

British Embassy Yerevan celebrates Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen

World news story

The British Embassy holds event to mark the 96th birthday and the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen.



HM Ambassador to Armenia John Gallagher and Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia Mher Grigoryan at the Queen's Birthday Party in Yerevan

The British Embassy hosted a celebration of the 96th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II on 31 May 2022. This year, the Queen's Birthday Party had a special significance as we celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years since her coronation. The Queen has ruled for longer than any other monarch in British history. Her dedicated service to the United Kingdom and the entire Commonwealth is an inspiration.

British Ambassador to Armenia John Gallagher said in his welcoming speech:

Her Majesty The Queen has been, and continues to be, a great role model for her citizens in the UK. She is not just a great model but a great female role model. And Armenia is blessed with great female role models too. I'm really proud that the British Embassy, through our programme funding and capacity building, provides support to really inspiring women who are dedicated to enhancing Armenia's prospects. [...] So, just as Her Majesty The Queen has been an enduring figure for 70 years, and hopefully many more, I am confident that the partnership between Armenia and the UK will also endure.

This year we also celebrate the 30th anniversary of UK-Armenia diplomatic relations.

Many guests from the Government of Armenia, the National Assembly, members of the diplomatic corps, business and civil society representatives and friends of the UK joined the celebration.

The guest of honour Mher Grigoryan, Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia emphasised in his speech:

The United Kingdom has been a crucial partner for the newly independent Armenia in its pathway of building its statehood, and today it contributes to the ongoing democratic reforms and strengthening of the rule of law in our country.

The Embassy served traditional British food and drinks, and entertained guests with a fantastic repertoire of British and Armenian music. A highlight of the celebration was the display of photographs, taken at various stages of Her Majesty's reign, by Yousuf Karsh. Karsh was a renowned photographer of Armenian origin.

Published 2 June 2022

[Winners of the 2022 Queen's Award for Voluntary Service announced](#)

- Those who have provided community support and empowered others receive highest number of awards
- Awardees include volunteers working in food banks, hospices and fundraising

The highest award given to local volunteer groups, The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, is being awarded to 244 organisations across the UK today in recognition of their outstanding community service.

Charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland receive the prestigious award for their volunteer-led work across a wide range of fields including mental health, youth, community, arts and heritage.

This year 204 organisations from England, 22 from Scotland, five from Wales and 13 from Northern Ireland will receive The Queen's Award, highlighting the continued breadth and depth of voluntary service undertaken each and every day across the United Kingdom.

The awardees have all enhanced the lives of others through their work with the highest number of awards this year going to the community support sector,

which includes food banks, village shops, fundraising events and men's sheds.

Minister for Civil Society and Youth Nigel Huddleston said:

Our volunteers give up their time to help others and The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service recognises their selfless acts of generosity and kindness.

I congratulate all the awardees whose hard work and dedication is rightly recognised in this milestone year of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Sir Martyn Lewis, QAVS Chair said:

I warmly congratulate all the outstanding voluntary groups who have been rewarded with a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service this year. The level of commitment and innovation shown by these volunteers is truly impressive. We owe a debt of gratitude to them, and the countless others who give up their free time regularly to improve the lives of others in their community.

Empowering others is also an area well represented in this year's Queen's Award for Voluntary Service with confidence building, training opportunities, educational support and sports all highly recognised. Volunteers working in hospices, cancer support, long-term illness, search and rescue and first aid also feature prominently.

Coinciding with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service recognises that volunteers continue to provide a vital social function and improve access to services across the country.

This year's recipients include:

- Knockmany Running Club in County Tyrone which utilises an unused forest to provide a space for all ages to run, walk and ramble through accessible trails.
- Cymru Creations in Gwent is a team of professionals who give their time to run an award-winning film academy, helping young people to create their own films and develop skills.
- Bright Minds Big Futures which is a youth led movement in Stockton-on-Tees providing social action opportunities for young people and working very positively with the council to make Stockton a better place to live.
- The Buddy Bag Foundation is providing support bags to children arriving in refuges which include toiletries, pyjamas, socks and underwear, in addition to comfort items such as a book and a teddy bear. It creates and supplies over 10,000 each year which helps to restore a sense of safety to the children in the West Midlands.
- 1st Buckie Company Boys' Brigade is challenging young people from 6 to 18

years old through physical and skills-based activities, community involvement and spiritual development in Banffshire.

- The Oasis Centre which is creating communities in four parishes in Cornwall with multiple economic, health and well-being needs through food provision, social events and practical advice.

ENDS

Notes for editors

- Find your local recipients on our [map](#).
- Lord Lieutenants represent the monarch in each of the UK's ceremonial counties. This year there were 244 recipients of The Queen's Award Voluntary Service from across the UK.
- Any group of three 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 [online](#).
- Nominations for the 2023 awards close on 15 September 2022.
- An additional one-off award (The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Volunteering Award) was launched on 5th May. It will celebrate national charities working to benefit 16-25 year olds. More details [online](#).

[NIO Platinum Jubilee rug competition shortlist revealed](#)

Press release

Designs from 30 Northern Ireland primary school children have been shortlisted from over 2000 entries for the Northern Ireland Office Platinum Jubilee rug competition.



