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**BRAVE BRITONS  
AWARDS 2022**

## Timetable of Events

2.00pm	Welcome Address Rachel Burden - Host  Chris Childe <i>Head of Professional Services &amp; Projects</i>  Dr Sarah Jarvis MBE <i>Medical Advisor to Amplifon UK</i>
2.10pm	Awards Presentation  Interlude  An interview with Simon Weston CBE  Awards Presentation continues
3.30pm	Close



### Rachel Burden

Rachel presents the BBC Radio 5 Live breakfast show with Rick Edwards and can regularly be seen on the BBC Breakfast red sofa. She's also been involved in prime-time BBC news events such as UK and US election coverage for radio, and the coronavirus news specials. She recently presented a Panorama special on airport disruption and has also hosted Radio 4's You and Yours.

After graduating from Trinity College, Dublin, Rachel studied broadcast journalism at Cardiff University, joining the BBC as a reporter at Radio Suffolk and later at BBC Bristol. She has worked at 5 Live since 2003 and moved to the Salford base in 2011. She lives just outside Knutsford with her husband, four children and unruly dog.

## The Amplifon Awards for Brave Britons

To honour Amplifon founder Charles Holland's valiant actions during the Second World War, these awards celebrate the achievements of exceptional people from all walks of life, of all ages and from all over the United Kingdom.

The awards will highlight members of the public who have shown – like Charles Holland – acts of courage, bravery and incredible selflessness, showing them to be 'The Best of British'.

## About Amplifon

With over 70 years' experience and a network of 9,200 points of sale in 25 countries, Amplifon is a global leader in hearing solutions.

With 9,500 hearing care professionals, the company is committed to delivering the highest quality of service and care, in order to achieve the best hearing experience for clients worldwide.

Their UK network of 136 hearing centres offer tailored hearing care delivered by qualified hearing care professionals.

More information is available at: [amplifon.com](https://www.amplifon.com)

## About Charles Holland

Charles Holland was decorated by both the British and American military for his bravery behind enemy lines during the Second World War. He was also the man behind Amplifon.

Charles Holland was part of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) between 1943 and 1945 and courageously took part in espionage, sabotage and reconnaissance missions in occupied Europe, working alongside local resistance groups.

He was later commissioned into the Royal Corps of Signals and became attached to an elite American-Canadian unit known as the Devil's Brigade under the command of the US 5th Army, whose heroic deeds were dramatised in a 1968 film 'The Devil's Brigade'. Charles Holland was awarded the MBE and the Military Cross – the third highest British decoration for bravery – for his remarkable acts of courage. He was also awarded the Bronze Star by the United States Government in 1948.



After the war the courageous veteran dedicated his life to providing better hearing for people affected by the conflict and he subsequently launched Amplifon in 1950. Amplifon has become a worldwide company specialising in providing best in class hearing solutions and devices.

## Simon Weston CBE



Photo: Derek D'Souza

Simon Weston, a Welsh Guardsman, was on board the Sir Galahad when it was destroyed 40 years ago in the Bluff Cove air attack during the Falklands War in 1982. Simon was severely injured sustaining serious burns to 46% of his body.

The incident redefined his role in life and he has become an inspirational figure across the UK. His message is one of achievement, of triumph in the face of adversity, and of seizing the moment and succeeding.

Simon's road to physical, spiritual and mental recovery has seen him active in a number of successful ventures including 'The Weston Spirit', a Liverpool-based young people's charity. His charitable work earned him an OBE in 1992.

He was also awarded the Freedom of the City of Liverpool in 2002 in recognition of his bravery and charity work. And he was honoured as one of the top 100 Welsh Heroes in 2004 and, in 2014, was voted the Nation's Favourite Hero. In 2015, he was awarded the Freedom of the City of London.

Simon is a motivational speaker with more than 25 years' experience. His irrepressible humour, infectious enthusiasm and engaging personality has helped him make many inspiring and moving keynote speeches and he has a reputation as a wonderful and humorous after-dinner speaker.

