

Nominations for Alf Hicks Biscuit Barrel

Alf was born in Ivy Cottage opposite the school in 1907. He started work when he was seven and still at school looking after cows grazing at the roadside. He left school in 1921 and did farm work before going into the grocery trade at Woollards shop. Following the Second World War which he spent with the N.A.A.F.I., he joined Pearl Assurance Co. as their local agent.

Lay preacher at the Congregational Church, officer in the Boys Brigade, Footballer, Cricketer, founder member of the Community Council and Local History Society, Alf was all of these as well as being the village reporter for the East Anglian Daily Times and Bury Free Press.

In 1991 the Barrel was presented to Alf as a gift in recognition of his service to the Village. Alf kept the Barrel for a while but then returned it to the Parish Council with a request that it be awarded annually for outstanding service.

Alf's death in 1995 left the village so much poorer but perhaps the erecting of the Village Sign, for so long Alf's dream, will be a fitting memorial to one of nature's true gentlemen.

In 1998 the Parish Council decided that, as the Barrel has to be returned at the end of the year, the recipient should also receive an award certificate. The first certificate was awarded to Michael Medcalf. Subsequently certificates were presented to all the previous recipients of the Barrel.

Last year, the parish council decided to open nominations for the award to residents of the parish. Nominations ran throughout November and December, and there was a fantastic response, with twenty five residents submitting nominations.

The nominations this year are:

Richard Byers	<i>"For all of his organisation of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group he has prepared all the material for meetings, booked the room, kept the minutes, consolidated the replies etc back to Ian, attended additional meetings with W.Suffolk... Without him we really wouldn't have got so far so quickly"</i>
Alan and Kathy Cordy	<i>"I would like to nominate Alen and Kathy Cordy for all there hard work and organising the Memorial Remembrance Service every November"</i>
Gloria and Ken at the MSC	<i>"who do a fantastic job at the Memorial Hall and the grounds around it. Gloria and Ken, we need people like that to keep our Village Hall going"</i>
Dierdre Smith	<i>"At the heart of village life ... and has at various times been president and treasurer of the WI and currently runs the Carnival/fete and the very successful Macmillan coffee morning each year. She has helped all organisations over the years and is now treasurer of the horticultural society"</i>

WPC.24.01.09: Alf Hicks Biscuit Barrel

George Woods	<p>There were so many nominations for George this year, here are just a few:</p> <p><i>"for making local children happy every year with his amazing display of christmas lights, dressing up as santa (even growing a beard)..."</i></p> <p><i>"My family and I would like to nominate George for his wonderful Christmas lights and warm heart. He is a true treasure. Not just at Christmas, but all year round. I can't take my 3 year old for a walk round the village without her asking if we can go and see him. He makes her smile every time and always has a lovely chat with us. He deserves this so much."</i></p> <p><i>"who does the splendid Christmas Lights display. He brings so much joy and excitement to children (old and young) and I think he would be a worthy winner"</i></p> <p><i>"Wonderful George brings so much joy to the children he truly deserves to be nominated for his efforts."</i></p>
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Action:

Councillors are asked to decide who should be awarded the Alf Hicks Biscuit Barrel this year.