

# Welsh Secretary praises outstanding achievements of Queen's Birthday Honours recipients

Press release

The announcement was postponed from the summer in order to mark the efforts of individuals playing crucial roles during the first months of the COVID-19 effort



Welsh Secretary Simon Hart has today (Friday 9 October) praised the achievements of over 100 people in Wales who have received awards via the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

The list was postponed from June in order to honour recipients who are making an outstanding contribution to tackle coronavirus in their communities. It includes representatives from frontline services such as NHS staff, people delivering food and goods, education professionals as well as those providing social and community services.

Some of those honoured include Elizabeth Waters, a Consultant Nurse at Aneurin Bevan University Health Board who receives an MBE for services to the NHS in Wales. John Challenger from Flintshire receives a BEM for services to young people in the north west of the UK during COVID-19 following his role in keeping 2,300 Sea Cadets spread across North Wales and the North West of England together virtually through lockdown. Julie Cook, a Community Colleague at Asda from Aberdare also receives a BEM for services to the community during COVID-19 after being recognised for her role boosting morale, caring for vulnerable people and overseeing donations for local charities.

From the world of sport of entertainment, former Welsh rugby coach Warren Gatland receives a CBE for services to rugby in Wales. Ex-Wales captain and HIV charity campaigner Gareth Thomas receives a CBE for services to sport and health, while Wales' most capped male rugby player and current skipper Alun Wyn Jones receives an OBE for services to Rugby Union in Wales. Opera singer

Rebecca Evans also receives a CBE for services to the arts in Wales.

**Secretary of State for Wales Simon Hart said:**

Twice a year we recognise the achievements and service of extraordinary people across the United Kingdom, in a wide range of professions, industries and communities.

But the announcement of this year's Queen's Birthday Honours come at an incredibly poignant time as we continue to fight the impact of coronavirus. Many of those honoured today include those not only selflessly serving their communities but who are also responsible for planning Wales' response to the virus and caring for those suffering its consequences.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those honoured today and wish to congratulate them on their individual achievements.

**ENDS**

[A full list of recipients can be found on the Cabinet Office website.](#)

Published 9 October 2020

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## **Queen honours teachers, social workers and more**

Teachers and leaders all over the country have been recognised for their work during the Covid 19 pandemic in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Among those honoured are the headteachers of the pioneering Oak National Academy, which provided online lessons to make sure pupils did not miss out, and a head who made sure pupils with special educational needs and disabilities could still attend during lockdown.

98 people have been recognised in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List for their outstanding contributions to the education and children's services sectors. The list includes headteachers, teachers, social workers, foster carers and many who work with the most disadvantaged in society as well as those selected for their efforts during the pandemic.

Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson said:

The work that went in to making sure pupils could continue their education during lockdown and then make sure all children could return to their classes was phenomenal, so it is fantastic to see so many being recognised with some of the highest honours this country can award

I would like to congratulate all the recipients on the Queen's Birthday Honours List because their work is so inspiring and deserving of recognition.

I would also like to offer a special thank you to those who continue to contribute as part of the national effort during the Covid-19 pandemic. This list highlights the many committed professionals who are working tirelessly across education and children's services to deliver better outcomes for young people and students across the country during this challenging period.

Social Worker, Manvir Hothi has been awarded an MBE due to her work during the Covid-19 crisis. She sought and collected essentially needed items and voluntarily mobilised a group of volunteers close to where she lives to prepare and distribute care packs for key workers. These were then delivered to hospitals, GP surgeries and care homes across the country.

Matthew Hood and David Thomas, Principal and Curriculum Director at the Oak National Academy in London have been given OBE's for their services to education during the pandemic. When it was announced that all schools would be closed, except for vulnerable children and the children of key workers, Matthew and David were at the forefront of innovative and fast-paced work to develop resources to make remote education the best it can be for both pupils and teachers

Similarly, Jane Davenport, headteacher at Reynolds Cross School has received an MBE for her services to young people with special educational needs and disabilities during the crisis. As headteacher at the school, Jane, with the help of her committed staff, made sure that she supported not only keyworkers' children but also enabled those pupils and families who are most vulnerable to attend school during the coronavirus pandemic. Many of these children have very complex learning, physical, behavioural, and medical needs which makes keeping them safe increasingly harder in the current crisis.