He has been the subject of five major BBC TV documentaries and his autobiography *Walking Tall* was a bestseller – being in the top 10 for eight weeks.

He has written a series of fiction books, calling on his military experiences, and has also published four children's books. In 2014, he was proud to be asked to voiceover some children's stories for CBeebies.

In 2016, Simon was awarded the CBE for his charitable work. For two years he was President for Wales Scouting and is currently the Patron of the Falkland Veterans Foundation; The Enham Trust; Allied Service Trust; an ambassador for Changing Faces; and President of DEBRA, a charity that supports individuals affected by Epidermolysis Bullosa, a painful genetic skin blistering condition.

Simon is married to Lucy and has three children and a grandson Zachary.



## Finalists:

### Active Agers

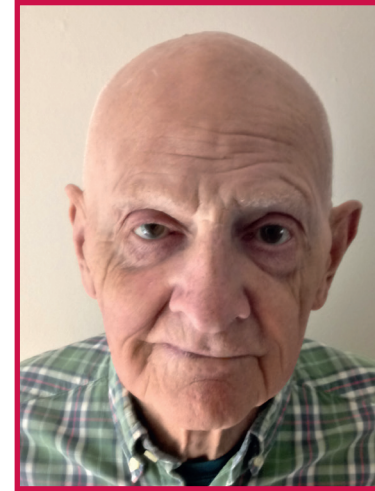
Awarded to an individual aged 70 or over whose attitude and approach to ageing is an inspiration to us all.

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#### Dickie Borthwick

Footballing legend Dickie Borthwick, 86, hung up his boots last December after a 79-year career having played more than 1,600 games and scoring 400 goals for 15 clubs. Retired engineer Dickie, of Weymouth, Dorset, who beat prostate cancer 10 years ago, first played in his native Scotland for Invergordan Academy before moving to Ross County. When he moved to the south coast he played for a host of non-league clubs including Sherbourne Town. Grandad Dickie, who puts his longevity down to drinking tea and eating a bowl of porridge before every game, played his last game for AFC Wyke Smugglers.



#### Tom Harrison

The oldest person to finish in a marathon this year, Tom Harrison was forced to pretend he was younger to enter the Reading Half Marathon. Tom, 86, from Spencers Wood, Berkshire, was the only runner aged 85 or over to complete a marathon in 2021 timing 5hrs 55mins. He began long-distance running 20 years ago and ran his first official marathon when he was 67. A dedicated country walker, Tom ran his own rambling tours business English Wanderer for 21 years and now volunteers with Berkshire Vision, which helps people with visual impairments to take walks. He is also an official with Reading Roadrunners.



#### Basil Smith

Superfit Basil Smith is believed to be the oldest tennis player in the UK. Basil, of Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, South Wales, continued to play three times a week after his 100th birthday at Swansea Tennis Club. The former British Rail and Lloyds Bank employee first started playing by hitting a ball against the wall at his parents' home 92 years ago. He has played on courts as far away as Los Angeles, New York, Durban and Baghdad and has coached in schools. His secret for supple joints – staying warm with a bubble bath after each game and putting his pyjamas on the radiator every night.



#### Marian Voyce

At the age of 91 Marian Voyce is believed to have been the longest serving butcher in Britain. Marian, who lives in Cinderford, Gloucestershire, continued to work, throughout the Covid pandemic at the family's shop in nearby Coleford, where she worked for 50 years up to it closing in recent months. Until retirement she still arrived early three days a week to collect the 7am deliveries. Marian's father-in-law started the Forest of Dean business in 1932 and she met her late husband Lionel at the FC Voyce stall on the former Coleford market. The couple moved into the shop in 1968.

## Finalists:

### Against all Odds

Awarded to a person who has overcome adversity to take on an exceptional challenge.

