Our celebrations were given a right royal launch when His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester visited the society at the Guildhall on 13th October 2004. Unfortunately he could not see our library in the Jury Room as part of the ceiling was being repaired following its collapse earlier in the year. A display of early minute books, Henton photographs and other archival material was displayed in the Mayor’s Parlour where HRH also met vice-presidents and members of the committee. Our President, Sir Timothy Brooks and the Honorable Lady Brooks were present and took a leading role in the proceedings. His Royal Highness spent an hour talking with members of the Society and also had time to reacquaint himself with the Guildhall which he has visited before.
Whereas previously the term ‘sesqui’ seemed to apply only to the size of a type of Roman brick, over the last few years we have become acquainted with it as a mark of the great outpouring of interest in the past during the early Victorian age. It is both a pleasure and an honour for me to mark the 150th anniversary of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society which started as part of that wave, and to celebrate the central rôle it has played in both shaping our understanding of the history of the county and maintaining the irreplaceable material evidence on which that history is based.

As the very useful account published on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary shows, the focus of the Society’s activities has varied over the years, a variation which has been reflected in changes to its name. I was interested to read that it began in 1855 as the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society, a reminder of the importance of the clergy in the growth of material history, most of them beginning from a straightforward wish to understand the history of their churches. The changes in the 1920s, first to the Leicestershire Archaeological Society and then with the introduction of ‘and Historical’ to its present form, offer an insight into intellectual history. What lies behind these changes was unwittingly underlined by the authors of the account in that they refer to the original name at one point as the ‘Archaeological and Architectural Society’, as if it was difficult for them to imagine that architecture had ever been placed first.

The centenary account also records the difficulties faced by the Society, especially in the late nineteenth century, with rising costs (there’s a thing) and falling membership rolls, almost to the point where the very existence of the Society was called into question. This is a reminder that such societies are not simply fixtures of the social firmament, but are rather the result of the unremitting work and loyalty of those involved in sustaining them.

May I therefore conclude by offering my warmest congratulations and those of the Society of Antiquaries to all the officers and members of the Leicestershire Society, and wish you every success in the future, not least for the celebration of the bicentenary.

4 January 2005
Members gathered at the Guildhall on Monday the 10th January 2005 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the society. The occasion was honoured by the presence of the Lord Mayor of Leicester, the Chairman of the County Council, Mr Peter Winkless, our President, Sir Timothy Brooks and the Honorable Lady Brooks and several Vice-Presidents. In all some ninety people gathered to commemorate the Society’s 150th birthday and enjoyed a buffet and a sketch performed by Robert and Sue Ingle in the guise of Mr Thomas Cook and Dr Mary Royce. Mr Tharp’s toast was just right for the occasion. Sir Timothy responded to the toast and our chairman, Dr Gerald Rimmington, rounded off the evening by thanking all who had joined the celebrations.

We thank the Society of Antiquaries and the Leicestershire Industrial History Society for their message of goodwill.

Lars Tharp talking with Dr Mary Royce (Sue Ingle) and Mr Thomas Cook (Robert Ingle).

Lars Tharp who proposed a toast to the Society at the reception on 10th January 2005

Above: Members watching the presentation being given by Dr Mary Royce (Sue Ingle) and Mr Thomas Cook (Robert Ingle).

Right: Dr Mary Royce (Sue Ingle) and Mr Thomas Cook (Robert Ingle).

Above right: Dr David Wykes talking with the Chairman of the County Council, Peter Winkless, with other members in the background.
Congratulations

Congratulations to Peter Liddle, a member of the Society, on being included in the New Year’s Honours List. Pete has been made a Member of the British Empire, MBE, in recognition of his pioneering work with community archaeology in Leicestershire. In August 1974 Peter was appointed Archaeological Survey Officer within the recently formed County Museums Service and based at the Jewry Wall Museum. Gradually, over the years, the idea of field walking groups based on parishes, emerged. Training sessions were organised and to help the growing band of field walkers Peter wrote a book entitled Community Archaeology: a fieldworker’s handbook of organisation and techniques which appeared in 1985 and is still, nearly twenty years on, the best introduction to field walking.

What started in 1974 has grown into a very successful enterprise which has changed our understanding of the archaeology of Leicestershire and the results of some of that work can be found in Leicestershire Landscapes edited by Paul Bowman and Peter Liddle.

