

Welcome! to the XEROX MUSEUM

We intend through this visual display to explain the 'how', the 'why' and the 'when' that changed the Village of Mitcheldean from a small village into a large Engineering, Manufacturing and Distribution centre.

The story starts with the Wintle's Brewery (1868—1935), its demise and the impact of the War in 1939 had, in bringing new skills into the area.



The Brewery Buildings were turned into the Mitcheldean Enterprise Workshops in the 1980s
Today the Bespoke Brewery occupies part of the site.

Built in 1868 -1870 by Thomas Wintle, brewing existed on the site until 1930
In 1935 his son Francis Wintle donated the Playing Field to the Parish Council



As a result of Government policy to move key businesses out of London.
Mr Tommy Law of British Acoustic Films (BAF) visited the site in the summer of 1940.

Following the visit the decision was made to relocate British Acoustic Films (BAF) operations from Woodger Road, London to the brewery Buildings.

This started a chain of events which dramatically changed Mitcheldean village and the lives of many in the surrounding area.

The original site covered only a few acres. A conversion scheme was put in hand and in 1941 a group of 20 men arrived from Shepherds Bush to start work.

Among them was Henry Phillips, who then a lad of 16, recalls
"When we came in there was practically nothing except a few empty beer bottles.

"The machine shop was set up in the cellar of the brewery. The press was in a galvanised iron hut and the assembly shop in another pre-fab building. The brewery stables were converted into a house for the boss, Tommy Law, who wanted to be on the spot."

"We had to make do and mend. If we wanted a hacksaw blade we popped up to the hardware shop and bought it out of petty cash."

Mitcheldean Plant 1951



Mitcheldean Plant circa 1958/59 on completion of the Admin. Block Building 23 (later known as Bld.11)

Mitcheldean Plant c. 1958/59



British Acoustic Films 1958



1868

Wintles Brewery built facility in 1868 to produce beer and Stout. Started by Thomas Wintle, it was run by his son Francis from 1890 until 1923 when it became a limited Company.

As a result of various takeovers the Mitcheldean Site was largely a storage area by 1938.

1939

War
Declared in
September
1939

1940

War production contracts for searchlight equipment, gunfire direction tables, 16mm projectors for Forces education and entertainment kept the factory busy. By the end of the war the workforce had grown to 250, with a nucleus of skilled engineers and craftsmen well equipped to take the company into the next phase.



1945

1946

In 1947 Haloid (later Xerox) in the US signs the first licence to produce Xerox Equipment

Production of Bell & Howell cine equipment under licence commences



In 1948 British Acoustic Films (BAF) was acquired by The Rank Organisation

1950

1951



Examples of some of Bell & Howell 8mm cine cameras made at Mitcheldean in the period 1946 to the early 1960s

1959



Examples of some of Bell & Howell cine projectors made at Mitcheldean in the period 1946 into the early 1960s

Post World War II, the highly skilled workforce started to produce **Bell & Howell** Cine Equipment under Licence.

Production of **Bell & Howell** equipment continued in the early 1960's but by then was facing new competition from the Far East.

The **Xerox** story begins, for the Mitcheldean Site, in 1960 and that is when the explosion in building and recruitment took place

Fred Wickstead (1917 - 1994)

was described as 'the architect of Mitcheldean'. He joined The Rank Organisation in 1948 as Production Manager of British Acoustic Films, then making Bell & Howell cine equipment.

The BAF subsequently became part of Rank Precision Industries and Fred took on increasing responsibility, eventually being appointed Chief Executive of the Cine & Photographic Division in 1958.

When the changeover to the manufacture of Xerographic was made in the early 1960s and the company exploded rather than expanded, employees responded to the challenge under his leadership. In 1965, we finally said goodbye to Bell & Howell products and production of the 914 and 813 shot ahead, the Plant became a part of Rank Xerox.

In 1966 he joined the Board of Rank Xerox (Management) Ltd and in 1967 was appointed Director of Production & Supply Operations, becoming a member of the Board of Rank Xerox in 1970. In 1971 Fred was appointed Vice President, Manufacturing & Logistics for Xerox Corporation based at corporate headquarters in Stamford, Connecticut. He returned to Rank Xerox in 1973 as Group Director based in London and retired in 1975.



