

Bob and Richard Horlock
Nominated by Councillor Alan Coley

Born and bred in Mistley, from a well-established local family, brothers Bob and Richard Horlock spent their working lives as teachers and, since they retired, have given countless hours to the parish.

Richard served on the parish council for many years before his retirement, and Bob has been involved in many local issues – especially adding new definitive footpaths to the network – and is now the voluntary Tree Warden.

Between them they have always helped to make the parish look its best; from a new coat of paint to litter picking and much more. It is impossible to put a figure on the amount of community work these two special people have done for Mistley.

Every village needs a Richard or a Bob. We are lucky to have them in ours.

Christine Howe
Nominated by Councillor Dan Land

Christine Howe has been running Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer groups across Tendring for the past 40 years, devoting her life to helping children fulfil their potential whilst offering them an opportunity to flourish and grow in a safe environment.

She started in Great Clacton, working with Cubs for around seven years, and whilst working with teenagers in Weeley she started putting children through the Duke of Edinburgh award for the first time, where they came from all across Tendring to be part of her Duke of Edinburgh groups – something she did for 10 years.

When the group in Great Clacton closed, Christine moved to Thorpe and she now has an abundance of groups with a long list of people on the waiting list.

Christine has the patience and perseverance to deal with young children, through to young adults each week, and over the years Christine will have supported many kids to be the best they can be; having a positive long-term outcome for the district of Tendring.

Ellamy Fox-Fraser
Nominated by Councillor Peter Harris

In 2011 Ellamy Fox-Fraser wanted to do something to raise funds for her children's school and also had concerns about the environment and what kind of future we are leaving for our children.

Ellamy combined the idea of recycling with raising money and so born was the Tendring Primary Recycling Scheme, offering a solution for typically hard-to-recycle waste streams and concentrated on items not recycled by the council.

Raising just £20 in its first year, Ellamy persevered year after year and December 2018 was the turning point; a Facebook page was launched and through the energy and enthusiasm of Ellamy this page now boasts nearly 3,000 followers, and 40 volunteers now help with 30 collection points across Tendring. They have collected 85,000 crisp packets, 110,000 biscuit and confectionery wrappers and much more besides, raising £3,000 last year and winning £10,000 for school equipment. This year the scheme is expected to smash this figure, and in addition it now raises funds for other good causes such as Essex Air Ambulance and Pathfinder Guide Dogs.

George Hardwick
Nominated by Councillor Gemma Stephenson

George Hardwick moved to Clacton around 40 years ago to teach at Burrsville Junior School, and almost immediately made a name for himself by developing pupils' interest and enthusiasm in local history.

In 1985 the Clacton and District Local History Society was formed and George became its first press officer, then secretary, with an early task for him being to mount an exhibition in Clacton Library.

Fascinated by old newspapers, in 1989 he produced a book, 'Paper Clips', a compilation of interesting, strange and humorous stories taken from local newspapers which raised more than £1,000 for charity.

In 2015, on retiring from teaching, he became curator of the local history museum in Clacton Library. He completely re-vamped the room, made sure everyone knew about it, and in the first year attendance shot from 200 to 1,500.

In conjunction with the library he has organised other special exhibitions, and George enjoys giving presentations on Clacton's history to local groups as well as taking an active role on the society's Facebook page. As a result many people are sharing memories, donating artefacts and photos, which George records; without his enthusiasm and skill, these may well have been lost.

James Cole

Nominated by Councillors Maria Fowler, Gary Calver, Bill Davidson, Ivan Henderson, Jo Henderson and Pam Morrison

Since 1998 when Harwich Town Council agreed to resurrect the historic and voluntary position of Town Crier to promote local events and encourage the tourist economy James Cole has held the role.

Since then, he has become a focal point for events and civic occasions, welcoming thousands of visitors to Historic Harwich and almost certainly becoming Harwich's most photographed citizen.

James' attention to detail is remarkable, ensuring each cry is appropriate for the event; on one occasion he welcomed a group of visitors attending the Harwich Beer Festival from Denmark with a cry in Danish.

With so much effort having been put into increasing Harwich's tourist economy through the use of the town's 850 years of history, the voluntary commitment to promoting Historic Harwich by James Cole has been a major contributory factor to the success of this campaign.

Melissa Wenn

Nominated by Councillor Mark Stephenson

Melissa Wenn started the Princes Youth Theatre in 1988 in an effort to encourage children to become more involved in theatre, and she has the ability to bring the best out of any child. Aiming to educate her students to work together in an atmosphere of discipline combined with fun, the youth group is open to all children and raises money to support trips to Germany by putting on small shows and even bag packing.

Melissa's enthusiasm for the children knows no bounds and her energy is infectious and was instrumental in breaking a world record for the Fastest Theatrical Production with her youth group. She gives to local children so selflessly and her reward is the look of accomplishment and pure joy on their faces.

Melissa organises full-scale productions, from musicals and plays to pantomimes, providing students with year-round opportunities to perform. Although Melissa often enlists the help of others, she is the driving force behind the Princes Youth Theatre.

Brightlingsea Lido Volunteers
Nominated by Councillor Mick Barry

A strong group of 50 volunteers provide a year-round contribution to the Brightlingsea Lido. The facility has experienced a rebirth and makeover since it was transferred from Tendring District Council to Brightlingsea Town Council; now managed by a charitable trust, it relies heavily upon the input of dedicated volunteers to operate and run successfully. The team includes Front of House volunteers who meet and greet, provide information and advice and generally act as the 'face' of the Lido, and every one of the more than 48,000 visitors in the last two years has had a positive contact with a volunteer, confirmed by feedback. The Lido Volunteer Group has made a significant contribution to a facility which has achieved regional and national recognition, and is now established as a major tourist attraction within Tendring.

