

## FOR US AN EARLY SADNESS IN THE NEW YEAR

**I**NCRECIBLE AS IT SEEMS we shall, all being well, have been domiciled in Shipton four years in August and I find it difficult to believe that it was so long ago following our move from Bourton-on-the-Water that I decided to submit my initial observations to the Wychwood entitled, as I recall, "Diary of a Newcomer".

Much to my amazement, my thoughts were accepted by our Editor and appeared in the next edition and having got the bug I have inflicted my ramblings for consideration ever since.

We have been extremely fortunate in as much that from that day one we, as a family, have experienced nothing but kindness from all our neighbours and the general air of bonhomie has pervaded throughout the locality ever since. I can exemplify this fact when in early January we lost my Mother-in-Law, Joan Davis, who lived with us.

Mum Davis, as I knew her, utilised every minute of daylight and much of the artificial light as well for she was imbued with the belief that life was for living and for the occupation of mind and body. She had an overwhelming passion for her family and her friends and involvement in all manner of good causes where her many skills could be advantageous whether it was making a few cakes, some jam or chutney, the end product was always of the highest quality and made with loving care and the recipients delight was reward enough.

Through this column may I, on behalf of my Sue, Jane and James thank all of you who attended the Memorial Service, who sent letters of condolence and offered their invaluable help during this time of sadness. your kindness and friendship was quite staggering and I know that Mum Davis would have been proud and possibly a little surprised that she had so many friends.

Well, didn't it rain, children, didn't it rain — and just when we struggled though soggy February with our thoughts on hordes of dancing daffodils nodding in the fresh spring breeze down came the snow! Never mind, spring is officially with us on March 21st and British Summer Time begins on March 26th and we all lose an hours sleep — well you can't have it all ways.

I am invigorated on those early Spring mornings when you wake up to bird song and the sound of bees and catch a glimpse of that glorious first Sulphur Winged Brimstone butterfly. There is sunshine, there is warmth, there is hope, there is fresh life starting off again.

There is also heck of a lot to do in the garden, has anyone heard the first lawn mower yet?

Well now as I write and glance across the allotment towards the distant village for inspiration I have just noticed perched in the old ivy infested plum tree, a single male blackcap. A summer bird if ever there was one. Amazingly, although most fly off to

sunnier climes at the end of our summer, some, mostly always the cock bird, elect to stay on and over winter with us.

A pretty little bird of the warbler family, it has soft grey plumage with of course, it's black, or in the case of the female, rust coloured cap. A melodious song bird to some folk believing it to be the equal of a nightingale in this respect.

We were idly discussing people's Christian names the other day and how, over the years, popularity of once common names have deceased and fresh ones take their place.

Some names remain steady like Elizabeth, Ann(e) or Susan with the ladies and David, Michael for instance with us chaps.

Somehow I can't come to terms with some of modern ones, having been brought up to typical English 30s,40s and 50s names like Jack, Stan, Wilf and Cliff with the odd Norman or Maurice thrown in. Can you imagine some future Sharon or Tracey calling to her octogenarian spouse toiling in the garden "Come on Wayne, your tea's getting cold"

Now there's a thought!

**DO NOT MISS IT!**



**THE SUMMER FETE**  
at  
**TALL TREES**  
**SHIPTON-under-WYCHWOOD**  
on 3rd JUNE 1995 at 2.00p.m.

**Bring the family and join in the fun.**

**W.O.D.C. SKIPS FOR APRIL AND MAY**

<b>Ascott</b>	24th April	High Street / London Lane
<b>Fifield</b>	26th April	Bus Shelter Green
<b>Lyneham</b>	TBD	Bottom of the village
<b>Milton</b>	24th April	Church Rd. layby; Jubilee Lane
	22nd May	Church Rd. layby; Reade Close
<b>Shipton</b>	15th May	Ballards Close; Ascott Road
		Notice Board, Swinbrook Road