

Condor Community Award Shortlist Announced

The judges of the Condor Ferries Community Award have announced this year's shortlist for the Award which will be presented to the winner at the Jersey Enterprise Awards on 2 March.

The judging panel faced a particularly hard task this year with a record-breaking number of entries received but following a review of the submissions and an intense round of interviews, the panel, consisting of Senator Alan Breckon, Hamish Marett-Crosby, Fiona Walker, last year's winner Jane Donald, and Simon Edsall, Managing Director of Condor Ferries, managed to draw up a shortlist of three.

The finalists for this year's awards are:

- The League of Friends
- Jersey Special Gymnastics Club
- Brian Curtis / Community Savings

"All of the candidates were very impressive and the passion they have for their organisations shone through," said Simon Edsall. "Taking part in the judging process makes you realise just how dedicated people are to supporting Island life, in itself, this is a wonderful quality to see. After a great deal of discussion amongst the judges, we managed to draw up a shortlist of three finalists who work incredibly hard for Jersey's community.

"I'd like to thank everyone who made a nomination, having a record number of entries shows just how much people value their community and how we can all make a difference as volunteers. Those who haven't made it to the final this year should not be disheartened and should definitely try again next year."

Notes to editors:

Information for possible box on the five interviewed charities:

Brian Curtis / Community Savings:

Brian Curtis has spent thousands of hours on a totally unpaid basis developing Community Savings and helping hundreds of people regain their self-esteem by providing self-help initiatives or a financial helping-hand that makes a real difference to the financially or socially deprived in Jersey.

As well as helping families and individuals, Community Savings now forms part of La Moye Prison's prisoner rehabilitation programme, providing mentoring and savings services to prisoners, thereby helping to reduce re-offending upon release.

All of the work undertaken by Community Savings is focused on directly or indirectly helping the Island's community and nobody is turned away.

Brighter Futures

Brighter Futures helps families break the cycle of social disadvantage by uniting them, giving them life skills and refreshing their sense of value and self-worth.

Brighter Future's motto is "Think Family" and the team passionately believes that with the right support, even the most vulnerable Jersey families can turn their lives around. The organisation aims to build stronger families in the belief that they will create a stronger social fabric and cohesive community spirit.

Working with up to 170 families every week and helping many into employment or further education, Brighter Futures' work usually goes unseen by the wider public even though its effects have a positive impact on the whole community.

Jersey Special Gymnastics Club

Founded in 1991, the Jersey Special Gymnastics Club aims to provide children and adults who have intellectual and learning difficulties with the opportunity to participate in the sport of gymnastics.

Currently, the club has 25 gymnasts aged between 5 and 35 years old. The club has built up an international reputation as a centre of excellence for disability gymnastics and its senior ladies' and men's division top gymnasts achieved gold medal positions at the 2011 Special Olympics in Athens.

The club's coaching staff and the supporting committee operate on a purely voluntary basis.

The League of Friends

The League of Friends is a voluntary organisation that raises money for the Hospitals Group by running a shop, café and trolley rounds in the General Hospital and trolleys in two day centres.

Set up over 30 years ago, the League has raised almost £700,000 and some of its volunteers have been helping for over 25 years.

The League has helped the Hospitals Group in many ways including, in just the past two years, the agreement to purchase two kidney dialysis machines, a donation of £30,000 towards the cost of a baby transport system and two stretchers to help with the transport of patients to the UK.

Silkworth Charity Group

Silkworth Lodge is the only residential treatment centre in Jersey for the treatment of drug and alcohol addiction. Treatment is provided by following a completely abstinence based 12-step programme.

As well as Silkworth Lodge, the Group has sourced two other properties that provide safe alternatives for clients to move onto once they have completed the primary treatment programme.

Unfortunately, Jersey has a high level of chemical dependency, including alcohol consumption rates that are twice that of the UK and the highest in Western Europe.

Silkworth's treatment is effective, of those who undertook treatment in 2009/10, 78% remain clean and sober.

Inspected annually by the Health & Social Services Department in conjunction with a UK inspector, the inspector has, for the past three years, highlighted the fact that if Silkworth were based in the UK, it would be rated among the best residential treatment facilities in the United Kingdom.

Further information about Condor Ferries and its destinations can be found at www.condorferries.com

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About Condor Ferries

Condor Ferries was founded in 1964 and initially operated a passenger service between France and the Channel Islands. In 1987 the first service linking the Channel Islands with the UK was launched and since then Condor Ferries has operated a year-round service connecting the UK through Poole, Weymouth and Portsmouth, the Channel Islands through Guernsey and Jersey and the ports of St Malo and Cherbourg in France.

Condor Ferries operates Condor Vitesse, Condor Express, and Condor Rapide fast cat ferries. In 1999 Commodore Clipper, a conventional car, passenger and freight-carrying vessel was introduced to the fleet to offer an all-weather, year round service. Each year Condor Ferries carries some one million passengers and 200,000 passenger vehicles.

Condor Ferries also operates Commodore Goodwill, as a freight only vessel. The Condor Ferries fleet carries 100,000 freight vehicles into the Channel Islands each year as well as exporting tonnes of local produce.

Condor Ferries is also an active member of the communities within which it operates and supports numerous organisations, sports and charities through sponsorship and travel.

More information about Condor Ferries and its services is available at www.condorferries.com.