

The **OLHA AGM and spring study day** will be on **Saturday 11 May** in **Shipton under Wychwood** on the subject of ***Wychwood: the forest then and now***.



Shipton-under-Wychwood was at the centre of a royal hunting reserve which by 1300 covered 50,000 acres of woodland north of Witney. The area was a favourite hunting ground of mediaeval kings, who imposed forest law to protect the deer, timber and other woodland resources. Later, the area acquired a reputation for lawlessness, “*filled with poachers, deer stealers, thieves and pilferers*”, as Arthur Young wrote. Wychwood was Crown property until 1857, when it was transformed into the landscape of villages and farms we see today.

The village is of local stone and has a church tower dating from 1200, a 15th-century inn, and a Jacobean manor house whose former grounds have become the Wild Garden. For our study day, Simon Townley, editor of the Oxfordshire Victoria County History will speak about their recent researches into Wychwood, and there will be a visit to the Wild Garden (left), once in the grounds of Shipton Court.

There will be a booking form in the next (April) e-bulletin.