

DERBY

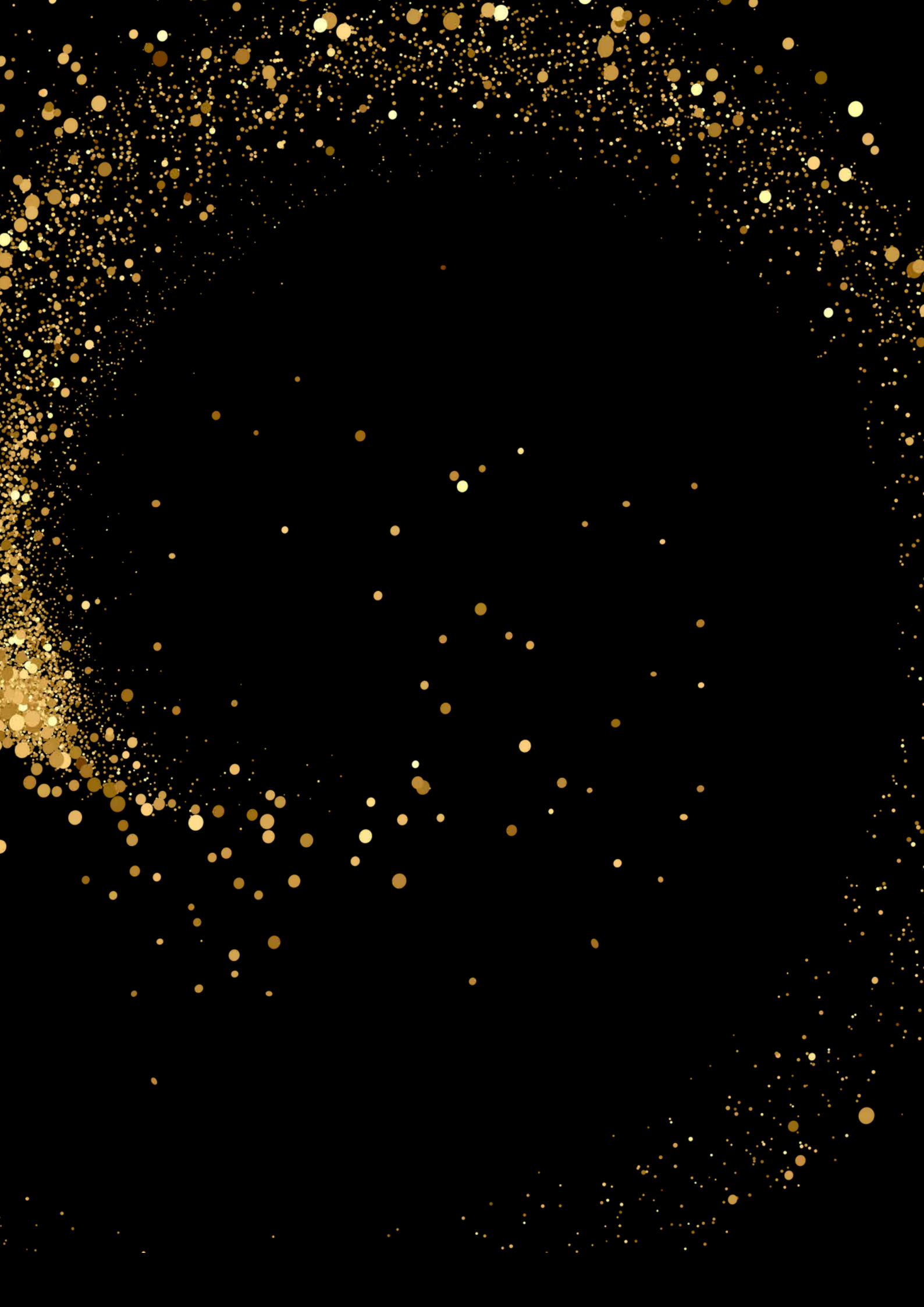
VSA 2025

VOLUNTARY
SECTOR AWARDS

Brought to you by
Community Action Derby
in partnership with
Derby Homes



Community Action



WELCOME

The Derby Voluntary Sector Awards are always a highlight of the year for me, offering the opportunity to pause, reflect, and recognise the incredible contribution of volunteers, community groups, and voluntary organisations across our city.



Kim Harper
CEO of Community
Action Derby

Every year, we are inspired by the dedication, kindness, and creativity shown by people who give their time and energy to help others and make a difference.

