

# 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:

Brockham Emergency Response Team (BERT) 2018



■ 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.



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.



■ Exceptional compared with comparable national groups:

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

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.

- 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.

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 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

Friday Swimmers 2019

### 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.

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 and Letters of



Spelthorne Natural History Society/Friends of Ash Link 2018

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;
- <u>NOT</u> have been nominated for a KAVS award in the last three years;
- <u>NOT</u> operate as a national organisation, as KAVS is aimed at local volunteer groups;



 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;

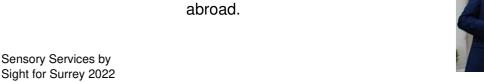
Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum 2021

■ 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.





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



#### 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

Hambledon 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 Ğallery, 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 MBE for volunteer groups