



Award Nominees 2022

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Community Awards



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Stafford Walking Netball Club



Silkmore Primary Academy



Rising Brook Ground Force



Academy Club



Hearts and Hands Stafford

Welcome

This is our 6th annual awards ceremony, where we will be celebrating the great work that the people of Stafford Borough have done in our community during 2022. Looking at the programme you will see a diverse range of work that has been carried out in the community all across the borough. In many cases, choosing winners proved difficult, due to the overall excellence of nominees.

Welcome

John Marshall

Social Wellbeing

Sponsored by The Community Foundation for Staffordshire

Sustainable Environments

Sponsored by Stafford Chamber of Commerce

Community Action

Sponsored by Veolia

Local Hero

Sponsored by Stafford Industrial Supplies

Sports and Leisure

Sponsored by The Accountsmith

Community Learning

Sponsored by Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group

Judges Awards

Sponsored by Veolia

Commonwealth Games Award

Sponsored by Freedom Leisure

Special Recognition for Services to Stafford Borough

Presented by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Staffordshire,
Mr Ian Dudson CBE KStJ

Closing Words

Councillor Jeremy Pert



SOLVE



Anne Glover



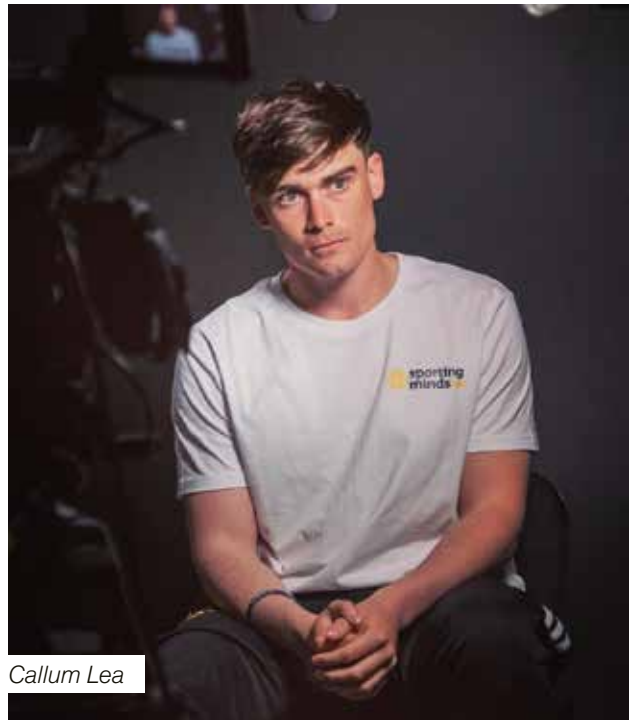
Stone Alzheimer's Drop in Club



Chris Barlow



Veolia, Supporting the Local Community



Callum Lea

Social Wellbeing

Sponsored by The Community Foundation for Staffordshire

Anne Glover

Commonwealth Games Batonbearer

Nominated by Councillor Carolyn Trowbridge

Anne Glover is 81 years old and still very active as a volunteer in her community. She has spent over 25 years in leading a guide group and more recently went back to help with brownies over the last five years. For 30 years she taught exercise for the retired at her local church and now leads a group in the retirement complex she lives in to encourage them to keep mobile. Within the retirement complex she leads a walking group every Monday as well as many outings for the residents. She was the hockey club president for many years and played for Stafford Ladies Hockey Club from a teenager. She has been a foster parent and was a Street Pastor for 10 years - still supporting the group in a variety of ways.

Callum Lea

Commonwealth Games Batonbearer

Nominated by Councillor Carolyn Trowbridge

Callum founded 'Sporting Minds UK', a charity that's supported over 450 young sports people with mental health care and created a community to discuss mental health. Callum, a former Worcestershire Academy cricketer, set up the charity after suffering from his own mental health challenges. His work is supported by high-profile sports stars like Dame Kelly Holmes. He also partnered with 'Bupa Healthcare' to provide one-to-one mental health support for young sports people, which was particularly vital during the pandemic. Callum was recognised by the Prime Minister for his outstanding voluntary service with a Points of Light award in February 2021.

Chris Barlow

Commonwealth Games Batonbearer

Nominated by Councillor Carolyn Trowbridge

Chris is a legend in the Stone running community. He has been active in Scouting for 69 years from Cub to District Commissioner and continues to support young

people to reach their goals. He gave up a successful telecommunications career to become a fundraiser for Acorns Children's Hospice. Chris has also used his passion for running to benefit charities for over 40 years. Chris is the founder of the Stone St Michaels's 10K and has raised money for Stone Guide's project with children in Kenya since 2005. Chris is also a member of Stone Master Marathoners since 1991 and completed almost 100 marathons.

