

## Do You Believe in Vampires?

*Vampire: dead person believed to come from the grave at night and suck the blood of sleeping people.*

Well maybe not, but do you believe in miracles?

*Miracle: an extraordinary and welcome event that manifests itself or is attributed to divine intervention in human affairs.*

I'm sure we all have some small belief in miracles; how often do we hear people saying, "It must be a miracle"? And have you ever thought how easy it is to perform a miracle with a pint of blood and no vampire in sight?

### Local Blood is Best

When I came to live here, 25 years ago, the National Blood Service did not bring its team to the Wychwoods; donors had to go to Burford or Chipping Norton. Dr Sandy Scott and Grace Rawlins fought hard to establish donor sessions in Milton Village Hall; how easy that made it for us to give those valuable pints. But at the last session, in November, it was being said that numbers were dropping and the sessions were in danger of being cancelled. Whilst it would still be easy to donate, not everyone is able to get to a nearby town to make a regular commitment.

To donate a pint of blood is the easiest thing to do if you are in reasonably good health, aged between 17 and 65 and weigh more than 7st 12lbs/50kg. The travelling service visits Milton three times a year, holding two sessions, one in the afternoon, which is ideal for Mums on the school run or those of us not gainfully employed. There is also an



early-evening session, more convenient for workers on their way home. You can even book an appointment in advance, which cuts down on the waiting time. The whole process takes about half an hour.

### Make Your Own Miracle

Even if you do have to queue it is not onerous as there is always someone to chat to and of course there is tea and biscuits to set you on your feet again before you leave.

The next session will be held in **Milton on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010**. For more information you can call: **0300 123 23 23** or look at the website: [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk)

So two miracles are possible just by giving a pint of blood; firstly you keep this valuable service visiting the village and secondly you help a seriously sick person to recover.

**Christine Halliday**