

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2016

EDNA HOLT

Edna has lived in the village since the 1962 and in the early 70's became involved in the local Guiding unit. Originally an assistant guider, or lieutenant as it was known as back then, she soon took over from Mrs Tommy Parker and remained a Guide Leader for 17 years. Her first guide camp, which was an annual event, was at Merrist Wood and it was not without drama as one of the guides came down with an appendicitis! Tommy Parker and Edna would also fundraiser for Guide Dogs for the Blind which involved running a dog show, often held at Gordons. Edna would also collect milk bottle tops in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

As a faithful member of the Church, Edna has delivered the parish magazine to the residents of Meadow Way for 10 Years or so. Together with this she is a Church sideman, reader, arranges the Church flowers, attends to the graveyard and is one of the Church cleaners. Once or twice a week Edna will wash the Church alter linen, comprising of long runners, which also have to be ironed. Edna happily gives her time by sorting through hymn sheets and also helps serve coffees after Church service. Twice a week Edna can be seen unlocking and locking the Church, morning and evening. If there's a job that needs doing in the Church, Edna will offer to do it.

It has been said that Edna is a brilliant proof reader which is why she is given the unenviable task of checking the Ag and Hort show Schedule on an annual basis for the past 5 years. She was also a local fundraiser for the Leprosy Mission.

Together with the above, Edna still finds time to regularly take neighbours shopping and sell tickets at Teas on the Rec for the weekly raffle. This may involve keeping back prizes for winners who are not present, but Edna will often just drop them round without being asked.

At the age of 86 (87 in June) Edna is a deserved winner of the award, giving up her time freely to help in any way she can, but with much of her work going unnoticed by the wider community.