

## OUR FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Fiftieth Anniversary of the foundation of the Banbury Historical Society was celebrated in some style at Wroxton Abbey on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2007. The high points were of course provided by our two outstanding speakers, Nicholas Cooper on Wroxton Abbey itself (much expanded in this issue) and Professor Jeremy Black of Exeter University, with his magisterial exposition on King George III and Lord North (whose home Wroxton Abbey had been). However, the day was also notable for the sense of occasion evident amongst those attending, sixty-three members and our guests, including Mr Hugo Brunner, the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Professor John Beckett of the *Victoria County History*, and Dr Alan Crosby (himself with Banbury ancestry), editor of *The Local Historian*. All this was greatly enhanced by the setting of the Abbey, looking its best in the sunshine surrounded by grounds resplendent in autumn colours.

Lectures were in the elegant Regency Room. It was here also that the most fitting moment was observed, when Lord Saye and Sale reminded his audience of the huge debt of gratitude owed to Jeremy Gibson as co-founder of the Society and tireless worker on its behalf.



*Lord Saye and Sale presents Jeremy Gibson with a card and a 'crystal book', from himself and the committee, to mark fifty years of 'Inspiration' of the Society.*