

Affpuddle & Turnerspuddle Parish – Volunteer of the Year Award 2019

This year the Parish Council voted unanimously to nominate Eve Badcock as Volunteer of the Year in the Purbeck District Council Annual Parish Awards. The evening Ceremony took place on Tuesday 12th March. This is always a very enjoyable event during which Sue Jones gave the following citation.

“We are here tonight to celebrate the very significant contribution that Eve Badcock has made over the course of the last year, and indeed over decades, to community life in our small rural parish.

Eve (known locally as "Chips") and her late husband Captain Paul Badcock RN, played leading roles in the establishment of the Briantspuddle Post Office and Village Shop as a community run enterprise. This was undertaken in 2002 following a number of unsuccessful attempts to hold onto the local facility run on a commercial basis. Shortly after, and following appropriate training, Eve stepped into the role of Postmistress, a position which comes with considerable financial responsibility, and a role she has held successfully for the last 16 years, recruiting, training and managing a succession of willing volunteers as counter staff. This was recognised in 2012 by Post Office Services with a Community Service Award to mark "10 years of excellent service".

Last year Eve successfully applied for a grant under a Community Fund operated by the Post Office. This substantial award was used to meet most of the cost of a major programme of refurbishment for both the post office and shop facilities. The result of this effort has transformed a very small space into a modern amenity with a firm eye on its future sustainability for the benefit of the whole parish. Without Eve's energy and perseverance this initiative would not have got off the ground, but not content with leaving it there she also acted as joint project manager for the planning and completion of the work.

Eve has been a valuable member of the Management Committee of "The Friends of Briantspuddle Post Office and Village Shop Association Ltd" since its incorporation in 2002. She is personally to be found behind the post office counter at least two days a week and it is not unknown for her to run between this and the shop counter when there is an occasional shortage of volunteers, to say nothing about turning out at all hours if the alarm goes off.

In addition to this contribution to the community each summer, for many years now, Eve has thrown her beautiful garden at Cruck Cottage open to the entire community as a venue for the annual church fete. As if this were not enough, she has also allowed her kitchen to be used for all the work involved in serving afternoon teas to the many visitors attending the fete, not to mention all the washing up afterwards. In so doing Chips has put up cheerfully with scores of people from near and far swarming through and around her garden, invading her privacy and generally shattering the peace and tranquillity of her home. Furthermore, she has coped uncomplainingly with all the feverish activity for days before setting up tents, stalls, tables and chairs, not to mention a bandstand, and then all the clearing up for several days afterwards. The fete is the church's major fund-raising event in the year and the garden at has provided a wonderful setting that has been thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by everyone and has also given an invaluable boost to the success of the day. Through all of this Eves' generosity has invariably been warm, charming and absolutely selfless, and we all owe her an enormous debt of gratitude.

Eve has also sought to participate in the regular Open Gardens fund raising event held by Briantspuddle Village Hall Committee. This event also plays a major role in providing the funds necessary to sustain another essential parish amenity. Cruck Cottage has been judged by visitors as

'Best Garden' many times and this accolade bears testament to the talented gardener Eve is. As I have a captive audience tonight I thought I would be cheeky and advertise the next Briantspuddle Open Gardens which is taking place on Sunday 2nd June. For those of you who haven't seen Eve's garden, it will be on show, in all its glory again.

On behalf of our entire Parish I congratulate you on receiving this award and I would also like to thank you for all you have done and continue to do for our community."