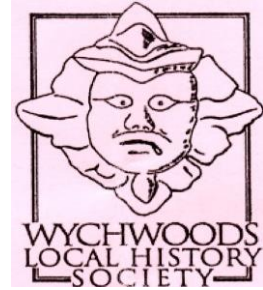


The Wychwoods Local History Society



Chairman's Report May 2023

At last, we have returned to face-to-face meetings in Milton Village Hall. We started the year in September 2022 with a very good talk from The Medway Queen Preservation Trust, who gave a full history of the Medway Queen Paddle Steamer from her conception through the war years, when she was involved at Dunkirk to her sinking and raising to be restored today. Julie Ann Godson gave an interesting talk on Oxfordshire in the Past, a day-to-day account over time. We had a changed speaker in November with Peter Wilkinson giving a talk on Almshouses. Followed in the New year by Brize Norton-80 years of flying operations. In February Sue Smith gave a talk on Conscientious Objection, religion, and the public in Oxford in 1916. March saw Chris Pickford telling us about Bellfounding in Burford. The Civil War in the Cotswolds was covered by Simon Randall. I am always pleased to hear from members who might know of a speaker who would be able to talk to us on historic topics particularly of local interest. You can contact me by email at the address below.

Archive. Our biggest success this year, was securing an office to bring together the Wychwoods Local History Society extensive archive. The archive covers all parts of the WLHS area and was kept previously in various locations. Carol Anderson joined David Betterton and John Bennett in working to organise and catalogue the archive; thereby improving its usefulness as a community resource.

Website. David Betterton and Alan Vickers have been working hard on the website. Apart from the photos there are many stories of life in the Wychwoods, both written and in audio files. We would like to expand this section, and so if you have your own memories of the Wychwoods I am sure they would be very pleased to hear from you and help you get them onto the site. Alan has been helping many residents of the area with queries including many from Australia and New Zealand. For more information on life in the past please go to our website www.wychwoodshistory.uk

Membership. Having returned to face-to-face meetings our numbers have increased substantially. I hope with the new programme attached you will find something of interest. We welcome new members as there is an increase in speaker cost that has to be covered by the membership fee, which will be held again, for another year.

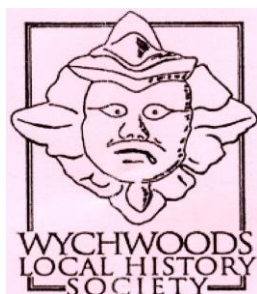
Committee. Sue Richards left the committee in January when she moved away from Ascott but **w**e are very pleased to welcome a new committee member who joined us in November last year. Carol Anderson, who has worked for the Oxfordshire Museum Service. Carol has joined David Betterton and John Bennett in working to improve and formulate the archive. Janet Wiltshire has been looking after the accounts and improving the system through BACS payments. Alan Vickers, a stalwart of the History Society, is responsible for a vast picture archive.

I would like to thank my committee for all their help and support. We are still looking for more members on the committee and for an archivist to catalogue and collate the material.

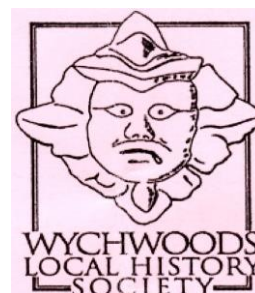
Roger Watts

Chairman and Membership Secretary

Email: mail@wychwoodshistory.uk
Website: www.wychwoodshistory.uk



The Wychwoods Local History Society Programme 2023 – 2024



2nd Wednesday of the month
Milton Village Hall at 7.30pm

2023	13 Sep	Simon Wenham	Morris' motorpolist: the motor works and the transformation of Oxford'.
	11 Oct	Tim Healey	Drovers' Roads in Oxfordshire and Beyond'.
	8 Nov	Marie-Louise Kerr	'Romans of Oxfordshire: Roman settlements and impact in the local area'.
2024	10 Jan	Trevor Jackson	'Cemeteries of Oxford – More than a Century of History'.
	14 Feb	Deborah Hayter	'Common right – private property: how enclosures shaped the Oxfordshire/Northamptonshire landscape'.
	13 March	Ingram Murray	'Known unto God' A great War Detective Story'.
	10 April	Liz Woolley	'Child labour in 19 th Century Oxfordshire'.
	8 May	AGM Julie Ann Godson	Our Boys 1914-1918: Who were the fallen of one Oxfordshire valley?"

Your committee

Chairman & Meeting Secretary:	Roger Watts	01993 684286
Vice Chairman:	Vacant	
Treasurer:	Janet Wiltshire	01993 832645
Secretary	John Bennett	01993 831318

Committee Members

David Betterton Carol Anderson Alan Vickers