



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

## FCO Press Release: Honours for the best of Britain overseas

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) announces 71 awards for Britons in recognition of truly exceptional and outstanding service to Britain overseas.

The Diplomatic Service and Overseas Birthday 2016 Honours List recognises extraordinary people in a range of fields overseas including voluntary and charitable work, conservation, human rights, protection of civilians, dance and medical research.

Awards go to Jonathan **MALTUS**, Sommelier in France, who receives an OBE for his success as a fine wine maker in France and Joan **CAMPBELL** who receives an MBE for her services to dance in Hong Kong.

Lucian **GRAINGE CBE** and Richard **HEALD** are amongst those recognised for promoting British business receiving a Knight Bachelor and an OBE respectively for their contributions to inward investment and trade.

Sir Simon McDonald, Head of the Diplomatic Service, said:

"I congratulate everyone whose outstanding work is recognised in the Birthday 2016 Honours list, especially those who promoted UK interests overseas. A particular highlight for me was phoning Tim Peake to ask if he would accept an honour. As you'll see from the list, he said yes."

Examples of other recipients from this list include:

### **Major (Retired) Timothy PEAKE**

Astronaut receives a CMG for services to space research and scientific education

Tim Peake is a European Space Agency astronaut and the first British ESA astronaut to serve on the International Space Station. This award not only recognises this unique achievement but also his work as an Ambassador for UK Science and space based careers, a position to which he was appointed to in 2009, building on his earlier career achievements in the Army Air Corps, including service in the Former Yugoslavia and Afghanistan, and as a helicopter test pilot. Tim is an inspirational role model for young people in the UK and, through his role as Ambassador, he has inspired and encouraged prospective scientists and engineers of all ages.

Awards in the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George are for service rendered internationally or in a foreign country. Tim Peake is the first person to be honoured in this Order as a British representative in space.

This award is a first in another way: Sir Simon McDonald, Permanent Under Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office had the privilege of asking Tim whether he would be willing to accept this honour, if Her Majesty The Queen was to offer it, via a special phone link to the International Space Station set up by the European Space Agency.

**Lynwen GRIFFITH née BRENNAN**

General Manager and Executive Vice President, Lucasfilm and President, Industrial Light & Music, San Francisco, United States of America receives a CBE for services to supporting the UK's visual-effects industry

As General Manager and Executive Vice President of Lucasfilm and President of ILM, Lynwen Brennan oversees day-to-day operations of Lucasfilm, Industrial Light & Magic (ILM) and Skywalker Sound. At Lucasfilm, Lynwen is responsible with the President for the company's overall business strategy. She was the driving force behind the creation of ILM London, an independent, world class visual effects studio based in London, an endeavour that has created 200 jobs and a Research & Development department designed to promote innovation in film making as well as ILM's visual effects contribution to the enormously successful Star Wars franchise. This award recognises the substantial contribution she has made not only to the film world as a whole but also to the stimulation of innovation in the UK's digital media sector.

On receiving news of her award Lynwen Brennan said

*"To receive this recognition is an extraordinary honour. We are all so proud of the long history Star Wars and Lucasfilm has had with the UK. This honour means more to me than any in my career."*

**Andrew SALMON**

Journalist and writer, Seoul, Republic of Korea receives an MBE for his services to British Veterans of the Korean War

Andrew is a journalist and writer based in Seoul. He has a passionate interest in the Korean War or more precisely British involvement in the Korean War. Over the past ten years he has established himself as one of the leading British authorities on the conflict as a whole, and especially on the role played by British forces. This award recognises those achievements but, perhaps, more importantly; it recognises his engagement with British veterans of the conflict. He has given them a voice and the opportunity to record their stories and experiences for future generations. He leads frequent battlefield tours in Korea for visiting British and allied veterans and other visitors interested in the history of the conflict. In addition he has given unstinting support to the veterans' return visits and played a key role in the successful delivery of these visits.

On receiving news of his award Andrew Salmon said:

*"Few realize that more British soldiers died in Korea than in the Falklands, Iraq and Afghan conflicts combined. Moreover, the final outcome was positive: South Korea's astonishing national success testifies to that. I see this award as recognition for our ageing and overlooked Korean veterans, and am deeply grateful."*

## **Sharon EASON**

Missionary, Izvor de Viata (Fountain of Life), Moldova receives a BEM for her services to improving lives in vulnerable communities in the Republic of Moldova

Sharon Eason has been recognised for her voluntary and charitable work in Moldova and in particular for her assistance to the elderly population where they have been left with no-one to care for them. In difficult conditions, she created a home for the elderly in the village of Risipeni which now has 20 residents and a waiting list for vacancies. The home is now the main employer in the village. She recently organised for a well to be dug in the grounds of the home to provide clean fresh water that is open to all the residents of the village to use. More recently she has taken an interest in the younger generation and the dangers faced by young girls who are at risk from people trafficking. She recognised that these girls needed a safe place to live and so, in a joint project with Danish missionaries, she opened a home for vulnerable girls in Riscani. This will make a real difference to the girls' lives.

On receiving news of her award Sharon Eason said:

*"Wow! Such an immense honour, I feel very privileged to be receiving such an award. I have had a real sense of fulfilment from the work I have done in Moldova which is in itself a tremendous award. This is definitely the icing on the cake!"*

### **Notes for editors:**

For further information about the case studies or to arrange an **interview** please contact the FCO Media Office on 020 7008 3100.

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