

DEADLINE

Tuesday
April 14
2026



East Lothian
COURIER

**COMMUNITY
CHAMPION
AWARDS 2026**

Celebrating Excellence in your Community

ENTRY GUIDE

#eastlothianchamps26

HEROES



OVERVIEW

The East Lothian Community Champion Awards will recognise, reward, celebrate and honour the achievements and endeavours undertaken each and every day by the local people in the communities throughout East Lothian.

The Community Champions Awards reaches out to the hearts of people in the local communities by acknowledging the courage and selfless acts undertaken to enrich the lives of others. As the East Lothian Courier flagship event, the 2026 awards will give the opportunity for your local heroes to be recognised.

With 12 categories to choose from, that cover every age and area of your community, we want you to see you shine on that stage.



TIMELINE



**ENTRY
DEADLINE**
April 14



JUDGING
May 05



EVENT
June 04

CATEGORIES

ARTS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

An award which recognises the power of the creative arts in building a strong community, this award will be presented to a musician, theatre group, singer, dancer or poet having a positive impact through projects or performances.

BUSINESS CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

This award is to recognise a business that has bolstered the community with its outstanding success in the past year. Judges will be looking for businesses that can demonstrate innovative projects, impressive results and a focus on employee and/or community engagement.

CHAMPION MENTOR OF THE YEAR

This award will celebrate an individual who has gone above and beyond to guide, inspire and support others within the community. Whether it be a teacher, sports coach or community group leader, this person has made a meaningful impact by sharing knowledge, skills and wisdom to help others unlock their full potential.

CHARITY CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

When it comes to charity, Inverclyde is as big-hearted as you can get. This award is for an individual or group who have dedicated their lives to supporting an amazing cause. A chance to recognise the incredible work they undertake tirelessly.

COMMUNITY CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by PureMalt

Rewarding a local individual or group aged 18 and over who go out of their way to help those around them, whose actions are a force for good in making the community a better place.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

This award will be presented to an individual or team working to tackle the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Our winner will be passionate about improving local areas for the benefit of all, perhaps through regular clean-ups, eco-friendly initiatives, or gardening – the sky's the limit.

HEALTH & CARE CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

This award is about individuals and/or teams working together to deliver improved patient care. They can be from any sector but must demonstrate impact, very strong team working, strong communication, and the ability to work across organisational boundaries.

HEART OF GOLD AWARD

Sponsored by PureMalt

This award goes to an individual who has made a contribution of outstanding significance to East Lothian. We will be recognising someone whose actions, achievements, courage or bravery have touched the lives of others and made a difference. We are looking for someone with a true heart of gold.

LITTLE CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

Children in nursery or primary school who have shown bravery, compassion, or exceptional spirit.

SENIOR COMMUNITY CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

We are looking for a local hero or team from the 60 and over age group who, after many years of hard work, continue to devote much of their time to helping other individuals or groups in their community. We want to hear about and reward the work of those special older citizens.

SPORTING CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

For a local individual or team that is making an impact in local sport, either on the pitch or off it. Who is the beating heart of local sport?

YOUTH COMMUNITY CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

We are looking for a group of young people or an individual who are in secondary school (S1-S6), who makes a significant contribution to their local community. They may have fundraised, campaigned on issues which are important to young people or helped others less fortunate. We know kids sometimes get a bad reputation. Tell us now about the kids whose heart is in the right place.



GALLERY



The awards are free to nominate.

**nominate
 TODAY!**

Nominations must be for individuals or organisations who live in, or whose work impacts, the East Lothian region.

You may submit multiple nominations across the different categories, but a separate submission must be made for each.

The judging panel reserves the right to move nominees to a more suitable category.

The closing date for submissions is Tuesday, April 14, 2026.

GET INVOLVED



1

PUT YOURSELF **forward**

Have you achieved something special in the past year that deserves to be recognised? Don't be shy—submit your own nomination.

2

nominate SOMEONE YOU KNOW

Has a friend, teacher, family member, grandparent, or work colleague made a real difference? Celebrate their achievements by nominating them.

3

share THE NEWS

Help spread the word by sharing the link below and encouraging others to enter.

ENTER ONLINE



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www.eastlothiancourier.com/community-champions/

OR EMAIL US YOUR COMPLETED FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE.

ENTRY FORM

Section 1: Your Information

First and Last name

Phone number

Email Address

Section 2: Who are you nominating?

Name of nominated group/individual/business

Contact Name at group/business (if applicable)

Their Phone Number

Their Email Address:

Nominee's Age

Which area does the individual or group live in or operate within?

What category would you like to nominate the group/individual/business for (please tick)?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Champion of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Champion of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Community Champion of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Charity Champion of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Care Community Champion of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Heart of Gold |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Champion Mentor of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Little Champion of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sporting Champion of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Community Champion of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts Champion of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Champion of the Year |

Section 3: Tell us about your nominee

Why are you nominating this individual/group/business? Please give examples of what they have done to better the community.

Section 3: continued

What did this group/individual/business set out to do and what results have been achieved? Give as much detail as possible.

How has their work inspired or benefited others in the community? We would like to hear how their efforts have influenced and helped other people, in a big or small way.

Is there anything else you would like to add? Please list any additional information that supports your nomination here.



Supporting Materials:

Please attach supporting materials to this sheet or email them to charlotte.jebson@newsquest.co.uk with the name of the awards, your name, and your nominees name and email address. Supporting materials can include documents, pictures and/or videos.

Any Questions?

Please contact **Alana Massie**, Events Manager on alana.massie@newsquest.co.uk or **07702807008** with any questions regarding the awards.



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