

## By Villagers for Villagers Making *The Wychwood*

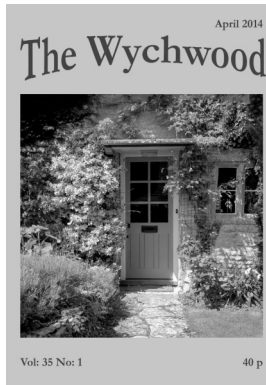
Splat! *The Wychwood* arrives on the doormat. An eager rush to pick it up, smooth the pages, admire the colour cover and flick through the articles. Publishing heaven to see the result of several weeks' editorial effort translated into printed copy. 64 pages of news and views; truly the voice of the Wychwoods.

Yet strangely enough, the greatest satisfaction as part of the editorial team, is not the finished result, but the process of getting there. Three weeks before, there were 33 blank editorial pages, they became a plan, then a ring binder, then 54 separate pieces in Word and finally a computer file whizzed down the line to Hubert, our London printer. Now we have shaped a magazine which hopefully has something for everyone in our community, a good feeling.

### How the Magazine Works

A few facts. The magazine has been going for 35 years; it aims to represent our local news, views and fiction. We now have articles from every year on archive, a living history. *The Wychwood* is entirely produced by unpaid volunteers. It comes out bi-monthly when thanks to our wonderful distributors, 1,300 copies are delivered to subscribers and shops. Each copy costs £1 but the sale price is 40p a copy - accessible to all. Without our 103 local advertisers we could not make up the difference.

So why is the process of creating this magazine so satisfying for us on the editorial team? Well, we get to know what is going on before anyone else! It is good



to feel that the advertising supports business and provides us all with a local directory. Even more fun is the creative process in all its guises.

### Pleasures of Publishing

For the socially minded, there is the pleasure of sourcing articles and announcements, out and about in the Wychwoods,

meeting people, finding out what is happening and then persuading our talented readers to put pen to paper. Then, if you love words, there is the enjoyable process of shaping a magazine from nothing; writing, editing and proofing; trying to get a good balance across all the villages and across both news and fiction. This means a myriad of small decisions; a comma or a dash, are there too many exclamation marks or capitals? Should that word be hyphenated or that reference checked on Google? What about sub-headings, can we squeeze in a last minute article? We always have too much material by the end, a nice problem, but our Photographic Editor hates to see photo sizes reduced.

Finally, there are the technical challenges of production from putting together the advertisements to managing the website, from creating the colour pages to sending the final pdf file down the wire.

So why not get involved? Contact Christine Halliday on: 01993 831134. We are a great team, come and join us and you can be sure it will be the best issue EVER!

**Liz Clarke-Watson**