A number of non Covid – 19 related nominees also feature on this year's honours list. Yvonne Conolly, the first black headteacher in the UK has been awarded a CBE for her services to education. At 23 years old, Yvonne arrived in the UK from Jamaica in 1963 as a qualified teacher, having taught at a boarding school in Jamaica. Yvonne faced many challenges in finding a job at that time and with the help of a friend she started as a Supply teacher in Camden where she lived, and her first temporary assignment at George Eliot became permanent. Her first step into teaching in the UK became a giant leap when in 1969 she became the first female black headteacher in the UK.

For more information on the nominations, please contact the Department for

Education Press Office on 02077838300.

Nominating someone for an award

If you know someone working to improve education, children's services, or social mobility who deserves an honour, please contact the Honours Team at: [honours.team@education.go.uk](mailto:honours.team@education.go.uk)

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## [Scots recognised by Queen's Birthday Honours 2020](#)

News story

The Scottish Secretary congratulates Scotland's honours recipients.



Commenting on this year's Birthday Honours list, Scottish Secretary Alister Jack said:

I am very pleased to see so many Scots on the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Today we celebrate the people who are the mainstays of communities across Scotland, selflessly giving back to those around them through their work and their personal lives.

This year, in the face of the global pandemic, we have seen many Scots come to the aid of their fellow citizens. People like David Maguire who, at the height of the pandemic, repurposed his restaurant to provide free food to thousands of NHS workers and vulnerable local people. People like the University of Glasgow's Professor Matthew Walters, who volunteered to treat large numbers of acutely ill patients with suspected coronavirus. I salute all of Scotland's frontline and community covid heroes, and I am delighted that so many have been recognised by Her Majesty.

Some recipients we know and love, such as Scotland's Lorraine Kelly. A great journalist and popular TV presenter, Lorraine is also a committed advocate for many charities.

Scotland's love of sport is recognised with awards to curling champion Eve Muirhead and former Scottish Football Association president Alan McCrae.

Many of those who contribute to Scotland's most important industries have been honoured, including Bertie Armstrong, former chief executive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, and Stobo Castle's Stephen Winyard.

Scotland's world-leading academics are recognised, including Professor Muffy Calder of the University of Glasgow, who is honoured for her huge contribution to scientific research.

And today Her Majesty has also recognised many of the Scots who quietly dedicate their lives to public service, never seeking thanks or attention. I am very glad that so many of Scotland's community volunteers are being recognised today.

My congratulations go to everyone receiving an honour – you represent the very best of Scotland.

Published 9 October 2020

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## [Frontline responders and community volunteers honoured in most diverse honours list ever](#)

Frontline workers and community champions dominate the [Queen's Birthday Honours List 2020](#), published on Saturday 10 October.

This bumper List showcases 414 exceptional contributions of unsung heroes in all four nations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and is the most ethnically diverse list to date, with 13% of recipients from a minority ethnic background.

The Queen's Birthday Honours List 2020 awards 1,495 honours to people across the whole of the UK for their outstanding contributions to UK society.

Of those who have been awarded, 72% go to those who have worked tirelessly for their local community. This reflects the huge voluntary effort across the

country in response to COVID-19, with recipients cumulatively supplying millions of free meals to those shielding, delivering care packages to NHS frontline workers and clocking up countless voluntary hours to support those at risk.

David Maguire MBE, 62 years old, from Glasgow, who repurposed his restaurant to provide free food to thousands of NHS workers at the hospital, vulnerable people and school children.

Jolene Miller BEM, 42 years old, from Stockton, County Durham, who volunteered as a paramedic to help her former colleagues while also continuing to work as a train driver.

Healthcare and social care workers make up 14% of the List, for contributions as diverse as setting up the COVID-19 hospitals to delivering medical care on the frontline. Celebrating the World Health Organisation's Year of the Nurse and Midwife, 41 nurses and midwives are included in the List compared with 17 in the New Year Honours List 2020.

Jade Cole BEM, 39 years old from Cardiff, was the only member of her team able to enter the intensive care unit to deliver clinical trials which informed how COVID-19 patients were treated. Her work helped show that there was a survival advantage for patients prescribed a particular drug.

