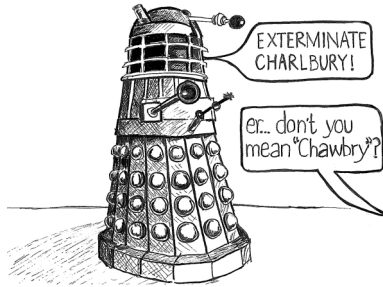


Special Feature

I've bin up to Oxford

How dare the Editorial staff of the Wychwood suggest I'm a country yokel? I would have them know I "went up to Oxford" I was only in hospital for ten minutes. I had to spend the rest of the day there. I didn't learn much, most of it was written in bloody Latin.



wish I could remember the amusing stories my mother told me about Leafield or Fieldtown as it was known by locals a hundred years ago. More than most other villages, Leafield people were better known by their nicknames.

Some would not be fit to be published in *The Wychwood*.

Dialect or Daleks?

Until I looked it up in the dictionary I didn't know what dialect meant. I thought it was something Dr Who was always fighting. I blame Geoff Broxhome for all this interest. I have felt the wrath of his tongue when I have said Charlbury rather than Chawbry.

However Geoff is quite a ladies' man - he keeps them entertained at the Day Centre. He is also a true gentleman, he always lets Peggy Flatman win at dominoes. This cannot be said of Bim Champness who remains forever the shrewd tactician.

If anyone is really interested in local dialect, I recommend the book *Charming Charlbury* by John Keble, first published in the 1930s. In it he writes that he noticed the difference in dialect between Milton and Finstock where he grew up. I

Ere's wot I've writ:

*Were bist goin with that load of muck
I shout to the man down the strit
Ah to put on me ruebub
He shouts to I.*

*I shovels it on every wick
That's funny I thought
As we went on his way
I yent bin that way incline
When us as ruebub
With our sundee grub
I alus puts custard on mine*

Fred Russell

P.S. I have also been to Stratford to see Shakespeare but I was told I was too late. He died over four hundred years ago. I should have loved to see Sir Larry play Hamlet. They tell me he lost two nil. If I can annoy somebody as I go along then my living is not in vain.

Woodstock Partnership of Schools

Our Community Education programme for 2013-2014 will be available during the August holiday. It will be available to download on the Marlborough School website www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk/community. If you would like a free copy of our brochure or to book a place please telephone: **01993 813592** or email **comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk**

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