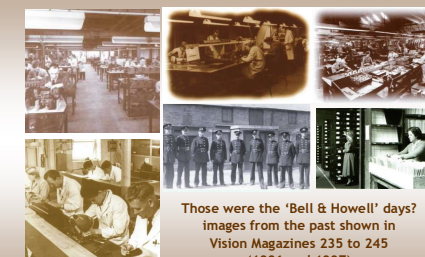
Fred Wickstead
'the 'architect' of Mitcheldean'



Bell & Howell production continued throughout the 1950s and into the early 1960s.

There was, however the significant development of the XEROX 1385, leading to the production of XEROX plain paper copiers on Mitcheldean site for the next 40 years

The first commercial plain paper 'copier' the 1385 was launched in 19
The 1385 consists of a Processor, Camera, a Heat Fuser, A Vapour Fuser and a Metal Master Unit. The 1385 uses the 7 basic stages of Xerography. Each stage of this process was a separate manual one

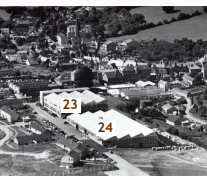


Those were the 'Bell & Howell' days? images from the past shown in Vision Magazines 235 to 245 (1996 and 1997)

The XEROX story starts for Mitcheldean Site in 1960, from here on, the landscape of the site changed rapidly with numerous new building. Eastern Avenue in the quiet village, twice a day, became a terminal for coaches dropping off and collecting the people working on the site.

Building 24 Completed

Those were the days?



Buildings 11 & 29 completed



Production of Bell & Howell Cine Equipment ceases

Buildings 32 (4), and 36 (5) were completed in 1966. Building 38 (6) in 1967



Buildings 40 (3) was completed in 1969



Work commences on the largest single project. The site will double in size to 67 acres

Building 44 (9), Buildings 41 (1) & 42 (2) were completed in 1972, followed by Building 50 (7) and 51 (8) in 1973
International Distribution Centre returns to Mitcheldean from Gloucester



1960

1961

1962

1963

1964

1965

1966

1967

1968

1969

1970

1971

1972

1973

1974



XEROX 914
The Worlds FIRST
automatic PLAIN
PAPER Copier

The 914 was initially built in small quantities and the manufacturing of component parts was mostly fabricated by Plessey, or on-site by the highly skilled staff. They were used to exacting standards, making Bell & Howell Cine Equipment.
See Vision 172 Jul/Aug 1985 pages 10 & 11 for more background information and photos.

Production started at one 914 per week but increased so that 150 were made in the first year

Fuji Xerox formed in joint venture with Fuji Photo

The 914 was designed in the U.S. using paper sizes and electrical supply.

As a consequence, a large Engineering facility at Mitcheldean was needed to redesign the 914 to make it suitable for worldwide (non-US) markets.

813 Copier
The Worlds First
Desktop
PLAIN PAPER
copier



MAURICE PAIN RECALLS
THE FIRST ...



AND THE LAST
Bell & Howell
16mm projectors



2400 Duplicator launched



660 Copier launched

Xerox 3600



3600 Duplicator launched
(developed from the 2400)



New Medical Centre
opened in Building 40
See Vision 61



LASER PRINTER INVENTED. Xerox physicist Gary Starkweather realised that a computer could "write" images with a laser. In 1971, he transferred to Xerox Palo Alto Research Center. Within a year, he had built the world's first laser printer. The laser printer was commercialized as the Xerox 9700.



4000 Copier launched



Wendy Eckley weaves a colourful 4000 loom Assembly. The rack along the top of the board holds the wires ready for use.



