

1980 REP O R T

WILLOUGHBY SOCIETY FORMED 1962

OFFICERS:	President:	Mr. S.J. Ivens
	Chairman:	Mr. J. Bussey
	Vic e-Chairman:	Mr. R. Whitfield
	Hon. Secretary:	Mr. P. Brownlow
	Hon. Treasurer:	Mrs. Q. Hancock
	Social Secretary:	Mrs. F. Ivens
	Hon. Archivist:	Mr. J. Bussey

COMMITTEE: Mrs. D. Brownlow.
Mrs. B. Jones.
Mrs. M. Hubbard.
Mrs. V. Hall.
Mr. R. Harrison.
Mr. I. Fairweather.

Secretary's Report to be given at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 26th 1980, at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

The membership of the Society has increased to ninety-seven and it is with pleasure that we can record increased involvement in our activities by some of these new members.

There have been eight monthly meetings, with an average attendance of forty-eight. Once more this figure is down but only because of the two disastrous months of May, when twenty-nine attended and September when thirty-eight attended. It would appear that alterations to meeting dates in these two months did not have the desired effect of increasing attendances, but due to forward booking, I'm afraid that these altered dates will have to be adhered to for a further year.

Your committee have met on ten occasions with, once again, a very high attendance record, and the entertainments sub-committee have met on a number of occasions.

The speakers were again varied in their subjects, and I'm sure gave considerable interest to many members.

After the last Annual General Meeting, Mr. Ivens interested and amused us with his personal recollections of the village. "Tribulations of 1977" was the title of Fred Mitchell's talk in January. The story of the Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations from conception to fruition was indeed a story of a job well done despite all the tribulations.

In February we were reminded that even a subject such as "The Magistrate and his Court" has its lighter side, when Mr. Jack Green kept us interested.

March was the month for wine tasting with Mr. Perry of Bablake Wines. "The Story of Jesus" and a tour of the Holy places, with musical accompaniment was Mr. Tims' contribution in April.

May brought Mr. Mills and his film of a year on the nature reserve of Jim Russell. A very rewarding effort.

Mr. Webster, fast becoming a regular member of our speakers panel, gave us a gripping lecture on "Witches and Ghosts of Warwickshire". Perhaps June was a good time to have this particular talk.

In September Mrs. Hedges, perhaps the most informal and natural of all our 1980 speakers, gave a very enlightening and enjoyable talk on Wool Spinning and Dyeing. It was unfortunate that the number of members attending this meeting was far less than normal, because I'm sure that those who were able to attend would agree with me that those unable to attend missed a treat. Of course in October we had the Annual Quiz, and after a closely fought contest, the gentlemen once again ran out winners but only by one point.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES:

On December 8th, the Committee presented our Annual Christmas Social - "Sinbad the Sailor" was the pantomime, coconuts and all, and Sid Ivens will long be associated with the catch phrase "Well, what of it?".

The Dinner was held at the Dun Cow, Dunchurch on February 22nd and was attended by fifty-eight members.

The Punch & Pate held on May 3rd was once more a success, the Committee's version of Celebrity Squares being won by Mr. Sunderland.

The outing to Stewart Crystal Glass works on June 2nd was supported by forty-nine members. A good afternoon, but due to the economic climate a number of sections were not working to capacity and consequently it was thought that the tour was not as comprehensive as previously. However, the good ladies of Wordsley Methodist Church had not allowed economics to influence them, and the tea provided by them was voted excellent value.

Unfortunately the Annual Outing had to be cancelled due to lack of support.

The Car Rally was held on Wednesday, June 18th and fourteen car loads of enthusiasts toured the Northamptonshire countryside for a couple of hours. This was followed by an excellent buffet at the Falconer at Daventry. The marking was extremely close, and it was only by being able to produce the smallest key that Mr. Ivens was declared the winner. His persistence over the years had paid off at last, and for his efforts he will organise the 1981 event!

In August some fifty odd members donned macs and wellies for their annual ramble around the village. Mr. Whitfield again turned up trumps with the Home Brew, and this time having doubled the amount of onions, once again, we almost met the target. The prize winners were Mrs. Hubbard for the walk, and Mrs. Roach for the competition held in the Hall

The Old Tyme evening in October was replaced by an Olde Rural Evening. Cottage loaves, village baked, beer by courtesy of Mr. Fairweather, chicken drumsticks held in the fingers, and an ever increasing number of people in fancy dress made the evening go with a swing. One can only say that the entrants in the "things to make"

competition were nothing short of excellent. The sale of these items and the raffle, together with various donations from members brought the proceeds from the evening to an astonishing £95. With an additional £5 being voted from Society funds, we were able to send a cheque for £100 to the Stoke Mandeville Rebuilding Fund.

In March we were able to congratulate Mr. & Mrs. Cook on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding, but it was with regret that we heard of the death of Mr. Foster in May.

May I say thank you to the Chairman and members of the Committee for the support which they have given to me over the year, and may I say on their behalf a big thank you to all the members who have supported their efforts so well.

But in conclusion, may I make an appeal to you all. do not allow the success of our social functions to detract your minds from the main objects of the Society. We must continue to record events both present and past, we must always be vigilant so that we may make our voice heard in opposition to any desecration of the countryside, so that future generations will know that there were, at least, some people who cared.

P. Brownlow

26/11/80.