

Wonder WOMEN

The annual Women of the Year Awards celebrate extraordinary women across the country

For over 40 years, the Women of the Year Awards have been shining a light on ordinary women doing extraordinary things. Originally launched in 1982 as a ladies' luncheon to raise money for The Winged Fellowship Trust, a charity providing respite care for people living with disabilities, the event has grown into so much more, now being a national awards ceremony recognising accomplished women from across the country.

This year, hundreds of women from all walks of life will gather in Manchester on October 9 for the awards.

The event remains faithful to its philanthropic roots and has donated almost £600,000 to various charities over the years.

This year's awards will support The King's Trust, supporting young people in their career goals, Girls Out Loud, inspiring and empowering teenage girls, and Manchester Women's Aid, providing refuge for women experiencing domestic abuse.

Sally Lindsay, now President of

Women of the Year, first became involved with the awards in 2018, when she presented an award to women of the Suffragette movement.

"It was really exciting, there was this room full of really powerful women, all networking and all helping each other, it just seemed really empowering, and I just thought, 'God I want to be involved with this'," Sally says.

Every year, the awards honour pioneering women making a difference in various industries and regions. This year's awards finalists include retail and commerce leader Caitlin Barrett, owner of KidzRus Private Day Nursery Nicola Fleury MBE, Protein Works CEO Laura Keir, Governance Transformation Lead Sarah Knight, Specialist in Organisational Culture and Inclusion Katie Palastanga, and CEO of Richard Ward Hair & Metrospa Hellen Ward.

Sally pinpoints last year's awards, which honoured the remarkable women of the Post Office scandal with the Emmeline Pankhurst Woman of Achievement award, as particularly poignant for her.

"Some of them are not here anymore because they took their own lives, and what was wonderful about those women is they all



Sally Lindsay, President of Women of the Year

believed each other, they were in it together," Sally says. Sally is passionate about providing opportunities for those from working-class backgrounds, who are so often left behind, and for her it is vital that the awards embrace women from every class and creed.

"A lot of our alumni, and the people on the board, they are working-class, and they're heroes that have done it themselves, so that's always running in our veins," she says.

And, as much as the awards are about honouring women and their achievements, it's also a day for women simply to have fun.



A glittering event



With one of last year's winners Neev Spencer



More of last year's winners

2025 Winners

■ Rachel Corp is CEO of ITN – one of the UK's largest independent production companies – and was Business Woman of the Year 2025. The judges praised Rachel's leadership at ITN, plus her active role with organisations including Women in Journalism, Women for Women International and the RSA BAFTA.

■ Neev Spencer is an award-winning broadcaster and host of Magic Radio's weekday afternoon radio show, and was recognised as Freeths Woman with Edge 2025. She was awarded not only for her influence in the TV and radio world, but also for her advocacy for women's success, and her ongoing work with The British

Asian Trust and other charities close to her heart. ■ The Emmeline Pankhurst Award for Woman of Achievement was awarded to the Women of the Post Office Scandal. Their collective courage in standing up to this miscarriage of justice was something the judges knew they had to honour.



Rachel Corp



Neev Spencer

"It's unashamedly female, everybody looks amazing, everybody's got stupid heels on, everybody really dresses up to the nines. I like that we celebrate our femaleness, but we celebrate our strength and power as well, and what we can achieve if we want to, that's what I'm all about," Sally says.

Looking ahead to this year's awards, Sally says they will be bittersweet, as they plan to pay tribute to Baroness Newlove, who was previously a big part of the awards, but sadly passed away at the

age of just 63 after a short illness last year.

"She was so Women of the Year, she was so integral to the society," Sally says. "We're going to celebrate her this year. I feel very sad about that, but I'm looking forward to having everyone appreciate who she was, and why we loved her so much."

The Women of the Year Awards will take place on October 9 at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester. For more information, visit: womenoftheyear.org.uk