

Volunteer Awards

This is to inform the public of the outcome of our awards Ceremony on Saturday 1st October 2016 at North Lakes Hotel & Spa.

On Saturday 1st October 2016 the following were invited to attend our Gala Dinner at the North Lakes Hotel & Spa, to celebrate in the evening's events, their nomination and shortlisting for one of the 8 awards listed below. There were 70+ nominations across all 8 categories which made this decision extremely difficult. The judges were Kerryanne Wilde – CEO, Michael Wilde and Lisa Galligan – Independent judge from Edinburgh who did not know any of the nominees.

This was a really tough decision, as there were so many deserving nominations but sadly we only had 8 awards to give on the evening. All those nominated have gone above and beyond to support those in need during the floods of Dec 2015/16 and the further recovery.

Prior to the awards starting Kerryanne Wilde (CEO) awarded a certificate of "Consistent Contribution & Support" to Bailey Wilde (her son aged 14 years) for all his hard work, effort and support to CERT (UK) following the floods on evenings after school, at weekends and during his school holidays.

1. **Most Improved Volunteer Award** - Adam Yarker (**Winner**) with Christina Bainbridge & Kieran Parker as the runners up – Adam Yarker is one of our major success stories, he came to us via Cumbria CVS as a volunteer as due to his additional needs/disabilities he was struggling to find paid employment. Since starting with us at the end of May Adam has grown in confidence, skills and personality. Due to this fact we have secured funding from the Shaw Trust to secure Adam a paid position with us for 16 hours a week. We are extremely proud of how far he has come in such a short space of time.
2. **Outstanding Achievement Award** - Dean Ferguson (**Winner**) with Adam Yarker & Kieran Parker as the runners up – Dean has been with us since day one and continues to do so along with holding down a full time job with Royal Mail and also managing the Penrith Detachment of the Army Cadet Force. Dean is always at hand should we need him and brought over 50 cadets to the Old Fire Station in December to help distribute aid and support to flood affected families, individuals and businesses.
3. **Caring & Support Award** - Sue Dust (**Winner**) with Chris Blackshaw & Richard Francis as the runners up – Sue Dust is our 2IC & Client Liaison (a volunteer – unpaid for putting in a 40+ hour week on a regular basis) She has been flooded herself and knows only too well how our clients are feeling and what they are going through. Her kindness, empathy & understanding to help people who have been flood affected is priceless. She is a shining diamond with her laughter adding to the sparkle.
4. **Unsung Hero Award** - Kevin Jackson (**Winner**) with David Burke & Richard Francis as the runners up - Kevin is a farmer and Leading retained firefighter at Patterdale. He and his crew worked long hours at Glenridding during the multiple floods. Their community service meant that they were out trying to save other people's homes when theirs was being flooded. They worked day and night to help others.

5. **Special Angel Award** - Chris Blackshaw (**Winner**) with Christina Bainbridge & Richard Francis as the runners up - He has been the lynch pin to many people, helping farmers to receive financial and practical support after severe flooding on their land. He has supported Eden Flood/CERT(UK) from the very beginning by offering support and a listening ear to our volunteers when returning from events out on the ground. He also helped greatly with our "Up to our Necks" cookery book. Chris has had to counsel many farmers and their wives due to the stress of having no crops and no insurance after Storm Desmond, but also continues to do this. We know that the PTSD, fallout from this event will continue long after the floods and devastation has been cleared away and Chris is still there supporting and lifting the spirits of all who need him.
6. **Partnership Working Award** - San Nirankari Mission (**Winner**) with Framland Press & Muslim Community Events as the runners up – San Nirankari Mission have been immensely supportive with supplying a continued cohort of skilled and keen volunteers in the early days. They supplied equipment, skilled labour, the goods needed and food for over 50+ volunteers over a 4 week period. They continue to work closely with CERT (UK) and are on hand should we require them again in times of emergency.
7. **Community Volunteer Award** - Christina Bainbridge (**Winner**) with Peter Martin & Richard Francis as the runners up – Christina was instrumental in setting up ARC (Appleby Recovery Committee) to support those in Appleby during and following Storm Desmond. Not only did she manage and coordinate this but she carried out her role as a First Responder and work with the Samaritans. She has worked closely with CERT (UK) since the early days and she has gone above and beyond to support all those within her community and so is justifiably a worthy winner of this award.
8. **CEO – Award** - Kieran Parker (**Winner**) with Dean Ferguson & Peter Martin as the runners up –
 - Kieran has been a rock for EFV/CERT (UK) since day one. He has been outstanding in his commitment and has shown that he fully deserves this award
 - Kieran cares unconditionally for those which we help and support CERT (UK). He has struggled with mental health issues but has gone above and beyond to put flood affected families ahead of his own issues and realising that there are others out there less fortunate than himself, this makes him a caring and compassionate person who continually goes that extra mile and a great example of this was being called to a potential flood at Warcop earlier last month. Putting residents at ease with offering emergency hydro sacs and snakes.
 - He goes above and beyond in any emergency or in any daily practice. Kieran deserves the recognition for all that he has accomplished and continues to do. He has been the lead organiser for our fundraising events and is so passionate about all that he does. He has worked extremely long hours in a voluntary role and now has a paid position with CERT (UK). Kieran is a star he has helped so much whilst even going through some tough times himself and has put others before himself, there is not many people out there like this. Kieran is rare and unique. He is a gem and an asset to CERT (UK) and should be very proud of his achievements. He brightens up people's day in the office and warehouse with his humour and charm.