Martin Young

Supporting Stafford

Nominated by Councillor Jeremy Pert

Martin describes himself as a reader, writer, speaker and film watcher. But he is so much more. For the past 23 years Martin has been the senior minister at Rising Brook Community Church. Martin has made Stafford his home and the focus of his ministry. During this time, he has taken the Church to being an outwardly focused organisation supporting many types of people in the local area - from the young families needing creche facilities through to those lonely and isolated needing a warm place to go with a bright welcome and friendly ear to listen.

Building on this is the Rising Brook cafe, which houses a multi agency hub, supported by the Mental Health Trust practitioners and the Borough Council's Housing Options officers and Tenancy Sustainment Officers. Turning an organisation to support their community wholeheartedly takes bravery, courage, conviction and leadership to get people engaged, motivated and going in similar directions.

It was during the first few days of the pandemic that Martin and his organisation volunteered to provide food through emergency food parcels to anyone in the community that needed them across Stafford Borough, delivering and offering support, through an enlarged volunteer base and through the church network, as required. Martin retired as senior minister at Rising Brook Community Church in July 2022. Anyone who was touched by him knew they had known someone who cared deeply and helped others before himself. Every time you had a conversation with Martin you always came away uplifted and enriched.

SOLVE (Stafford Organisation of Local Volunteers Events)

Nominated by Stephanie Barnes and June Holbrook

SOLVE was formed by volunteers from the Covid 19 vaccination programme originally operating from Stafford County Show Ground. The group wanted to continue to work together for the good of the community on a voluntary basis. The project has been supported both managerially and financially by GP First Ltd which is a Federation of all GP Practices in Stafford & surrounding villages. The group currently offers a social 'cafe' event once a month for those who suffer from social isolation or loneliness whether that be through Covid lockdowns, bereavement, illness, re-location, or anxiety. They wanted to address and support these conditions from a social perspective rather than from a clinical angle. All GP Practices in Stafford and its surrounding villages are invited to make referrals to the scheme which can be made by any member of their Primary Care Health Teams. Transport is offered to and from the venue to guests. They receive a light homemade lunch, enjoy speakers on interesting topics, take part in a fun quiz, and given the opportunity to participate in crafts and games. The session ends with a hot drink, homemade cakes and a good old fashioned sing song. In August they welcomed 32 guests with numbers increasing rapidly by month and now have around 65 residents on their attendance list.

Stafford and District Carers Holiday Trust

Nominated by Michelle Evans

Stafford & District Carers Holiday Trust began in 2017 to provide holidays for unpaid carers to have a full break away from the home. It was set up by John Turner an unpaid carer himself along with Stafford's former MP Mr Jeremy Lefroy. John realised early on in his caring role that unpaid carers were getting lost and forgotten about despite the very vital support they provide. This year has been its most successful yet as all of the schools holiday weeks were taken with many other weeks utilised. The trust provided holidays to unpaid carers initially but found that some carers were

reluctant to leave the cared for in respite care so with the help from the National Lottery they have been able to purchase an adapted disabled caravan in 2021.

Stafford Brigades Youth Marching Band Free Places for New Members

Stafford Brigades Youth Marching Band is a youth charity. Their project is to encourage more members to get involved and relieve the pressures of cost to parents due to the current economic crisis. They aim to be able to provide free places for new members which include registration to the Boys Brigade, uniform, and instrument loans. Music as a hobby can be quite expensive and they recognise that there are children and young people missing out on the opportunity to learn an instrument due to costs involved. The project reaches out to all the community and encourages more children and young people to learn new skills, make new friends, have new experiences, and help them grow in confidence and self-esteem. Music can have a powerful impact on a person's mental health and can encourage those children who may be struggling in school or at home to have a hobby where they can be themselves and around others who may be going through similar experiences without being judged.

Stone Alzheimer's Drop in Club

Nominated by Michael Ellis

Coping with Alzheimer's and dementia is never easy, it is a cruel brain disorder that slowly destroys memory and thinking skills and, eventually, the ability to carry out the simplest tasks. Sufferers and carers often live an insular life so greatly value the opportunity to meet others with similar issues. The Stone Alzheimer's Drop in Club is vibrant, fun, happy and welcoming - it's a place for friendships. Since 2006 it has played a vital role within the communities in and around Stone. The amazing and committed volunteers provide suffers of Alzheimer's and Dementia, along with their carers, a place to meet in a safe, caring and relaxing environment. The enthusiasm within the club is infectious. It raises spirits and is the highlight of the

week for many. Sufferers, even those with advanced symptoms, can benefit from the activities provided by the club. It is recognised that carers often find their situation challenging so being able to meet with others facing similar issues is an important function of the club. No other group in the community provides this support - which resulted in the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2017. From entering the room, the welcome and happy faces put all at ease. As well as providing tea, coffee and biscuits, a range of activities take place such as group singing, entertainers, playing cards, dominoes and bingo.

