

# Broadsheet

The Magazine for Broadland Tree Wardens

Issue 221 – Special Edition



## Community Champions 2023

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The Monthly Magazine for  
Broadland Tree Wardens



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## This Issue's Cover Picture

The Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, the Lady Dannatt, addresses the assembled Community Champions

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# Community Champions 2023

A COUNTYWIDE effort was launched to gather "community champions" together for a coronation-inspired honour at this summer's Royal Norfolk Show. Nominations were encouraged from across Norfolk for the Community Champions Tribute at the showground on Wednesday June 28.

The special celebration recognised "unsung heroes" from a range of community groups, charities, volunteering organisations and recipients of already-established local award schemes.

The assembled community champions took part in a massed gathering in the show's Grand Ring, where they were addressed by HM Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, The Lady Dannatt MBE.

The tribute was organised in partnership between the Norfolk Lieutenancy and the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association (RNAA), acknowledging one of the key themes of the coronation of King Charles III - to promote community cohesion and volunteering.

The aim was to "say thank you to those who do so much for our communities and good causes and to acknowledge their work at the county's biggest event of the year".

Mark Nicholas, managing director of the RNAA said: "The Royal Norfolk Show has a long history of honouring and recognising achievement and this year we are particularly delighted to promote Norfolk's champions who do so much for our communities."

The Royal Norfolk Show, made its tribute as part of the county's celebrations of the coronation of King Charles III and the Queen Consort.



Leaders of Norfolk-based community groups, charities and volunteering organisations were encouraged to nominate up to two deserving volunteers to represent their organisation by taking part in the Community Champions Tribute.

Three Broadland Tree Wardens received nominations. Andrea Rowlands (Freethorpe) and Richard Farley (Brundall) joined me in representing both this Network and our parishes.

Incidentally, our Network was not invited to nominate people.

Some of you may remember that a few years ago I received a personal message from The Lady Dannatt thanking and congratulating me for efforts given to this Network. That really bowled me over, so you will appreciate that being nominated to attend this event was very special to me.



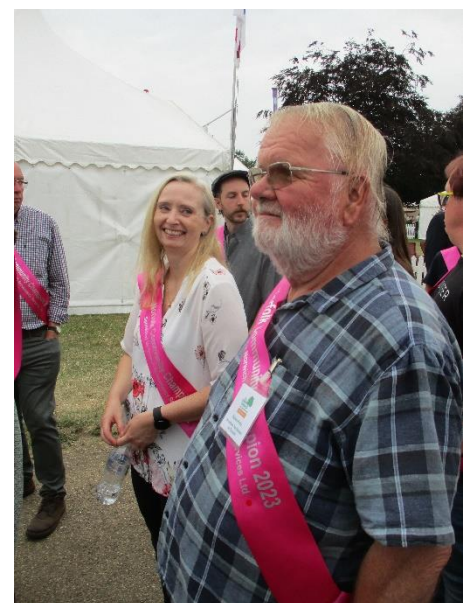
What's more, I was joined by two people who, over the years, have become very special friends to me. I have so enjoyed working with Andrea and Richard and am proud of what we have achieved over the years.

Junior Tree Wardens, an award winning sensory garden (2014), a nature garden, a vegetable garden and a small orchard at Freethorpe Primary School, not to mention an outdoor classroom, were all achieved with Andrea, along with general Tree Warden duties around the parish.

With Richard I have been pleased to work on the thinning and improvement of Low Farm Wood, significant planting in Brundall Cemetery, tree work in Brundall Countryside Park and the creation of a 56 tree orchard surrounded by a hawthorn hedge. That is all in addition to some work at Church Fen Local Nature Reserve and supporting Richard with enquiries received.

I couldn't have asked for two more suitable colleagues (and friends) to share such a wonderful tribute with.

You may appreciate the following pictures.



My two outstanding colleagues lining up for the procession





Proud to represent you all



We may be getting on in age (yes I am the older of the two!!), but we can still put in a good day's work, although we may be good for nothing the following day!!



How am I supposed to get this sash to stay on?

By the way. I didn't decide that we had to wear PINK sashes!!!



I got there in the end.

One final comment. The Lady Dannatt didn't stop applauding once during the volunteers' two circuits of the parade ring.