



News Release

2nd June 2017

THE QUEEN RECOGNISES TWO LOCAL CHARITIES WITH PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Two of the Bailiwick's voluntary organisations have been recognised with a national award from Her Majesty The Queen.

Caritas and Male Uprising Guernsey both feature in a nationwide list of volunteering groups that have been selected from across the UK and Crown Dependencies to receive The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (see notes 1 & 2).

The equivalent of an MBE for volunteer groups, The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award available to local volunteer groups 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. Award winners this year also include a Welsh volunteer mountain rescue team, a group providing rural and horticultural skills therapy in Herefordshire and a preserved railway in Dorset.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, Vice Admiral Sir Ian Corder, welcomed the news: 'I'm very pleased that two hard-working and highly valued local charities have received the highest recognition for their outstanding service.'

His Excellency added: 'The Bailiwick's voluntary sector is second to none, thanks to islanders' generosity and willingness to get involved, and I would encourage anyone who knows of a particularly deserving local charity to consider nominating them for 2018.'

All nominations for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service are made by members of the public who have either been helped personally or witnessed the benefits of a group's work within their community (see notes 3 & 4).

More///...

Each year, a shortlist of several hundred eligible groups from across Britain is reviewed by the National Award Committee, which makes recommendations to the Cabinet Office. A final list is then submitted to Her Majesty The Queen for approval.

Caritas and Male Uprising Guernsey have both earned the Award for their outstanding voluntary work within their respective fields. The charities will each receive a certificate signed by Her Majesty The Queen and a domed glass crystal, which His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor will present at The Queen's Birthday reception at Government House, on Saturday 17th June 2017. Both groups will receive an invitation for representatives to attend a Royal garden party at Buckingham Palace.

This year's announcement takes to 24 the total number of voluntary groups in the Bailiwick to be accredited with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Any group of two or more people doing volunteering work can be nominated for The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The group should have been running for at least three years, with the majority of participants being volunteers. More than half of the people involved must have the right to live in the UK or one of the Crown Dependencies.

To be eligible, an organisation must provide a service that meets a need for people living in the local community. It should also be run locally and supported, recognised and respected by the local community and the people who benefit from it.

For details on The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and to nominate a group, visit <http://gavs.direct.gov.uk/>. Advice, if required by potential nominators, can be obtained from the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor Tel. 726666. Nominations for the 2018 awards are expected to close in mid-September 2017 and should be made online via <https://www.gov.uk/queens-award-for-voluntary-service/overview> (see notes 4).

– Ends –

Notes to Editors:

1. **Caritas** - Caritas was founded by the Reverend Richard Bellinger to support young adults in difficulty, in the criminal justice system, in distress or need. The charity works with the land to develop self-esteem and change lifestyles. It runs a café in Mill Street, which aims to offer company along with affordable and nourishing meals for all islanders. The ultimate aim of the charity is to establish a residential community within the Island. **Point of contact:** the Reverend Richard Bellinger, (Home) Tel. 263203; café Tel. 712138. For more information visit <http://www.caritas.org.gg>
2. **Male Uprising Guernsey** - Male Uprising Guernsey, known as MUG, was launched in 2012 to increase awareness and promote education around the symptoms and treatment of prostate, bowel and testicular cancers. It also raises funds to improve the diagnosis and care of local men suffering with male cancers. Male Uprising Guernsey aims to get men, whatever their age, to be more confident, outgoing and questioning of their health symptoms. Most importantly, it encourages men to seek medical advice and assistance at the earliest opportunity as procrastination or delays can have deadly consequences. **Point of contact:** Tony Tostevin - tony.tostevin@tpagency.com tel. 700070. For more information visit <http://mug.gg/about-mug/our-aim.aspx>
3. **About the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service** – The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service not only serves to provide recognition of volunteer groups, but also demonstrates the high respect in which volunteering is held. The Award is overseen by the Office of Civil Society (OCS). As part of the Cabinet Office, the OCS leads work across government to support the environment for a thriving third sector (voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, charities, cooperatives and mutuals), enabling it to campaign for change, deliver public services, promote social enterprise and strengthen communities. Groups must be nominated for the Award – self nomination is not permitted. A group (two or more people) can be nominated if it is based in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. The group must have been volunteering for the benefit of people in the UK or overseas for at least three years and more than half its members must be volunteers who have the right of residence in the UK or relevant Crown Dependency. Groups solely concerned with fundraising for charitable purposes are not eligible. More information on the winners can be found at the London Gazette <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/>
4. **Nomination system** - The 2017 Queen's Award for Voluntary Service marks the fourth year in which voluntary groups and organisations are nominated directly by members of the general public, through a web-based system. Prior to 2014, all nominations were submitted by Lieutenant-Governors and Lord-Lieutenants.

Issued by the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor
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