

Cogenhoe and Whiston Heritage Society

Chairman's Report to March 2019 AGM

How quickly the year has gone by. It only seems a short while ago that we were in this room at the previous AGM listening to Richard Deacon's Chairman's Report.

After being elected Chairman, I was immediately involved with the final three months of the Green Plaque Project, which the Society successfully unveiled on the 7th June, 2018. All the plaques are now in place bar one and I am hopeful that the remaining plaque will be in position during 2019.

I would like to thank once again all those involved in the project, especially Richard Deacon and Alison and her team at Squarebear who at short notice produced the professionally designed leaflet to accompany the unveiling.

The other big event of the year was the Armistice weekend in November. The Society had a stand in the Village Hall over the weekend showing photographs of the men from Cogenhoe who gave their lives in The Great War. The photographs were complemented with the Society's publication "Cogenhoe's Fallen Heroes" of which several were sold. Steven Hollowell provided a poignant display of artefacts from the First World War. The display was professionally presented and created a lot of interest with both young and old. It was a sobering reminder of the horrors of war.

The Cogenhoe map project is still ongoing with Ted Barnes at the helm. His move to Olney has interrupted the project and at the moment I do not have a completion date. However he will be giving us a talk about the project and some of the interesting facts that have come to light, later this year.

There are no other major projects at the moment but there is a small ongoing investigation into villagers who served in the armed forces during the Second World War and who lost their lives.

On the 25th May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) became law and the Society has introduced written procedures to ensure compliance. These procedures are reviewed when required or otherwise yearly at our January committee meeting.

Both Diane Ovet and Bob Shaw will be standing down from the committee at this AGM. I would like to thank both of them for their time and support, not only for myself during 2018, but to the previous Chairmen over many years. They will be greatly missed.

I would also like to thank all of the Committee for their work and to my wife Ann for providing a varied and interesting year of speakers and also for her behind the scenes work in the kitchen supplying teas, coffees and biscuits. Without all of your support the open evenings and events would not run as smoothly as they do, in fact they probably would not run at all.

Finally, I would like to say a big "thank you" for all your support and especially to Robert Vaughan who stood in for a speaker who had to cancel at the 11th hour in October.

I look forward to seeing you all throughout 2019.

Peter Alexander.