

enthuse an audience about his subject as he has been cataloguing the archive for the last two years in the Northamptonshire Record Office. The Record Office put up an exhibition on the archive at the same time, in the museum, which remained *in situ* into the New Year and has been enjoyed by many. The final lecture of the year was also very well attended despite the weather, members and others being offered the opportunity to learn more about the history of the gardens at Stowe. This was given by Gary Marshall who works for the National Trust and is in charge of the gardens have been put.

E-mail communication with members has been maintained by Deborah Hayter who tirelessly reminds everyone of the dates of meetings and also adds other events into her newsletter, connecting the Society with activities in the surrounding area. The Society had a table at the Banbury History Fair which was held on 21-22 May where the public could ask about the activities of the Society, buy publications and become members. Quite a lot of interest was shown, especially about the forthcoming lecture at the beginning of 2011 on the history of the Alcan Company. In addition, the website for the Society has been re-vamped and is now clearer and more user-friendly.

After the success of the Local History Competition a couple of years ago we have launched a further competition which will follow the same guidelines and which will, we hope, bring in another stash of work from local historians.

The normal three issues of *Cake & Cockhorse* included contributions from Robert Caldicott, Peter Christopher, Alan Donaldson, Tom Forde, Duncan Harrington, Paul Hayter, Geoffrey Lane, Mary Quinlan, Simon Townsend (with a colourful depiction of the Original Cakeshop mural) and Barrie Trinder, as well as regulars such as Brian Little and the editor himself (despite serious illness in February). At long last the records volume *Turnpike Roads to Banbury* appeared. Our thanks are due to its author Alan Rosevear for his patience during its long gestation. Work continues on the index to the second part of the diary of William Cotton Risley, 1849-1869. Typing of the index to *Rusher's Banbury Directory, 1832-1906* is well-advanced. This will form a separate publication to be issued with an on-line facsimile of the Directory itself on the Society website.

The most important event financially in 2010 was the publication of the Turnpikes records volume for which we received a generous grant of £3000 from the Greening Lamborn Trust. We were happy to make use of the Brinkworth Museum Fund to make a contribution to the Bodleian Library's appeal to purchase the archive of Cheneys, the Banbury printers, which was in danger of being broken up for private sale. The balance of the General Fund should be sufficient to meet the costs of publishing the two records volumes in the pipeline.

Sadly, ill health prevented Dick Mayne from carrying out the audit of our 2010 Accounts. We are grateful to Stephen Smith for stepping into the breach.