The 70:70:70 Challenge Supporting the Local Community

Nominated by Councillor Jeremy Pert

Andy Stone is a 41 year old climbing instructor from Eccleshall. He is a recovered addict, who has battled mental health issues and addiction for several years and been sober for seven years. During lockdown, Andy wanted to raise the profile of mental health and addiction and resilience to show there is life after addiction. At his worst he could never have imagined doing multiple triathlons. However he planned to complete the 70:70:70 challenge - a 1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike ride and 13.1-mile run each day for 70 days. The first triathlon took place in April, with the final event planned for June 2022. It would have set a new Guinness World Record for consecutive 113km triathlons and the number of 113km triathlons in a year. During the challenge Andy battled multiple ear and toe infections and complete body exhaustion and was forced to have a break when he could no longer walk, let alone run. But within days he was back into his stride and instead aimed for a World Record for 35 consecutive 70.3-mile triathlons, and the record for the most of that distance in a year. In being open and very public about his challenge, people rose to support Andy every step of the way, helping raise awareness of mental health and addiction and supporting others going through similar issues to him. Andy's story helped others recovering from mental health and addiction problems, he had achieved something World-Class, which touched the lives and emotions of many, and in the process raised more than £14,250 towards mental health and addiction charities.

Veolia UK Supporting the Local Community

Nominated by Councillor Mark Winnington

There are 67 staff at the depot ranging from the collection crews through to administration and management. The collection crews play an important part in the community and sometimes they are the only people that some of the more isolated residents see. The crews have helped vulnerable residents, administered first aid, and called ambulances where needed. This social responsibility is something that the crews take pride in and they wanted to be able to do more and give back to the local community where they could. The crews and staff started to collect food items for local charities. They have raised 7k for charity by collecting real Christmas trees and have arranged around 450 Christmas selection boxes and easter eggs. As well as food they also collect toiletries, books, colouring pencils etc to distribute to families in need. They start gathering items in September and deliver in early December for pre-Christmas distribution.



The 70:70:70 Challenge



Silkmore Primary Academy



Rising Brook Groundforce



Hixon Green and Clean



Sue Kneill-Boxley

Sustainable Environments

Sponsored by Stafford Chamber of Commerce

Hixon Green and Clean

Nominated by Nigel Baxter

Hixon Green and Clean was founded in February 2020 after like-minded people came together over concerns about littering in the village. They wanted to improve the environment, both for residents and wildlife. As covid restrictions reduced, they organised socially distanced litter picks taking advantage of less traffic along the main roads going through Hixon. They have also linked up with similar nearby groups and have involved the local Scouts and primary pupils in litter picking.

Essential has been the link with the borough council, which provided litter picking equipment and Streetscene for collecting rubbish. Hixon Green and Clean have created a Facebook page, website and logo and hold a monthly litter picking session, as well as cleaning up after village events and many members do more in their own time. They always try to recycle as much of the collected rubbish as possible, and both this and last year recycled about 75% of that collected at events. They are also working on projects to sow wildflowers and plant trees.

Rising Brook Groundforce

Nominated by Councillor Anne Hobbs

The Rising Brook Groundforce is a collective of individuals involved in a wide range of environmental and ecological issues who really care about the environment, not only in Rising Brook, but also across Stafford Borough.

The group campaigns for improvements to be made to the environment and the ecology, provides a local forum for a wide range of opinion and expertise to be expressed about environmental and ecological matters in Rising Brook and Stafford Borough. They regularly litter pick all around Rising Brook and have removed bikes and pushchairs from the brook, some of the bikes have been passed on to 'Back to Bikes' to be repaired and used again. They have also marked out areas to be allowed to grow naturally with no mowing, to encourage Bees and Wildlife around Burton Manor Square.

Silkmore Primary Academy Tiny Forest

Silkmore Primary Academy have planted over 600 trees alongside Severn Trent tiny forest plans. They have also planted wildflowers and saplings in their Forest school area to promote biodiversity and encourage insects in the field area of their school.

Children visit the forest school area everyday and they use the area for activities, as an outdoor classroom and as a reading area to promote health and well-being for over 200 children many of whom live in an underprivileged area. They have access to the outdoors and learn to take care of the environment and also learn how the environment can benefit their health and care for the future. It provides an area for children to play, learn and feed the curiosity that children naturally have.

It's so important to get children out in their environment and learning how to be sustainable and care for the wildlife that comes with it.

Sue Kneill-Boxley Commonwealth Games Batonbearer

Nominated by Councillor Carolyn Trowbridge

Sue has worked tirelessly for the Countryside Charity CPRE Staffordshire for several years, with the aim of protecting and enhancing the countryside and encouraging the community to appreciate it more through walking and running in it, organising photo competitions, litter-picking, rural poetry and dealing with threats regarding loss of the environment.

