

It was the War Ag. which had also controlled the employment of the previous Italian and German prisoners of war, but the newcomers in 1949 were part of the Voluntary European Workforce, although usually known by the locals as "D.P.s" – Displaced Persons. By 1952 the War Ag's control of the men had ceased and they were then free to choose where they worked and where they lived.

Many men then left the Milton camp to seek employment abroad, in the industrial Midlands and local villages. The camp at Milton was disbanded and the first of the civilian bungalows was built on the site in 1961. During the 1960s most of the camps huts were demolished to make way for the present bungalows which front onto Frog Lane.

Behind these bungalows is one of the camp's huts which became home for the four men who chose to stay in Milton in 1952 and to work in the timber mill at Alfred Groves and Sons Ltd. By 1996 only two men were left and when "Fred" (Arthur Sturitis) died in December of that year Eddy, due to age and infirmity had difficulty in coping on his own.

With the help of his countrymen Erik and Felix Prietide from Stonesfield, his godson Nicholas and Helen Wilks and Daphne Edgington of Frog Lane, arrangements were made for Eddy to be back in his homeland to live with his son Edwin and family in Riga for New Year 1998.

FIFIELD VILLAGE HALL

There are still some details to be finished but a programme for the year is taking shape. Activities will begin with a coffee morning and cake stall in April. The date is to be announced but it will probably be held at Fifield House and, by popular request, will hopefully include an up-date on the progress of the 'History of the Village' project.

The Hills have invited us all to 'Hillside' for a Garden Party on 4th July and this will be followed on 15th August by our summer barbecue. A second fund-raising coffee morning is planned for early September, the Harvest Supper will be on 17th October and the year will end with an evening of carols on 21st December.

Our bookmark-flyer will be delivered in the two villages of Fifield and Idbury towards the end of March and this will give all the dates and venues. The Committee very much looks forward to meeting you at these events.

Pat Yaxley.

LEARN TO LINE DANCE

Every Tuesday at Shipton-u-Wychwood Village Hall

From 7.15 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

All ages Welcome

Just bring your feet, even if you have two left ones, and a drink!

No partner needed, just a sense of humour!

£3 adults £2 concessions

For details ring Liz on 01865 881270 Blue Ridge Dance Club.