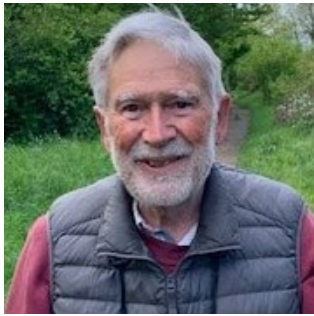


RICHMOND'S
COMMUNITY
HEROES AWARDS 2023



COMMUNITY
HEROES
AWARDS 2023

EVENT PROGRAMME

Each year, Richmond upon Thames' Community Heroes Awards bring to light the incredible ways that members of our community work tirelessly and selflessly to give back and make our borough a better place to be, for everyone.

Reading through this year's nominations, I have felt extremely privileged to live in a place where so many people, businesses, groups and organisations go the extra mile in service to others, often under the radar, with no expectation of thanks or recognition.

But just because it's not expected doesn't mean it's not deserved, and these awards give us an opportunity to share these amazing stories with our community and celebrate our unsung heroes for everything they contribute. Whether that be looking after those who are more vulnerable or isolated, creating safer, healthier and more inclusive communities for their neighbours or taking care to enrich our environment and people's lives—we want to say a huge "thank you" to each of you for all that you do.

Congratulations to all of our shortlisted nominees.

Please read on to find out about each of them, and the wonderful things that have been done for our borough over the past year.

CLLR NANCY BALDWIN
Spokesperson for Communities,
Equalities & the Voluntary Sector



About the Awards

Richmond upon Thames' annual Community Heroes Awards recognise local people who have contributed to their community.

Our heroes were nominated for their work in a voluntary capacity in the below categories:

- Business Contribution in the Community
- Communities Together
- Community Group of the Year
- Community Project of the Year
- Environmental Award
- Helping Hands
- Lifetime Achievement
- Outstanding Volunteer
- Trustee of the Year
- Young Person Achievement

Nominations were open from 12 January to 26 February 2024, and we are delighted to share more information about our shortlisted nominees.

We again this year received a large number of nominations, which is a huge testament to the impact of our borough's unsung heroes.

Read on to find out more about our Community Heroes Awards finalists!

Business Contribution in the Community

Local businesses that have demonstrated a significant contribution to social, educational and skills development, or environmental /sustainability work, in their community through involvement in voluntary work or charitable projects.

SHORTLISTED

- **The Coach & Horses Pub**

For their continuous support to various community initiatives, charities and residents in their local area, including hosting the much-beloved Christmas Day Dinner for elderly and vulnerable residents and Turkey Run fundraiser for Barnes Community Association, which has provided great comfort and a boost in wellbeing to the community.

- **Blitz Crossfit**

For their work to bring members of their community together to participate in a 24-hour 'WOD-a-thon' (Workout of the Day), raising significant funds for cancer-related charities in honour and support of community members' whose lives have been affected by cancer.

- **Café Torelli**

For their partnership with the Expect Amazing 'Right to Read' initiative, to fund the provision of new books to local schools and help foster a love of reading and literacy in our young people.

- **Sidra Lebanese Restaurant**

For their ongoing support to those in the community who need it most, including providing free meals to those experiencing homelessness, as well as local healthcare staff and schools.



Blitz Crossfit



Sidra Lebanese Restaurant



Coach & Horses Pub



Café Torelli

Communities Together

Groups, charities, or organisations that have made a significant contribution to fostering equalities and inclusion in Richmond upon Thames, through local work that breaks down existing barriers and connects our communities.

SHORTLISTED

- **Learning English at Home (LEAH)**
For the dedicated work of volunteer tutors to offer free, tailored English language support to asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants to our borough, improving and facilitating opportunities for individuals and families to access local education, support and community.
- **Brighter Together**
For their volunteer-led work to facilitate both physical and emotional health and wellbeing amongst our young people and more vulnerable, often isolated elderly residents through intergenerational activity sessions in local care homes.
- **SPEAR Health Link Service**
For the work of volunteers to address the barriers people experiencing homelessness face when accessing healthcare services and supporting them to receive the appropriate care and improve their quality of life.
- **Richmond Mencap Working Together Volunteers**
For their dedicated work to help educate and improve local healthcare services for members of our community with learning disabilities, as well as their significant contribution to documents detailing the delivery of this improvement work like the recent Big Plan.



