

RICHMOND'S

COMMUNITY

HEROES AWARDS 2022



COMMUNITY HEROES AWARDS 2022

EVENT PROGRAMME





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Richmond upon Thames' annual Community Heroes Awards give us the chance to recognise and thank the people who are so willing to go the extra mile to improve lives and their communities – all without expecting anything in return.

It's wonderful to live in a borough where we can see so many incredible examples of this selfless service to others - particularly through the challenges brought by 2022.

This year's awards acknowledge these standout examples across our borough - the people, businesses and organisations who have stepped up in a big way to care for the most vulnerable among us, to build safer, stronger and fairer communities for their neighbours or simply put in the hours to make Richmond upon Thames a better place to be. We want to say a tremendous "thank you" to each of you.

Congratulations to all of our shortlisted nominees. Please read on to find out about each of them, and the amazing things that have been done for our borough over the past year.

CLLR NANCY BALDWIN
Spokesperson for Communities,
Equalities & the Voluntary Sector



About the Awards

Richmond upon Thames' annual Community Heroes Awards recognise local people who have contributed to their community.

Our heroes were nominated for their work in a voluntary capacity in the below categories:

- Business Contribution in the Community
- Communities Together
- Community Group of the Year
- Community Project of the Year
- Environmental Award
- Helping Hands
- Lifetime Achievement
- Outstanding Volunteer
- Trustee of the Year
- Young Person Achievement

Nominations were open from 12 January to 1 March 2023, and we are delighted to share more information about our shortlisted nominees.

We have again this year received a large number of nominations, which is a huge testament to the impact of our borough's unsung heroes.

Read on to find out more about our Community Heroes Awards finalists!

Business Contribution in the Community

Local businesses that have demonstrated commitment to their area.

SHORTLISTED

- **Prosperity Café & Restaurant**
For their vast support of Ukrainian refugees in the borough, turning their café into a donation hub and partnering with many members of the community to set up the **Ukrainian Social Club**, which provides critical support to those new to our borough and celebrates Ukrainian culture in Richmond.
- **David McGeachie Property Sales**
For his wide-ranging support of community events and projects that benefit residents, including big events that bring the community together like the St Margaret's Fair and Twickenham Riverside Music Festival.
- **Sceon + Berne** For their regular support of local groups and charities, including Meet Up Mondays at the Hare and the Hound pub, to help combat social isolation among older residents.
- **The Cabbage Patch Pub/Stuart Green** For creating an inclusive and friendly environment at The Cabbage Patch Pub, including hosting Age UK Richmond's weekly ukulele club for socially isolated adults and regular opportunities for adults with learning disabilities to come together and socialise.



Prosperity Café & Restaurant



Ukrainian Social Club



Sceon + Berne



David McGeachie Property Sales



*The Cabbage Patch Pub/
Stuart Green*

Communities Together

Groups, charities or organisations that connect people, break down existing barriers or make Richmond upon Thames a fairer, more inclusive borough.

SHORTLISTED

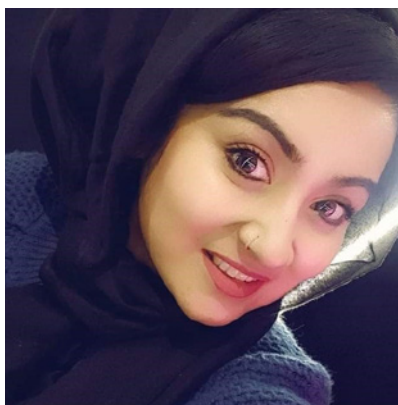
- **Shapla Rahman** For going the extra mile to support the families who attend Jellie Tots Pre-School, from using spare time to fundraise for new equipment, to bringing in food for pupils and supporting the school's ability to offer services to as wide a community as possible.
- **Teddington Community Cafe** For the work of volunteers to provide a safe space for people across the borough to enjoy new and old company, a warm drink and homemade treats, an important resource within the community following periods of increased social isolation.
- **Multicultural Richmond** For championing inclusivity and community across the borough, most recently by providing volunteer-led English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses for Ukrainian refugees in the borough, as well as add-on activities to bring community to them and help them settle in.



Multicultural Richmond



Teddington Community Cafe



Shapla Rahman



Community Group Of The Year

Groups that exemplify what can be done to make a difference when people work together.