Stalwart museum man retires

John Lucas, based at the Jewry Wall Museum for many years, has resigned from his post within the Leicester Museum Service. John was a member of the Leicestershire Archaeological Unit and later, in 1995, when the unit was disbanded, joined the staff at the Jewry Wall Museum. Following the retirement of Robert Rutland in 2000, John took over the responsibilities of running the museum and organising the many activities which took place there. His loss from the service is particularly significant at this time when museums in the city are under pressure.

Other qualified museum staff who have left the service recently include Stuart Warbarton and Yolanda Courtney (see elsewhere in this Newsletter for Yolanda’s new job) and there must be concern as to whether suitably qualified staff are being recruited to fill these vacancies. If not, the museums service will be the poorer.

Rare ‘Celtic’ carved stone head found

Leicestershire County Council archaeologists believe a carved stone head found in a back garden 20 years ago could be a rare form of Celtic art dating back 2000 years. Betty Holyland discovered it in her back garden in Harby near Melton Mowbray in 1984. She showed it to a recently retired archaeologist in the village, Leslie Cram, who identified it as a rare Celtic head from the time when the Iron Age tribes of Britain had been conquered by the Romans.

The head is of a man with bushy eyebrows, a moustache and a grim-faced smile. The eyes and mouth are hollowed into the stone and he has a protruding nose. The carving is the size of an outstretched hand, 113 mm from forehead to chin. It appears to have been carved using just one tool, a 16 mm wide chisel, from a single block of ironstone.

Only one other possible Celtic head has been recorded in Leicestershire. This was also found in a garden, in Oadby some 50 years ago, and is in the County Council’s Archaeology Collections. The Harby head remains in private ownership, but will be lent to the County Council for display at the Melton Carnegie Museum later this year.

The Celts thought the head to be the most important part of the body, with the most power. Most British examples of carved heads are from the north of the country, where they may have represented local deities. Carved heads are thought by some authors to reflect an Iron Age “cult of the severed head”, as there is evidence for warriors collecting the heads of their defeated enemies.

Carved heads in a “Celtic” style also appear at much later dates than the Iron Age and Roman. There are many crude heads of 17th Century date, for example, in Yorkshire.

Ernie White, Cabinet Lead Member for Heritage Services, said: “It is exciting to have this second example from the county of this rare form of “Celtic” style art. Whether or not it is truly of Iron Age date, or a later carving, we may never know, but as a piece of folk-religious art it is an important find for the people of Leicestershire”.

American Society honours committee member

Professor Marilyn Palmer was given the Award of Merit for 2005 by the American Society of Historical Archaeology (SHA) and was presented with the honour at the SHA’s meeting held recently in York.
A reorganisation of County Council services has recently taken place under the umbrella of a new Environment and Heritage Service bringing together:

- Arts and Outreach
- Museums
- Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland
- Regeneration and Community Development
- Planning
- Environmental Management

The main change in the Heritage area has been the formation of a new Historic and Natural Environment team, led by Graham Walley, formerly of Nottingham City Museums, and comprising the Built Environment (John Sharpe, Michael White), Planning Archaeology (Richard Clark, Helen Wells) and Ecology, among other areas.

The Archaeology team, headed up by Peter Liddle MBE, retains responsibility for all collections and community archaeology, Portable Antiquities in addition to the management of Donington le Heath Manor House, within the Museums team.

Yolanda Courtney has become the Head of Museums following the retirement of John Mathias and will be based at County Hall.

The above structure chart identifies functions and staff of interest to LAHS members.

Major projects for the Service at the moment are:

- New Fashion Gallery at Snibston (to open June 2005)
- Extra Ordinary Science Gallery at Snibston (to open November 2005)
- Donington le Heath Manor House access and improvement scheme (to be completed by June 2006)
- Bosworth Battlefield
- The refurbishment of Harborough Museum in 2007/08.
- The Bosworth Battlefield project (detailed elsewhere in the Newsletter) will be delivered by a large team of country parks, archaeology and curatorial staff.
Vine Street

Archaeological excavations for the Shires West scheme

Tim Higgins and Richard Buckley

The excavation of this large site by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) on the north side of Vaughan Way has now been in progress since May 2004, revealing evidence for the cross-roads of two Roman streets and the remains of probably the largest Roman domestic structure yet seen in the city, represented by robbed walls, floors – including some fragments of mosaic pavements – a hypocaust, pits and yard surfaces together with dumps of building materials, including tile and painted wall plaster.

