
The First in Our Series on Young Achievers in the Wychwoods

Robert Marsh

Looking Forward

At the start of our twenty-sixth volume, with the emphasis on looking forward, we will be focusing on the young people of the Wychwoods and their many and varied achievements.

Robert Marsh is a young man who moved to Shipton in 1985, when he was five years old. He was educated at Wychwood Primary and Burford School. On leaving school, he started work with Elsevier, the technical and scientific publishers in Kidlington. Starting as a marketing clerk, he quickly moved to the IT department. He now manages the company's primary ordering system, which is used at over 15 global locations.

Robert's hobbies are football and, when he has the time, fishing. He now jointly runs an adult football team, Brize Norton Reserves. His father Paul, who has been involved with Wychwood Boys FC for many years, probably developed Paul's love of football from an early age.

Putting Something Back

When his father asked him to help with Shipton Youth Club he never imagined just how involved he would become! He is now running the club, with the invaluable and enthusiastic help of Zoë Corbett and Charlie Fawle.

Robert says that the biggest challenge is finding ways of keeping the interest of a mixed group of children aged between 9



and 14 years old. He has begun by allowing the older children, who require the most attention, to have their own space in the committee room. Zoë's dad Eric has donated a television and with some of Robert's old computer

systems, this is a good way of keeping them occupied. Giving them extra responsibilities and treating them like 'seniors' means they have a feeling of their own worth.

Robert has drawn up a calendar of events so that the club members know what is happening and likes to finish off the evening with an active game to let off steam. He could not do all this without the help of Zoë and Charlie, whose age means the youngsters identify with them. If you would like to help with the youth club, as a regular helper or by running a particular activity, please contact Robert on 07745 850395.

Romantic Moment

Robert has recently become engaged to Nikki, popping the question after watching 'Love Actually' on Christmas Eve. The wedding is planned for August 2006, in Shipton Church.

Christine Halliday

There are many 'young achievers' in the villages; if you would like to nominate someone to be featured, please ring me on: 01993 831134