



The Queen pays tribute to **RENFREWSHIRE volunteering group with prestigious Award**

basketballpaisley has been announced as one of 95 volunteering groups from across the UK winning this year's Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, recognising the outstanding contributions made to local communities by groups voluntarily devoting their time for the benefit of others.

The prestigious National Honour, which is equivalent to the MBE, sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering, and the activities of those awarded have been judged of the highest standard.

basketballpaisley is a large community based organisation which has successfully operated at local, regional and national level. With a membership exceeding 250 players it has delivered a quality Youth service to 4 communities in Renfrewshire, where it has excelled in participation, developing potential and succeeding in performance both on and off court. Working in conjunction with Renfrewshire Volunteer Centre, Reid Kerr College, Strathclyde Police and Renfrewshire Council, **basketballpaisley** strives to meet and support the needs of all young people through various initiatives by improving life chances, reducing crime, disorder and danger.

Winners of this year's Award were selected from 406 groups nominated by members of the public who have been helped personally or witnessed the benefits of a group's work in their community.

basketballpaisley will receive a certificate signed by the Queen and an exclusive commemorative crystal. These will be presented by Her Majesty's representative in Renfrewshire, James A. Wardrop, Deputy Lieutenant at a special ceremony arranged by the Lieutenancy office. Group representatives have also received an invitation to a Royal Garden Party event at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in the summer.

Speaking of their success, Lindsay Lang, Chief Executive from **basketballpaisley** said: "We are absolutely thrilled to have received this prestigious honour for the variety of work we do with basketball in our local communities. This award is for all

our unsung heroes who have made a massive and remarkable commitment to our young people and our programme over the years. I thank them all.”

Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service Main Award Committee Chair and former broadcast journalist Martyn Lewis CBE said,

“Volunteering binds communities together and builds a stronger and kinder society. Often these unsung heroes go about their work without much recognition, that’s why I’m particularly pleased to see basketball**paisley**’s efforts recognised and rewarded by the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service.”

More than 700 groups around the UK have now won the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service, over the seven years since it was created by Her Majesty to mark the occasion of her Golden Jubilee in 2002.

For details of all this year’s Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service winners and information on how to nominate a group that really makes a difference, visit www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk, where a nomination form can be downloaded.

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For further information

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Note to editors

About the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service

In 2002, in celebration of Her Majesty’s Golden Jubilee, the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Award for Voluntary Service by Groups in the Community was established. Its purpose is to recognise groups of individuals who are giving their time freely for the benefit of others. It is the highest honour that can be bestowed upon groups of this kind and is equivalent in status to the MBE. As such, the Queen’s Award 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 the Third Sector (OTS). As part of the Cabinet Office, the OTS 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 and the Isle of Man. The group has to 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. Groups solely concerned with fundraising for charitable purposes are not eligible. Further details on entrance criteria and the nomination process are available from www.queensawardvoluntary.gov.uk.