During lockdowns she has put together packs for children stuck at home, including colouring materials and information about the countryside. She is a keen runner in her free time, especially on Cannock Chase.

One of her main projects is promoting the long distance footpath, The Staffordshire Way, for which she ran a 7 mile relay leg on Staffordshire Day.



AEDdonate



32nd Stafford Brownie Pack



Eccleshall Voluntary Car Scheme



Hearts and Hands Stafford



Stafford and Surrounding Towns Helping Ukraine

Community Action

Sponsored by Veolia

AEDdonate Placing Defibrillators in the Local Community

Nominated by Amber Mottershead

AEDdonate is committed to improving survival from out-of-hospital cardiac arrests by supporting the placement and use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in local communities. There are around 3,700 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests each year in the West Midlands, with only 1 in 12 people surviving so having defibrillators located in local communities is really important. Communities can fundraise or purchase an AED which can then be registered with their local Ambulance Trust for use in an emergency.

Not only have this charity gone above and beyond by placing nearly 2000 defibrillators into local communities nationally, but they are also looking at innovative ways that they can look out for communities such as the volunteer program. This raises additional awareness on defibs but helps with mental health issues as well as isolation and social issues. This gives people an added chance to be able to gain experience in opportunities that they may not usually have.

Doing My Bit to Support Those in Ukraine

Nominated by Councillor Jeremy Pert

The events of Thursday 20th February 2022 are etched on all our minds as they are for many across the World, when Russia invaded Ukraine. The aftermath of these events will be felt long into the future and have physically touched the lives of many. Many people have responded to this unfolding catastrophe by pledging their help and support. One Staffordshire youngster - aged 9 years of age - decided to do whatever he could to raise money to support Ukrainian Refugees. After much thought he decided to create a calendar to sell to friends and family. He went around taking photographs and arranging them and came up with his calendar, which he speculatively arranged a print run for. Not satisfied with just passing the profit

from each calendar to the humanitarian relief effort, Josh secured sponsorship for firstly the calendar and then every individual month from local businesses, who could show their support for the people of Ukraine as well as Josh's imaginative initiative. His calendar went on to sell out and to date he has enlisted organisations locally to sell the calendar on his behalf and has raised over £2,600 towards the Ukrainian humanitarian appeal.

Eccleshall Voluntary Car Scheme

Nominated by Councillor Peter Jones

It became clear that there was a need for the provision of transport for medical appointments for the people of Eccleshall and in 2018 local people banded together to set up the Eccleshall Voluntary Car Scheme. A number of people joined as voluntary drivers and Joy Jones became the scheme co-ordinator. As the popularity of the scheme increased the scheme took on clients from just outside the Eccleshall parish where there was no such scheme. People living on their own have found the scheme useful, not only do the drivers provided a transport service but also a little social interaction along the way. The scheme charges a set fee for journeys based on the length of the journey, and covers both collection and return journey - with waiting time included at no extra cost.

Hearts and Hands

*Nominated by Councillor Christine Baron
and Councillor Ann Edgeller*

Hearts and Hands Stafford was set up in October 2020 providing surplus food for people in Stafford who were going through hard times during the Coronavirus pandemic. Since then, it has grown from strength to strength and now operates throughout the borough.

Lorraine and Kate run this operation tirelessly by obtaining surplus food from supermarkets and delivering to various outlets in Stafford Borough and they also have a donation unit located in Stafford. The hard work and dedication by volunteers deserves recognition as many people would be hungry if it was not for the help they provide.



Hearts and Hands Stafford



Margaret Ainsworth-Hickman



Signpost (Stafford) Limited



McLean Restaurants Ltd

Margaret Ainsworth-Hickman Commonwealth Games Batonbearer

Nominated by Councillor Carolyn Trowbridge

Councillor Margaret Ainsworth-Hickman is a very well-respected member of her community. Her activities in the community include Chairman of Chebsey Parish Council. She is an active volunteer for Eccleshall carers and during the covid pandemic, completed over 1,500 shopping trips for vulnerable people.

Margaret is an active member and fund raiser for Friends of Norton Bridge (Community Group) raising funding of £50k for refurbishment of Recreation area in Norton Bridge, Co-Founder of Chebsey Historical Society securing over £10k from Heritage Lottery Fund for 'WW1 and beyond project.'

McLean Restaurants Ltd Love Where you Live

McLean Restaurants Ltd operates three McDonald's restaurants in Stafford and the teams do their bit to be as environmentally friendly as possible. This includes hosting recycling stations on their dining areas and recycling discarded frying oil to be used by lorries as Biodiesel. This initiative has seen over 4.2 million litres of oil recycled and 7500 tonnes fewer of CO2 emissions annually.

