

GUIDE FOR ENTRANTS



Rural

★ ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS ★

2018



ABOUT OUR AWARDS

The RCC is a charity that delivers a range of quality services to create, develop, support and represent strong and connected rural communities across Leicestershire and Rutland.

Delivered by the RCC, the new Leicestershire and Rutland Rural Achievement Awards are now entering their second year.

The Awards aim to promote and support strong, forward thinking and well connected rural communities and to highlight Leicestershire and Rutland as an excellent place to live, visit, work and do business.

The Awards Dinner brings people together from across the two counties to recognise and celebrate the achievements of rural communities, individuals, businesses and groups.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

Our Award categories for 2018 include:

- [Best Community Building](#)
- [Best Community Library](#)
- [Community Engagement Award](#)
- [Rural Business Award](#)
- [Rural Service Award](#)
- [Unsung Hero Award](#)
- [Young People's Award](#)

By giving awards across these categories we aim to celebrate and promote the outstanding diversity of activity driven by people living and working within our rural communities.

WHY RURAL LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND

Leicestershire and Rutland sit right at the heart of rural England and host a vibrant network of innovative and entrepreneurial rural communities.

The two counties are home to almost 690,000 people and around 30,000 businesses.

We have 150 members across these rural counties and engage with over 300 community buildings, 30 community libraries, 275 parish and town councils and over 50 sports clubs and other small community groups.

WHO OUR AWARDS REACH

Our awards reach people in over 300 rural settlements across Leicestershire and Rutland including:

[County & District Councillors](#)

[Parish Councils](#)

[People running community buildings and libraries](#)

[Rural business owners](#)

[Neighbourhood planning representatives](#)

[Individuals running sports clubs and other community groups](#)

[People living or working in rural areas](#)

The awards are also pro-actively supported and promoted by key business, political, and voluntary sector leaders from across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

OUR AWARDS DINNER

Last year we hosted over 120 guests at the sold out Rural Achievement Awards Dinner held in Leicester.

Our president Jennifer, Lady Gretton DCVO JP HM Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire was delighted to be joined by guests on the night including:

[The Lord Mayor of Leicester](#)

[HM Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland](#)

[Civic dignitaries representing every local authority in Leicestershire and Rutland](#)

[Representatives of our sponsors including:](#)

- [Smallman & Son](#)
- [Fox Print](#)
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- [Harborough Energy](#)
- [Taste Harborough](#)
- [Edible16](#)
- [Tupi Sultan](#)

[Almost 100 community and business representatives including the finalists from each of our award categories.](#)

This year's Awards Dinner will take place at Winstanley House from 7pm on Thursday 11th October.

ENTRY GUIDELINES

HOW TO ENTER

To enter the awards simply follow these four key steps:

1. Visit www.ruralcc.org.uk/awards
2. Download an entry pack for the Award category that you wish to enter. Previous entrants may re-enter.
3. Complete the entry form in full making sure you provide all the information required including contact details.
4. Complete the declaration, save and submit your completed form along with any accompanying information by email to awards@ruralcc.org.uk.

COST TO ENTER

There is no cost to enter the Awards.

If you are shortlisted as one of our finalists you will be required to purchase a minimum of two tickets to our Awards Dinner at a cost of £35 plus VAT per person (total £70 plus VAT)

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- i. Finalists will be required to send two representatives over the age of 16 to the Awards Dinner from 7pm on 11th October 2018 at Winstanley House. A minimum of two tickets must be purchased by each finalist at a cost of £35 plus VAT per person.
- ii. Individuals nominated and made a finalist in the Unsung Hero Award will be required to attend the Awards Dinner but will be admitted free of charge.
- iii. No feedback will be provided by the RCC in relation to entries or judging decisions.
- iv. Entrants should gain permission from any individual nominated for an Award or who is personally identified in any way within an entry (from a parent/guardian if this person is under 16).
- v. Any personal data submitted by entrants will be processed in line with our current Privacy Policy. A copy is available to view at www.ruralcc.org.uk.

ENTRY DEADLINE

The deadline for entries across all categories is:

Monday 30th April 2018

Entries should be submitted to awards@ruralcc.org.uk

JUDGING PROCESS & DATES

Entries will be judged as follows:

- a. **Shortlisting - May 2018**
All entries will be reviewed by our judges and may be shortlisted for a judges visit.
- b. **Judges Visits - June & July 2018**
Our judges will arrange to visit each shortlisted entry in June or early July. The purpose of the visit will be to find out more about shortlisted entries and to decide our finalists and the overall winner for each category. No visits will be arranged for the Unsung Hero Award which will be judged remotely.
- c. **Finalists notified - no later than 1st August 2018.**
- d. **Awards Dinner - 11th October 2018**
The overall winner of each category will be announced at the Rural Achievement Awards Dinner on Thursday 11th October 2018 at Winstanley House in Leicester.