Vine Street – part of a probable corridor pavement.

The evidence would seem to suggest a substantial 2nd – 3rd-century AD high-status town house (or perhaps houses), possibly fronted by commercial units. To the north of this building, another structure is beginning to emerge, marked by robbed walls of massive dimensions – some 1.2m thick, with foundations over 1m deep. Early indications are that this is a huge building of some 8m wide and 20m long which perhaps replaced an earlier domestic building of some quality, to judge by fragments of painted wall plaster found in the vicinity. It may be one of Roman Leicester’s hitherto undiscovered public buildings, located away from the commercial heart of the town where the Castle Park car park and the Holiday Inn are now. Deciding on the function of the building is rather more difficult – the massive nature of the walls indicates that a substantial load was being carried, hence the town’s granary is a possibility. It would seem very likely that the building survived as a visible feature into the medieval period and it is possible that it was reused as part of St Michael’s church – a church perhaps founded before the Norman Conquest which had disappeared by about 1450. Some fragmentary walls are currently being excavated which may form part of the church, and it is tempting to see them as a medieval addition to the pre-existing Roman building. The excavations continue and it is hoped that in the next few weeks it should be possible to shed more light on both the plan of the late Roman building and that of St Michael’s church.

Sanvey Gate

Archaeological Excavations at Leicester Square Development, Sanvey Gate, Leicester

Wayne Jarvis and James Meek

The phase of excavation of the town defences has now been completed, with good sections through phase of medieval/late-medieval and Roman ditches, the town wall...
Excavations

Sanvey Gate site looking towards St Margaret’s church.

robber trench and remains of the rampart. In one area a collapsed stretch of the town wall had been reused as a post-medieval boundary wall. A sizeable and very heavy fragment of this stretch of town wall has been lifted and will be displayed within the residential development (see below).

The second phase of the Sanvey Gate site has continued within the intra-mural area to the south of the defences. Medieval activity was present in the form of rubbish pits and stone-lined wells, and a possible road surface, though no clear structural evidence was found. Roman features excavated included the remains of a stone-founded building, a road, trackway, ditches, wells and pits. Earlier Roman activity was also evident with the remains of timber structures and ditches. Saxon evidence has also been recorded in the form of a small pit (or large posthole) containing well-stratified mid-Saxon pottery.

Neolithic Carved stone discovered at Rothley

Leon Hunt and Patrick Clay

Excavations by ULAS at Rothley Lodge have discovered a remarkable assemblage of material dating from the mid-late Neolithic including a carved stone plaque – the first known from Leicestershire. The site was first identified from a scatter of flint which included several tools. Trial trenching unusually confirmed deposits of Neolithic date – earth cut features surviving from this period are very rare and excavations of three areas were started in January 2005. Several features have been excavated some of which were very rich in finds. Over 2700 finds have been recovered to date including flint tools, a rectangular whetstone, impressed ware pottery and several grooved ware vessels. The most exciting find to date has been part of a carved stone plaque with concentric circle decoration and showing stylised eyes and eyebrows. Decoration like this has been found on grooved ware pottery, the Folkton drums and even the entrance to New Grange chambered tomb in Ireland.

The work is still in progress but it is clear that some of these finds had been deliberately placed as special deposits. The finds are from shallow pits but the largest of these has tentatively been suggested to be a sunken floored building - soil analysis by Dr Richard McPhail of University College, London may confirm whether there are floor deposits. If this interpretation is correct the special finds may have been placed to signify a final ‘closure’ of the building.

To keep in touch with ULAS projects visit their web site at:
http://www.le.ac.uk/ulas/

Neolithic carved stone found in Rothley.
News from the library

Although repairs to the ceiling in the Jury Room at the Guildhall (the Society’s Library room) which closed the library last year have been completed, it now transpires that further sections of the ceiling have to be strengthened and so the library remains closed. An update will appear in the Autumn Newsletter. If any member has an urgent need to consult a book in the library they should contact Aubrey Stevenson to see if an alternative source can be found.

Material has continued to be acquired for the Library, by donation, purchase, and exchange with other societies such as ours. There is a wide range of interesting and informative items within the Society’s fields of interest and expertise.

