

## The Wychwoods Local History Society

Ralph Mann's talk at our November meeting concerned events of two hundred years ago when winters were winters, with unbroken frost from December 1795 until March of 1796. At the time the Oxfordshire Militia was stationed on the South Downs as invasion by the French was expected. In the appalling weather, living in tents with little food and their officers gone home, the Militia mutinied. The mutiny was quelled and the 'ringleaders', who included men from Chipping Norton, shot or flogged. However, such was the national outcry at this event that the conditions of the ordinary soldier were much improved.

In December Tim Porter talked about this area when tribal and kingdom boundaries were ill defined in the 5th to 7th centuries. Rivers were important as trade routes and boundaries between the rival factions. This area, although showing signs of occupation at the time, was 'on the edge of the edge'.

This year began with Tom McQuay speaking of the medical changes in Shipton from the time when there was no doctor, around 70 households in Shipton and a horse cost more than a wife. Tom, and others, have been working on the written records of Shipton in 1662. From their research Tom presented a picture of life when women were regularly in childbirth and life expectancy was low. This he compared with medical progress made from the turn of the century with discovery of anaesthetics and antiseptics, and the better care of all Shipton's citizens.

### Future meetings

A walk has been arranged to look at the evolution of Minster Lovell with Charlie Chambers on Sunday 17 March at 2 pm. £1 per person. Please contact Sue Jourdan (830179) or Margaret Ware (830494) if you would like to join us.

12 March	Milton	Writings of the Wychwoods Members Evening.
9 April	Shipton	The Diary of a Young Gentleman, Charles Cholmondley, 1885-1887. David Eddershaw
14 May	Milton	Some Aspects of the History of the Railways on the Cotswolds. Geoffrey Bott

John Rawlins