



Merton Partnership Civic Pride Volunteer Awards

Nominations now open

Following on from the success of last year's event at AFC Wimbledon, we are holding this year's Volunteer Awards on 7th June 2024 at the same prestigious venue.

Now in its 9th Year, The Merton Partnership Civic Pride Volunteer Awards is the Borough's annual celebration to acknowledge and give thanks for the tremendous contribution that local volunteers make to the life of the Borough. Each year, thousands of residents, young and old, dedicate more than 40,000 volunteer hours to help make the Borough of Merton a pleasant place to live, work and learn.

There are ten award categories in total this year:

Volunteer Manager of the Year

In recognition of individuals who manage or coordinate cohorts of volunteers and, in their role, have made an outstanding contribution to volunteering standards. A volunteer manager who shows commitment to best practice in supporting volunteers, including volunteer involvement, recruitment, induction, training, personal development, rewards and recognition.

Employee Volunteer/Team of the Year

This award recognises a business/public authority or organisation that has donated employee time to benefit Merton's communities. The Awards can be made to an individual employee or a team/cohort of employee volunteers.

Volunteer Team of the Year

In recognition of a team of 3 or more people who have taken action to make a difference to the environment and/or lives of residents in the London Borough of Merton.

Young Volunteer Team of the Year (under 18)

This award recognises a team of 3 or more young people (under 18 years of age) who have taken action to make a difference to the environment and lives of residents of the London Borough of Merton.

Environmental Volunteer of the Year

In recognition of local individuals who volunteer to enhance and/or protect our local environment, whether that be individuals involved in Friends of Parks/Open Spaces or those who give up their time to monitor the quality of the local air or campaign around climate change.

Young Sports Club Volunteer of the Year (under 18)

In recognition of a young (under 18) Sports Club volunteer, coach, club secretary, linesman, referee, physio, first aider, tuckshop coordinator etc, who has shown commitment to ensuring Merton residents can participate in high-quality sporting activities.

The Paul Smithers Sports Club Volunteer of the Year

In recognition of a volunteer sports coach who dedicates their time and is committed to ensuring that Merton residents can enjoy the benefits of sport and physical activity, allowing them to feel more motivated, confident and healthy. Paul Smithers died suddenly at age just 31 in 2022. He was the Youth & Community manager at Fulham FC Community Foundation from 1990 – 2022. He dedicated a great deal of time to supporting local Merton young people to reach their potential through the KICK programme.

The Councillor Maxi Martin Young Volunteer of the Year (under 18)

This award is given to an exemplary volunteer who not only shows dedication and commitment, perhaps battling against their own adversity but always goes the extra mile to support local charitable work and the local community. Councillor Maxi Martin worked as a Councillor for 18 years (St Helier Ward Residents). In honour of her exceptional dedication to the community and its young people over 18 years of age, she was presented Honorary Alderman status by LBC posthumously.

The Eric Leppard Lifetime Achievement Award

This award is in recognition of individuals who have volunteered with one or more organisations for at least 25 years. It is dedicated to Eric Leppard, who died in 2022 at age 84 and who spent the last 25 years of his life volunteering with several local organisations, including Deen City Farm, Wimbledon Magistrates Court, Homestart Merton and Merton Home Visits Library Service.

The Chris Frost Volunteer of the Year

This award is given to an exemplary volunteer who not only shows dedication and commitment, perhaps battling against their own adversity but always goes the extra mile to support local charitable work and the local community. The Award is named in honour of Chris Frost, who herself was a role model. She was the charismatic CEO of Merton Voluntary Service Council (now Merton Connected) for more than 30 years. Chris championed voluntary action, volunteering and partnership working within and across the voluntary and community sectors.

Nominations are now officially open and can be made via the online nominations form:

bit.ly/nominatevolunteers

Please select the category which best relates to your chosen volunteer nomination.

Nominations must be submitted by Monday, 22nd April 2023, for the panel of judges to select the winners.

All volunteers and organisations shortlisted will be invited to the Merton Partnership Civic Pride Volunteer Awards 2023 Evening Ceremony on Friday, 7th June 2024.

**THANK YOU.
MERTON CONNECTED.**