

Ron Cook

Ron Cook has been nominated for his work on recording and mapping Whitchurch Cemetery.

Until quite recently, the records were sadly incomplete. The Town Council has produced burial and interment records since 1977, when it took over the Cemetery from the Church of England. The late Town Councillor Gill Nethercott attempted to produce a plan of the whole Cemetery by recording the information on individual gravestones. However this was restricted by the number of graves without headstones, and the many old memorials with indecipherable lettering. The only additional information was to be found in a number of fragile and incomplete paper plans and scraps of paper, found at All Hallows, and by the family of an old Whitchurch Funeral Director.

Ron was born and bred in Whitchurch, and many of his relatives are interred in the Cemetery, so he had a personal interest, but his devotion to the task is remarkable. Over the past five or so years Ron has spent many hours each week cross referencing, by family, the original material and, with great determination and persistence, has researched and sought enough additional information to produce a near-complete electronic record of those interred in our Cemetery.

Ron has, without doubt, produced an invaluable historic resource for the Town Clerks, and for Members of the Public who are wishing to carry out genealogical research but, more importantly he has produced a document that the Town Council can easily and accurately up-date for the future.

David George

David George has been nominated for his truly magnificent work on the Whitchurch Neighbourhood Plan. He has Chaired and managed the project for the past three years, and has stoically continued to rally and encourage the hard-working Steering Committee, through this difficult and often frustrating process to produce a Plan of enormous significance to the preservation of the character, and the future development of Whitchurch for the benefit of our local community.

During this period he has supported the public consultation, chaired meetings with developers, liaised with Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, sought much-needed funding, and researched planning law and government directives to ensure that the final plan can hold water with the Inspector who must approve the Plan before it can be taken forward to the local public referendum.

David has not only made this huge personal commitment and contribution to the local community, but he has done so, on all occasions, with charm, courtesy and a ready smile. I am sure that all who have been involved with this project in any way will agree that David has been the mainstay throughout.

Julie Noble and Rosie Day

Julie Noble and Rosie Day have run the Rotations Charity shop on a full-time volunteer basis for many years giving up many hours for the administration and fundraising. As you will know different charities rent the shop at different times so keeping track of the diary and those waiting to move in/out of the shop can be quite taxing.

In addition they have both spent time raising money for the Rotations Charity shop to enable the upkeep of the interior and cover any rent should it be empty at any time.

Following the recent death of their mother (who also helped in the shop) they decided it was time to pass the baton on to another.

Barry Goddard

Barry Goddard took over the running of the youth club youth@heart and has created a safe environment for the children ages 10 - 14 that attend.

Since taking over Barry has organised many monthly trips for the children in attendance at very low price for the children. The most one trip cost is £10. Some of these trips are bowling, ice skating, trips to theme parks once a year and many others which Barry gets the young people's opinion on. The children all enjoy the trips and are very thankful. The trips are also well known for the stop at McDonalds.

I also know that Barry buys activities for the club out of his own money. Like the club's sumo suits and basketball game which are all enjoyed. He also has his own speakers and uses his own computer when we have a disco which he also brought lights for.

He spends a lot of his free time planning these fun activities and I believe that he is well deserving of an award.

Also, as part of the youth club committee he is always coming up with new ideas and activities for the children to enjoy!

Simon and Leanne Coomber

Mr Simon Coomber and Mrs Leanne Coomber have headed the work of the Parish Magazine for many years. The Parish Magazine is produced and managed by the Church of England parish for the use and benefit of the town. Under Simon and Leanne's careful leadership, the magazine continues to be the most widely read and valued local source of news and views. Their commitment and energy is tremendous and together they richly deserve public recognition for all they do.

Stuart and Glynis Cheese and Margaret Payne

Stuart and Glynis Cheese and Margaret Payne have been nominated for the help they have given to Roy Dykes. This is the nomination he has written:

Since the death of my wife in July 2013, my health has deteriorated to the extent that I am very much tied to my home, these three wonderful friends have helped me in many, many ways.

Mr and Mrs Cheese (Stuart and Glynis) provide me with a hot meal every evening, except on the occasions when I visit my daughter. They will always take me to hospital appointments even as early as 6 am. They will do my shopping every Friday. I have recently spent two weeks in Basingstoke Hospital and they took into their home my two dogs for the entire period, and will willingly take the dogs should I have to go to a meeting or other activity. They will take me wherever I have to attend. Time seems to be no problem. Mr Stuart co-operates with Mrs Payne concerning the daily walking of my two dogs – if one cannot walk them then the other will.

Mrs Margaret Payne – because of my health I am unable to give my dogs the attention they require as regards daily walking. Margaret stepped in, and is the principal dog walker for me – she will willingly take the dogs every morning whatever the weather. In addition, she will do any shopping I need in the Town if asked.

I am indeed indebted to these friends, and cannot find a way to thank them for their kindness over the past three years. I thought therefore that the Community Awards Committee could perhaps consider their endless help to me.

Not a long letter I am afraid, but what I have written is indeed their daily help in one way or another.

Youth Award – Michael Dorey and Samuel Longton

Michael Dorey and Samuel Longton have been helping at Whitchurch Scout Group as young leaders for nearly 4 years.

Sam has just turned 18 and is already looking to start leader training before starting university.

Michael volunteers sometimes twice a week as well as being at college and has been in a number of WADS performances.

Both are great young gentlemen, they are a credit to the troop and are very good role models for the young scouts. No job is too small, they will help wherever and whenever they possibly can. The scouts look up to the young leaders and learn a lot from them. They show a sensible and mature attitude and help make scouting fun for so many in Whitchurch.

Both of the boys were selected for the World Scout Jamboree in Japan last year, so had to raise £3500 each. They have both been in Scouting since Beavers and are currently at Explorer Scouts.

Their dedication and support for scouting in Whitchurch deserves recognition.