

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT EDITION - FRIDAY 6th JULY 2001 TO ANNE BRAITHWAITE AT THE MILL, Tel. No: 831282
[e-mail: Mill@auwoxon32.freeserve.co.uk].**

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD

MAY

Sunday, 6th	10. 30 a.m.	Matins
Easter 3	4.00 p.m.	Family Service
Sunday, .13th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (Canon Shaw)
Easter 4		
Sunday, 20th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (Canon Pyburn)
Easter 5		
Sunday, .27th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (Canon Shaw)
Ascension 1		

JUNE

Sunday, .3rd	10.30 a.m.	Matins
Whit Sunday	4.00 p.m.	Family Service
Sunday, 10th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (Canon Pyburn)
Trinity Sunday		
Sunday, 17th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (Canon Shaw)
Trinity 1		
Sunday, 24th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
Trinity 2		

JULY

Sunday, 1st	10.30 a.m.	Matins
Trinity 3	4.00 p.m.	Family Service
Sunday, .8 th	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (Canon Pyburn)
Trinity 4		
Sunday, 15th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (Canon Shaw)
Trinity 5		
Sunday, 22nd	9.00 a.m.	Holy Communion (Canon Shaw)
Trinity 6		
Sunday, 29th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion (Canon Pyburn)
Trinity 7		

From the Parish Registers

Burial of Ashes 8th March Janet Mary Hicks

CHURCH FÊTE

**on The Green
Saturday, 14th July 2001**

**Raffle, Stalls, Sideshows, Bouncy
Castle, Produce, Beer Tent**

In aid of Church Funds

CHURCH MONEY

Oh, the Church of England has got plenty of money. True or false? Well, both really. The central funds of the Church look impressive but the capital has to fund thousands of clergy pensions and give help to hundreds of inner city parishes.

The net result of this is that there is no money whatsoever for parishes like ours and the entire cost of the parson's salary, expenses and house and all the running expenses of Holy Trinity Church have to be met locally.

Of course we got grants for the recent restoration – from English Heritage, West Oxfordshire and many charitable Trusts for which we are deeply grateful, and we have probably spared our successors the need for major repairs for a long time to come, but we currently have to pay £6,000 a year towards the costs of the vicar listed above and then of course there are the running expenses of the Church, like gas, electricity and insurance.

We manage to raise most of this through fees of marriages etc., events like the Church Fête and concert, collections and, most importantly, covenants now being replaced by Gift Aid.

The Church is there for the needs of all; people expect it to be there. They would protest vigorously if it was not. Please help us to keep it going. We shall be happy to provide the new Gift Aid forms for tax effective giving.

Jim Beveridge & Anthony Wood, Churchwardens

HELP!

**Volunteers needed to help tidy the
church yard**

Friday, 6th July at 10 o'clock

Please bring your own tools

ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council would like to express their thanks to Rex Boyd for arranging the great show that together with Ken Howard and Tim Lyon he performed in the Tiddy Hall in February. It was a very enjoyable event and the Council's thanks go out to them all since their efforts resulted in the grand sum of £413.56 towards the new children's play equipment in the playing field. All arrangements are now settled regarding the installation of the equipment and commencement date should be May when hopefully the ground will have dried out. At the same event, Mr. Braithwaite accepted the village photograph on behalf of the Parish Council and it should shortly be hung in an agreed place in the Tiddy Hall.

We were very fortunate to make an arrangement with West Oxfordshire District Council to provide and install new litter bins in the village with each party paying half the costs. There should be no excuses now for litter to be a problem since their workmen will clear the bins weekly.

Oxfordshire County Council have agreed to deal with the problem of the footpath above Maple Way when the weather becomes drier. They will form a gradual slope, hopefully with a handrail and a better ground surface.

The Corner House Farm site is under offer but regarding planning nothing has yet been settled. The Parish Council are keeping in touch with the situation and the question of a shop on the premises is being kept under consideration.