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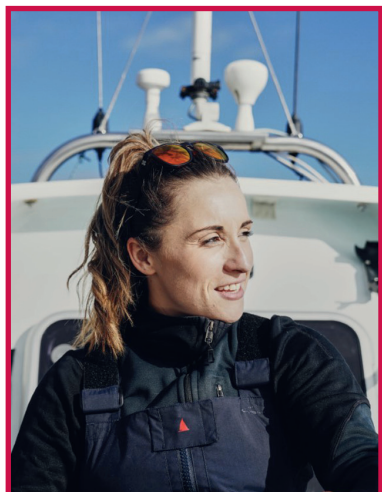
#### Lucy Shepherd

Explorer Lucy Shepherd completed a 253-mile previously unexplored Amazon expedition on foot. The extraordinary jungle journey took Lucy, 29, from Henham, Surrey, through one of the last remaining undiscovered wildernesses on earth, during which she foraged for food and fished with a bow and arrow. She encountered venomous snakes, caimans the size of alligators, some of the largest spiders in the world and a 500-strong herd of boar. The expedition, during which she was supported by local guides, took her through the Kanuku Mountains in Guyana to the Brazilian border and took 50 days.



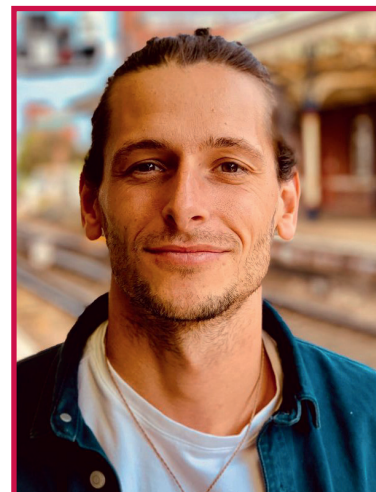
#### Martin Hewitt

Disabled military veteran and polar explorer Martin Hewitt reached the South Pole after skiing more than 400 miles in 50 days – despite having no use in his right arm after being shot in Afghanistan. Former paratrooper Martin, 41, from Wilmslow, Cheshire, completed the trek with ex-British Army officer Lou Rudd. And after a period of rest the pair went on to climb Antarctica's highest peak, Mount Vinson. Martin kept his right arm in a sling while the pair combatted temperatures as low as -50C and winds of up to 50mph. Pulling sleds on skis they covered up to 12 miles a day.



#### Victoria Evans

Oarswoman Victoria Evans set a new record for the fastest female solo crossing of the Atlantic Ocean – despite never having rowed before taking up the preparation for the challenge. Lawyer Victoria, 35, from Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, rowed 2,559 nautical miles in a record time of 40 days and 19 hours beating the previous record by 12 hours. Her journey took her from Tenerife to Port St Charles in Barbados. Victoria gave up her job and her home in order to make the crossing. Her aim was to raise £50,000 for her Sea Change Sport charity which aims to change mindsets over females in sport.



#### Nick Butter

Extreme distance runner Nick Butter completed the distance of 200 marathons in 128 days when he ran the coastline of Great Britain. Nick, 31, of Dorset, became the fastest person to cover the 5,255-miles route. The Run Britain adventure saw him suffer broken bones, countless blisters, torn achilles, pulled hamstrings and knee cartilage damage. He took 12 million steps, went through 14 pairs of trainers and spent 1,400 hours running. Nick was raising money for his 196 Foundation, which aims to provide aid “to every corner of the world” by supporting one cause a year. So far, he has raised a total of £300,000.



## Finalists:

### Young Hero

Awarded to a young person under 18 who has shown outstanding courage or taken on an exceptional challenge.

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#### Henry Collett

Twelve-year-old Henry Collett saved his dad's life after he suffered a cardiac arrest while they were both out running near their home in Hipperholme, near Halifax, West Yorkshire. Henry reacted immediately when dad Jules, 56, collapsed and stopped breathing. The youngster rang 999 and began CPR, a skill he had learnt at school as well as with the scouts and sea cadets. Henry managed to attract the attention of a passer-by who took over CPR while he went to get a defibrillator from a nearby rugby club. Emergency crews shocked Jules three times with a defibrillator before his heart started again. But for Henry's actions his dad would have died.



