

THE BEE LADY

Jean Bishop - aka 'The Bee Lady' is a fundraising legend in Hull:

Jean became involved with Age UK in Hull in the early 1990's. She quickly realised what a difference the charity made to so many people and between then and 2021 she raised over £120,000 for Age UK.

Dressed in her stripy bee costume, complete with antennas, Jean spent many hours out in all weathers with her collecting tin in and around Hull. Even a spell in hospital after a fall didn't stop her for long.

Her accolades, mementos and awards are many:

In 2012 at the age of 90, she carried the Olympic Flame as part of the relay through Yorkshire.

She was voted the Fundraiser of the Year at the Pride of Britain Awards in 2013. (This was also the year she was honoured with that special striped phone box).

The judges had this to say about her: 'When most people retire it's time to put their feet up. But Jean is out whatever the weather to put a smile on people's faces, and raise money for an excellent cause. She's a wonderful example to the rest of us'

In 2017, the Hull City Year of Culture, she received the MBE, and dined with the queen. Taking it all in her stride, as you might imagine! That same year she was given the Honorary Freedom of the City of Hull.

In 2018 a statuette of her was unveiled in the Lord Mayor's Parlour in the Hull Guildhall, one of 25 new sculptures recognising inspirational women across England.

Little wonder the people of Hull are very proud of Jean Bishop and took 'The Bee Lady' to their hearts. I think you will agree, few could be more deserving of that "special phone box". Although Jean sadly passed away in October 2021, her legacy of service to the people of Hull will live on.

In July 2018 **The Jean Bishop Integrated Care Centre** was open in by the NHS. It was purpose built as one of the first centres in the UK to specialise in dealing specifically with the frail and elderly. It provides same day, on site multidisciplinary assessments, on-site diagnostics and personal care plans aimed at preventing hospital admissions and helping the clients lead more independent lives.

What a tribute to a wonderful lady.