Wendy Pearse, Parish Clerk

POLICE REPORT

Many villages will have seen officers both in Ascott and neighbouring villages over the last few weeks armed with muniquip. This small imitation hairdryer records vehicle speed. Those that have been stopped as a result of the checks have discovered the cost of ignoring speed limits, as points are added to licenses and money is paid in fines. Please remember that 30 mph means exactly that - not 30ish.

Also a word of warning concerning those traders who appear without invitation at your door offering cheap services. Whether it be removing the moss from your roof, re-surfacing your drive, tree lopping or hedge trimming. These bargains are now always what they seem. Often the price quoted before the work begins is some way short of the price which is asked for at the end of the day. This type of 'con' is usually directly at the elderly, who may be more prone to the bullying tactics. This type of offence is notoriously difficult to deal with and my best advice would be only use reputable tradesmen. If in doubt, keep the callers outside your front door. If the bullying persists then feel free to contact us.

**PC Ray Hamilton, Carterton Police Station
Tel. No: 893951; Main switchboard 703913**

"HIS NAME BE NOT FORGOTTEN"

Part II

To begin this second part I return once more to FRED SMITH. Since the last edition of the Grapevine I have managed to uncover a fairly complete account of Fred's experience in Mesopotamia and the Siege of Kut, so before I relate the dramas of the two sailors from Ascott, I should like to bring a more satisfactory end to his story. When the war began Fred was in India, a lance sergeant in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire 43rd Light Infantry, or the Forty Thieves as they soon came to be known amongst Townshend's troops drafted to Mesopotamia, due to their remarkable scrounging abilities.

In 1897 and 1898 the Ascott School log book records Fred as commended by the Inspector during his visits, so the Bible story of Adam and Eve must have been well instilled. Now, in the winter of 1914 located in the original Garden of Eden, reality defied belief when confronted with a filthy mud hut village huddled around an open space in the centre of which grew a stump of a tree reputed to be the original tree of temptation. In the squalid flea ridden surroundings occupied by Arabs who stole and murdered for gain, this was a far cry from the Biblical stories recounted in Fred's school days.

Through 1915 in the extreme cold of winter, floods, intense humidity and mosquitoes of spring and a summer of such intense heat that the bully beef melted in the tins, the Forty Thieves fought through all the initial successful campaigns right up to Ctesiphon not far from Baghdad. But there the immense army arrayed against Expeditionary Force D necessitated their retreat back to Kut. In this retreat lasting several days, the 43rd provided the rear guard all the way, entering Kut on 2nd December 1915.

Kut lay in a bend of the Tigris surrounded on three sides by the river. The troops collapsed into sleep on entering the village, but once awake they were set to digging, lines of trenches, dugouts and gun pits. They laid cables and erected barbed wire, feverishly working to block the land approach throughout the twenty four hours before the Turkish army caught up with them. On one corner where the trenches met the river was the fort and here at noon on Christmas Eve after hours of rifle fire, grenades and bombardment, the enemy advanced in formation on the fort. As they breached the walls, thirty three Eurasian Gunners stood their ground in the trench behind blocking the way into Kut. With only fourteen still holding out, the two hundred strong Forty Thieves bludgeoned in with butts and bayonets, followed by the Pioneers. For hours they fought amidst bursting bombs, exploding shells, machine gun fire and the cries, screams and hoarse clamour of men fighting for their lives. All around the Kut defences the battle continued until at last the Turkish attack faltered and they fell back leaving two thousand dead. The entire garrison talked of the heroism of the Eurasian Rangoon Gunners and the Forty Thieves, and it is possible that this is when Fred Smith was awarded his DCM and was promoted to Sergeant.

Unfortunately and unusually the Regiments Honours List does not contain citations for the fifteen NCOs and other ranks who were awarded a medal during this period

but amongst those who "were brought to notice for gallant and distinguished service in the field from 5th October 1915 – 17th January 1916" was 8057 Lance Sergeant F. Smith "R" Company.

The siege continued until 29th April 1916 [not March as incorrectly stated in Part 1] when Townshend conceded defeat. At last the remaining men of Expeditionary Force D could stand upright in the trenches. Starving, filthy, disease ridden, after enduring the environs of hell for month after month, they watched Townshend depart for surrender negotiations.