The teams have cleaned up areas of the local community and completed litter picks in the borough. All three restaurants worked together to complete a big river clean up in the River Sow. Each restaurant completes at least 3 "trash walks" around their local area every day, that is 1092 litter picks a year covering 273,000 meters. The teams helped to clean up the Blessed William Howard School's memorial garden and the children are encouraged to help on some of their campaigns. They have also constructed birdboxes donated to the National Forest, parks, woodland and forest schools and worked in partnership with other local organisations and charities to raise awareness about the importance of looking after the environment.

Rising Brook Baptist Church Information and Guidance Project

Nominated by Nichola Reeves

The information and guidance project has been running for 4 years, it was started solely by Patricia Evans Nixon, the project has helped many in crisis and benefits the community by helping the people get what they are entitled to, whether it is Personal Independence Payment, Universal Credit, arrears, or helping them with housing applications.

Pat gives up 2 days a week of her time to help as many people as she can, some of whom have mental health issues and physical disabilities and are unable to complete the forms themselves so the support that she provides to them is crucial.

Signpost (Stafford) Limited Signposts-Services

Nominated by Dianne Corson

Since Signposts (Stafford) was started in 2007, their goal has always been to provide a range of services to support any individuals experiencing the effects of disadvantage and isolation. Services and support can operate from various locations, allowing them to provide support to more individuals.

The five projects, under the umbrella of Signposts-Services, are Foodbank, Storehouse, Crash, Open House and Information and Guidance. These provide food and furniture to those in need, assistance with DIY or gardening, a lunch club for over 65s, and support for individuals with financial needs eg. debt or claiming benefits.

Signposts-Services benefits the community in a number of ways and individuals are helped with practical and physical needs. Providing multiple services under one charity results in a more holistic service, addressing not only physical but emotional needs, and increasing connection - which is much needed in these times where communities are often fractured and people very isolated.



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Stafford communities!



**£1.3M AWARDED ACROSS
STAFFORD BOROUGH**

Stafford & Surrounding Towns Helping Ukraine Supporting Ukrainian Families

Nominated by Lianne Al-Khalidi

This project started with a post on Facebook to support families in crisis as the war on Ukraine took hold overnight. The team sprang to support families and the Ukrainian people through securing storage and sending a 10-tonne lorry to the Ukraine in under a week. Jane and Marzena created an Amazon wish list, organised, boxed and labelled donations in English, Polish and Ukrainian. Whilst the borders began to be overwhelmed the group switched tactics, launched a fundraising page and twinned with Lidzbark, a Polish town that supported and hosted Ukrainian families. The formidable team raised over £4000 sending laptops for children to continue their education. The team moved to support families relocating to the UK, buying essentials with the funding, supporting those volunteering to relocate families and ensuring arrivals had all essentials required. As the project developed and families arrived, they set up a thrift shop for people to come and collect clothing, toys, essential items free of charge, but with a range to choose from. This project has supported families, host families, and ensured mental health and wellbeing support, as well as essentials, have been accessible. They have broken down language barriers by enlisting volunteers and given guidance on paperwork and the facilities and groups available to ensure that no one feels isolated.

Staffordshire Women's Aid ForWard House Refuge

Staffordshire Women's Aid is a local charity, currently celebrating their 45th year of supporting victims of domestic and sexual violence in Stafford. They were delighted to open their refuge ForWard House in 2016 which provides 12 self-contained flats, as well as extensive communal facilities, such as a children's playroom. In 2020, due to increased demand because of the pandemic, a further 4 units of dispersed refuge accommodation were opened in Stafford. The self-contained flats mean that larger families, those with complex needs, mental health issues or disabilities, and those with older boys, can access safe refuge.

The refuge not only provides a safe space for families who have lost their homes due to domestic violence, but also provides an environment in which women and children are able to access the choices and facilities which enable them to make the complex journey from victim to survivor. The Support Practitioners provide practical and emotional support, and work to re-build the confidence and self-esteem which so many women and children lose, because of domestic violence. Specialist children's support enables young people to access schools and other resources and works to help them voice their fears and experiences, as well as rebuild their hopes and aspirations.

32nd Stafford Brownie Pack Jubilee Street Party

The 32nd Brownie pack wanted to provide a free safe environment for the Brownies to enjoy a Jubilee Street party as some of the families struggle for money and extra activities are not something they can normally afford. The event allowed all Brownies to attend free of charge, they provided some fantastic food, a magician, table decorations and a small gift which they could treasure. The run up to the party saw the girls make many jubilee crafts and decorations. The leaders created a cardboard cut-out of our late queen and guards for photo opportunities. The event is something that hopefully the girls will remember for a long time and the lasting memory will be one of being able to spread a little joy to those who were struggling.



