

## Thirty Years a Sub Postmaster John Naish

John Naish trained and worked as an accountant but always fancied running his own shop. Having voiced this dream so many times to Edna she finally said; "Either do it or shut up about it!" That started a 15 month search through Berkshire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire to find the right shop and Post Office.



pub in the High Street - how things have changed.

### Many Tales

Over the years there have been many funny incidents and much laughter as well as hard work. They have many tales to tell of customers and their endearing ways. In those 30 years John and Edna have become a much-loved and

### "We'll Only Stay Two Years!"

The Post Office Stores in Milton was the first property they saw with possibilities and on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1983 they moved in with their young family of Alison, Joanna and Robert. Chris made the family complete in 1988. John's mother also moved at the same time and eventually bought the bungalow opposite the shop.

The shop was in good working order, although the house needed attention to turn it into the comfortable family home it is now. In the first 12 months of business John and Edna doubled the turnover. Along with the shop came the staff of Janet in the Post Office and Kay and Barbara in the shop. John and Edna both worked in the shop, which was the typical village shop, selling cheeses, cooked meats, including Edna's home-cooked hams, vegetables, bread, groceries, haberdashery and knitting- anything and everything really. At that time there were nine shops, two accountants, a bank and a

respected part of our community. But it has not all been fun. In 2003 the family were woken by an attempted ram-raid. The perpetrators ran off without gaining access - they could have smashed one of the big windows and entered easily. Earlier this year the post office, now in the smaller premises round the corner, was the subject of an attempted burglary. Again the burglars failed to steal anything but caused thousands of pounds worth of damage in the attempt.

On 8<sup>th</sup> August John was presented with an award from the Post Office for 30 years service - and they only intended to stay in the Wychwoods for two years! John and Edna are planning to retire as soon as a replacement can be found to run the Post Office. They are not planning to leave the village though.

We wish them a long and happy retirement and thank them for all they have done in the community over the last 30 years.

**Christine Halliday**