Brighter Together



SPEAR Health Link Service



Learning English at Home (LEAH)

Community Group of the Year

Groups that exemplify what can be done to make a difference when people work together.

SHORTLISTED

- **Albanian Heritage Club (Gjurmë Iliriane)**

For their dedicated work to create an entirely volunteer-run community hub that has brought together hundreds of local residents from our Albanian and Kosovo communities and beyond, providing a safe, fun space for children to learn and explore the language, dance, history and heritage of Albania, celebrating inclusion, ethnic belonging and diversity for future generations.

- **Ham Parade Market Volunteers**

For their collaborative work to create a thriving environment that brings the local community together to support local traders, enjoy performances and activities, connect with one another and raise much-needed funds for local charities.

- **Kew Village Market Volunteers**

For their hard work to connect the local community in support of local businesses, traders and activities, as well as over 40 local good causes that have received thousands of pounds-worth of donations from funds raised.

- **Linden's Little Larks**

For the work of volunteers to create a warm, supportive space for local children to enjoy fun activities and develop vital social skills to help make their transition into a school environment successful, as well as for parents to connect with one another, share advice and offer support, or enjoy a bit of respite and cup of tea.



Albanian Heritage Club (Gjurmë Iliriane)



Ham Parade Market Volunteers



Kew Village Market Volunteers



Linden's Little Larks

Community Project of the Year

Projects and initiatives that have improved our borough and helped its local communities – run by individuals, groups, or voluntary organisations.

SHORTLISTED

- **The Hampton Hygiene Bank**
For the efforts of volunteers in Hampton and St Margarets to go above and beyond in ensuring everyone should have the dignity of hygiene by pulling together and distributing hundreds of gift bags of essential toiletries for people in our community who need it most.
- **Purple Elephant Project**
For making a difference to local children affected by trauma, as well as their families, through this volunteer-led project that provides therapeutic support, helping families move forward together confidently, feeling seen, heard and hopeful.
- **RUILS Allotment Group Project**
For the effort of volunteers to transform the community allotment at RUILS, providing an accessible space where a diverse range of residents with disabilities, health challenges and learning difficulties can come together to enjoy the wellbeing benefits of gardening and connect with one another.
- **Richmond AID Surplus 2.U**
For the work of volunteers to help provide surplus food and essential items from local partners, as well as a supportive social hub, to people in our borough living with disabilities impacted by the ongoing cost of living crisis.



RUILS Allotment Group Project



Purple Elephant Project



Richmond AID Surplus 2.U



The Hampton Hygiene Bank

Environmental

For individuals, projects and groups specifically focused on tackling environmental issues.

SHORTLISTED

- **Kew EcoFair**

For the work of three volunteer members of the congregation at St Luke's Church, Kew, to put on Kew EcoFair as part of the St Luke's EcoChurch initiative, a national programme to encourage churches to cut their carbon footprint and raise awareness of the need to care for the planet, galvanising hundreds of locals in learning more about the benefits of sustainable living and making it easy to know how to get involved in climate activity in our borough. The event will be back in 2025!

- **Amelia Hornsby**

For her dedication at just 10 years old to embodying a sense of community pride and environmental stewardship by going out and collecting litter from roads and parks in Richmond and East Sheen three times a week on average, which has helped to visibly improve the local area and enhance enjoyment of common spaces.

- **Joy Scurr**

For her active volunteer work in our community to protect and enhance our natural environment and help to reduce waste and promote sustainability, dedicating her time and effort to projects like the development of ETNA's Sensory Garden, the Pevensey Road Green Gym Rangers and The Real Junk Food Project.



Andy Limbrick



Joy Scurr



Kew EcoFair



Amelia Hornsby

- **Andy Limbrick**

For his dedicated work with the Marble Hill Revived Project, volunteering time to further the crucial environmental work being done on the premises, including supporting the Nature Conservation team to improve the biodiversity in the park and spearheading the Green Impact Initiative to encourage environmentally friendly behaviours on site.





