



Testvale Squares celebrate a local community hero

Hazel Nicholson recently celebrated her 90th birthday with an afternoon tea party and dance at Testvale Squares, held at the Three Score Club in Totton. Dancing with Testvale Squares since 2018, Hazel graduated after the Covid hiatus in 2023 and actively supports the Club every Friday evening at Totton & Eling Community Hall, proving that dancing keeps the brain and body active.

Born in 1935, the year Red Funnel was created from the Isle of Wight Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, Hazel went on to work with Red Funnel for over 45 years, retiring in the mid 90s as their Company Secretary. Hazel was mentioned in Queen Elizabeth's Birthday Honours List of June 1998, being awarded an MBE for Services to the Shipping Industry.

As a Magistrate (JP) and Director of many local companies, Hazel has dedicated her life to her local community, also heavily involved in Guiding, being awarded the Hampshire Rose for her services as County Vice President, and is now a member of Trefoil Guild Lones, regularly meeting up with others who are no longer active in Guiding.

In retirement Hazel enjoys drama, having been involved as Director of makeup and costume with the Music Society. Walking, travelling, ceramics, and church also take up much of Hazel's time, and we're told she's a pretty good shot with a rifle!

An inspiration to all of us at Testvale Squares, Hazel is an excellent dancer, always with a smile on her face, helping the new dancers and maybe the experienced dancers who have a lapse of concentration. We'd call her an absolute legend!