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Jenny Falla voted Specsavers Unsung Hero

AFTER nearly 600 individual votes, guide leader Jenny Falla has been crowned the 2010 Specsavers Unsung Hero.

This was the second year that the public were invited to vote online for their favourite nominee – someone who works tirelessly for the local community and the service of others. With nearly 400 votes made online and 200 postal votes overall, Mrs Falla was the eventual winner, but with votes spread quite evenly amongst the five shortlisted nominees.

‘This award has become the voice of the Guernsey people and they have shouted out their chosen winner,’ says Dame Mary Perkins, founder of sponsor Specsavers. ‘We were so pleased to see how many votes were cast this year, as well as the number of initial nominations. It really is a lovely award to be involved with.’

Islanders were asked to nominate their unsung heroes and a shortlist was drawn up by a panel, including the Bailiff Sir Geoffrey Rowland.

Mrs Falla has worked tirelessly within the Girlguiding movement for more than 40 years, becoming the first Bailiwick Commissioner in 2002. For Guiding’s 100th anniversary last year, she spent many hours organising events and activities and raising the profile of guiding locally.

‘She is a fantastic lady who deserves an award for her contribution to the younger generation of Guernsey,’ said one voter.

'To look after all the young people, giving them direction, is such a magnificent achievement. She has helped shape the lives of hundreds of young people.'

'A very generous woman, she has changed people's lives. Very kind, always smiling,' read another vote.

The other five short-listed nominees included Joan Ozanne, who has been involved in the arts in the island for more than 50 years; activity nurses at the KEV11 Hospital Shirley Crowson and Patricia Ferbrache; Celia Allen, chair of the Lifeboat Guild and involved with the Samaritans for many years; and Jane Beausire, who has been assisting women undergoing cancer treatments for the last 18 months, helping them with wig choices and styling for hair loss, as well as the use of scarves and make-up tips for eyebrows and eyelashes.

Mrs Falla was presented with a trophy, £3,000 holiday voucher and £1,000 donation to the charity of her choice, both thanks to Specsavers.

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