

## **\*\*Press Release - Embargoed until 14 November 2024\*\***

### Rugeley Rifle Club receives The King's Award for Voluntary Service

Rugeley Rifle Club is excited and honoured to have been awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE.

Over the past 10 years the club has worked with the Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services and Visions Youth Service of Brereton, providing summer camps for local young people in association with Burntwood Target Sprint. Participants have completed volunteer work at the club including a mural on the outside of the range, and in return learned to shoot Olympic Air Rifle and Air Pistol.

In 2019, the club fundraised for a Public Access Defibrillator, which saw the adoption of Rugeley and District Community First Responders as a supported charity and the more recent installation of an emergency Bleed Control Kit.

In 2022, the Club supported British Shooting in bringing the National Finals of the Schools Pistol and Rifle Championships to Cannock Leisure Centre, with Rugeley members volunteering as Range Officers and match administration during the competition. British Shooting have returned to Cannock every year since. The Club has also supported the BS Target Sprint Series, the West Midlands leg being hosted at Burntwood Target Sprint.

During all this time, the club has enjoyed hosting guest nights for diverse local community groups, running an air rifle range at Brereton Carnival and serving as a venue for local groups including Viking re-enactors and 4x4 response.

In competition, the club's Air Rifle A-Team won Division 1 of the National League three consecutive years from 2018-2020. Members have represented England, Wales and Great Britain, with recent successes including:

- Ryan Cockbill, 2024 Paralympian
- Megan Bamsey - represented GB at the ISSF 2023 Junior World Cup in Suhl.
- Olivia Beech - represented GB at the 2024 Nordic Championships, selected to compete in the FISU World University Shooting Championships in New Delhi, running from 9–13th Nov.
- Helen Robinson - selected as Reserve to 2024 GB Drew Team.
- (Club Chairman) Martyn BATTERY - captained GB Drew Team for 2023 & 24, appointed Adjutant for GB Dewar Team 2025 & 26.
- Richard Hemingway - Welsh 50M Rifle Champion 2023 & 2024, selected for GB 2024 Dewar Team.

Rugeley Rifle Club is one of the oldest target sports clubs in the UK. Formally founded in 1900, its roots trace back to competitive shooting within the Volunteer Movement as early as 1879. Since 1971, the club has been based on Wharf Road, Rugeley.

Rugeley Rifle Club is one of 262 local charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year. The work of these organisations reminds us of all the ways fantastic volunteers are contributing to their local communities and working to make life better for those around them.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by local volunteer groups to benefit their communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee and, following his accession, His Majesty The King emphasised his desire to continue the Award.

Recipients are announced annually on 14th November, The King's Birthday. Award winners this year are wonderfully diverse and include other volunteer groups, such as a social support network for disabled adults in Banffshire; a charity using a refurbished pool as a community hub in south Wales and a village renewal organisation promoting sustainability, equality and social inclusion in County Antrim.

Representatives of Rugeley Rifle Club will receive the award crystal and certificate from Ian Dudson, Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire later this year. In addition, two volunteers from Rugeley Rifle Club will attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May or June 2024, along with other recipients of this year's Award.

Club Chairman Martyn Buttery said *"To be nominated for such a prestigious award as The Kings Award for Voluntary Service is an honour in itself but to actually win is such an incredible achievement. It goes to show what can be done and achieved with a positive attitude."*

Notes to editors

1. Lord-Lieutenants represent the monarch in each of the UK's ceremonial counties.
2. This year there are 262 recipients of The King's Award Voluntary Service from across the UK and Channel Islands.
3. More information on the club can be found at <https://www.rugeleyrifleclub.org.uk>, a media pack can be downloaded at <https://www.rugeleyrifleclub.org.uk/Rugeley-Press-Pack.zip>
4. More information on the recipients and the Award can be found at <https://kavs.dcms.gov.uk>
5. Nominations for the 2025 awards will open on the 1st June 2024.
6. Full details on how to nominate are available at <https://kavs.dcms.gov.uk/>