SHORTLISTED

- **GoodGym Richmond** For the tireless work of volunteer runners, cyclists and walkers, who carried out hundreds of wide-ranging good deeds over countless hours within the community through 2022, as well as supporting day to day work and projects run by local groups and charities in the borough.
- **Richmond Talking Newspaper** For reliably providing weekly local and community news in audio form for visually impaired residents of the borough via a dedicated team of volunteers who record, produce and publish each issue – including a mailing service for those who would like to receive recordings on a memory stick via post.
- **Whitton Network** For providing volunteer support and a helping hand to the elderly, disabled and vulnerable in our borough through valuable befriending and transportation services.



GoodGym Richmond



Richmond Talking Newspaper



Whitton Network

Community Project of the Year

Projects that have improved our borough and its local communities – run by individuals, groups or voluntary organisations.

SHORTLISTED

- **Ruils & Cambridge Park Bowls Club** For creating a positive and inclusive environment by partnering together to bring the sport of bowls to people who are disabled, have mental health challenges and are experiencing loneliness and isolation, which has helped members to learn new skills, make friends and share experiences.
- **Marble Hill Revived Project** For the effort of volunteers to join together and transform the gardens at Marble Hill House and surrounding parkland, which included taking care of and nourishing newly planted trees and flowerbeds and making the space an enjoyable and accessible space for the community.
- **Refugees Welcome in Richmond Ukrainian Support Group** For the work of volunteers to create a safe space and community of support for Ukrainian refugees arriving and settling into the borough, including help to secure work and access helpful local services, as well as support to local hosts.
- **Friends of Kneller Gardens & Young Peoples Enterprise Limited's KG Café** For the new KG Café initiative, which provides subsidised hot lunches and bingo games for older residents in the borough, helping to combat social isolation and providing a space for forging new friendships in a beautiful and accessible area.



Refugees Welcome in Richmond Ukrainian Support Group



Marble Hill Revived Project



Ruils & Cambridge Park Bowls Club



Friends of Kneller Gardens & Young Peoples Enterprise Limited's KG Café

Environmental Award

For individuals, projects and groups specifically focused on tackling environmental issues.

SHORTLISTED

- **The Real Junk Food Project** For their pioneer work in helping to reduce food waste and feed the community by collecting surplus food 7 days a week from local businesses, retailers, individuals and allotments and redistributing it back into the community, educating people along the way about the impact our food choices have on the environment. They were also chosen as a shortlisted nominee in this year's Community Group of the Year category.
- **Richmond Furniture Scheme** For supporting the practice of and sharing skills around re-use and recycling among residents, taking old furniture and upcycling it to save it from landfill and redistribute it back into the community.
- **Rashadee Miller** For her dedicated work at Vine Road Community Growing Project, bringing together local volunteers to help produce organic compost, share knowledgeable skills with young people and grow food that benefits families through the Richmond Food Network.



The Real Junk Food Project



Rashadee Miller



Richmond Furniture Scheme



Helping Hands

For individuals, not in association with a group, charity or organisation, who help to create stronger communities by supporting others to live happy, healthy lives. This could be a good neighbour, someone who gives their time to help family or friends in need or a caregiver.

SHORTLISTED

- **William and Lulu Lee** For being kind, helpful neighbours within their community, ready to help at a moment's notice and be there for those in their area who need it most, doing everyday good deeds like helping with housework and bringing over homemade food.
- **Simon Griffiths** For bringing together a community of local swimmers, from experienced to newcomers, sharing his passion for safe and responsible swimming in the River Thames and enjoying the unique outdoor activity our borough has to offer.
- **Theofanis Andrews** For his efforts to, in his own time, develop the garden landscapes around Howorth House in East Sheen, providing a beautiful and uplifting space for the community to enjoy, cultivating all types of interesting plants and sharing his gardening knowledge with the community.



Simon Griffiths



Theofanis Andrews

Lifetime Achievement Award

Those who have shown a long-term commitment to voluntary work and have made a significant contribution to their communities over ten or more years.

SHORTLISTED

- **Paul Giles** For years of dedicated work setting up and running the Bank of England Mini Rugby Section, as an inclusive community space where people of all backgrounds can come and enjoy the mental and physical wellbeing community sports can provide.
- **Patty Lloyd** For many years of dedicated volunteering with Ruils Independent Living, offering caring and thoughtful befriending support to clients, critical administrative support to the charity and tireless time spent in the community securing donations for fundraising projects.
- **Christopher Bligh** For over 18 years of volunteer service with the Whitton Network, including supporting hundreds of clients to hospital, dentist and GP appointments, setting up improved databases and automating processes and acting as a volunteer treasurer, ensuring the charity has continued to thrive amid difficult times.
- **Maureen Woods** For over 25 years of volunteer service at Linden Hall, including supporting coordination of the Linden Social Club and other engaging events at the centre, and doing it all with inspiring enthusiasm.