Books

Aucott, Shirley Susanna Watts 1768-1842, author of Leicester’s first guide, abolitionist and bluestocking. 2004

This timely biography marked the bicentenary of Leicester’s first published guide book and the 170th anniversary of the end of slavery in the British Colonies. The book is available from the Record Office, local bookshops, or from the author, 24 Chestnut Road, Glenfield, Leicester, LE3 8DB, price £5.95 plus £0.65 postage and packing.


Broughton, J. ‘Ad majorem Dei gloriam’: a guide to the architecture and furnishings of All Saints Church, Wigston Magna. 1999.


This book is mainly about Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, but has Leicestershire interest too. There are numerous index references to the Manners family. It was kindly donated by Pamela Priestland.

Cox, B. Place-names of Leicestershire part 3 East Goscote Hundred. 2004 (English Place-Name Society volume LXXXI).

The great work continues.

Elliott, M. Leicestershire Events. 2004

English Heritage. Heritage counts 2004: the state of England’s historic environment. 2004


Harwood, D. ed History of Rugby Vol 1. 2004

Hickman, T. Battlefield of Leicestershire. 2004

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. Garden Temple at Gospall Hall. 2004

Hinks, J. John Gregory and the ‘Leicester Journal’. 2004 Kindly donated by the author, the reviews editor of the Leicestershire Historian.


Public Art Leicester Exposure art architecture. 2004

Rimmington, G.T. Treatment of the sick poor in Leicester: North Evington Poor Law Infirmary 1905-30. The Chairman of the Society’s committee continues to be industrious in his research and writing; he has kindly donated an offprint of his latest article in Midland History vol 29. 2004


Periodicals

The latest issues of the following titles have been received:

Antiquaries Journal

Architectural History

Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society Transactions

Cambridge Antiquarian Society Proceedings


Cornerstone (SPAB). This circulates initially to members of the Society’s Historic Buildings Panel, which provides advice to local authorities in the city and county. Issue 25.5 (2004) features stained glass work at Neville Holt and St. Dionysius, Market Harborough, along with a request for information on the ‘bath house’ near Lutterworth.

Down to Earth: Leicestershire Archaeological News.

Ecclesiology Today Kindly donated by Ian Stevens


Hinckley Historian Kindly donated by Phillip Lindley of Hinckley Library.

Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society Transactions

Medieval Archaeology

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Proceedings

Village Voice

Worcestershire Archaeological Society Transactions. This volume, 3rd Series Vol 19 2004, commemorates the Society’s 150th anniversary 1854-2004. It includes a history of the past 50 years of the Society along with a list of officers.

Current issues only of the following newsletters are available for reference on the library table (when it is open!):


Branchline (Leicestershire Community Heritage Initiative)

Community History Newsletter (Leicester)

Leicestershire Events Guide

Lincoln Record Society

Network News (Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeological Network)

Society for Medieval Archaeology Newsletter

Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain Newsletter

South Derbyshire Heritage News

Talking History (East Midlands Oral History Archive)

Thoroton (Nottinghamshire)

The Library has received an up-dated (2004) information sheet about the work of the Nichols Archive Project. It is too long to reproduce here, but it is most interesting and informative. It will be available on the Library noticeboard, but in view of the closure of the Library it may be possible to publish some of the details in the Autumn Newsletter. It is also referred to at: TLAHS 75 (2001).
News from the Editors of Transactions

This year, 2005, will be a bumper year for publications from the Society. In addition to the standard volume of Transactions, members will this year also receive a special volume to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Society. This new book will focus exclusively on the History and Archaeology of Leicester Abbey, which was one of the most important and influential monasteries in the Midlands throughout the middle ages. Indeed, it is also a subject of historic interest to the Society; the 1949 volume by A. Hamilton Thompson was sponsored by the Leicester Archaeological Society (as it was then).

Our new volume comes at an opportune time since it brings together the new research of many scholars working on the Abbey from several different disciplines. Thirteen articles are planned, including David Crouch (University of Hull) on the ‘Early Charters and Patrons of Leicester Abbey’, with an appendix of the charters, previously unpublished, from 1139–1265. Dave Postles (English Local History, University of Leicester) is writing about the Abbey’s urban property in late medieval Leicester, and Anthony Rowe tells the bizarre story of a fifteenth-century abbot’s dabblings in onychomancy (you’ll have to read the book to find out!). Tessa Webber (University of Cambridge) and Michael Gullick will be writing about the library of Leicester Abbey, and about the extant manuscripts that survive today (mostly in Trinity College Cambridge). Their work will be illustrated with plates from every known Leicester book, thanks to a photographic grant from the Aurelius Trust. Geoffrey Martin (Emeritus Professor of the University of Essex) has promised a paper on Henry Knighton and Leicester Abbey.

