

A Royal Honour for Dyscover – The Queens Award for Voluntary Service



We are delighted to be able to announce that the achievements of volunteers and staff at Dyscover have been recognised with this award, which is often called 'The MBE for Charities'.

This unique national honour was created by Her Majesty to mark her Golden Jubilee in 2002, to recognise the outstanding contributions made to local communities by voluntary organisations. There were a record number of nominations this year, and 281 awards were made across the UK.

Robert Napier, Surrey's High Sherriff in 2018, started the process by nominating Dyscover for the QAVS after visiting us last April. In February we heard we'd been shortlisted for the award along with 12 other Surrey organisations. In May, 8 of us were told we'd been successful, but there was a strict embargo on sharing the news until official publication in The London Gazette on 2 June.

On Wednesday 29 May, Rosemary, Director of Service, and Diane, our longest standing volunteer, with 23 years' service, represented Dyscover at a garden party hosted by the Queen in the grounds of Buckingham Palace.

The drizzle didn't dampen their enjoyment of the event which included a delicious royal tea, 2 military bands, a procession by Yeomen of the Guard, and an opportunity to see members of the Royal Family, and the exquisite royal gardens.



Volunteer support and volunteering opportunities are at the heart of effective long term support for people with aphasia

This award is a huge tribute to all our volunteers, including Group volunteers, Trustees, Fundraising and Admin volunteers and Aphasia Ambassadors.



It feels especially fitting to have received the QAVS in Dyscover' 25th Anniversary year, since the organisation has relied so heavily on volunteers throughout its history. We look forward to welcoming the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and all the Dyscover team and supporters to an award presentation ceremony in the autumn.