These awards celebrate the many ways our sector supports Derby's communities, whether through grassroots initiatives, local groups, clubs and spaces offering support and connection, vital services delivered by established organisations, or the volunteers who make so much possible.

At Community Action Derby, we see the difference you make every day. You are the heart and soul of our city, especially in a time when the world needs community more than ever. Tonight's awards are our way of saying thank you for everything you do.

Thank you - you are amazing!

A stylized, handwritten signature of Kim Harper in black ink.



CONTENTS

3	Order of the Night
4	About Community Action Derby and Derby Homes
5	About Derby Volunteer Centre and Volunteers' Week
6	Award Winners
14	List of Nominees
16	Acknowledgements

Order of the Night

6.00 - 6.45pm	Guest arrival, with welcome drinks and harp music
7.00pm	Welcome and opening speeches
7.15pm	Presentation of 7 awards • Community Champion Award • Community Space Award • Young Volunteer Award - Age 5-14 • Arts, Culture and Heritage Award • New Arrivals Ambassador Award • Hardship Support Award • Overcoming Barriers Award
7.45 - 8.45pm	Break and buffet, with entertainment
9.00pm	Presentation of 7 awards • Sporting Award • Trustee of the Year Award • Youth Work Award • Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award • Health and Wellbeing Award • Young Volunteer Award - Age 15-24 • Green Ambassador Award
9.30pm	Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award
9.35 - 10.00pm	Closing remarks & winners photos

About Community Action Derby and Derby Homes

Community Action Derby

Established as Derby Council for Voluntary Service in the mid 70's, Community Action



Derby (CA) is a registered charity providing support and guidance for voluntary and community groups. We encourage, support and develop individuals, groups and organisations involved in voluntary action. We also promote new initiatives that tackle social exclusion and economic disadvantage and work to establish partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors. As the Volunteer Centre for Derby City, we also offer a brokerage service for potential volunteers and organisations and support volunteer-involving organisations.



Derby Homes has proudly supported the Derby Voluntary Sector Awards for several years. Volunteers and community groups have played a huge part in supporting communities, particularly during the rise in cost-of-living and deserve to be celebrated.



With a strong commitment to supporting voluntary organisations and helping them grow, Derby Homes manages 22 community spaces throughout the city. These are available for volunteers to use free of charge if they host activities open to the public. Derby Homes also provides funding to the Derby Association of Community Partners (DACP), an independent tenant's federation. The DACP distributes this funding to voluntary organisations and community projects in Derby.

Derby Homes continues to work in partnership to deliver funding and support to help ensure community-led outreach services and activities remain accessible to those who depend on them the most.

About Volunteer Centre Derby and Volunteers' Week



was established in 1992 to help support voluntary organisations and those wanting to volunteer. Sitting within Community Action Derby, the Volunteer Centre provides support at a local level for individual volunteers and volunteer-involving organisations. Its primary function is to match both individuals and groups interested in volunteering with appropriate opportunities in the local community.

The Centre is VCQA accredited, which is the quality mark for Volunteer Centres, and provides assurance that the Centre is providing a high quality and effective service. In 2023, to cement its position as the go-to place for all things volunteering in Derby, the Centre launched a brand new online volunteering database for the city.

For more information about the Volunteer Centre, visit:

www.communityactionderby.org.uk/volunteering



is an annual UK-wide campaign held from the first Monday in June to celebrate and recognise the contributions of volunteers. Launched in 1984, this initiative provides organisations and communities a platform to thank current and past volunteers for their invaluable efforts. The campaign highlights the diversity and unity of volunteer work across the UK, fostering connections between national organisations and grassroots groups, and celebrating the spirit of volunteering that enriches communities each year. For more information about Volunteers' Week, visit: www.volunteersweek.org

Award Winners

Community Champion Award

Anita Marbrow began her volunteering journey with me&dee charity nearly fourteen years ago, but her caring and kind nature is something that has always been deeply engrained within her soul. As a senior volunteer, Anita is committed to supporting when a parent or child has been diagnosed with a life-limiting or life-shortening illness. Earlier in her volunteering journey, when it was just me&dee founder Maria running the charity alone, Anita volunteered countless hours, ensuring that not only did families have access to incredible memory-making experiences but also that Maria felt supported after having life-saving surgeries. It is evident through how well-respected and loved Anita is, that she has an immeasurable impact on the local community.



