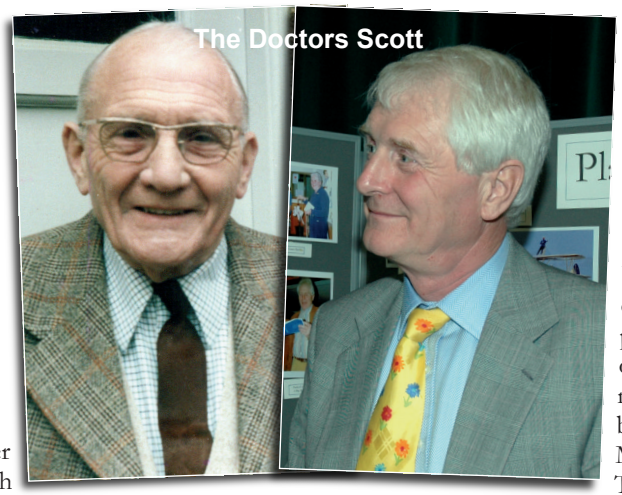
Our Caring Community
Looking After Our Own

Caring takes many forms but it is alive and well and living in the Wychwoods! We have many excellent care facilities but we also have a fabulous tradition of volunteers who step in when needed. From those who sat through long nights with the sick, to those who made tea for the young mothers at the baby clinic, to the impromptu team set up to give the Corbett family a helping hand when their quadruplets arrived in 1988.



Our Surgery

We all meet each other at some time at the Surgery! In the 1970's Dr. Scott ran the surgery single-handed, with Mrs Scott manning the telephone and passing on messages. This meant that neither of them had much free time, unless Dr. Scott Snr. (by then retired) agreed to act as locum. Janet Wallace was employed as nurse, receptionist, secretary, telephonist and relief dispenser and Annaliese as dispenser. In 1978 Dr Robert Beazer became Sandy's partner, and instead of being on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week the commitment reduced to alternate days, nights and weekends. Mary Walton was appointed as practice manager which certainly gave the Doctors' wives relief from being tied to the telephone, and an evening appointment system was introduced. It was not unusual for the doctors to see 46 patients in a surgery and to make up to 20 home visits in a day.

The volunteer drivers' scheme got underway in March 1985, when Dr Scott did a sponsored drive from Land's End to John O'Groats and still arrived in time to do his morning surgery!

Staff have come and gone but have always been simply the best. There have been many stars, such as Grace Rawlins who was awarded a certificate as runner-up in the Midwife of the Year Award in 1990.

On the 30th May, 2006 the biggest change of all took place with the opening of a new, purpose - built surgery in Meadow Lane. The practice has now grown to four partners, one registrar GP, one trainee doctor, three nurses and one nursing assistant, and four dispensers. The surgery population has grown from 2200 when Sandy took over from his father in 1969 to the present figure of 5250. And the car park is still not big enough!

Grow Old Along With Me

But of course not all the care is centred on the Surgery. The Wychwoods have a long and valued history of providing residential care locally. Langston House, opened its doors in July 1977, with beds for 13

permanent residents and one short-stay room. Meals were cooked in its kitchens and delivered, twice a week, to elderly residents of the Wychwoods in their own homes. Social services had ultimate responsibility, but it was the WRVS who undertook the actual service and delivery of meals. In the winter of 1980, delivery had to be on foot, but the meals still got through! Sadly, after a lengthy campaign to persuade the authorities to change their minds, Langston House was closed in March 2005 and residents and some of the staff transferred to Madley Park in Witney.

The Wychwood Day Centre

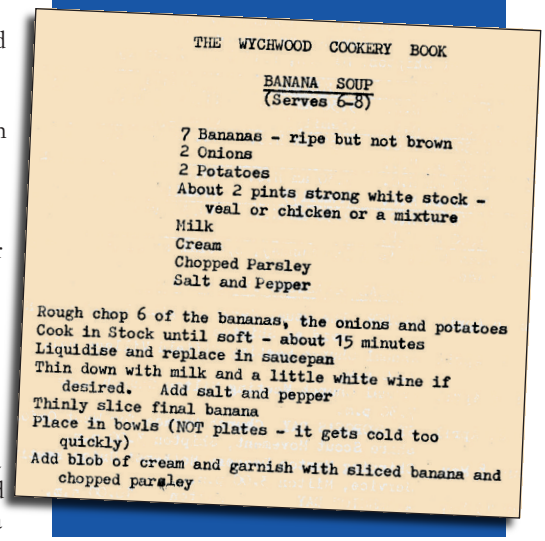
Care Capital of the Cotswolds?

There will be few people who cannot recall that dreadful night of 20th July 2007 when water flooded Prebendal House Nursing Home. The home has around 50 residents and at that time 11 were categorised as highly dependent. Five of the 19 carers and 10 registered nurses who staff the home were on duty that night and were awarded commendations for their supreme efforts in getting everyone to safety. After the owners, Noel and Brian Kelly, restored the home, it was re-opened by David Cameron whose presence was a real morale boost for the residents and staff. Yet another triumph for our high quality carers came in 2005 when Margaret Mix reached the final five in the *Carer of the Year* awards. Tall Trees, a small unit for handicapped adults opened in Shipton in 1987. The Duchess of York landed by helicopter for a visit in March 1987 and Thora Hird opened the fete there in June 1993. Again, despite a strong local protest, Tall Trees finally closed in June 2003 and we now await the opening of the new residential care home by the Cricket Ground in Shipton.

The Wychwoods Day Centre is staffed almost completely by volunteer helpers, cooks and drivers. Started in 1998, the Day Centre caters for 20 members every Thursday at the New Beaconsfield Hall, ably led by Katherine Gidman. For many, it is the highlight of their week. Judging by the number of hale and hearty octogenarians around, if you want to lead a long and happy life - come to the Wychwoods!

Wychwood Trivia

The first recipe to appear in The Wychwood cookery book was Banana Soup, did anyone try this?


THE WYCHWOOD COOKERY BOOK

BANANA SOUP
(Serves 6-8)

7 Bananas - ripe but not brown
2 Onions
2 Potatoes
About 2 pints strong white stock - veal or chicken or a mixture
Milk
Cream
Chopped Parsley
Salt and Pepper

Rough chop 6 of the bananas, the onions and potatoes
Cook in Stock until soft - about 15 minutes
Liquidise and replace in saucepan
Thin down with milk and a little white wine if desired. Add salt and pepper
Thinly slice final banana
Place in bowls (NOT plates - it gets cold too quickly)
Add blob of cream and garnish with sliced banana and chopped parsley