

Christmas in The Wychwoods

When does Christmas really start for you? For the children there is the excitement of Christmas concerts, Nativity plays and end of term parties. For the adults there are office parties and get-togethers with friends, not to mention all the planning and shopping for the festivities.

For me, it all starts when the Cochranes put up the Christmas screens in their windows. To face them as I come down the Ascott Road, then turn the corner and see the tree on the green is pure magic. The giant snowman on the roof of the Red Horse brought his own charm to the village this year! The road through to Milton is like our very own version of Oxford Street, with all the lights in gardens, and the decorated tree by the Post Office.

All this does not happen by chance. Many people deserve our thanks for making our Christmas so special. David Astor generously donates the village Christmas trees from the Bruern Estate. Malcolm Cochrane, John Hartley, Charlie Barrett and Jonathan Willson erect the tree on Shipton Green; Graham Collett and Rodney Rose do the

same for Milton. Then there are all the people who prepare food etc for the Day Centre Christmas lunch, Bowerham and Langston House parties, WI and children's parties at school, Sunday School, Youth Club, Football, Guides and Brownies.

For the children, there is the excitement of Christingle services and somebody lovingly prepares all those Christingles for the children to take home. For many, carols around the village Christmas trees start the festivities and local charities benefit from the generosity of the participants. This year £327 was raised in Shipton for the Lady Reade Educational Trust, and Milton raised £115 for the Langston House Comforts Fund. Parishioners join together to celebrate Christmas in Midnight Masses in all the village churches and again on Christmas morning. We are all truly blessed. So, if you are feeling a little jaded and think that Christmas has become far too commercial, just take a few minutes to remember all these wonderful things that draw us together and make us the friendly, caring community we are.

Christine Halliday



Christmas Dinner for the Day Centre and, below, Christingle at Milton

WI celebrate Christmas

Milton-under-Wychwood Women's Institute Christmas Party was held at Milton Village Hall on 10th December 2002, when about fifty members and guests sat in a very festive hall and enjoyed a Christmas meal prepared by Committee members. The entertainment for the evening was a 'Barber's Shop Quartet', who sang a range of evergreen songs and Christmas favourites. The evening was rounded off with a Raffle (proceeds to the local Girl Guides) and

everyone received a gift, given by a fellow member, from under the tree. The President, Edna

Naish, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Milton Women's Institute meets in the village hall on the third Thursday each month at 7:30pm. New members are very welcome.