Paul Giles



Christopher Bligh



ruils
independent living

Patty Lloyd



Maureen Woods

- **Andrew Spencer** For his fundraising efforts for Macmillan Cancer, where he swam a mile a day for a whole year, in honour of his late father, inspiring many locals by raising over £60,000 for the charity.
- **Ann-Marie Weathers** For 15 years of volunteering at The Mulberry Centre, making a positive difference to the lives of many clients affected by cancer through her long-term commitment to telephone befriending and professional massage therapy.
- **Barbara Williams** For dedicating 16 years of volunteer service to Ellera Hall, running their café, supporting events and playing a key role in creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all who walk through the door.
- **Bruce Lyons** For over 25 years as Volunteer Chair of the Church Street Association, helping to transform Church Street into a thriving heart of Twickenham for the whole community to enjoy, through his tireless work and commitment.
- **John Murray** For his years of work as Chair of the Richmond Crime Prevention Outreach Committee, a Met Police volunteer and part of Richmond's Safer Neighbourhood Board working tirelessly to keep communities safe in a variety of ways, most recently preventing more vulnerable residents from falling victim to cyber scams.



Andrew Spencer



Ann-Marie Weathers



Barbara Williams



Bruce Lyons



John Murray



Outstanding Volunteer

Individuals who have made a significant impact on their community volunteering with a group, charity or organisation.

SHORTLISTED

- **Firas Ali** For his volunteer service with the Ham Youth Centre and support of the Warm Spaces Project, as well as creating a Youth Orchestra helping young people learn how to play classical instruments.
- **David Bagott** For his volunteer service with Park Lane Stables, using his expertise to train horses and coach participants, allowing them to gain confidence.
- **David Mawson** For his volunteer service helping the disadvantaged, elderly, disabled and vulnerable in the borough through varied work with Ruils, SPEAR, Richmond Aid and Homelink, among others.
- **Christine Smith** For her volunteer service befriending clients at the Greenwood Community Centre and organising entertaining social events for the organisation.
- **Kat Oakley** For continuous support of the community and friendly volunteer work in the borough across many charities including Shepherd's Star, Richmond Soup Kitchen and Safe Space, among others.



Firas Ali



David Bagott



David Mawson



Christine Smith



Kat Oakley



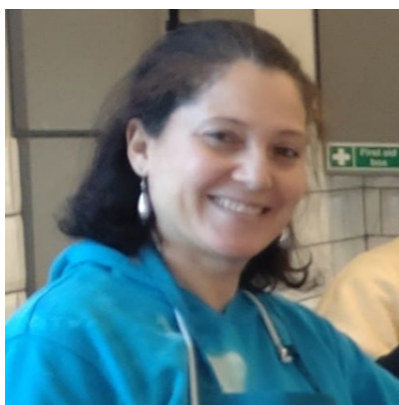
- **Josh Alvarez-Conroy** For his volunteer service with the Mortlake Community Association's Warm Soup Club, contributing greatly to its success by utilising his culinary skills as a chef to make delicious meals as well as building relationships and creating a sense of community.
- **Rebecca Butler** For her hard work bringing her enthusiasm for and knowledge of children's literature to hundreds of primary school children across the community, running many book clubs across the borough and instilling a love of reading in young people.
- **Kenza Kial** For her volunteer service with The Real Junk Food Project, making delicious, nutritious meals and helping to fight food waste simultaneously, as well as spreading warmth into the community.
- **Antonia Halse** For her volunteer service with Otakar Kraus Music Trust, stepping into the role of piano accompanist for the OK Youth Choir and providing critical support for local young people's passion for music.
- **Frederick Pascal** For his volunteer service as the passionate and enthusiastic face of the Richmond Station Information Kiosk, sharing his incredible local knowledge of the borough with the many visitors who pass through and helping to train other Visit Richmond volunteers.



Josh Alvarez-Conroy



Rebecca Butler



Kenza Kial



Antonia Halse



Frederick Pascal



- **Christine Glew** For her volunteer service with Age UK's Connect to Tech service, providing critical and patient IT support to elderly residents across the borough, helping them to get online and feel comfortable using technology to help them stay connected with loved ones and the community.
- **James May** For his volunteer service providing endless support to various organisations across the borough, including the Mind charity shop in Sheen, the Princess Alice Hospital Shop in Barnes, the community allotment at Kew Gardens and Shepherd's Star, among others.
- **Gordon Willis** For his volunteer service with The Mulberry Centre, working hard each week alongside Nicky Smedley to ensure clients who are affected by cancer can come in and enjoy a beautiful, tranquil space by keeping the gardens in top condition.
- **Nicky Smedley** For her volunteer service with The Mulberry Centre, working hard each week alongside Gordon Willis to ensure clients who are affected by cancer can come in and enjoy a beautiful, tranquil space by keeping the gardens in top condition.
- **Kevin Carter** For his volunteer service across our community, providing wide-ranging support to charities like The League of Friends where he helped to get the shop up and running again after closure due to COVID-19, St Paul's Cancer Support Centre, as well as providing gardening support at Strawberry Hill House.