Community Space Award

Community Café & Storehouse Meal offer a place for local people to meet that is safe, warm and provides food and refreshments. Run by Derby City Mission, this is a primarily volunteer-led space. The Café is open every day, with an average of 70 guests coming through the door. Storehouse provides a hot meal every Thursday night, with 65+ individuals attending. The volunteers prepare and serve the food and refreshments, as well as providing conversation and various activities. Many of the guests are vulnerable, homeless or struggling with various mental health issues. The conversations that the volunteers have with the guests are often heart-breaking, but with love and compassion they provide a listening ear and a space to build a sense of community and belonging.



Award Winners

Young Volunteer Award - Age 5-14

Zach Bowles is an 8-year-old Junior Ambassador for me&dee charity. The sessions me&dee runs are focused on peer support and Zach has brought immense benefit to the charity's team of volunteers with his energy and passion. Through these sessions, Zach has been immeasurably helpful, engaging other children to get them involved in activities. Zach's support goes far beyond surface level help. He has been an invaluable member of the team in caring for one of the children

me&dee support in particular, providing them with non-judgemental friendship and kindness in a time of real difficulty. The me&dee team is endlessly grateful to have Zach on the team and couldn't be prouder of him and the young man he is becoming.



Arts, Culture and Heritage Award

Surtal Arts is a charity dedicated to providing South Asian arts in Derby for over 30 years. The organisation was formed in 1994 by five mothers who wanted their daughters to learn Indian classical dance to preserve their cultural heritage. Its scope grew, and now Surtal delivers a range of activities, including

regular Bollywood dance and music classes for children and young people, workshops focused on traditional South Asian arts and crafts during the school holidays, an annual festival - Derby Season of Light, which includes the Lantern Parade that has become a fixture in Derby's cultural calendar, and the Surtal Community Choir, which was formed in response to social isolation during Covid. In addition, Surtal is committed to supporting young emerging artists from Derby and Derbyshire.



Award Winners

New Arrivals Ambassador Award

Terrance Amalathas became a volunteer at Derbyshire Refugee Solidarity (DRS) just one week after arriving in Derby. Having fled from Sri Lanka seeking asylum himself, Terrance's enthusiasm, warmth and energy to help others has been unwavering. As well as using his professional IT skills to maintain the computers at DRS, Terrance is also a regular volunteer on the DRS Help Desk. Here, his knowledge of different languages is an invaluable asset, as he addresses individual calls for help with a huge range of issues, including homelessness and financial challenges. Terrance also helps at the DRS Allotment, Sanctuary Cafe at Derby Theatre, English conversation classes at the Hope Centre, and Local Welcome Lunches where he impresses with his own delicious Sri Lankan recipes!



Hardship Support Award

Chellaston Shelton Lock Community Hub is a new group that started in January. It was set up as a community shop and Warm Welcome Hub for the area, as there was no existing provision of this kind to support the local community. The ladies who volunteer at the Hub are amazing. It has been an instant success, and they have been instrumental in this. They have now taken on the challenge of running the Hub, and every week more people come through the doors. It is a warm and inviting atmosphere and in the first ten weeks the Hub supported over 400 people - a great achievement for such a brand-new initiative.



Award Winners

Overcoming Barriers Award

Christine Charles discovered that she had a large, cancerous brain tumour at the base of her skull whilst she was pregnant with her son. Following many years of treatment to remove the tumour, Christine was left with a severe brain injury, resulting in cognitive and physical impairments. After being a member of Headway for eight years, Christine's determination and drive to get better has led to her becoming a volunteer for the charity. She now runs one of the peer groups independently. Christine is thriving in her new role and is a really valued member of the organisation. She even climbed Snowdon to raise money! Her son has also just turned 10 and they make a wonderful team. Christine truly is an inspiration.



Sporting Award

Derby Trailblazers Basketball Club is a growing, community run club. A fantastic team of volunteers helps across the club and is significant in making the club inclusive for players and supporters. The club dedicates many hours to supporting children from



across Derby and surrounding areas, including supporting one young man to volunteer as a game photographer, and inviting school groups to watch its games. Players are also keen to take basketball into Derby's schools, providing high levels of coaching. This creates opportunities for young players to join the club's academy and inspires them to develop skills on and off the court, whilst supporting and ensuring their academic studies continue to be of great importance. Opportunities for ongoing development have also led to players from the club going on to represent their region and country in basketball.

