

## THE WYCHWOOD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

At the first meeting of the new winter season Roy Rowland spoke on the erection and conservation of the "Column of Victory at Blenheim". The column, to the West of the Palace, had been built as a commemoration of the victories of the first Duke of Marlborough. However, the Column of Victory, also commemorates the efforts of his widow, Sarah, to coerce crown and parliament to complete their obligations to pay "This gift from a grateful nation."

A short A.G.M. began the second meeting when the Chairman and Treasurer presented healthy reports on meetings, finance, activities, research and publications. Although there has been a disappointing drop in membership, all officers and committee were elected en bloc.

Then followed a talk on The Centre for Oxfordshire Studies by Mark Lawrence. The Centre, situated in Westgate, Oxford, is open to all for the inspection of old and modern newspapers, maps, photos, census returns etc. The staff are always willing to answer any queries on any local history topic, however with cuts County-wide, the Centre is not open on Mondays, and with reduced staffing level, sorting out queries is not always as speedy as it should be. Some queries prove difficult to answer – can anyone help with this query? Who produced and retailed bottled Ginger Beer labelled "Usbourne" of Ascott under Wychwood?

### FIRST MEETINGS - 1998

13 January	Milton	A brief History of Postcards of the Wychwoods John Rawlins
10 February	Shipton	The Last Jam'Ole Run (Canal Barges) David Morton
10 March	Milton	The Hidden parts of Chastleton Duncan Colebrook

All meetings begin at 7.30 with a short break half way through. All are open to non-members at £1 per visit. Tea towels and new mugs (as depicted in the last issue) are on sale at all meetings or can be ordered from Jack Chapman (830498). Also available are past issues of "Wychwoods History" or they can be obtained from Dr. Margaret Ware (830494). It is hoped to produce the next issue of "Wychwoods History" during 1998. This will cost £3 or comes free with current membership of £4 for a single, or £6 for a double.

Some months ago an unknown person put an unmarked envelope through my door. It contained photographs of sports teams mainly of the Leafield area which I have copied. Thanks to the owner – I would like now to return the originals.

A REQUEST. Has anyone any of the books, medals, certificates etc. which were awarded to school pupils for proficiency or regular attendance. These came from the Lady Reade's Charity and / or Oxfordshire Education Committee. I would like to borrow any local examples for copying.

John Rawlins 830668