

# Codford

## **Community spirit wins top award for villagers**

Luke Coles, Pete Smith, Romy Wyeth, Louis Hoareau, Brian King and Graham Clinch celebrate. A Village which provided a base for ANZAC soldiers during the First World War has been recognised for its present day community spirit.

Codford has won the inaugural Building Community Life competition for west Wiltshire.

Twenty-four villages entered the competition, which was organised by the Wiltshire branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).

Entrants were judged on many aspects of community life, from the networks available for supporting people in need to the range of activities provided by the village hall.

The £500 regional prize fund was divided between four district winners, with Codford scooping the £125 prize for west Wiltshire.

Codford Parish Council chairman Romy Wyeth said the award was recognition for the fantastic community spirit in the village.

Mrs Wyeth said: "There is a wonderful, inclusive community here in Codford and everybody pulls together to enhance village life.

"We have a brilliant doctors' surgery, a dedicated computer centre and a village store which is open from 5am to 8pm.

"Codford is also the only village in the UK to have its own theatre. The Woolstore Theatre features acts from all over the county and is a popular venue for both residents and visitors."

Parish council clerk Louis Hoareau said he was proud to call himself a Codfordian after his recent move from Northumbria.

Mr Hoareau, a retired police officer, said: "My wife and I moved from the north east three years ago and the welcome we received was fantastic. You can go for an afternoon stroll which should take only half an hour and it ends up taking two hours because there are so many friendly people to talk to."

Codford lies on the A36 between Salisbury and Warminster and is the formation of the two parishes of Codford St Mary and Codford St Peter.

The village was recently awarded second place in the Calor Best Kept Village competition.

"This recognition proves that Codford is a special place to live," said Mrs Wyeth.

*(Wiltshire Times – Friday 26 August, 2005)*