#### Jacob Reddy

Busker Jacob Reddy sang his way around all 51 of England's cities in just 22 days to raise money for the children's hospice that cared for his brother Joseph. Jacob, 16, of Blackburn, Lancashire, raised more than £8,200 for Derian House, Chorley, to celebrate what would have been Joseph's 21st birthday. Joseph died after contracting meningitis at just one month old. During the tour bystanders joined in the singing. He also met his YouTube hero Jaackmaate in Norwich; was shouted out by his musical hero Frank Turner at his gig at the O2 Apollo, and was interviewed by various radio and TV stations.



#### Gabriel Clark

Twelve-year-old Gabriel Clark went viral online for his woodworking skills and raised around £250,000 for Ukrainian refugees. Gabriel, of Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria, raised the money when he launched a Bowl For Ukraine raffle offering a wooden bowl he had made. Within 48 hours the online sweepstake had gone viral and more than 14,000 entered, including Harry Potter author JK Rowling and TV celebrity Stephen Fry. The bowl was etched with the blue and yellow of the Ukrainian flag. The money was donated to Save The Children's appeal to help families affected by the war.



#### Albie-Junior Thomas

Five-year-old Albie-Junior Thomas became the youngest person to scale the 3,560ft peak Snowdon when he climbed the Welsh mountain alongside his dad Daniel. But what's even more amazing is that Albie-Junior, from Holywell, North Wales, was forced to have his left leg amputated at the age of two after being born with rare condition fibula hemimelia – the absence of the bone in the calf. To support Albie-Junior, who has a prosthetic limb and dreams of competing in the Paralympics, his dad closed his joinery business and went onto to study sports therapy at uni to get as much knowledge as he could to help Albie-Junior's progress.

## Finalists:

### Charity Champion

Awarded to a volunteer, charity worker or fundraiser who has made a real difference to a cause they care about.



#### Brendon Prince

Former Torquay teacher Brendon Prince completed a journey around the coastline of Britain on his paddleboard to raise awareness of water safety and money for linked charities. Brendon, 48, a former Devon Rugby Union captain who taught outdoor education and PE at Torquay Boys' Grammar School for 23 years, clocked up more than 3,800 miles – smashing the previous world record for the longest journey on a paddleboard by 2,400 miles. His life changed in 2014 when he tried valiantly in vain to rescue three people who drowned off the north Cornish coast. Since then, he has dedicated his life to water safety.



#### Dr David Nott and Dr Henry Marsh

Surgeons Dr David Nott and Dr Henry Marsh led a team who helped 570 Ukrainian medics to save lives on the frontline by giving them war surgery training via video links. Consultant surgeon Dr Nott, of St Mary's Hospital, London, who specialises in vascular and trauma surgery, has worked in other war zones especially in Syria, and is experienced at providing surgical care in dangerous and difficult circumstances. Retired consultant surgeon Dr Marsh led the neurosurgery sessions. The training aimed to provide knowledge of everything from how to create make-shift pelvic binders to knowing when to operate without a CT scanner.



#### Matthew Disney

Afghanistan war veteran Matthew Disney walked and ran barefoot 42 fells in the Lake District, taking 33 hours to cover the 66 miles in aid of the Royal Marine Charity and Rock2Recovery, which helps people with post-traumatic stress disorder. Matthew, 38, from Preston, Lancashire, who had previously climbed the highest mountains in the UK carrying a rowing machine, described the latest challenge as "the most brutal yet". From Keswick he climbed Skiddaw, marched on to and up Helvellyn and then to the top of Scafell Pike before returning to Keswick. The total climb was equivalent to conquering Mount Everest.



