

## The Wychwoods Come in From the Shadows

You may have heard of the Victorian County Histories (VCH). They have been described as the “greatest publishing project in English



local history”. The project began in 1899 with the aim of producing the definitive history of each English County to a standard plan. Ownership and funding has varied over the years but the project is still going strong within the Institute of Historical Research of the University of London.

### 19<sup>th</sup> Volume is US!

In Oxfordshire alone, seventeen volumes have already been published since 1907. Two thirds of the county is now covered, with more than 150 parishes and ten market towns. The 18th volume is under way with publication planned for 2015-16 and the 19th, being produced over the next two years with planned publication in 2018-19, will cover the Chadlington Hundred including the Wychwoods. Apart from the famous ‘big red books’ most of the histories are available free online. Do have a look at [www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties](http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties)

/oxfordshire to appreciate the quality and value of the work.

### History in Demand

Simon Townley, the VCH County Editor for

Oxfordshire is coming to the Wychwoods Local History Society (WLHS) on **Thursday 20th March** at Milton Village Hall, 7.30pm - visitors are welcome. He will be telling us of the scope of the project and how we might be able to make a significant contribution as a society. He is also interested in promoting the funding to finance the forthcoming volume.

Already the Probate Group, which is part of the WLHS and which is busy transcribing up to one thousand mainly 17th century wills, is actively involved. We hope our new Buildings Group will also make a contribution and the Digitalizing Group will be showing, during the second part of the meeting, some of the first one thousand scans it has produced from the John Rawlings Archive which will be available to the VCH historians.

Local History has never been in such demand.

**Alan Vickers**

## Marlborough School, Woodstock Community Education

Our Community Education programme for 2013-2014 is now available on our website. [www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.marlborough.oxon.sch.uk)

If you would like a free copy of our brochure or to book a place please telephone: 01993 813592 or email [comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:comed.4560@marlborough.oxon.sch.uk) On some of our weekly courses it is

possible to join late if there is still availability, please ring to check. All our courses are competitively priced to give our students great value for money.

For up to date information about availability on courses please see the school website. As courses become full they are listed for your information.