

T H E W Y C H W O O D

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Did you have a memorable holiday this year?

A competition for the best article entitled 'My 1980 Holiday' is open to all the residents under Wychwood. Entries should be limited to a single page of this Magazine (maximum 400 words).

The winner will receive a free subscription to "The Wychwood" for one year. The judges will be looking for entertainment value rather than anything exotic or unusual, so you will have an equal chance whether your holiday was spent in Washington, D.C., or under Wychwood.

Entries to reach the Editor by 31st December.

The winning entry will be published in issue No. 6 (due out in February 1981).

The December/January issue, No.5, will be on sale on 1st December. All copy to be sent to the Editor not later than 20th November, please.

"The Wychwood" is on sale at 12p per copy at Ascott, Fifield, Milton and Shipton Post Offices and some shops. Annual subscription 72p or £1.60 (including p & p) anywhere in the United Kingdom.

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MRS AVERY

of Church Street, Shipton, died on 6 August at the age of 78. Mrs Hall writes:

Having been born in Shipton and lived here all my life (more years than I care to remember) the little general store in Church Street has always been run, to my recollection, by Mrs Avery.

Although born in Chipping Norton, she lived all her married life in Shipton.

Ivy and Perce were both prominent members of the community, Ivy running the shop while Perce introduced the village taxi service.

To me and many more, Ivy and her shop represented the nucleus of the village. Every visit guaranteed a laugh, a joke, together with all the news and gossip; Ivy being able to conduct her business in the most pleasing, country style.

Not content with just running the shop, she also supplied many people's tea on a Tuesday evening from her fish-and-chip counter behind the shop.

Another service to the area comes from her son, Vic, a most competent electrician.

Ivy also had an artistic flair with her, sewing knitting, crocheting, etc., and her love for growing flowers in her well-stocked greenhouse.

A love which, I'm happy to say, has been inherited by her granddaughter Elaine, who is now running the shop as a general store and florist.

I'm sure that many inhabitants, in particular of Shipton, have felt a personal loss following the death of Ivy and will remember her for her unselfish generosity to those who were in need.

WINE

"A meal without wine is like a day without the sun" say the French. They are right - wine does enhance any meal, and the traditional custom of drinking white wine with fish, red with meat, sweet wine with the pudding and so on, is founded on a natural suitability of taste, just as red-currant jelly goes with lamb and not with beef.

Good wine depends very largely on the sun, although apparently there were vineyards in England during the Roman occupation. Perhaps the climate was different then. Most of us here who drink wine get it from France, Germany, Spain or Yugoslavia, countries all relatively near when one thinks of Australia and South Africa, two vast countries with a very hot climate. When I visited the Cape Provinces earlier this year, I went round some of the beautiful wine estates and houses built by the early settlers. Although the houses and furniture have been preserved much as they were, the estates have developed into a big wine-making industry. The sun was beating down on these incredibly fertile fields with bushes laden with grapes nearly ready for the harvest. It was the first time I had realised what a very natural drink wine is. It must be good for you.

S.M. Hill

LANGSTON HOUSE

Langston House Old People's Home in Milton was opened in July 1977. It has 13 permanent residents and one room reserved for short-stay residents. This room is in great demand.

Meals on wheels are cooked in our kitchen two days a week and an average of 36 meals are served each week. We also have day-care residents who stay all day, joining the residents and having lunch and tea.

Adjoining the Home we have ten flats at Greenlands, offering sheltered accommodation in eight single flats and two double. These residents make use of the services in Langston House, including lunch, chiropodist service, hair-dressing and general care.

On Monday 6 October we are holding a Marks & Spencers slightly seconds Sale at the Home from 2 - 8 p.m. Everyone welcome. Saturday 1 November we are holding our Bazaar. Proceeds go to help provide extra amenities for the residents.

please come and give us your support. Thank you.

J.M. Prew

PLAY-READING GROUP

The first meeting of this season's Play-Reading Group will take place at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 14th October at Dr Scott's house. Anybody who would like to become a member should contact Mrs Eileen McClelland (830393).

TIDDY HALL, ASCOTT

Coffee Evening Friday 3 October

HOME MOVIES will be shown on past local events, including the Tiddy Centenary. There will also be a Cake Stall. Profits to aid the exterior decoration of the Tiddy Hall.

