

Curtain's up on Pride of Redditch Awards

By [Ian Dipple](#) Friday 13 December 2013 Updated: 13/12 14:41



[Buy photos](#) ▶ Judges Affy Qadeer, Madge Tillsley MBE and Sarah Leeson are watched by Pride of Redditch organiser Rebecca Blake. (5).

THE WINNERS have been chosen and the medals ready to be presented to the first recipients of the Pride of Redditch Awards.

A total of 25 individuals and groups have been picked out of more than 60 nominations and will be announced at a presentation and celebration evening tonight (Friday) at South Redditch Social Club in Greenlands.

An independent panel of judges took more than two days to decide the winners, which were chosen on a number of criteria including how much time the person has given to a group or cause, how significant their contribution has been and how much their work or acts of kindness would be missed if they stopped.

Madge Tillsley, who was awarded the MBE for her services to the community and who has dedicated hours of her time to the town herself, led the judging panel.

She was joined by Affy Qadeer, an entrepreneur who has dedicated his time to community projects, and Sarah Leeson, church and community pastor from Emmanuel URC/Methodist Church based at the Ecumenical Centre.

This evening's event will also feature live performances from up and coming borough band Music Like Lemons and raise money for the Friday Fun Club, which provides activities for young people with learning difficulties.

The awards have been set up by Rebecca Blake, a borough councillor and Labour's Parliamentary spokeswoman for Redditch, to honour those people who make a difference to the town or the lives of residents but often get overlooked or taken for granted.

Sponsored by The Redditch and Alcester Standard, the awards aim to recognise not only those who go above and beyond the call of duty every day but also those small acts of kindness that go unnoticed.

Ms Blake said: "The response to the Pride of Redditch Awards has been superb and we had nominations coming through into the last hour.

"There are clearly some amazing people in the town who are giving time and effort to help people around them.

"The judges tell me it was very difficult for them to make their choice as so many deserve recognition for what they do and achieve.

"We are all looking forward to a fantastic evening when we can celebrate the very best of Redditch."

The night starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £2 on the door, subject to availability.