

Recognising Nottingham's unsung heroes

Kind-hearted neighbours, volunteers, community groups, charities and those who are always willing to go the extra mile to help others are all set to be recognised and rewarded at this year's BIG10 Award Finals, being held on Thursday 26th November from 6.00pm - 8.30pm at Djanogly City Academy Nottingham on Gregory Boulevard. 30 people have been short-listed for a BIG10 award in total, and the 10 winners will be announced at the Award Finals, which is being attended by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Jeannie Packer, as well as other special guests.

The BIG10 Awards were launched by the Partnership Council charity, based in Hyson Green, to celebrate the work done by community-minded people from all walks of life. This year's short-list includes people from around the city, including Sneinton, St Anns, and Sherwood.

All those short-listed will be treated to a champagne reception and celebration buffet. As you can see, the short-list includes all kinds of community champions, from volunteers and community cafes to environmental projects and individuals from city organisations who go beyond their job descriptions to help others.

Ruth Greenberg, Chief Officer of the Partnership Council explains:

"We launched the BIG10 Awards to highlight just some of the many success stories that are taking place in Nottingham's communities every day. Often, these success stories are down to the efforts of unsung heroes that give up their own time to help others, or their neighbourhoods. It's nice to be able to recognise this, and treat these unsung heroes to a few hours in the spotlight - and a little red carpet treatment."

This year's short-list includes:

Volunteer of the Year Award

The nominees are: Ghufran Shah who volunteers at the Bobbersmill Community Centre, Clare Davies & Nichola Musgrave who are the driving forces behind various voluntary environmental projects in the city including the Urban Harvest Festival and the Midsummer Energy Festival and Amdani Juma who volunteers as an advocate, interpreter and campaigner at the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum, Terrence Higgins Trust and NHS Nottingham City.

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Green Project of the Year Award

The nominees are: Bagthorpe Gardeners Allotment Association for their work in involving the local community in improving Bagthorpe Gardens, Fruit & Notts, a project to plant fruit and nut trees which would allow access to free healthy fruit for the community and Abundance which addresses a number of environmental issues such as growing food locally, sharing resources and skills and local community resilience.

Young Person of the Year Award

The nominees are: Farrah Farooq who provides advice to the local community, especially those who don't speak English as a first language. Farrah also organises workshops, events and activities for young people; Amy Pickering who helps at the community events her Dad gets involved in and is an uncomplaining volunteer who always cheers up people around her and Rebecca Pearey, a young person who is always willing to help out with a variety of volunteering tasks.

Older Person of the Year Award

The nominees are: Ron Booth, a local volunteer who has raised money for the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) for many years, gives talks in schools and writes the Bygones section of the Evening Post - amongst other things! Patrick Smith who has been at the forefront of the Nottingham environmental scene and peace movement for over 25 years and Sue Anderson, a local volunteer and a highly active member of many local neighbourhood groups.

Partnership Worker of the Year Award

The nominees are: Leslie Robinson, Manager for Nottingham Caribbean Carnival, for all his hard work on the Carnival, Adrian Newbold a Police Community Protection Officer from Radford Road Police Station for his role in developing community cohesion in Nottingham and Mark Kelley, a former member of the New Deal Eco Team for going the extra mile to make Nottingham's streets safer and cleaner.

Community Group of the Year Award

The nominees are: Harmless, a user-led organisation that offers help and support to people who self harm and to their families and friends, the Nottingham Arimathea Trust, a small charity that provides assistance and volunteering opportunities to refugees and asylum seekers and the Crocus Café, a volunteer-led community café in Lenton which brings together students, permanent residents and families whilst providing healthy and affordable food.

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Skills Exchange of the Year Award

The nominees are: Tracy Coulson who contributes various materials to the Skills Exchange for other members to benefit from, the Pearey family who are very reliable, enthusiastic and keen to help others and Rebecca Pearey, a young person who is very committed to the Skills Exchange and is always willing to help. (The Skills Exchange is a skills swap project ran by the Partnership Council).

Community Business of the Year Award

The nominees are: Talking Point Café, a social enterprise that provides work for socially disadvantaged people, Model Behaviour, which encourages positive behaviour in children and young people by giving them strong, inspiring role models to learn from and Bar Deux for allowing community groups to use its premises for free, whilst showing how a local business can benefit from supporting its local community.

Neighbourhood Project of the Year Award

The nominees are: Students Learning & Sports Academy which is a community project aimed at children, the Healthy Blessing Project which involves people from all ethnicities and encourages them to become physically active and more health conscious and Café Sneinton, a community café run entirely by volunteers. The café is a great place to meet other local people, eat at affordable prices and learn about volunteering opportunities. In addition, the winner of the Outstanding Community Contribution of the Year Award will also be announced at the Award Finals - chosen from amongst the winners of the other nine awards.

To find out more about the BIG10 Awards, including any of the short-listed projects, please contact Ruth Greenberg or George Moulson on 0115 970 8200 or email ruth@partnershipcouncil.co.uk or george@partnershipcouncil.co.uk

Visit - www.partnershipcouncil.co.uk