Admission 20p adults, children 10p.

YOUR FLOWER GARDEN

The Autumn Equinox, a very dry spell that saw the harvest safely in, and the winter-wheat, barley and oats sown for the next year's harvest - what a wonderful season we have had! Forget the moans and groans of frustrated holidaying sun-worshippers and think of the winter of plenty ahead - no £10 a cwt for potatoes, no drought-stricken beech and birch trees, plenty of everything, so who wants a dry summer?

The end of September is the time to put the flowers, plants and lettuce in the greenhouse; don't wait for a frost, put them under cover and give them plenty of ventilation until the outside temperature drops to freezing-point or just above, then shut them up tight. Cyclamen should have a dusting of Captan (orthocide) in the centre to prevent damping off, temperature 50F will suit them admirably, fumigate or spray against greenfly. Cinerarias should be ready for their flowering pots; let them flag (wilt) before watering sparingly, temp. 45F. Schizanthus and Calceolarias should be up by now; winter them in small pots and pot on in February. Polyanthus seed gathered and sown immediately is now ready for pricking out into boxes; place them in a cold frame or under a South wall.

Cuttings of most half hardy and tender plants should be taken now - geraniums, heliotrope, lavender and all other plants needed for next summer. Remember watering kills quicker in winter months, so water sparingly, geraniums never more than once a week! Such plants as lavender, in fact all hardy shrubs as polyanthus, forget-me-nots, Canterbury bells or almost any of the hardy biennials, to flower in March-April.

Please do not leave your cold greenhouse empty for the winter months! Remember all Alpine plants enjoy a cold greenhouse with the vents open to all weathers, as do all bulbs and quite a few corms such as crocus, freesia, etc.

Fuchsia cuttings require, like geraniums and heliotrope, a little heat, a dry atmosphere and not too much from the watering-can.

V. Mitchell

YOUR VEGETABLE GARDEN

Watching allotment-holders struggling home laden with potatoes, marrows, runner beans and cabbages, there is a great temptation to rent an allotment and it is perhaps unfortunate that tenancies can be applied for at this time. What is not apparent is all the effort put into the successful allotments and a walk through them will give examples of what happens to plots which are sown in Spring and then left unattended until harvest-time.

Unless they have had previous experience, prospective tenants should try to find someone with whom to share. The idea that an allotment can be looked after by just visiting it on nice sunny days is an illusion; indeed one of the great pleasures is digging in splendid isolation on a cold windy autumn day and then returning home feeling as warm as toast. Certainly one of the first priorities for any new tenant should be to dig or plough as much of it as is possible during autumn.

When storing vegetables do not expect storage to improve quality. A half-eaten potato will almost certainly emerge as an empty shell, a soft onion will disintegrate and a small carrot will reappear as nothing but skin. Beetroot and carrots (with leaves removed) can be stored in sand or peat, being placed in layers but not touching each other, otherwise one rotten root will set up a chain reaction. Onions can either be stored in flat trays or strung up on rope but they must be inspected every month to remove any bad ones. Potatoes may be stored in large boxes such as tea-chests surrounded by old carpet underlay or other insulating material. Do not repeat my mistake of storing them in a cupboard under the stairs, only to find that by February the growth of sprouts was such that the cupboard contents looked like a monster from "Dr. Who".

Although much of autumn is concerned with harvesting, storing, clearing and digging, sowings of winter lettuce and broad beans can be made and the latter should be ready a fortnight before the earliest Spring sown varieties.

D.T.W.

TWO TOWNIES

When my wife and I were looking for a retirement property in 1971, we came across the name Milton-under-Wychwood. Our immediate reaction was - what a pretty name. We bought a bungalow here, and in the Spring of 1972 took up residence, and have decided that not only is Milton-under-Wychwood a pretty name but the people that live in the village are some of the friendliest we have ever meet.

Milton-under-Wychwood is a very busy village and has developed considerably during the years we have lived here. There is no need for anyone to be lonely - there is always so much to be done; so many Associations to join, classes to attend, and whatever one does, one finds that great spirit of friendliness - not only friendliness, but sincere and kindly help when one is in trouble or sick. This spirit is engendered within the three Wychwood villages, and is much to be admired.