Award Winners

Trustee of the Year Award

Nigel Farrow is a long-standing Umbrella trustee who has made an exceptional contribution over the past 30 years. Nigel approached Umbrella in 1995 with a simple desire to make a difference and over the three decades, his dedication and commitment has never faltered. Nigel provides stability from his wealth of experience and has guided Umbrella through unprecedented times, demonstrating his contingency planning skills during Covid. He has led numerous projects, a skills audit for the trustee board and the Annie Hall project, which saw the charity move to new premises so that it could expand and grow its services. Nigel will be stepping down from the board in October 2025. He will leave a lasting impact on the organisation and the people it serves.



Youth Work Award

Empower Her was created by a group of young South Asian and Muslim girls. These young women saw a real need in their communities and came together to make a change. The group's aim is to raise aspirations and help girls believe in themselves. Empower Her runs monthly weekend workshops, reaching up to 50 girls at a time. The sessions give girls a safe space to talk, connect, and grow. One young volunteer, who was once too shy to speak in a group, delivered a powerful poem at a Community Iftar event in front of 200 people. Another delivers a Soccercise session in a setting where football isn't seen as a positive activity for Muslim women & girls. Empower Her stands out because it's not run by adults looking in – it's led by the very girls who understand the challenges first-hand. They're creating real change, showing what's possible, and inspiring others along the way.

Award Winners

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award

Rob Malcolm volunteers for Derby City Council's Access, Equality and Inclusion Hub, supporting the Council's Lead on Equality and Diversity. As well as attending the meetings, Rob goes above and beyond, getting involved in site visits to projects such as the Market Hall and Vaillant Live to make sure for example, that the toilets meet legal requirements. He has worked tirelessly with Derby City Council's Parks and Property Team to make sure there are Changing Places toilets in the parks, and also inclusive play equipment so disabled children can play with their friends. However, Rob doesn't stop there! During the Derby Summer Sessions events he also arranges a team of volunteers to help and support other disabled people attending the festivities.



Health and Wellbeing Award

Connected Perinatal Support CIC provides a range of free peer support services for families. The perinatal period (the time from becoming pregnant until about a year after giving birth) can be really tough for women and families, and Connected volunteers dedicate their time and passion to supporting them during this transition. They do this through 1:1 support, at free coffee mornings, in the hospital visiting the neonatal intensive care ward and mental health ward, and by supporting dads/non-birthing partners as well. They also provide birth support at a family's most vulnerable time, being on call 24/7 for 4 weeks around the due date. Connected volunteers undergo 26 weeks of training, and in an average year provide around 11,500 hours toward empowering women and families!



Award Winners

Young Volunteer Award - Age 15-24

Rashifa Ali, a third-year law student at University of Derby, has become an outstanding volunteer for the University's Schools Taskmaster project. Over the last two years, Rashifa has lead on the project, which sees University of Derby students going into local schools and teaching key principles of relevant law to year 5 pupils through a series of fun tasks. Highly organised and dependable, Rashifa has shown energy and passion throughout the project. She listened to the pupils taking part and coordinated her peers, ensuring the young learners got the most out of the project. Rashifa will also play a key role in the regional final of the 2025 Schools Taskmaster challenge being held in the city's Kedleston Road University campus. Rashifa is an excellent role model and is invested in those younger than her, inspiring them with her energy and enthusiasm.



Green Ambassador Award

Thrivemind Village (TMV) is a 100% volunteer-led community hub in Derby, rooted in local needs and sustainability. Located in a converted shop on Iron Gate, TMV offers a welcoming space for people to connect, learn about environmental and social issues and



eat healthy vegan food that is either free or affordable and cooked onsite with locally produced ingredients. TMV hosts free Warm Welcome Hubs, support groups and more. TMV's approach to environmental and community needs is symbolised by its community kitchen, which was launched in 2024 after a successful crowdfunding campaign. TMV also runs Derby's only Community Fridge, hosts a programme of environmental learning through workshops, seed swaps, training and activities, and partners with local growing initiatives to create a sustainable local food system.

Award Winners

Lifetime Achievement Award: Anthony Sandar

Derby Toc H Children's Camp would not be the charity it is today if it wasn't for Anthony (Tony) Sandar. Tony is the Camp Leader, but what makes him stand out is that he has been volunteering at the camp for 50 years.

Tony first attended the holiday camp aged 10 years old in 1969. He was then picked to return as a trainee helper by the staff when he was 13. He has held many roles since, and has been part of the Toc H Committee for 42 years.

