



Wychwoods Local History Society



Newsletter Issue 1: 2026/2027 Season

Here is the first newsletter for the new season, which starts with our first evening talk on September 9th. These occasional newsletters aim to keep you informed about Society activities 'behind the scenes'. The work of the Wychwoods Local History Society extends beyond the monthly talks that we organise between September and May each year.



Talking History – Our Programme for 2026/7

For our season opener on **Wednesday 9th September**, we welcome historian and raconteur Andrew Mellor who will present 'Tolkien and the Cotswolds'. We can expect an intriguing, illustrated talk uncovering Tolkien's life-long interest for archaeology and myth featuring Cotswolds locations that brought Middle Earth to life.

We have talks each month until May. Keep an eye on the **full current programme** [here](#).

We meet **7.15pm** for refreshments and 7.30pm start at Milton Village Hall. Members free, visitors **£5.00**

WLHS Website

The Society Website has developed considerably over the past few years, and we are constantly adding to it. The site has become an easy-access resource to some valuable publications [[here](#)], and an ever-increasing library of historic photographs of the Wychwoods over time [[here](#)].

Try these:

- When Hollywood came to the Wychwoods [here >>](#)
- Some voices of the past in Audio files – listen at your leisure [here >>](#)
- Outline reviews of our 2025/6 season of talks - [here >>>](#)
- All about the Cospatrick [here >>>](#)

Delving into the Archives



The Society obtained permanent premises for its Archive in 2022 at the offices of Alfred Groves and Sons in Milton. The Archive consists of a wide variety of documents, photographs, audio recordings and research materials accumulated over the 40+ years of our existence. We continue to add material to the Archive.

Recent items received include:

- A valuable set of documents related to the Groves family including a family diary from the 1879-82 and a set of letters from Thomas Groves from the 1850s plus other material. Kindly donated by Judith Crampton a descendant of Alfred Groves, now living in Yorkshire.
- A set of documents and scrapbooks relating to the history of Ascott and the Tiddy Hall.
- A donation of photographs of Saunders butchers in Milton, the former Fina garage in Shipton, and a country dancing group from Milton in the 1970s
- The donation of an album of photographs from 1912-13 relating to the Sanderson-Furniss family of Chestnut Close, Ascott.

Library Exhibitions

See our latest exhibition celebrating Wychwoods Weddings, closing soon in mid-September. See some recent research [here](#).

Our next exhibition from mid-September to late November features **Shops and Shopping** in the Wychwoods. Expect some fascinating images of the historic shops and characters in our 20th century villages.

Remember to catch up with these very popular Library Exhibitions, updated 4 or 5 times each year. An example from 2025 – [Men at Work](#) - which charted the changing face of employment in the Wychwoods.



Please [contact us](#) for more information about our activities

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Web: www.wychwoodshistory.uk