

Prizes went to Rebekah Burman, Gemma Dore, Alice Green, Emily Nolan, Alice Rose, Louisa Seers and Jojo Taylor. About 1,500 girls and women across the county have taken part in this challenge. It has seen 85 year olds climbing church towers and 5 year olds being introduced

to heraldry. It has been exclusive to Oxfordshire and Wychwood Guides who are proud to belong to: Charlbury District, Wychwood Division, The World, The Universe. Long may they continue!

Bridget Walton

Charity Ball Raises £7,000 for Young People

On 17th November approximately 135 people attended the 5th Annual **Shipton Charity Ball** at the New Beaconsfield Hall and what a good night it was!

Phil Kent and Michelle Wathes of 'Unique Catering' prepared and served a fine meal, which was complemented by the 'Fair Maids of the Wychwoods' legendary home-made puddings.

Many local people and businesses donated generously to the raffle and auction, including the auction of three holiday weeks at home and abroad.

Astoundingly, we raised £7000! The Ball committee have decided that this money

is to be used to fund young people of the Wychwoods requiring some financial assistance to develop new or existing activities that will help the development of those young people.

Applications are welcome from individuals and organisations supporting activities for young people. **NOTHING IS EXCLUDED.**

For details of the criteria and how to apply, please contact Peter Hills on: 01993 830289 or

email peter.hills35@tiscali.co.uk

Gordon Halliday on: 01993 831134 or

email wychmag@fsmail.net

Gordon Halliday

Preserve the Palm Sunday Wychwood Walk

Our cover celebrates Palm Sunday, which this year falls on **16th March**. This is the one day of the year when walkers are allowed into the Wychwood Forest.

Although Leafield has always been outside the boundaries of Wychwood Forest, it has an interesting tradition.

On Palm Sunday, folk went into the forest to a spring called Wort's Well, or "Uzzle", pictured on our cover. They took with them bottles containing a spoonful of brown sugar, a piece of liquorice and a black peppermint. At the spring they filled the bottles with water, the resulting concoction was used as a general "cure-all." Wild liquorice plants grow next to Wort's Well; which before the introduction of black liquorice, was probably used as the basis for the concoction.

John Kibble, a local historian, writing in 1928, records that prayers were said at the spring:

"Hast then a wound to heal; The wych doth grieve thee?

Come then unto this welle, It will relieve thee:

Nolie me tangeries, And other maladies"

So, everyone, go out and walk, hopefully access will not be restricted by barbed wire.