Primary school children from every county in Northern Ireland have taken part in this unique competition to design a special gift for Her Majesty the Queen as part of her Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The finalists were chosen from

over 2000 designs depicting 'snapshots of Northern Ireland' imagined as a postcard to Her Majesty the Queen.

The winning design will be manufactured by Portadown based Ulster Carpets into a wonderful rug. Ulster Carpets was recently granted a Royal Warrant by Her Majesty The Queen, one of only three Northern Ireland companies to hold such an honour.

The rug will be unveiled at a special ceremony later this year, with the winning child and their class invited to the event. The specially designed jubilee rug will be delivered to Her Majesty the Queen following the ceremony.

Minister of State for Northern Ireland Conor Burns said:

"I am overwhelmed with the quality and quantity of responses we have received from children in every county in Northern Ireland."

"I'd like to thank all the children, parents and teachers who have helped to mark this historic occasion in such a special way. It has been an incredibly difficult job to choose just 30 from amongst such amazing designs.

"I can't wait to see the winning design brought to life by the wonderfully talented designers at Ulster Carpets, who have recently been awarded the Royal Warrant by Her Majesty.

Group Managing Director of Ulster Carpets Nick Coburn said:

"We are amazed at the creativity and imagination shown by our talented young people. They have really captured the many different ways that we think of this wonderful place that we live in. We look forward to transforming one of these designs into a rug for Her Majesty The Queen."

Principal of Foyle Integrated Primary, Neville Watson said:

"We loved the innovative idea of a child's artistic expression of a snapshot of Northern Ireland being turned into a rug and it was great to see so many children taking the idea and running with it. To hear that we've had some of our pupils make it into the final 30 is really exciting and there will be lots of little fingers crossed here in anticipation of the result!"

ENDS

Notes to editors

- For press enquiries, contact communications@nio.gov.uk
- List of schools shortlisted
 - Aughnaloy Primary School
 - Birches Primary School
 - Braniel Primary School
 - Carryduff Primary School
 - Donaghadee Primary School;
 - Downshire Primary School

- Drumadonnell Primary School
- Dundonald Primary School
- Edenderry Primary School
- Enniskillen Model Primary School
- Forge Integrated Primary School
- Iveagh Primary School
- Kesh Primary School
- Larne & Inver Primary School
- Lisanally Special School
- Lisbellaw Primary School
- McClintock Primary School
- Moira Primary School
- Omagh Integrated Primary School
- Penrhyn Strathearn Prep
- Portstewart Primary School
- St Joseph's Primary School
- Tandragee Primary School
- Whiteabbey Primary School

Published 2 June 2022

[Queen's Platinum Jubilee](#)

News story

The Scottish Secretary sends his congratulations to the Queen on her Platinum Jubilee



Speaking ahead of a weekend of events to mark the Platinum Jubilee, Secretary of State for Scotland Alister Jack said:

I send my heartfelt congratulations to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, on her Platinum Jubilee.

The Platinum Jubilee is a reminder of what an extraordinary life The Queen has led. She has been, and continues to be, a dignified and hardworking figurehead to the nation. Not just dedicated, but compassionate, warm and humorous.

I know people across Scotland will join me in wishing her the very best on this huge milestone, and thanking her for her lifetime of service.

Published 2 June 2022

[Military personnel honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours List](#)

- Personnel have been granted state honours for their work in the Armed Forces.
- Serving personnel have been recognised for their contributions throughout the pandemic and engaging with the wider armed forces communities.

Military personnel from across the three services have been recognised for their dedication and commendable service in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, published today.

All recipients have gone above and beyond while on duty, displaying outstanding fortitude and dedication to their roles, with many recipients recognised for their exceptional contribution to the Armed Forces over long-established careers.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

A huge congratulations to the Service men and women who have been recognised in The Queen's Birthday Honours List. The awards highlight the talent, commitment and dedication of our incredible Armed Forces.

Our Service personnel continue to be a great source of pride and inspiration for our country. They are the best of us, and it is fantastic to see so many recognised for their hard work.

Listed below are examples of some of the servicemen and women who have been listed in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Captain Harpreet Kaur Chandi, awarded an MBE

Captain Chandi stepped onto the ice of Antarctica on 24 November 2021. In just 40 days she covered 700 miles, making history to become the first woman of colour to complete a solo and unsupported trek to the South Pole. Under the name 'Polar Preet', detailed planning and training for the expedition took a remarkably short period of just two years. This expedition exemplifies the opportunities for adventure and personal development that are open to all soldiers, no matter their background, gender or race. She is now the third fastest woman to trek across the continent.

Captain Harpreet Kaur Chandi said:

It feels incredible. I didn't think someone like me could get this. I'm honoured.

I wanted to do something that not only pushed my boundaries but also inspired others to do the same.