On 4th May the enforced abandonment of the troops by their officers began and they set out on a 1200 mile march led by NCOs including Fred, during which a vast number would succumb to the dreadful conditions. In fact the War Diary of the 43 Light Infantry records that "The conditions were, in fact, inconceivable by any who was not present. It is doubtful whether the 43rd in it's long and glorious history has ever had to endure such vicissitudes as in the eighteen months campaign in Mesopotamia". Three hundred of the Forty Thieves went into captivity, only 90 survived to return home in 1918.

Company Sergeant Major Love kept a little book during this march wherein he listed what happened to the men on this terrible journey. Against Sergeant Smith's name is the following "Was left at Mamoura on the march to Airan suffering from dysentery has not been seen or heard of since 26 June 1916". This probably explains why June is given as Fred's month of death on his parents' tombstone. In actual fact he did not die for nearly two more months. How great an ordeal his last weeks were we can only surmise.

In the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register is an entry for SERGEANT F. SMITH DCM. 1st BATTALION OXFORDSHIRE AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY 8057 DIED 15 AUGUST 1916. His body lies in the Baghdad [North Gate] War Cemetery in Iraq, Grave no. XXI T 28.

Although Fred's mortal remains lie far from home, another Ascott man's final hours were spent at a much greater distance - the other side of the world, on the Pacific Ocean. ELISHA PRATLEY, a stoker in the Royal Navy was the first man of Ascott to die in the Great War.

Elisha's parents William and Elizabeth had already lived in No. 1 Feoffees Cottages [the lower end of Church View] for nearly twenty years when he was born in 1888. One of the youngest of at least twelve children, he attended school at the same time as Fred Smith and was likewise commended by the School Inspector, passing his labour certificate in 1901.

By 1907 he was in the Royal Navy, enlisting as a seaman but when war broke out, serving as Stoker 1st Class on the "Good Hope", the flag ship of Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock in command of the South American Station. The "Good Hope" was built in Fairfield, Govan and launched in 1901. With a displacement of 14,150 tons, carrying 2,500 tons of coal and hailed as a mighty cruiser with a speed of 23 knots, she was, on completion, amongst the fastest ships in the world. Deck fittings were kept to a minimum to reduce the risk of fire and she was usually employed as a cruiser squadron flag ship as befitting her size and prestige.

When Japan joined the Allies just after the start of the War, Germany's powerful

East Asiatic Squadron was based in Far Eastern Waters. Its Commander Vice Admiral Graf von Spee realised the necessity of leaving those waters and decided to cross the Pacific and operate off the west coast of South America. Reaching Easter Island with armoured cruisers Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and light cruiser Nurnburg, he was joined by two more light cruisers Dresden and Leipzig. The British Admiralty, aware von Spee was making for South America, informed Rear Admiral Cradock. Unfortunately Cradock's Squadron the by now elderly cruisers "Good Hope" and Monmouth, light cruiser Glasgow and armed merchant cruiser Otranto were greatly inferior. Declining to wait for the old and slow pre-dreadnought Canopus which carried a main armament of four 12 in guns, Cradock sailed from the Falklands, through the Megellan Straits and steamed north up the coast of Chile in search of the enemy.

Von Spee was at Valparaiso and learnt that the Glasgow was only two hundred miles south at the Chilean port of Coronel preparing to re-join Cradock's Squadron. The German ships steamed south at full speed to attack Glasgow and met the British Squadron fifty miles off Coronel on 1st November 1914 shortly before 5 p.m. Although hopelessly outmatched Cradock did not hesitate to engage. He signalled the Canopus "I am going to attack enemy now". Orders were given to the engine room to increase speed to 17 knots. Elisha and his fellow stokers must have been working flat out to fuel the boilers. The four British ships steamed north in single file, the "Good Hope" leading, whilst the Germans approached in a similar formation from the opposite direction. The sun was setting behind the British and unfortunately the range was too great. By the time the ships were close enough to engage, the sun had set, the British were silhouetted against the after glow and failing light made it difficult for them to see the enemy ships against the coastline. At 7.03 p.m. the enemy now twelve thousand yards away, opened fire, quickly followed by the "Good Hope", Monmouth and Glasgow. However the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau were crack ships renowned for gunnery and as the squadrons converged, each engaging the opposite in line, growing darkness and heavy spray of high seas made firing difficult for the main deck guns of the "Good Hope" and Monmouth. The enemy soon got the range and their third salvos caused fire to break out on the forepart of both ships. With the two British ships constantly on fire and repeatedly hit, the battle continued until at 7.50 p.m. an immense explosion occurred amidships on the "Good Hope". In the darkness ferocious flames shot two hundred feet high. Total destruction followed. With the enemy approaching, Glasgow was forced to leave the failing Monmouth but at 9.20 p.m. seventy five flashes of fire were observed which no doubt marked the final attack on the Monmouth.

