

Globe Theatre on the banks of the Thames in Southwark, we learnt about the combination of archaeology and documentary evidence for a group of villages on the Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire border from Dr Richard Jones, and ended with Michael Pirie on Oxford College Gardens (see this issue). The Museum location continues popular, often almost house-full, with relatively easy parking and disabled access of which gratifyingly good use is made.

On fine summer days, we visited Honington Hall (near Shipston) and Stowe House (near Buckingham), where much has been done in recent years to restore the State Rooms to their former magnificence from the ravages of schoolboy occupation. Beryl Hudson organised these with her usual initiative and efficiency. A smaller than usual number attended the A.G.M., held at Steane Chapel, by invitation of Sir Michael Connell, nevertheless it was the usual pleasant occasion.

Once again 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, the late Thomas Ward Boss (1903), Nicholas Cooper, Alan Donaldson, Jone Garmendia, Peter Gaunt, Ross Gilkes, Deborah Hayter, Geoffrey Stevenson, Hazel Thurlow and Barrie Trinder, as well as from regulars Brian Little and Jeremy Gibson.

With *The Banbury Chapbooks* published, attention is now focused on Geoffrey Smedley-Stevenson's edition of the diaries of William Cotton Risley, 1836-1869. This is planned to form two volumes, the first for his time as Vicar of Deddington 1836-1848; the remainder for his continuing residence at Deddington Manor during the notorious incumbency of his successor the Reverend James Brogden. They cover a wide variety of matters relevant to Banburyshire and further afield, and make absorbing reading – members are in for a treat. Publication of at least one and, it is hoped, both will be during 2005. In the circumstances, the delay with *Turnpike Roads to Banbury* continues, but it *will* be completed in due course.

Our general income comfortably covered the cost of our monthly meetings and publishing *Cake & Cockhorse*. Our major item of expenditure this year was £3,364 on the publication and despatch of *The Banbury Chapbooks* records volume, towards which we received a generous grant of £2,000 from the Greening Lamborn Trust. The reprint of the *Banbury and Shutford Plush* booklet cost £438.

We met the cost (£970) of transferring the complete run of *Cake & Cockhorse* to CD-Rom from the Brinkworth Fund. A generous legacy of £500 had been received from Mrs Sarah Markham (obituary *C&CH* 15.9) and this was paid into the Brinkworth Fund as a contribution towards this expense.