

Inspirational YoungStars Awards

in association with

Cambridge
Independent

Awards & Cambridge Charity Fundraisers

The winners with their trophies
Picture: Keith Heppell



The Class of 2023

A six-page special celebrating the achievements of young people in the community

The winners of our Inspirational YoungStars Awards 2023 have been revealed.

The incredible group of young people were given their prizes at a ceremony at Cambridge United FC on Friday (June 30).

The awards were run by Cambridge Charity Fundraisers and the Cambridge Independent for the second year to reward those young people who go the

extra mile, show remarkable bravery or help their community.

The nominees were put forward via a form on the Cambridge Independent website and the finalists were invited to the celebratory dinner at the United ground in Newmarket Road, where winners were named across a host of categories.

Editor Paul Brackley said: "We were delighted to team up with

Cambridge Charity Fundraisers for these fantastic awards and I would like to thank everyone who supported them. What an amazing group of winners this is. Congratulations to all of them."

Organiser Ian Darler, of Cambridge Charity Fundraisers, thanked sponsors for the support and told those at the event: "I felt that the national media only ever wrote about the bad things kids do

and as a parent who is really proud of his kids I felt like that needed to change. So I approached the Cambridge Independent four years ago with an idea. Unfortunately, we lost two years due to Covid. I said I've got a proposal. I'm sick of the fact that all the good kids in this world don't get any praise. Will you help me? I asked for one page. The paper came back and said We're ever so

sorry we can't give you a page - we think it is so good we will give you four. Last year we had 69 people attending the awards. This year we have 170 people in this room.

"Every single one of the children who has won something tonight, you are absolute stars. If you don't do anything else ever in your lifetime you can be proud of what you have already achieved because it is incredible."



Young Carer Award: Jack Mathews

Sponsored by Mead Plant & Grab

At the age of just 12, Jack has gone above and beyond what would normally be expected of someone of their age.

Jack Mathews helps to look after his mum, who has a medical condition that does not come with treatments of medicine and can cause regular seizures and lead to being bed-bound.

After getting home from school, he will help his older sisters clean the house, cook and clean up, before spending the night in his mum's room to keep an eye on her while she sleeps to

watch out for seizures and help her through them.

Jack's mum says: "It is a very scary experience for someone to sit and watch a loved one have seizures, not being able to walk and talk, and need to call 999 when I become very unresponsive."

"But as a team, with his sisters, they just do it like a walk in the park."

"I am beyond proud and grateful I have the most loving supportive son beside me while I fight this battle."



Young Carer Award: Tilly Reynolds



Sponsored by Cambridge United Lottery

"Amazing" is the word used to describe Tilly Reynolds. Her two younger half-brothers aged 11 and seven, have fragile X syndrome and epilepsy, and Tilly helps them with everyday tasks, reads them stories and is the first person to stick up for and protect them.

One of Tilly's brothers is non-

verbal but she manages to know exactly what he wants and will always share with her brothers, even going without in order to make them happy.

One of Tilly's brothers, Rupert, says that the best thing about Tilly is that she takes him dancing and that makes him happy.



Sponsored by Cooper Trophies

Virtual Fundraiser Award: Jasper Ostler-Gee

Taking part in an ironman triathlon may not be possible aged just 13, but our winner of the Virtual Fundraiser Award did the next best thing.

Described as a kind and determined young man, Jasper Ostler-Gee has supported Arthur

Rank Hospice Charity since the death of his grandfather.

When he was 12, he ran the distance of a marathon, but that was not enough for Jasper.

So his next challenge was running a marathon, completing a

112-mile bike ride and swimming 3.9km.

He has so far raised more than £1,700 in memory of his grandad - but he's not done yet. This year he is planning to climb the equivalent of Mount Everest, a whopping 8,849 metres!

Fundraising Team Award: Emma Kitchener, Millie Kitchener, Olivia Daynes, Laurie Daynes



Sponsored by Tesco

Twelve-year-old Emma Kitchener, 11-year-olds Olivia Daynes and Laurie Daynes, and 9-year-old Millie Kitchener decided to raise money for Young Lives versus Cancer in memory of their Auntie Steph, who passed away from breast cancer in August 2022.

The girls were kindly offered the use of Ely Museum's courtyard for a book and toy sale.

