

Chorleywood Community Champion Award

During the Pandemic there have been some fantastic examples of good deeds and people going above and beyond to help others in time of need. In February the Parish Council launched the Community Champion Award and received seven nominations all of whom received a medal of recognition and gratitude.

The overall winner and recipient of the Chorleywood Community Champion Award was Vanessa Rousseau.

The award was presented by the Parish Council Chair, Cllr Debbie Rosario who congratulated Vanessa by saying 'Vanessa epitomises the community spirit that we say emerging in Chorleywood during the past year and we thank her for all the support given to the Chorleywood Community. A well-deserved recipient of the first every Chorleywood Community Award'

In receiving the award, Vanessa said ' I have been overwhelmed by the response and willingness to support others during the pandemic and that so many volunteers when above and beyond. To hear of all the stories of selflessness was so humbling and it shows that there is a big heart within the community. I know this will live on and I accept this award as part of the Corona Virus Support Group.

Details of all seven recipients together with their bios are below together with some photographs of them receiving their award

Vanessa Rousseau – overall winner

Vanessa was appointed by St Andrews Church as the Communications and Community Officer just before lockdown. When the pandemic started Vanessa set up the Chorleywood Corona Virus Support Group mobilising over 200 people to shop and run errands for vulnerable resident's self-isolating. This required logistical skills getting everyone DBS checked. Vanessa organised drivers for those needing hospital visits or medical appointments. Oversaw and helped source food parcels for needy families and craft activities for your children and several schools. At Christmas she organised bags for needed children of craft materials and food hampers for older residents. She also spent many hours in the evenings talking to lonely and distressed people. All this was carried out whilst looking after her own children and family.



Vanessa receiving her award from Chair Cllr Debbie Rosario

Mary Latimer

St John Fisher Church have a Christmas Fair every December, but this could not take place due to COVID. Mary started the 'Not the Christmas Fair' using her garage as a base. She sold potted hyacinths and run raffles. She asked her local church community to attend and contribute. Mary raised £2,313 for the Cardinal Humes Homeless Charity. Due to the 'Big Give' scheme this money was doubled. She continued the scheme calling it 'Carry on Caring' asking people after Christmas to donate unwanted gifts. Mary is in her 80's with a degenerative eye conditions, is endlessly kind and cheerful always helping others.



Mary receiving her medal of recognition from Vice Chair Cllr Steve Watkins

Alice Morgan

From the Corona Support Group who helped deliver medication and other needs from the Chemist and local shops for local residents

Brent Mullane

Brent is a 46 year old father of four who runs a kitchen design firm. Whilst not directly involved with Mission Employable decided to put on his running shoes and try to raise money for the local charity. During the lock down Brent carried out a number of 24-hour fund-raising marathons going without sleep and hot food to complete them. In total he covered 771 miles and raised nearly £12,000 for Mission Employable Café which will train young adults with learning disabilities.



Catherine Nice

Catherine set up a donation scheme for NHS and keyworkers. She was joined by two other women from Croxley Green and Rickmansworth and between them they sent over 250 boxes of donations which included lip balm, hand cream and snacks, along with thousands of bottles of water to over 100 different places across the NHS. These included every department at Watford General, vaccination clinics, community nursing teams, ambulance crews and ICUS at a wider range of hospitals including Northwick park, Hillingdon, Harefield, Royal Orthopaedic Stanmore and Whipps Cross in London.

Other donations were given to ICUs to help patients including coffee machines, mobile phone and tablet chargers, pens and small wipe boards for patients who were unable to speak.

Marion Thompson

During lockdown Marion was a life saver to her 95 year old neighbour who lost his wife in the autumn of last year. Marion has done his shopping on a regular basis and baked cakes to keep up moral. She regularly phones to make sure her neighbour is coping and it so kind and helpful.

Rhonda Vanderwood

Rhonda is Chorleywood Street Cleaner employed by TRDC. She is a fantastic street cleaner and is always upbeat and friendly and is a breath of fresh air. Her personality is as vibrant as her high viz jacket. She's really made her mark on Chorleywood and is loved by residents and animals alike. Thanks to Rhonda the streets of Chorleywood have never looked cleaner.

