



Janette Kirton-Darling Memorial Prize

30th November 2022
Newcastle Cathedral



About Janette

Janette was a business woman, campaigner, life-long advocate for people who's voices are often unheard, beloved mother and wife. Frustrated by the marginalising effect of the political-economic circumstances of the region, she dedicated her life to campaigning for economic, environmental and social justice.

She was someone who took action when she saw things that were wrong and needed changing in the area where she lived.

Janette believed that ending poverty requires power to be shifted to people whose voices are rarely heard in society.

Janette spent several years as a trustee of CENTRIS, where she made a major contribution to the work of the organisation.

Highlighting outstanding community initiatives, this prize is a fitting way to honour her memory.



About the Prize

The Janette Kirton-Darling Memorial Prize showcases how local people from Tyne and Wear can #ShiftThePower in decision making by working with people in power to build the society they want.

The seven applicants for the Prize show that this can be done. All deserve to be lifted up as exemplars of the different ways we can get out of the mess that society is in.

The prize will be awarded to an organisation that has demonstrated outstanding leadership, creativity and impact in developing a local community initiative developing effective means to shift the power to people whose voices are rarely heard in society.

The prize will be for the organisation to use at their discretion in support of their objectives.

The prize is being organised by CENTRIS though its programme on Rethinking Poverty.

The Nominees



Chopwell Regeneration Group

Chopwell Regeneration Group was founded by residents in response to decades of decline in the former mining village. They aim for as many people as possible to be involved in regeneration. Residents come together to revitalise the village by creating opportunities for people to improve their lives and life chances.

They provide support and information to the community, addressing the most urgent challenges through hyper-local, needs-based activity. Community engagement and consultation are central to their work, and they take action where they find out there is a need.

www.chopwell.org

Citizens Advice Newcastle

Citizens Advice Newcastle provide free, confidential and independent advice to people who live, work or study in Newcastle. Advisors provide the guidance people need to make decisions that are right for them and offer practical support. Their work particularly addresses the needs of those who are least able to help themselves because of poverty, ill health, disability or discrimination.

Utilising research, campaigning and community organising, they identify emerging issues, seek to understand what is causing them and then campaign and influence decision makers to change policies and practice.

www.citizensadvice-newcastle.org.uk

The Nominees



Dwellbeing Shieldfield

Dwellbeing Shieldfield, in the East of Newcastle, is a community charitable co-operative for people of all ages and backgrounds. They share life together, support their neighbours - celebrating and empowering the local community.

They address local issues through creative and participatory approaches, whilst at the same time building understanding of the structural conditions which have led to the problems inherent in the neighbourhood. Residents, community members and partner organisations work together to build the tools, knowledge and resilience to address future urban change.

www.dwellbeingshieldfield.org.uk

Even Better

Even Better, based in Jarrow, is a community-rooted mental health organisation which supports the local community with activities that are led by people with lived experience of mental health issues. They harness the power of community to promote mutual support and wellbeing, while giving agency and voice to people who experience mental health issues.

The twin assets of lived experience and local residence mean that the organization is well-placed to amplify the voices of people who have experienced mental distress, while simultaneously supporting people who are often the most marginalised people in our society.

www.evenbetter.org.uk

The Nominees



International Community Organisation of Sunderland (ICOS)

ICOS is led by and for migrants. They achieve tangible outcomes for individuals and work to improve society's systems to ensure the inclusion of minorities. ICOS work to improve cohesion and reduce prejudice with regular intercultural meetings between migrant people from different backgrounds, including asylum seekers and refugees, and members of the local community.

ICOS work independently and with partners to effect long term and strategic change, ensuring that decision makers understand the issues affecting migrants in the region and respond appropriately.

www.icos.org.uk

Parents and Communities Together (PACT)

Mumspace, run by PACT, is a safe haven for mums in North Shields, who give each other mutual support, build a sense of community and influence change. It has enabled mums, many on low incomes, to develop relationships, to grow in confidence, to become more integrated into the wider community.

Using community organising methodology and working with Tyne & Wear Citizens, they have transformed lives and local assets in the local area to enhance the quality of crucial resources and services, such as Alexander Scotts Park.

www.pact-citizens.org

The Nominees

Racial Justice in Education Action Team

The Racial Justice in Education action team formed after Tyne & Wear Citizens' listening campaign in 2020. Racial Justice in Education was the priority outcome of this listening due to the permeation of racism in society, and the team was formed.

Utilising the National Education Union's (NEU) Anti-Racism Charter, the team ask schools use a listening-based approach to embed anti-racism within the life of their school community. This 'whole school approach' supports schools to identify and then address problems within institutional policy and practice, to further racial justice.

www.citizensuk.org/chapters/tyne-and-wear

Performing tonight... North East Opera

North East Opera began life as part of the national charity Streetwise Opera.

The Conservative MP Sir George Young once said "The homeless? Aren't they the people you step over when you come out of the opera?". This profoundly affected Matt Peacock, who was then determined to create an organisation that used opera in a positive and inclusive way for people who have experienced homelessness.

15 years later, our group is still going strong. This is despite Streetwise Opera having to end its funding to the region, due to the pandemic.

Not deterred by this set back, the group became North East Opera. Based at Middlesbrough, we run weekly workshops and sing all types of music. We welcome everyone to our sessions. Our aim is to give people a voice who otherwise are marginalised in society. We stand proud as a company no matter the music or the venue, inside or outside - if there's a roof - we'll raise it!

www.northeastopera.com

rethinkingpoverty.org.uk

RETHINKING POVERTY

THE WEBB LEGACY

CENTRIS, a small North East based charity, is supporting the Janette Kirton-Darling Memorial Prize as part of its Rethinking Poverty programme.

For more information:

Visit: www.rethinkingpoverty.org.uk

Write to: barryknight@cranehouse.uk

