

## **Friends of the Wychwoods Library**

### **Report of Meeting on 19 March by Douglas Cunningham (Chair)**

The inaugural meeting of "The Friends of Wychwoods Library" took place in Milton Village Hall on Thursday 19th March, at which there was a most gratifying turnout of over 100 people representing Milton, Shipton, Ascott, Leaffield, Fifield, Idbury, Bruern and Lyneham.

The meeting was chaired by Douglas Cunningham, who was supported on the platform by District Councillor Neil Owen, Librarian Mrs Beryl Brown, Assistant County Librarian Yvonne McDonald and Frank Barea [one of the founder members of "The Friends"]. County Councillor Rodney Rose had intended to be present, but was unavoidably detained at another Council meeting.

In his introductory remarks, the Chair outlined the basic reasons for the establishment of "The Friends", namely the fight to keep the library open, to maintain its services and to provide moral and practical support to the Librarian. It was stated that, while it was not necessary at present to invite "Friends" to provide financial support, this could change in the future to prevent closure, or further cuts in opening hours.

Councillor Neil Owen eloquently expressed his support for the formation of "Friends", and members of the audience Mrs Rosemary Hartley (Milton) Mr John Yaxley (Fifield), Mrs Jane Adams (Leaffield), Mrs Mary Hedges (Milton) spoke in the warmest of terms of their affection for the Library, and their appreciation of the work carried out by Mrs Brown.

There was a most touching appreciation from Emma Cuthbertson [Shipton], one of the junior members of The Library. Ten year-old Lois Harrison delighted the audience when she told them she loved her library, and also Mrs Brown.

The Chairman invited all present to become "Friends" and also to indicate willingness to serve on a small committee to create "Friends of Wychwoods Library". Enrolment forms would also be available from The Library.

The organisers of the meeting were delighted at the overwhelming support received from the locality. Arrangements are now in hand for representatives to attend a meeting to be held shortly, called by Tom Forrest Director at OCC of the Leisure & Arts, and County Librarian, to share information on the formation of "Friends" groups.

## **WYCHWOOD PLAYGROUP**

Milton-under-Wychwood Village Hall

Vacancies 2½ - 5 yr. olds. Monday - Tuesday - Thursday, 9.30 - 11.45.

PPA Registered, Qualified Supervisor. Tel 01451 810042. Call in and see us any time.

Friday Mornings are a Family Session, 10 - 11.30. Drop in for a coffee and a chat.

Babes, Toddlers, up to 5 yrs, all enjoy Friday Sessions.