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PRESS RELEASE

TWO VOLUNTEERS RECOGNISED WITH AWARD

At the town's Civic Service held at All Saints Church on 26 February 2023, Town Mayor Councillor Farzana Kharawala presented the 2023 Community Volunteer Awards to two very deserving recipients: Ian Summerfield and Anne Guess.

Both award recipients were nominated by a fellow resident for having undertaken more than five years of voluntary service to the benefit of the town.

Anne Guess has been the Treasurer and a Committee member for Leighton-Linslade Carnival for a number of years, as well as being Treasurer and Committee member for a number of other groups in the community including Scouts, Friends of Tiddenfoot Waterside Park and the Leighton Linslade Music Centre. Anne has also been a town and district Councillor, a Governor at a local Lower School, a leading member of the Town Twinning Forum and has been involved in the Walking for Health initiative.

Ian Summerfield is another resident with a long history of volunteering to benefit others, with roles in Scouting, the Leighton Buzzard Rugby Football Club, the Multiple Sclerosis ("MS") Society, the Rotary Club of Leighton-Linslade and as a Governor at Oak Bank Academy. He also spent time as a Trustee of the Chiltern MS Centre in Wendover, which serves the Leighton-Linslade community and which has developed into a cutting edge facility.

The civic service provided the perfect occasion to present these awards, as well as celebrating all aspects of the Leighton-Linslade community. Readings were given by Air Commodore Gordon Moulds CBE DL and the High Sheriff, Lady Jane Clifford. In addition to an anthem performed by the All Saints Church Choir, two songs were performed by Voices with Soul. The service also included the laying up of the old Royal British Legion standard and the dedication of the new standard. The church was well attended by dignitaries from surrounding towns and parishes, representatives of the Council and other community and voluntary organisations, friends and family of the

award recipients, uniformed groups, cadets and residents. Town Mayor Councillor Kharawala would like to thank all those who attended the service and in particular, everyone at All Saints Church and Lt. Giles Haley for leading a guard of honour.

The Council is aware that a huge number of people volunteer across Leighton Buzzard and Linslade, making a real difference to many people's lives. If volunteering is something you might be interested in doing, why not visit websites such as the Town Council, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity or Community Voluntary Service Bedfordshire for possible opportunities?

The Council will be welcoming nominations for the 2024 awards between June – October. Full details can be found on the Town Council's website.

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