Brigadier Karl Harris, awarded a CBE

Brigadier Harris' exemplary and selfless leadership of the Army Multicultural Network has been the central factor in building and sustaining trust between the Army chain of command and its officers and soldiers. He commissioned from Sandhurst in 1994 and since then, he has built, mentored, and led an informal network of multicultural soldiers. He set up the Network in 2015 and in 2020, within the first weeks of the national lockdown, he assembled a remote working group to understand and provide solutions to mitigate the disproportionate impact of COVID19 on minority ethnic soldiers, their families and their units.

Brigadier Harris said:

My father came to the UK amidst the Windrush Generation and served a distinguished 22-year Army career. It is his legacy and those of thousands of others that first inspired me to volunteer to create the Army Multicultural Network. This award is humbling and feels quite extraordinary – a testament to our forebears and their legacy.

I have a feeling of immense gratitude to work with a cohort of phenomenal people who have committed huge amounts of time, effort and emotion to improving opportunities for all to thrive in their military careers. They've often shared quite challenging personal testimonies to make a better future for soldiers and their loved ones.

Air Vice Marshal (The Venerable) John Raymond ELLIS QHC, awarded a Promotion to the Military Division of the Most Honourable order of the Bath as a Companion

As Chaplain-in-Chief of the RAF, his drive and determination will leave a legacy based upon leadership and strong transformational instincts. He has been at the forefront of the Royal Air Force's modernisation of professional career fields, resetting the chaplaincy structure, training and career pathways, at the same time re-energising chaplaincy recruiting. He also oversaw the chaplaincy during a particularly challenging period where he weathered the pandemic and turned it to advantage with an array of novel virtual worship methods and models that have been widely deployed and copied.

Air Vice Marshal John Ellis said:

As my time as a chaplain in the Royal Air Force comes to a close, I reflect on the immense privilege I have had sharing in the hopes and journeys of so many incredible people. As chaplains, we often just quietly get on with that which we feel called to do and as such, I find myself absolutely delighted, but completely humbled to be honoured with such an award.

Commodore Melanie Robinson, awarded a CBE

Commodore Robinson has made an exceptional contribution to Defence from being the first female commanding officer of a Royal Navy warship to being the senior Maritime Reservist and the first woman to command a fighting arm supporting the Fleet. With a comprehensive long-term vision of how the Maritime Reserves should be configured, she has led a generational change in its direction and management. The architect of the transformation of the Maritime Reserves at every level, her leadership has formed a Reserve force that is a credible, relevant, effective, and agile fighting arm of the Royal Navy delivering critical Defence tasks alongside Regular colleagues.

Commodore Melanie Robinson said:

I am truly humbled. Thank you to the Royal Naval Reservists and Royal Marines Reservists for embracing my appetite for generational change. The award spotlights the credibility of the Maritime Reserves as a fighting arm; we exist to deliver our people capabilities.

I trust I epitomise what can be achieved with the support of a loving family and a Service that is totally committed to adapting its ways of working to unlock people's potential for the betterment of our fantastic organisation and for Defence.

Wing Commander Nina Rose, awarded an RRC

Wing Commander Rose is a true ambassador for the Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service and Defence Medical Services. Her empathic and authentic leadership combined with an operational and academic mindset have particularly shone in the last 2 years; Wing Commander Rose relentlessly and determinedly dealt with all that the COVID-19 crisis presented. Her role modelling behaviour and visible leadership saw her forward presence in the clinical areas inspiring the workforce and where, through her innovation, she managed workforce deficiencies and re-purposed the wards to deliver the required surge capacity.

Wing Commander Nina Rose said:

I am honoured and truly humbled to have been awarded the Royal Red Cross. Having nursed for 33 years, I have had the privilege of serving within the Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service for most of my career, leading teams of exceptionally dedicated nurses, prepared to care for our Service personnel throughout the patient care pathway.

Lieutenant Commander Nathaniel Geddes, awarded an MBE

Lieutenant Commander Geddes led HMS Defender Marine Engineering Department in providing the highest level of material availability in support of operations. In the face of considerable operational constraints, and under an acute political spotlight, he played a key role in ensuring that the ship was able to continue in her critical role in support of the strategically important United Kingdom Carrier Strike Group deployment. His efforts were particularly evident in the successful outmanoeuvre of hostile forces in the Black Sea.

Lieutenant Commander Nathaniel Geddes said:

I feel overwhelmed to be recognised like this and I am absolutely thrilled; to receive this honour during the Jubilee year makes it extra special. My family and friends will be so proud. They have sacrificed so much.

I left home at 16 to join the Royal Navy as an Artificer Apprentice and it's been an amazing adventure. The support of my family, wife Nicole and son throughout has been unbelievable and I feel extremely lucky to have them.

Wing Commander Manjeet Ghataora, awarded an OBE

Wing Commander Ghataora has been an inspiring advocate and role model delivering outstanding outreach work to unrepresented communities. In

particular he has been exceptional at promoting STEM and engineering careers to diverse groups of young people. He has also used his influence as the most senior Sikh in the Armed Forces to selflessly engage with young people and communities across the UK.

Wing Commander Manjeet Ghataora said:

This has been such a shock, but I am utterly humbled to be recognised in this Platinum Jubilee year. Having also served in the RAF, I want to dedicate this award to my late father, who instilled in me the virtues of humility, selfless service, and the importance of equality.