Helping Hands

For individuals, not in association with a group, charity or organisation, who help to create stronger communities by supporting others to live happy, healthy lives. This could be a good neighbour, someone who gives their time to help family or friends in need or a caregiver.



Noorzera Sheikh



Sheila Roberts

SHORTLISTED

- **Noorzera Sheikh**

For giving of her time, resource and skills to bake delicious cakes for a variety of regular activities and events in the community, many hosted by The Mulberry Centre where she has been a client, to help foster a sense of enjoyment, fun and comfort for those whose lives have been affected by cancer.



Meena Ladwa



Zeb Williams

- **Sheila Roberts**

For her neighbourly spirit and fostering a sense of community among her fellow Lyndhurst Avenue residents, by helping to look after sick and vulnerable neighbours, welcoming new neighbours in and generally providing practical help and kindness where needed.

- **Joanne Shaw & Meena Ladwa**

For their collaborative work to create a welcoming, safe and charitable atmosphere for their Cedar Avenue community, bringing people together by organising festive events for the street, raising money for local causes, and looking after more vulnerable residents.

- **Zeb Williams**

For going above and beyond her role leading a local exercise class to create a strong network of community and support among residents she works with, whether that's visiting class members when they're ill or need a pick-me-up, ensuring those who are more vulnerable or isolated are visited outside of class or organising regular coffee mornings.



Lifetime Achievement Award

Those who have shown a long-term commitment to voluntary work and have made a significant contribution to their communities over ten or more years.

SHORTLISTED

- **Evelyn McGrath**

For her nearly 20 years of dedicated volunteer work at The Mulberry Centre, providing invaluable therapeutic Shiatsu services to hundreds of clients affected by cancer, helping to enhance their physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing.

- **Veronica Schroter**

For her remarkable dedication to voluntary work in the borough spanning over 50 years, providing immeasurable contribution, strategic influence and diligent leadership to a wide variety of organisations and environmental causes helping to improve residents' quality of life, including Age UK Richmond, FISH Neighbourhood Care, Homestart Richmond and the Leg O'Mutton Nature Reserve.

- **Perminder Tamana**

For decades of unwavering commitment to enhancing his community of East Twickenham through involvement and leadership roles within organisations like the Rotary Clubs of Twickenham and Richmond, the Twickenham Society and the East Twickenham Traders Association, and the immeasurable impact his service has had on the local area.



Evelyn McGrath



Kathy Sheldon



Veronica Schroter



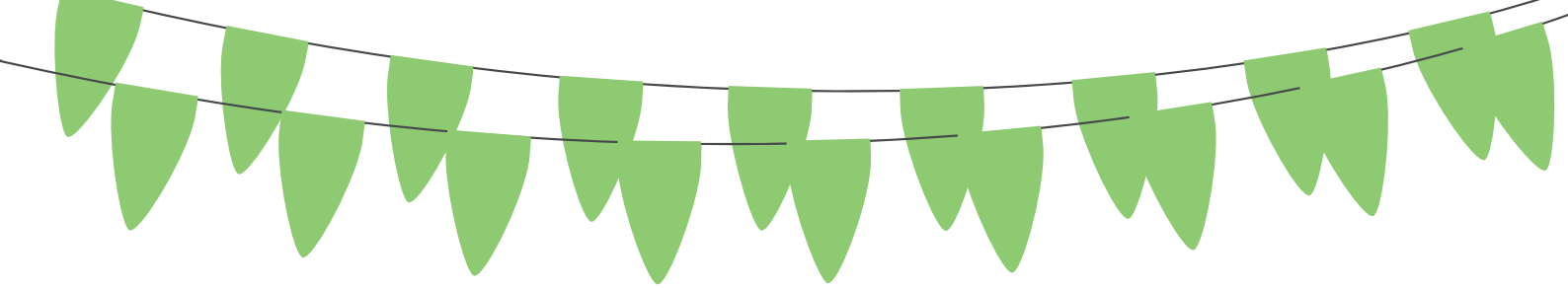
Ken Mason

- **Kathy Sheldon**

For over 40 years of volunteer commitment to community health advocacy and the delivery of vital healthcare resources to local residents, including work with local organisations like Healthwatch and the Friends of Barnes Hospital, where she has served as Chair for over 20 years.

