

# CIVIL

# AWARDS

# 2018



**WELWYN  
HATFIELD**



# CIVIC AWARDS 2018

Welcome to the Presentation of the Civic Awards 2018.

This is the twelfth year that Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, this year in partnership with the Mears Group, has hosted its Civic Awards. We are also 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 when it met to decide the winners. The range of achievements and work that takes place in the Borough is truly astonishing.

Details of the five 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 the Civic Awards is invaluable.



Councillor Barbara Fitzsimon, Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield Borough



# Jean Dossett

The Award is presented in recognition of the work  
Jean Dossett has undertaken for the Girl Guides  
and their new facility in Welwyn Garden City.

Nominated by:  
Sue Rees and Caroline Buckley

Jean was a Brownie leader in Digswell for over 20 years during which time she ensured the girls had a fabulous time including many memorable pack holidays - often going with other units to make sure more girls had the chance to experience this. Jean even arranged a couple of pack holidays on the water taking a small group of sixers on a narrow boat!

Although Jean's Brownies met elsewhere, she was always a strong supporter of the project to rebuild the 80 year old district Guide Hut in Guessens Road and when she was District Commissioner she reinvigorated the work to obtain planning permission. Then as chair of the New Build committee, Jean worked tirelessly. She wrote numerous applications for grants and funding - never shy to ask for money, free goods or discounts (ever the Scotswoman!).

Jean then took on the role of project managing the build, liaising on an almost daily basis with the builders and other suppliers to ensure things were on track. Now that we have our beautiful new building Jean continues on the management committee ensuring that fixtures and fittings are in place.

Without Jean I do not think we would have our stunning new facility - we would not have raised the staggering £220K needed to build it, nor would we have had the ability to input and provide oversight of the build.

Now that we have been open for business for six months it has surpassed my expectations. This is really down to Jean's commitment and tenacity.

I can honestly say that Jean is an inspiration to me as a District Commissioner and leader, to all of the other leaders in the district and to the girls.

I can think of no one more deserving of recognition.

# Robert Ducat-Brown

The Award is presented in recognition of the work Robert Ducat-Brown has undertaken fundraising for charities in Welwyn Garden City.

Nominated by:  
John Suttill Edwards and Aubrey Stammers

“I have worked closely with Robert and seen how he identifies where needs exist and better ways to improve the quality of life for people with Parkinson’s and other charities.

Robert is a popular character in his local village and takes a keen interest in all their events and always attends The Welwyn Festival. Along with his wife Sylvia, they play their street organ and dress in Victorian clothes – raising £4,000 for Parkinson’s UK this year.

Collections in Welwyn Garden City have raised funds for the Welwyn Hatfield branch of Parkinson’s UK helping us to offer services like respite on a limited basis to carers in our branch and many other important services.

Robert was an active member of the Welwyn and District Bowls Club where he helped the Chairman of the Social Committee and as always threw himself into the work and money was raised for Parkinson’s and other charities including Isabel Hospice and the Royal British Legion.

Robert took it on himself to raise the £2,000 required for a defibrillator which we now have with us at all our events and outings, safeguarding our members and also funded committee members to be fully trained in its use by St John’s Ambulance.

I have no doubt that Robert is someone who should be given consideration for a Civic Award.”

# Ricky Jennings

The Award is presented in recognition of the work  
Ricky Jennings has undertaken volunteering  
and preventing youth homelessness.

Nominated by  
Leonie Maddin and Monika Orzel

“Ricky joined the iPro volunteering project in 2013. iPro stands for involvement project and is a group of our ex-service users who now volunteer to give something back to the community. Ricky works hard to not only improve his own life, but also to raise awareness of homelessness amongst young people, to help Herts Young Homeless improve their services and to educate young people all over Hertfordshire.

Ricky is special because he has faced homelessness and personal adversity and all the challenges and knocks that come with such a difficult life experience. He has chosen to take this negative experience and turn it into something positive, giving back to the community and helping other young people avoid going through what he has had to face.

Ricky’s passion for helping, volunteering and preventing youth homelessness has been inspirational to us here at Herts Young Homeless as well as to other young people in homeless crisis. Developing from a very shy person lacking in confidence to a very confident man, Ricky’s personal and professional growth shows how dedicated he is to others, all while still learning how to overcome life’s challenges and remain involved in great social action.

Ricky is full of wisdom and ideas and uses these skills and knowledge to benefit the community and his peers. Ricky has achieved all of this and has recently been awarded a level 3 qualification in teaching in order to continue volunteering and helping others.

Now at the age of 27 he is an amazing example of a young person who has faced so many challenges yet didn’t give up.”

# Sue Finney

The Community Award is presented by Mears  
in recognition of the work Sue Finney has undertaken as a volunteer  
for Isabel Hospice for over 25 years.

Nominated by:  
Linda Wood and Gill Macdonald

“Sue has been a volunteer for Isabel Hospice for over 25 years and has been amazingly supportive and flexible, helping the charity, staff and patients. She is someone who really does care about people and that shines through in all that she does.

Her background as a school nurse meant she initially volunteered as a driver in the school holidays, taking patients to and from appointments. She was also a Community Visitor Volunteer visiting patients at home, and sitting with them so their family could pop out. This role was vital to give family members a break at what is often a distressing time.

Sue has always put others before herself and has carried out vital patient centred volunteering roles. She now does this every Monday morning at our Living Well with Isabel Hub in Welwyn Garden City where she is the face of the Hospice, meeting and greeting patients and their family members, helping the complementary therapists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists. She goes above and beyond and is a vital member of the volunteering family at the Hospice.

Her work with patients and their families has been unerring and has moved with the Hospice as we have developed and extended our clinical services over the years.

Sue is a real asset and we are proud to put her forward.”

# Georgia Ormrod

The Young Person Award is presented by the University of Hertfordshire to Georgia Ormrod as a shining example of tenacity and determination.

Nominated by:  
Yaser Alam and Tom Ormrod

“Georgia developed a brain tumour when she was just 11 years old in 2009 and following an operation to remove it, was in a coma for three months which left her blind, mute and unable to control her body. Georgia has now learnt how to walk again, regained her speech and her sight but sadly her hair never grew back.

Georgia has since gone on to pass her GCSEs and BTEC awards - achieving a merit on both her small animal course and Business Management - and is now on a level 3 course at Capel Manor studying small animal care and management.

Georgia recently appeared on Countryfile for Children in Need with Matt Baker completing a walk on Dartmoor. People who have seen the programme say that she is an inspirational young lady who has suffered so much but has been determined not to let her medical problems get in the way of her life. A shining example of tenacity and determination.

With the help of her family, Georgia has raised over £80,000 for various charities that have helped her including The Sick Children’s Trust and the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust.

In her spare time, Georgia volunteers at the Cancer Research shop in Howardsgate, WGC and also supports young learners with difficulties on the Autistic spectrum. The students always enjoy working with her and comment on how good she is with them.

Georgia is efficient, kind, considerate and always shows empathy to others.”

# CIVIC AWARDS 2018

The members of the panel who judged the  
Civic Awards 2018 were:

**Councillor Barbara Fitzsimon** - Deputy 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

**Peter Harrison** - Welwyn Garden City Rotary Club Representative



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