Felicia Kwaku OBE, 52 years old from London, is Associate Director of Nursing at King's College NHS Foundation Trust, who provided a support network to thousands of BAME nurses.

The Queen's Birthday Honours List 2020 is the first List to have 11% of recipients under 30. Young people have provided innovative solutions to keeping the country connected and supplying the NHS with Personal Protective Equipment.

Henry James BEM, 23 years old from Edinburgh, designed, created and delivered PPE for healthcare workers, using 3D printing technology. He's supplied thousands of masks to local businesses, vets, care workers and local food distribution all free of charge.

John Challenger BEM, 17 years old from Flintshire, Clwyd, kept thousands of Sea Cadets together through lockdown, running weekly virtual quizzes and managing forums to keep Cadets connected.

Footballer Marcus Rashford receives an MBE for services to vulnerable children in the UK during Covid-19.

Joe Wicks and Mr Motivator (Derrick Evans) receive MBEs for their accessible, live workouts to encourage people to stay physically and mentally fit during Covid-19. Joining them are Lavina Mehta and Rajinder Singh Harzall 'the Skipping Skih' who receive MBEs for encouraging elderly people to stay active in lockdown.

The majority of the Queen's Birthday Honours List was compiled before the ongoing pandemic. The List was deferred in order to consider nominations for

people playing crucial roles during the first months of the COVID-19 effort and has prioritised frontline and community heroes who went above and beyond their duties to help others. These recipients are, like Sir Captain Tom Moore, outstanding examples of the many contributions continuously being made right across the UK, and symbolic of the collective national effort.

As well as those awarded for their response to COVID-19, recipients are being recognised for a wide range of other contributions to society.

There are damehoods for food writer and broadcaster Mary Berry and actress Maureen Lipman, and a knighthood for actor David Suchet.

There are CBEs for Professor Brian Cox, TV presenter Lorraine Kelly, actor Adrian Lester and singer-songwriter Joan Armatrading.

Former rugby legend Gareth Thomas receives a CBE, writer Sally Wainwright receives an OBE, and cricketer Darren Gough is awarded an MBE.

The honours system strives to be proportionally representative of UK society. This Honours List demonstrates the breadth of service given by people from all backgrounds from all across the UK. Of the 1,495 people who received an award:

- 1,358 candidates have been selected at BEM, MBE and OBE level:
  - 537 at BEM
  - 561 at MBE
  - 260 at OBE
- 1,069 (72%) of the recipients are people who have undertaken outstanding work in their communities either in a voluntary or paid capacity
- 740 women are recognised in the List, representing 49% of the total
- 13% of the successful candidates come from a BAME background (previous highest was 12% in NY19)
- 6% of the successful candidates consider themselves to have a disability (under the Equality Act 2010)

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## [Joint Communiqué: Fifth Brazil-United Kingdom Strategic Dialogue](#)

1. The Fifth Meeting of the Brazil-UK High-Level Strategic Dialogue was held on 7 October 2020 by videoconference. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Ernesto Araújo, and the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, Dominic Raab, agreed that this dialogue marked the beginning of a new phase in the alliance of their countries founded on friendship, a shared commitment to democratic values, freedom and the market economy. They undertook a broad review of issues on the bilateral agenda, such as economy and trade, cooperation in health, science and technology, the environment and their

