

Wychwood Primary School

The school was a hive of activity with the run up to Christmas. Once again we were treated to three outstanding performances.

The older two classes gave us a musical version of "The Pied Piper", with a twist to the end of the story as the children returned from the mountain.



The children who were allowed to return. "What a shame" was uttered by teachers and parents!



The Town Council and Pied Piper.

This was followed by a very 'sparkling' performance from the younger children who acted out the story of "The Lost Kitten".

We finished of with "The Elephant Child". This was full of movement and singing with each child being an animal and telling the story of how the elephant got his long nose.

Praise must go to all the teachers for all their hard work and sleepless nights! Getting the children to be in the right place at the right time and to sing, speak out and dance so well.



Class 1+2 "The Lost Kitten".



Elephants and Crocodiles from "The Elephant's Child".

The school has also been raising funds for charities. Mrs Barrett arranged a sponsored skip in aid of the Heart Foundation and this raised £528.03.

We asked the children to bring in pennies and lay them around the playground for Children in Need. This raised £96.00

Some of our Year 6 children also arranged a Bring and Buy sale to raise money for the Hurricane Mitch fund. They spent their playtimes making posters, pricing up goods brought into school and then ran the stalls on the day. They raised £147.14

We are also collecting aluminium cans and tin foil for the Blue Peter Appeal. We have two big collecting bins at the school entrance hall so if you have any cans or foil you would like to donate please bring it along during school hours.

The PTA held a Christmas Bazaar and the children helped with this as well by running their own stalls and they raised £93 toward the final profit total of £724

Christmas really seemed to start when the Juniors held their Carol Concert "Hosanna Rock" at Milton Church. The concert consisted of songs, readings and poems and was enjoyed by a church full of family and friends. A retiring collection raised £112.90 for Save the Children Fund.

We were also pleased to have a visit from Graham Canning to our end of term assembly. It was so nice to see him, his work for the school has been greatly missed since his retirement last year, although his visits to Friday morning assembly have been taken on by Jane Adams and Ann Hartley and they have "performed" and supported us extremely well indeed.

The PTA are always trying to raise money to help provide the school with much needed equipment and books. They run the school swimming pool and are now helping school to lease five new computers.

Part of this money comes from our paper collecting and we would like to thank all those who leave their papers out for us and the many who bring the papers straight up to school. Unfortunately the amount of money per tonne is being cut as from January but, while there are still funds coming in from the collecting, we will keep going. The collections are still on the first Saturday in each month.

We have a number of events coming including a Quiz Night, Beetle Drive, Sponsored walk, so keep a look out in your local shops for posters.

Sadly we have started the year on a sad note with part of the school being broken into sometime over the New Year. Damage was done to doors, windows and steps in the temporary building and swimming pool area. A window and bottles were smashed leaving broken glass all over the place and two fire extinguishers were let off.

The police have investigated the matter and the mess cleared up, but it takes a considerable amount of time and leaves the school with a financial burden it could well do without.

We have a lot to look forward to though. New families moving to the area, Year 6 children going to Wales and at the time of writing the whole school is going to the Sheldonian Theatre for a music concert provided by Oxfordshire musicians and led by one of the County's music advisers. So we will tell you about that in the next issue!

AND SO AT LAST IT CAME TO PASS ! THE OLD PARISH HALL SHIPTON.

On November 24th 1998, at the final meeting of the Management Committee of the Parish Hall in the New Beaconsfield Hall, and following prolonged correspondence with the Charity Commissioners, the lease for the Parish Hall was finally surrendered to the owners, the Parish Council. The supporting charity was also removed from the register of charities.

It seemed as if the Old Hall had been literally hanging on for the new one to be built, because within three weeks of the new one opening, the ceiling in the entrance of the old one collapsed, making it unsafe to hold the final meeting there as planned.

Looking back over all the names in the past minutes it is impossible to select anyone for a special mention, but an enormous "Thank you" must be said to all those committee members past and present who put so much effort into the sometimes thankless task of keeping it going.

People often spoke of the happy atmosphere in the old hall (I know they spoke of the damp smell too!) and I believe from its promising start that the new hall will be similarly blessed. (No, not the damp).

The new building is an exciting replacement and I congratulate all those whose untiring efforts led to its completion. The old hall would be proud.

The old will now be sold and proceeds given to the new.

One photograph overleaf shows Malcolm Cochrane, Chairman of the Shipton Parish Council, receiving the necessary paperwork, the final act of the Chairman of the Parish Hall management Committee on winding up.

There is also a photograph of some of those present enjoying this last function of the Parish Hall Committee.

Rosemary Salter,
Last Chairman of the Parish Hall Management Committee.