- **Ken Mason**

For devoting countless hours to supporting the local community theatre scene to flourish through involvement with the Teddington Theatre Club since the 1970s, where his leadership, creative vision, and unwavering commitment played a pivotal role in the successful establishment of the thriving Hampton Hill Theatre.



- **Gillie Kelly**

For her decades spent serving the Barnes community, including as a devoted volunteer for FiSH Neighbourhood Care, the Wetlands and St Mary's Church, embodying tireless commitment and compassion in her service to others.

- **Denise Carr**

For her years of dedicated work with Richmond Mencap, acting as a tireless advocate for children, young people and adults with learning disabilities and their families and championing crucial work to co-produce a fairer, more inclusive borough.

- **Peter Kemmis-Betty**

For his decades of tireless volunteer work, including helping to create a sanctuary for local nature and wildlife for all to appreciate through extensive work with the Leg O'Mutton Nature Reserve, as well as driving vulnerable residents to hospital appointments with FiSH and chairing The Barnes Fund.

- **Peter Willan**

For over 20 years of active community involvement, using his invaluable expertise to help set up and champion a variety of local amenity groups, including the Old Deer Park Working Group, Friends of Richmond Green and The Richmond Society, while also nurturing a love of music in the community as Chair of The Richmond Music Trust.

- **Sally Ford**

For over 30 years of service as a Brownie and Guide leader in Whitton, helping to create a sense of belonging and provide life-changing experiences for young people in our communities.



Peter Kemmis-Betty



Denise Carr



Sally Ford



Peter Willan

- **Juliette Young**

For over 20 years of volunteer work with The Mulberry Centre, providing reflexology treatments and counselling support to clients affected by cancer and demonstrating an unwavering commitment to enhancing the wellbeing of those in need.

Outstanding Volunteer

Individuals who have made a significant impact on their community volunteering with a group, charity or organisation.

SHORTLISTED

- **Natasha Sorhaindo**
For her volunteer service supporting residents living with chronic illnesses or hidden disabilities through the set-up of Chronically Marvellous, which provides free resources and assistance to families and individuals facing such health challenges.
- **Ute Barclay**
For her volunteer service with Richmond AID, supporting disabled residents facing financial and emotional hardship with patient, kind advice to navigate benefits support and financial processes.
- **Amanda Paterson Gray**
For her varied volunteer service with The Real Junkfood Project, helping to collect surplus food from local stores and manage distribution to local people at their food hubs, as well as responsibly composting and recycling leftover food and materials.
- **Lt Cdr Martyn Mayger**
For his full-time voluntary service, alongside his career in the Royal Navy, investing his personal time, energy and passion into local young people through his leadership of the Twickenham Sea Cadet volunteer unit, taking the unit from one of the lowest points in its 90+ year history to being named best in London.