## partnership for development

2. Brazil and the UK reviewed regional and international issues, in the context of the unprecedented challenges faced by the international community to alleviate the health and socio-economic effects of the pandemic. The ministers held in-depth discussions on economy and trade, peace and security, the environment, international cooperation and cybersecurity.
3. Brazil and the United Kingdom agreed that firm action is needed to promote the recovery of the global economy in the post-pandemic period, based on building more sustainable, resilient economies. Both countries reaffirmed their mutual commitment to strengthen the multilateral trading system, which is essential for promoting investment, increasing productivity and integrating economies into global supply chains. The United Kingdom reiterated its firm and active support for Brazil's accession to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), including through the UK's Prosperity Fund and will look to strengthen this further.
4. Both parties underscored the potential for growth of bilateral trade and reaffirmed its importance as a driver of economic development and sustainable growth. They agreed to strengthen trading arrangements, including by considering to open soon the negotiations on a Double Taxation Agreement, and accelerating preparations for a future free trade agreement. The UK and Brazil are important trade partners and the UK is a traditional source of investment for development in Brazil.
5. With a view to enhancing bilateral trade parties agreed to intensify activities of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee Brazil-United Kingdom (JETCO) focusing on concrete trade facilitation measures, as well as establish a Joint Agricultural Committee (JAC) to deal with sanitary and phytosanitary standards and other issues. They also reviewed Brazil's Investment Partnerships Programme (PPI), a model for strengthening the interaction between the state and the private sector, and identified investment opportunities aimed at industrial and technological development.
6. Both countries agreed on the importance of the rules based international system, and stressed that multilateral fora should support effective coordination amongst sovereign nations to ensure peaceful international cooperation. They agreed that the defence and promotion of fundamental freedoms, which are essential for human dignity, should be at the centre of international and multilateral efforts.
7. They reiterated their firm commitment to advance the reform of the United Nations and its Security Council. Brazil thanked the United Kingdom for its support of the Brazilian claim for a permanent seat in a reformed and expanded Security Council.



8. Brazil and the United Kingdom committed to further developing our partnership on international cooperation efforts. Both sides reiterated their intention to jointly support African countries under the Brazil-United Kingdom Partnership for Global Development, an innovative initiative of cooperation aimed at promoting policies to reduce poverty, eradicate hunger, fight social inequalities and overcome the challenges of socioeconomic development in the world. They agreed on the first two areas of work to be piloted in the coming year: data for managing demographic change; and agriculture market transformation for crisis recovery.
9. The parties agreed to work together towards a successful outcome at the negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, scheduled for the 26th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021. Both countries affirmed they would work to ensure that the COP delivers substantial negotiated outcomes in the fight against climate change. Both countries underlined the crucial importance of strengthening financing and the means of implementation, which is why these topics are among key priorities for cooperation at COP26. Both countries reiterated their international commitments in the field of climate change under the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Brazil explained its current efforts to reduce illegal deforestation, the sustainability of Brazilian agribusiness and stressed its interest in financing for sustainable projects capable of generating jobs and opportunities especially for the people in the Amazon region. The UK explained its efforts to promote renewable energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels, as part of the UK's commitment to reach net zero emissions by 2050 and reaffirmed its commitment to further support Brazil to develop green jobs and sustainable land use noting the crucial importance of combating illegal deforestation.
10. Brazil and the United Kingdom reaffirmed their commitment to champion shared values together. They agreed to promote freedom of religion actively and to tackle religious persecution around the world, including through the work of the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance and new projects. They also agreed to work together on preventing violence against women and girls, combatting online child sexual abuse and exploitation, and promoting freedom of expression, especially for journalists and media workers.
11. Both countries conveyed their grave concern about the political crisis in Venezuela and its economic, social and humanitarian repercussions, in particular the very serious abuse of human rights. They urged the international community to mobilise for the reinstatement of democratic institutions in the country. In reiterating their support for the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela, both sides condemned Maduro's illegitimate regime for the perpetration of crimes against humanity, such as torture.
12. Brazil and the United Kingdom welcomed developments in bilateral cooperation

in health this year, including in the development of a vaccine against COVID-19 by the University of Oxford and AstraZeneca, which will allow for the production of the vaccine in Brazil by Fiocruz/Bio-Manguinhos. They stressed that such cooperation will be further developed within the framework of the COVAX Facility.

13. Both sides agreed to strengthen security cooperation to counter regional and international threats. The ministers welcomed the deepening bilateral collaboration regarding the use of artificial intelligence, data protection, digital economy and digital access, implementation of the 5G network and cybersecurity, including through the upcoming Digital and Cyber Security Dialogue, which Brazil and the UK plan to hold in the first semester of 2021.
  
14. Both sides committed to expand bilateral cooperation on science and innovation. Brazil and the United Kingdom committed to set up a Joint Committee on Science and Innovation, with government actors, representatives of financing agencies and research institutions, in order to explore an action plan for the next five years.