

He can be contacted at Oak Lodge, Station Road, Shipton (831262).

Last month saw the publication of the society's latest journal, Wychwoods History Number 7. This contains articles on a wide range of local interest including the early dating of Shipton parish and the first part of Norman Frost's history of the Groves' family. Copies can be obtained from Frank Ware, Monks Gate, High Street, Shipton (830494) at a cost of £3 each plus 70p postage and packing.

Alternatively, you could join the society. Current membership, running from September to September, costs £4 for an individual and £6 for a couple and includes the cost of Wychwoods History when published.

Full details from the above address.

The next season of winter meetings begins on 8th September at Milton Village Hall, when Mervyn Griffin will be reminiscing.

AN UNKNOWN LOCAL HERO

I'm sure we all know Eddie Townsend - at least by sight - as he cycled through Milton and Shipton at all hours of the day (and night?) and in all weathers. The villages do not seem the same without him, but I wonder how many people know what Eddie did in the war? A few months ago a fire broke out in his house, which considerably disrupted his routine and the damage meant that he has had to move away. For the time being we shall miss him, and wish him well for the future, but one good thing resulted from this when a war-time story came to light in which Eddie played a major part.

An Air Ministry Bulletin reported that Pilot Officer Eddie Townsend was flying as wireless operator in a Hudson of Coastal Command over the Norwegian coast when they were intercepted by one of the Luftwaffe's latest fighters, the FW190. They were sprayed with cannon shells and machine-gun bullets and Eddie was severely wounded, including a severed artery in one hand and other wounds to his hands and legs. Luckily the navigator was able to apply a tourniquet to his hand using a handkerchief and a pencil and Eddie set to work to repair the defunct radio. He succeeded and was able to get navigational information for the pilot and arrange for a doctor to be standing by to treat the wounded gunner and himself. By now he'd lost a lot of blood and his wounds were very painful. He had every excuse for giving up, but he chose to do his job. Later the navigator said "It was one of the pluckiest things I've ever seen".

Well done Eddie - we feel proud to know you!