

Heritage Society Annual Report 2018

The Heritage Society has enjoyed another good year with a varied programme of meetings, new ventures and much to look forward to.

A wide range of excellent speakers have entertained us on topics such as The White Queen and Grafton Regis, Sir Christopher Hatton and Holdenby House, The Boot and Shoe Industry and Admiral Beatty. Two meetings were “in House” with the committee presenting items from the archives and Beryl and Hilary giving a talk followed later by a walk on the history of the village. A highlight of the year was the talk about the restoration of Delapre Abbey followed by a guided tour.

Two meetings had to be re-arranged as the speakers were unwell. One was cancelled and for the other a speaker stepped in at short notice.

The programme for 2018 is also a very interesting one with many speakers who have visited before and who are known to be good. Highlights include a talk by Mr Basham about his time as headteacher of the village school, a talk about and visit to The new national leather museum and talks on the history of gardening and the London to Birmingham railway.

The society has continued to be involved in village events such as the canal festival and the best village competition.

The Open Archive afternoons in the church have continued to attract interest. Several people return each month to enjoy looking at the displays and revisit events in their past through photographs. The exhibitions were certainly enhanced by the items from the Walter Alexander collection which his daughter Audrey Evans let us have for display. The dates for the 2018 Open Archives are on The website .

The society continues to respond to requests to provide walks and talks to other groups and societies about the history of the village. This activity helps to raise the profile of the society and generate additional funds for the society.

All this activity is only possible because there is an active and hard working committee who give generously of their time and expertise. Membership of the society is buoyant with many new members

We can look forward with confidence to another good year in 2018.