#### Jeffrey Long MBE

Ninety-year-old former para Jeffrey Long MBE walked 96 miles in aid of the Alzheimer's Society while battling blood cancer, arthritis and a back injury. Intrepid Jeffrey, from Bingley, West Yorkshire, set his own issues aside to support people with dementia and celebrate the Queen's 96th birthday. The great grandfather and veteran fundraiser has collected a staggering £300,000 in the past 15 years. He completed his latest challenge in a series of walks to achieve the 96-mile target. He celebrated his 90th birthday with a party to raise money for Cancer Research and Macmillan Cancer Support.



## Finalists:

### Single Act of Courage

Awarded to an individual for a one-off outstanding act of bravery where their own life was put in danger.

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#### Amelie Osborn-Smith

Amelie Osborn-Smith fought off a 10ft crocodile when she was attacked while swimming in the Zambezi river in Africa. Despite her horrific injuries she went on over the next 12 months to build a village school near to where the incident happened as part of her healing process. Amelie, 18, of Andover, Hampshire, was left fighting for her life after the attack in what had been deemed safe waters near Victoria Falls. She kicked and punched the giant reptile before friends dragged her back into the boat. Amelie was on a white-water rafting adventure as part of a gap-year visit to Zambia where her grandmother owns a farm.



#### Melissa and Georgia Laurie

Identical twins Melissa and Georgia Laurie defended themselves from a savage crocodile despite being badly injured during an attack in a surfing resort in Mexico. The 28-year-old sisters, from Sandhurst, Berkshire, were swimming in the lagoon near Puerto Escondido when the croc caught hold of Melissa. In a desperate bid to save her Georgia was badly hurt as she punched the vicious creature fighting it off three times. Melissa suffered an open wrist fracture, organ lacerations, internal bleeding, water on the lungs and sepsis, while Georgia had serious injuries to her hands.



#### Joe McCarthy

Gardener Joe McCarthy, 55, was held at gunpoint by Russian invading soldiers, had his tyres shot out and his truck ransacked, and his food, cigarettes and a phone stolen before managing to evacuate seventy people from the Sumy area in the north east of war-torn Ukraine. Joe, from Airth, near Falkirk, Scotland, went to Ukraine to rescue people who wanted to leave but had no transport over the border into Poland and Romania. Joe, who runs a landscaping business, documented his dangerous mission in a series of videos posted on TikTok.



#### PC Ryan Curtis and PC Scott James

Unarmed police constables Ryan Curtis and Scott James faced down the knife-wielding murderer of MP Sir David Amess when they arrived at the scene ahead of armed officers. On their arrival at the Belfairs Methodist Church, Leigh On Sea, Essex, they were met by distressed onlookers who told them Sir David was lying injured inside and the armed attacker was still there too. The brave officers entered the church to contain terrorist Ali Harbi Ali who was holding a foot-long carving knife. The two officers have since been awarded the Merit Star – the force's highest accolade.



## Finalists:

### Hero Pet

Awarded to a dog or other animal that has performed an act of bravery or provided an exceptional service to its owner or the community.



#### **Piran, Neighbour Tamar Longmuir**

Caring black cat Piran saved her 83-year-old owner's life after she frantically miaowed for ages in a bid to alert searchers led by a neighbour Tamar Longmuir to find her injured owner. The pensioner had fallen 70ft through a barbed wire fence, down an embankment and into a stream near her home near St Kew, Bodmin, Cornwall. But for Piran it was feared the woman would not have been found until it was too late. Emergency crews involved were from the fire and rescue service, specialist water rescue team and the air ambulance, which flew her to hospital. Bodmin police praised Piran 'for saving the day'.



#### **Kaiser, Handler PC Mark Woolcott**

Despite being stabbed five times experienced police dog Kaiser held on to the knifeman after hunting him down following a burglary. Kaiser and his handler PC Mark Woolcott, of Orpington, Kent, whose wrist was broken in the incident, had been called to an intruder alert. They found a man hiding and when Kaiser grabbed him he was stabbed four times in the head and once below the eye with a large kitchen knife but held on to the attacker long enough for other officers to make an arrest. Kaiser was rushed to the vet who found the blows to the head had struck bone, narrowly avoiding lasting injury or worse.



