

## Wychwood youth club We owe it all to Malcolm

Wychwood youth club recently welcomed helpers past and present to thank Malcolm Cochrane, retiring chairman, for 32 years of inspired hard work and enthusiasm. He has an ability to relate and interact with children, whether it be to find out their wishes for the Youth Club or to interview them for their views on the equipment for the new playground. The word 'tenacious' describes him well.



### Ensuring Our Survival

Over the years Malcolm has ensured the survival of the club and has campaigned tirelessly for the funding needed to make it possible. His efforts have not been exclusively for the youngsters of the Wychwoods though, as he has been a great supporter of clubs and amenities for our older residents too. The ever-popular coffee mornings held in the New Beaconsfield Hall on Monday mornings were another of his innovations. The most visible tribute to his work must be the children's play area in Shipton. Parents bring their children from all over the area to enjoy this wonderful facility.

Youth Club leader, Beth Smith presented Malcolm with a book of photographs and members' memories, and two of the youngsters presented him with a climbing shrub to remind him that as it grows so

too will the youth club continue to succeed.

### ...And Growth

We believe that the youth club under the leadership of Beth Smith and Nigel Beales will continue to grow. Membership is at its highest level ever. We have exciting plans for

broadening our range of activities but we will continue with the old favourites too. We are trying to increase the number of adult volunteers, which will mean that out of 35 sessions per year they will only be called upon a few times. We are also keen to increase membership, so if you know of anyone aged 9 - 12 who would like to join us at 7pm on any Monday evening during term time, please bring them along for a free taster session.

Without the support of our local communities we would not be able to keep the fees low; we could not buy replacement or new equipment or have such a varied programme of club nights.

Mike Watson then presented the committee with a cheque for £500 from the proceeds of Shipton fete. This money will be used to purchase computer equipment for the club. We would like to thank the fete committee, United Charities of Milton and Shipton, the PCCs and Parish Councils for their support.

**Jennifer Leyland**