

Day in the Life Of the... Mobile Library Service

Mobile libraries, like the refuse collections, are one of the visible signs of where at least some of our Council Tax goes. Unlike the static branch, this library comes to your village at a set time and place and becomes part of the routine of daily life.



and telephone for help (pre mobile phones!), as the deceased would have liked me to stay with her. Whilst I waited for his return the lady's husband and sons arrived with a gate, laid

her on it and carried her off. We then had to explain to the doctor and the police that we had lost the body.

Spoiling the View

In fact it becomes so routine that no-one remembers to mention it to visitors!. This can cause trouble if the visitor is a film-crew - when inevitably just as the director yells "Silence, cameras roll" the library van comes down the road into the scene! Based in holiday areas, as I was, also caused consternation to people who thought we were spoiling a 'nice country view' and should be banned from bringing 'that nasty big van into these lovely villages.'

Over My Dead Body

In the 22 years I worked on library vans the only thing that didn't happen was someone giving birth. We had the beginnings of a brain haemorrhage, an extremely agitated youth who cut both wrists with a sword at our counter and one death. This last event had a certain amount of dark humour - the poor lady's neighbours stepped over her to collect their books and left very quickly. The male driver insisted he was the one to go

A Spanner in the Works

I have been retired for ten years so the addition of computers and mobile phones did not figure in my daily work. The older vans had certain tasks for the passenger to complete. It was my job to open the engine casing and place a spanner across the leads to get a spark or bash the engine in a certain place or hand pull the starter lead to get the engine to go.

And then there are the books and the readers!.....

Rosemary Baker

The Mobile Library visits the Wychwoods as follows:

Ascott, The Green

alternate Wednesdays 13.55 to 14.15

Shipton, alternate Thursdays

St Michael's Close, 15.00 to 15.20

Old Prebendal House, 15.25 to 15.55

Bowerham, 16.00 to 16.10

Fifield, alternate Thursdays, same days as Shipton, 14.40 to 14.50.