

## OBITUARIES

### *Dr John Rivers, M.A., B.S., 1921-2006*

It is with great regret that we record the death of Dr John Rivers on 18th April 2006 at Corby Glen in Lincolnshire.

On retirement in 1981, John Rivers and his wife Ruth came to live in the village of Balscote. With their love of nature and their interest in gardens they set about designing one of their own, which they opened to the public each year, and which, no doubt, many Banbury Historical Society members will have visited.

Dr Rivers soon joined our Society, and in 1985 was elected to the committee. Within a year he became Chairman, on the untimely death of David Fiennes. In 1992 he was succeeded by Brian Little, and himself took on from Penelope Renold the important post of lecture programme secretary until his retirement from the committee in 1996. In both offices he worked hard to ensure smooth running and interesting occasions for our Society's members.

Sadly a few years later an episode of illness coincided with the death of his wife. Although he made a good recovery and again became a regular attender at the Society's lectures and visits, in 2005 he decided to return to Lincolnshire to live near his family. Committee members and old friends were able to ensure he was given a relaxed farewell lunch in Banbury, and a framed reproduction of an old photograph of the lower end of the High Street.

It was a kind of going home, for after gaining his medical degrees, he had a practice near Boston for many years. During that time he began the first training courses for general practioner students. He was settling in well in his new home and participating in various activities. It was perhaps appropriate that he died in a chair in his conservatory, with his garden beyond.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. His kind, courteous and sympathetic manner, and his interest in many subjects, made him well liked and respected by all. Our Society was fortunate to have his devoted support. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family in their sad loss.

**Fiona Thompson**