



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

The MBE for volunteer groups

Award Committee

Chair

- **Martyn Lewis CBE** During 32 years as a television journalist, Martyn presented every mainstream national news programme on Britain's two main terrestrial channels, including ITV's *News At Ten* and the BBC's *Six O'Clock News*. His charitable involvement began with the Hospice movement, and has expanded over the last 25 years to include areas as diverse as disadvantaged young people, learning disabilities, dementia, volunteering and leadership. He is Founder and Chairman of YouthNet, whose main website www.thesite.org provides help and information to over half a million young people each month. YouthNet's other website www.do-it.org.uk has become the national volunteering database, linking up those who want to volunteer with over a million fully-updated volunteering opportunities across the UK. He is also President of United Response, providing homes and jobs for people with learning disabilities, and a Trustee of the Windsor Leadership Trust.

Committee members

- **Professor Dame Carol Black** is National Director for Health and Work, Chairman of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, Chairman of the Nuffield Trust, and immediate past president of the Royal College of Physicians. She is a member of many national committees aiming to improve health and healthcare. She is also a foreign affiliate of the Institute of Medicine, USA.
 - **Sylvia Brown OBE** is Chief Executive of Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE), the national arm of the Rural Community Action Network whose member organisations support and promote the interests of rural communities. She works strategically with government, agencies and partners in the third sector. She brings to ACRE a range of professional skills and knowledge from past private sector experience and as a long standing community activist in her own local area. Sylvia chaired the multi-agency Wiltshire Rural Forum for six years and is still a parish councillor in her own community.
 - **Jeremy Crook** has over 25 years' experience of promoting diversity and developing practical solutions in the public, private and third sectors. He is a member of the Department for Work and Pensions Ethnic Minority Advisory Group, the Department for Communities and Local Government Third Sector Partnership Board, Vice Chair of the national Learning and Skills Council's Equality and Diversity Committee, and the Government Office for London's BME Refugee and Faith Advisory Group.
 - **Dr Justin Davis Smith** is Chief Executive of Volunteering England and formerly Director of the Institute for Volunteering Research. He has over 20 years experience in the volunteering movement and has advised the UK Government, the World Bank and the United Nations over the development of volunteering policy. Justin is a trustee of the youth volunteering charity v, and former chair of the Nationwide Foundation. He was a member of the Commission on the Future of Volunteering and has been assisting the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) with the development of its 2012 volunteering strategy. He has written widely on volunteering and is a Visiting Professor at Birkbeck, University of London.
 - **Mr Emir Feisal** is Associate Managing Editor of the Sunday Times. A Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, Mr Feisal holds a number of public appointments including being a Magistrate for the Westminster Bench.
-

- **Bill Howat** is the Chair of Volunteer Development Scotland. His varied career includes being Chief Executive of the Western Isles Council, 20 years as a civil servant in the Scottish Office and Executive, and 10 years as an academic. His recent work includes leading a budget review for Renfrewshire Council, advising ACPOS on public finance and East Ayrshire Council on economic development.
 - **Gracia McGrath OBE** has more than 20 years experience working in the voluntary sector and is CEO of Chance UK, a mentoring organisation for five to 11-year-old children with behavioural difficulties. Chance UK was a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service winner in 2006.
 - **Gary McGuire** is a Community Learning and Development Officer with Culture and Sport Glasgow. He has been involved in youth and community work for nearly 20 years, joining his local youth council in 1995, eventually rising to the rank of Chair of the Glasgow Youth Council. While in this role, Gary played a key part in the development of the Scottish Youth Parliament and drove forward the agenda for free swimming for Glasgow's young people.
 - **Vicky Mirfin** is Community Affairs Manager for Lloyd's of London, overseeing its community involvement programme in East London and the work of its three grant-making charitable trusts. She co-ordinates the Corporation of Lloyd's Corporate Responsibility activity, co-chairs their Environmental Steering Group and is deputy chair of their Diversity Steering Group. Vicky also sits on the Advisory Group for Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership and is a trustee of Heart of the City.
 - **Lizzy Ralph** is a Project Manager for the Commission of Youth Social Enterprise, tasked by the Government to discover ways of cultivating and harnessing youth social ambition. She has been a Vice-President and trustee of the University of Birmingham Guild of Students and President of the Carnival Society Funding Trust. Lizzy is a trustee of The Rwenzori Foundation, which undertakes infrastructure development in Ugandan schools and community-run enterprises, and a delegate to the National Union of Students.
 - **John Ramsey** is the Head of Volunteering at Age Concern England. Formerly a solicitor, he has held senior positions at Student Volunteering England and Citizens Advice and is a former trustee of Volunteering England. John currently sits on the England Volunteering Development Council, is chair and co-founder of the Association of Volunteer Managers and is a moderator of the UK Volunteer Programme Managers e-forum.
 - **Chris Reed** is Chief Executive of Volunteer Centre Westminster, and has extensive experience on the England Volunteering Development Council, as a former director of Greater London Volunteering and as a member of the ChangeUp Volunteering Hub Scrutiny Committee. A lifelong volunteer working in both rural and urban settings, Chris is a trustee of Volunteering England committed to championing Volunteer Centres as a crucial tool for the organisation's implementation of national strategies.
 - **Tony Shepherd** is founding CEO of Safer London Foundation, which is the Metropolitan Police Service charity and the only one of its kind in Western Europe. He was previously Chief Executive of the Newbridge Foundation, a national charity providing resettlement services in prisons and a network of 350 volunteer befrienders providing support to lonely and isolated prisoners throughout the length of their sentence.
 - **Rabinder Singh QC** is a Senior Barrister based at Matrix law chambers. He was appointed a Deputy High Court Judge in 2003 and in 2004 he became a Recorder of the Crown Court. Rabinder was one of the youngest QCs and judges at the time of his appointment.
 - **Ben Summerskill** was appointed chief executive of Stonewall in March 2003. He has successfully led parliamentary campaigns for the introduction of civil partnership, pioneering new 'goods and services' protections for gay people and, most recently, an offence of incitement to homophobic hatred, as well as leading programmes to help businesses and schools tackle homophobia. Ben was previously a journalist for The Observer, Daily Express and the Evening Standard. Since 2006 he has been a Commissioner at the Equality & Human Rights Commission and in 2009 received an OBE for services to Equality and Diversity.
-

- **Major General Martin White** is the Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight and representative of the Lord-Lieutenant Association. His distinguished Army career spanned almost 40 years, including command at every level and a wide variety of staff appointments; he was a graduate and instructor at the Army Command and Staff College and the Royal College of Defence Studies. During the first Gulf War (1990/91) he commanded the logistic effort in support of UK ground forces for which he was awarded the CBE; he became a CB in The Queen's Birthday Honours 1998.
-