

## **The Wychwoods Local History Society**

At the March meeting Duncan Colebrook talked on 'The Hidden Parts of Chastleton'. This referred to the work done by the National Trust when restoring and making the house safe. Some of the original surfaces etc. were stripped off before major repairs could be carried out on the basic structure – walls, roofs and ceilings etc. When the repairs had been completed to modern safety standards the original coverings were carefully replaced. During restoration much evidence was unearthed of former walls and buildings. But, due to restraints of time and money, full archaeological excavation and research was not possible. They were then hidden away again under earth and garden.

At the last of the Society's meetings in the Shipton Parish Hall, Martin Way spoke on 'Cotswold Sheep and Shepherds'. He briefly covered the history of sheep from Roman times, through the time when export of wool brought great wealth, and to the period when woollen goods were manufactured locally and so to the present day. In all that time there was very little change in the life, work and tools of the shepherd – several of the latter were displayed by Martin. The talk concluded with reference to the decline of Cotswold sheep and to some of their last shepherds, including Jack Bond of Aldsworth with his local connections with Mawles of Mawles Lane.

Journal 13 is now in print and has, among others, articles on the Reade family, eighteenth and nineteenth century occupations of Shipton, Milton and Leafield, Milton's last Pupil Teacher and farming memories of Chadlington. Copies at £3 are available from Duncan Waugh (830872).

The next season of talks begins on 8 September in Milton, subject 'History of Hedgerows' by Gordon Ottewell.

John Rawlins

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### **Milton-under-Wychwood Allotments and Gardens Association.**

Our April meeting, the last of the season, was attended by 40 members and five visitors. The talk on fuchsias given by George Bartlett was put across with such enthusiasm and, as George himself says, "a passion" for his subject, that no-one could fail to be inspired to grow fuchsias.

We were given many cost-cutting tips and the mystery of taking cuttings and from them producing beautiful flowering plants was made so simple, that it is more than likely our fuchsia classes at the Annual Show will be much larger than usual!

The Association's Flower Show is on Saturday August 22nd at 2.00 pm in Milton Village Hall and everyone is more than welcome.

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