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The Bassetlaw Volunteer Awards 2024 event, took place on Friday 7th June at Worksop Town Hall, and was attended by over 90 people, all celebrating the great achievements of volunteers across the Bassetlaw District.

The 2024 event for the first time had exclusive focus on the volunteers and aimed to recognise and thank the many exceptional local volunteers that we have in Bassetlaw. 55 nominations were received in total and a panel of judges were tasked with choosing the 15 winners.

It was a joyous celebration and participants said it gave volunteers a real morale boost at a time needed more than ever due to unprecedented demand on services.

Volunteering is great for communities and great for volunteers with benefits that include improving mental and physical health, increasing self-confidence and self-esteem, reducing stress and anxiety, developing new skills, and building friendships and social interaction.

Andria Birch, Chief Executive Officer of Bassetlaw Community and Voluntary Service, and one of the judges, who presented three of the awards said:





“It has been a privilege to hear about the contributions and achievements of the many amazing volunteers working across Bassetlaw. The winners are truly inspirational and many people at the event were moved to tears, myself included. We thank them, all the volunteers who have been nominated, and indeed all volunteers across Bassetlaw for the incredible difference they make to our communities.”

Lee Eddell, Bassetlaw Place Based Partnership Programme Director, and one of the judges, said:

“It was as heart warming as it was challenging to be involved in evaluating the nominations for volunteer awards 2024. It was so incredibly difficult to put forward just one volunteer from the categories. It is humbling to read all the amazing work Bassetlaw volunteers are doing individually and within their teams to improve and support individuals and communities. I am honoured to be part of Bassetlaw community”.

Volunteers' Week and the awards event also marked the start of work to develop a 'Vision for Volunteering 2030' for Bassetlaw. The Vision for Volunteering aims to create a diverse, innovative, ambitious, equitable and person-centred future for volunteering. The Vision will set out a view of what volunteering needs to look like, and how this will make volunteers feel about their roles, by 2030.

With support from Bassetlaw Place Based Partnership, wider VCSE membership and most importantly the amazing volunteers and communities across Bassetlaw, BCVS will work over the coming months to develop the Vision ready for launch in 2025.

Stephen Brown, Head of Corporate Services, Bassetlaw District Council, and one of the judges presented the Bassetlaw Environmental, Food Insecurity & Community Grants Awards and said:

“Bassetlaw District Council is delighted to be able to support such an important event arranged by the BCVS. Volunteers play such a vital part in our local community supporting so many important services and activities for local people. It was also very positive to see a new award recognising the work of the Bassetlaw Community Grants Programme. Much of this work goes on with little appreciation so we are honoured to say thank you to those nominated for all the awards - you are all winners”

Dr. Victoria McGregor-Riley, Bassetlaw Place Director & Mid Notts Interim Locality Director for NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB, supported the event and presented the Bassetlaw Supportive, Young & Health and Wellbeing Volunteer Awards and said:

“It was a wonderful celebration of the many contributions of local volunteers who improve the lives of local people in Bassetlaw. I was privileged to present the awards for Supportive Volunteer of the Year, Young Volunteer of the Year and the Bassetlaw Health and Wellbeing Volunteer of the Year.

The energy, effort and commitment demonstrated by our volunteering community is absolutely tremendous for the people of Bassetlaw. I was proud to present these Awards in recognition of the huge impact volunteering has on the health and wellbeing of local people.”

There were 15 fantastic winners against 10 categories:





1. Supportive Volunteer of the Year Award winners:
 - **Christopher Hopkinson** - Homes for Ukraine - Bassetlaw Support Centre
 - **Elaine Valentine** - Worksop Multicultural Association
 - **Dennis Sam Cook** - Military Veterans Support Group
2. Young Volunteer of the Year Award winner:
 - **Jessica McGlone** - From the Heart
3. Young Volunteer of the Year Award winner:
 - **Jon Sellers** - Change Grow Live
4. Heritage Volunteer of the Year Award winner:
 - **Katarzyna Bilska** - Polonia Worksop
5. Fundraising Volunteer of the Year Award winner:
 - **Stuart Dixon** - Bluebell Wood
6. Outdoor Volunteer of the Year Award winner:
 - **Christine Mead** - Clumber Park
7. Environmental Volunteer of the Year Award winner:
 - **Steve Johnson** - Bassetlaw Food Bank
8. Food Insecurity Volunteer of the Year Award winner:
 - **Robin Trowle** - Bassetlaw Food Bank
9. Community Grants Volunteer of the Year Award winner:
 - **Derek Wilkinson** - Community Grants Panel Volunteer
10. Volunteer of The Year Award winners:
 - **Barbara Bartle** - Sturton Le Steeple Village Playgroup at St Peter and St Paul's Church
 - **Nina Theideman** - Dunham on Trent & District Village Hall
 - **Lyn Sharpe** - Dunham on Trent & District Village Hall
 - **Lucy Jackson** – JOEL The Complete Package

Judges noted that it was incredibly difficult to select winners when the nominations were all so strong. We know that without volunteers the fantastic voluntary and community groups across Bassetlaw would not be able to deliver the great work that they do.

More volunteers are always needed, and there is a variety of different roles that you can get involved with.

If you are interested in volunteering - BCVS will always be on hand to connect you with a volunteer role to suit your needs and interests. Please email bcvs@bcvs.org.uk, call 01909 476 118, or visit www.bcvs.org.uk/volunteer and they will soon start you an amazing journey that will not only change the life of others, but it could change yours too.

