

# Community Awards 2020 Winners

## Community Action Winner:

### Fulford Parish Council

Fulford Parish Community Action Group

*Nominated by: Janette Forrester*

In light of Covid-19, Councillors presented the idea of a Community Action Group; this included a recruitment drive for support volunteers and a publicity campaign to households with an 'Action Line' to call and request help. The service provided by Fulford Parish has benefited the community by helping 422 people to get shopping and prescriptions, attend hospital appointments or making welfare calls. They have also completed over 3,655 individual requests from service users.

## Community Action Winner:

### The County Store

The Community Organisers Food Project

*Nominated by: Councillor Anne Hobbs*

The County Store has been open since July 2019, selling surplus food. Food, toiletries and other basic products are received from both supermarkets and residents. The team of volunteers then box up the food and sell it at a low price to families in the Stafford Area. The boxes are full of fruit and vegetables, but also other staples such as cereal, bread and condiments; the boxes are sold from £5 - £8.50 to people who sign up to the scheme (which is free to join). They have worked hard during the pandemic, proving the store to be a necessity for those most in need. The delivery service has been extremely useful for people who are housebound and people who have had to self isolate.

## Community Action Highly Commended:

### Weston Road Academy

Rainbow Run

*Nominated by: Sara Setterfield*

All pupils, staff and governors take part in Weston Road Academy's annual 5K 'Race for Life'. People within the school community help out in any way they can by providing medical assistance or handing out water. During the pandemic, they weren't sure how they would be able to carry this tradition on, so they had a virtual Rainbow Run in July! Everyone got involved in their own way and people took pictures of themselves doing their 5K as part of their daily exercise. People wore colourful clothes for the 'Rainbow Run' in support of our NHS - in particular County Hospital. They raised £1,369!

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## **Social Wellbeing Winner:**

### Stone Community Hub

Response to COVID Crisis

Stone Community Hub helps residents of Stone on a variety of different issues such as supporting job searches, blue badge applications and provides a foodbank. As a result of the lockdown, the number of people in serious need of support rose. The Hub recognised the urgent need for funds, volunteers, space and material. The staff suspended normal operations to reorganise the Frank Jordan Centre with additional space to accommodate a much larger foodbank and the need for social distancing. By August, 1,250 food parcels had been delivered.

## **Social Wellbeing Highly Commended:**

### Re-Solv

Supporting Young People's Mental Health

*Nominated by: Councillor Jeremy Pert*

When Covid-19 hit in March, Re-Solv had to quickly figure out how to deliver their service under the new restrictions. They worked to deliver their prevention workshops and other outreach activities online, which will also help 'future-proof' their service. In addition to this, they have created a range of digital resources on their website. Re-Solv have been recognised nationally as being dedicated to supporting young people in particular with their mental health. They have engaged with young people through a variety of mediums such as Facebook pages, Twitter and Zoom, focussing their messages around up and coming trends amongst young people.

## **Local Hero Winner:**

### Debbie Green

Supporting the Community

*Nominated by: Eileen Jordan*

Debbie has been supporting communities for 15 years in her role with Tesco as a community champion, supporting community organisations and groups at the Stafford Tesco Branch. She ensures many organisations receive free food and non food items from the Tesco superstore that will be useful to their specific organisation. The green impact this has on our local environment is amazing, as she saves tonnes of items from being thrown away every year and redistributes perfectly good new items to struggling Stafford residents through local charities and groups.

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## Local Hero Highly Commended:

Rachael Olley

Rachael's Driveway Pop Up Shop

*Nominated by: Aly Davidson*

Rachael is a native of Stafford and one of the world's living angels. Her one-track mind is set on raising funds to help bring moments of respite to the mums and dads of little children battling cancer. During the lockdown period, for example, when donations suddenly stopped, Rachael decided to take advantage of the country's spring cleaning craze and set up a pop up shop in her own small driveway on Parkside. The community really pitched in; donating valuable antique object d'art, good as new clothing, and almost new furniture, prams, baby items and other bric-a-brac.

## Sports and Leisure Winner:

Eccleshall Eagles Junior Football Club

*Nominated by: Councillor Jeremy Pert*

Eccleshall Eagles Junior Football Club has teams from the ages of 6 to 16, playing in both the Mid Staffs League and Potteries Leagues. There are in excess of 200 young people training and playing with Eccleshall Eagles every week. The facilities have been improved every year with investments in the quality of the pitches through things like buying grounds maintenance equipment, reducing the compaction of the ground, aerating the pitches regularly and generally fertilising and maintaining the pitches to an extremely high standard. The grounds person was recently nominated in the Staffordshire Ground Maintenance Person of the Year award, which covers all ages of club from non league downwards. The Club has a long standing relationship with the nearby prison - HMP Drake Hall - whereby women pre-parole come and run the onsite cafe which helps generate funds to help make the club sustainable for the long term, whilst giving the women some much need opportunities to re-engage with the outside world and gain some valuable self confidence.

