**The Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire makes final call for nominations for the**

**2023 Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service**

The Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire, The Lord Shuttleworth KG KCVO, today made a final call for Lancashire residents to nominate outstanding voluntary groups in their area for the 2023

Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service before this year’s 15 September deadline.

This prestigious UK National Honour, which has the equivalent status to the MBE, recognises the exceptional contribution made to local communities by groups voluntarily devoting their time for the benefit of others. In June this year, six outstanding Lancashire groups were announced as amongst the recipients of the 2022 Award from nominations made from across the UK. These groups were nominated by members of the public.

Although the window for 2023 nominations has been open since April, there is still time to submit a nomination before the closing date of 15 September. Nominations can be made by visiting <https://qavs.dcms.gov.uk/>

Mr Terry Hephrun, Deputy Lieutenant and Chairman of the Lancashire Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Advisory Panel, said: “I was delighted to see Lancashire have a good number of nominations and successes in the 2022 Awards; six organisations from across the County were successful. The Awards were presented by the Vice Lord-Lieutenant at a County Hall Ceremony in July. The Lancashire Panel has been working hard to sustain that momentum for next year.

“The Award recognises excellence in volunteering and the six chosen organisations are great examples of the strong voluntary sector we have in Lancashire. This year has again been a demanding one for all of us, but the voluntary sector has responded magnificently to the challenges presented by the pandemic. Voluntary Groups in Lancashire deserve to be recognised.

“In the nineteen years since it was created by Her Majesty to mark the occasion of her Golden Jubilee in 2002, 83 groups from Lancashire have received The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service.

“Past winners report that receiving the Award has enhanced their reputation, encouraged pride in their volunteers, helped with recruitment and even made a difference to fundraising.”

**This year’s winners from Lancashire are:**

**Friends of Rhyddings Park, Hyndburn**

Played a key role in reviving a dilapidated park and transforming its cafe to provide a base for community activities such as gardening, walks, craft, well-being sessions.

**Friends of Stanley Park and Salisbury Woodland**

Providing an impressive range of activities and events to maintain a much-loved green space and bring the community together in a deprived part of Blackpool.

**Church & Oswaldtwistle Rotary**

Improving life for the whole community through an impressive range of environmental, social and youth projects. Goes far beyond fundraising.

**Healthier Fleetwood**

Connecting residents and groups to help them create their own path to improve well-being through meetups, mentoring, sport and arts activities, and mental health support.

**Cedar House Preston**

Providing free counselling across a spectrum of issues (bereavement, domestic abuse, depression, miscarriage amongst others) for the people of Preston.

**New Neighbours Together**

A small specialist charity providing grassroot care and support to Asylum seekers and refugees in Burnley.

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**Notes to Editors**

About The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service

In 2002, in celebration of Her Majesty’s Golden Jubilee, The Queen’s Golden Jubilee Award for Voluntary Service by Groups in the Community was established as part of the UK National Honours system. Its purpose is to recognise groups of individuals who are giving their time freely for the benefit of others. It is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon groups of this kind and is equivalent in status to the MBE. As such, The Queen’s Award not only serves to provide recognition of volunteer groups, but also demonstrates the high respect in which volunteering is held.

The Award is overseen by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. As part of the Cabinet Office, DCMS works across government departments to provide support to voluntary and community organisations.

Groups must be nominated for the award - self-nomination is not permitted. A group (three or more people) can be nominated if it is based in the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. The group has to have been volunteering for the benefit of people in the UK or overseas for at least three years and more than half its members must be volunteers who have the right of residence in the UK. Groups solely concerned with fundraising for charitable purposes are not eligible.

Further details on entrance criteria and the nomination process are available from <https://qavs.dcms.gov.uk/>

Help is available for the QAVS Lancashire Panel, contact <terry.hephrun@btopenworld.com>

Images for the Award are attached as is the montage photo showing all this years Awardees. Further images are also available.

Timeline

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