

CIVIC AWARDS

2020



**WELWYN
HATFIELD**



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Welcome to the Presentation of the Civic Awards 2020.

This is the fourteenth 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 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 Roger Trigg, Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield Borough



In partnership with



Janet Lewis

The Civic Award is presented in recognition of the work Janet Lewis has undertaken during her long commitment to the Welwyn Garden City Society of St Vincent De Paul

Nominated by:

Barbara Martin and Desiree Russell

The following text is drawn from their nomination form:

Janet has been the President of the Welwyn Garden City SVP for over fifteen years and is a dedicated member who selflessly leads by example. One of the Society's aims is to reach out to anyone who is in need to give them hope, a sense of dignity, worth and well-being.

The local society has approximately eighty clients on its list and Janet visits every person be it in hospital, hospice, their own home or residential care; her understanding of the difficulties clients experience and her willingness to offer practical support knows no bounds. Janet is totally committed to the efficient outcome of all referrals made by various organisations requesting SVP help and ensures that each case is fairly addressed.

Janet organises annual trips to summer camps for less well-off children, Christmas cards/gifts to our clients and hampers for families in need. She binds us together as a group, ensuring consistency and regularity of engagement and focus.

Janet is discreet, diplomatic and totally devoted to helping others. She is available at all hours, always listens, and works tirelessly on behalf of all clients whatever their needs. It is a privilege to know Janet Lewis and it is truly rare to find such a modest, friendly and fun-loving person, prepared to undertake anything coming her way with no complaints or prejudice and without ever taking credit for her achievements.

Fiona Montgomery

The Civic Award is presented in recognition of the work
Fiona Montgomery has undertaken whilst a student at the
University of Hertfordshire

Nominated by:

David Allen and Tia Robinson

The following text is drawn from their nomination form:

Fiona is an exceptionally diligent student: dynamic, enterprising and proactive. She is unfailingly professional, courteous and respectful in dealing with her peers, professional and academic staff. As a Student Ambassador Fiona shows her empathy, always thinking about the wellbeing of others by being friendly, buoyant and helpful on University Open Days.

Fiona has demonstrated her professional curiosity and thirst for knowledge; her most recent assignment was steeped in relevant literature, clearly and eloquently outlined her arguments and was worthy of publication.

Fiona has cerebral palsy and yet her condition affects neither her motivation nor her achievements. On the Year 1 residential trip to Wales she threw herself wholeheartedly into all activities: cooking; hiking; boulder scrambling; canoeing/capsizing in freezing water - always with a smile and a cheerful disposition.

Fiona rises to new challenges and takes on additional responsibilities wherever possible. Keen to share her passion for Boccia, she planned and delivered an inspiring/interactive lecture, her national involvement with this sport played by athletes with severe physical impairments shows her commitment to inclusivity.

Fiona is an outstanding student in every respect and was the unanimous choice of all of her lecturers.

Ciara Brown

The Civic Award is presented in recognition of the work
Ciara Brown has undertaken whilst a student at the
University of Hertfordshire

Nominated by:

Dr James Collett and Dr Stephen Kane

The following text is drawn from their nomination form:

An astonishing student – Ciara’s determination to succeed is extraordinary and goes way beyond personal ambition. Ciara works to the strongest ethical and social values - if there is a student who is struggling on the course that she can help, she will. Impromptu teach-ins are organised, social media groups are galvanised.

Founding a company called Universal Discoveries, Ciara prepares tailored activities for school students in the areas of science, technology, engineering and maths, bringing science to under-represented groups or students from schools without the kind of expertise to nurture young talent in this area.

As an outreach ambassador, Ciara is a brilliant expositor in talks, planetarium shows and at the telescopes, in contact with members of the public with the widest range of ages and backgrounds. I would happily entrust her to lead any event in our department and be confident of it being done efficiently and confidently.

During induction week Ciara (and a friend) designed and ran their own session on surviving and thriving in what can be a frightening and challenging environment. As a department with Juno and Athena SWAN accreditation, Ciara has also played a role in ‘women in physics’ events within the School.

Ciara is quite simply the most collegiate student I have ever met and I think colleagues would probably agree.

Mrs Carol Hopkins & Mr Lloyd Harrison

The Community Award is presented by Mears in recognition of the work Mrs Carol Hopkins and Mr Lloyd Harrison have undertaken organising community litter picks

Nominated by:

Councillor Siobhan Elam and Councillor Jane Quinton
The following text is drawn from their nomination form:

Mrs Carol Hopkins and Mr Lloyd Harrison have worked tirelessly for months to encourage residents of the Borough to come out and participate in Community Litter picks.

In their working parties, they have so far filled over six hundred bags of rubbish and they aim to complete one thousand bags by the end of the year.

Not only have they encouraged adults to participate, but they have also made these activities into a family friendly event, helping to instil the idea of keeping the environment clean and attractive into the minds of young people at an early stage and helping them to form good habits regarding litter disposal.

They do all this in a variety of weathers and I do believe that their efforts should be recognised, appreciated and given the maximum publicity to encourage others.

Daisy Cooper

The Young Person Award is presented by the University of Hertfordshire to Daisy Cooper in recognition of her contribution to Scouts and Beavers

Nominated by:

Simone Roberts and Kayleigh Malone

The following text is drawn from their nomination form:

Daisy is a fifteen year old young scout leader and a mature, thoughtful, determined young woman.

She is present every week supporting our scouts and beavers and goes above and beyond, planning evenings and activities.

In the last year Daisy has volunteered over 500 hours, inspires others and has an amazing personality.

Daisy gets stuck right in, uses her initiative and makes things happen without prompting, often taking the lead at the campfire, mealtimes and activities.

We cannot recommend Daisy more highly for this award!

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The members of the panel who judged the
Civic Awards 2020 were:

Councillor Roger Trigg - 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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