

CIVIC AWARDS

2022



**WELWYN
HATFIELD**



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Welcome to the Presentation of the Civic Awards 2022

This is the sixteenth year that Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, this year in partnership with the Mears Group, has hosted its Civic Awards. We are very pleased to have a Young Person Award sponsored by the University of Hertfordshire for anyone under the age of 21.

The response to the award scheme was once again positive and the community judging panel had a real challenge to decide the winners. The range of achievements and work that takes place in the Borough is truly astonishing.

Details of the winners are in this booklet. For those who were not selected for a prize this year, may I extend my genuine thanks for your contribution to life in our Borough. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to make a nomination.

My sincerest thanks also go to the sponsors of the awards, Mears and the University of Hertfordshire whose support for this is invaluable.

Councillor Peter Hebden, Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield Borough



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Harley Lieberman

The Civic Award is presented in recognition of the work Harley Lieberman has undertaken at Hatfield Men's Shed

Nominated by:

Peter Lowe and Angela Gaughan

The following text is drawn from their nomination form:

Harley, despite suffering from Social Anxiety, brings himself to The Hatfield Men's Shed virtually every session.

He is about to start Community Workshop Sessions for ungendered mental health provision every Thursday that follows 'The NHS 5 steps to Mental Wellbeing'.

Harley is trained to level 3 Joinery standards and is fully qualified and certificated. He volunteers at Hatfield Men's Shed and gives freely of his time despite often working a full early morning shift at Simmons Bakery in town. He is always approachable and amazingly tolerant.

As Harley is only 21 he can often associate with the younger 'shedders' that come to the shed and bridge the gap to us older 'shedders', enabling intergenerational learning to occur both ways.

Because of his training, Harley can offer advice on virtually all aspects of woodwork carried out at the shed and is the go-to person when we encounter various design snags with the 'innovative' projects we are asked to tackle.

Harley appeared on a piece for BBC Breakfast to speak about his Social Anxiety, something none of us were expecting.

He really has become part of the shed and along with a couple of others, my right hand man.

Mayo Vondee

The Civic Award is presented to Mayo Vondee
in recognition of her contribution to the Hertfordshire Law School

Nominated by:

Diana Kirsch and Amanda Thurston

The following text is drawn from their nomination form:

Mayo has made a fantastic contribution to pro bono at Hertfordshire Law School. She is a third year LLB Law student at the University of Hertfordshire and alongside studying for her Law degree, Mayo volunteers to work in the Hertfordshire Law Clinic when it opened in October 2019 which enables members of the public to obtain one-off verbal or written legal advice in a range of areas including employment, family, employment and housing law. Students work in pairs on all cases, and have a lawyer supervising them, but much of the work requires the students to be proactive in organising meetings, carrying out legal research, and preparing documents.

I have received excellent feedback from Mayo's supervisor in the law clinic Janet Barlow who wrote 'Mayo was an excellent student, she was really on the ball and very proactive and efficient.'

Mayo also volunteers for our Shelter Court Desk Runner project, working as part of a small team supporting the Shelter Duty Solicitors Ruth Camp as she deals with the possession list of cases at Hertford and Watford County Court. As part of this project, Mayo has to deal with members of the public, taking basic details to triage the case, and making notes in court. This is a really valuable project and we are delighted to be working with Shelter to support the valuable work they do in helping some of the most vulnerable people in our community who are facing eviction.

Mayo clearly has a passion for the law and has shown a commitment towards helping others, and to ensuring access to justice for all is achieved.

Cherie Button & Joy Chance

The Civic Award is presented in recognition of the work
Cherie Button and Joy Chance have undertaken
supporting the residents of Welwyn Garden City

Nominated by:

Julie Wilkinson and Jean Wilkinson,
Andy Button, Lauren Button, Chanelle Button and Robbie Foley,
Nicky Lewis and Andy Lewis, Paula Wright and Roger Wright,
Councillor Lucy Musk and Councillor Lynn Chesterman

The following text is drawn from their nomination forms:

Cherie Button and Joy Chance support the local community by simply sitting outside the Howard Centre, saying hello and talking to people to brighten up their day, to let them know they matter and are not invisible.

