

The Wychwoods Local History Society

Ken Betteridge's talk in March was about Asthall parish as seen from the air which enabled his audience to see the present conformation of the land, as well as some of man's activities now hidden under ground. Within Asthall parish are burial barrows and the Roman Akeman Street complete with an early 'service station'. Asthall was a 'closed' village with some feudal powers still held by the Lord of the Manor. (N.B. now deceased since the date of the talk)

"The Historic Churches of Oxfordshire" was the title of Richard Lethbridges's talk to the April meeting. This was a shortened historical guide to the sequence of architectural styles in church development and showed local examples of each. Many of these churches need money for their repair with some of the money coming from the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust with money raised by sponsored cycle rides and other gifts. David Gillies-Reyburn then showed examples of how money raised was spent on the repair of damage caused by leaking roofs and windows, from wet and dry rot, from building errors of the past and the ravages of time and nature.

Volume 12 of Wychwoods History is now in print and has an number of long and short articles. These include the care of the poor of Milton in the eighteenth century, Springhill Farm in Shipton, five generations of one Shipton family, the Barters of Sarsden and Salome of Natal, Dame Harriet Reade, and the Ascott sheepwash amongst others. Copies, priced £3, are available from Dr Margaret Ware (830494).

The new season of monthly talks begins at Milton on Tuesday 9 September when Ray Roland will talk on 'The Column of Victory at Blenheim'. The October meeting in Shipton will begin with the AGM.

John Rawlins

SOUTH-WEST CONNECTION 22 JUNE - 6 JULY

The next major exhibition being held by the West Oxfordshire Arts Association at their Gallery in Bampton is entitled "South-West Connection". The work of two artists from Weston-super-Mare will be on display. Derek Stenner and Don Powell are both dynamic, unusual and stimulating painters, with a variety of inspirations and references in their work, so it will be well worth a visit.

Opening hours:

Tuesdays - Saturdays	10.30- 12.30
	2.00- 4.00
Sundays	2.00-4.00