

Outside work hours, Chris was a keen lottery follower. Once her husband John was greeted with the news that she had still to get a ticket. This inspired the truly wonderful response, 'I won the lottery when I got Chris'. Although not a member of the Banbury Historical Society she was always regarded as an honorary one though sadly now we shall never get the chance to make this official.

Her immaculate organisation of the introductory social event in September was so very characteristic of devotion to a task outside her normal duties and her obvious pleasure in putting on a good show. She dealt with many membership enquiries on the Society's behalf, and no doubt a number of members reading this have Chris to thank for convincing them of the benefits of membership.

In the Society and the wider Banbury public who visited the museum there is a great sense of loss made all the more poignant by the fact that post Horse Fair days were so very different. Her changed role meant that she did not meet people on quite the same terms. Nevertheless by the time the move to the canalside was underway, she had already impressed generations of enquirers for whom the museum was synonymous with 'Chris will know' and she usually did.

Brian Little

Lecture Reports

Brian Little and Nick Allen

Thursday 8th September 2005.

Preceding the meeting a large gathering of our members enjoyed a very good Reception organised by Fiona Thompson and Kay Smith (food) and Simon Townsend (drink). Their splendid efforts made for a most enjoyable occasion.

A Ramble around the Cotswold Woollen Heritage – Richard Martin, Cotswold Woollen Weaver.

This excellent and entertaining talk was indeed a roam through the world of weaving. The route was extremely well signposted and offered some unusual perspectives of one aspect of our industrial history.

Richard Martin's main theme was that of the search for written evidence of skills and inventions in the knowledge that processes and early technology were not committed to printed publications until well after industrialisation had taken place. He agreed that the reason for this lack of relevant texts was to be sought in the assumption early on that wool underpinned wealth in the form of money, available food and fine churches. Prior to the fifteenth century there was contentment with this situation. It was not until 1745 that a William Ellis put together a book about sheep. Even then illustrations did not convey the exact picture of pastoral Britain. Today we are better able to appreciate the excellence