



Pride in Fenland

awards 2022



Foreword



The Pride in Fenland awards shine a light on the fantastic volunteering community we are so lucky to have in Fenland. Now in its 15th year, the awards celebrate the many unsung heroes who give generously of their time and skills to help those in the greatest need throughout the district.

Since our first awards in 2007 we have been delighted to receive over 650 nominations in a range of categories. This year however we have decided to make the nomination process easier by removing the predetermined categories. We

hope that this will encourage more nominations for individuals and groups who may not have been previously nominated as they did not fit nicely into one of our categories.

We are incredibly proud of every single one of our volunteers who have happily given up their free time and used their generous spirit to help people from all our communities, young and old alike. From a friendly phone call once a week, to delivering shopping and picking up prescriptions, these seemingly small actions made a world of difference to the people they have helped.

We are also keen to receive nominations from individuals and groups who volunteered throughout the pandemic and continue to do so now.

Once again we are delighted to be working in partnership with the Fenland Citizen to bring you these awards, which the whole Pride in Fenland team hope to be our best awards year yet!

Nominations can be made by

- Completing the paper copy of the nomination form, or
- Completing the form in the Fenland Citizen newspaper, or
- Online through the FDC website

The closing date for all nominations is 5pm on **Sunday 16th October 2022**

Councillor Sam Clark
Portfolio Holder for Communities

Previous nominees . . .

As previously mentioned, we have had over 650 nominations since the awards first started and we would like to share some of those nominations with you.

Our group nominations cover a whole range of volunteering activities as shown below

The **Community Chat Tea Rooms** were nominated because they do so much for the community and ensure that no child goes without a hot meal.

FACET received a number of nominations because they help people with all sorts of disabilities and there is something to do for everyone.

The volunteering organisation **People and Animals UK** have received numerous nominations for the work they do with vulnerable adults and children, focussing on moving them forward while encouraging them to grow as individuals.

Both **Wimblington** and **Doddington Christmas Lights Committees** have received a number of nominations over the years for the tireless work they do to in the lead up to Christmas, making sure their respective villages put on the best displays possible for their residents and the wider community.

As well as nominations for groups, we also receive individual nominations.

Deborah Slater was nominated for the outstanding work she has done raising money for life saving defibrillators in Whittlesey and for teaching young people CPR techniques.

Barty Alichper has been nominated on a couple of occasions for his generosity and kindness by providing free Christmas dinners for the homeless and those on their own, organising transport, entertainment and even gift bags.

Brian Bennett received a nomination from the St Augustines Day Centre for giving his time freely, playing piano, since the centre has been open. He is always happy and lifts the client's spirits as they love a sing-a-long. Brian also entertained at the Wisbech and Kings Lynn hospitals and other day centres and plays for his local church at Walsoken.

We are also delighted and often humbled by the nominations we receive for young people in our community. Some examples of those nominations are for

Billy Griffiths who started volunteering at YPM in July 2014 when he was 12, and since then he has done more voluntary hours than anyone else at the centre. He runs activities for the younger members but also helps with the maintenance and cleaning of the building.

Karen Rippen received a nomination for becoming an enthusiastic member of the 'budget recipe group' and regularly goes out to speak to other members, enabling Karen to develop a new circle of friends. The confidence course that Karen took at the Oasis centre was a real turning point and has had a big impact on her life. As a result of completing this course, Karen has joined her housing association forum to help make positive changes for residents. Karen also recently spoke in public at the Waterlees forum and put forward strong and persuasive arguments about the need for the Community House in Wisbech

This year all nominees will receive an invitation to attend the awards, being held at The Boathouse with winners and runners up receiving a trophy and a cash prize. All nominees will receive a certificate of congratulations.