



1989 - 90 ANNUAL REPORT





Colin Mundy, helped by Young Businesses adviser John Lakeman, has set up a Salisbury business selling goods for young people.

Photo Jon Stone, Salisbury

A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS

Setting up a business takes patience. Two and a half years ago Colin Mundy wanted to set up a shoe shop - but, aged 20 and without money to back his idea, it seemed an impossible dream. The Local Enterprise Agency rightly told him it was!

Showing determination, the hall mark of his trading career, Colin made use of his referral to John Lakeman to make his plans more realistic. Together they broadened his business idea to include young people's fashion not normally available in his home town. Having prepared a detailed business plan with John's help and using his banking, accountancy and design contacts, Colin obtained loans from the Prince's Youth Business Trust and awards from Livewire and began trading in a corner of a covered market. Within six months his natural sales ability was producing four times the predicted turnover. He moved to a first floor site in another shop. Turnover continued to rise.

Detailed business plans were now vital as he approached Lloyds Bank for finance to buy a lease. With their backing and acceptance by the Government's Guaranteed Loan Scheme, but not without daunting difficulties, in May he opened his own shop, employs a full time assistant and sells a wide range of goods - including shoes. With help, and through many ups and downs, he got there in the end.

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A good illustration of the work of the Student/Young Business Project in the 1980/90s as part of the employment promotion work of the then Community Council for Wiltshire at that time.

TEFFONT VILLAGE HALL

In 1985 it was decided that "something must be done" about our Village Hall which was in sad need of renovation. Mr. Harry Powner, the Deputy Director of the Community Council for Wiltshire, came to our aid by helping us with advice on how to obtain grants towards the cost. We decided to spread the work over several years, so that we could raise sufficient funds by our own efforts which, together with grants from Wiltshire County Council and Salisbury District Council, would meet the full cost. In fact, it took four years to complete repairs to the roof, renew the Hall floor, install new toilets, and completely rewire and redecorate inside and out.

The Chairman of the County Village Hall Grants Panel, Mrs. Smyter, and Mr. Powner were among our guests at a party on 1st June to celebrate completion. Our gratitude to them and the Community Council for their assistance, without which we should not have succeeded.

COL. ROBIN BRIDGES *Chairman*

The County Council's Area Building Surveyor commented, "The Village Hall is now a model of what can be achieved after hard work and the dedication of its Committee Members. A complete transformation into a very desirable hall"

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Since its establishment, Community First has played a key role in supporting the development and improvement of village halls as central meeting places in villages.

In spite of the severe limitations on the funding available for rural social housing, Wiltshire Rural Housing Association completed schemes at Kington Langley, Hindon, Edington and Castle Combe with building underway at Milton Lilbourne. The Association was delighted that HRH the Princess Royal, President of the Rural Housing Trust, agreed to open the scheme at Rushall. When previously completed schemes are included a total of some seventy nine homes are now being made available for local people in housing need to rent from the Association. Tenant surveys are undertaken annually and indicate a high level of satisfaction. Two editions of a tenant's newsletter are produced each year.

The Community Council continued to provide assistance to parishes wishing to undertake surveys of housing need but, as agreed in the Rural Strategy, the lead in this has largely been left to district councils.

The Association continued to work closely with district councils, and with other housing associations through the District Housing Groups set up as a part of the Rural Strategy.

Both the Association and the Community Council have supported local and national efforts to persuade the Government of the urgent need to increase the funding for rural social housing for rent to accommodate those in greatest need. The Community Council welcomed an invitation to speak on rural housing at an ACRE seminar hosted by HRH The Prince of Wales.

The progressive decline in the level of support provided through the Housing Corporation for individual schemes with consequent

WILTSHIRE RURAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION HOUSING PROGRAMME

1988	Four 2 bedroom bungalows at Tilshead
1990	Six 2 bedroom bungalows at Codford
	Six 2 bedroom bungalows at Winterslow
1991	Four family houses at Minety
	Six family houses at Mildenhall
	Nine houses at Luckington, varying sizes
	Eight family houses at Rushall
1992	Two family houses at Leigh
	Three family houses at Hindon
	Six family houses at Kington Langley
1993	Six family houses at Edington
	Eight family houses at Castle Combe
	Eight family houses at Milton Lilbourne
	Two family houses at Seend
	One family house at Great Cheverell
	One family house at Great Bedwyn

increases in rent levels continued to cause serious concern. Representations on this have been made to MPs and Ministers.

