

AGM and northAwards

Special event honours special people



Garden girls: Rhianna and Timika were young citizens of the year

Local people who make a real difference to the quality of life in their communities were recognised at our special 'NorthAwards' event on Thursday 2 October 2008.

The ceremony at Heaton Park's Orangery was a celebration of the hard work and dedication of some of north Manchester's most public-spirited residents and organisations. The judges had a tough time making their final decisions from more than 80 people who were nominated, but the winners were:

Best contribution by a local community organisation

White Moss Centre for Young People

Opened in 1967 the centre is a real community facility, providing a range of activities including sessions for people with mental health issues, job seekers, and, most recently, for children with special needs. It was recently awarded a Queen's Award for voluntary service.

and

Eco Youth

Formed in 2002 it started with seven children aged between five and thirteen years. Since then membership has increased to forty boys and girls. They do litter picks, plant up flowerbeds and from salvaged pallets they make planters. The children have also helped to clean up local estates, parks and Clayton vale.

Outstanding contribution by an individual resident

Jim Burke

[Jim Burke](#) has improved the local area by tireless hard work and determination. He was actively involved in the older people's play area in Dam Head Park and was Chair of the organising group for It's a Northwards Knockout.

Vera Salvatore award for resident who has most improved their neighbourhood

Pam Greatorex

Pam has taken a real stand against antisocial behaviour in her neighbourhood. She was recognised by a government 'Taking a Stand' award. She works tirelessly to improve the estate, and was vital to the success of the local Funky Monkey play space.

Ivy Graham award for resident who has made a long-standing contribution to the neighbourhood

Barbara Pringle

Barbara has worked hard to improve the quality of life for her fellow-residents of Victoria Square - a block of retirement housing in Ancoats. It's impossible to list everything she's done, but she was instrumental in setting up a successful resident association, organises Christmas dinners for people on their own, and secured £5,000 funding from the Arts Council to write a book on the history of Victoria Square.

Young citizen of the year (under 16)

Rhianna Barclay and Timika Absalom

These two bubbly and enthusiastic 10-year-old girls participate in community clean-ups and the 'In Bloom' contest. They're developing their idea of a 'gardening club' to help out older neighbours. They've had a few close shaves recognising the difference between weeds and flowers, but are fast-becoming our local rivals to Alan Titchmarsh!

Young citizen of the year (16-25)

George Wanjohi

Nineteen-year-old George took part in a sporting initiative aimed at reducing antisocial behaviour in Monsall. It inspired him to help out in other local sporting activities and take on a more responsible role in his peer group. He is bubbly, friendly and cool-personified. George is now studying sport at MANCAT, funded by his part-time work at Greggs the bakers!

Good neighbour award

Edward and Joan Eadsforth

Edward and John are the nicest neighbours you could wish for. In spite of having problems with antisocial behaviour (now resolved) they continued to tidy gardens and donate toys and furnishings to those in need. The judges were impressed by their energy, enthusiasm and compassion for others.

Congratulations

Congratulations to all the winners, and a huge thank you to them for helping to strengthen the sense of community in north Manchester.

Special thanks also to sponsors of the event: the Lord Group, Aon, Seddons and Wates Living Space. A raffle prize of a night at the Palace Hotel was also donated by Excel Publishing publishers of Northern Housing.

Awards

The awards were agreed by the Area Panels from a list of 20. The Panel's considered that these were the most important areas to be recognised.

Each award links to a Northwards strategy:

- **Best contribution by a local community organisation**

This award is linked to our objective "Successful communities –to contribute to the regeneration of North Manchester and work with partners to help develop successful communities"

- **Outstanding contribution by an individual resident**
- **Vera Salvatore award for resident who has most improved their neighbourhood**
- **Ivy Graham award for resident who has made a long-standing contribution to the neighbourhood**
- **Good neighbour award**

All the above awards link to our work on Community Cohesion

- **Young citizen of the year (under 16)**
- **Young citizen of the year (16-25)**

Northwards Resident Involvement Team are focussing on how to involve young people in Northwards.