

The National Trust has a very unusual property at Lodge Park, near Sherborne, just over the border in Gloucestershire. It was built in 1634 as a lodge for the watching of deer coursing. During the last two centuries the interior underwent several changes and during the last eight years the Sherborne Estate NT has been gradually transforming the property back to its appearance when first built. This society has been lucky to be able to make three visits to the lodge, two of them while restoration was in progress, and recently now that it is open. Even now work is not complete. The correct furnishings and hangings will not be displayed until the spring when the new plaster will have had more time to dry out.

#### Future meetings.

16 Dec 1999	Shipton	Old Coaching Roads by Martin Way
20 Jan 2000	Milton	What's in a Name by John Rawlins
17 Feb 2000	Shipton	Packer and Simms, Chipping Norton Photographers by Alan Watkins

John Rawlins

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### **Independent Parental Supporters in Education**

Did you know that one in five school children are identified as having special educational needs at some time in their educational career? This can be a worrying time for parents and often a little support from someone who understands the system, or can help, e.g. take notes in official meetings, enables parents and their children to manage.

Marian Roiser is setting up the Independent Parent Supporters Scheme and is looking for volunteers who may be able to offer a few hours occasionally. Training in the following areas will be offered:

- How the system for assessing children for a statement of special educational needs operates in Oxfordshire.
- What the jargon means.
- What the law says and relevant legislation.
- Practising negotiating and mediating skills.
- How to provide practical support before and during meetings.
- The parameters of the independent Parent Supporter's role.

Support, consultation and expenses will be provided for volunteers.

If you think you may be interested in becoming a parent supporter, please ring Marian on 01865 810541.