



The Fiftieth Annual General Meeting, held at Astrop House.

We were delighted to be able to hold our Fiftieth Annual General Meeting, on Thursday 17th July 2008, at Astrop House, near Kings Sutton, by kind invitation of Mrs and Mrs John Ewart. This was a rare privilege, as the house is not open to the public. This picture shows the meeting about to commence, once the Hon. Secretary, who took the photograph, could join the President and the Chairman at the table. Around forty actually attended, many more being behind the camera.

After the AGM, Deborah Hayter gave a brief account of the house, built by the Willes family in the 1730s, and of the famous Astrop Spa, which flourished throughout the eighteenth century.

After suitable refreshment, members made their way across fields to the actual St Rumbold's Well, on which the Spa was centred. A replica of the well stands by the public road, built for the villagers by the then owner of Astrop when he moved the road out of his park, but what we were viewing, still on private land, was the eighteenth century well-head for the original spring. As the pictures show, despite the disappearance of buildings, the well itself is very similar to that shown in Rowlandson's painting of 1813 (first reproduced in *Cake & Cockhorse* to illustrate an article in Vol.5, No.7, Autumn 1973, p.134).

Truly a memorable day.