Natasha Sorhaindo



Lt Cdr Martyn Mayger



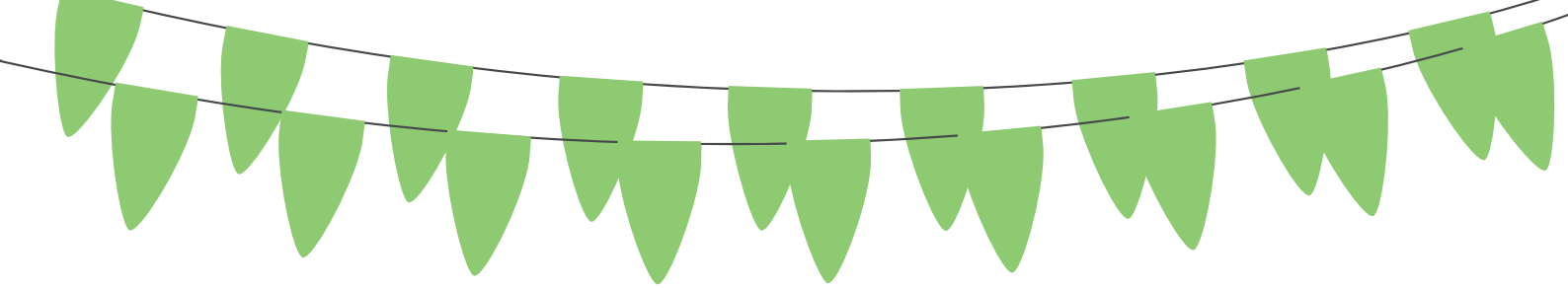
Amanda Paterson Gray



Andrew Winrow

- **Andrew Winrow**
For his volunteer service with the The Revived Project at Marble Hill, leading tours, delivering talks, and conducting extensive research to passionately share the history of the local landmark with visitors.
- **Victoria West**
For her volunteer service with Crossroads Care, providing support, companionship, and a safe, uplifting environment for carers and their cared for at the weekly Carer's Cafe.





- **Jacqueline Johnson**

For her volunteer service with Cooking Up, sharing warmth, generosity, and practical skills during cookery sessions the charity runs to help local people in challenging circumstances learn to cook healthy, affordable meals.



Jacqueline Johnson

- **Angela McGranaghan**

For her volunteer service with RUILS Independent Living, providing administrative support, aiding in crucial fundraising efforts and facilitating the delivery of essential community services.



Wilma Atherton

- **Wilma Atherton**

For her volunteer service with The Mulberry Centre, dedicating valuable time and skills to enable the charity to raise thousands of pounds through her handling of merchandise sales.

- **Marek Regan**

For his dedicated volunteer work coaching the Hampton Rangers football team, crucially helping to create an inclusive, supportive environment for all young people in our borough with a love of sport, nurturing not just football skills but a community of belonging.



Marek Regan



Jill Warner

- **Jill Warner**

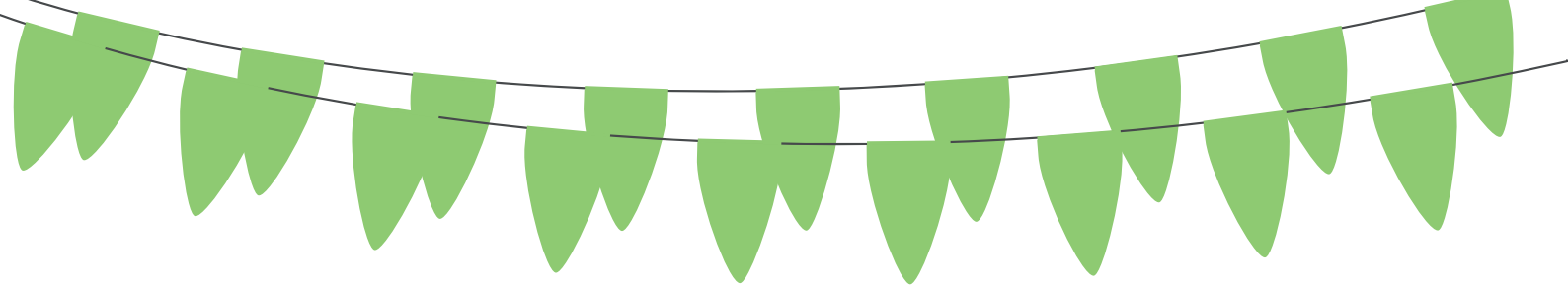
For her volunteer work with the Richmond Concert Society, helping to create an inclusive, welcoming community and supporting connection among local lovers of music.

- **Sue Torok**

For her volunteer service with The Mulberry Centre, supporting a variety of services including telephone befriending, raising awareness of critical cancer support services and fundraising.



Sue Torok



- **Sarah Kearns**

For her volunteer service with Embracing Age, making a notable difference to the wellbeing of local care home residents through regular visits and helping to create a spirit of community.

- **Michelle Wheeler**

For her volunteer service with The Mulberry Centre, contributing tirelessly to crucial fundraising efforts in support of residents affected by cancer.

