

DEDICATION

In October 1999, Elizabeth Pearce called a meeting of the Wichenford WI and Ladies Fellowship members. Her objective was to discuss the possibility of preparing a village record to commemorate the ending of the old and the start of a new millennium. Elizabeth no longer lives in the village so she will not appear in the following record but she has given her life to Wichenford and the village community, and deserves to be considered an honorary villager – without her, it is doubtful whether this record would ever have been written.

Elizabeth was born in the White House at Ockeridge but shortly after, her family moved, first to Birchend Farm and then to Wood Farm nearby where she spent her childhood. She attended Wichenford School and then continued her education at Worcester Girls' Grammar School. She trained as a teacher in London and during this time she wrote a historical perspective of agriculture in Wichenford over the centuries; much of this document is included in this book. After a few years she returned to Wichenford where she became the much loved and respected headmistress at her old school. Elizabeth married Bob Pearce and, just before her first son was born, she retired as headmistress but continued her dedicated involvement with the village. She entered into village life with much enthusiasm serving on numerous committees and acting as parish clerk, a post she occupied for 25 years.



She was involved in most of the village organisations and activities and in later years she revived the village fete, which has become such a success. Because of her encyclopaedic local knowledge, Elizabeth became a regular correspondent for the 'Villager' magazine. After the recent death of her husband, Elizabeth has moved from Wichenford and now lives at Tenbury.

It is a fitting tribute to Elizabeth that a book has been produced containing a record of Wichenford as it is today, which will be of interest to future generations.

The book itself, was produced by a project team which included:

- Janet Andrews, Monica Clarke, June Hughes, Mary Hylan, Margaret Mitchard, Mervyn Mitchard, Sheila Richards, Jo Root and Carma Wetherall.