

THE WYCHWOODS LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The new season of Winter monthly meetings began with an Annual General Meeting. Both Chairman and Treasurer reported healthy progress and there were no changes of Officers or Committee.

This was followed by a talk by John Rawlins on some local building changes during the last two centuries. This spanned the time from when this area was somewhat isolated and dominated by agriculture, with most building materials supplied from local sources, up to the present day. Now the area is dominated by the internal combustion engine which brings in all building materials. The changes have been caused by the changes in population and farming methods, by the introduction of building regulations, the evolution of new materials, and the influence of architects, idealists, planners and mammon.

Although there has been a decline in the use of local materials there has been steady improvement in the living standards of ordinary citizens. In 1902 a Guild of Handicraft was set up in Chipping Campden with its base in an old silk mill, where craftsmen and women set up their various workshops dealing in glass, wood, metals, etc. C.R. Ashbee, an architect and silversmith, was one of these and he was joined by George Hart, who was the subject of Frank Johnson's talk at the October meeting.

Having survived the Boer War, George Hart left London for Chipping Campden as a 19 year old, became a Guildsman in 1908, and stayed in Chipping Campden until his death in 1971, aged 91. His craft is still carried on by his two grandsons in the same workshops in the same old silk mill. Frank Johnson then went on to speak about the Guild of Handicraft Trust, of which he is secretary. The Trust was set up in 1990 with the aim of preserving the archival material of all the Guild's craftsman and women, and then to make that material available to any interested persons.

Meetings for first months of 1994 are -

11th January	Milton	A Farmer looks back	Bob Barrett
8th February	Shipton	Tewkesbury - Making and Guilding a Market Town	Anthea Jones
8th March	Milton	A Thames and Severn Tunnel Through the North Cotswolds	Guy Stapleton

New members and visitors always welcome at all meetings.

MUGS ARE BACK!

In response to numerous requests we have ordered a fresh supply in time for Christmas. Both Milton and Shipton designs have been ordered, but only in bone china as this has proved to be most popular, but the price remains the same at £3.75. I shall bring samples to the Society's meetings and take orders there. You can also order them by phoning me on 830498.

Jack Chapman.