

Our speaker went on to consider how the bodies were transported from the often-distant place of death to the burial site. Usually this was stage by stage, sometimes over a long period of time, rather than in a single movement. On occasions, as with Queen Eleanor of Castile, wife of Edward I, there was a funeral procession and crosses were erected at the stopping places of the funeral cortège.

Embalming was a popular and necessary procedure and the various stages were done by a diversity of people, including butchers, surgeons and monks. Organs were removed and separate burials of various parts would take place as in the case of Henry I, Richard I and Eleanor of Provence. An alternative to embalming was boiling, especially after 1300 and particularly when bodies were brought home from abroad.

Overall an audience of about 50 members agreed that this had been a sensitive treatment of the subject matter and a beautifully illustrated lecture.

Thursday 12th February 2009

The First Pompeii

Dr Judith Toms

Unfortunately our regular reporter was away on another commitment. Brian had arranged for another (myself) to make a record, but at a late stage I was unable to attend. Despite wintry weather there was a crowded audience for what I understand was a fascinating talk. **J.G.**

Prize for Local History – Update

In the last issue of *Cake & Cockhorse* we announced that the committee had decided to offer a prize of £100 for the best piece of original local research or project, inviting local historians and researchers to submit their work.

So far we have received, or have been promised, several pieces. Some people have asked whether their work is suitable for inclusion in such a competition. In all these cases, the answer is *yes!* Nothing is excluded unless it has already been published. So please, let us see some more of what you have all been doing, beavering away in your own local archives. We need two copies of the details of current or completed research delivered to the Honorary Secretary of the Banbury Historical Society, c/o Banbury Museum, by 30 April 2009. The competition will be judged by a panel formed from our committee.

For further information, or to discuss possibilities, please contact Helen Forde or Deborah Hayter (see inside front cover for email and postal addresses).

Email List

If any other members of the Banbury Historical Society would like to add their email addresses to the members' list, we can send reminders and extra information about forthcoming lectures, and other events of which we are notified that we think might interest you.

Send your email address to <deborahhayter@hotmail.com>.