

As in the previous ten years all seems to have run on oiled wheels. With all sections operating very full schedules. Looking back from the 1980's one can trace various events which we now consider to have been important. For instance, in the early 1920's, (Vol. III), the finding of the tomb of Tutankamen shows itself in a lecture on Ancient Egypt. Equally, among the literary lectures there are mentions of Shaw and Ibsen and many other contemporary writers. Also Politics. The League of Nations is noted. Remember our much more recent talk on the European Parliament? There was a debate on Disarmament. Parallel with our present day lectures on Oil, Energy, Gas, Computers and Fibre Optics, there were talks on Oil, Wireless, Modern Science and the Physical Development of the Child. Modern composers were studied by the musicians. Concerts and Art Exhibitions continued to be prepared for, happen, and were commented upon afterwards. Looking back fifty years I find these comparisons fascinating, yet, without copying out the Minutes verbatim, there is no precise "story" to be written. I only comment and compare.

Estimates were requested for the installation of electric lighting in the Lecture Room and Hall. No sum for this work is mentioned, but the work was done by October 1930. The Lecture Room was cleaned and the ceiling was whitewashed. Cost £1.19.5d. A loss of members is mentioned but no names or numbers. Also there was a fall in the Society's finances. In 1931 there were still 26 of the original founding members on the books. Total membership at the 1931 AGM was 170. Again a complaint that members were slow to pay their subscriptions. Minor repairs to doors and windows and in the Minutes, small sums are noted as having been paid, but there is no note of detailed items. Not even the cost of installing electricity. It would have been interesting to know that. Mr. Genocchio died early in 1933. In September Miss D.M. Smith won the Churton Collins prize for English Literature, offered by the Cambridge Extension Board for the year.

A few further dates and amounts :-

<u>October 1934</u>	5gns to Messrs Newton & Co. for hire of lantern slides
<u>March 1936</u>	New heating installed. It worked well, £12 donated by Mr. Catleugh towards the total cost of £20

- January 1936 Sale of the old lantern screen. 10/-. The lantern was loaned/hired out on a number of occasions. Then comes the first mention of problems with the upper room floor. An Hon. Architect was appointed
- October 1936 The owner of Welwick House wrote to the Society that she was putting her property, including Welwick House, up for sale. The Hon. Secretary wrote back that the Society was unable to make an offer for Welwick House
- November 1936 News came that Welwick House had been sold and that Mr. Catleugh would be acting for the Owner. The Society could carry on using the house as their Headquarters
- January 1837 An Episcopate was sent on approval by Messrs Evans. After testing this instrument there was unanimous agreement on its purchase. This years annual expenditure of £76 included the cost of the Episcopate
- November 1937 Electric light was installed for the Caretaker. The actual outbreak of war was not mentioned in the 1939 Minutes, but its effect was immediate, with losses among Committee and members through being called up. Also the purchase of blackout material for curtains was noted. Still the Society carried bravely on

Here I feel that a word on the Ladies' Section should be included. I do not know how many of them there were or precisely what they did at their meetings, but they met regularly. Perhaps they knitted or sewed or did embroidery. There are few mentions in the Minutes. They certainly turned out chair and cushion covers, and curtains, and they endlessly provided refreshments after Concerts, AGM's, Social Evenings and Whist Drives. Every now and then they received a Vote of Thanks. Throughout the 14-18 war they knitted and sewed for the soldiers. I know they continued this good work during the 39/45 war too, but I have only just arrived at the second World War.

For the last two or three years of this section, the Minutes have become shorter and even less detailed.

END OF VOLUME IV