

SOUTHWARK CIVIC AWARD NOMINATIONS 2017 – SHORT LIST FOR STANDARDS SUB COMMITTEE - ORGANISATIONS

	Nominee	Nominated by	Nomination text	Award
1	Link Age Southwark	Gemma Juma – Link Age	<p>Link Age Southwark is a thriving volunteering charity which helps to create friendly, vibrant, local communities where older people thrive. Through its work connecting older people and volunteers to each other, the charity alleviates loneliness, improves people's quality of life and makes our local community even stronger through volunteering. In the last year, the charity has worked with over 380 dedicated volunteers to support over 550 older people. The charity brings joy, vitality and warmth to people's lives; encourages everyone to share their unique skills, talents and experiences with each other; connects older people to individuals and groups in the communities around them; and brings joy to the lives of hundreds of Southwark residents. Our volunteers and older service users come from backgrounds as rich and diverse as the communities we serve. The average age of the older people we work with is 83; around 20% are over 90 years old and a similar proportion have dementia. We provide volunteer visitors (befrienders); run 23 thriving activity groups; provide odd job support so that people can continue to live independently and happily their own homes; and we run a hugely valued volunteer driving service to help older people stay connected to the communities around them. Last year, our amazing Southwark volunteers gave over 17,000 of their time. Link Age Southwark's work enables communities to support older people and helps communities to thrive. After 23 years of outstanding work, the charity would receive a wonderful boost if the sustained dedication of its volunteers to improve the lives of older people were to be recognised.</p>	Liberty of Camberwell
2	Rotherhithe Shed	Shipra Ogra The London Bubble	<p>Rotherhithe Shed is a free open-to-all project, aimed predominantly at older male residents in Southwark who are experiencing isolation. Since its launch in 2015, 56 people have become participants (including 8 women), 49 of them from Southwark. The Shed offers a social and creative space where members make friends side by side working on creative, practical refurbishing projects. Research suggests that men struggle to make new friends, perhaps more so than women, and the resulting isolation can be disastrous for them, with negative impacts on health equivalent to those associated with smoking, and worse than poor health and obesity .</p> <p>Rotherhithe Shed is purposeful, welcoming and tolerant, made up of 'people who meet for something'. The space and activity develops community and kinship, autonomy, accomplishment and control. It also provides a vital social element when members are welcomed to eat cake and drink tea, share stories</p>	Liberty of Bermondsey

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			and laugh. Through it we see ‘people who meet for something’ turning into ‘people who are friends’ with everything that implies.	
3	New Covenant Church Old Kent Road	Ambrose Omoma Council employee	<p>Since 2015, under their Christmas lunch hamper scheme (each made up of frozen turkey, potatoes, seasonal vegetables, Christmas sweets and treats, non alcoholic wine, and pudding) the church has distributed dozens and dozens of free food hampers to financially struggling and low income families in Southwark. Bermondsey, Elephant and Castle, New Cross, Peckham and Surrey Quays are areas in the borough the church has supported. They have contacted the council, to help them to publicise their scheme. Food hamper beneficiaries include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People suffering from HIV and AIDS through the Ernest Foundation • Several families at UCKG church, Peckham • Homeless and low-income families through Divine Rescue, Thurlow Lodge Community Hall <p>Since 2015, the church has on at least two separate occasions generously waived the cost of the council hiring their church, to hold Old Kent Road Community Forum meetings. The council gave a cumulative total of about £300.00 that we would have paid the church for hiring their hall to local Sickle Cell Charity, Elephant & Castle. The charity’s finance manager has said the funds were used to benefit, and enrich the lives of 50 – 50 Saturday club children. The £300.00 paid for Argos and WHS Smiths vouchers, to support the children’s learning and development, and trips to the Butlin’s and the cinema, and birthday greeting cards.</p> <p>The church has also occasionally held soup kitchens, food and clothing banks, Christmas parties for the elderly at Tower bridge Homes, film shows and barbeques at Hamman Close, and community and family variety days, giving communities opportunities to mingle, and to get to know one another. Their healing and counselling room, support people from all backgrounds, regardless of whether or not they have a faith. Their areas of support covers, depression, anxiety, workplace stress, relationship breakdowns, finance, homelessness, immigration, fear, job security etc.</p>	Liberty of Bermondsey