

The Wychwood area had a very merry Millennium by all accounts.

By far the most elaborate event was in Milton which reputedly had the biggest party in the whole of West Oxfordshire! They had 1000 people in attendance from toddlers to grannies.

Fireworks started off the evening at 7:30 pm on the Village Green, then everyone proceeded to the marquees set up in the Quart Pot car park for games, food, bars, and dancing to live music by the Time Bandits. The music stopped at 1:30 am, but the party went on until about 3:30 and all participants enjoyed themselves tremendously.

Shipton's celebrations started at about 11:15 pm with "walking buses" carrying flaming torches from all corners of the village to gather in front of the bonfire on the village Green for mulled wine. The church bells rang and the fireworks went off at midnight. About 300 people participated in this memorable occasion, and Shipton plans three more Millennium Events in May, July and October respectively.

Ascott started their preparations in 1998 by learning to ring the church bells. You will read later in the magazine of their Millennium Beacon and Fireworks.

Lyneham, Fifield and Idbury did not mount individual events to mark the occasion, but we have heard they all enjoyed themselves anyway.

Throughout the Wychwoods there was not a single unfortunate episode, nor any need to call the police, which must be cause for us all to congratulate ourselves on our convivial community spirit to welcome in the 21st century.

The articles about the various Millennium celebrations have helped to make this a very full issue, so much so in fact, that one or two items scheduled to appear in this issue will have to appear in the next instead.

Peggy Walmsely.

MRS ELFIE BRETT

Elfie died on Christmas Eve. She enjoyed living in Shipton and had a lot of friends before moving to be nearer her daughter at Mickleton.

Many people will remember her in Costcutters for her knowledge of gardening, especially how to produce beautiful flowers from cuttings, together with her scrumptious jams and preserves.