

Wychwoods councillors on West Oxfordshire District Council

Following the recent election to the local district council of Hilary Biles for Ascott and Shipton under Wychwood and Lyneham, and Jeff Haine for Milton under Wychwood, Bruern, Idbury and Fifield, we thought that we might ask them to tell us more about themselves. They are elected to speak for us on the District Council, and are keen to serve their areas. They rely on us to tell them what our views are. In this issue we profile the new council member, Hilary Biles, and in a future issue we hope to profile Jeff Haine.

Hilary and her husband Jim have lived in the Wychwoods for more than 20 years, first in Milton and then in Shipton, though for part of the time they have also been resident in Saudi Arabia for Jim's work. It is interesting that Hilary thinks living abroad made her more interested in home affairs, and it certainly has given her a wide perspective on local affairs.

She was born in Cheshire, and lived and went to school in Manchester. It was working for the new Manchester airport which led to jobs with more than one airline, and after a few years to London, where she worked for seven years at London airport. Her work gave her many opportunities for foreign travel which she seized.

Since returning full time to the Wychwoods, she has shown herself a great contributor to local life. For four years she has given voluntarily of her time to be a 'mentor' in Wood Green school, Witney, work which she says she has found very worthwhile. She will be known to some of her constituents for other local activities, and as one said of her, "When she does something, she does it 100%".

Her aim as the local district councillor will be to reflect the views and wishes of the people of the area. She likes to help people, to listen and keep in touch. She will aim to keep us informed as her council work takes shape. "It will be hard work", she says, but she is not afraid of that.

Telephone numbers: Hilary Biles 831822, Jeff Haine 830078



Hilary Biles talking to David Perfect during the recent West Oxfordshire District Council election.