- **Angela Ambrose**

For her dedicated volunteer service helping to provide a warm, welcoming community for those in our borough who need it most through myriad roles with local initiatives like Shepherd's Star and the Kew Community Allotments.

- **Paula Mortimer**

For her volunteer service with FiSH Neighbourhood Care, offering hundreds of hours of service to elderly and disabled members of our community by accompanying and providing invaluable assistance on shopping trips.

- **Mike Styles**

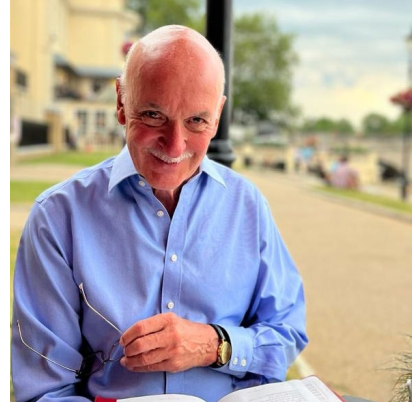
For his volunteer service with Age UK Richmond, using his expertise to provide patient support to more vulnerable members of our community with reassuring advice around managing energy bills and debt, helping to alleviate financial worries being faced by many.

- **Marilyn Hartland**

For her volunteer service with The Real Junk Food Project, particularly her critical support in establishing their Food Hub at Noble Green in Hampton Hill and providing essential aid to those in need.



Michelle Wheeler



Mike Styles

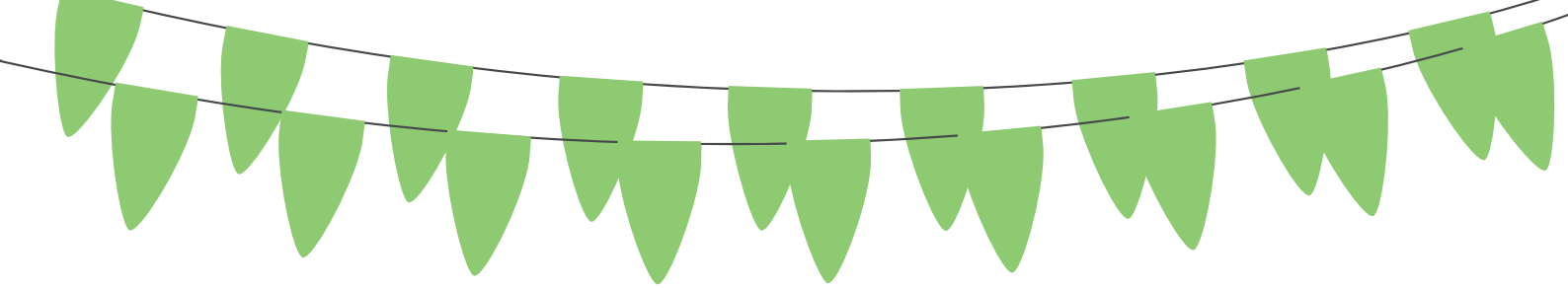


Paula Mortimer



Marilyn Hartland





- **Karina Telesia**

For her volunteer service with the Whitton Community Centre, in particular dedicated support of their community cafe and local food banks, helping to enhance the wellbeing of some of the borough's most vulnerable.

- **Gunna Finnsdottir**

For her dedicated volunteer service to those in our community who are experiencing loneliness, isolation or issues with their mental health, providing a safe, warm and supportive community through the set-up of the local Together as One group.

- **Jean Wit**

For her volunteer service with Arts Richmond, reliably supporting many aspects of the charity's work, such as customer service and till support at the British Heart Foundation shop, as well as cultural activities, newsletter distribution and financial management.

- **Peter de Winton**

For his volunteer service with Homelink Day Respite Centre, reliably helping to ensure clients of the organisation are safely transported to and from the centre as a Volunteer Driver, providing essential respite for our borough's carers.

- **George Griffiths**

For his volunteer service with The Real Junk Food Project's Community Cafe at the ETNA Community Centre, providing a friendly face and warm, welcoming atmosphere for visitors and ensuring a successful running each week.