They donated their own pre-loved books and toys, and were generously given more items by their friends for the sale.

They were also given some beautiful hand-made gifts that their Auntie had made during lockdown, but had not had the chance to sell at the craft fairs that she loved to attend.

These items included cushions, greeting cards, gift tags, bookmarks and machine embroidered gingerbread people, with a gingerbread footballer in Cambridge United colours proving a popular item rather fittingly for the Junior U's season-ticket holders.

Most items were being sold for 50p to £1, and the girls raised an impressive £211.76.

Pictures:
Keith Heppell



Sponsored by Cambridgeshire FA

Fundraiser Award: Emma Robbins

Ten-year-old Emma Robbins was inspired to help the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity after the sad passing of her grandma last year.

Emma held a cake stall with her friends to raise more than £325, but that was not enough.

Emma then decided to take on Mission Mud at the Playground.

With her mum, Lisa, they took on the British weather and the challenge to climb through the mud to raise a further £500.



Sponsored by Premier Travel

Fundraiser Award: Courtney Moon

Twelve-year-old Courtney Moon turned the saying 'it's a marathon not a sprint' on its head to show it can be both.

Courtney decided to raise money for the Bobby Copping Foundation by running one mile every hour for 24 hours.

Courtney went more than 24 hours with only an hour's broken sleep, but did so without hesitation to complete the challenge and smashed her initial fundraising target of £500 to raise an amazing £1,500 for the charity.

Inspirational Award: Camryn McGinn

Sponsored by COEL

When one of Camryn McGinn's school teachers passed away from a brain aneurysm, the 10-year-old took it upon herself to raise some money in memory of Katy Hancock as part of her Brownies' Charity badge.

It was initially thought that Camryn may do a bake sale, but she surprised friends and family by opting for a triathlon-style challenge!

The aim was to swim 20 lengths, cycle 20km and run 10km in a month, and raise £300.

On her first swimming attempt, she completed 20 lengths, so the total was upped to 80 lengths, and the £300 was raised in 48 hours, so that was upped to a £500 target.

After cycling 13km at the first attempt, the cycling challenge became 20km in one go!

In total, Camryn ended the month-long challenge in breathtaking style having swam 100 lengths, cycled 52km and run 12km to raise £1,100 for the Katy Hancock Foundation.



Unsung Hero Award: Robyn Millward

Sponsored by Rocket

Dedicating time to others is the hallmark of our Unsung Hero award.

Robyn Millward uses her spare time to assist at a local Brownies unit. The 15-year-old attends weekly planning meetings without fail, and inputs ideas for the girls to make sure they have

great experiences, and helps during the sessions.

She assisted at a district camp where she attended a day early to help the other leaders set up.

Robyn also volunteered in a tuck shop during ladies football matches on a Sunday afternoon.

Exceptional Achievement Award: Flint Clarke

Sponsored by C B Groundworks & Construction Ltd



Going the extra mile, or rather kilometre, is an understatement for our Exceptional Achievement Award winner.

History-making pedal power would be the best way to describe the actions of 14-year-old Flint Clarke. He was the youngest ever competitor in a 1,000km ultra-endurance cycling race across France, called The Unknown

Race, which sees competitors only alerted to the location of the first checkpoint one hour before the start and all subsequent checkpoints revealed at the next stop.

Flint was racing alongside his dad, Matthew, and was raising money for Cambridge-based children's brain tumour charity Tom's Trust.



Community Award: Harry Cowley and Oliver Martin

Sponsored by CamClad Contractors Limited



When the heritage signal box at Nene Valley Railway was the subject of an arson attack, it led to quite extensive damage and the inability to run two train services.

The charity suffered a loss of earnings as a result of the arson, and when Harry Cowley and Oliver Martin heard the news, they were determined to do something about it.

Harry and Oliver launched an appeal to help, setting a target of £1,000 to assist with the repairs.

The appeal went viral, and earned £14,000 which allowed the charity to start repairs, with a new roof already installed.

"As a charity, we can't thank the boys enough," said a representative of Nene Valley Railway. "They truly promote the passion that as a heritage site we are all trying to teach and preserve the past for future generations to enjoy and teach and learn skills that would be well and truly lost if we closed our doors."



Sponsored by Baxter Storey

Special Award: Shreya Acharys

Creativity epitomises the spirit of our Special Award winner.

