

A Wychwood Dream

You must try *The Wychwood* magazine archive on the Internet - see www.thewychwood.co.uk .

What luxury for anybody anywhere in the world to be able to follow life in the Wychwoods over the last thirty years and even to search by name or topic and at no cost. How many small communities enjoy such an asset?

Your Yesterday: OUR Tomorrow?

However, how mindboggling would it be to read about life in the Wychwoods over the last two thousand years, see all the copy from the twenty eight annual Journals of the History Society and be able to search these instantly for an ancestor, an event, a building or a topic? Or what if you could view any of the more than three thousand photographs and drawings depicting Wychwood life over the last two hundred years, listen to the recorded memories of former inhabitants speaking about life in the 20th Century and view the wills of people living in the Wychwoods in the 16th and 17th centuries.

We already have a small digital scanning team which has processed around 300 images but that is only ten percent of the images we have.

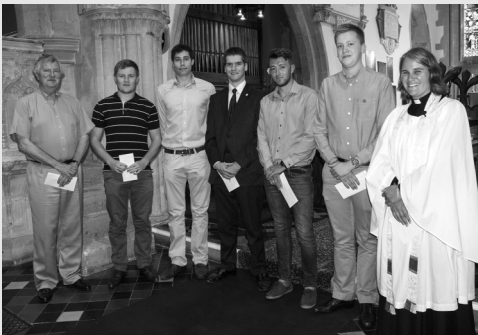
We could set up a Buildings Group to look at the many historical buildings in our villages. We have a new digital recorder for recording local memories and could easily add a recorder for each of the Wychwood villages. We have a rather staid and unexciting website (I know that it is the case because I produced it some years ago) but we need to load all these materials onto a revitalised site.

Challenge for the Future

The challenge is although we have a membership of over two hundred, many members only come for the excellent speaker programme and to receive the annual Journal. The average age is 75 and the level of computer skills is understandably limited. Some committee members have served the Society for more than ten years and would like to hand over the baton to younger people. If this does not happen then there is a real risk that the excellent **Wychwoods Local History Society**, which has done such wonderful work for the community over the last thirty years, will be history itself - how frustrating, just at the moment when a real historical dream could become a reality for all time and all over the world.

Alan Vickers on: 01993 830102

Presentation of Lady Reade Awards



Grants from the Lady Reade Educational Charity were presented at St. Mary's Church on 14th July. The successful applicants (not all present) were: *Max Harvey* and *Ross Barrett* from Shipton, *Ralph Cattermole*, *Rowan Taylor* and *Edmund Woolliams* from Leaffield and *Gemma Dore* and *Samuel Walker* from Milton. More news about these bright young things in the next issue.

Peggy Walmsley