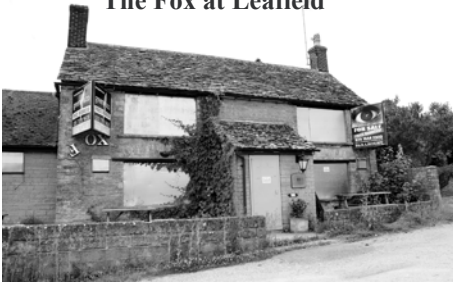


Protecting Our Community Save Our Pubs!

*Much has been said in the press about the closure of local pubs; have you noticed how many we have lost here in the Wychwoods over recent years?
In Shipton we are lucky enough to have three thriving hostelrys, each with a completely different character, serving us but what of the surrounding villages?*

In **Ascott** the Swan has recently closed its doors. This is a surprise as it went through a very extensive upgrade, which was promptly carried out a second time after the floods of 2007. The pub had a very welcoming atmosphere, served excellent food and always seemed to be busy. Who now remembers the Wychwood Arms, across the road by the Green? This was converted into houses back in the 1980s.

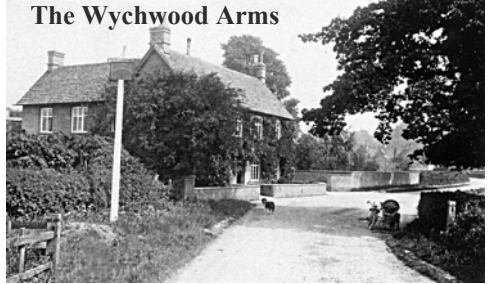
The Fox at Leafield



Milton too has recently lost its pub the 'Quart Pot', which has closed its doors and the landlord has transferred business to the sports pavilion on the Green. Milton once had the 'Butcher's Arms' in the High Street, long-since converted to a house, and possibly a smaller public house in the same area.

Fifield still has its 'Merrymouth Inn', up on the Stow Road, which must be quite a trek on a winter's night but the welcome is warm when you get there. For a short time this inn was known as 'Hunter's Lodge' but the present owners have returned it to its original name.

The Wychwood Arms



When we came to live here in 1985 **Leafield** had three pubs; 'The George', 'The Spindlebury Arms' and 'The Fox'. The George, by the Green, was converted into houses and no doubt the recently closed Fox will go the same way. The 'Spindlebury', once known as the 'Potters' Arms' was closed for a time, re-opened as a smart eating place - 'The Navy Oak', but this persona was short-lived and it has stood empty and boarded up for some time now.

The Butcher's Arms in Milton



The public house can be such a great focal point for village residents and it would be a tragedy if the rest of our pubs went the way of so many. So the message is: if you value it, use it or lose it!

Christine Halliday