



## Report

1982



Organised by:  
OXFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
The Hadow Rooms, 101 Banbury Road, Oxford

Competition sponsored by:  
Midland Bank Ltd.



## INTRODUCTION

There were 25 entries to this, the third, Village Ventures Competition. Though there has been a decrease in the number of entries since last year, the projects were of a high standard, again demonstrating the ingenuity and commitment of village people in. helping themselves.

The Competition aims to encourage village projects in two ways:

By giving an extra spur to those already running., the knowledge that someone from outside the village will be having a. critical look at the project (in the friendliest possible way !) can help to keep things going and keep standards up.

Secondly, the Competition aims to draw attention to just what can be done in villages, to encourage others to do the same.

The publicity obtained for Village Ventures is invaluable in spreading, ideas, and we are indebted to our local newspapers and radio for their help in this.

The Report too, is written in the hope that others will pick up ideas and take them back to their own villages.

Last year I pointed out a dearth of ventures from the Vale of White Horse District, the villages met the challenge,- nearly half the entries came from the Vale District this year.

We have had no projects aiming to tackle the problem of employment. The Oxfordshire Rural Community Council are concerned about the difficulties of being unemployed and living in a village. We hope that next year some village will attempt to meet the challenge of helping the unemployed; we look forward to receiving their entry.

It has been suggested that villages may run out of ideas, and cease taking on new projects. We have had no indication that village projects are slowing down. We hope that the Competition will continue to run and to demonstrate the increasingly wide scope for new village projects.

Susan Isaac  
Field Officer

27th April, 1983

## LOCAL HISTORY GROUPS



### Brightwell-cum-Sotwell History Group - Third prize and Special Local History Award - OLHA

The History Group came together following a "village weekend" for which a history exhibition was prepared.. Since then the Group has remained together to stimulate community interest in local history by research, collecting and recording historical data and preserving items of importance to the village hi story . They have aroused much interest among residents who have contributed material and reminiscences. Amongst their completed projects are a map showing field names, a catalogue of village church documents, a booklet on education and another on farming. Among the projects in progress are the restoration of a thatched cob wall in the churchyard.

Contact: Mrs B.D. Blinko, South Barn, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell

### Islip Churchyard Clearance

The children and headmaster of Islip school set about clearing the churchyard in order to record the gravestones. Adults from the village helped with the more difficult clearance and volunteers came forward to help cut the grass and to repoint a wall. ' The children carried on with their work of recording and photographing stones; the information has been recorded in albums for reference by families and visitors to the village. The villagers have also gained by having a tidy and cared for churchyard.

Judges Comment: "A truly commendable project involving little expense but resulting in lasting benefits to the village as a whole".

Contact: Mr Roberts, Ray Cottage, Mill Street, Islip

### Wheatley Society - Local History Group - Special Local History Award: Oxfordshire Local History Association

The Local History Section of the Wheatley Society carried out a study of the history of the primary school which was due to move to new premises. The project involved going through school documents and consulting older inhabitants of the village about their memories of the school. Much of the information about the old school has been recorded for posterity.

Contact: . Miss M. Rosenthal, 28 Farm Close Road, Wheatley