

The final result was a tie between the Aynho History Society and the Steeple Aston Archive and they shared a prize of £100. The Society is delighted to have forged links with these and other local history societies as a result and to have encouraged individual historians. Some of the work has already appeared in *Cake & Cockhorse* in the shape of articles and all the entrants and others will be encouraged to share their skills at a special workshop in 2010. The committee is hoping that the competition will be repeated in 2011. A full report has already appeared in *Cake & Cockhorse* vol 17/9 (summer 2009).

The autumn programme began with a talk from Liz Woolley outlining her research on the parish of St Thomas the Martyr in west Oxford from the twelfth century to the present day. This offered the opportunity to explore a relatively unknown part of Oxford and its development and appreciate the changes, some quite dramatic, that have occurred. It was followed by Nick Hill in October who regaled the audience with an account of the triumphs and pitfalls for English Heritage in the work done to restore the magnificent Apethorpe Hall, a major Northamptonshire country house dating back to the 15th century. Alan Crawford's talk in November on the Arts and Crafts Movement in the north Cotswolds centred on Chipping Camden, where there is now a museum dedicated to the work of the movement and the final talk was given by Adrian Shooter, Chairman of Chiltern railways. He started with the history of the early development of the line out of Marylebone, indicated the changes that had taken place and gave indications of the further developments to come.

The normal three issues of *Cake & Cockhorse* included contributions from Christine Bloxham, the late Dorothy Bromley, Peter Brookfield, John Duncan, Helen Forde, Chris Hall, Sir Paul Hayter, the late W.P. Johnson, Rodney Lucas, Tony Newman, Rona Rowe, Geoffrey Smedley-Stevenson and from regulars Brian Little and the editor himself. It was a frustrating year for publications as nearly completed work on *Turnpike Roads to Banbury* had to be put on hold due to the general editor's other commitments. However, the book has now effectively been completed and is ready to go to the printers. Publication of the second part of Risley's diary, to 1869, awaits the completion of indexes.

For our finances, 2009 was an uneventful year. The increase in subscription income reflects the new rates implemented in 2009. The closing balance on the General Fund, together with promised grants from the Greening Lamborn Fund, should be sufficient to meet the costs of the two records volumes in the pipeline. The prizes for the history research projects were met from the Brinkworth Museum Fund.