

Unfortunately the following article was received too late for the last issue, but we would like to include it here.

The Birth of Milton-Under-Wychwood's Christmas Tree.

Towards the end of 1996 at a council meeting when opened to the public, Maurice Pratley, in that good old dialect, "What about a Christmas tree then?" "What a good idea" says everyone, "bit late this year 'aint it. Keep on the agenda for next year". Well, next year duly arrives, 'It always do you know', and the Christmas Tree had not been forgotten, it was still on the agenda.

The Chairman talked to Mr & Mrs D Astor, who kindly donated a tree. A hole was dug and a sleeve was concreted into the ground, yes ready for future trees. Then the question of lights arose, and to those of you who remember The Mafia, they have offered to purchase lights, "Thank you" says everyone. "Will they be white or coloured?" was the next question. A vote was taken and came in favour of coloured. Then it was down to see the Vicar about a carol service, "Come in" said the Vicar, "My diary is very full as one would expect on Christmas Eve". After some pondering, "I could fit in 6pm, have you got any music?" "Music" say I, "Milton-under-Wychwood people always sing out loud, we don't need music". Vicar said o.k., but not forgetting a collection.

So up go the posters, kindly drawn by the grandchildren. Then one fine Saturday a body of Council reps. gathered to put up the tree and lights connected to the Post Office electric supply, "Thank you John and Edna". Then it was "Don't like the look of it, something seems wrong". Then came night and on goes the lights "I don't know so much reckon they are o.k." says us all again "Ah looks lovely".

The granddaughter came running into the house, Mrs Naish would put on mince pies and mulled wine; brilliant idea. So a blustery, windy Christmas Eve conducted by the Vicar, a wonderful gathering of Mums, Dads, Grans, Gramps and not forgetting the children, sang heartily carols, and the mince pies and mulled wine served up by Edna and her staff was very welcome.

Many thanks, a collection for Langston House resulted in a wonderful sum of £81.30, and so there you have the 'Birth of Milton-u-Wychwood's Christmas Tree'.

A very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Arthur Hunt and Family