

Barbara Wilson (left) & Revd. Fiona Robinson (right) accept the King's Award for Voluntary Service 2025 from HM Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire, Lady Redmond MBE CStJ.



Over Peover Women's Institute Member Accepts The King's Award for Voluntary Service 2025



Members of OPWI who are also Connecting Chelford volunteers were clearly delighted to receive their Award.



OPWI members and Connecting Chelford volunteers with the dignitaries. OPWI member shown centre was one of the event sponsors.



HM Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire, Lady Redmond MBE CStJ cuts the cake.

Over Peover Women's Institute (OPWI) is bursting with pride. One of its members, Barbara Wilson, was instrumental in setting up Connecting Chelford and supported by other OPWI members taking management committee and a variety of volunteer roles, Connecting Chelford has been given The King's Award for Voluntary Service 2025.

This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and it is equivalent to an MBE.

Based in Chelford, Cheshire, Connecting Chelford started as a befriending project 8 years ago and has now expanded to offer a multitude of activities to meet the needs of local communities.

The ceremony was this month held in Chelford and on behalf of everyone at Connecting Chelford, WI member Barbara Wilson received the crystal award and certificate from HM Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire Lady Redmond MBE CStJ. All the volunteers, of whom several are OPWI members, were recognised as they received The King's Award for Voluntary Service 2025 pin badges.

The excitement continues as Barbara and another volunteer from Connecting Chelford will attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace next month.

Revd. Fiona Robinson, Chair of Connecting Chelford, said: "We are very proud that Connecting Chelford's work has been recognised. All our volunteers go the extra mile and without them Connecting Chelford wouldn't be the fantastic dynamic organisation that it is today. Everyone involved is so honoured to receive this amazing Award and we are overwhelmed by this recognition".

Congratulations to everyone, this Award is very well deserved and we are thrilled that so many members of Over Peover WI are part of this fantastic achievement.