

## What did you do in *The Wychwood Granddad*?

*“Grandad, what’s this old magazine I found at the back of the toy cupboard?”*

“That’s a copy of the Wychwood Magazine my boy. It was produced for nearly forty years and recorded all the important happenings in the Wychwood villages such as fetes, plays and obituaries. It also published interesting stories and memories by local people”

*“Did people like it Grandad?”*

“They certainly said they did and they bought more than 1,300 copies of each issue.”

*“Why has it gone then?”*

“It stopped because people thought that the people producing it would go on producing it for ever. Strangely just when the technology became easier, fewer people wanted to be involved in the production.”

*“Shouldn’t that be less people Grandad?”*

No my boy, if you had read the Wychwood, you might have known that. We tried to maintain the standards of written English.”

*“Were you involved in producing it Grandad?”*

“I was the Photographic Editor. My job was to get the best out of the photographs we used to illustrate the articles. This could mean cropping photographs, making them lighter, removing unnecessary objects or marks and making



them sharper. Sometimes I had to take a photograph especially or get one from my own collection. There were even times when I had to add people to a photograph even though they were not there when it was taken but this was

not difficult with the software we used. However there were other challenges. For example, if people sent in a photograph taken on their smart phone at dusk of a black cat in the next field as they were wont to do! But it was all fun.”

*“If it was fun Grandad why did nobody want to do it?”*

“I am not sure my boy. Perhaps they were scared of the technology, although we would have been happy to show them how to do things. People felt they did not have time to spare because they were working hard to pay their mortgages. But it did not take much time for each issue. I could do things to a photograph in five minutes on the computer which would have taken hours in the old days, that is if you could have done it at all with film and a dark room.”

*“What is film and a darkroom Grandad?”*

“Why don’t you take yourself off my boy and do something cultural and improving?”

*“Cultural and improving?”*

“Push off my boy and go and kill a few dozen angry pigs on that I-Wash contraption of yours.”

*“Cool Grandad.”*

**Alan Vickers**