

Willoughby Society Annual Report - November 1986

Membership 80

Average Attendance 44

Society Meetings

The usual eight monthly meetings have been held. January this year saw the return of Mr. Stephen Church of Churches China. His comments on various favourite pieces brought by members were of great interest. Mr. R. Liscoe told us the full story of the raising of the Mary Rose in February. He had been a volunteer diver during the whole of this project and his first hand experience together with his slides brought reality to his description. Dusty Roades was our speaker in March. His subject "Country Crafts and Craftsmen" was full of :humour as well as information. He brought a collection of old time tools with him and these gave added interest to his talk. Another enthusiast was our speaker in April when Mr. George Freeson described his personal experiences of the repairing of the Blisworth Canal Tunnel. Mr. D. K. Baldwin returned in May with an unusual collection of slides called "Loitering with Intent". In June we welcomed Mr. K. Smith complete with horse collar who told the story of his love affair with Shire Horses. After the summer break we enjoyed a talk with numerous slides by Mrs. Millburn who described her long journey "overland to Nepal". On October 29th our annual quiz was held. Thanks go to Mr. Sunderland and Mr. Harrison and congratulations to the gentlemen who won the contest.

Social Events

An extra social event took place last March when we held an Archives Coffee Evening which was attended by the county Archivist. Bangers and Mash on March 21st. and punch and pate on May 3rd. were followed in June by the annual car rally. All these seemed to be enjoyed by those who participated and the car rally had joint winners , Mr. Arthur Wright's team and Miss Elizabeth Harrison' s team. They will have the pleasure of organising the rally for 1987. The mystery and Barbecue turned out to be two competitive skittles competitions one for ladies and one for gentlemen. This was entered into enthusiastically by those who were present and the accompanying eats added to the enjoyment. Are there any suggestions for the Barbecue in 1987. ?

The cheese and wine evening took place on October 25th and we look forward to the Christmas party on December 12th.

Committee

Your committee have attended eight meetings and as secretary I wish to thank them all for their support and help, they have all worked very hard. Our chairman for 1983 - 86 Mr. Brownlow is now retiring from the committee. I take this opportunity to remind you that he has served the Willoughby Society for over 20 years, Much of the time as chairman but also as secretary and as treasurer. He now feels that it is time for a rest and who can blame him. I can only say that at this moment I feel the society will not be the same without his guiding hand but then everything, has to change in time. In conclusion the 1986 committee hope th2t you will all continue to attend and to enjoy the meetings in the New year, so that we can build upon all the hard work which has been put into this society in the past.