

This speech preceded the presentation from the Society's committee of a card specially painted by Nick Allen and a block of crystal in the shape of a closed book. On this was engraved an appreciation of the "Founder and Inspiration" of the Society over fifty years. Jeremy for once was almost lost for words, but was heard afterwards to mutter "At least this is one book I won't have to find time to read."

The celebration was also a time to look back over the years by means of an excellent display of photographs and press cuttings in the Carriage House tracing the Society's growth and its contribution to the study of local history. One long-term member wrote afterwards "I was particularly glad to see Barrie Trinder [our Vice-president, who did so much to establish the reputation of our magazine]. I could not help remembering Ted and Gwladys Brinkworth, George Gardam, Jack Fearon, Alan Pain and others from the early days no longer with us – I feel their spirits would be looking on the day's events with approval."

A buffet lunch enabled members to catch up with old friends. Letters received afterwards all commented on the excellent fare. Tours of the house, now a home of the Fairleigh Dickinson University, imparted a sense of completeness to a day that will live long in the memory.

There can be no more fitting tribute than the observation by Professor Black that ours was "a scholarly and most powerful intellectual history society". This was praise indeed from an author whose writings are themselves a remarkable achievement for a busy academic.

Brian Little

Our Society makes History

Our fiftieth anniversary, its events and its publications, have led to a gratifying amount of coverage in print. Locally, the *Banbury Guardian*, especially through 'Look back with Little', has had lengthy features on both books, the fact of our special anniversary, and the day at Wroxton.

Almost unnoticed was a page devoted to our Society, as 'Local history society of the month' in the new BBC magazine *Who Do You Think You Are?*, spawned by the popular TV series (and note our forthcoming March lecture). Imminent are issues of *The Genealogists' Magazine* and *The Local Historian*, both of which will have long articles on resources for research into Banbury and its neighbourhood, and our part in providing them.

So keep your eyes open!