## Sports and Leisure Highly Commended:

This is Fitness

*Nominated by: Julie Simpson*

Liam and Hayley started This Is Fitness as a gym, but it is so much more than that. They are not only concerned with physical fitness but mental health is just as important. The whole gym is a real community. The members and coaches are so supportive to everyone and the commitment which they showed to the members during lockdown was amazing. Not only did they move personal training and classes online, but also held quizzes, sports day and bingo! This was not only for gym members but something that the whole family could enjoy. As lockdown hit, every member was provided with equipment to help with the online sessions which made a real difference. This is Fitness takes an active role in ensuring the members feel like family.

# Community Awards 2020 Winners

## Environmental Improvement Winner:

### Forebridge Litter Hero

*Nominated by: Councillor Chris Baron*

Ben Alcock has been collecting litter all around the Forebridge area in his own time and has been encouraging others to do the same. This has resulted in a group of litter heroes operating throughout the area. The litter heroes have done amazing work in the Forebridge area in order to keep it a cleaner, tidier and nicer place to live.

## Environmental Improvement Highly Commended:

### Tittensor Best Kept Village Project 2020

*Nominated by: Swynnerton Parish Council*

At the beginning of the year, Trevor Underhill commenced planning the 2020 Best Kept Village entry for Tittensor, contacting all the residents who had been involved in the previous two years. Despite the cancellation of this year's competition following the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, the volunteers were keen to carry on! They felt that the planting up of all the existing containers would decorate and enhance the village and therefore everything would be ready for when things returned to normal. The 2020 Best Kept Village Project lifted hearts and encouraged the community to work together and support each other in very difficult times. It has given people the ability to socialise safely, and provided an example of life in a fairly normal form continuing when the whole world seemed to be changing.

## Special Awards:

### Judges Award:

#### Covid-19 Barlaston Community Action Group

Covid-19 Community Action Plan

*Nominated by: Michala Black*

This project evolved in early March as news of the Coronavirus was spreading and the first COBRA meeting was called by the Government. Barlaston has an elderly demographic and there was concern that residents' health and wellbeing would be affected. The group's strategy was to work with the local shops and amenities to support the community through what was inevitably going to be a difficult time. Groups of volunteers were formed into 'help teams' dependant on what they were able to do, where they lived and when they were available. Neighbours formed WhatsApp groups, sewing groups made washbags, scrubs and masks, an enterprising teenager decorated a tree with messages for the NHS and keyworkers which was adopted by the whole road as well as passers-by. Further teams supporting food shops were established and the Vicar lead the way for personal contact as he telephoned residents on a daily basis providing a listening ear, comfort by way of prayer, as well as just general chit-chat.

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## Little Star:

Georgia Burge

*Nominated by: Councillor Ann Edgeller & Councillor Marnie Phillips*

Georgia is only six years old and is already a veteran in the Stafford litter picking circle! As well as clearing up the streets in her area, Georgia has also made face masks to raise money for the PTFA at Leasowes school for the benefit of all of the children there. Georgia wants to help other children and the community within Baswich with her efforts. Her work shows other children of her age group what doing community work can achieve if you put the effort in.

## Young Hero:

Mai Al-Khaldi

Supporting the elderly community during the pandemic

*Nominated by: Lianne Al-Khaldi*

At the beginning of lockdown in March 2020, Mai Al-Khaldi dropped a note into each of the houses that she delivers papers to, offering help and friendship for as long as needed to ensure that each of her elderly customers never at any point felt lonely, without shopping or essentials. During lockdown, Mai collected and paid bills, shopping, prescriptions, and made phone calls to each of her customers on a regular basis. For some, this was the only interaction with the outside world. Mai's project has benefited the elderly community who would have felt extremely isolated, or unable to safely collect food shopping for a number of reasons including being in the high risk category, having no access to the internet, or struggling to get delivery slots with fully booked supermarkets.

## Posthumous Award

Awarded in honour of Dr Anne Andrews.

*Nominated by Jill Davies*

Dr Anne Andrews lived in the Parish of Tixall for over half a century. In that time, while working in academia and caring for her family, she became an integral part of village life; the cog around which the life of the community revolved. For over 42 years she had been a Parish Councillor and unpaid Clerk to the Council. She worked tirelessly for the local community and oversaw the transition from Parish meeting to Parish Council in 1979. Anne's eye for detail and ability to plan ahead, has ensured that the Parish Council remained a dynamic and effective organisation working for the benefit of the local area and its residents.