

The Wychwoods Local History Society

Four members of the Society read extracts from diaries, letters, essays and remembrances with Wychwoods connections at the March meeting. Starting with the story of the Ramsden men who lost a coffin in a snow storm while on their way to the funeral at Shipton, the meeting heard, among others, about the Forest Fair and the forest clearances, life in Shipton and Ascott earlier this century, the Milton murder, memories of Shipton Court and the last Lady Reade. The evening finished with the story of Salome, an African girl adopted by the sister of Shipton's vicar.

At the Society's April meeting, David Eddershaw spoke on the life and times of a young English gentleman. The talk was based on the extant diary for 1885-87 of Charles Cholmondley, son of the Rector of Adlestrop, who had many wealthy connections. At the time Charles was an undergraduate at Oxford University.

By the use of pictures and words from the diary, augmented by research, Mr Eddershaw gave an interesting picture of the social life of the big houses and the village, showing the wide differences of wealth and class in a changing political scene..

The Society's Journal 11 is now in print and has an Ascott under Wychwood and tithes theme, though Milton has not been forgotten. The Journal is included in the price of the subscription to members but non-members can obtain copies from Margaret Ware (830494) or any committee member for £3.

In the summer a Walking Tour of Burford has been arranged for Monday 3 June at 6.30pm (price £2) and repeated on Thursday 27 June. All welcome. Further details from Sue Jourdan (830179)

The new season begins on 10 September at Milton. This will be the Annual General Meeting followed by a talk on 'Warde Fowler, Kingham's Naturalist and Historian' given by Gordon Ottewell

John Rawlins

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

Over the years since 1977 I have formed a scrap book of paper cuttings of Shipton news sent to the Oxford Times.

At present I have mislaid the books (there are two), and wonder if I have lent them to someone.

Your help would be much appreciated.

Olive Tucker 831932.