



Winner of Mayor's Awards 2022 – 2023 for Services to the Community

Mrs Irene Blanchard (Nominated by Mrs Maureen Horsley)

I have worked with Irene at several fundraising events for the British Legion, the Swivel Club and Rushden Royal Naval Association.

Irene is Treasurer of the Rushden Royal British Legion and the Swivel Club and has also been the Royal British Legion County Treasurer.

Irene gives her time to volunteer at the Swivel Club shop and has also been a volunteer at Serve in Rushden.

Irene is one of the kindest people I have ever met. Loyal, never lets anyone down and always willing to listen to any problems.

Irene always helps on the Royal British Legion, Royal Naval Association and the Swivel Club stands and also helps with raffles and raising money for Macmillan Nurses, wrapping prizes for our raffles. Nothing it too much trouble.

Everyday after the Poppy collection Irene counts the money raised, bags it up and takes it to the bank. A lot easier now she has the counting machine! Irene would sit up until midnight counting it. A huge responsibility to balance the books ruing the Poppy fortnight.

Irene really does deserve recognition for all her hard work.

Mrs Hilda Evans (Nominated by Miss Jayne Evans)

Mrs Hilda Evans was born in Rushden in 1928. Hilda was actively involved in the previous Methodist Church as a Girls' Brigade Officer and a Sunday School Teacher, which she carried out until she married in 1956.

Hilda then got married and had 2 boys and 3 girls including myself. I followed in her footsteps becoming a Boys' Brigade Officer and a Sunday School Teacher. Hilda was the Senior Organist at the Methodist Chapel and also played at the Rushden Park Care Home. Hilda still continues to play the organ at the now Heritage Chapel and Halls and also helps with the U3A Singing for Fun, playing alongside another pianist.

Mrs Evans has continued to live in Rushden all her life apart from 2 years in Shortstown, Bedfordshire and 2 years in Cyprus when she was married to a RAF Corporal.



Emily Pellicci (Nominated by Jane – Off the Streets)

Emily Pellicci is a Rushden resident and a highly valued member of the Off the Streets Anti - Knife Crime Team. Emily is an inspirational young lady and at only 22 years old too.

Emily is a highly passionate individual who genuinely cares about her community and the other young people around her. Emily has helped organise bleed control training, has done the training herself too, organised events and fundraisers and is a passionate advocate in reducing knife crime, not only in Rushden, but in the whole Northamptonshire County.

Emily truly deserves this award.

Mr Derek Hack (Nominated by Mr Jamie Brown)

Derek Hack organised a dedicated team of volunteers who helped greatly with the Covid vaccination effort and beyond. All of the volunteers gave up hundreds of hours to undertake various duties at local surgeries with car park marshalling, helping inside the surgeries with patient care, assisting patients who had mobility issues into and out of the surgery, when patient's vehicles broke down at the surgery, turning up hours before surgery opened to clear car parks of snow, gritting and making the areas safe for patients visiting surgeries to receive their Covid vaccinations.

Derek and his team of volunteers still continue volunteering in all weathers, offering their services free of charge with flu clinics and home visit vaccinations.

Derek organised everything and contributed greatly (and still does) to the local community. Without his leadership and commitment then I'm not sure this team of volunteers would have ever been formed.

Derek and the volunteer team have helped out at other events in Rushden such as marshalling at Armed Forces Day.

Derek's work and commitment should be recognised for this award.