

New charity awards honour local people

Hyson Green-based charity, the Partnership Council, held its BIG10 Awards Finals last Thursday, 27th November 2008, at the New Art Exchange on Gregory Boulevard, Hyson Green.

The BIG10 Awards were launched in September 2008 with the aim of recognising the contribution that local people make to the city and to the lives of others.

The BIG10 winners and their guests were given a certificate to commemorate their achievement and enjoyed a champagne reception and buffet at the New Art Exchange.

Certificates were presented by representatives from leading city organisations including One Nottingham, Nottinghamshire Community Foundation, the Police and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.

In addition, Ron Booth, who writes for the Bygones section of Nottingham Evening Post presented the Young Person of the Year Award and the Older Person of the Year Award whilst the Outstanding Community Contribution of the Year Award was presented by UK publication New Start magazine.

The winners were:

Volunteer of the Year Award - Kathleen Pass & Barbara Ilott

Together, Kathleen and Barbara have supported the Credit Union in Hyson Green for many years, by running a weekly collection point at the Bridge Community Centre on Gregory Boulevard and by working with schools. Their volunteer work helps people to save and get access to low cost loans. Ruth Greenberg, Chief Officer of the Partnership Council explains - *"People like Kathleen and Barbara rarely get recognised but they play a key role in community organisations like the Credit Union."*

Green Project of the Year Award - The Sumac Skill Share Programme

The Sumac Skill Share Programme is run entirely by volunteers. The project runs a programme of skill sharing offering skills such as repairs and recycling - which encourage and enable people to be more environmentally friendly. Ruth explains: *"We were impressed that volunteers got together to run this practical green project."*

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Young Person of the Year Award - Maleeha Asim

Maleeha is only 11 years old but she's already an active volunteer. She helped raise £13,000 for the Pakistan Earthquake Appeal by performing at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham. In addition, Maleeha also volunteered to take part in a project set up to raise awareness of bullying in the city. Ruth says - *"We chose Maleeha for this award as it's great to see someone so young actively contributing to their community."*

Partnership Worker of the Year Award - Westley Muers & the Nottingham City Council NEAT team

Westley and the Nottingham City Council NEAT team work to keep Nottingham's streets and public areas clean and tidy. For example, they organise neighbourhood clean-ups and removal of fly tipping. Westley also volunteers outside work and has volunteered at the Partnership Council's All Saints Community Garden, as well as helping us out on other environmental projects. Westley has also encouraged his teenage children to get involved as volunteers. Ruth explains - *"We chose Westley and the NEAT team because of their obvious dedication to improving local neighbourhoods."*

Older Person of the Year Award - David & Joan Bates

David and Joan are involved in lots of different volunteering activities. For instance, Joan is Chairperson of the Whitemoor Allotment Holders Association and David is a committee member. David is also a representative on the Nottingham Primary Care Trust Patient Consultation Group. In addition, the couple are both members of the Partnership Council's Older Persons' Forum and the citywide Older Persons' Group. Joan uses her reflexology skills to help local people and is a regular volunteer at Partnership Council events such as neighbourhood clean-up days, as is David. Ruth says - *"David and Joan were nominated by their neighbours and were chosen because of the variety of ways in which they help improve their community."*

Community Group of the Year Award - Kamyabi Community Project

The Kamyabi Community Project was started by volunteers and has run educational and vocational programmes for over 200 South East Asian women. In the last three years, 97% of women on Kamyabi courses have achieved accredited qualifications and 40% have gone on to find work. Kamyabi also provides accommodation for women at risk and runs a social enterprise which raises money for Kamyabi's projects. Ruth explains - *"We chose Kamyabi as their leading volunteer, Lubna Alvi, has put so much time and energy into creating this group and making it successful."*

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Green Business of the Year Award - Screamin' Carrot

Screamin' Carrot is a vegan bakery in Forest Fields, Nottingham. As well as running an environmentally friendly shop, the bakery also helps others to be more environmentally minded. For example, the shop provides a pick up point for a local organic seasonal vegetable box scheme and runs a notice board advertising local environmental events. Ruth says - *"We chose Screamin' Carrot because of their obvious commitment to green issues."*

Skills Exchange of the Year Award - Eunice Hexham

The Skills Exchange is the Partnership Council's time bank style project, where members volunteer their time in return for Time Credits which they can use to 'buy' help of their own. Eunice joined the Skills Exchange in August 2008 and has already volunteered over 200 hours of her time. For example, Eunice has given 95 hours of her time to help make costumes for the Independent Street Carnival Troupe in Hyson Green. She has also taken part in Age Concern's Well Peer Mentoring training and is waiting to be matched with a resident in her neighbourhood who needs help and support. In addition, Eunice is a regular at Skills Exchange social events and regularly donates cakes and biscuits. Ruth says - *"We chose Eunice because of all the hours she has volunteered and the varied range of skills exchanges she has got involved in."*

Neighbourhood Project of the Year Award - Sherwood Rise Residents' Association

The Sherwood Rise Residents' Association is run entirely by volunteers. For the last two years, the Association has organised a neighbourhood festival for Sherwood Rise known as the 'Stuff of Life' festival. Helping to bring over 600 local residents together. Ruth explains - *"We chose the Association as it's amazing that local people have got together to put on a successful community festival - and as volunteers too."*

Outstanding Community Contribution of the Year Award - Westley Muers

This award was announced on the evening of the Awards Finals and presented to Westley Muers by Clare Goff from New Start magazine. Ruth says - *"We chose Westley because he's so committed to improving local neighbourhoods. He does this as part of his job with the Nottingham City Council NEAT team but also volunteers his own time to help out with neighbourhood clean-ups and our environmental projects. He's also encouraged his teenage children to become volunteers too."*

**To find out more about the BIG10 Awards or any of the BIG10 winners please contact
Ruth Greenberg at the Partnership Council on 0115 970 8200
or email ruth@partnershipcouncil.co.uk**

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