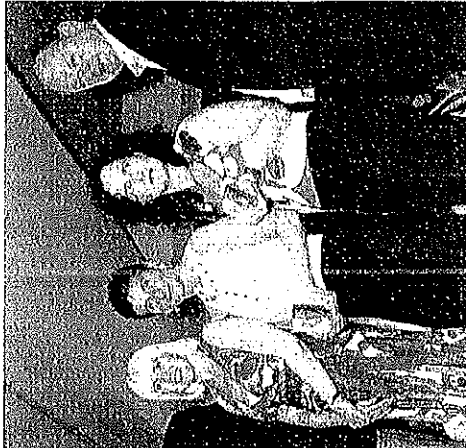
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### Public Sector Award

#### sponsored by Yorkshire Bank

Strong and enterprising leadership have led **Donna Hall** to a highly successful career in local government. In her two years as chief executive of Chorley Borough Council, Donna has had an immediate impact. Recent awards gained by Chorley BC demonstrate her ability to lead and empower others, and staff recently voted her 5th top national executive in the country for inspirational leadership and inclusive style of management. Passionately committed to high quality public services, she has made a real difference to her 'customers'. Under her guidance Chorley has bucked the national trend by increasing customer satisfaction by 14% in the last year and sickness has reduced by three days per employee.



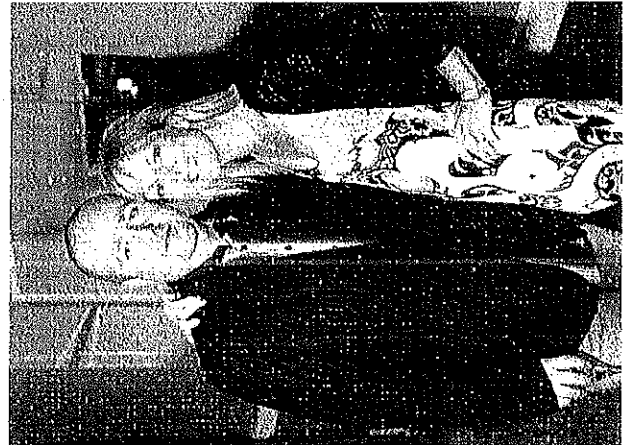
Above: The winners and the sponsors on stage

Above right: Rosie Withers,

Tracy Dawson and Lynne Whiteside

Left: Tony Sweeney, Jane Bell, Brigit Egan, Anna White, Karen McCormick and Lisa Gibson

Below: BBC Manchester's Managing Editor, John Ryan, with Presenter, Becky Want



Left: Spokesperson for The Prince's Trust, Lisa Daly talking to Trevor Hunt

