

# Foreword

The parish Millennium Committee asked us if we would republish our local history book for the year 2000. When we agreed little did we know what we were letting ourselves in for; it has been a lot of hard work but we hope you will agree it has been worth it. We decided that the new book should contain a lot more human interest and as many new photographs as possible. Our idea was to share with you our passion for understanding how local people lived, as well as the historical facts about the times they lived in, which we think can be rather dry. This has however ended up with us completely rewriting the book.

We always intended to write a piece on Crowell as well as something from the school log books, which weren't available when we wrote the last book, so we have added this information as additional chapters.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who over the years has lent us their precious photographs and memorabilia to copy, as without them this book would not have been possible. We would also like to thank our long-suffering relatives and friends who have helped us with the graphics, photography and proof reading during the compilation of the book.

We decided to put a list of our sources at the end of the book rather than burden the book with footnotes. Anyone who might be inspired to dig a bit deeper can find most of the material in the Westgate Local Studies Library in the centre of Oxford or in the Oxfordshire Archives, which are currently located in County Hall but soon to be in their new home at St John's Church, Cowley. It is impossible to use all of the wealth of information that is available partly because of time and also because a lot has not yet been catalogued. We are told it is a fifty year project, so it should be ready for our descendents to write an update! Sometimes our interpretation of the history may not exactly fit with the memories of people who lived here but we have tried as far as possible to verify everything we have been told. We have used quite a few references to money over the centuries so we have also included with the sources a rough guide to monetary values over the years.

Obviously some of the photographs and other documents we had to work with were very old and often of poor quality and so were difficult to reproduce. However we took the decision to include them because they often represent a wonderful view of village life and it seemed sad not to share them with you.

What a relief! We have finally made it, the completion of the book in time for the Millennium celebrations at the end of June. We hope that everyone will enjoy reading this book as much as we have enjoyed writing it.

Di Eaton and Jan Gooders, March 2000

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