

Parish Community Awards April 2020 – Carolyn Triscott.

I am delighted to hear that the Parish Council have selected Carolyn for a Community Award. I have tried to gather information together to enable Andrew Stringer, when presenting it, to provide some supporting information. I've written the account below from my point of view but I am quite sure that there are others in the village who could provide more.

I moved to Mendlesham in 1991 and in a very short space of time I was introduced to the activities of the Community Council – my earliest memories are around the annual Harvest Supper, the Fire Works and of course the Street Fayre. I took all this for granted as I was still working and simply turned up at the events. Over the years I realised that a lot more went on, Pancake Races, Helpers Party and Junior Pamper nights in support of the Street Fayre, the 50:50 shop and the Parish Newsletter as well as regular Community Council Meetings where decisions were made on allocating funds raised during the year to local organisations.

In recent years I got a bit more involved and became a MCC Trustee and member of the Street Fayre Committee. That was when I really understood the role that Carolyn has played in leading the Community Council and, in particular the Street Fayre Team plus working closely with the Parish Council. Over the years, not only did she have to cope with walking talkies catching fire in her kitchen on the day of a Street Fayre, but grappling with risk assessments, insurance and the responsibility of over 2000 people descending on our village. During all these years she has, like many other people, held down a job and brought up a family whilst contributing to her local community

It is estimated that, during the 39 years of holding a Street Fayre (35 of which Carolyn has been involved) £160,000 has been raised and distributed to organisers within the community. More recently Carolyn has embraced Fresh Ideas for the Street Fayre enabling new folk to contribute and dealt with the only thing that has stopped (or postponed) the event – the coronavirus crisis!

Carolyn will be the first to say that she could not do all this without other stalwart volunteers – but they couldn't do what they do without a leader – our Carolyn.

Additional Notes April 2022.

In 2021 Carolyn stood down as chair of the Mendlesham Community Council. Since then, as trustee, she has helped the MCC to regroup and find new people to continue with the work of the charity in a new format.

Judith Howard-Rees