



MANNINGTREE TOWN COUNCIL

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MANNINGTREE'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD

Background

In June 2011 Cllr. Kerry King organised and led the Love Where You Live campaign on the council's behalf. This was a follow up to the previous year's Love Where You Live Week and aimed to be bigger and better with events taking place throughout the year. The initiative was a focal point for volunteers to arrange clean-up events and other activities to bring together and celebrate the local community.

The Campaign was a huge success and Cllr. King entered Manningtree's work into an EALC (Essex Association of Local Councils) competition for Community Engagement.

On 27th September, 2011 the EALC awarded this top prize, of a silver trophy, to Manningtree Town Council with the recommendation that it be used to reward local citizens/organisations for their outstanding commitment to Manningtree.

Cllr. King arranged a display of photographs etc. taken during the Love Where You Live Campaign with the trophy as a centrepiece. Then, at their meeting on 20th October, 2011 the councillors decided unanimously to award the Community Engagement Trophy annually to an individual or group who, in the last year, had made a significant contribution to the local community.

In 2017 the trophy was replaced with a shield.

In 2019 the council decided to award two awards, for a group and an individual.

Roll-call of Recipients:

The Trophy / Shield has been awarded as follows:-

2011/12 The East of England Co-operative Society

was the first recipient for their outstanding support of local charities and organisations. For instance they donated a pool table to The Hub (the local youth's drop-in centre), a new town noticeboard in their lobby and they set up a token system in support of the new Three Parishes Trust charitable organisation which led to a donation of more than £10,000 in the first year.

2012/13 St. John Ambulance

was the second recipient as they are such an important asset to the community. Not only providing first aid cover for various local events but also the excellent First Responders resource and training people in the community.

2013/14 Mr. Dennis Hitchcock

was the third recipient. Mr. Hitchcock has been the town council's handyman for many years. The council felt he deserved this award as he always goes far beyond the call of duty in keeping the town tidy and well maintained.

2014/15 The Stour Choral Society

The council was again unanimous in voting, this year, for The Stour Choral Society. They do much good work in the area and cover a large range of music. They perform in various venues for different communities and it was felt that their work was to be commended.

2015/16 The Royal British Legion

This was in recognition of all their hard work and dedication in re-instating a branch of the Royal British Legion in Manningtree. They have worked tirelessly not only to build up membership but also to arrange memorial services at the Manningtree War Memorial to commemorate every significant military event since World War One.

2016/17 Manningtree District Business Chamber

This was awarded due to Manningtree District Business Chamber's previous and on-going commitment to arranging events for local people, with particular recognition given for the fantastic annual Christmas Market.

2017/18 The Rotary Club of Manningtree Stour Valley

The award was given in recognition of all the fantastic work the Rotary Club have done and continue to do for the local community, including assisting in making Manningtree town an aesthetically nicer place to live (the replacement of the boat and the planting of it on the corner of Riverside Avenue was a great example of this).

2018/19 Melanie Winning, The Vintage Market

The council awarded the shield to Melanie Winning in recognition of all the hard work she has put in to The Vintage Market over the last two years and for how she has managed to make it such a success. The Vintage Market continues to be a fantastic asset to the town and community.

2019/20 Save Manningtree Library - Group Award

Awarded in recognition of all the hard work and effort the Save Manningtree Library group have put in, and continue to put in, in order to try and save our local library from closure or being taken over by volunteers.

2019/20 Lynne Robinson - Individual Award

Awarded for arranging the Fun at Manningtree Beach sessions during the summer months as well as the Halloween writing competition and story telling session also on the beach in October 2019 for local youngsters.