

Covid-19 Unsung Hero

Winner

**Piotr Skoczylas,
Stol Coffee**

The Covid-19 Unsung Hero went above and beyond to support others through the crisis. His efforts to solve the pandemic's mental health challenges served as a powerful example of how to make a difference

Piotr Skoczylas is the owner and sole employee of Stol Coffee. At the beginning of the first Welsh lockdown, Piotr left his job as a barista in a coffee kiosk at a tiny provincial train station. He decided to be closer to his community, so he invested all his savings into coffee equipment and a cargo bike, and launched a speciality coffee and home-made cookies delivery service. Meaningful conversations quickly became the main drive in the business to spread unconditional positivity and help people reconnect and create a stronger community. He became the coffee guy on a blue cargo bike riding



Highly Commended

Beth Miles,
Morgan Sindall
Infrastructure

Shortlisted

→ Dr Naeem Dalal,
University Teaching
Hospitals,
Lusaka, Zambia

→ Little Book of
Positivity,
HNC and NC Working
with Communities,
Forth Valley College

around a small town providing coffee, but most importantly human contact and meaningful conversations.

Piotr believes building relationships and healthy communities will ultimately make this world a better place. Coffee and cookies are just the way to get there. In between lockdowns he organised outdoor, socially distanced community meet-ups, providing a way for otherwise cut-off and lonely people to interact. Every Sunday he wanted to be in the park for those who needed him. The idea was that even the smallest interaction with another human could make a massive difference.

Piotr also tries to encourage people to come out and experience sunrise at the seafront. It's a wonderful start to the day. Piotr sees every day as an opportunity to do something awesome in the community, and he has plans to make an even bigger impact in the future. He also sells really good coffee and cookies. ■

Piotr delivered coffee with a large helping of human warmth, organised park meet-ups and distributed posters to spread positivity

Judges comments



Piotr has clearly helped the community by organising socially distanced events to connect people and helped combat loneliness. A 'hug in a mug' from Piotr feels selfless and this has made an impact in the community.



This must have initially taken some courage to start. However, it was most probably a lifeline for some people.



Wonderful example of the importance of social wellbeing and connectivity which has been highlighted over the last year. The importance of taking a small amount of time out to connect with another person is captured in this example.

