

DERBY

VSA 2024

VOLUNTARY
SECTOR AWARDS



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

with support from
Derby Health Inequalities Partnership





WELCOME

Year on year, working with and hearing about the contributions and commitment of our sector never fails to surprise me.

There are so many inspirational people committed to supporting people in their communities, running groups and services, volunteering and giving back.

Our sector and its volunteers, people who care and want to help, have never been needed more.



Kim Harper
CEO of Community
Action Derby

The Derby Voluntary Sector Awards are an acknowledgement and celebration of the important and often unrecognised work that volunteers, community groups and voluntary organisations are doing, working tirelessly in support of our communities in Derby.

This year our celebration is bigger, with more awards than ever. We are delighted that the event will enable us to celebrate even more volunteers, teams, groups, clubs and organisations working in the city.

All of our nominees are amazing, so thank you for everything that you do, life would be much harder for many people in our city without you!!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'K' and a cursive 'im'.



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Order of the Night

6.00 - 6.30pm	Guests arrive to harp music from Laura-Rose Gee
6.45pm	Welcome, housekeeping and opening speeches
7.00pm	Presentation of 9 awards • Community Leader Award • Cultural Champion Award • Youth Award - Age 5-11 • Empowering Women Award • Arts, Culture and Heritage Award • Good Neighbour Award • Green Ambassador Award • Youth Award - Age 12-17 • Overcoming Barriers Award
8.00pm	Break and buffet, with entertainment provided by Baby People
9.00pm	Presentation of 8 awards • New Arrivals Ambassador Award • Cindy Carter-Foster Community Champion Award • Youth Work Award • LGBT+ Ambassador Award • Health and Wellbeing Award • Crisis Support Award • Sporting Award (joint award) • Youth Award - Age 18-24
9.40pm	Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award
9.50 - 10pm	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



celebrates the amazing contributions volunteers make to communities across the UK. The celebration starts on the first Monday in June every year. It's a chance to recognise, celebrate and thank the UK's incredible volunteers for all they contribute to our local communities, the voluntary sector, and society as a whole. Volunteers' Week was first established in 1984, by what was then known as Volunteering England and in 2024 celebrates its 40th anniversary. For more information about Volunteers' Week, visit:

www.volunteersweek.org

Award Winners

Arts, Culture & Heritage Award

Baby People is the UK's first dedicated Hip Hop School, enabling young people to engage in arts, music and culture by delivering community sessions across Derby's most disadvantaged areas. Through music making, lyric writing, graffiti and arts, they seek to engage young people who have fallen out of love with mainstream learning. Last year alone, Baby People engaged with over 2000 young people, which led to a reduction in anti-social behaviour and increased engagement in arts and culture. Baby People's work stands out in the city as they constantly engage with groups from Derby's most disadvantaged backgrounds, respecting each individual's journey and enabling them to grow in confidence and ability.



Cindy Carter-Foster Community Champion Award

Dawn Gee is the driving force behind Carlisle Against Crime and has been fighting anti-social behaviour in her community for over 25 years. When a serious outbreak of anti-social behaviour and criminality hit her street (Carlisle Avenue, Littleover), Dawn began Carlisle Against Crime. Despite reporting incidents to the authorities, little action was taken, so Dawn recruited the residents and victims to take a stand. Dawn gathered information from those too afraid to report incidents to the police, held community meetings and coffee mornings and regularly locked and unlocked the park gates to reduce anti-social and criminal behaviour. Carlisle Against Crime is still going strong, working with the police and other officials to tirelessly make the neighbourhood as safe as it can be.

Award Winners

Community Leader Award

Terry Willis receives the award in recognition of his tireless efforts in organising an annual cycle ride, SkegVegas, in aid of the Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre. The Centre provides seaside holidays in Skegness for Derbyshire children aged six to eleven.



