

The Wychwoods Local History Society

At the society's last meeting in 2001 Bill King spoke on 'Dad's Other Army -The British Resistance Movement 1940-45' beginning with the time when this country faced an enemy invasion which may have well been successful.

In 1940 small cells (units) of Auxiliary Units were formed. These units of 7/10 members were recruited in secrecy and sworn to keep secret all their activities within their unit. It is possible that there may have been a local cell in this area recruited from among Home Guard members. But, as there is no documentary evidence, we do not know the full extent of their training or intended activities.

These Auxiliary Units were trained in the arts of guerilla war – silent killing, the use of plastic explosives and the concealment of all their activities from the invaders. In August 1940 Coleshill Manor, near Highworth, Wiltshire was requisitioned for the training of these Auxiliary Units.

As the threat of this country's invasion receded Coleshill also included the training of auxiliaries or agents who would operate in countries which had been invaded by the Germans. Coleshill was used by men while women were trained at the nearby Hannington Hall.

After the war the manor house was extensively renovated. When work was almost finished in 1952 the house burnt down. Subsequently the site and the estate of some 2,500 acres was acquired by the National Trust.

It is hoped that a guided walk of the estate, including those parts used for the training of auxiliaries which remain, can be arranged for our members in May or June.

Future meetings of the Society

- 21 February Shipton Places and Events by Packer and Simms
(Chipping Norton photographers)
Speaker Alan Watkins
- 21 March Milton Roses and Castles by Martin Way (Decoration of
canal boats and their artefacts)
- 18 April Shipton 21st Anniversary of the Society – Members' Evening

All meetings start at 7.30 pm. Visitors welcome £2.



MILTON-u-WYCHWOOD EVERGREEN FELLOWSHIP.

We start our meetings on **April 19th, 2002, at 7.00 p.m.** with a Social Evening.

We are looking for new members aged 55 yrs and over. If you are interested, come along and join us and see what we have on our agenda.

Joyce Dore.