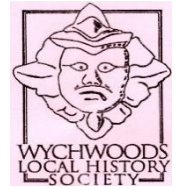


# Wychwoods Local History Society



## Chairman's Report May 2024

We have had another full year of meetings starting in September 2023 with Simon Wenham regarding Morris motopolis: the motor works and transformation of Oxford. We were thrilled to see one of our members, Mr Peter Meecham, had parked a fine example of a Bullnose Morris outside the village hall. We then followed on with the traffic theme, Drovers Roads in Oxfordshire and beyond. Romans of Oxfordshire and their settlements was the talk for November. Trevor Jackson gave an interesting talk on Cemeteries of Oxford – more than a Century of History. Common right - private property: how enclosures have shaped the Oxfordshire landscape was our talk in February. 'Known unto God' A great war detective story, told by Ingram Murray who, with Tom Shannon, uncovered the name Lt Osmund Bartle Wordsworth whose body was recently found on the Somme. Our April meeting concerned How Oxford helped win the Second World War.



**Events.** The display at the Ascott Martyrs Family History afternoon in June 2023 was well-received and useful contacts made. We will be holding further events throughout this coming year.

**Archive.** The cataloguing and management of the Archive is coming on apace thanks to, Carol Anderson, John Bennett David Betterton. We are happy to welcome small groups of members who would like to visit the archive. For more information, please get in touch with Carol, John or David. Every six weeks in the library we are now holding exhibitions of pictures on various themes from around the Wychwoods taken from our archive.

**Website** Now it its 5th year in its current form, the website continues to be managed by David Betterton with support from Alan Vickers with the website photo archive. We have over 1,000 photos and over 30 audio files, with many more to follow, plus a few recently-found and newly-digitised videos. The site continues to publish new research by committee members as well as summaries of our evening talks and other society events. In the coming year we anticipate some changes, to reflect our work in the Archive and to enable us to answer even more enquiries from families worldwide with Wychwoods connections past and present. Go to [wychwoodshistory.uk](http://wychwoodshistory.uk)

**Membership.** This continues to grow with new members joining and supplemented with visitors. I hope with the new programme attached you will find something of interest to you for the coming year. Janet Wiltshire is our treasurer who keeps us on track. We are keeping the membership fees at £15 for a single person and £20 for a couple.

**Committee.** We were very pleased to be joined by Rod Blackman, who brings our number up to seven. I would like to thank all members of the committee for their diligent work in the past year for helping to make the Wychwoods Local History Society stronger in all areas. I would also like to thank our local Parish Councils for the recent financial support which will enable us to continue our work on the history of the Wychwoods area.