Terry has served as the driving force behind the event, which has become the cornerstone of support for the charity. Last year alone, he brought together 75 riders for the challenging journey from Derby to Skegness. As well as raising over £150k over the years, Terry has profoundly impacted the lives of countless children who have had the opportunity to experience the joy of a holiday. Terry is stepping down after a decade of unwavering service, and there is no better opportunity to celebrate his leadership, generosity and compassion.



Crisis Support Award

Derby City Mission, which is celebrating its 35th birthday this year, has been a bedrock of support for those in poverty and crisis. It began as the first foodbank nationally, then started providing free debt advice through the Jubilee Project. Jubilee has 3 staff and a team of 30 volunteers who deliver FCA-regulated debt and benefits advice at walk-in clinics. Derby City Mission has helped thousands of people with food and essentials, as well as debt and benefit advice. Its projects have been significant in reducing homelessness, reducing loneliness and isolation, and overall dealing with the underlying problems that lead people into crisis. All of this would not be possible without an incredible team of 75 volunteers who run the community café, shop and foodbank warehouse.



Award Winners

Cultural Champion Award

Before the **Sisters Talk** project by M-Prez Enterprise Ltd launched in 2018, Black women in Derby lacked a dedicated platform to openly discuss crucial issues impacting their lives, particularly concerning mental and physical health, as well as broader social and community topics. This absence contributed to feelings of isolation and limited peer support opportunities, especially among women of African and Caribbean descent. Since its inception, Sisters Talk has significantly improved participants' wellbeing by providing a reliable, safe space to voice concerns, share experiences, and receive support. What distinguishes Sisters Talk, is its tailored approach to the needs of Black women of African and Caribbean heritage, recognising and addressing their unique challenges in Derby, by creating a supportive environment and facilitating empowerment through focused dialogue and peer support.



Empowering Women Award

Liz Le Drew had been struggling with anxiety resulting from being a neuro-divergent lone-parent, home-educating her two daughters. She knew they needed a space to connect with other mums and children, so Thrivemind Village was born. Liz began by promoting a



project for mums and their children to transform an urban backyard into a community arts garden - now a stunning oasis enjoyed by hundreds of at-risk young people. Liz also began organising weekly home education sessions and support groups with other home-educating mums and girls, helping them to overcome isolation. For International Women's Day, Liz organised a community education arts project called 'Feminist City' to raise awareness about what Derby women want and need from the city. Liz's work has empowered women, amplified their voices and inspired female volunteers.

Award Winners

Good Neighbour Award

Shiraza Kauser is the definition of a good neighbour. She started volunteering with Community One when its Warm Welcome Hub was launched at the Pakistan Community Centre, and she has gone above and beyond to help those in the community, always exuding a positive attitude and with a smile on her face. Shiraza provides transport for women attending the Warm Hub, as well as frequently dropping off food parcels for those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. She also provides support with Urdu translations and has supported countless people who need help with understanding medical and official letters. She even volunteered to deliver free English Confidence Classes to help build confidence among the attendees. Shiraza has become a strong, trusted and engaging presence in her community due to her dedication to helping her neighbours.



Green Ambassador Award

The **Friends of Sinfin Moor Park Local Nature Reserve** and **Colin Attenborough** the group's Chairman, have worked tirelessly to transform Sinfin Moor Park into a wonderful green space for people to enjoy and for wildlife to flourish in. The Friends group was formed by local residents in 2007, when the land around the park was regarded as wasteland, uncared for and subject to fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour. The park itself was little used and unwelcoming and the group decided to change that. In partnership with Derby City Council, the group had the whole site designated as a Local Nature Reserve. The group also set up a volunteer-run café in the previously under-used park pavilion, which has become a real social hub and funds improvements to the park and nature reserve. Sadly, Colin Attenborough passed away on 29 April 2024. He worked tirelessly for his community, always with a cheery greeting and a can-do attitude. His memory will live on in the park's Colin Attenborough Pavilion.