Sometimes we have to visit our London friends, who have not really recovered from the shock of us 'burying' ourselves in the country. "Whatever do you do?" they ask. There are not enough hours in the day or enough days in the week for us to accomplish all we would like - and when we are in London, our one thought is to get back as quickly as possible to the County of our adoption and the village we have come to love.

Len and Mavis Davison

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"Of all the words of tongue and pen
The saddest are,
"It might have been"."

Or would you prefer this?

"If of all words of tongue and pen the
saddest are "It might have been",
More sad are these we daily see,
"It is, but hadn't ought to be"."

AN UNEXPECTED FIRST DAY'S HOLIDAY

Have you ever had a totally unexpected first day's holiday which could not be surpassed?

Towards the end of June Olive and I spent four days in Northumberland and West Yorkshire. On Sunday morning we drove to Hexham Abbey, where it seemed that the whole of the Northumbrian Police Force was there to welcome us, duly be-medalled and beribboned with polished buttons and shoes sparkling in the sunshine. We sat in the nave about 5 rows from the front. I was conscious of elegant hats of all descriptions around me. Straw and feathered ones, felt and frothy ones, deep reds and blues and a cloche covered with pink lace and roses. A procession walked up the nave headed by the Church dignitaries, followed by the Chief Constable and Sherriffs, with their retinues, all in resplendent uniforms, then the Circuit and High Court Judges in wigs and gowns of purple, with the Chief Judge in his gold-braided gown. A very impressive assembly.

The Lessons were read by the Sherriffs of Northumberland Tyne and Wear, one in Naval uniform complete with sword, the other in military uniform with spurs. The Vicar had recently returned from a visit to Oberammergau and his sermon was based on the Passion Play.

After light refreshments we found our way to the Cricket Ground outside the town. Here were 5 children's bands, ages ranging from 5 to 15 years, each numbering 50 to 60 with names such as The Tyneside Highlanders and the North Biddick Fusiliers, etc. The children were resplendent in colourful uniforms with busby type hats, tunics and tabards aglow with glistening badges won in various competitions. Each band had a banner emblazoned with its name and a motto, preceded by a 'mascot' out in front, a little tot tossing her staff as if she were a Dagenham Girl Piper.

Visits to Lindisfarne and Durham Cathedral came later, but nothing really matched a wonderful, unplanned day to start our holiday.

D. Arundell

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS - No.4

We felt we ought to get to know a new neighbour this month, but to choose someone from the dozens of pleasant people who have moved into the area recently seemed impossible. So I left it to Fate... I would pounce on the first newcomer to cross my path this week! This fell on the unsuspecting Ivor Chapman, when I was introduced to him on Sunday.

The Chapman family moved into 5 Brookfield Close, Milton, last January, after 8 years in Charlbury. Ivor is an instructor at the Radio Station Training College and has two children by a previous marriage, Gareth 11 and Judith 9. Gareth started at Burford this term. Ivor's second wife, Elaine, was also in the Post Office as a Clerical Officer in Accounts. They have been married 5 years.

Ivor was actually born in Wales, but was 'shuffled around' as a child, he told me, living with relations while his father served in Korea. When his father was taken prisoner, Ivor embarrassed his mother by asking loudly in a crowded bus, 'WHY IS DADDY IN PRISON?' Ivor also made the headlines after setting his grandmother's house on fire! '3½ YEAR OLD BOY SAYS ME NO PLAY MATCHES AGAIN', it read.

Ivor admits to being a 'bit of a drop-out' in his teens and worked at Cadena Bakeries for 1s.9½d an hour. (He asked for a rise and got 1s.10d!) Later he returned to school, took his 'O' levels, became an apprenticed Post Office telephone engineer and has not looked back since!

Hobbies... light classical music, deep-sea fishing (when he has a chance) and Do-It-Yourself. 'Building stone walls is a wonderful way to relax', he told me.

Elaine's comments on Ivor... 'I tell him he is the original Male Chauvinist Pig! The only time he'd wash up was Christmas! (But he's an MCP with a conscience. Elaine now has a very efficient electric dishwasher!)

Ivor's comments on his wife... 'She's a damn good cook!' and admits he's overweight from eating too much of her bread and cakes.

Their comments on Milton... 'We love it. People are so friendly!'

E.W.