Staffordshire Women's Aid



Gavin Tauch



Councillor Bethan Smith



Honor Sutton



Sandie McQueen

Local Hero

Sponsored by Stafford Industrial Supplies Limited

Bethan Smith - Brocton Parish Council Community Events Within Brocton

Nominated by Jill Davies

Councillor Smith has worked tirelessly within the community of Brocton to help create a strong sense of community by the setting up community events.

Over the past 12 months Councillor Smith has been the main lead for several events, such as Halloween 2021, Christmas 2021, Easter 2022 and more recently the Queens Platinum Jubilee. All these events have been so very well received within the community and the approach taken has been an inclusive one, to ensure that everyone within the Parish can participate, if they wish to do so - arrangements were available for the less mobile.

Councillor Smith works full time as a teacher, has two small children, and has demonstrated an enthusiasm and positive attitude to ensuring these events happen. She regularly goes above and beyond to encourage bringing the community together, which supports the creation of wellbeing within the Parish. Her efforts help address social isolation, by encouraging engagement and help create a real sense of community.

Gavin Tauch Hidden Warriors and Befriending Project

Nominated by Councillor Ann Edgeller

Gavin is a pillar of the community raising money for various projects. Gavin organises a s project where everyone is welcome, he provides people with a meal at no cost to them.

Gavin is also a qualified chef so very often he uses his culinary skills when providing a hot meal. He cares for the community and looks after people that are suffering from loneliness and isolation and in short, brings the community together so they feel needed and wanted.

Honor Sutton Operation Comfort- the Comfort Project

Nominated by Guy Sutton

Honor is an inspiration to everyone who meets her, as well as being a wonderful role model to others. Her campaigns, completely thought up by herself, went above and beyond what a 14-year-old would usually achieve.

Honor launched Operation Comfort during lockdown. She raised over £1,000 in total for three local charities. For her first campaign Honor also wrapped and filled around 60 giftbags and boxes filled with toiletries, essential items and treats to donate to three charities and help those in need.

Honor was named a Staffordshire's youngest Superheroine by the Soroptimists for going above and beyond as she asked for donations instead of her own Christmas presents to buy Christmas dinner for the most vulnerable and also got support from National companies for her projects. Altogether she has helped around 200 people in the Stafford area through her tireless work.

Jamie Richards AEDdonate - helping fund and place defibrillators in the community

Nominated by Amber Mottershead

This project started with Jamie working in the emergency services himself, and quickly realising that there is a lack of defibrillators in all local areas.

This project benefits many communities nationally, Jamie has made an exceptional effort to help provide defibrillators to communities across Stone and Stafford. The project not only benefits all members of the community but AEDdonate has worked exceptionally hard post-pandemic to ensure that they have a volunteer program that helps social isolation and social issues.



Paul Milgate-Scarrott



Pat Walker



Kerry McQuillin

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Kerry McQuillin

Stafford Community Social Supermarket

Nominated by Robin Bell

Stafford Community Social Supermarket provides reduced-price food supplied in part via Fare Share, to anyone in the community, and also serves as a food bank. This is an essential and, in some cases, literally life-saving project that helps people on limited incomes feed themselves and their families with fresh, healthy food and personal hygiene and healthcare products.

Kerry, coordinates the team of at least a dozen volunteers and organises the store rooms and the deliveries, she handles the incoming deliveries from suppliers, whether they be Fare Share, the major supermarkets or local organisations such as the Fire Service. What is exceptional about Kerry is her dedication, her capability, and her demeanour. Despite the demands of her own young family, Kerry regularly puts in more than full-time hours, she goes way above and beyond what is required. Her work and her well-run happy team benefits the local community.

Lorraine Conkey

Stafford Walking Street, Tuesday Club and Hearts and Hands

Nominated by Councillor Christine Baron

Lorraine began Stafford Walking Street a few years ago. This is a monthly event and this year she has also held a Jubilee Street Party in the town centre. For many years she has also held the Tuesday Mixer club which brings people together as well as being entertained by fascinating speakers and music. As well as that she has organised Hearts and Hands Stafford which provides food and clothing for those in need, this project has been going since 2020. Lorraine has put in a lot of hard work and dedication for the community as well as caring for her neighbours and many other projects. Nothing stands in her way and she will work extremely hard for those less fortunate than herself, always remaining cheerful.

Pat Walker

Local Hero Pat Walker

Nominated by Councillor Jenny Barron

Pat Walker is retired and lives alone in the Wildwood area. Pat is a very active member of the community and is always willing to help many residents or any organisation that needs help.

The work Pat does is amazing and she is outstanding.

Paul Milgate-Scarrott

Volunteer Photographer

Nominated by Councillor Christine Baron and Councillor Aidan Godfrey

Paul is a keen and exceptionally talented photographer and over the last 25 years has taken hundreds of photographs for events. He attends many functions within the community as well as having a full time job.

