

Evolution of the Ewelme News

Ewelme News, Apr-May 2015

In 2015 it was 39 years since the late George Cannon initiated the Ewelme News, and his first editorial, written from the School House in January 1976, explained the reason why he felt it was necessary to set it up. He had met a lady '*...who had been living in Ewelme for 6 years, and did not know a soul*'. He continued – '*The purpose of the magazine was to try to bridge the gap and to let you know what is happening, what has happened and what is about to happen.*' The first print run was of 200 copies, typed onto a wax stencil and each reproduced manually. The cost was 3d per copy, delivered by the school children to all the accessible homes. The 1970's editions were in booklet form, with a simple line drawing of a village scene on the cover. In January 1980 the format changed to basic foolscap sheets, stapled together, and this continued until the Spring of 1990 when the booklet returned.

Thanks to many generous donations over the years the Archive now holds every copy of the Ewelme News. The remaining gaps were filled by Ken Cherry, who lived and worked in Ewelme before moving to Benson. Ken kept all his copies, from the launch in 1976 to 1996. We are indebted to Marion Cherry for giving his collection to us, plus a bundle of interesting photographs.

Looking back into village life of nearly four decades ago, some of the details in the first publication are quite surprising.

George, as headmaster, updated readers on the school. The Christmas holiday had been extended, '*... in order to economise on fuel costs in the County's schools.*' The new term attendance was 60 children with 3 teachers, plus an Infant Helper. New pupils included Caroline and David Fell of Chaucer Court. Yoga classes were held in the school on Friday evenings. In a separate report George covered the previous year's remembrance service and Quincentenary commemorations for the life of Duchess Alice de la Pole who died in 1475.

Other contributors were the Ewelme Football Club which had over 20 members, including Ken Cherry as Manager. Its report disclosed it belonged to the Oxfordshire Senior League, Division One – and that from the smallest village in that League! It also boasted its own playing field and changing rooms; and its Linesman, J Attwooll, had won an award for the best Linesman in the Oxfordshire Senior League in 1975.

Herbie Winfield reported for the Ewelme Sports Council, which had raised money to develop the children's play area on the Common. However, the Committee was concerned at the vandalism still taking place. Ponies were being exercised on the cricket square, motor bikes were using the football pitch as a grass track, and the pavilion roof was used as an extension of the play area! There was some good news - the winding up of the Boys' Football Club had provided enough money to erect a set of Five-a-Side goal posts.

News from the Shepherds Hut featured landlady Amy Reeves, whose fine singing voice had won a talent competition in Jersey. Amy's mother, Mrs Strevens, sought tin foil for the Guide Dogs, and, most significantly, the Ladies Darts Team had fared better than the men in recent matches!

On behalf of the Ewelme Playgroup Association, Joy Best summarised the twofold social benefits for the under-fives and their mothers, by attending the playgroup. Provision for older children was in Dr Anne Millar's entry. She reported on BAPS – Benson Area Playscheme – set up to keep local

children aged between 5 and 15, actively occupied in the 1976 summer holidays. Around £600 was required, with various fund raising events planned.

Ewelme Village Archive