

He also told us of the house's chequered career once William Morris died, the house passing to his wife Jane; their eldest daughter May made her will in 1929 naming the Society of Antiquaries as legatees. Jenny, the youngest daughter, died in 1935 leaving her residuary portion of the estate also to the Society. May, however, continued to live there until she died in 1938. Under the terms of her will the property went to the University of Oxford. In 1962 the University got the Trust declared invalid and Kelmscott passed to the Society of Antiquaries.

Finally Nicholas exhorted anyone who had not been to Kelmscott to make the pilgrimage. The gardens are lovely and the house is beautifully presented, it really does feel like a house that is lived in; the Morris family's presence is still very much there. He exhorted those in his audience who have not visited Kelmscott to do so – it is a very special place.

N.J.A.

