

WILLIS COURT

Once Milton Road has been returned to normality, some readers may wonder why this development is so named. It is to keep alive the name of James Alfred Willis who was elected as one of the original Parish Councillors when Parish Councils were first formed in 1894. He became Chairman of the Council in 1899, an office he held until 1946, and he attended the last meeting of the Council in December 1948.

Mr. Willis was listed in the Kelly's Directory for 1928 as a "Saddler and Harness maker", the entry also stated "Cycles repaired and accessories stocked". His house and shop, adjacent to the Shaven Crown, is now known as Shaven Cottage.

The late Dr. Gordon Scott set up a fund in 1953 which is named The James Alfred Willis Trust Fund. This fund is administered by the Parish Council, the interest on the capital being spent as the original Deed stipulates "primarily for the maintenance and replacement of seats and for such other purposes as the Parish Council may from time to time determine for the improvement and beautification of the village".

A few yards from Willis Court is a new seat, this replaced one of the original seats which were erected in the village during the early 1950s. The new inscription plaque bears the same words as those inscribed on the old seat.

Thus the name of a man who, (and I quote from a tribute in the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 27th January, 1949), "had been a valued member of the Council for most of the period since Parish Councils were constituted and had a great store of knowledge in relation to the Parish", is remembered.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN

This society exists mainly to help those who suffer from multiple sclerosis and also to contribute towards research.

The West Oxfordshire Branch has, at present, sixty members, most of whom are sufferers. Regular monthly meetings are arranged in the district, the next being at 2 p.m. on the 16th October, at the Burwell Hall, Witney.

There will be a visiting speaker and refreshments; transport can be arranged if necessary.

The Branch Secretary is Mrs. Jill Cooper, telephone no. Witney 703068 and the Welfare Secretary, is Dr. Sheila Parker, tel. no. Chipping Norton 642822.