

## The Wychwoods Local History Society

The November meeting saw the arrival of numerous objects from Chipping Norton Museum brought by the curator, John Howells, who showed some of the variety of artefacts held by the museum. He also gave an outline of the history of the museum, originally based on the collection of Tom Pitt of Chadlington. The museum was first based in the school-room of the Baptist Church in 1986. In 1996 the museum reopened in the Co-operative Hall. In the period between change of sites and since, the museum's collection has enlarged and much work has been done documenting and classifying all items. This work continues and John Howells (01608 658518) welcomes any help, whether it is an item donated, information given, or help in staffing the museum. Visitors welcome.

Ian Matthews spoke at the December meeting on 'The Matthews Mill and Family', including the first family of Matthews to arrive in this area from Warwickshire around 1815. The family set up home in Fifield and Frederick Matthews began dealing in the sale of various seeds from a barn in Fifield in 1865. Around 1890 he set up the business near Shipton station. With his son, F.W.P. Matthews, he developed the seed business to include the milling of flour. This was in the new mill built near Shipton Station in 1911. Production began in 1912 and continues to this day; a period which has witnessed many changes in farming, milling and transportation as well as four generations of Matthews (all male). The evening concluded with Anne Matthews telling us a little of the female side of the family.

Also at the meeting, Margaret and Frank Ware had brought a display showing the initial results of the Fieldwalk carried out by members at Upper Milton in October.

### Future Meetings:-

18 February	Shipton	Shipton in the Pattern of an English Parish. Anthea Jones.
18 March	Milton	Deserted Medieval Villages in the Wychwood Area. Tim Copeland.
15 April	Shipton	Pictures from the Past: Henry Taunt and his Photographs of Oxfordshire Malcolm Graham
20 May	Milton	English Civil War – A Soldier's Story David Murphy

John Rawlins