

The autumn season opened with the customary reception followed appropriately by Matthew Armitage's history of the adjacent boatyard and canal; the report appears in this issue. Beryl Ellerslie outlined the history of Temple Balsall and its connection with the Knights Templar, Simon Townley gave us an insight to the work involved in preparing volumes of the Oxfordshire *Victoria County History*, and we ended the year with a description of the Edgehill and Edgecote Trail project (the sequel, on Naseby, postponed in February due to a rare taste of real winter snow, will now be heard in April).

In the summer, a visit to the archaeological site of the Bishop's Palace at Witney proved a popular change from our more usual country house excursions, as did a return to Kelmscott Manor. Once again these were organised with initiative and efficiency by Beryl Hudson.

The A.G.M. was held at the County Museum at Woodstock, and the attendance showed that members are prepared to travel some distance for this meeting.

We returned to the normal three issues of *Cake & Cockhorse*, though the appearance of the Summer issue was understandably hazarded by your editor's lengthy confinement to hospital during August and September.

Contributions came from Nick Allen, Colin Cohen, Nicholas Cooper, Deborah Hayter, Pamela Horn, Kevin Lodge, Fiona Thompson, Barrie Trinder and Cliff Webb, as well as a seventeenth century 'Anon.' and from regulars Brian Little and the editor himself.

Once again our expectations of publishing records volumes have been dashed, this year by the untimely poor health and eventual serious illness of Jeremy Gibson. Thankfully he is now well recovered and work is once again progressing well. The 'minor work' on the indexes to the diaries of William Cotton Risley turned out to be much greater than expected, and Beryl Hudson has spent a great deal of time expanding these. The subject index has been particularly difficult, due to the diarist's many diverse interests. Work on Volume One is now almost complete. It has also restarted on *Turnpike Roads to Banbury*. Publication of one or both should soon occur. We also have a very exciting and attractive special volume well advanced for publication to coincide with our Fiftieth Anniversary this October.

Our general income comfortably covered the cost of our monthly meetings and the publication of *Cake & Cockhorse*, but our decision to make a contribution of £1000 to the eventually successful appeal to save the Cartwright papers meant that we ended the year with a small loss. Our end-of-year balance should be sufficient to cover the publishing costs of the records volumes in the pipeline. There were no calls on the Brinkworth Fund during the year.