To find out more or enter please visit

www.ruralcc.org.uk/awards

AWARDS CATEGORIES

BEST COMMUNITY BUILDING

An award to recognise a community building that has developed new or improved facilities or encouraged better use through innovative and creative thinking.

Any type of community building can enter as long as it is based within Leicestershire and Rutland. We want to hear whatever you think is great about your building. Examples of activities we are interested in include:

- Development of a new community building
- The extension, renovation or improvement of an existing building
- Innovative and forward thinking approaches to building management
- Exciting ways to deliver or accommodate local services
- Approaches to encouraging wider use and attracting new users

BEST COMMUNITY LIBRARY

An award for a community run library that has developed new or improved services or generated a positive impact on the community through the facilities and resources it provides.

Any community library can enter as long as it is based within Leicestershire and Rutland. We want to hear whatever you think is great about your library. Types of activity we would especially like to hear about include:

- The creation of a new community library
- The expansion or improvement of an existing community library
- Innovative and forward thinking approaches to library management
- Exciting and creative ways to deliver or accommodate local services
- Approaches to encouraging wider community use and attracting new users

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD

An award to champion excellent approaches to community engagement that raise awareness of rural issues, bring people together, or create an opportunity for people to help influence change in their local community.

We are happy to receive entries from charities, parish councils or community groups within Leicestershire and Rutland. We want to hear what you think is great about your project including activities such as:

- Involving the community in the development of a Neighbourhood Plan or other community consultation project
- Exciting ways to engage people in the design or improvement of services & facilities
- Activities & events that bring people together to take positive action
- Creative and inclusive methods of community consultation
- Innovative approaches to raise awareness of issues and to sharing news & information

To find out more or enter please visit

www.ruralcc.org.uk/awards

RURAL BUSINESS AWARD

An award to recognise an outstanding business based in a rural location or specifically serving rural communities in Leicestershire and Rutland.

If you run or work for a business we would like to hear what you think is great about your company. If you are customer or know of a great business in our area we would also welcome you nominating them for this award. We are particularly interested in:

- Companies that actively look to employ local people
- Businesses that contribute back into their local community
- Organisations that positively contribute to the local economy for example by using local suppliers
- Green and environmentally friendly businesses
- Opportunities for people to improve their skills and employability

RURAL SERVICE AWARD

An award for an outstanding service provided within a rural community. This might be a Good Neighbour Scheme, provision for young people, a transport service, play or sports facilities, broadband or mobile solutions, or wellbeing support.

If you are involved with delivering a rural service within Leicestershire & Rutland we would like to hear what you think is great about your service. Some examples of activities we are particularly interested in include:

- The design and launch of a new service
- The expansion or improvement of an existing service
- Innovative and forward thinking approaches to service delivery
- Entrepreneurial approaches to financing service delivery
- Creative marketing to attract users, staff or volunteers from the local community

UNSUNG HERO AWARD

An award made to an individual that has made a significant contribution to their community or that goes the extra mile to help and support others.

Any individual can be nominated as an unsung hero as long as they are aged 16 or over and live within Leicestershire and Rutland. Some examples of the type of people we are particularly interested in include:

- A person that regularly gives up their time to help and support people in need
- An individual that has raised money for the benefit of your community
- Someone that has championed or led positive action to improve your area
- A person that manages or helps to run local projects, services, clubs or events

YOUNG PEOPLE'S AWARD

An award to celebrate projects and services delivered by young people to benefit others within their community.

Entries are welcome from any project as long as it is based within Leicestershire and Rutland. If you are involved with a project delivered by young people up to 25 we would like to hear what you think is great about your project. Activities we are interested in could include:

- Activities that help people within your community
- Provision of recreation, sport, or other group activities
- Work that helps increase use of or acts to improve local facilities and services
- Enterprising approaches to fundraising
- Action to engage or represent others within your community



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OUR 2018 **VENUE PARTNER**

OUR 2018 **PRINT PARTNER**



WINSTANLEY
HOUSE



Rural Community Council (Leicestershire & Rutland)

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