#### **Chewie, Owner Loretta and Ray Whiteley**

Yorkshire Terrier Chewie saved his owner Ray Whiteley's life by jumping on his chest after he had suffered a heart attack. Chewie was adopted by Ray and his wife Loretta, from Leyland, Lancashire, after he had been found in a shallow grave wrapped in a plastic bag with his mouth and paws taped. He returned the love when Ray, who has multiple sclerosis, suffered a cardiac arrest at home and Chewie pounced on his chest and gave impromptu CPR. Since then Chewie and Loretta have raised over £5,000 for animal charities and Chewie reached the finals of the The Kennel Club Hero Dog Award 2022.



#### **Wilson, Owners Elaine and John Sangster**

Therapy pony Wilson has brought comfort to hundreds of children, the elderly and dementia sufferers. The 10-year-old Miniature Shetland pony first trotted into a rehabilitation care home five years ago with his owners Elaine and John Sangster, of Bannockburn, Stirlingshire. And when all the residents fell immediately in love with him it started a career of comforting people of all ages. And even though the couple now have 15 therapy ponies Wilson is still star of the show as he loves to show affection and be kissed and cuddled!

## Finalists:

### Celebrity Hero (partnered by the Daily Express)

Awarded to a famous person who has shown an act of heroism, compassion or inspiration to help a cause of others.



#### Dame Deborah James

Mother-of-two Dame Deborah James, who died aged 40 in July after battling bowel cancer for six years, raised more than £6million in the fight against the disease and saved many lives by inspiring tens of thousands of people to check symptoms early. After being diagnosed in 2016 she began to share experiences online and became known as the 'Bowel Babe' and launched the Bowelbabe Fund. Her popularity led to her becoming one of three presenters on BBC Radio 5 Live's 'You, Me and the Big C' podcast. She was honoured with a damehood in June only days after revealing she was receiving end-of-life-care.



#### Sir David Attenborough

Natural historian Sir David Attenborough, 96, has devoted his working life to saving the planet by inspiring others to tackle the causes of climate change. In April he received the United Nations' most distinguished environment award – the Champions Of The Earth Lifetime Achievement Award – which recognised that for more than seven decades Sir David has kept his finger on the pulse as a broadcaster, natural historian, author and environmental advocate. His BBC documentaries, such as Life On Earth and the Blue Planet series, have educated millions on the perils of climate change.



#### Kevin Sinfield

Rugby legend Kevin Sinfield, 41, has raised more than £4million for Motor Neurone Disease research by carrying out individual challenges and by working with other fundraisers. He has been inspired by the brave fight his former Leeds Rhinos teammate Rob Burrows has put up since being diagnosed with MND in 2019. During the last 12 months, Kevin, who won 26 caps for England before becoming Leicester Tigers rugby union defence coach, was the mainstay of a group of rugby league stars who raised cash by paddling the Leeds-Liverpool Canal. Earlier, he ran seven marathons in seven days and ran 101 miles in 24 hours.



#### Damian Lewis

Homeland star Damian Lewis and his late wife Helen McCrory raised more than £1.2million to feed NHS staff during the pandemic while she was ill. During coronavirus lockdowns, Damian, 51, and Helen supported University College London Hospital's charity Feed NHS – which Damian co-founded – a fundraiser that gave food from high street restaurants to NHS staff. Father-of-two Damian is patron of the charity HVH Arts, which is dedicated to supporting talented youngsters with access to resources, training or support to fulfil their dreams. He launched the charity's McCrory Award as part of his wife's legacy.

## Special thanks to:

Simon Weston CBE

Rachel Burden

Viva PR

Paul Rourke Creative Services

Bigtank Video Productions

Ellie Challis

## Judges:

Simon Weston CBE

Claire Gilligan, Brand, Media & Advertising Manager of Amplifon UK

Alan Simpson, Business Development Executive, Viva PR



**A Global Leader in Hearing Care**