Since the pandemic restrictions were relaxed last year, Cherie and Joy have been sitting in the town centre and talking to anyone they meet every second Saturday. The pandemic has left so many people feeling lonely and isolated and they not only wanted to give people the chance to have some social interaction with others but also learn more about the people who live in their town.

They both spread lots of positivity and much needed laughter and the way they interact together. They are unsung local heroes that put people at the heart of the community. They also have a Facebook page “Cherie and Joy - we grow community” that puts local faces out there so you can always say hello and bring each other together.

They're both so special! They are just what we all need after a really isolating and uncertain time. This is a true care for the community in tough times.

Well done and keep up the great work!

Martin Connolly

The Community Award is presented by Mears in recognition of the work Martin Connolly has undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic vaccination programme

Nominated by:

Sarah Ellingworth and Mark Steward

The following text is drawn from their nomination form:

Martin is a volunteer who has led our team of volunteer marshals that have enabled us deliver the vaccine programme in Hatfield from the beginning of January 2021.

Martin has been instrumental in coordinating and leading the marshals for the vaccination clinics located at the University of Hertfordshire.

Every vaccination day Martin turned up to coordinate the marshals and to brief and instruct at the start of each session. Martin committed a significant amount of his own personal time to make a success of this programme. Every vaccination day he was bright and upbeat and his infectious enthusiasm was a wonderful boost to all our patients, many of whom were anxious or uncertain particularly during the first stages of the vaccine rollout. Martin spent a great deal of his time at each clinic outside in the cold, wind and rain to ensure that our patients had the best experience when coming to get their vaccines.

The vaccine programme has been a mammoth effort and all around the country the NHS has relied on an extraordinary army of volunteers. In Hatfield we simply could not have delivered this programme without the support of our volunteers and in particular, one golden volunteer, Mr Martin Connolly.

Martin - you are a real local hero!

Joy Ifarimoyo

The Young Person Award is presented by the University of Hertfordshire to Joy Ifarimoyo in recognition of her contribution to Midwifery

Nominated by:

Shauna Gnanapragasam and Dr Catherine Hamilton

The following text is drawn from their nomination form:

Joy Ifarimoyo is a fantastic role model for students studying Midwifery at the University of Hertfordshire. Joy is currently in her second year of the programme and has already provided a huge amount of support for those on the course and also those who are interested in applying.

Joy has been a site rep for students at Barnett Hospital where she is currently placed. She has acted as an advocate for peers to speak up about any placement concerns or issues to ensure that they are quickly resolved. She is friendly, approachable and had a fantastic attendance record.

Joy has also taken on the role of Midwifery student ambassador for the last year. She has attended every open day and has facilitated 'drop in sessions' for applicants who are interested in studying midwifery. Joy always speaks positively, honestly and openly about what it is like to be a student midwife at the University of Hertfordshire. We have observed her speaking to potential applicants about her experiences so far, and she always does this with a smile. It is almost certain that a number of applicants who apply for the programme do so because of their discussion with Joy.

Joy is excellent at supporting those who are exploring their interest in pursuing a career in midwifery. There is a disparity in the number of midwives who enter the midwifery profession from the BAME community and Joy is making a huge difference in speaking up, and welcoming those who are interested but perhaps doubt themselves and lack confidence.

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The members of the panel who judged the
Civic Awards 2022 were:

Councillor Peter Hebden - Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield (Chairman)

Damon Ellis - Mears Group General Manager

Geraldine Ward - University of Hertfordshire Dean of Students

Father Norbert Fernandes - Parish Priest of WGC Catholic Churches,
Chair of Christian Leaders' Group, Catholic Dean of Stevenage

Christine Novelli - Welwyn Hatfield Alliance, Welwyn Hatfield Inter Faith
Group

Marina Krisko - Welwyn Garden City Rotary Club Representative



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