Pat Ling
Nominated by Councillor Mike Bush

Pat moved into Great Oakley in 1996, and during those 23 years she has been a catalyst in engaging and galvanizing the communities of the Oakleys and surrounding areas through arranging many events, clubs and fundraising funding for the villages and charities. Pat works tirelessly organising monthly table top sales, ladies' lunch, coffee mornings and quiz nights, as well as village dog training. Pat has also raised significant funds and donations for many different charities as well as funding for the new village hall floor. Pat has been the conduit at the heart of the village enhancing the social value for the Oakley's, who can often become isolated in rural communities.

Trevor and Donna Mills
Nominated by Councillor Valerie Guglielmi

Mistley residents Donna and Trevor Mills, a former staff member at Highfields Primary School, Lawford, and Tendring District Council Open Spaces manager respectively, have dedicated their spare time over many years to Mistley Cricket Club, and the club has prospered and grown over the years thanks to the efforts of these two special people. The quality of the pitch is much envied by the wider cricket; Trevor treats it as part of his family. In addition, adjoining the cricket fields is what's known locally as the Welcome Home Fields, a memorial to those local soldiers who did not come home after the wars; while the parish council has recently taken it over, but before it did so Trevor spent several months reinstating the grassed area to its beautiful former glory. Donna has been running the catering at the club for many years, organising sandwiches, cakes, buffets, and even funeral wakes, as well as the bar entailing stock takes, cash floats and more. The place is always spotlessly clean and always a pleasure to walk in to. The cricket club is very lucky to have this great husband and wife team, who have tirelessly looked after its well-being.

William Taylor
Nominated by Councillor Michael Talbot

Billy Taylor, who has lived in Point Clear Bay for more than 20 years, was a member of the UK Olympics Team at the 1972 Summer Games in Munich, representing his country as a 19-year-old in the featherweight boxing category.

Billy, along with boxing colleague and fellow Olympian Graham Moughton, jointly set up the Holland Shore Amateur Boxing Club in an Oxford Road building eight years ago, to great success.

The club divided into two three years ago, with Billy opening up a club in his home village of St Osyth which has seen success after success from its boxers; one member currently holds the Eastern Counties and Essex Championship at his weight.

There are 40 boxers at the club, both male and female, who attend regular training sessions in the village gym where training is given by ABA qualified trainers.

Clacton Park Run

Nominated by Councillor Dan Casey

Clacton Park Run is a relatively new group, going for three years and bringing together all types of runners of all ages.

A 5k course runs from Martello to Clacton three times every Saturday between 8.30-10am and sees more than 200 take part, helping to keep them fit in all weathers. Every Sunday the group also do a children's park run, which is well supported.

In the age we live in, keeping all ages fit and exercised is good for all and it's great to see them every week and see the improvement.

Porridge and Pens

Nominated by Councillor Graham Steady

The Porridge and Pens Brightlingsea School project takes the town's community spirit to another level, by encouraging local volunteers of all ages to raise funds for projects that, because of their location, may not be recognisable as one that is in need of help.

Their efforts are a lesson to us all.

Brightlingsea Saturday Club

Nominated by Councillor Jayne Chapman

The Saturday Club was formed 20 years ago and organises a monthly disco for adults with special needs, both physical and mental. Clients come from a number of local residential homes as well as individuals living with support.

Held for a couple of hours on a Saturday afternoon, there is a professional DJ who plays music they can all relate to. There is a raffle, and birthdays are celebrated too, while a special party is provided at Easter, Halloween and Christmas, where clients and carers are encouraged to dress for the occasion and refreshments and gifts are supplied for free.

The club is run by around eight volunteers, who decorate tables to give a more homely feel and encourage all clients to take part, have fun and dance, even those in wheelchairs.

Clients, carers and volunteers all enjoy themselves and go home with a smile on their faces.

The Great Bromley Cross Pub and Community Benefit Society

Nominated by Councillor Gary Scott

The Bromley Cross in Great Bromley is a local pub, saved from demolition for residential redevelopment by the local community. It currently has more than 150 shareholders and, with help from many local volunteers, provides much needed facilities for the local rural community.

As well as opening as a pub on four evenings and Sunday lunchtimes, as well as also opening on Wednesday mornings to host outreach Post Office and library services and a coffee shop.

The pub provides a meeting place for the local Friendship Club, Music Club, the local Young Farmers, a Craft Club and is home to a number of local pop-up shops. It holds charity events, quizzes and has recently opened a brand new disabled toilet so those passing who have a Radar Key can access the toilet even when the pub is closed.

The Cross is a wonderful community pub, but it is more than a pub. It's a vital rural community service that helps hundreds of people in the rural villages of Great Bromley and the surrounding area.

John Hall

Nominated by Councillor Carlo Guglielmi

Ever since his retirement from the Essex Wildlife Trust, where he was CEO for many years, John embraced life in Lawford by very quickly becoming involved with Little Pumpkins preschool and Lawford C of E Primary School. He has given so much of his time by regularly going in to help plan their garden areas, talking about planting and growing, and to talk to the youngsters of the wonderful wildlife in the district. He is so in tune with the little ones and it is a huge pleasure to see, especially the way they all relate to him.

John, who has been very busy building his own Eco-House with his family, has spent many hours of his precious time in this great research and is considered as a true local hero, who thoroughly deserves recognition.