Because Tony attended the camp when he was young, he knows what the holidays mean to every child. Tony can identify with how the children feel about being away from home, the joy of learning to ride a bike and the happiness of making friends.

During a difficult period for the charity, Tony set up its first ever fundraiser - a walk from Ashbourne to Derby, which has continued every year since. He also recruited businesses and companies to sponsor the camp. During Covid, the camp was forced to close but Tony put into place a care package for every child who should have been attending.

Tony's hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed, and he was awarded an MBE by the Queen for his services to the community. His 50 years at the camp have left a lasting memory on the 71 volunteers he leads, as well as on the lives of 1000's of children.



List of Nominees

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who made a nomination for our 2025 Derby Voluntary Sector Awards. Every year, so many amazing and worthy people are nominated and it is always extremely difficult for our panels to choose the winners. This is why, after the awards night, we will be emailing out a personalised certificate to every single nominee, as they all deserve recognition.

Here is the full list of our 2025 nominees in alphabetical order:

- Age UK Chaddesden Park Centre Volunteers
- Alan Grimadell
- Ali Davis-Marsh, Greener Littleover
- Amber Dalton
- Anne Marie Macken
- Anita Marbrow
- Anthony Sandar
- Artcore
- Babette Grimaldi
- Bev Crighton
- Caroline Stanfield
- Charlotte Rankin
- Chat Club CIC
- Chellaston Shelton Lock Community Hub
- Christine Charles
- Ciselyn Alexander
- Clear Mind Derby
- Community Café & Storehouse (DCM)
- Connected Perinatal Support CIC
- Creation Care at St Peter's Church Littleover
- Dave Priestley
- David Cooper
- David Powell
- Debra Morris
- Derby City Sport Forum committee
- Derby Phoenix Swimming Club
- Derby Toc H Children's Camp
- Derby Trailblazers Basketball Club
- Derby Ukrainian Welcome Centre Team
- Derbyshire LGBT+
- Doorways Derby
- Dr Shahab Ali
- Dr Sonya Robotham

- Electric Daisy
- Emma Morris
- Empower Her
- Feel Alive Hub CIC
- Flourish and Thrive
- Friends of Littleover Parks
- Friends of Nottingham Road Cemetery
- Gary Sherratt
- Gill Studdard
- Girmay Kiros Tesfey
- Glyn Fitchett Watkin
- Gopa Nath
- Gwenda Bond
- Hannah Fields Community Garden
- Hannah's Hope
- Huda Shaib
- Jack Boswell
- Jack, Charis, Emma, Chanel, Shaun and Bilal at University of Derby Student Law Faculty
- James Watson
- John & Sylvia Gatt
- John Millard
- Jonathan Bollen
- Kev Marshall
- Korede Adeyanju
- Kristine Volodka
- Libby Partridge
- Lindsay Shuttleworth
- Maria Hanson MBE
- Maureen Priddin

- Milton Crossdale
- Mohammed Kamara
- Monica
- Muhammad Muntasir
- National Taekwondo Club Derby
- Nicola Foss
- Nigel Farrow
- Ollie Scharaschkin
- Participants of The 80 Candles Quilt Project
- Penny Patterson
- Pride Park Pride (DCCT)
- Rashifa Ali
- Rebecca Green
- Rob Malcolm
- Ruth Richardson
- Samer Jamous
- Shared Reading Volunteers at Derby Book Festival
- Sienna Haywood
- Simon Jones
- SNAPP-IT
- Sonam Sandhu
- Spectrum Heads
- Supporting Communities
- Surtal Arts
- Tanvir Akram
- Taylor Lewis
- Terrance Amalathas
- The Jubilee Project
- Thrivemind Village
- Toni Hibbert
- Zach Bowles

Acknowledgements

With thanks to...



