

## Be Proud Awards

As part of GB's collaborative working partnership with Bramall Construction on the West Gorton Local Authority New Build project (Manchester Framework 1), we jointly sponsored the Manchester Young Person of the Year Award, a category with so many entries two prizes were given, one for individuals and one award for groups.

The Young Person of the Year was part of a wider evening focusing on the good in Manchester and awarded citizens for showing exceptional pride in their city.



» **TOP TEAM** Members of Shave Thing with Southway Housing Trust's Tony Parkinson and ex-City keeper Alex Williams

# The Pride Of Manchester? That'll be us, for Shave...

- Teenagers honoured for community work
- Other neighbourhood champions get awards

**DEBORAH LINTON**

**A** GROUP of teenagers who have dedicated themselves to improving their neighbourhood have been named the Pride Of Manchester.

Shave Thing were given the top gong at a glittering town hall awards ceremony, which saw Manchester's community champions honoured with awards.

The group of Wythenshawe teenagers – whose work has

included volunteering, tackling youth nuisance and setting up elderly people on the Nintendo Wii – were named 'champions among champions' by council chiefs in the annual awards for unsung heroes.

Other winners included Roy Davenport, who was given a Contribution To The Environment Award for transforming a community green space opposite his Clayton home.

Shamshad Khan, won the Good Neighbour Award for work in her Levenshulme street, where she helps an elderly man and welcomes newcomers with a gift and card.

Alan Birchenall won the Respect Award for helping drive down anti-social behaviour and

crime on the Peel Estate in Wythenshawe by setting up a Home Watch scheme.

Daniel Boardman and Jordan Warhurst were each named Young Citizen Of The Year for the clean-up work they do in Harpurhey.

Groups were also honoured – with Friends Of The Fallowfield Loop given a Contribution To The Environment Award for transforming a disused railway line.

Cheetham Hill's Abraham Moss Warriors Football Club were presented with the Sporting Achievement Award by former Manchester City goalkeeper Alex Williams.

Shave Thing were given the Contribution To The Community Group Award before going on to be named Pride Of Manchester.

Shave Thing's chairman, Joe Maguire, 17, from Sharston, said: "When we heard our name I felt full of pride. I had tears in my eyes. It's amazing being in Shave Thing – we're all a really close group of friends and without the group we wouldn't have met each other. We're the voice of younger people in our area and it would be great if every community had a group like ours."

Winners were treated to a gala night, including dinner, dancing

and a magic show. Mark Hackett, the Lord Mayor Of Manchester, described the nominees as 'ambassadors' for the city.

He said: "You go a long way to improving the lives of others in your neighbourhood and we are all extremely proud of you all." Coun Hackett said more than 250 nominations had been received by people who wanted to see their community heroes honoured.

Presenting the Pride Of Manchester award, Vicky Rosin, the council's director of neighbourhood services, said: "It makes me really proud recognising these outstanding citizens. They are people who make our neighbourhoods places people really want to live."

**'When I heard our name I felt full of pride'**