

## The Wychwoods Local History Society

Although there are no regular monthly meetings during the summer months, the Society has not been completely dormant. There have been two energetic walks round Swinbrook conducted by Charlie Chambers who pointed out many of the changes to buildings and landscape through the centuries. Tim Porter has led two tours of Shipton and Milton churches contrasting the old, large and substantial church at Shipton renovated by G.E. Street in 1857/9 and the tall and exaggeratedly slender church at Milton that Street designed four years earlier in 1853/4.

The next season of winter talks begins at Milton on 12 September when Arthur Keene will speak on Combe Mill. The mill is open to the public on August 20 and October 15 when the beam engine will be in steam.

The Annual General Meeting was initially arranged for this first meeting, but has now been re-arranged for 10 October at Shipton and will be followed by a talk on '100 Years of British Postcards' given by Barry Davis.

Old and new members are welcome to all meetings. Renewal of subscriptions will be due in September; they remain at £4 for an individual and £6 for a couple, which includes a copy of Wychwoods History when published. Visitors welcome at any meeting at £1 per person.

John Rawlins

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### A POEM

The following poem was sent to Clare Astor of Bruern Grange by an anonymous donor. She forwarded it to us as a possible contribution to the magazine. Does anyone know who wrote it?

A play of light with shade arrests the eye  
and emphasises shape, and colour too.  
It alters distances, deepens the sky  
and is forever changing old to new.  
Remember? Bluebells in the Bruern wood  
in morning sunlight, dappled by the trees –  
some saplings, others rugged that have stood  
for many years, with conifers a frieze  
of darker colour. Now, bluebells have died.  
We cannot see them any more this year  
save in our memory. There I have tried  
to resurrect them growing, far and near.  
I face the light, the shadows far behind,  
and all I love is living in my mind.

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