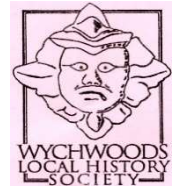


Wychwoods Local History Society



Chairman's Report May 2025

Another busy year for the Wychwoods Local History Society with nine talks, two-fêtes, and a visit to North Leigh Roman villa. The main event of last year was the 150th anniversary of the Cospatrick disaster in November 1874. The archive team produced a very impressive booklet on emigration and explaining why people from this area took such a hazardous journey. The booklet is free to members.

Three walking trails have been produced, the last of which is the Ascott Trail produced by TASC (The Arts Society Cotswolds) - with the WLHS providing consultation on history matters. This is the third trail (Milton and Shipton trails were put together in previous years) produced by TASC with input from the WLHS. The WLHS also provided the local heritage notes for the Milton-under-Wychwood "Standing Stones Trail" - The concept for the Trail being designed by Julia Sorrell and executed by Milton PC with section 106 funds.



The library exhibitions in 2024 -25 included: Cricket; Fetes and Festivities; Harvest and Farming; The Cospatrick; Football and (currently) Childhood Memories. Many of these pictures contain photos of people, known and unknown, that the team would like members of the public to identify.

Events. We attended two very successful fêtes with photo displays in the summer in Milton and Shipton with a great deal of interest shown in the story of the Cospatrick. As part of Cospatrick commemorations the Archive team contributed to the Oxfordshire Local History Study Day on Emigration held in Burford in November. We also participated in Local and Family History afternoon in Ascott. Also, members of the committee attended, by invitation, the Annual Parish meetings of Ascott, Shipton and Milton, and outlined our work to the Shipton WI.

Archive. Having a central office in Groves has meant that we can continue the work of cataloguing and management of the extensive archive. We are also receiving more archive material from other sources. To this end, we would like to invite volunteers who would be willing to assist in the task of cataloguing. We are happy to welcome small groups of members who would like to visit the archive. For more information, please contact Carol, John or David.

Website: Now in its 6th year in its current form, the website continues to be managed by David Betterton with support from Alan Vickers with the website photo archive. The site now has over 1200 images and more to follow. The site is regularly updated with new research by committee members, with articles to complement our library exhibitions as well as with summaries of our evening talks and other society events. The site supports our work in the archive and continues to allow us to invite and answer enquiries from researchers as well as from families worldwide with Wychwoods connections past and present. The site address is www.wychwoodshistory.uk

Membership. This continues to grow with new members joining and supplemented with visitors at our meetings. 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.

Committee. 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.

Roger Watts
Chairman & Meeting Secretary

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