

## **Manchester and District Beekeepers' Association Volunteers receives the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**

MDBKA Volunteers, a group of volunteers based in Manchester have been honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

Manchester and District Beekeepers' Association Volunteering group are based in Heaton Park in Manchester. Volunteers carry out many activities from working in our visitor centre ( Dower House ) engaging with the public to looking after our Apiary which contains colonies of Honey Bees. We also have a fabulous garden planted especially for all pollinating insects.

Representatives from MDBKA attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May, along with other recipients of this year's Award

Manchester and District Beekeepers' Association Volunteers is one of 281 charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year. The number of nominations and awards has increased year on year since the awards were introduced in 2002, showing that the voluntary sector is thriving and full of innovative ideas to make life better for those around them.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by volunteer groups to benefit their local communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Winners are announced each year on 2 June – the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation. Award winners this year are wonderfully diverse. They include volunteers helping people overcome mental health problems through sport, volunteers using caravans as mobile cafe/information centres in geographically remote locations and another group mentoring children who have a parent in prison.

Representatives of Manchester and District Beekeepers' Association Volunteers group will receive the award from Warren James Smith, Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester later this summer.

**MDBKA's President, Mrs Lena Crowe says:**

**We are absolutely delighted to be recipients of the QAVS. It's an enormous honour and great testament to the many hours of dedication our Volunteers give to raise the awareness of how important Honey Bees and other Pollinating Insects are to our environment and ultimately our food chain**

Notes to editors

1. Lord Lieutenants represent the monarch in each of the UK's ceremonial counties.
2. This year there were 281 winners of The Queen's Award Voluntary Service from across the UK. More information on the winners and the Award can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/queens-award-for-voluntary-service>
3. Any group of two or more people that has participated in voluntary work for more than three years can be nominated for the award. Full details on how to nominate are available at <http://qavs.direct.gov.uk/>
4. Nominations for the 2020 awards close on 13 September 2019.