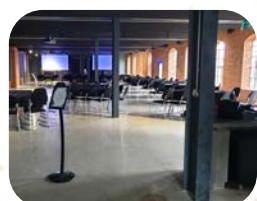
6pence Designs - Programme
www.6pencedesigns.co.uk
Email: stacey@6pencedesigns.co.uk
Mobile: 07950 363 934



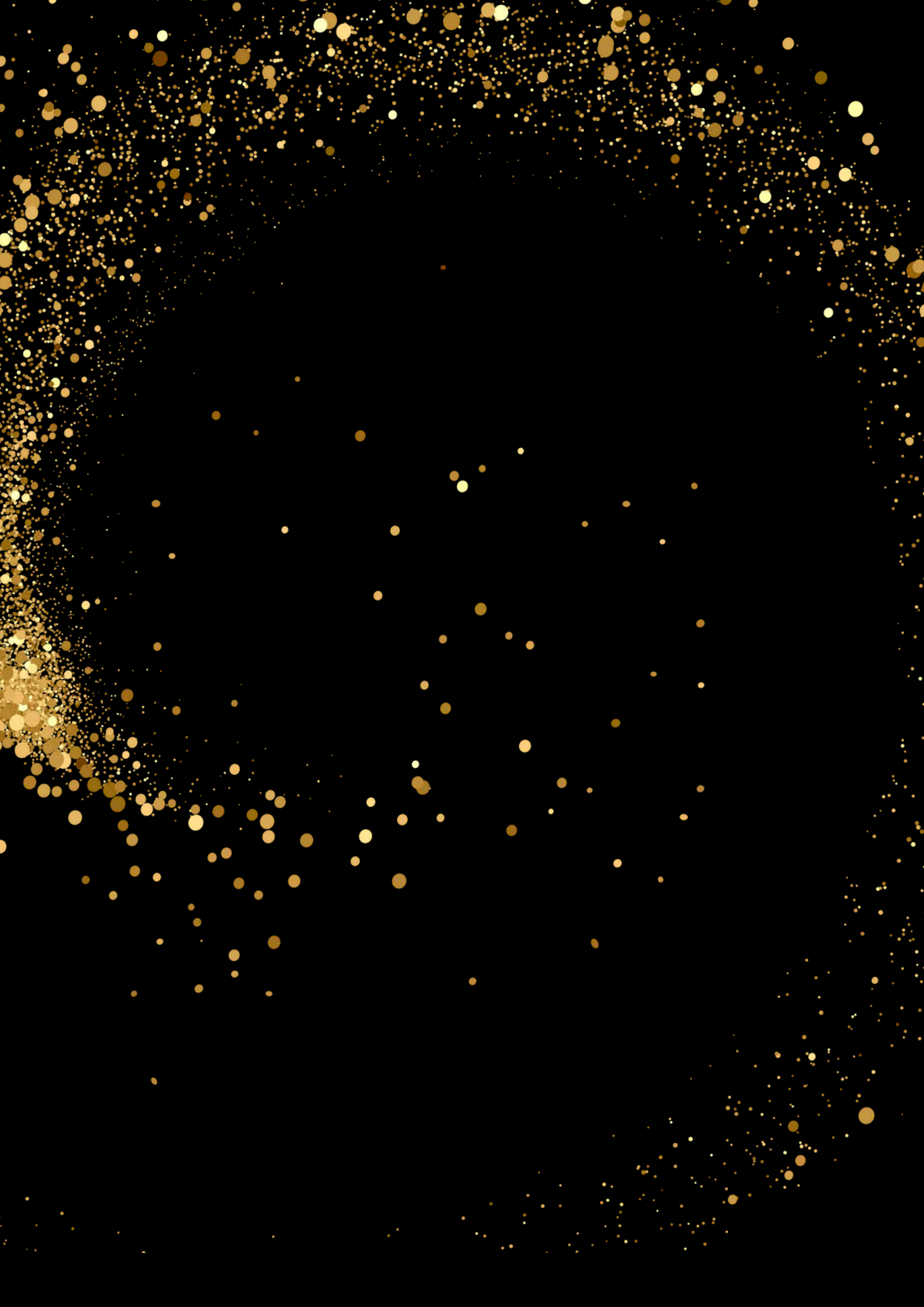
Laura-Rose Gee - Harpist
Mobile: 07712 200 285
Follow: Laura-Rose Gee on Facebook



Shaun Hardwick - Photographer
www.shphotos.co.uk
Email: Shaun@shphotos.co.uk
Mobile: 07532 445994



The Italian Mill - Venue
www.derbymuseums.org
Phone: 01332 641901





Community Action Derby

30 Charnwood Street DE1 2GU

www.communityactionderby.co.uk
enquiries@communityactionderby.org.uk
01332 346266

 @CommunityActionDerby

 @community_action_derby

 @community-action-derby

Community Action Derby is a charity (number 1043482) and a company limited by guarantee (number 02994798) registered in England