He started fund raising in 1973 at 10 years old. His first project was Sunshine Coaches and has since raised funds for Save the Children, Breast Cancer and other children's charities. He currently supports 33 charities annually. He has helped people in the community to go on holiday and fun days out, by booking and helping people to save for the events.

Paul loves the town in which he has grown up and the people who live in it. He tries to enhance the area and is very proud of where he lives and works. He has arranged fundraising events for many years ranging from sponsored walks to jumping out of an aircraft! He works with local radio station, Windmill Radio, supports older people in his local community with everyday problems like litter picking and waste collection day issues and is also a church warden at St. Mary's. Paul does all this work for the community he feels passionate about and has made very valuable and unique contribution to the life of others in Stafford Borough.



Tuesday Club

AWARD WINNING
CAMPAIGN & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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Recruitment is not just about matching a person to a vacancy it's about matching a personality

44 Eastgate Street, Stafford, ST16 2LY
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Sandie McQueen

Nominated by Michael Ellis

Sandie has devoted herself to helping those in need in the local community. Her commitment and drive to help are infectious and has motivated many others to help and contribute. Sandie has brought in much needed support for many individuals, groups and care homes in Stone. She secured funding to support over twenty Ukrainian refugee families to Stone. She is also the president of the local Rotary Club which organise activities to support all in the community from the young to the very old. Sandie organised a Teddy Bear Picnic and story reading for children at the library which, as a result, saw an increase in borrowers. The Rotary Club donated a bingo machine to the Alzheimer's Club and a speaker system to a care home.

Each Monday, Sandie runs Hub Grub for the lonely, isolated and those unable to buy sufficient food to live. A two-course meal is created for less than fifty pence a head - an amazing effort. Sandie assembles parcels for the food bank and makes tea and coffee for Hub visitors.

As well as being lead volunteer for the Stone Alzheimer's Drop in Club she is involved in many other community activities being motivated by wanting to help others and not for high public profile. Her dynamism and commitment to helping others is clear to see and through her positive and bubbly personality she encourages others to help too. Sandie is, without doubt, a real community hero.

Sue Oulton

Weeping Cross Community Awards

Nominated by Stephen Brown

Sue lives in Widecombe Avenue, Stafford, and works extremely hard month on month to maintain the verges outside her house and along the street. The colour and wonderful arrangement of these verges always makes people smile. She really cares about the local community and deserves praise for all the care, attention, and effort she puts into the display for the street and wider community. She makes you proud to live in Weeping Cross.

Vinnie Rodgers

Be More Vinnie

Nominated by Sarah Martin

Vinnie is a crossing man at West Way in Stafford. He is a gentleman and always very friendly - smiling and waving at everybody that goes past! All wave back to Vinnie, from mums and their children, to men in work vans! He is infectious and you can't help but wave back! He makes everyone smile, is such a wonderful human being and when he is not there the children are devastated not to see him. Vinnie is a local hero because he is not only helping children cross the road safely but spreading kindness during challenging times. He restores hope, portrays a feel-good nature and lifts spirits, even the grumpiest person would come away with a smile.



Sports and Leisure

Sponsored by The Accountsmith

Academy Club CIC Sport and Mentoring in the Community

Established in 2019, Academy Club CIC deliver sport and education programmes in a variety of settings. As a new initiative they are identifying students who are deemed as hard to engage and offering them the opportunity to receive mentoring and workshops.

These young people would be at risk of entering or involved with the criminal justice system, they not only deliver specialised football coaching sessions but also have access to practitioners with years of experience as tutors and youth workers. Whilst delivering mentoring sessions to the young people they can learn new skills and gain additional accredited and non-accredited awards.

With the experiences they have as practitioners they not only deliver high quality football coaching sessions during the week and weekends it is also their aim to offer workshops and mentoring for young people to identified bodies where they feel they can have an impact. They have delivered workshops covering topics such as: the harsh reality of young offender estates, behaviours and consequences, gangs and street violence and county lines.

Jan Gittings Commonwealth Games Batonbearer

Nominated by Councillor Carolyn Trowbridge

Jan has also had a role as a volunteer at the Commonwealth Games in the swimming competition. She is a volunteering superstar. Over the years she has given up a great deal of her spare time volunteering for many worthy causes. She is particularly enthusiastic about volunteering at sporting events and has travelled the country volunteering at swimming, cycling, cricket, netball, canoeing, athletics, football, and rugby competitions.

She always goes out of her way to assist everyone she meets and helps to ensure that each event runs smoothly. She is always very friendly and approachable. She is also a very proud West Midlander.

