



QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2016 - PRESS RELEASE

Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care, Newcastle upon Tyne, is a voluntary group of 300 who work in the community and who are part of the journey to recovery when patients are going through a difficult and trying time, has been honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service for 2016, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care offers staffed, custom made ambulances to transport outpatients - free of charge - to and from Freeman Hospital and Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle upon Tyne, who are undergoing chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy treatment.

Jean Ross and Steven Watson from Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace on Thursday, 19 May 2016 where they met the Queen and other winners of this year's award.

Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care is one of 193 charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year. The number of awards given to groups this year is slightly higher than last year, 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 2 June – the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.

Award winners this year range from a War Memorial Community Trust, providing social facilities for the benefit of the community in Clwyd, Wales, to a club enhancing the community by developing individuals through athletics, in Ayrshire and Arran, Scotland.

Daft as a Brush Cancer Patient Care will receive the award from the Lord Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear later this summer.

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

"I warmly congratulate all of 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 volunteers who give up spare time to help others in their community and to help solve problems demonstrate the very best of democracy in action."



Minister for Civil Society, Rob Wilson, said:

“I would like to congratulate all groups who received this year’s Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service, in recognition of their fantastic achievements. The huge amount of work and commitment these organisations put into their local communities 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 more compassionate society.”

Brian Burnie, Trustee, said that on behalf of all our fantastic volunteers without whom the charity could not operate this transport service, I have much pleasure in receiving this award. Anyone who would like to be involved in this local charity would be very welcome to apply as there are many voluntary positions available and is a great way to meet new friends whilst spending your spare time in a worthwhile way.

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 193 winners of The Queen’s Award 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
<http://qavs.direct.gov.uk/>

4. Nominations for the 2017 awards close on 16 September 2016 and should be made online via <https://www.gov.uk/queens-award-for-voluntary-service/overview>