

The Heritage Society Annual Report

The Heritage Society has enjoyed another good year with a varied programme of well attended meetings.

A wide range of excellent speakers have entertained us on topics such as the manors of Northamptonshire, the head gardener at Barnwell Manor, Blisworth School under John Basham, The National Leather collection and Christmas customs. Two meetings were led by very local speakers Dick Hennessy celebrated 100 years of the London to Birmingham Railway and Brian Stewart gave a talk about his grandfather's experiences in World War 1 . A highlight of the year was the evening of 17th and 18th century music presented by Richard York. The summer outing to the National leather collection in Northampton was a huge success.

The society has continued to be involved in village events such as the canal festival and helping with the production of a booklet about the men in Blisworth who died during World War 1.

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. A particularly successful session was the screening of films about the canal. A special thankyou to Dick Hennessy for his work in putting together the rolling slideshows of old photographs and to all the committee for their support of these afternoons and supply of refreshments. The sessions for 2019 will start in April.

The society continues to respond to requests to provide talks to other groups and societies and also mounted a display for the weekend organized by Roade History Society about the London to Birmingham Railway.

All this activity is only possible because there is an active and hard-working committee who give generously of their time and expertise I would like to thank each one of them. In particular a huge thankyou to a retiring member of the committee, Val Maycock, who has been a committee member since 2003.

We can look forward with confidence to another good year in 2019.