On the archaeological side, Richard Buckley and the ULAS team will be writing about their recent excavations and surveys at the abbey site and the archaeology of the dissolution, and David Dawson will tell us about a splendid Limoges incense boat that was discovered there during the excavations in the 1920s. Stephen Bell promises an article on the abbey granges in the county, and Anne Tarver and Tony Squires will write about the fate of the abbey’s lands after the dissolution.

It promises to be a book that is both important and very interesting. 2005 is a good year to be a member of the Society – pass on the message!

Leicestershire Legends retold by Black Annis
by Bob Trubshaw

The English language has developed over more than 1,000 years, absorbing words from other languages through the centuries, and discarding others which have become less used. Bob Trubshaw, in his interesting book, shows how the local population in the villages of Leicestershire spoke, and in days gone by when there was not so much travel, these dialects grew strongly. In spite of modern travel and more movements to and fro over the years, there are still these differences which can be recognised wherever they are heard. My father, Leicestershire born and bred, insisted the local manner of speaking was ‘just bad grammar’ and would not allow my brother and me to use it!

Bob Trubshaw has a great time showing how our dialect differs from standard English, before he allows Black Annis to tell her stories. It is all there: how the town of Leicester started (some say), tales of witches, how people defended themselves from known witches and ghosts and bad animals. Holy wells and stones from the sky and coloured lights and even UFOs come into the tales discussed by Black Annis and her friend Ethel.

An interesting and informative collection of dialects and stories with much local appeal.

K.E. Gowland

Over one hundred people attended the Rupert Evans Memorial Event held on 26th February 2005 at Gilbert Murray Hall, University of Leicester. The event was organised by the School of Historical Studies in conjunction with this Society. Past students, former colleagues and friends spoke about Rupert’s life and work, details of which will appear in the obituary in this year’s volume of Transactions. Dr Babette Evans and family friends were also present.

Dr David Wykes and Professor Richard Bonney talking to the assembled guests.
Former chairman

Mr Rupert Evans, who was chairman of the Society’s committee for almost twenty years, died on 23rd November 2004, the day before his 84th birthday, after a short illness. Rupert came to Leicester in 1947 as an assistant lecturer in the history department of the then University College of Leicester and remained in that department until retirement. He was an outstanding teacher, a perceptive researcher and also played his part in the administration of the university, serving a term as Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

Mr Evans joined the Society in 1957 as an associate member, as his wife, Dr A. K. B. Evans, had been a member since December 1946. He was an invaluable member of the committee being elected in 1979 and still a member at the time of his death. In recent times, as well as being chairman, he was also the coordinator of the Historic Buildings Panel (from 1981-2 until 2003). This involved preparing paperwork for its meetings, which were held fortnightly, as well as writing many letters on behalf of the panel.

Pioneer aerial archaeologist

A stalwart and long-standing member of the Society died in October 2004. Jim Pickering was known to many for the immense contribution he made to aerial archaeology not only in the midlands, but over much of Britain and in addition he undertook a number of overseas expeditions. His work was recognised by the presentation of a Silver Trowel at the 1986 British Archaeological Awards.

Jim was born on June 4th 1915 into a Hinckley family and was educated at the Wyggeston Boys’ School in Leicester. He took over the family printing firm and was actively involved in the Second World War. He had long had an interest in archaeology – his uncle Arthur was Leicestershire’s first prominent prehistorian and contributed to our Transactions.

Owing to the success of his business he was able to retire early and concentrate on the search for cropmarks. During the months of June, July and August he would fly as soon as conditions were suitable, and nothing was allowed to take precedence over this work.

Jim went on to become, as he put it, an ‘Unidentified Flying Octogenarian’ before making his last flight in 1998. Typically, he made the decision to ground himself, giving up his pilot’s licence in 2000.

A full obituary will be published later in this year’s volume of Transactions.

Jim as pictured in the Leicester Mercury (reproduced with permission).

