

## A Mystery Surprise

On the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2008, I reached my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday; how lucky I am. On the 27<sup>th</sup> April a 'Mystery Surprise' was organised to celebrate that birthday.

My eldest son, Trevor, picked me up from home at 1pm. A short journey took us to Milton Village Hall, where two fifty-seater coaches were waiting. About 95 people were assembled to welcome me, including old friends and workmates, my family and garage staff.

Off we went, heading west, through Stow-on-the-Wold. I began to think "Perhaps we are going to Tewkesbury car auctions to be sold off", Ha Ha! We soon arrived at Toddington Railway Station. A steam train was slowly approaching the station and we all got aboard and took a trip to Cheltenham Race Course. Food



and drink was supplied on the train.

I was allowed on the engine footplate only to find there was no steering wheel! A twenty-mile journey took us back to Toddington, where the two coaches awaited us for the return journey

to the Quart Pot in Milton, for more food. I'm the youngest of a family of five; my sisters and one brother all attended this special occasion. Relatives came from as far afield as Yorkshire.

I must congratulate my family for keeping the day a secret and for all the organising that went on. Thanks also to my sons Trevor and Martin who footed the bill.

I received about 35 birthday cards and I know Trevor and Martin received as many 'thank you' cards for the day out.

**Jack Prew**

## Flix on the Move

Since May 2005 *Flix in the Stix* has shown 60 films in the three Wychwood villages, attracting total audiences of 3,123. Our greatest successes were *The Queen* and *Atonement*. Our other success was the production of *The Wychwoods in Flood* DVD. We sold 270 copies, and have made a donation of £500 to The Fire Service's Charity.

To hire a film costs around £130 and with Hall hire costs we needed to generate about £200 income per film to break-even. Of the other 58 films, we only managed to cover our costs on 15. After much discussion with the

volunteers who help at the three venues we have sadly decided that we cannot afford to continue to run *Flix* in the current format.

The equipment we have will still be available and we are happy to provide this, at a cost, for fundraising evenings. For regular film shows we will become part of *Movies on the Move* which is run by Chipping Norton Theatre, showing films bi-monthly. We would like to thank all those who supported us over the last three years and look forward to seeing everyone at *Movies on the Move*.

**Gordon Halliday**

