

Community Spirit - Christmas Style

We are so lucky to live in a community where people enjoy getting together and socialising, never more so than during Christmas. It all started for us in St Mary's Church, Shipton for the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols;



the singing of carols by the church choir was truly uplifting; congratulations to Bernard West, organist and choir master and the entire choir.

We joined in with more carols from the choir at the house of Mary and Malcolm Cochrane. A collection was taken for the Lawrence Home Nursing at the end of another polished performance.

Plays, Parties and Christingle

Wychwood School and Windrush Valley School performed end-of-term plays to the delight of parents and grandparents. Burford School held their audiences enthralled at their annual 'Miscellany'. Like so many of these evenings I remember, when my children attended Burford School, it is good to know that the tradition continues.

The Guides, Brownies and Rainbows hosted a special evening for the whole of their Charlbury District and the New Beaconsfield Hall resounded to their singing.

The Wychwood Day Centre were treated to an excellent Christmas lunch, after a Carol Service, led by Rev'd Anne and Rev'd Wendy. This is the culmination of social gatherings for the older generation of the Wychwoods.

The residents of Bowerham enjoyed a Christmas lunch and special Bingo evening, with seasonal music played on the accordion by Gordon Halliday. You have to be part of their 'Twelve Days of Christmas' to know real mirth!

The children met

together at St Simon and St Jude's, Milton to make the traditional Christingles, ready for their special Church service. Even the tinies at the local nurseries and playgroups managed to sing Christmas carols and perform their Nativity plays.

The local WIs held Christmas dinners; the parents of Wychwood Playgroup spent an evening out together.

Carols Round the Tree

On Christmas Eve folk gathered round the Christmas trees in Milton and Shipton to sing their favourite carols. In Milton John and Edna Naish served their now legendary mulled wine and mince pies and a collection raised over £200 for the Wychwood Day Centre. Shipton carollers raised over £450 to help preserve the Church fabric. Churches were packed for Midnight Mass services and again on Christmas morning.

We must not forget those of our community who were ill over the festive season and our thoughts are with them and their families.

So much joy and good spirits, may it stay with us throughout 2008, and may we all have a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Christine Halliday