

## **REPORT ON THE SYMPOSIUM IN LONG MELFOD**

**25 AND 26 OCTOBER 2017**

For the third time, we went to the Bull Hotel. It is a lovely old coaching inn and they treat us very well. This year it was for just one day, as many felt that the extra night last year, had increased the expense greatly, without adding much to the content. Numbers were somewhat down. On our first visit here, we were 60, last year 50 and this year 32. This is both good and bad. The lecture room can hold 60, but it becomes very stuffy, with thirty it is very pleasant. The reduction in income from reduced numbers was significant, especially as we had no less than eight speakers this year.

I must admit that we do not pay our speakers, but we do pay their hotel expenses.

Despite these considerations, which play havoc with the organiser's nerves, the event proved to be a success. With fewer numbers, everyone was able to talk to everyone they wished to. We had eight talks on vastly differing subjects and we were able to make a profit for the Association's funds. This was greatly helped by the raffle prizes people brought. Hardly anyone left without one.

For those who did not come, here is the list of speakers:

Anne Grimshaw – Major Pierrepont, a mapmaker and Sketching officer.

Carole Divall – General Abercromby, overshadowed by Moore and Wellington

Mark Thompson – General George Madden

Nick Hallidie – Blomfield and Close, two subalterns of the 48<sup>th</sup>

Selwyn Kennard – Commander Conway Shipley RN

Jim Tanner – General Sir James Lieth

Rui Moura – Lt Colonel James Ward Oliver

Maria João Albuquerque – Erdmann Neuparth, a German musician who became a major influence in Portuguese music.

We are going to do it again next year.