

Daily Telegraph 31.12.13

Recognition for the 'everyday heroes' whose efforts have made a difference

HONOURS have been awarded to hundreds of everyday heroes, including the parents of Jimmy Mizen, the schoolboy who was murdered the day after his 16th birthday.

Margaret and Barry Mizen are made MBEs for their inspirational efforts to create a "decent and lasting" legacy out of their son's death.

Jimmy, a former altar boy described as a "gentle giant", was killed after being attacked by a teenage thug in a bakery just 200 yards from his home in Lee, south-east London, in May 2008.

His parents, who have spoken of how their Roman Catholic faith helped them to cope with their loss, set up the Jimmy Mizen Foundation in his memory.

They give talks in schools and prisons, support other families and have raised

money to buy minibuses, nicknamed "Jimmy buses", for community groups.

Mr Mizen, 62, dedicated the honour to the couple's eight other children, who are also involved in the foundation's work. "This is in memory of a fine, fine young lad. Jimmy's legacy will be one of peace and community cohesion," he said.

Julie Bailey, who founded the campaign group Cure the NHS to expose the horrific neglect of patients at Stafford Hospital, has been appointed CBE for services to the care of older people.

She dedicated her honour to her late mother Bella, whose death in 2007 drove her to lobby for a full investigation into the hospital.

She said: "I am certain that my mum would be extremely proud of me and it is to her I dedicate not only this award but

also our continuing struggle for a safer health service."

Siobhan Freegard, 46, **Sally Russell**, 47, and **Cathy Court**, 49, the founders of Netmums, the parental support website, have been made OBEs. Mrs Russell said: "It's lovely to know that we are making a difference to people."

Since being set up in 2000, Netmums has grown to become Britain's biggest parenting site with 1.6 million members.

A postmistress who set up shop in her living room has been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to her local community. **Diane Bell**, 63, opened Nettleton Stores in Nettleton, Wiltshire, on Aug 1 1977 after a nearby Post Office closed down. She said: "I am so amazed and gobsmacked. I thought it must be some hoax at first."