There were no survivors from either ship. Cradock and one thousand six hundred of his men were lost. Coronel was a major British Naval defeat, only redeemed by the destruction shortly afterwards of von Spee's Squadron off the Falkland Islands.

STOKER 1st CLASS ELISHA PRATLEY 238572 HMS "GOOD HOPE" ROYAL NAVY died age 26 on Sunday 1st November 1914 and is remembered with honour on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial on Southsea Common.

A cruel twist of fate, not an incident of war caused the death of Ascott's second sailor WILLIAM FAULKNER.

Another Stoker 1st Class, William was the son of James and Emily Faulkner of Andrews Yard. Both James [Jim] and his brother were shepherds. The School log book again lists William's name as commended by the Inspector. He joined the Royal Navy as a stoker in 1916 and was known for his exemplary character.

Into his second year at sea, at the beginning of 1918 he was a member of the crew of the Royal Navy destroyer "Racoon". Launched in 1910 from the Cammel Laird shipyard, the "Racoon" weighed in at nine hundred and twenty tons and was capable of a speed of 27 knots. I do not know whether the ship was approaching the British mainland or leaving, but on 9th January 1918, the "Racoon", under the command of Lt. George Napier, entered the Sound of Inistrahull between the island of that name and the north coast of Ireland, not very far from the Giant's Causeway. A snow storm was raging and at around 2 a.m. "Racoon" struck the Garrives Rocks between the islets of the Garvans and was totally wrecked. None of the crew on board, normally one hundred, survived. Fortunately for them, nine ratings had been left behind at the last port of call. Whatever the reason, they must have thanked their lucky stars. One crew member is buried on Rathlin Island, two more at Culduff church yard and twenty bodies were taken to Rathmullen for burial. The Oxford Times reporting the tragedy on 26th January 1918 stated regarding William Faulkner "One of the bodies recovered from the ship and has been buried is believed to be his".

STOKER 1ST CLASS WILLIAM FAULKNER K/34503 HMS "RACOON" ROYAL NAVY who died age 20 on Wednesday 9th January 1918 is remembered with honour on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial on Southsea Common.

After Elisha Pratley's death in 1914, Ascott lived through 1915 without any more deaths amongst its fighting men. But 1916, the year of the Somme, perhaps the direst year in Britain's military history, saw the largest number of casualties in the village. Their story will be told in Part III.

Wendy Pearse

* * * * *

WYCHWOOD HANDICRAFT SOCIETY

**Meet every fourth Tuesday in the month
in Milton Village Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

**24th April Margaret Gibbs, Doll Making
22nd May Mary Thomas, Victorian Decoupage
26th June Outing to Witney Blanket Factory**

Everybody welcome - if you need further information or transport please ring Joy Brooks on 830014 or Anne Braithwaite on 831282

WYCHWOODS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The speaker in January was David Eddershaw from Chipping Norton who presented the film "24 Square Miles". Produced in the late 1940's the film illustrates rural life on the borders of North Oxfordshire in that period. It is a fascinating film and underlines the total changes in all aspects of our daily life in the last fifty years. Well worth the viewing.

Lady Sylvia McClintock from Westhall Hill presented a very detailed account of the history of Fulbrook in February. This resulted from several years of research. Again the degree of change in the last century was very evident.

