

## 2013 Citizen of the Year

The Parish Councillors believe West End is a great place to live but of course it is the people who contribute their time, effort and resources that help to make a community great. This is why West End Parish Council introduced the Annual Citizen of the Year Award, to recognise those people who put in the extra effort.

The 2013 award has been given to Mr Jim Meaney, a silent contributor to the village. Since the early 70's Jim has been very active in supporting the youth of the village. He has been involved in the development of West End Village Football Club and a prime mover in attracting not only the youth of West End but others from further afield. This has led to West End becoming a centre of excellence for youth football. So much so - that from time to time the Parish Council has had to turn away enquiries from others to use the pitches.

Originally living in Knaphill, Jim moved his family to West End to be closer to his beloved Recreation Ground 13 years ago. It is not an exaggeration to say that he has continued to keep the Parish Council on their toes in the standards to be met in terms of the quality of the playing surface turf. So much so that Jim has volunteered his own time and resources in improving the recreation ground by adding grass seed and fertilizer, and marking out the pitch lines.

Of course it is not only Jim's contribution to football that has won him this award. Those of you who attend the Village Fete may be familiar with the village children's parade and the decorated floats that carry them to the Fete. Those decorated trucks are not hired especially for the day; they are in fact donated each year by Jim and his family who run a local concrete business.

Jim is always happy to give a helping hand to anyone. The Day Centre recently had the benefit of his generosity when moving from Tringham Hall to the Pavilion. Jim just happened to be in the right place at the right time and freely gave his time, and great positive attitude.

Most people who have had a full life and approaching retirement generally look forward to putting their feet up and slowing down a little, but not Jim Meaney. Jim can now be seen working to maintain the Holy Trinity churchyard. It was interesting to hear that Jim was recently in the paper shop when a resident complained to him that for all the pay he was getting he was not doing a good enough job of keeping the graves clear of the vegetation. Jim, instead of being upset by this remark found the time to chuckle, particularly as he doesn't receive a penny for doing this work. He is just a thoroughly decent chap who is a generous West End volunteer, prepared to lend a hand whenever necessary.