

THE BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

SHIPTON UNDER WYCHWOOD

During the two weeks leading up to, and including, Remembrance Sunday I am delighted to report that the village collected £1,133.77. This was not a record amount compared with a year or so ago but was, nevertheless, a marvellous result.

On behalf of the British Legion may I thank not only all those who gave money so generously (it works out at about £1 per head of population in the village) but also those who so generously gave of their time as well to make the house-to-house calls. We cannot guarantee to find you at home, even when we call twice, but it did mean that nearly everyone had an opportunity to contribute to the Appeal and to have a poppy to wear.

I have been organising the Poppy Appeal in the village for the last five years and I now feel it is time for someone else to take on this very rewarding task. It does not take up too much time but it does require regular commitment in the months of October and November – together with a few undemanding, routine actions throughout the year.

So if there is any volunteer who would like to have a go to see if they can collect even more money, I would be delighted to hand over the reins to them. If you are interested at all, give me a ring on 830908.

Hamish Harvey

THE ASCOTT TOAD PATROL

Toads, roads and a railway crossing can make a gruesome combination in early spring in Ascott under Wychwood. The mating urges of these mysterious creatures are tied to warm wet weather as they migrate home to the Manor Farm pond under cover of dusk, and it is at these times that volunteers can rescue them from being squashed on the road. The record number counted was 275 one evening, and the sight of these small, slow, khaki travellers with bright olive-green eyes is amazing.

If you are willing to forgo the comfort of your central heating and join a devoted band of bucketeers armed with fluorescent strips, and gloves, please get in touch with John Gripper on 830278 or Joan Lilly on 831464.

In 1996 the migration began in late March, but last year the canny toads moved at the end of February, perhaps because 1997 was “the warmest year on record.”

Committing a named evening to being on call makes the rota, for 6-8 weeks of possible toad activity, easier to compile. We have an information sheet for anyone interested in conservation issues.

We are looking for rare people and hope to hear from you soon!