

## WYCHWOODS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

At the January meeting John Rawlins talked about the village events of 1930 - births, deaths and marriages, court cases and sporting fixtures including baseball at Ascott.

The year saw the arrival of a new sewer system for Milton and Shipton which followed the installation of mains electricity the previous year. In 1930 secondary education was re-structured and there were proposals for new Council Houses. In an essentially agricultural environment Oxfordshire's road fatalities were as numerous as those in 1996.

David Morton stepped in at a day's notice to speak at the February meeting on Canal Bridges. Prior to canals there were only river bridges, but as the canals spread so more bridges, aqueducts and viaducts were created, plus the introduction of tunnels. The canals fell into decline when they were superseded by the railways which often followed routes of the canals so a new generation of canal bridges appeared. A century later, some of the railway system closed and some bridges were abandoned but motorway bridges were added to the fascinating collection of canal bridges.

The 1996/97 season of meetings ends with:-

8th April	at Shipton	The Historic Churches of Oxfordshire by Richard Lethbridge
13th May	at Milton	Members Evening

The 1997/98 season begins on 9th September at Milton with a talk on "The Column of Victory at Blenheim Palace" by Roy Roland.

N.B. The A.G.M. has been moved from the above meeting to the following meeting on 14th October

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## FIFIELD VILLAGE HALL

We are planning the year's activities which will include a Garden Party and probably a fundraising coffee morning. Later there will be a barbecue, in the autumn a harvest supper and we shall end the year in traditional fashion with an evening of carols. So watch this space for more details as they become available.

The history project, led by Guthrie Piggot and Lawrence White, is coming along. A good deal of interesting bits and pieces of information, not to mention old photographs, are all coming to light. If there is anyone who used to live in Fifield and has material which might be useful, we'd be glad to hear from them.

Pat Yaxley