

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2010



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

Somerset Amateur Swimming Association [Management Committee](#) was announced as one of 103 UK volunteering groups to win the 2010 [Queen's Award for Voluntary Service](#), the MBE for volunteer groups.

The prestigious National Honour recognises outstanding contributions made to local communities by groups voluntarily devoting their time for the benefit of others. It sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering, with the work of those awarded being judged of the highest standard.

Somerset Amateur Swimming Association Management Committee has received the Award for providing competitive opportunities for members through supporting and encouraging aquatic development.

Winners of the 2010 Award were selected from 341 groups nominated by members of the public who have been helped personally or witnessed the benefits of a group's work in their community.

Somerset Amateur Swimming Association Management Committee received The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Main Award Committee Chair and former broadcast journalist Martyn Lewis CBE said, "Outstanding volunteer groups across the UK all too often go without recognition for the truly amazing work they do, despite the vital part they play in helping bind our communities together. It's a great pleasure to celebrate the efforts of Somerset Amateur Swimming Association Management Committee with The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and help raise awareness of all they do for the benefit of others."

By 2010 more than 850 groups around the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man had now won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, over the years since it was created by Her Majesty to mark the occasion of her Golden Jubilee in 2002.

For details of all Award winners and information on how to nominate a group, visit www.direct.gov.uk/thequeensawardforvoluntaryservice, where a nomination form can be downloaded.

For further information contact

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Notes

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 Civil Society (OCS). As part of the Cabinet Office, the OCS 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.direct.gov.uk/thequeensawardforvoluntaryservice.

<http://www.somersetasa.org/sasa/en/about-us/Awards?pdfview=1>