Xerox 4500
4500 Copier/duplicator
Copies both sides of the
paper automatically.
Prints at 45 copies per
minute

Vision House
Magazine.
First Edition
published

"Few could ha
foreseen that, from its modest
beginning in May 1960, it would
continue for so long, growing in
readership as well as format

Myrtle Fowler 2016, Editor

International
Distribution Centre
opened for the
distribution of
Xerox products and
spare parts

Venray,
The Netherlands
Plant Opens
Chester Carlson
awarded first ever
'Inventor o

Queen's Award to
Industry

International
Distribution Centre
moves to
Gloucester Trading
Estate

Honeywell 1200
computer

New Medical
Centre opens

Queen's Award to
Industry

Press Shop moves
to Cinderford

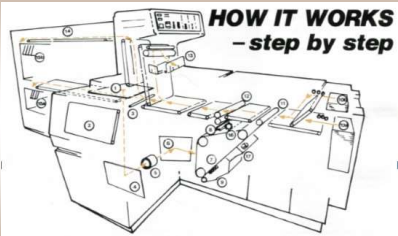
Queen's Award to
Industry

First Annual
Pensioners
lunch held

100th Edition
of The Vision
House Magazine
is printed

A new manufacturing
plant in Lille, France
opens

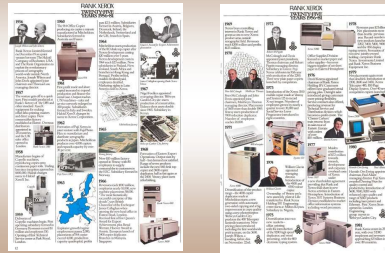




New Sports & Social Club opened by J. Maldwyn Thomas 9 September 1978



Rank Xerox enters its 25th year with over 37,000 employees and revenues approaching \$3 billion.



Plant OPEN DAY
17 November 1984, 5500 people came to visit.
See Vision 168 for photos

Visit by Duke of Kent in 1985 see Vision Magazine 171 and Dr J. M. Juran in 1985 See Vision Magazine 174

JURAN ON QUALITY



The end of Weekly pay packets see Vision 183



Youth Training Scheme



1012 Harness cost reduction team



Corner shop at Bld 40 opens



Health & Safety at work



YOUTH TRAINING SCHEME



Corner shop at Bld 40 opens



1975

1976

1977

1978

1979

1980

1981

1982

1983

1984

1985

1986

1987

1988

1989



9200 Duplicator for the central print room. Automatically feed originals, prints and sorts at 7200 copies per hour



Xerox 5600



The Xerox 2300



2300 copier



9500 Duplicator



8200 Duplicator



2350 copier



All for good causes — see Vision 151 for details & more photos of this charity event.



THE XEROX 6000 — a Mitcheldean idea, design and project



1020 & 1035 copiers launched



Lydney's 100,000th copier produced one Vision 155—May/June 1982



Xerox 1030 enhanced. Prints produced on a Xerox 1030 can now bloom in blue, red or green — thanks to a new low-cost enhancement



The last 1030 was made 20 Dec. 1984



Xerox 1028



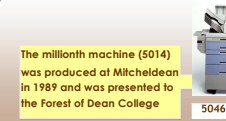
Latest copiers offer greater choice



Xerox 1028/1028RE



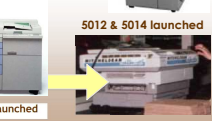
The 1020 — an enormous success



The millionth machine (5014) was produced at Mitcheldean in 1989 and was presented to the Forest of Dean College



5018 & 5028 launched



5012 & 5014 launched



Lydney Plant opens

Supply Centre computerised system (INTERPICS)

Metrication in the UK

New Sports & Social Club opens

New Payroll system Implemented

Supply Centre INTERPICS goes online



Quality Circles started

Customs Period Entry for Imports implemented

9400 redesigned at Mitcheldean for Japanese market

PARCS Engineering records goes live

Cinderford Manufacturing returns to Mitcheldean

Work Experience Scheme implemented as part of the Government 'Youth Opportunities' programme

SOLAR system goes daily



The MEWS gets a royal review

Mitcheldean Enterprise Workshops (MEWS) has reopened in the original Wintles Brewery Buildings



Top Team Awards at the Mitcheldean Quality Convention. Nine top teams see Vision 180



1025/1038 production line moved from Building 4 to Building 3/1



Taking the pulse of the plant



Close on 194,000 1025/1038 copiers were produced in four years



Farewell to David Stokes and Geoff Howell — Vision 204



A respected engineer



Having moved on from his Directorship of Manufacturing Operations at Mitcheldean to become Director, EMO Strategy Development, David Stokes had organised a get-together at the Clubhouse.

