

Owing to the great interest shown in Mrs. Matthews' article on the duties of magistrates, we are now giving information as to how a member of the public can attend a court.

MAGISTRATES COURTS IN THE WYCHWOODS

Within a fifteen mile radius of the Wychwoods, there are five courts at Stow-on-the-Wold, Chipping Norton, Woodstock, Burford, known historically as Bampton West and Witney, known historically as Bampton East. These courts are run by the Magistrates Clerks Offices in Banbury and Oxford and Cheltenham in Gloucestershire. Chipping Norton, Woodstock and Burford each have thirteen magistrates, Witney has nineteen.

Would you be interested in watching the procedure in Court? Observing the magistrates clerk controlling proceedings, listening to the prosecuting solicitor or prosecuting police officer prosecute, or hearing the defendant or his solicitor and the various witnesses. Adults may attend criminal courts, but they are barred from the juvenile and domestic courts.

Chipping Norton and Woodstock Courts are both held on Tuesday mornings at 10.30 in the Town Hall. Burford Court was closed a few years ago and they now sit in the Witney Court House, Welch Way on Mondays at 10 a.m. and Witney uses the same Court House on Fridays. You may observe the Oxford Magistrates at work daily in Speedwell Street, Oxford or the Crown Courts formerly the Quarter Sessions and Assizes with Judge, Jury and Barristers defending and prosecuting in the County Hall and Oxford Town Hall, until the new Crown Courts are opened in St. Aldates on the site of the old Nuffield Garage. Ushers and Magistrates Clerks offices will always advise you which courts will be the most interesting.

Whet your appetite and then visit Bow Street Court in London or go to hear a murder trial in the Old Bailey!

A. Matthews