Award Winners

Health and Wellbeing Award

Love4Life has changed the lives of 120 teenage girls in the most deprived neighbourhoods of Derby over the last year. The charity helps girls who are struggling with poor mental health, many of whom are at risk of dropping out of education or being victims of abuse. Love4Life runs five weekly support groups, in schools or in the community, plus coaches the most vulnerable girls in one-to-one sessions. Not only does the charity prevent suffering and reach girls before they hit crisis point, but also reduces pressure on the NHS and helps young people to remain in education. Love4Life is essential to these young people and the results show that nearly 90% of the girls improve in confidence, self-esteem, and engage in healthier relationships, meaning that they thrive in education and their personal lives.



LGBT+ Ambassador Award

For 41 years, **Derbyshire LGBT+** has been at the forefront of providing LGBT+ support for the community across the whole of Derbyshire. They are the only charity doing this lifesaving work in the county. They have weathered storms of hate and prejudice, and still remain strong for the betterment of the community. The Derbyshire LGBT+ team is very small, yet the effort they make is incredible and very rarely do they get any recognition for this. At a time when things are ever increasingly hostile for LGBT+ people, Derbyshire LGBT+ are a beacon of hope and light for some of the most marginalised people in society.



Award Winners

New Arrivals Ambassador Award

Yosief Alem Afewerki volunteers for British Red Cross and Upbeat Communities, but he is also known to help out everywhere he goes, actively reaching out to other asylum seekers. As someone with lived experience, Yosief helps to support people often in critical situations. With his language skills and calm, friendly personality, he helps people to relax and feel safe as they negotiate the effects of increasingly complex systems. Yosief always goes the extra mile, recently taking part in the Derby 10k run to raise money for Upbeat Communities and sitting on the panel of people with lived experience to interview for the new manager's post for Derby's New Arrivals Alliance. Like many others in his situation, Yosief is not allowed to work or choose where he lives whilst waiting for the Home Office to decide whether he gets to remain in the UK. It is a credit to him that he uses so much of his time to help others and make a positive difference.



Overcoming Barriers Award

Helen Marcer started volunteering at Project Derby two years ago. Facing the cost-of-living crisis, the project adapted to become a Warm Welcome Hub, serving hot meals. Despite her own challenges, including being a full-time carer for her adult son, Helen travels from Castle Donnington four times a week to cook over 200 meals single-handedly. Last year, she was preparing a meal when her clothes caught fire from the gas hob, engulfing her entire upper body. Helen suffered first-degree burns, and underwent plastic surgery and many months of medical assistance, including emotional support due to the trauma. Despite all of this, Helen still attends every session and puts people's needs before her own. From sourcing pushchairs to taking people to medical appointments and collecting donations, Helen makes an outstanding contribution to the community.



Award Winners

Sporting Award (joint winner)

Graham Owen is a stalwart of Spondon Rovers Football Club and has been instrumental in the coaching of children's grassroots football for over 40 years. Graham started volunteering with Spondon Rovers in 1980 and has maintained a continuous tenure as a coach and manager up until present day. He has encouraged thousands of children to develop their football skills and take part in a team sport, many of whom have gone on to adult football teams or Derby County Youth Academy. Graham's impact on these individuals' health, wellbeing, social skills, team skills and friendships is almost immeasurable, and Spondon Rovers would not be able to operate without him. According to members of the Spondon Rovers committee, Graham has barely had a day off in over 40 years, both in Sunday league and mid-week training sessions, and he even cuts the grass of Brunswood Park himself using his own mower.



Sporting Award (joint winner)

Tahira Khan plays a key role in the women's group of the DE23 Active programme, which aims to get the people of Normanton and Arboretum more physically active. The women's group is made up mainly of women from the South Asian community and language is one of the biggest barriers they face. Tahira helps to translate for them so they can sign-up for sessions, giving them a voice and empowering them to advocate for themselves. Tahira was also the driving force behind getting Muslim women into swimming and turning the swimming pool at Moorways into a safe space for the group. The lack of female-only facilities and the fear of cultural discrimination had prevented women from participating. Tahira advocated for the participants and created an environment in which they could do a sport they had always wanted to try. Tahira has now become a lead volunteer for the swimming sessions and many women in the community turn to her for advice on how to improve their fitness levels and overall health.

