

## We'll Miss You Alice!

Alice Burns stood in as temporary Administrator of the New Beaconsfield Hall back in 1999, when Rosie Benson resigned. Now, almost ten years later, retirement beckons and we must all learn to do without being able to 'ask Alice' whenever there is a problem.

### Always a Smile

Her friendly welcome has contributed hugely to the success of

the Hall; she manages to greet everyone with a smile and, more often than not, by name. Over the years Alice has seldom been missing from her tiny office at the entrance to the Hall, from where she has overseen the general maintenance, the day-to-day lettings, introduced new members to the fitness room and arranged a multitude of classes, activities and entertainments.

Expert in the 'behind the scenes paperwork' associated with the smooth running of the Hall, Alice has never been afraid to roll up her sleeves, get her hands dirty and tackle any job that needs doing, be it restarting the boiler, putting out the bins, sweeping the glass scattered across the car park by the local youth or removing graffiti. How many tables and chairs has she set up in readiness for art



classes, bridge, and mother and toddler groups? The list is endless. The unremitting queue of people at her office door is proof of her helpfulness and local knowledge. She is a remarkably talented, affable, charming, amusing and truly lovely lady.

### “Order, Order!”

As well as keeping the Hall in such good

order, Alice has also overseen the work of Shipton Parish Council for the last five years, taking over when Mrs Win White retired. We never expected to find a replacement as punctilious as Mrs White, who had been the Clerk for 50 years, but Alice was just that replacement and gently moved us into the new age of computers, health and safety, risk assessments, checklists and the myriad of new rules and regulations that now govern public spaces.

Both the Parish Councillors and the committee of the New Beaconsfield Hall wish her well for a long and happy retirement and hope that she will come back and visit from time to time.

**John Hartley  
and Malcolm Cochrane**