

Region, and Hugh Compton spoke with the in-depth knowledge of the true expert on our local canal. Hugh Hinde completed another successful year with an entertaining exposition on the history of duelling with pistols.

In the summer, on two beautiful summer days, we visited Milton Manor House (near Abingdon) and were conducted round the earthworks and gardens at Canons Ashby. Fiona Thompson, Beryl Hudson and Deborah Hayter organised these with their usual initiative and efficiency. For the A.G.M., we were invited to Shalstone House by Mr Geoffrey Purefoy, his family home for over two centuries.

Our start-of-season reception was held at the new Museum, hosted by Simon and his staff, and as always much enjoyed.

The normal three issues of *Cake & Cockhorse* appeared, with contributions from Nick Allen, Christine Bloxham, Ruth Brown, Hugh Compton, Deborah Hayter, Geoffrey Smedley-Stevenson, Philip Tennant and Barrie Trinder, as well as from regulars Brian Little and Jeremy Gibson, who compiled the 28-page index to Volume 15, that concluded with the Summer issue.

Regrettably it did not prove possible to finalise Dr Leo de Freitas' *Banbury and the Chapbook*, but it should appear soon. The delay with this and *Turnpike Roads to Banbury* is entirely due to your series editor's continuing inability to find the energy to devote the time it requires for their presentation, but they *will* be completed in due course. Geoffrey Smedley-Stevenson's long-term work on the diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington 1836-1848, is effectively also ready for publication.

Income from subscriptions comfortably covered our day-to-day running costs, and made a significant contribution to our healthy end-of-year balance. This balance, together with a promised grant, should be sufficient to cover costs of the records volumes in the pipeline. There were no calls on the Brinkworth Fund during the year. The committee would welcome suggestions for expenditure from the Fund which need to be of a broadly educational nature.