

WYCHWOODS HISTORY SOCIETY

WYCHWOODS 2000 Exhibition

29 & 30 April and 1 May,

10 am – 5pm, Saturday & Sunday, 10am – 1pm, Monday

Beaconsfield Hall Shipton. Admission FREE

At the January meeting John Rawlins explained how the naming of buildings had spread very slowly in this area. At a time when everyone went at walking pace and everyone knew everyone else, perhaps there was no need for any names up to the end of the 19th century when only farms, larger houses, inns and shops had names. Naming and numbering of buildings and roads seemed to have gathered momentum in the years up to the Second World War. Since then the process has accelerated so that all properties have a name or number as well as road name, and post codes. Will the time soon come when all this naming and numbering is obsolete when everyone deals via the internet?

Most of this society's photographic archive of this area comes from two sources, from small family 'snaps' or from postcards. Of the latter, the majority comes from 'Packer and Simms – Chipping Norton Photographers' which was the title of Alan Watkins talk to the February meeting. Although the life and time of the Packers is well documented that of Percy Simms is not, but between them, they covered the time from the start of the 20th century up to the 1980s, and covered an area which included the Wychwoods. Although they faced competition from both local and national postcard producers it was the work of Packer and Simms who dominated and produced, not only portraits and wedding groups but also a wide range of subjects like views, occupations, disasters and the ordinary fetes and Club Days.

Packer and Simms left a vast selection, some of which the society has, and there is more in Chipping Norton Museum, and even more in the Packer Collection at the Oxfordshire Centre for Local Studies, Westgate, Oxford.

The last meetings of this season are:-

20 April	at Shipton	The Upper Thames Patrol by Bill King
18 May	at Milton	Has that House a History? by Anthea Jones

And the new season will start on Thursday 21 September 2000 (not 15th as in programme) at 7.30pm in Milton Village Hall when the speaker will be Tim Porter on Cotswold Churches in the Landscape.

John Rawlins.