

# PRESS RELEASE

**THE BRITISH CITIZEN AWARD (BCA)**

In partnership with **one stop**



## **SURREY CHARITY CHAMPION TO BE HONOURED WITH A COVETED BRITISH CITIZEN AWARD**

Janet Gurney from Reigate, Surrey is to be recognised with a British Citizen Award Medal of Honour in recognition of their extraordinary endeavours. The British Citizen Award, in partnership with One Stop, is now in its fifth year and recognises exceptional individuals who positively impact their communities throughout the country.

Although the physical Medal Presentation Ceremony has been temporarily postponed due to social distancing guidelines, 25 extraordinary people are being recognised for their positive impact on society, their selfless giving, and their commitment to community. The provisional revised date for the official medal presentation is 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020.

Janet Gurney is being honoured for their services to the community with a BCAC.

Janet works for a charity in Surrey called Us in A Bus, that provides services and support to people with profound and multiple disabilities, using a methodology called Intensive Interaction. Janet is one of the leading proponents of the methodology and has written papers and contributed to two books on the subject, as well as working with numerous professionals in the UK and internationally.

For 25 years of the Charity's life Janet was Chief Executive and demonstrated a strong capacity for team support and developing strategy, bringing on new teams and expanding the charity to its size today against a backdrop of funding challenges and immense uncertainty.

This inter-agency and team collaboration is particularly important as it brings the work to schools, residential homes, front line medical staff, speech and language therapists, radiographers and so on – all the people that profoundly disabled people engage with on a daily basis and therefore the reach of our work is so much wider than the time we spend with people on a weekly basis. Intensive interaction is a technique that is 'person centred' and relies on close observation skills to support a person over time.

Janet has been dedicated to making the charity a success and consolidating its broader impact on the community of Surrey.

While some aspects of the Medal Presentation may have to change, the Medalists will all have a memorable day that they will never forget, which is fitting recognition for their amazing contribution to society. The event will be hosted by TV's Tim Vincent, with BCA Patron's Lord Dholakia and Dame Mary Perkins, co-founder of Specsavers also in attendance. Medals will be presented by senior figures from the sponsor community which includes Experian, Places for People, Objective HR, alongside Specsavers and One Stop.

The British Citizen Award was established in 2015, to recognise exceptional individuals who work tirelessly and selflessly making a positive impact on society. The BCA recognises true community heroes who would

otherwise likely be overlooked. Dubbed the People's Honours, many recipients have subsequently been selected to receive a Queen's Honour after their endeavours have been recognised with a BCA.

Each Medal of Honour bears the words 'For the Good of the Country' and are presented to only a small number of exceptional individuals twice yearly. The British Citizen Award is widely viewed as the nation's way of recognising extraordinary, everyday people for exceptional endeavor and are truly representative of today's multicultural Britain.

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

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**For more information please contact [press@britishcitizenawards.co.uk](mailto:press@britishcitizenawards.co.uk) or call 0203 002 7764.**

### **Notes to Editors**

The British Citizen Award recognises individuals that positively impact others and highlights the positive aspects of multi-cultural communities, workplaces, community groups and charities throughout the UK. It is accessible to all and serves to celebrate the good things that make Britain great.

There is no fee for making a nomination. Nominees who are granted a BCA will be invited to attend the Presentation Day at the Palace of Westminster. Presentations are held twice annually in January and July.

### **The full list of categories for the British Citizen Awards are:**

BCAc for Service to Community  
BCAi for Service to Industry  
BCAa for Service to Arts  
BCAe for Services to Education  
BCAh for services to Healthcare  
BCAb for Service to Business  
BCAv for Volunteering & Charitable Giving  
BCAo for International Achievement

### **The full list of supporters include:**

One Stop  
Specsavers  
Places for People  
Experian  
Objective HR  
Big Bus London