

WILLOUGHBY SOCIETY SECRETARY'S REPORT 1987 - 88

I will begin by recording that 1987 brought us the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Willoughby Society.

This anniversary was marked by a Gala Christmas Party in 1987, which included entertainment by the Rugby Theatre Music Group, a magnificent birthday cake and a quantity of sparkling wine. It was to be hoped that all this celebration augured well for the next 25 years but, in effect attendances at meetings and most other functions have fallen somewhat but, hopefully, this trend may turn out to be temporary.

Speakers in 1988 have dealt with a variety of subjects. Mr. Steven Jackson, in January, enthralled us with his enthusiasm for badgers and with his lovely photography. He returns to us in January 1989 and this time his subject is Butterflies.

I missed Mr. Derek Wakelin's slides of Chrysanthemums in February but I understand that these were of high quality.

In March we heard Mr. Derek Lilley a National Trust speaker who, with his slides of East Anglia, its beaches and marshes and bird-life, proved to be refreshingly different from the usual representative of the National Trust.

April brought us Mr. Peter Elliott speaking on Railways of Rugby, always a popular subject.

Mrs. Meg Atkins in May proved to be the hit of the year with her stories of Haunted Warwickshire.

In June we were brought back severely to reality with the visit of Mrs. Peter Stone from the Rugby Environmental Health Office. With her slides and her creepy crawlers in bottles she certainly enlivened what sounded like a rather humdrum subject.

The September speaker, Mr. Jim Pawsey M.P. was notable only for his absence, but we greatly enjoyed our chairman's account of his far eastern holiday.

The Quiz, in October was again in the capable and clever hands of Mr. and Mrs. Bryant and we do thank them for all their hard work.

The usual social events seemed to be enjoyed by those who attended. The Hot Nosh in March was followed by slides of Malta. The car-rally was won by Mr. Arthur Wright, the rest of us got lost, as usual, in Badby. The Barbecue and Ramble was lucky in having a fine evening. I personally, was very gratified by the number of people who took part in the ramble - as I had had fun preparing the clues - which is much easier than finding them.

The cheese and wine evening concluded the program of social events. What's My Line was perhaps not quite so hilarious as Call My Bluff the year before but we do try. This event was a financial success and the competition entries provided good interest.

We were very sorry to lose Mr and Mrs. Roy Whitfield when they left Willoughby in June. Roy did a splendid job as archivist but he was also entertainer, choir member (in the days when we had a choir) designer of tickets and posters and at one time, out chairman. Honor was for many years our auditor. They will be greatly missed. We hope to see them at the Christmas Party, together with all of you.

This year we shall be sending Christmas wishes to our oldest member , Mr. Arthur Hatwell, who is now resident at Kilsby House. Mr. Hatwell is 89 and I am sure you will all want to wish him a Happy Christmas.

In conclusion, my thanks go to the chairman. president and all the committee for their support. I'm afraid I don't always hear all they say but they put up with me - as you all appear to do - so thank you for bearing with me.