March saw Dr. Margaret Ware from Shipton describing the evidence of past life in the Wychwoods which many years of field walking by the Society has established. Mediaeval and Roman sites were all discussed, even the social status of the inhabitants can be evidenced by the various types of finds.

End of season talks are as follows, all begin at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, 17th May Milton Village Hall

The Regulated Pasture – Chipping Norton Common John Grantham

Thursday, 21st June Shipton Village Hall

Wychwood Forest Beryl Schumer

Old and new members are welcome. Subscriptions remain at £4 for an individual and £6 for a couple which includes a copy of "Wychwood History" when published. Visitors welcome at any meeting at £2 per person. Further details from Wendy Pearse on 831023.

* * * * *

THE RURAL BUS SERVICE TO CHARLBURY

You first read of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council [ORCC] scheme to introduce a local bus link between Ascott-under-Wychwood, Leafield, Finstock, Charlbury and the station in the July 2000 edition of the Grapevine. With financial support from the County and District Councils, the service began on 19th March 2001 for a trial period of one year. We now have a regular service to Charlbury town and the station that runs ten times each day, Monday to Saturday, to meet the London and Worcester bound trains.

The bus is a new, white Mercedes 16 seater. It comes into Ascott down London Lane, drives around the Green, Church View and past the pub and back up London Lane. It will stop on demand, though the preferred pick-up point is by the pub. Timetables are available on the bus, are posted on the village notice boards and a few

are available in the pub by courtesy of the publican, Ian Merritt. The bus is reliable, safe and comfortable and provides us all, at last, with regular public transport to shops, services and the station.

I'm a lark, rising before dawn throughout most of the year. During the spring this allows me to hear the dawn chorus, a sign that winter has past. I spent my early life in an urban environment and saw a limited range of birds, starlings, sparrows, pigeons and the occasional robin and blue tit. When I moved to Ascott the variety and quantity of birds that shared my garden and the countryside around amazed me. Now I have robins, blackbirds and doves nesting in the garden. A thrush uses a stone in the corner as an anvil to break open snail shells. A secretive wren considers my dry-stone wall to be its private hunting ground and I can watch a tree creeper searching for insects in the bark of an old cherry tree. Gold finches feed on thistle heads in the autumn and the tiny goldcrest, our smallest bird, pays a fleeting visit. A family of long-tailed tits squabble in the lilac tree, before searching for insects and the departing as quickly as they came.

Walk a short distance to the edge of the village and you'll hear skylarks and see yellow hammers nesting in the hedgerows of Kingstanding road (when it's not closed because of foot and mouth precautions). If you're lucky you might spot the nervous greater spotted woodpecker that sometimes ventures out of the woodland into more open country.

London Lane has its local thug! A sparrowhawk regularly hunts in the area and I've been fortunate to witness a chase and kill, the hawk then 'covering' its prey on my garden path. Normally all we see is a pile of feathers! Recently, when walking to my front gate I was startled when a blackbird sped past only inches from me and was even more surprised when I realized that a hawk was closely pursuing.

In Ascott we are fortunate that we have all three common English owls, the tawny, barn and little owl. To me, the call of an owl on a frosty autumn evening is one of the most evocative sounds in the English countryside. It's the tawny owl that calls "tu-whit, tu-whit, tu-whoo. If you hear an eerie screech, then there is a barn owl close by. The barn owl is a common sight hunting silently over the fields and along hedgerows at dusk. A white ghost caught in our car headlights. It catches mice, rats, voles and shrews, in its sharp talons, swallowing them whole. It also hunts small birds. After digestion it, like all owls, regurgitates a pellet consisting of bones, fur, feathers and other indigestible material. Barn owls breed locally in hollow trees, but can also use undisturbed buildings. No nest is made. Four to eight white eggs are laid, usually in April. If there is a large brood the parents are forced to hunt during daylight in order to satisfy the fledgling's appetites.

