

STRANGERS IN THE CAMP

The keen observer may have noticed "Strangers in the Camp" during the last two weeks of July when a party of East Europeans stayed in the Wychwoods.

The group consisting of seven Poles, two Czechs and one Slovak, spent their first week in Burford, following a course designed to put them in touch with British culture and enabling them to collect materials for their teaching. The Polish party are all involved in University teaching or English teacher-training while the Czechs and the Slovak trio are involved in adult and higher education. In the three countries English has replaced Russian as the second language and this total change of direction has, of course, happened in four brief years.

In the first week the group visited Burford school, Milton Keynes New Town and the Open University, the Houses of Parliament, Oxford University Language Centre, the Bodleian Library, the Lake School of Languages, Avebury and the RSC at Stratford.

During the second week the group stayed with individual families in Shipton and Milton and friendships were struck up which will survive the short stay here. During this week the group enjoyed walks in the Cotswolds, a farm visit, a play-reading evening and many other sorties with their families. Two parties, in the excellent barn of John and Margaret Hartley, brought the two weeks to a happy close.

While it is unlikely that the huge Polish city of Bialystok will "Twin" with the Wychwoods, something of this atmosphere was created and there has been the mention of an "Eastward push" some time in the near future.

Witney Rotary, Alfred Groves, Matthews Flour Mills and the Wychwood Dairies gave vital material assistance, as did those who attended the May Sing-In in the Prebendal Barn.

G.A.B.

THE BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY

The Chipping Norton branch of the Red Cross will be having its annual Bazaar in Milton-u-Wychwood Village Hall on Saturday, December 4th, at 2.00 p.m. Christmas cards, a raffle, cake stall and other stalls — teas etc. will be on sale. Donations of cakes, raffle prizes, and enquiries to Mrs. D. Edgington, Frogmore House, Frog Lane, Milton, Telephone 0993 830527.

The Centre also thanks everyone who has generously contributed, bought, collected etc. during this year at various events, especially Red Cross Week in May.