

The Winners



Lena Jordan
Nominated multiple times for being passionate about her community and for her years of dedicated service as Parish Clerk for Rodmersham and Milstead Parish Councils.

John Clayton
Recognised for his hard work in establishing the Detling Community Store. John refused to accept that the village had lost its store and Post Office, so gathered support from other local residents to resurrect one. After four years of hard work and determination, the new Detling Community Store opened its doors in early 2020.



Ian and Sue Earl
Celebrated for their long-standing support of Badlesmere Lees Village Hall and various other voluntary roles in the community. I was told that Ian "does the jobs few people want to do" and Sue is a skilled and diligent first responder who recently became a Samaritan doing exceptional work helping prisoners.



Columbines Wildlife Care (Mark and Serena Henderson)

Honoured for their dedication to rescuing and caring for wildlife in Teynham. They will have made a real and important difference to many animals' lives in the area.

Jackie Saunders

Recognised for her many years of outstanding service to the church in Boxley, supporting countless people. Jackie is a Church Warden, Lay Minister and Chaplain at St Mary and All Saints Church. I am told she leads services and takes funerals, and leads weekly services in a number of local care homes. Jackie is also involved in the care of the churchyard, leading regular working parties, and helps organise many of the special events offered by the church to the local community each year.



Rebecca Ward

Commended for raising significant funds for research into Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma, a fast-growing childhood brain cancer, after losing her son Joey to this terrible disease. Rebecca organises an annual tractor run through Stalisfield, something the local farmers always look forward to. The event brings the community together and I was told "If anyone deserves it, it's this brave woman."



Martin Sherwood

Celebrated as Harrietsham Parish Warden for exemplary service, especially during Covid, remaining a trusted lifeline for the community. I was told that he is that rare public servant who is not only well-known within the local community but trusted by all who meet him – who are often the most vulnerable amongst us.



Nick Osborne
Described as “one in a million”. In his mid-eighties, Nick is known for his daily acts of kindness and support in Lenham, for example at the Honywood & Douglas Almshouse and at the community centre.



Faversham Community Christmas Lights
Recognised for their year-round fundraising, maintenance, and organisation of Faversham’s Christmas lights and switch-on events.



Fusion Healthy Living Centre, Maidstone (Wendy Webb, Bernadette Elliott, Jenny Meehan, Chloe Hubbard)
Honoured for their collective commitment. The centre, in Park Wood, Maidstone, is home to a community café, supports a range of community health and wellbeing initiatives, and offers access to WiFi, printing, photocopying and scanning.

The Highly Commended

Abbey Physic Community Garden, Faversham
Recognised for being a wonderfully inclusive, welcoming sanctuary supporting people to improve their physical and mental wellbeing. The garden works to reduce the stigma of mental health, tackle isolation and loneliness, and provides a safe, supportive space for all.



The Station at Hollingbourne (The Signal Box)
Celebrated for transforming a derelict station building into a vibrant multi-use community hub. Since opening in 2023, it has hosted a pop-up cinema, meetings, a book exchange, a café, and more, thanks to the vision and dedication of local volunteers.



Lynsted Community Kitchen Garden
Commended for providing free, organic produce to around 70 people and their families year-round. The group champions sustainable "no dig" gardening, has planted over 120 trees and 600 hedgerow plants, maintains beehives, and creates wildlife habitats.



Citizens Advice Swale
Honoured for their commitment to helping people navigate challenges including housing, employment, and debt, offering vital support to those in need.



Faversham Hopper Community Bus
Recognised for providing essential transport to isolated villages and underserved areas around Faversham, ensuring community members remain connected.



Faversham Household Waste Recycling Centre
Praised for their consistently supportive, helpful service and for maintaining a clean, tidy facility for residents.



Tim Force, Donna Hopkins, and Josh Force

The team foster an inclusive football environment at Faversham Strike Force FC. Their dedication to leading a group of coaches and supporting individuals with special education needs and disabilities has created a welcoming space where over 60 players are part of six disability teams, competing in the Kent Disability League.



Janice Reece

Acknowledged for volunteering many nights on the Urban Blue Bus, providing a safe haven for vulnerable people in Maidstone town centre.



Michael Wheeler

Celebrated for raising thousands of pounds for hospices, making a significant difference to the lives of many. Photographed is Michael Sanders who fundraised with Michael and came to represent him at the ceremony.



Carey Philpott (SATEDA)
Recognised for her tireless work supporting women and children affected by domestic abuse in Swale and Maidstone. I am told her unwavering dedication has had a profound impact on the lives of so many women in Kent.



Lyn Collins
Commended for years of devoted service to the churches of Badlesmere and Leaveland as Church Warden and Treasurer.



Megan Burney
Praised for raising substantial funds for charity – remarkably, at just 17 years old.

Susannah Butcher
Honoured for her dedication as Chair of Governors at Bapchild and Tonge Church of England Primary School and Nursery, supporting children, staff, parents, and village life.



I received over 80 excellent nominations, and it was really hard to choose the final winners and highly commended. In the end I focussed on the people who I feel receive the least formal recognition for what they do.

Whether people are winners, highly commended or nominees, these awards are meant to shine a light on all those who go above and beyond for others, without seeking recognition, and all nominees embody this spirit. The impact you make does not go un-noticed, and I am deeply grateful for all that you do.

Helen Whately MP
Member of Parliament serving Faversham and Mid Kent

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Ceremony hosted by Doddington Place Gardens

Awards sponsored by the Kent Garden Show