Award Winners

Youth Award - Age 5-11

Coral Butler has volunteered from an early age, supporting her peers and standing up for what she believes in. When her best friend was diagnosed with Type-1 diabetes, Coral completed online training (intended for adults) and became a medical buddy for diabetics at her school. She also created a presentation for her headteacher and the school catering team to highlight poor labelling of canteen food and how this can affect students with dietary, medical or nutritional needs. At primary school, Coral encouraged the formation of a girls' football team that went on to win the county leagues and cup, and she highlighted Trans Day of Remembrance, resulting in a school assembly themed around LGBT+ allyship. As a year 7 pupil, Coral spearheaded Derby's White Ribbon campaign (ending violence against women and girls). Outside of school, Coral has also supported local sports charities through fundraising walks.



Youth Award - Age 12-17

Talha Imran has been volunteering as a SEND Ambassador for the past 3 years. SEND Ambassadors give students with special educational needs a voice, and Talha is an enthusiastic student keen to make a change. Talha is involved in his school council and contributes towards the development of the school and student engagement. He is always eager to join in and makes a huge contribution. Due to his autism, Talha struggled with social interaction and confidence, but since he has been volunteering, he has grown in confidence and has not let his autism get in the way. Talha has flourished, being able to attend different venues where he struggled to go before and has met many new people, without staff support. Talha has also started to volunteer in a care home and at a community café. He is a model volunteer who has found a voice in supporting those around him.

Award Winners

Youth Award - Age 18-24

Rose Wills is a volunteer at Enthusiasm Trust, running dance sessions in the evenings and during school holidays for young people who are at risk of offending and social exclusion. Rosie has been an active member of the 'dance crew' since she was 13, despite having significant issues in her home life and having spent many weeks living in the YMCA when she was younger. Rosie is living proof that it is possible to turn your life around and is now studying for a BA in Musical Theatre at university. Rosie lives in halls of residence in Sheffield but gives up her time to assist with dance sessions and holiday clubs at Enthusiasm on a regular basis. Without volunteers like Rosie, Enthusiasm would not be able to reach out to as many young people in the local community. Rosie is a brilliant role model for the younger children who attend Enthusiasm and who may not believe higher education and success are possible for people like them.



Youth Work Award

Julia Hodder is a volunteer at Safe & Sound, a charity providing high-quality tailored one-to-one support to victims of child exploitation and young people at risk in Derby. Julia gives up her time to volunteer, despite also running a business and volunteering elsewhere. Julia supports the Youth Work Programme through awareness and safeguarding sessions within schools, colleges, universities and organisations. She helps to deliver Safe & Sound's 'I Can, I Will' training programme, talking to young people about online dangers and what to be aware of when using apps and gaming platforms. Julia also provides hand therapy to several Safe & Sound groups, which is a great tool to get people talking about any trauma they may have experienced. Julia also delivers training programmes to the staff and volunteers around Youth Mental Health. She is an invaluable member of the Safe & Sound volunteer team.

Award Winners

Lifetime Achievement Award: Martin Shaw

Since moving to Derby in 1982, Martin has been passionate about basketball and has volunteered in a variety of ways over the past 42 years, including as club secretary, game day commentator, coach, referee, commissioner and many more roles.

He has sat on countless committees including for Basketball England, Basketball Fellowship, the Sherwood League, Derbyshire Basketball Association, Derby Trailblazers and many more.

Currently, Martin is chairman of the Sherwood Basketball local league, organising fixtures, appointing referees, organising table officials, sorting out player licensing and much more.

He is always busy with 20 teams competing in Division 1 and 2 of the Sherwood League, as well as running his own local league team - Racing Ockbrook.

At the age of 77 Martin also continues to referee games!



Acknowledgements

With thanks to...



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