Christine Glew



James May



Gordon Willis



Nicky Smedley



Kevin Carter



- **Jenny Doublet** For her volunteer service as a befriender at Ruils Independent Living, forming crucial bonds with clients experiencing mental and physical health difficulties and supporting the Children's Services team each week.
- **Sharon Lyford** For her regular volunteer work at the Linden Hall Community Centre, including hosting entertaining social activities such as quizzes and bingo for members of the Lindeners Social Club, always providing those who walk through the door with a friendly face and listening ear.
- **Jim Greene** For his volunteer service with Elleray Hall, working tirelessly to support the centre in whatever way is needed, from helping to maintain the award-winning garden to providing critical support running the kitchen to even making an appearance as Father Christmas during the holidays.



Jenny Doublet



Sharon Lyford



Jim Greene



Trustee of the Year

For a trustee of a group or charity who has gone above and beyond in their role.

SHORTLISTED

- **Jorg Roth** For his work as a Trustee for My Life Films, supporting people living with dementia and their carers, including the development of a dementia-friendly TV streaming service as well as raising awareness of people living with dementia and celebrating their lives.
- **Joy Pearce** For her work as a Trustee of The Mulberry Centre, supporting strategic project meetings, organising fundraising events that help make a positive difference to those affected by cancer and acting as a tireless force in raising the profile of the charity.
- **Jane Kelly** For her work as a Trustee at The Mulberry Centre, where she has volunteered for over 25 years, playing a key role in the launch of the charity and more recently building partnerships with local hospitals, businesses and community organisations, benefitting the lives of many local people affected by cancer.
- **Janet Fisher** For her work as the Chair of Trustees at Linden Hall, showing extensive, hands-on support to the variety of services and initiatives the centre offers to its community, from the Linden Social Club to Community Suppers and everything between.



Jorg Roth



Joy Pearce



Jane Kelly



Janet Fisher



Frances Bennett

- **Frances Bennett** For her years of work as the Chair of Friends of Kneller Gardens, supporting the development of the park into an accessible and inclusive space for all to enjoy, including the provision of an indoor community café.



- **Mandy Tottman** For her work on the Board of Trustees at Home Start, helping organise fundraising initiatives that have supported hundreds of families and providing families with hands-on support to access their local services such as grants, housing and support groups.

Young Person Achievement Award

Young people (under 18 years) who inspire and drive change in their communities.

SHORTLISTED

- **Olivia Arney** For her committed work serving as Vice-Chair of the Richmond and Kingston Youth Council, which has included initiating the development of a Richmond Young People's Sexual Harrassment Survey, to highlight the issues faced by young women and girls in the borough, which engaged more than 800 young people locally.
- **Eleni Barrett** For her dedicated work as a member of the Richmond and Kingston Youth Council, acting as a communications lead and providing young people in the borough with a platform through which they are able to share their views and have an active voice within the community.
- **Year 12 Grey Court School 'Grow Wild n Richmond' volunteers** For their commitment and hard work volunteering on the 'Grow Wild in Richmond Parks' project over the past year, which has not only inspired many young people, but supported biodiversity in areas of habitat and made an impact on Ham lands.



Olivia Arney



Eleni Barrett



Caterina Bargioni

LET'S GO
OUTSIDE AND
LEARN

Year 12 Grey Court School 'Grow Wild n Richmond' volunteers


- **Caterina Bargioni** For her inspiring work to launch and run a fundraising campaign, forging a partnership with the Richmond Foodbank and engaging her school and the wider community, ahead of Christmas, which provided over 150 individually wrapped presents and several pallets of festive sweet treats to local families with young children who were struggling with the rising cost of living.

THANK YOU


Richmond Council would like to say a tremendous thank you to all of this year's nominees, as well as to those who did not receive a nomination who we know are doing so much to help their local communities.

To find out more about the awards please go to our website: www.richmond.gov.uk/community_heroes_awards.

We are also showcasing our winners and shortlisted nominees across our social media channels so please keep an eye on these for updates.

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Thank you to everyone who made a nomination for Richmond's Community Heroes Awards.