Gunna Finnsdottir



Jean Wit



Peter de Winton



Trustee of the Year

For a trustee of a group or charity who has gone above and beyond in their role.

SHORTLISTED

- **Joan Barnett**

For her work as a Trustee of the Ellera Community Association, where in her current role as Chair she is instrumental to the running of Ellera Hall, demonstrating an unparalleled commitment and enthusiasm for providing a spirited community environment for hundreds of residents through the Social Centre.



Joan Barnett



Jenny Harris

- **Jenny Harris**

For her work as a Trustee and co-founder of space2grieve, a local charity set up to offer free, confidential bereavement support to members of our community dealing with grief, helping to create system of deeply personalised support that has made a profound impact on the mental health and wellbeing of residents navigating loss.



Sarah Wilson



Ann Hagel

- **Sarah Wilson**

For her work as a Trustee of the Barnes Fund and Walsingham Lodge Trust, most recently serving as Chair and overseeing significant charitable funds distributed into Barnes community, including those supporting individuals and families facing hardship or living with disabilities, contributing tirelessly to the wellbeing of the local area.

- **Ann Hagel**

For her work as a Trustee of Habitats & Heritage, where in her role as Chair she has delivered exceptional leadership, strategic vision and unwavering commitment to the critical work being done within the community to preserve our borough's natural and historic environment.



Young Person Achievement Award

Young people (18 and under) who inspire and drive change in their communities

SHORTLISTED

- **Jonathan Wang**

For his committed volunteer work at the Heatham House Youth Centre supporting the junior club, whether that be through giving badminton lessons, supporting other sports sessions or helping create a fun, enriching community for other young people at the centre.

- **Ham Youth Centre Architects Crew**

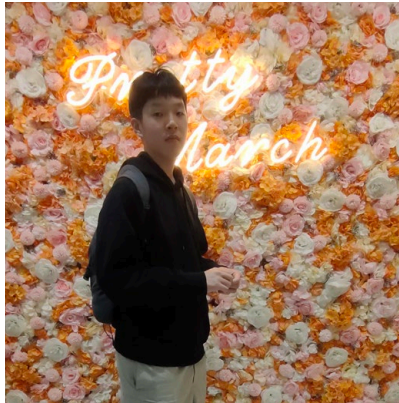
For the work of young volunteers to help design Ham's new youth centre, offering invaluable insight on facilities design and accessibility in an innovative collaboration with architects and council staff, laying the groundwork for young people to have meaningful input in similar development projects going forward.

- **Jessica Stone**

For her dedication to helping other young people in the arts shine through performing, particularly through her instrumental work in the creation of SoundCheck, a band night and youth enterprise programme that provides a platform for local young people to showcase their musical talents and earn money from playing.

- **Elliot Jenkins**

For demonstrating initiative, reliability, and teamwork as a youth club volunteer while assisting hundreds of young people through Heatham House Youth Centre's cost of living programmes.



Jonathan Wang



Ham Youth Centre Architects Crew



Jessica Stone



Amelia Hornsby

- **Gabriel Le Boiteux**

For his commitment to representing Richmond upon Thames's youth on the local Youth Council and UK Youth Parliament, ensuring the voices of our young people are heard through a variety of projects, including setting up focus groups for young people with SEND to ensure all youth have equal opportunity to use their voice and leading on a local Free School Meals for All campaign.

- **Amelia Hornsby**

For her dedication at just 10 years old to embodying a sense of community pride and environmental stewardship by going out and collecting litter from roads and parks in Richmond and East Sheen three times a week on average, which has helped to visibly improve the local area and enhance enjoyment of common spaces.



THANK YOU

Richmond Council would like to say a tremendous thank you to all of this year's nominees, as well as to those who did not receive a nomination who we know are doing so much to help their local communities.

To find out more about the awards please go to our website: www.richmond.gov.uk/community_heroes_awards.

We are also showcasing our winners and shortlisted nominees across our social media channels so please keep an eye on these for updates.

✕ LBRUT

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📷 richmond_council

Thank you to everyone who made a nomination for Richmond's Community Heroes Awards.



