



THE KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

What is The King's Award?

The King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS) is the highest **national award presented to local volunteer groups** across the UK. Created in 2002 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of HM Queen Elizabeth's Coronation, until her death it was The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. **The MBE for volunteer groups**, it is awarded for the lifetime of an organisation.

Who receives this King'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:



■ **Volunteer-led:** The volunteers are in the driving seat, setting the direction for the group's work and steering its future development.

■ **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.

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



■ **Exceptional compared with comparable national groups:** The group is likely to be one of the best of its kind in the country.



Brockham Emergency Response Team (BERT) 2018

Surrey Hills Society 2019

The Lighthouse 2022

Benefits to the volunteer group

The Millennium Embroidery Group 2019

Only the very best volunteers – out of hundreds of nominated groups nationally – receive the KAVS 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** on behalf of their local Surrey community.



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

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



Friday Swimmers 2019

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

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

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

Dorking Museum & Heritage Centre 2021



How to nominate a volunteer group

Spelthorne Natural History Society/Friends of Ash Link 2018

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.



Nominations can be submitted between June and September each year via the KAVS website www.kavs.dcms.gov.uk

Which groups are eligible?

A nominated group must:

- be made up of at least three people;
- have been operational for a minimum of three years;
- NOT have been nominated for a KAVS award in the last three years;
- NOT operate as a national organisation, as KAVS is aimed at local volunteer groups;



Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum 2021

- have volunteers as the critical mass, occupying at least 50% of roles –although there may be some paid staff, where relevant;
- have the appropriate insurance(s) required for its work;
- volunteers have the right of residence in the UK;

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

SERV Surrey & London 2021



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

Sensory Services by
Sight for Surrey 2022



More guidance is available on the KAVS website
www.kavs.dcms.gov.uk



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for Voluntary Service**
The MBE for volunteer groups

To find out more

If you would like to have more information and guidance on how to nominate a group for the KAVS 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

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).

2022

The Lighthouse, Woking
Sight for Surrey
Include.org

2021

Dorking Museum & Heritage Centre;
Emerge Advocacy;
Mid Surrey Community Fridges;
SERV Surrey & South London;
Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum (SMEF)

2020

Riverside Arts centre, Sunbury-on-Thames
Walton Firs Foundation and Activity Centre, Cobham

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
Hambleton Village Shop
Haslemere Educational Museum
Limbcare
SAdAS/Catalyst
Surrey Dolphins Swimobility
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



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