The tawny, or wood, owl very rarely hunts in the daylight and so is not often seen. It roosts in the branches of a tree, sitting close to the trunk, where its brown and grey mottled colour make it almost invisible. Sometimes its presence is betrayed by a flock of anxious woodland birds mobbing it. Like the barn owl it catches small rodents, but because of its larger size can also tackle young rabbits and squirrels. They nest in hollow trees, during March to June. When protecting its nest this owl can be very aggressive and will strike at a man, aiming for the head or neck.

Our smallest owl, the little owl, is only eight inches long, and is not a true native. The first attempt to introduce it was in Yorkshire in 1843. This failed. Later attempts in the Midlands and Kent were so successful that it can now be regarded as a resident species. It hunts by day and night, keeping watch from a favorite perch, usually a

fence post, branch or hedge. Because of its size it can only take small animals and a large part of its diet consists of insects. This owl is present throughout, Ascott but is often overlooked because it sits so quietly basking in the sun. The call is a rather plaintive 'kiew kiew'.

Keep your eyes and ears open; there is much to be enjoyed in our rural parish.

Stuart Fox

JOHN WALKER - THE RETURN CONCERT

John Walker and his digital |Orchestra
return to the new Beaconsfield Hall
on Saturday 5th May at 7.30 p.m.

The proceeds are to help buy interactive computer accessories for Kingham Primary School in memory of Harry Pickering who attended the school.

Tickets £5.00 including refreshments are available from:
Shipton House Stores, Shipton P.O., Milton P.O., Pet Shop at Milton and
Vera Case, Tel. No: 831482

ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD W.I.

At our January meeting, Mrs. Shirley Willis came to demonstrate the delicate art of decorating eggs. She brought along a goose egg and proceeded to change it from its natural form into an intricate little bell with paint, pictures, braid and enamel. We were all fascinated as we watched her work and she answered our questions. She had also brought along a variety of decorated eggs, ranging from clocks to jewellery boxes, to show us what could be done with a simple eggshell. At the end of the demonstration she said she would leave the bell with us and we decided to raffle it. Margaret Ismail was the lucky winner.

Our February Members' Meeting was organised by Mrs. Bertha Carpenter and our Speaker was Miss Rosemary Baker. She talked to us about her job, from which she has now retired, which was working as a librarian on a mobile library. She told us how she travelled round to the villages, whatever the weather conditions were, visiting the house-bound and helping those who came to the library with any queries they had even when they were not related to library matters. She produced an assortment of amusing stories varying from the library being stuck in a snowdrift for several days to how erratic driving would send books crashing to the floor and she would often be picking them up and replacing them on shelves as prospective borrowers arrived to change their books.

Mr. Robin Cherry came to give us a fascinating tour round Oxford at our March Meeting. He brought lots of slides with him and "walked" us round the various Colleges (and their gardens), showed us some magnificent views of Oxford, naming

the various towers, spires and cupolas that we could see and he also showed us what some of the streets in Oxford looked like a hundred years ago. He told us that even in the midst of Oxford, the countryside is never very far away and he had the slides to prove it.

LEAFIELD C. of E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Extra curriculum activities

Sports News!

Netball Club - in the last two weeks Leafield Netball Club have had two matches against Brize Norton. Leafield beat them away! A big thanks to Mrs. Green and Mrs. Scull who organised the games. Let's hope that the Netball Club keep up the good work.

Football Club - David Hunt is doing a great job with the Football Club and there is a huge number of children going along. We are keeping our fingers crossed for a match against another team! We will keep you up-dated on sports!

Collis King, age 9

Music News!

Guitar - There have been 4 weeks of guitar lessons. 8 people go to the lessons. The lessons are on a Wednesday morning at 9.20 a.m. and on Friday at 12.40 p.m.

Recorder Lessons - On Monday lunchtime children in classes 3 and 4 play the recorder and are very good at it. As well as doing netball, Mrs. Scull teaches the recorder. PHEW!

Violin - Lucie and Caitlin both travel to Wychwood School for violin lessons [for half an hour]. Lucie's lesson is at 3.30 p.m. and Caitlin's lesson is at 2.30 p.m. Their teacher's name is Mrs. Cormack.

