



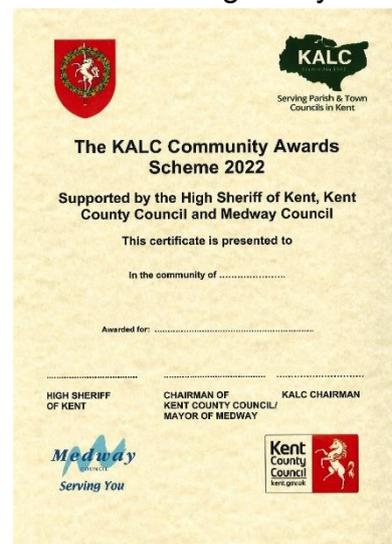
Kent Association of Local Councils – MEDIA RELEASE 17 November 2021

2022 Community Awards Scheme launched to recognise community champions

On 17 November, the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) launched its ninth KALC Community Awards Scheme, inviting nominations for selfless individuals from across the county, who make significant contributions to their communities.

The scheme is supported by the High Sheriff of Kent, Kent County Council and Medway Council.

Nominations are invited from Parish, Town and Community Councils and Parish Meetings (Local Councils) for people living or working within their boundary. The Local Councils make their own decisions about how they want to identify those who have made a significant contribution to the local community and there are no pre-determined criteria for what the contribution to the community might be. The Awards Scheme has proved very successful since it was originally launched in 2013. Among last year's winners were many volunteers who supported vulnerable people and their communities during the Covid-19 pandemic by collecting groceries and prescriptions, visits and telephone calls, designing PPE gowns and bags, running monthly quizzes for charity, organising 'Secret Santa' and co-ordinating distribution to lonely and elderly residents, offering IT assistance and training for the elderly. Other examples include initiating and delivering projects to improve the historic coastline attractions providing restful contemplation, exercise, and social interaction for the benefit of residents and visitors, organising village activities, serving on local community groups and local charities, helping keep the community tidy, fundraising activities, and Speedwatch volunteers.



The winners will receive a certificate signed by the High Sheriff of Kent, KCC Chairman/Mayor of Medway and the KALC Chairman. The Local Councils can decide whether they want to present something extra to the winner or to all nominees.

The High Sheriff of Kent, John Weir commented: *“After the trauma of the past eighteen months it is more important than ever to recognise and pay tribute to the many unsung heroes who have contributed so much to communities across Kent. I have not only been privileged, but also humbled, to visit many charities and organisations to witness the dedication and compassion of the volunteers. I am thrilled to play a part in recognising these amazing people, and the outstanding contribution that they make to our county.”*

The former Chairman of Kent County Council, Mrs Ann Allen MBE, who has very sadly passed away recently, had expressed her support for the awards, saying:

I am so pleased to support the KALC Community Awards Scheme again this year and to help recognise those people in our communities who go above and beyond to aid those in need. Volunteers play such a vital role in so many areas of our lives and this has been particularly evident during the pandemic, with many people supporting neighbours and friends through very difficult times. These Awards offer us the opportunity to recognise and thank those people in our communities who do so much but may otherwise go unnoticed.

Honouring Mrs Allen's support of the Awards, Vice-Chairman, Mrs Lesley Game, stood in for Mrs Allen at the launch of the awards saying:

My colleague and friend, Ann Allen, was a firm supporter of these Awards and I am keen to honour that support by representing our former Chairman today.

Mayor of Medway Jan Aldous said: *"It is my privilege to pay tribute to our Volunteers through the KALC award scheme. They are by their dedication, compassion and devotion our unsung heroes and fully deserving of an award; Covid has made us appreciate what charities and volunteers do to serve to our community and make them a better place to live. As Mayor of Medway I have made it a priority to visit Charities and Volunteer Centres to thank them for all they do."*

KALC Chairman Mrs Sarah Barker said: *"We are delighted that the High Sheriff of Kent, Kent County Council and Medway Council are supporting this excellent Awards Scheme. Our member Councils, as the first tier of local government closest to their communities, are ideally placed to recognise those individuals who make a significant contribution to their local communities across the county."*

The closing date for nominations is Monday 14 February 2022.

Ends...

For further information contact Terry Martin, Chief Executive, Kent Association of Local Councils on 07475 034346 or e-mail kalc@kentalc.gov.uk



High Sheriff of Kent - John Weir



Kent County Council
Vice Chairman – Mrs Lesley Game



Mayor of Medway – Jan Aldous



Cllr Sarah Barker
KALC Chairman