Industrial archaeologist

Peter Neaverson, a member of this society, died aged 75 on December 22nd 2004. His passing leaves a considerable gap in British industrial archaeology, in which he had been actively involved for over 25 years.

Peter was educated at Alderman Newton’s Grammar School in Leicester and gained a first class honours degree in Physics at the University of Nottingham. After working in engineering and electronics in Newcastle and Luton, he returned to Leicester to work in the family motor trade business. He continued to study with the Open University, taking modules in the History of Science and in Geology, before devoting much of his retirement to the furtherance of industrial archaeology. He became interested in this at a summer school at Loughborough University taught by Professor Marilyn Palmer and joined Leicester Industrial History Society, taking over the editorship of its bulletin in 1983, something he continued for the next 20 years. He was an active member of the society, taking part in fieldwork on lead mines in Cardiganshire and tin mines in Cornwall during the 1980s and 1990s, as well as in Leicestershire, and publishing the results.

He became a member of the Association for Industrial Archaeology and became Joint Editor of Industrial Archaeology Review in 1984.

He co-authored with Professor Palmer a number of books and articles including Industrial Landscapes of the East Midlands published by Phillimore in 1992. In 1996 they published Industry in the Landscape, 1700-1900 in the Routledge History of the British Landscape series and in 1998, again with Routledge, Industrial Archaeology: Principles and Practice. Peter also published several articles on Leicestershire industrial history, notably a study of the
Index of Transactions 1866-2000

During 2005 the cumulative index of Transactions will be published. Many members and subscribing libraries have requested a printed copy and so the committee has agreed and obtained quotes. With support from the John Willitt bequest we will subside the index for members. The printed version is likely to run to around 400 pages (not finalised as this will depend upon the font size used) and will be case bound. The size, and hence weight, will mean that postage costs will be significant. We hope as many members as possible will be able to collect their copies from a convenient place. It is essential that we have some idea of the number of members who will require a copy as we do not have storage space to keep a large number of unordered copies. As part of our anniversary celebrations we will be able to offer the index to members in the UK at a price of £10 including postage. For overseas members we will have to add an additional sum to cover postage and packing and will have to charge £14.

Supplementary volume of Transactions

In addition to the normal volume of Transactions members will receive a special 150th anniversary supplementary volume of Transactions devoted to Leicester Abbey. Details are given on page 9 of this Newsletter. To commemorate the 150th anniversary this volume will be free to members, but because of the expected interest in this publication extra copies will be produced for sale, but in limited numbers. Anybody who would like to buy an extra copy should see the Autumn Newsletter.

History of the Society 1855-2005

In 1955, to mark the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Society, a small 44-page booklet was produced outlining its development since 1855. To mark the 150th anniversary, Robert Rutland is expanding on that work and it is hoped that this new history will be available in time for the AGM in November 2005. Robert, has been combing all past editions of Transactions and in addition has looked at minute books and other material housed in the library at the Guildhall. In due course details of this publication will be publicised including how members can obtain a copy.

The committee is greatly indebted to Robert for what has turned out to be a very time-consuming project.

There are surprisingly few photographs of the society’s activities and is any member has come across any in libraries, record offices or publications would they please let the Honorary Secretary know.

Loyal and long-standing member of the Society

Mr George Frow was a familiar face at lectures and other society events and was present at our anniversary celebrations at the Guildhall on 10th January 2005 and the lecture given by Irene Collins on Jane Austen on 20th January. He died shortly after during the weekend of 22nd-23rd January in his 89th year, but unfortunately news of his death did not reach members of the Society until after his funeral.

George and his wife Phyllis came to Leicester from Ashbourne and settled in Howard Road. They were regular attenders at lectures and for many years George and Phyllis ran a bookstall at lectures and helped out behind the scenes at the Guildhall. They celebrated their Golden Wedding on 31st December 1991. In the autumn of 1992 Phyllis died, but George continued to attend lectures thanks to the support of a number of members who gave him a lift. In particular, we should mention the support George received from Mr and Mrs Hammersley. Following his wife’s death George became a regular at choral evensong at St James the Greater which was in walking distance of his home.

George was an inveterate traveller studying bus and train timetables in great detail in order to visit places of interest and in the summer months was to be found regularly at Grace Road.
A selection of photographs taken at the time of the Royal visit and the anniversary reception (Pictures by D. Ramsay and D. Lyne).