

Special Feature

Can We Call It Home?

Only Three Years!

On April 18th 2005 we celebrated our twentieth anniversary in the village. Not very impressive I know, if you can trace you ancestors back for many generations in the churchyard, but remarkable for us as we only expected to be here for three years! Back in 1985 Gordon was working for NatWest Bank and was appointed as a tutor at Heythrop Park in Enstone for three years, after which we expected to move back to Surrey. However we almost moved back after three days – we arrived on a beautiful spring day, warm and sunny. The next day we awoke to snow and the gas boiler had broken down, so no heating. I can remember wailing: “Take me back to Godalming - it does not snow in April there!”

Settling In

We soon settled down and quickly came to love the villages, the surrounding countryside and found the people so friendly that the Wychwoods soon felt like home. Our children moved from Wychwood School to Burford and were happy and doing well. I had become involved with the local Guide Company and soon found myself running the unit. All too soon the three years had passed and Gordon had to think about his next career move. It did not take us long to



Proud grandparents holding Ben

decide that we did not want to move away – what advantage was there? We had a lovely house in a beautiful village, children doing well at school and a busy social life. Gordon took a big chance telling his employers that he did not want to move

again – it could have meant the end of promotion and life on the back burner until retirement. He had to spend about eighteen months ‘filling in’ until the bank found a suitable position for him, but finally was rewarded with the managership of Headington branch.

Twenty Years On

So here we are, twenty years on, still loving every minute of living here, relishing all our many friends, locals and in-comers alike and not planning to leave in the foreseeable future. I just have to come over the top of the Swinbrook Road and see the view to realise how lucky we are to live in this part of the world. The Wychwoods are very special – they grab you by the heart and hold onto you forever.

We like to think that we have put a little back into the village that made us so welcome and although we will never qualify as ‘locals’ can we now call it home?

Christine Halliday