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## Feedback

### **The St. John Ambulance Service, Wychwood Division**

The Wychwood St. John Ambulance Service was born in 1941. A look into *The Wychwood* on-line archive, August/September 1985, will explain its beginnings. As a child of 12, my father encouraged me to join the St. John's; we learned how to bandage and resuscitate people in the event of an accident and the rudiments of first aid. Meetings were held in the St. John Hut, close to St. Michael's Children's Home, later an antiques shop (now the site of Willis Court, Shipton).

### **Mr B, Mr B, Mr B, Mr B and Mr B**

Dr. Gordon Scott Snr. was Officer in Charge and I remember Mr Beckett, Mr Busby, Mr Beaney, Mr Bridges, Mr Smith. Along with my father Bob Brookes (who received a long service medal), they all served the local neighbourhood free of charge, attending Flower Shows, football events, sports days and taking it in turns to do a tour of duty with the ambulance as it ferried ill and injured people to hospital. As an 11 year old I was tenderly taken by that ambulance to the Children's Ward of the Radcliffe Infirmary on Christmas Eve, with a very severe throat abscess.

The interesting outings were going to Southsea and other places, with my father and others, as Civil Defence voluntary workers learned how to deal with casualties in the event of nuclear war; all operations taking place in bomb damaged buildings from WWI.

### **A Princess and Shipton Choir**

I and my school friends were members of the Shipton Church choir. We met on Thursday evenings for choir practise, attending the 11 o'clock service on Sundays. Occasionally the Rev'd Winsor-Cundell would call at our house and say to Mother; *"The Princess will be staying at Bruern Abbey this weekend; can Phyllis be sure to attend the choir on Sunday morning?"* We would be honoured when Princess Margaret attended Matins.

One of the Christmas highlights was singing at 'The Shaven Crown'; we would be arranged up the double staircase in what used to be the Residents' Lounge for an hour's Carol singing. This was followed by a buffet supper in the top lounge, which I believe is now the main bar.

*Phyllis Clarke (née Brookes) who now lives in Witney.*

## And Fan Mail for Boris!

Having sat in my car for 40 minutes whilst my son had his music lesson, I read my new copy of *The Wychwood*.

Jan, your article about Boris made me crease up with laughter,



anyone looking would have thought I was nuts!! I love the ending - contact Max Clifford or Jan Harvey.  
**BRILLIANT!**

*Received by email*