



THE WEST HORSLEY WHEEL OF CARE WINS THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE

It has today been announced in The London Gazette that **The West Horsley Wheel of Care** ("Wheel of Care") has been honoured with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

The Wheel of Care meets the needs of West Horsley residents of all ages, enabling them to lead independent, fuller and richer lives and preventing social isolation. This registered charity, set up in July 2000 and funded entirely by donations, is run by local volunteers. Most of the requests received involve transport but can also include providing cover for carers for a couple of hours, helping with a small DIY job at home or collecting a prescription.

- ♦ The Wheel of Care runs four clubs, open to residents of West Horsley and all neighbouring villages. The clubs are a weekly Scrabble Club, two weekly exercise classes (Seated Dance and Movement to Music) and a monthly Film Club. **The benefit of the clubs and the social interaction that they provide cannot be underestimated.** The Wheel of Care is unique in that it is the only Good Neighbour scheme in the area to offer such activities (there are over 100 Good Neighbour schemes in Surrey).
- ♦ Wheel of Care volunteers provided over 2,300 hours of help and drove just under 5,800 miles in 2014. There are currently 125 Wheel of Care volunteers. Once a month, 20 of these volunteers act as a "Duty Officer", answering the telephone and matching client requests with volunteers. All volunteers undergo a DBS check (Disclosure & Barring Service) and are invited to attend First Aid and Driver Awareness Courses.

Gina Isaac and Amanda de Haast, President and Chairman of the Wheel of Care, attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace on 28th May 2015 where the Queen and other winners of this year's award were in attendance.

The Wheel of Care is one of 187 charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year. The number of awards handed out to groups has increased by over 60% from 2014 due to an increase in high quality applications, showing that the voluntary sector is thriving and full of innovative ideas to tackle community challenges.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work in their communities. The awards were created in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee and winners are announced each year on 2nd June – the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.

The Wheel of Care will receive the award later this summer from Dame Sarah Goad DCVO JP, the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Committee Chair, former broadcast journalist Martyn Lewis CBE, said:

"I warmly congratulate all the inspirational voluntary groups who have been rewarded for their community work with a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The judging panel for this year's awards were struck by the quality and breadth of all the successful groups. The thousands of groups who give up spare time to help others in their community and to solve problems demonstrate the best of democracy in action."

Minister for Civil Society, Rob Wilson, said:

"I would like to congratulate all the groups who received this year's Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of their fantastic achievements. The hard work and commitment that goes into the work of these organisations is surpassed only by the passion and motivation of the individuals who volunteer. I hope these groups continue to inspire others to get involved and make a positive impact so that we can continue to build a bigger, stronger society."

Gina Isaac, Founder and President of The West Horsley Wheel of Care, also said:

"I am absolutely delighted that the huge contribution to village life made by all our many volunteers, past and present, over the last fifteen years, has been honoured and recognised in this way".

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Contact for Press Enquiries

Melanie Gillespie, Wheel of Care Committee Member, 01483 222457
www.westhorsleywheelofcare.co.uk

Notes to Editors

- 1 Lord Lieutenants are the monarch's representatives in their lieutenancy. There are 98 Lord Lieutenants who cover all areas of the UK.
- 2 This year, there were 187 winners of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service from across the UK. More information on the winners can be found at The London Gazette <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/>
- 3 Any group of two or more people that has participated in voluntary work for more than three years can be nominated for the award. Full details on how to nominate are available at <https://qavs.direct.gov.uk/>
- 4 Nominations for the 2016 awards close on 18th September 2015.