

# The Wherwell History Group

## Newsletter for January 2011

Dear Members & Friends,

**Happy New Year** ... I hope you all had a very enjoyable Christmas time and that not too many of you had to cope with the colds & coughs & viruses that seem to be floating around our villages since early December. This newsletter is mainly to remind you about our next meeting on Friday 21<sup>st</sup>, but will also include a report on our December meeting and a mention of our display at the next Wherwell Coffee Morning.

**Our open meeting** in December was a great success. The meeting was in two halves, and started with a display of items from our own archives. These have grown considerably during our first two years, with nearly thirty contributions from about twenty local people. On display were extracts from the Old School Log Book (pre 1929) with school photo & teacher Vera Rose (1919), extracts from the Guests Ledger at the White Lion (c.1914) with photographs of landlord Fred Pyke, photographs of the Wherwell Car, photographs of buildings in High Street, Church Street and Fullerton Road, and photographs of local people (Hilary Thrupp with Quilt, Cricket Club 1961 and Home Guard members).

**Interval refreshments** included home-made biscuits from Judith Herridge and mince pies. The second half was a display of items 'from the floor'; a veritable treasure trove which included two substantial collections of village postcards, village school group photos (c. 1934), Dublin Farm Barn (then & now), Grace Morgan and friends, a map of Wherwell (c. 1800), a souvenir BBQ lucky programme celebrating 1000 years of Wherwell Priory (987 to 1987), a souvenir programme for Fete Champetre (July 1989 in the presence of HRH Prince Philip to raise money for Countess of Brecknock House) with a set of souvenir champagne flutes, a ginger beer bottle (Miles of Andover) and C18th & C19th coins from a garden in Fullerton, and restoration drawings for the Church Bells. The whole evening had plenty of buzz and warmth, and by popular request we will run another Open Evening in December 2011.

**Living Links** is the name of a project being run by Hampshire Record Office to encourage new History Groups, create Archives Ambassadors and offer support, advice and training in the twin fields of gathering local history and preservation of archives. In the Parish Magazine for February 2008, Brenda Bryant and Mike Gee had submitted an article proposing the formation of a Wherwell History Group. This article was seen by Jan Smith of Chilbolton, who worked at the HRO. As a result, Brenda & Mike were invited to join a pilot group of the project. Since then the group has benefited from several training workshops, help with drafting our Constitution, a behind-the-scenes tour of the HRO, useful contacts with other History Groups, and a ready supply of preservation materials and helpful advice freely given by the project co-ordinators; initially Sarah Speller and latterly Bryony Hatton.

**Living Links** is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The 3-year project is nearing completion and Wherwell History Group have been invited to be part of a video/film which will highlight the successful aspects of the project. A film crew will be visiting Wherwell Village Hall on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2011, where we will mount an exhibition of our archives and be interviewed about our involvement with the project. We will give part of this exhibition a second airing at the Wherwell Coffee Morning on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February, 10:30 am to noon.

**English Folklore** is the title of our next illustrated monthly meeting. Here is a summary of all the dates for 2011, in case you have mislaid our November newsletter ...

21st January	Heather Sheeley,	English Folklore
18th February	Jack Wilson,	Medieval Southampton
18th March	Phoebe Merrick,	Medieval Romsey Abbey
15th April	Jan Smith,	Archives in the Attic
20th May	AGM & Members Evening	
17th June	David Lee,	Wessex Film & Sound Archive
16th September	Phill Jennison,	Wherwell Church Renovation & History
21st October	Pamela Boyes,	The Restoration of King Charles II
18th November	Dave Walton,	History of British Coinage through Metal Detecting
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Open Evening & Display of Archives	

We've had a very heartening turnout to our meetings In 2010, and for the second year running our paid-up membership tops 50. Thank you for your excellent support and see you soon!

*Andrew Flanagan*