

The Wychwoods Local History Society

The 1995/96 programme of monthly meetings began with a talk by Mrs Peta Simmonds on the work of a small dedicated band who are preserving a small part of local history in working order. The Combe Mill Society maintains the 1852 beam steam engine. Originally installed to power small pieces of machinery of the Blenheim Estate, it fell into disuse in 1912. The enthusiasts assembled, carried out necessary repairs so that the engine was operating again in 1974. The mill housing the engine, which is in steam three times a year, also contains interesting collections of tradesmen's tools and memorabilia from the age before the internal combustion engine.

The October meeting began with a short AGM, with satisfactory reports from both the Chairman and Treasurer, and with the former announcing the resignation from the committee of Norman Frost. Norman had been the Society's first Secretary. All concerned wish him well in his retirement from the committee work but hope he will still take an active interest in the Society's work.

Then followed a talk by Barry Davis on the history of the British postcard. From the first in 1854 the number of postcards printed and posted rose to millions weekly by about 1912 to be followed by a decline. National and local photographers got in on the act and their topographical cards are a useful source for the local historian. The First World War gave a temporary reprieve to the postcard industry, but then followed a steady decline. This was in some way due to the easier access to telephone and camera so that few local scenic views appear on postcards. There are two or three of Shipton but none of Ascott or Milton. The first meetings of 1996 are:-

9 January at Milton	Parallel Medical and Social Change in Shipton. Tom MacQuay
13 February at Shipton	Burford and its People of the Past (16th & 17th centuries) Jo Peeler
12 March at Milton	Writings of the Wychwoods, Members Evening. John Rawlins

SHIPTON-U-WYCHWOOD NEW VILLAGE HALL

"Sixty Years of Change in Shipton"

An illustrated talk by John Rawlins of the changes that have taken place within the parish since 1930.

Wednesday and Friday, 21 and 23 February 1996

7.30 p.m. Shipton Village Hall

Tickets from M Hartley - 830306