



Surrey Lieutenancy

# THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

## How to nominate a volunteer group in Surrey

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) is the highest **national award presented to local volunteer groups** across the UK. It was created in 2002 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of HM The Queen's Coronation. **It is the MBE for volunteer groups** and is awarded for the lifetime of an organisation.

## Who receives this Queen's Award?

This national award is presented to exceptional groups of volunteers whose level of initiative and impact are truly outstanding. A successful group will normally have these characteristics:

Brockham Emergency  
Response Team (BERT)  
2018



■ **Volunteer-led:** The volunteers are in the driving seat, setting the direction for the group's work and spotting opportunities to develop it still further each year.

■ **Makes a significant difference to beneficiaries:** The initiative of this group and the efforts of its volunteers have a profound and positive impact on all those who benefit.

■ **Well-run:** There are high standards of governance, financial management and current safeguarding in place.

### ■ Makes a significant

**difference to beneficiaries:** The initiative of this group and the efforts of its volunteers have a profound and positive impact on all those who benefit.



Surrey Hills Society 2019

### ■ Outstanding reputation

**locally:** The group has a high standing in its community and enjoys an excellent reputation with beneficiaries, service providers and other stakeholders.

Stripey Stork 2019



### ■ Exceptional compared with comparable national groups:

This group is likely to be one of the best of its kind in the country.

## Benefits to the volunteer group

The Millennium Embroidery Group 2019

Only the very best volunteers – out of hundreds of nominated groups nationally – receive the QAVS each year. **This is a national badge of**

**excellence** and a real achievement for a volunteering group. It rightly provides an enormous boost to the volunteers, as well as **great publicity for their vital work** with beneficiaries in their local Surrey community.



■ Successful groups are presented with a **domed crystal award** and a certificate bearing HM The Queen's signature.

■ This high-status Presentation is made by Surrey's Lord-Lieutenant or a Deputy Lieutenant, on behalf of HM The Queen.



Friday Swimmers 2019

■ Volunteer groups gain the right to use the QAVS logo on their stationery and other material.

Painshill Park Trust 2011



■ They are invited to nominate two volunteers to attend a **Royal Garden Party**.

■ The names of awarded groups are announced on 2nd June each year in The London Gazette and promoted widely elsewhere by the Surrey Lieutenancy.

## How to nominate a volunteer group

Anyone can nominate a group or write a Letter of Support, with the exception of the group's volunteers, employees, or trustees/patrons/board advisers.

Nominations and Letters of Support are particularly encouraged from beneficiaries of a group's work, or from those who are not involved with the group but who have observed and admired the results of its volunteers' work.

Spelthorne Natural History Society/Friends of Ash Link 2018



**Nominations can be submitted between April and September each year via the QAVS website <https://qavs.culture.gov.uk/>**

The Orpheus Centre 2016



## Which groups are eligible?

Swingbridge Community  
Boats 2018

A nominated group must:

- comprise two or more people;
- have been operational for a minimum of three years;
- have volunteers as the critical mass, occupying at least 50% of roles – although there may be some paid staff, where relevant;



Watts Gallery, Compton 2012



Effingham and District  
community first responders  
2011

- satisfy the most up-to-date requirements for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, wherever relevant.

Certain types of group are not appropriate for nomination, eg animal charities – except where clear benefit to humans and communities is a core purpose of their work – and groups based abroad.



CHASE hospice care for  
children 2011



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**More guidance is available on the QAVS website**  
**[www.qavs.culture.gov.uk](http://www.qavs.culture.gov.uk)**



## Surrey volunteer groups presented with the QAVS since this national award was created

Surrey has a wealth of excellent volunteer groups. Many of them have already been honoured with the QAVS, in recognition of the exemplary work that they do (see list below).

### 2019

Dyscover  
Friday Swimmers  
Guildford Town Guides  
Patchworking Garden Project  
Stripey Stork  
Surrey Hills Society  
The Millennium Embroidery Group

### 2018

Brockham Emergency Response Team (BERT)  
Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC)  
Fairwood Helpers  
Samson Centre for Multiple Sclerosis  
Spelthorne Natural History Society/Ash Link Nature Reserve  
Surrey Wildlife Trust  
Swingbridge Community Boats (part of Surrey Care Trust)  
The Basingstoke Canal Society  
The Swan Sanctuary

### 2017

Farnham ASSIST  
Forest Estate Community Hub Volunteers Group  
Freewheelers Theatre and Media Limited  
Headway Surrey  
Oakleaf Enterprise  
Royal Holloway, University of London Community Action  
Surrey Playing Fields Association  
The Normandy Therapy Garden

### 2016

Bereavement Service of the Princess Alice Hospice  
Brooklands Museum  
Frensham Pond Sailability  
Spelthorne Museum  
Surrey Search and Rescue  
The Orpheus Centre

### 2015

Cherry Trees  
Cobham Conservation and Heritage Trust  
Guildford Street Angels  
Hambledon Village Shop  
Haslemere Educational Museum  
Limbcare  
SAdAS/Catalyst  
Surrey Dolphins Swimability  
The Brigitte Trust  
The Rural Life Centre/Old Kiln Museum Trust  
The West Horsley Wheel of Care  
Holy Cross Hospital

### 2014

Sebastian's Action Trust

### 2013

Guildford Samaritans

### 2012

Ashford & St Peter's NHS Hospital Trust volunteers  
The Lightbox, Woking  
Watts Gallery, Compton

### 2011

CHASE hospice care for children  
Effingham and District County First Responders Scheme  
Oxted and District Link Association  
Painshill Park Trust  
The Stewards of the Surrey County Agricultural Show  
Surrey Drug and Alcohol Care  
Wintershall Estate Play cast

### 2010

Age Concern, Runnymede and Spelthorne

### 2009

Elmbridge Community Link  
Fire and Emergency Support Services  
Ready 4 Action  
Woking Branch of the Alzheimer's Society  
Woodlarks Camp Site Trust

### 2008

Post Pals

### 2006

Children with Special Needs Foundation  
Spelthorne Civic Pride Volunteers

### 2005

East Surrey Domestic Violence Forum  
TALK Surrey  
Surrey Appropriate Adult Volunteer Scheme  
Lighthouse Education Project

### 2004

The Pitstop, Leatherhead  
Surrey Witness Service  
The Fountain Centre, Guildford

### 2003

Leatherhead Swans  
Penrose Club for Adults with Special Needs  
Mytchett Community Association  
Woking Hospice Volunteer Team  
Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice Volunteers  
Epsom & Ewell PHAB



**The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service**

## To find out more

If you would like to have more information and guidance on how to nominate a group for the QAVS in Surrey, please contact: Mrs Caroline Breckell MVO DL, Surrey Lieutenancy Office, Estate Office, Loseley Park, Guildford, Surrey GU3 1HS; tel: 0208 541 9127 or 07968 334549; email: [caroline.breckell@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.breckell@surreycc.gov.uk)