Charlie Walker presents farewell gifts

Our second longest serving employee — Geoff Howell, Manufacturing Project Manager at Mitcheldean — said farewe

Geoff had a 37 year career with the company. He joined as an apprentice in 1953. His career included spells in Venray and the USA. see Vision 232 for details

Service awards



15 year men John Court and Dave Evans



From left: Alan Evans, George Jones, David Watkins, Alan Davies, Ian Davies, Terry Hargrave, Bob Partridge and Bernard Koor (also Chris Hargrave, Dennis Biddle and Gary Butler — not in picture have all served 25 years

Prize trip to Russia

A group of 14 year old pupils from Lakers School, Coleford, went to Russia on 28 June 1995 to claim a prize won in an international competition, thanks largely to Rank Xerox sponsorship. see Vision 232 for details



Investing for the digital future

Our products from Mitcheldean are all heavily dependent upon advanced electronics. Over the last year (1997) more than £1.97 million has been invested in Building 4 and other operations within EIBC



Today, the typical light lens copiers include electronic assemblies which contribute about 30% of the finish -works' value. In the case of the new digital products, such as the DC355, the electronics value rises to over 70%

Enterprise - alive and thriving at The MEWs



Nearly 150 years ago Thomas Wintle quoted one of the reasons for locating his new Forest Brewery at Mitcheldean as "the clean and pure atmosphere" Today he would be astounded, and probably baffled by, the variety of business now present.

A proud history

From gunfire direction tables to photocopiers, and from searchlights to Scanners — over 60 years of manufacturing at Mitcheldean



It was, perhaps, company director Tommy Law, when he came to Mitcheldean in 1940 to view the old brewery buildings, who laid the foundation of the company's long history at Mitcheldean. However, he was the first of many. Others include: Sir John Davies of Rank Organisation who, at a meeting with Tommy Law and chief engineer Stan Pratt made the decision to make photocopiers on behalf of Haloid (later Xerox). Fred Wickstead joined the company in 1948 as production manager. Fred's role was pivotal in the history of the company but especially in service of Mitcheldean, employees and community.

Others, too many to mention, followed in their proud history.

1990

1991

1992

1993

1994

1995

1996

1997

1998

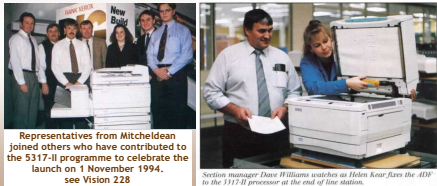
1999

2000

2001

2002

COMPACT COPIER GETS A BOOST



Representatives from Mitcheldean joined others who have contributed to the 5317-II programme to celebrate the launch on 1 November 1994. see Vision 228



The Document Centre System 35 team from Printing Systems celebrate the 5317-II launch.



DC 220 — the transition to digital products is moving quickly



Great start for DocuColor 12

'Last Man Standing' "High Product" award for DC 340



100,000 Digital Document Centres but at Mitcheldean

100,000 DC products means 1,000,000 boards

New owners for the Business Park site New name for Business Park Fusers fast forward for 2003

Integrated solution in a growing world market

LSA to have its jubilee dinner

A Vision that grew

How times have changed

CUSTOMERS ARE QUEUING UP



"It looks as if it will be like the 1025 family going on for many years" said CCF Manager Danny Haines



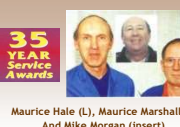
Take our Daughters to Work Day



Take our Daughters to Work Day



Barry Osborn



Maurice Hale (L), Maurice Marshall (R) And Mike Morgan (insert)

The final Vision Magazine no. 269 published Autumn 2002



A Vision that grew

How times have changed

How times have changed