

## 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.

In 2023, the parish council decided to open nominations for the award to residents of the parish, which was very successful, and nominations were opened again in December '24 for this year's award. There was a fantastic response, with \*\* residents submitting nominations.

The nominations this year are:

Cathy and Alan Cordy	<i>"I would like to nominate Alan and Cathy Cordy because they do so much lovely work in the Cemetery and for the British Legion as well as being involved in village life in various other ways."</i>
Mary Jolland	<i>"for all her work organising the monthly parish tidy days and litter picks"</i>
Julia and Phil Horne	<i>"for all their volunteering with the litter picks at Clopton"</i>
Dierdre Smith	<i>"She has been President, Secretary and Treasurer of WI at different times, has run the Carnival and presently is Treasurer of the Horticultural Society. She has raised thousands of pounds for charity by running the Macmillan Coffee Mornings and all those who know her can rely on her for help at any time. She is the first to volunteer for any WI activities and plays a full part in village life."</i>
Mike Webb	<i>"Please may I nominate Mike Webb for his outstanding work in getting Cubs back up and running in the village.  Mike started out with Beavers and has helped grow our colony and get our Cub group up and running again in the village. He has worked tirelessly to make this happen and we are a thriving group because of his contributions...  We may be a small group but the ripple effects of being in Scouting continue long after the children leave to continue their journey elsewhere in the District and into later life."</i>
Amanda Lavelle	<i>"I would like to nominate Amanda Lavelle for her work putting on the Warm Wednesdays. She has worked so hard over the past 12 months to provide a warm, welcoming space where villagers can meet, socialise and have a warm home made lunch. She has galvanised volunteers to cook soups and casseroles, bake bread and cakes as well as serve and wash up during the cafe.  Each winter Wednesday has seen the hall bursting with villagers - making new connections, feeling part of a community and enjoying a hot lunch together. Without her it would not have happened."</i>
Martin Smith	<i>For running the Farmers Market</i>

### Action:

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