

## The Wychwoods Local History Society

The 1996/7 winter season of monthly meetings began with a short AGM at which both Chairman and Treasurer reported a successful 95 / 96 season. However, the Society has lost the valuable services of Margaret Ware, a co-founder of the Society and the Editor of its Journal since 1989. She was presented with a small gift as a token of thanks for all her efforts on behalf of the Society since 1981.

The AGM was followed by a talk by Gordon Ottewell on Warde Fowler, an Oxford don who set up home in Kingham in 1864. For the rest of his life he recorded the local scene around Kingham, the houses, people and events, but especially the natural history of the area.

The second talk of the season also concerned natural history, but this time in the Windrush valley and how it came into conflict with modern farming. Andy Mayled of the National Trust explained the workings of the water meadows at Sherborne which were originally set up in 1844. By the 1930s they had fallen into disuse and by 1965 were ploughed up for intensive arable farming.

In 1992 the meadows came into the hands of the National Trust, who, with help from many sources, put the meadows back to the state as they were when they were so important for sheep-grazing at the end of the last century. Some part of the meadows are now open to the public and it is hoped that the Society will be able to arrange for a conducted tour as and when most favourable.

On the last weekend of September, many members of the Society took part in a Field Walk in Shipton. The large collection of pottery sherds and bits and pieces will be sorted and analysed and be reported on at a later date.

The next meetings of the Society will be:

Dec 10	at Shipton	King Alfred - The Fact and the Fantasy Tim Porter
1997 Jan 14	at Milton	1930 A Wychwoods Momentous Year John Rawlins
Feb 11	at Shipton	Cotswold Manors and Manor Houses Anthea Jones

John Rawlins.

### League of Friends of Tall Trees

The recent Jumble Sale held in Milton Village Hall raised the magnificent sum of £540. Our very grateful thanks to Vi Miles and her band and to all who contributed both by bringing and buying to make it such a success. With particular thanks to those who made the cakes.