In all this work the continuing support of district councils, the Na-

tional Federation of Housing Associations, Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) and the Rural Housing Trust has been invaluable.



Doreene Banner, Vice Chair, opening the Wiltshire Rural Housing Association scheme at Edington, watched by one of the tenants.

DEVIZES AND DISTRICT LINK

"The idea for a good neighbour scheme for Devizes was conceived three years ago, the need being identified at meetings attended by interested members of established organisations and the general public. After the meeting several people stayed behind for informal discussions.

So Devizes and District Link was born. A committee was formed but none of us had started an organisation. The Community Council for Wiltshire in the form of Jacky Nicholas was available in our infancy to give us information, advice and a gentle push when needed and the Wiltshire Rural Initiatives Fund gave us a grant to buy an answerphone.

The Devizes and District Link Scheme, one of the largest in the country, was launched in April 1993 and has already established itself in the community as an essential service for those who need a "good neighbour" in an emergency.

Our thanks to Jacky and the Wiltshire Rural Initiatives Fund for their support"

DEREK LOTT,
Chair

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Community Care Link schemes have been supported and promoted by Community First since their inception.

VILLAGE VENTURES COMPETITION 1992 - PRIZE WINNERS

First Prize:	£500	Broad Town Village Appraisal Group
Second Prizes:	£250	Little Bedwyn Community Pub
	£250	Winterslow New Village Hall
Third Prizes:	£125	Box Community Play
	£125	Leigh Village Centre
	£125	Three Villages Minibus (Edington, Erlestoke and Coulston)
Fourth Prizes:	£50	Ashton Keynes Philharmonia
	£50	Shaw & Whitley Playsafe
	£50	Sherston Playscheme
	£50	Corsham Environmental Group
	£50	Pewsey Toddlers Group
	£50	Aldbourn Magazine
	£50	Bremhill Village Hall
	£50	Landford Village Hall

In addition 15 entries were Highly Commended

The Village Ventures Competition played a key role in encouraging village projects and in acknowledging the work undertaken by local communities.

PROMOTING EMPLOYMENT AND ENTERPRISE

The Community Council's employment and enterprise initiatives give priority to:

- assisting those who are disadvantaged in the labour market;
- supporting community-based initiatives;
- promoting innovative and flexible projects to demonstrate new ways of developing services.

YOUTH ENTERPRISE SERVICE

JOHN LAKEMAN

The Youth Enterprise Service provides in-depth advice, support and practical assistance for young people wishing to set up their own businesses.

During the year, the Service:

- provided counselling and support for some 79 young people;
- assisted in the establishment of 22 new businesses;
- provided support for 28 existing businesses;
- organised the Wiltshire Livewire Award Scheme which received 32 applications.

TELECOTTAGES

JOHN LAKEMAN

The Wiltshire Telecottage Network continued to be developed to provide modern office and communication facilities together with associated training facilities for use by small local businesses and community groups.

During the year:

- the telecottages at Mere, Codford and Crudwell tried to achieve financial self sufficiency;
- a new private telecottage was established at Goatacre and has joined the network;
- a Marketing Development Officer was appointed for one year to obtain new work and contracts for the telecottages;
- four training courses for home-based teleworkers were organised in addition to computer skills training;
- introductory seminars for those wishing to set up telecottages in various parts of the country were started.

Twenty one year old Maya lives alone in a small Wiltshire market town. She had no further education but since leaving school she spent five months on an employment training programme with a T-shirt printing business. She is a lively creative person who wanted to use her newly-learned skills to begin her own business.

With the advice and support of Debby Taylor, one of the Youth Enterprise Promoters, Maya is completing her business plan. She is producing a portfolio of her work which she can use to gauge market reaction, find suitable outlets and finalise a product range.

Because of the pioneering nature of the development of the Telecottage Network, many enquiries are received from individuals, businesses and charitable organisations wishing to set up a Telecottage. There is often a misconception as to the role of a telecottage and the wide range of services which can be offered. Most importantly the enquirer's vision is limited by the geographical siting of the Telecottage rather than the world wide opportunity which telecommunications allow.

Regular seminars are now being held at Codford to introduce telecottages to individuals and organisations alike. They give the Project Manager and the Marketing Development Officer the opportunity to stress the importance of networking in establishing the telecottage on a firm commercial basis.



Codford Telecottage Manager, left, providing information technology, not only for local people but through training and contract work, for the county and the country.

1993-94 - Excellent examples of employment initiatives in Wiltshire