Sally Kendrick Commonwealth Games Batonbearer

Nominated by Councillor Carolyn Trowbridge

Sally has played coached and managed Netball all her life. She is dedicated to netball and was part of the team who set up Stafford Netball Club with a few volunteers. Recruiting players, coaches and helpers has been a way of life for her. Sally has held various roles in the club. She helped get the club accredited with Sport England, and is instrumental in West Midlands Netball.

Sally was diagnosed with MS in Feb 2019 and has reacted so positively, keeping active and showing she is not going to be beaten by such a horrible disease.

Stafford Walking Netball Club

Stafford Walking Netball Club was established in May 2018 by Laura Colclough. Initial membership was 14 players expanding through word of mouth to currently 46. All members and coaches are proud of the reputation for sport and social interaction. They provide a place for members who may have believed their sporting days were coming to an end. Their project allows members to participate in a sport they may have played in their youth while having fun, building friendships and keeping fit.

Laura is a great netball coach and gives her time and skills endlessly to members. They in turn inspire Laura with their enthusiasm not only for walking netball but for creating friendships and support groups. Members love opportunities that lead them to raise funds for various charities whilst having a great time.

In May 2022 Stafford Walking Netball Club won the West Midlands Team of the Year at England Netball's ONE Awards. This award was presented to a netball club who has made an outstanding contribution within their community through the delivery of Recognised and Authorised Netball activity. It recognises that the club has made a consistent impact within the local community and what they have changed to benefit its members.

Wedgwood Cricket Club Juniors Wedgwood Cricket Club Juniors 2022

Nominated by Gareth Copeland

The Wedgwood Juniors project was started roughly 5 years ago with the aim of giving local young people an opportunity to improve their mental and physical health through the fantastic sport of Cricket. Since the project started, they have grown to a diverse player database of over 400 local children! The players are from diverse backgrounds both economically, racially, and culturally, including some involved with Social Care. This year they launched their first ever women's team and entered girls' teams into tournaments for the first time ever. To help ensure the project is accessible to as many children as possible they have a number of initiatives in place to reduce financial barriers and increase participation: No membership fees, No match fees, Free shirts to represent the club. The project is of huge benefit to the local community in many ways, by providing diversionary activities for school age children, supporting adult learning and retraining, reducing loneliness for all ages and improving the skills of local children.



Sally Kendrick



Jan Gittings



Wedgwood Cricket Club Juniors



Next Engineers Staffordshire

English for All

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Community Learning

Sponsored by Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group

GE Foundation Next Engineers Staffordshire

Nominated by Adem Johnston

The GE Foundation's Next Engineers project is running across Staffordshire and has been designed to inspire local students aged 13-18 into pursuing a career in engineering. Next Engineers launched three successful programmes over the last year, Engineering Discovery, Engineering Experience and Engineering Academy, each offering a tailored learning experience and approach for students. The programme is designed to take engineering essentials and apply them in real-world scenarios, with a wider aim of ensuring the programme is available to all students, no matter of background, the experience is completely free of charge. The three programmes have been designed to introduce all students in the region to the world of engineering and support them in making engineering a viable career option. By investing in the talent of tomorrow, GE believes the Staffordshire-based students can help lead the next generation towards a smarter, greener future, and help develop the local community.



Next Engineers Staffordshire

The Youth Net

Nominated by Debra Tickell

The Youth Net project has grown it into a thriving support group for schools. They work in all the high schools in Stafford, and many primary schools as well. They offer various support in terms of RE, Princes Trust, Mental Health workshops, Enterprise workshops, Debate clubs, Drugs and Alcohol awareness workshops, Money Matters workshops, exam stress etc. They are heavily subsidised by various grants so they can offer a lot of support to schools free of charge. The work The Youth Net carried out in the school community after Covid was also brilliant, they came to every class in the school and talked about issues to do with getting back on track and also mental health. The sessions with The Youth Net helped pupils realise that they were not alone and there were people they could talk to. They are always happy and ready to listen. They never think of themselves or profit, they are there just for the children.

Tony Cooper English for All

Nominated by Gill Dunn

The aim of the 'English for All' project was originally to establish provision for immigrants and refugees to learn English and acquire basic skills. Central to the group is Tony Cooper who has been involved for over ten years. His experience has been invaluable, and he is a central figure in the group. The remit of the group is to teach English as a second or other language, but it does far more than this, it provides a valuable environment where newcomers familiarise themselves with aspects of British customs and culture, beyond language. The existence of the group, and its accumulated experience in welcoming refugees and immigrants, meant that when the war in Ukraine saw so many people fleeing a war zone, the project had, the people and the means to offer a welcome and assistance from the outset. Many refugees have come to Stafford from Ukraine since February and the group has been central to their seamless assimilation into the Stafford community. Beyond language, the group have shown aspects of our community and facilitated ways and means of making contacts and 'joining in'.

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