

Golden Gates Housing Trust press release

30 November 2011



Golden Gates Housing Trust announce winners of first ever Working Together Awards...

A host of local residents and community organisations were on hand this week as **Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT)** celebrated its first ever Working Together Awards. The Awards were to acknowledge the work the Trust's partners and customers carry out in order to create inclusive communities where everyone is valued for their differences. All nominees were voted for by GGHT customers, partners and staff.

The awards ceremony included a presentation from Clifton Robinson, Chief Executive of the Housing Diversity Network and a performance from a group of local Polish schoolchildren who danced to traditional music and wore traditional Polish dress.

The Partner Award was won by TransWirral, an organisation which has provided fee training to GGHT staff in understanding more about the Trans community. Penelope Bassi, Co founder of TransWirral commented: "I am honored to work with GGHT and to win this award. I am looking forward to working with the Trust's staff and customers and answering any questions they may have on the 'trans' community in the future".

Three GGHT customers were also rewarded for their efforts: Roy Humphreys won the Community Champion Award for his work for the Longford Resident Association; Les Stewart won the Individual Achievement Award for his work, which has spanned over decades achieving equal access for disabled people in his area; and Fran Murray won the Excellence for an Involved Tenant award due to her commitment to raising questions around inclusion within her meetings.

GGHT created a special award for Sheila Barber, who sadly passed away in March 2011. Sheila was a GGHT tenant Board member and was also the champion for equality & diversity on the Board. Her husband and son were there to accept the award and to receive a plaque that will be displayed in GGHT's Bank House reception area to commemorate the great work Sheila did around inclusion.

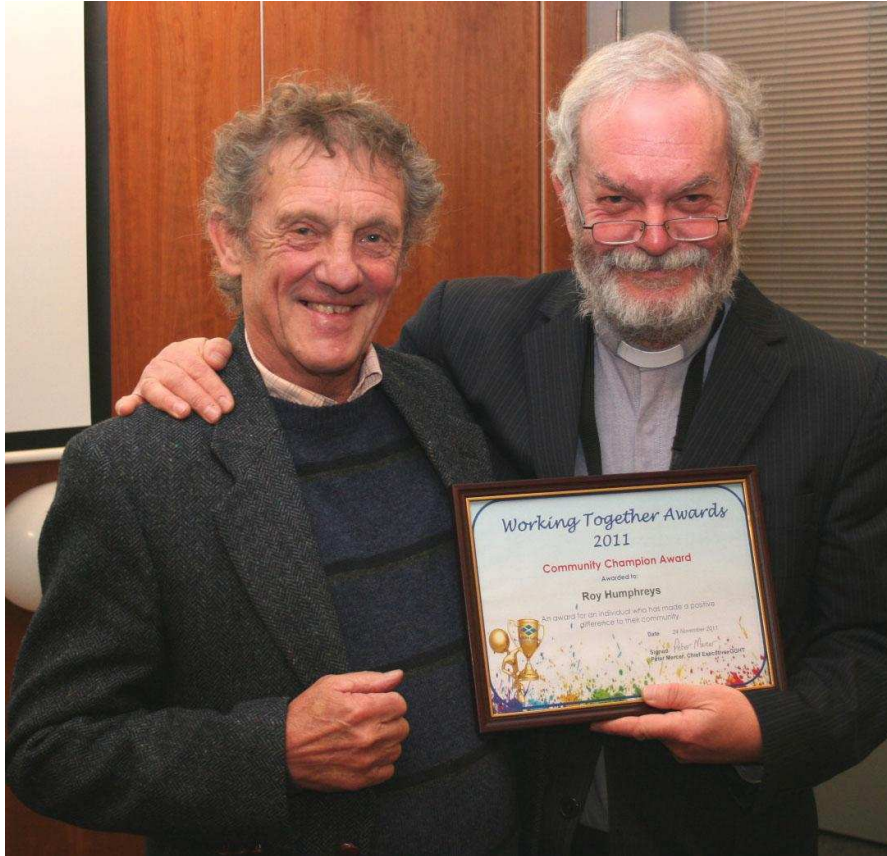
The event was filled with community groups from around Warrington who work with GGHT including Warrington Disability Partnership, The council of faiths, WECA, Older people's forum and LGBT Warrington.

Cam Kinsella GGHT's Equality & Diversity Officer, said: "I am really proud of all our tenants and partners who continually go above and beyond what is expected of them and positively affect the lives of others. I am already looking forward to next year's event to hear what great things have been achieved!"

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Winners of the Working Together Awards along with GGHT Chief Executive Peter Mercer and GGHT Chair Cllr Roy Smith.



Roy Humphries receives his Community Champion Award from Stephen Kingsnorth from the Warrington Council of Faiths.



Penelopi Bassi and Rhodina Prince from TransWirral receive their award for Outstanding Contribution to GGHT in regards to E&D from Dave Connor of Warrington Disability Partnership.



Brian Barber and Mike Barber receive Special Award plaque on behalf of Sheila Barber.



Polish school children perform at the Working Together Awards.

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For further information contact Neil Martin, Communications and Involvement Manager neil.martin@gght.org.uk or phone 0800 25 26 27

About Golden Gates Housing Trust

Golden Gates Housing Trust (GGHT) launched on 29 November 2010, formed as part of the Stock Transfer of 8,700 homes from Warrington Borough Council. The transfer converted the successful Arms Length Management Organisation Golden Gates Housing into a registered provider of social housing.

GGHT will be investing around £105M in tenants' homes and neighbourhoods over the first 5 years and £530M over 30 years to deliver the "Warrington Standard". This Standard has been developed by GGHT's tenants to ensure that improvements and investment is prioritised in the areas that tenants have said are a priority. Plans include the installation of double glazing and secured front and rear doors in all properties over the next five years as well as environmental improvements such as fencing, gates and lighting.