Choir - Thanks to Jane Knowles children can go down to Leafield Church every Tuesday and learn new songs. They are planning to perform a show so I hear.

Robert Woolliams, etc 10

Red Nose Day

Red nose day was a huge success thanks to all the children. There was blue hair, red hair, all the colours you could think of, as well as no school uniform. Everybody had loads of fun including me! Mr. Staines in class 3 dressed up as a clown with green hair and sandals, along with Millie Steptoe who had a shirt with PANTS TO POVERTY all over it!

Robert Woolliams, age 10

If anybody would like to visit the school they would be very welcome. Mrs. Liz Davies, the Head, can be contacted on 01993 878273.

**Accommodation available in friendly BED AND BREAKFAST
THE MILL,
MILL LANE, ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD
Please contact: Anne and Nigel Braithwaite [01993 831282]**

VILLAGE PHOTOGRAPH

**At last the village photograph is now finished
and it looks good**

**It comes on a blue mount with gold lettering
for the village name**

**If anybody who has not been contacted but would like a
photo. [£24 each] could they please contact
Simon Gidman, Tel. No: 830441.**

JEAN TRINDER

On the 7th November last year Jean Trinder passed away.

It is with great sadness that I write this. I had known Jean for many years and feel lucky to have known her.

Jean was a kind person and was very good to me. If I was in need of some one to look after my children, Jean would very kindly offer; she was very good with children and I also asked Jean to be Godmother to my children.

Quite a few years ago I used to go up to Jean's house, her daughter Diana would be there as well. We would all talk and drink tea at the round table. It would be joke for years to come that all three of us would talk at the round table. Jean had a good sense of humour, and to this day when I think of Jean's humour it makes me laugh. We had many a laugh when we worked on Woodley's Farm. Jean would be there come rain or shine, working very hard. The most part of Jean's life was caring for her husband, Derek, and their children Brian, Mark and Diana; they meant everything to Jean and she thought the world of them.

She will be in my thoughts forever.

Sue Evans

FOOT AND MOUTH CRISIS

A HUGE thank you to everyone who supported the fund raising to help working farming families and staff who are facing a financial crisis.

In just over three weeks the village has raised a fantastic total of £1,050 which has been sent to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution which is a National Charity founded in 1860 and is dedicated to helping members of the farming community who are suffering hardship.

This is a marvellous achievement and your generosity is much appreciated.

Eleanor Edwards - Kathy Pearce

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Burford - Friends Meeting House, Pytts Lane
(off Witney Street) Sundays at 11.00 a.m.

For further information,
contact Nigel Braithwaite on 01993 831282

Charlbury - Friends Meeting House, Market Street
Sundays at 10.30 a.m.

For further information,
contact Andrew or Patricia Pymer on 01993 882848

ROMAN CATHOLIC MASSES

Burford - Church of SS. John Fisher and Thomas Moore
Sundays at 9.15 a.m. & 11.00 a.m.;
Holy Days 10.00 a.m. & 7.00 p.m.

Chipping Norton -Holy Trinity Church
Sundays at 10.30 a.m.; Holy Days 9.00 a.m. & 7.00 p.m.

Charlbury - St. Teresa's
Sundays at 11.00 a.m.; Holy Days 9.30 a.m. & 7.30 p.m.

THE "POST OFFICE" STORES

Milton-under-Wychwood

Open: Mon.-Fri. 7.a.m. – 5.30 p.m. (Closed 1-2 for lunch)

Open Saturday 7 a.m.-1.00 p.m. & Sunday 8 a.m.-12 noon

POST OFFICE SERVICES AVAILABLE AT

"THE SWAN", ASCOTT

MONDAY 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Bank Holiday Excepted

John, Edna & Staff will be pleased to serve you
with newspapers and magazines, greetings cards, fresh bread

Fresh flowers for all occasions

Agents for **SKETCHLEY CLEANERS &**

LOCAL SHOE REPAIRS;

SUPA-SNAPS PHOTO PROCESSING

Tel. No: Shipton-under-Wychwood 830213

Printed by Information Press

Tel. No: 01865 882588