Shreya Acharys has a rare form of muscular dystrophy, which requires a power wheelchair to get around, and has complex medical needs that require attention 24/7. However, the 9-year-old is dedicated to helping others.

Shreya, who attends the University of Cambridge Primary

School, can barely use her hands and legs because of the progressive muscle condition, but is an inspiration with her creative ideas.

She published a book - *How To Be A Lion Cub* - when just seven years old, and it raised £370 for Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust.

Shreya did not stop there though, and her creativity shone

through again as she published a second book, about kindness and applying principles of Buddhism in everyday life, to raise another £500 for ACT.

Through bake sales, Shreya also raised £50 each for Cambridge Refugees and Jimmy's Shelter, and through a cake auction made £1,000 for an orphanage in India.

Brightest Star Award: Flint and MimiClarke, and Shreya Acharys

Sponsored by Regent Construction and Mick George

Flint and Mimi Clarke - who have been described as a pair "as a force to be reckoned with, raising more than £20,000 through phenomenal challenges and fundraising events" - and Shreya Acharys, who has been described as a ray of sunshine, are our Brightest Star winners.



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Sponsored by Mark Bonner

Outstanding Bravery Awards: Mimi Clarke

Mimi Clarke has gone through so much, but that has not stopped her doing a lot for charity.

Helping out with media campaigns, marketing and press, taking part in fundraising school fundraising activities and presenting to her school to secure Tom's Trust as their charity of the year, Mimi is an inspiration to all.

The 13-year-old was diagnosed with a pilomyxoid astrocytoma brain tumour in 2013 when aged just three, and had to endure surgery and chemotherapy to battle her tumour.

Despite becoming stable, her tumour relapsed in 2017 and then led to proton beam radiation in Florida. After another period of stability, a new tumour nodule developed in the radiated area and chemotherapy was no longer an option.

The nodule was removed in 2021, and Mimi has recovered well,

although she still needs ongoing help and support.

Despite going through so much, Mimi is a young ambassador for Tom's Trust, and has helped the charity by being a case study for their race day this year, which raised £45,000, and made a video for last year's race day, which raised £40,000.

She was also put in Tom's Trust advertising on the side of a Turner's Soham lorry which now goes up and down the country.

Yvette, Mimi's mum, said: "Despite all Mimi's daily challenges, she is a remarkably happy girl. She is so positive."

"We have always made the most of hospital visits."

"When she was little, she used to dress up in her best dress, we would get a baby chino and enjoy it as an outing. We still love going to Addenbrooke's, our hospital, after nearly 10 years now."

Environment Award: Daisy Evans

Sponsored by A R Aspinall & Sons

Daisy Evans has been raising awareness about some of the threats posed to the planet.

Palm oil has been and continues to be a major driver of deforestation of some of the world's most biodiverse forests, and Daisy was determined to spread the word.

The 11-year-old organised and advertised a bake sale at her home, which involved more than 40 people donating and purchasing cakes for the cause.

In the days leading up to the sale, Daisy worked tirelessly with her mum to make a major portion of the cakes and treats on sale.

They raised £315.35 for charity, and helped to spread the message about the palm oil crisis, with some attendees of the sale saying they would now make an effort to look for palm oil-free products in the future.



Sponsored by Cambridge United FC

Outstanding Bravery Award: Bryson Taylor

The positive and inspirational attitude of Bryson Taylor is a source of amazement.

Described as a fantastic role model, Bryson first took up frame football aged four and has never looked back.

The 10-year-old has cerebral palsy and his first goals were to get active, join in games and improve mobility with the aid of a frame, which he absolutely smashed.

Despite having to undergo many operations, Bryson has progressed from using a frame to quad sticks, tripods and monopod sticks.

Bryson was set the challenge of

taking some steps without walking aids and, with determination and hard work during the last year, he took his first unaided steps!

Since then, Bryson's strength, coordination, balance, stamina and confidence have improved each week. He can now walk the full length of the astro pitch, and plays the full one-hour session with no walking aids.

"Bryson is a fantastic role model to new participants joining the sessions," read his nomination, "and is a shining example of how football can help improve coordination, agility and motor skills."



Organiser Ian Darler, of Cambridge Charity Fundraisers, on stage

