

## **CASH BOOST HELPS GARDEN GROUP GET OFF THE GROUND**

A green fingered group from Sawley has received a Community Matters Award from Loughborough Building Society to buy a new shed for their gardening equipment.

The Garden Club is made up of six retired men and women who enjoy gardening so much they offer their services free of charge to help out other members of the community.

Denise Walker, treasurer and fund raiser for the group explains that they started off by restoring the garden at their local church and enjoyed it so much, they decided to get together on a regular basis to work on other projects.

“We all absolutely love gardening,” says Ann, “but we realise that not everyone else does or indeed has the time, ability or passion that we have. So we decided that we’d get pleasure from offering our services to the elderly, disabled or mums with young children in our local community and they’d get help with jobs such as grass cutting, weeding and trimming hedges.

“We raise money to cover expenses such as petrol and garden tools by holding coffee mornings and craft stalls but we really needed a shed to securely store all out equipment and it would have taken a long time to raise the cash needed. So the £300 award from The Loughborough has been an amazing boost and we’re really grateful.”

Caroline Joyce, operations director at Loughborough Building Society says: “This is just the sort of group that our Community Matters Awards scheme was set up to help! We loved the idea that this small team of over 60’s are turning their

passion for gardening into a free of charge service for others. What fantastic community spirit.”

A Community Matters award from The Loughborough is available to any local worthwhile group or charity whose aim is to make a positive difference to the community. The awards are given quarterly and cash amounts of up to £500 are available per organisation. The closing date for the next round of awards is 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009. For more information or an application form please call into your local Loughborough Building Society branch, visit [www.theloughborough.co.uk](http://www.theloughborough.co.uk) or call 01509 610707.

**Ends**

For more information please call Sarah Able at Dark Horse PR on 01159 814421 or Caroline Joyce at The Loughborough on 01509 610707.