



Place to be Proud of Awards 2021

Winners Announced at Innovative Virtual Awards Ceremony

Embargoed to Thursday 29th April at 7pm

For the second year running, in a 18 year history, the whole of Basingstoke and Deane – and anyone else from anywhere in the world – was invited to join the celebration of some of our community heroes at the virtual 'Place to be Proud of Awards'.

The virtual awards replaced the usual gathering and took place on Thursday 29th April and can be viewed on Destination Basingstoke's Facebook page or website.

The Awards recognise a whole range of people, organisations and projects that contribute to our community making it one we can be proud of. The awards evening revealed first the finalists, and then the winners of each category. There were many nominations to all of the categories and more details of all of them, including the winners and finalists can be downloaded from the website.

Arts & Entertainment Award – sponsored by Helping Hands Community Radio

The winner is: Jodie Marsh-Hoffman (Junk Jodie)

“What a fantastic opportunity for HHCR, Basingstoke’s Community Radio Station to have sponsored the Arts & Entertainment category of this year’s Destination Basingstoke’s A Place to be Proud of Awards. A deserved win for Jodie amongst such innovative entries. Huge congratulations from HHCR”

Runners Up are: Josh Dixon from Pumpkin Pantos and Overton TV

- **Young Role Model Award – sponsored by Queen Mary’s College**

The winner is: Ben Soones

“Ben is a worthy winner and a role model to all of us, gifting his time, skill, and knowledge to the benefit of many young people across a wide geographical area. His generosity and willingness to support those around him mark Ben out as an exceptional young man who has led by example.”

Ali Foss Principal of Queen Mary’s College

Runners Up are: Cameron Coveney, Michael Ellis, Louisa Riley and Aaron Langford

- **Unsung Hero Award – sponsored by Waitrose and John Lewis**

The winner is: Catherine Waters-Clark

“Catherine Waters-Clark stood out because she is an inspiration to those around her and has worked tirelessly for the community in the face of real challenges. Her work has involved producing creative solutions to problems and she is a selfless individual.” – Jamie Rodgers Waitrose Basingstoke

Runners Up are: Arun Mummalaneni and Margaret Macklin

- **Health & Care Award – sponsored by Lilly UK**

The winner is: Hampshire Court and Basingstoke Fire Station Covid Vaccination Centres

“Huge congratulations from Lilly to the deserving winners of the Health and Wellbeing award, the teams at the Hampshire Court and Basingstoke Fire Station COVID vaccination centres. The centres are staffed by an incredible army of volunteers who have made a massive difference to the health of the community. Everyone involved is a truly deserving winner. And congratulations to the runners up and all those nominated in the category, for all that you do for our local community.”
Ashley Diaz-Granados, General Manager Lilly UK & Northern Europe.

Runners Up are: Glenn Brailey and Elaine Tennison

- **Community Project Award – sponsored by Face TV**

Winner is: M3 Job Club

“A secure and fulfilling job often ensures not just personal and family stability, but the stability of community overall. Free access to resources, training and support is invaluable, especially during times of uncertainty. The M3 Job Club’s work is of consistent benefit to our local area, and were clear winners for this years Community Project Award”. – Genevieve Touzin, MD at Face TV

Runners Up are: Viables Community Centre and The Camrose Centre

Business and the Community Award – sponsored by Portsmouth Estates

The winner is: The Limeleaf Thai Restaurant

“The Limeleaf have shown generous community spirit in their support to local NHS workers, despite the challenges experienced in their own industry over the last year. To continue to focus on the wider Basingstoke community even as the business environment has been so difficult, is a credit to the Limeleaf team.” Jonathan Hodge, CEO, Portsmouth Estates

Runners Up are: Willows Coffee House and Phillips Solicitors

- **Parent in a Million Award – Sponsored by the Basingstoke Gazette**

The winner is: Claire Weatherhead

“Claire is someone who despite great personal loss and challenges has always shown dedication to her family. Her caring nature is clearly infectious and the support she continues to give both to her children and her sister and her nine children is nothing short of heroic.” - Bill Browne, Gazette Newspapers.

Runners Up are: Carol Soane and Katie Loosley

- **Good Neighbour of the Year Award – sponsored by Right at Home**

The winners are: Rodney and Marilyn Scott

“I’d like to congratulate Rodney and Marilyn for their fantastic efforts with their local community over the past 20 years. I was particularly impressed by the scope of the support they have provided to so many people in the Oakley. This ranges from telephone calls through to small food hampers, visits by guest speakers and, trips out. The support provided covers a range of needs from basic support through to the ever important mental stimulation. Hopefully I’ll get to meet Rodney and Marilyn at some point in the not too distant future to congratulate them in person.” - Kevin Smith from Right at Home.

Runners Up are: Overton Cares and Frank Mudd – Pop Up Play Village

- **Fundraiser of the Year Award – Beaufort Asset Financial Reading**

The winner is: Richard Curtis the Portsmouth Arms

“Richard has been an inspiration to so many over last 12 months and brought a real sense of community spirit and togetherness, even when we couldn’t be together in person. His support of local charities has made a real difference and raised awareness to those who need our support more than ever. He should be so proud of his achievements and on behalf of Beaufort Financial (Reading) I would like to say a big thank you” Mark Dolby, Director at Beaufort Financial (Reading)

Runners Up: Debbie Loveridge and Arkriders

In addition there was a Judges special award for Ali Foss

“Ali Foss has been a fantastic ambassador for Basingstoke and especially the next generation, and we would like to thank her by presenting her a special lifetime achievement award to mark the end of over 30 years at QMC and as a as a real champion of young people and, as well as a thank you for many years supporting these awards,” said Felicity Edwards from Destination Basingstoke.

The awards were hosted by past winner and local hero, Dave Holby-Wolinski together with Felicity Edwards from Destination Basingstoke and were streamed from Face TV's studios in an innovative awards ceremony. All winners will receive their certificates in the post.

"After many years of meeting and celebrating our community heroes in the flesh, for a second year we had to adapt and ask you to welcome us into your home instead! The Place to be Proud of Awards always celebrate those people, projects and organisations that make Basingstoke special and this year there was the added poignancy that we are perhaps all just a bit more appreciative and understanding of what a supportive community means," said Felicity Edwards from Destination Basingstoke.

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For more information contact Felicity Edwards on 07921765354

A Place to be Proud of awards are organised by Destination Basingstoke in partnership with Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Nominations were invited from anyone who would like to recognise a local individual, project or organisation that has contributed to the community.

www.destinationbasingstoke.co.uk