



Pride in Fenland

awards 2021



Foreword



The Pride in Fenland awards shine a light on Fenland's dedicated volunteering community. The inaugural awards were held in 2007 and celebrated the many unsung heroes who generously gave freely of their time and skills to help those in greatest need in the communities. Since then, there have been over 600 nominations, with the number of nominations increasing each year.

This year we have reduced the number of categories because we want to highlight and encourage nominations for the hundreds of people who have freely given their time to help others during the pandemic.

We are incredibly proud of every single one of these volunteers who have spared their free time and generous spirit helping people throughout our communities who were in desperate need. 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 helped. And after restrictions began to reduce, we saw a variety of fundraisers, young and old voluntarily raising money for both the NHS and their local communities.

During these extreme circumstances we have seen the Fenland community spirit shine through, and this is why we are hoping to hear about as many of these voluntary actions as possible for the awards this year.

We are delighted to be working in partnership with the Fenland Citizen newspaper to bring you these awards, which this year have been split into the following categories:

- **Good Friend**
- **Young Person**
- **Community Group**

This is the perfect opportunity to nominate an individual or a group, a friend or a relative, who you feel has made a positive difference, either to you personally or the community around you. By nominating them for a Pride in Fenland award, you're giving them a well-deserved, public, 'thank you' for everything they have done.

Nominations can be made by:

- Completing paper copy form attached
- Using the form in the Fenland Citizen newspaper
- Online through the FDC website

Councillor Sam Clark
Portfolio Holder for Communities

The Categories . . .

We would be delighted to receive your nominations for Young People, Community Groups, and Good Friends

Young Person

This year our **Young Person** category is open to any individual or group of individuals aged 21 years and under. We would love to hear how these young people have helped and supported their communities locally or on a national level. As with our other categories, we are expecting many nominations that relate to the COVID-19 pandemic, but we would also actively encourage nominations for young people who have helped their communities in other ways. The smallest act of kindness for an elderly neighbour who could not leave the house due to the national lockdown is as worthy of nomination as the group of young people who have set up a fortnightly litter-picking group in their village. We are happy to accept nominations from parents and the wider family as well as friends or community members. We know there many amazing young people in Fenland and this is our chance to celebrate their contribution to our communities and society.

Community Group

Our **Community Group** category is open to groups large and small. We appreciate that gatherings have been difficult over the last twelve months due to social isolation and social distancing, so this year we are happy to accept nominations for 'virtual' community groups as well as the more traditional 'in person' groups. We are anticipating that there will be many groups nominated for the help they have provided as a direct result of the pandemic, but we equally want to hear about the groups that have helped members of the community for different reasons. Nominations can be for groups that are formally structured or for groups of like-minded people who have identified a need and have joined together to make a difference in their community; as long as all those involved are volunteers, we would love to hear about them.

Good Friend

The **Good Friend** category is for any individual who has volunteered their time to help others. A good friend could be a neighbour who has shopped for someone who is self-isolating or shielding or they could be a friend who has telephoned once or twice a week for people who have been separated from their usual social networks and would otherwise have no one to talk to. This is a very broad category so if there is someone who has helped you, either due to the pandemic, or completely unrelated to COVID-19, we would urge you to nominate them; Fenland is a small district with a big heart and these awards are a chance for everyone to hear about it's amazing residents.

A panel of judges will consider the nominations and each category winner will receive a prize of £100, a commemorative plaque and a certificate, runners up will receive £25, a commemorative plaque and a certificate.

Closing date for nominations is **5pm on Monday 4th October 2021**