

From the Willoughby Society Archives

Secretary's Report 1985

Willoughby Society Formed 1962

Officers	President	Mrs. D.J. Brownlow
	Chairman	Mr. P. Brownlow
	Vice-Chairman	Mr. J. Bussey
	Hon. Sec.	Mrs. F. Ivens
	Hon. Treasurer	Mr. R. Harrison
	Social Sec.	Mrs. M. Hubbard
	Hon. Archivist	Mr. R. Whitfield

Committee	Mrs. V. Hall
	Mrs. P. Wright
	Mrs. B. Jones
	Mrs. B. Harrison
	Mrs. G. Hancock
	Mr. M. Henson

This secretary's report is given at the A.G.M. held on November 27th 1985 at the Village Hall. The membership of the society for 1985 has been 85. There have been eight monthly meetings with an average attendance of 45. Your committee have met on ten (10) occasions and the archives sub-committee has continued to meet from time to time. At the monthly meetings we have had a variety of speakers. Last January we had the first visit of Mr. Stephen Church. It was actually the first occasion upon which he had given a talk of this kind but nobody would have guessed this. He was both informative and amusing and suggested to us that the best bone china was tougher than we thought. Mr. Lloyd-Griffiths gave us a Vet's view of the Royal Show in February. He is an old friend of the society and it was nice to see him again. In March there was the return of Mr. Baldwin, with his slides of South Africa. Mr. Baldwin is always good value and we can look forward to seeing him again in 1986. Perhaps the most unusual and fascinating talk was given by Mr. J.S. Gunn in April, with his collection of antique musical boxes. In May we welcomed another old friend, Mr. David Barby. He gave us a general talk on antiques and we enjoyed seeing the variety of antique articles he had brought along. Mr. Barby is always a pleasure to listen to. In June we had Mr. S. Bennet telling us about Birmingham International Airport although the high-light of the evening was the presentation to Mr. & Mrs. Bamford on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding. After the summer break, Mr. J.H. Cain came in September to give his talk on wild Life around Napton. There were no wolves or bears but he showed lovely slides of many small creatures like butterflies, frogs and ladybirds and there were also slides of flowers and plants. He is obviously a very skilful photographer. October, as usual was quiz-time. Mr. Brian Sunderland presented his second interesting quiz. It was almost Hallowe'en, the time for witches and magic spells, so what could be more suitable than a round or two of spelling. We also had signature tunes and questions on the 1960's and the 1930's. From all these trials the ladies emerged victorious, which made a nice change. Thanks

were accorded to Mr. Sunderland and also to Mr. Harrison who rounded off the quiz with a selection of slides which we had to identify.

When we come to remember our social activities we are taken back to last December and the Christmas party or social. This time we had a visiting group, the Heart of England Music Hall Society, who provided the entertainment. Their performance was very enjoyable and it was restful and pleasant for committee members to be able to sit back and enjoy themselves instead of having to perform. The refreshments were delicious and were organised by the ladies of the committee with help from some other lady-members. A party of mainly committee members visited the Belgrade Theatre on January 24th 1985 and had an enjoyable evening. It is hoped to arrange another visit to the Belgrade Theatre early in 1986.

The other social events of 1985 Here all held in the usual way. The Punch and Pate evening on May 4th made a smaller profit than usual, due to smaller numbers, but it was a pleasant evening and was rounded off by the showing of Mr. Cook's beautiful slides of places he had visited. The organisers of the car rally on June 19th were Mr. Walton's and Mr. Henson's teams for 1984. Many thanks are due to them for devising a very testing and interesting course. There did seem to be a lot of organisers which probably accounted for the lengthy list of questions. Some of us thought we should never make it back to Willoughby. Mr. Harrison's team were the winners(again)

Aug3rd outing to Royal Doulton Stoke on Trent

For the Barbeque and Ramble on August 14th we were very lucky. It had rained most of the day but cleared up for the start of the ramble. Returning to the hall we carried on with barbequing the sausages and onions and beefburgers until almost 10 p.m. when down came the rain again. Luckily we had almost finished. The Cheese and Wine evening on October 26th Has a great success. Considerable quantities of cheese (and wine) were consumed but the competition was the highlight of the evening. The gentlemen had to make a Christmas card. There were three entries, all excellent, but the little peg dolls dressed by the Ladies stole the show. Mrs. Whitfield's lovely blue Lady was adjudged the winner and Mr. J, Walton's Christmas card came first in his group.

On March 22nd. we had a Bangers and Mash evening. This was an innovation and seemed to meet with approval. we hope to repeat the experiment in 1986.

Now that 1985 is drawing to its end it is with deep sadness that we record the death of Mrs. Hayley and of Mr. Dai Roach during the year. Each time there was a great sense of shock and they are both remembered with respect and affection. In conclusion I wish to thank all members for their support and especially the committee and the chairman, without whose help I should not have been able to cope. Let us hope that the Willoughby Society will have continued success in 1986.