

## Congratulations Malcolm on your MBE!

He has presented plenty of honours over the years as Deputy or Vice Lord Lieutenant for Oxfordshire but, until now, has never received the public recognition he deserves. With the award of an MBE in the New Year's Honours list to Malcolm Cochrane, this has at last been rectified.

The breadth of Malcolm's service to all parts of the local community has been particularly impressive -at local level as a Shipton Parish Councillor for over 30 years (Chairman for nearly half the time), Chairman of the Youth Club for more than thirty years and President of Clubs for the elderly for over twenty years. At County level he has been at various times High Sheriff and Deputy and Vice Lord Lieutenant. It has been the humble and straightforward way he has got jobs done



which has singled him out. He might be seen just as easily with his hand down a drain at the Village Hall as opening a Care Home in his Vice Lord Lieutenant's uniform. His knowledge of the community is understandably extensive and is always made

generously available to his fellow villagers. He has an ability to relate and interact with all members of the community from interviewing children on their needs for a play area to visiting elderly and infirm members of the Parish. The concept of the "Big Society", so recently described by the Prime Minister, has been alive and well in the PM's own constituency for at least the past forty years as exemplified by Malcolm Cochrane.

**Alan Vickers**

## A Magnificent Plaque for The Playground

When it was confirmed that the Prime Minister would open the Shipton playground we had to select an appropriate plaque and make sure the wording was correct. A tour of the other plaques from recent openings was depressing as they had so little creativity. An approach was made by Max Askew, Neil Jagger and me to Fergus Wessel, a stonecarver of considerable repute who lives in the Wychwoods. He was so helpful. He allowed us to leapfrog his long queue of



work and immediately produced a huge piece of slate. After various discussions our last comment was, "you have our permission to make it quirky". That is just what he did. It was better than anything we could have imagined. The plaque is magnificent. When it was erected Fergus commented that he hoped the Prime Minister would not object because the slate was leaning to the left! If you haven't seen it, it is well

worth a visit.

**Malcolm Cochrane**