

ROTARY CIVIC AWARD 2023

CHRISTOPHER TALBOT-PONSONBY

Christopher's professional background was as a civil servant, and he held roles in English Heritage....somewhat appropriate given the heritage of our Town .

Christopher has been an ever present on the Berkhamsted Citizens Association, serving as Membership Secretary, Treasurer, then Newsletter Editor and, Data Protection Officer. He has been active in Town Planning , both within the BCA and also as a Town Councillor. He has served as a Town Hall Trustee for many years.

You might think that would be enough but, in addition he has served in the Oxfam Bookshop, volunteers at the Hospice of St Francis every week in their office, as well as at St. Mary's Northchurch and sits as a Trustee on Northchurch United Charities, which contributes to the relief of poverty.

He has been a friend to many in our community, and often it is the little things that go unnoticed; just a little extra help especially during the pandemic marks him out as a very special person and a worthy recipient of the Rotary Civic Award.

....and then we come to the Junior Awards. These are the occasions when I wonder what in the world I was doing when I was their age....best not to ask!

IMOGEN JAQUES

Came here from Australia joining Ashlyn's School. Not content to get her head down, do her school work, make new friends and plan her future she has been volunteering for over a year at the Swan Youth Project...and not just the occasional session, but two afternoons a week, every week.

I'm told she is an enthusiastic cook, using her love of gardening to advise on the preparation of healthy fresh food...now the cooking I can do....gardening not so much...I doubt I could successfully grow a turnip.

She has shown herself to be a very special person, able to form strong relationships with staff and young people alike. She has been described as a role model for the young people within the project, but she is clearly much more than that. The young trust her to share challenges and problems, and she shows enormous sensitivity in dealing with these

challenges.

But she is also available for tea (and sympathy?) for staff members when things get a little tight...and she will step in and provide support for any and all activities.

Extraordinary commitment and contribution especially to the lives of youngsters within our community

And finally

EVA MAY WOODS

You know...I'm exhausted just reading through the activities and achievements of our Civic Award recipients

Eva-May is a talented dancer and artist.

She was named young artist of the year by the Bucks Art Society, not just for her talent but for enthusiasm and commitment to inspire others

She has long had a love of dancing, excelling not only in creative dance but also in formal examinations....but she doesn't just dance.....she uses her talent to support community projects such as the Children in Need Tapathon.

Any more strings to her bow?...of course there are ! She is a Young Leader for West Herts Scout District...and of course that involves fun things like hiking sailing and camping, but she also helps out regularly at local community events, helping to run stalls demonstrating the creative arts and engaging with youngsters by the special medium of face painting.

What is next?

Well, having achieved her Bronze DOE award she is now preparing for her Gold and I doubt anyone here would bet against her being successful!