Obituaries

Terence R. Leach (1937-1994)

I have been asked to offer my own personal tribute to our friend Terence Leach. Much has already been said yet I sense the ember is still burning hot from this historical firebrand of Lincolnshire. Our sense of loss is tinged with some anger and not a little frustration for so much departed with Terence and still lies quietly in his study.

Yet equally traces of his personality can be encountered through those whose lives were enriched by him. I’m very conscious that my experiences were only a tiny fragment of his life but it touched me deeply, so I can only repeat what I so nervously offered – at Terence’s funeral – as a celebration of and thanksgiving for his life.

Thank you Terence for your fearsome enthusiasm for all things historical.

Thank you Terence for your ability to see directly to the point of an issue and pursue it with no holds barred!

Thank you Terence for pointing out sloppy thinking and seeking always the best.

Thank you Terence for seeing that a job was done, when others refused even to see there was a need.

Thank you Terence for your stubbornness and straightforwardness which made you marvellously human and real.

Thank you Terence and Joyce for your openness, generosity and hospitality; together you were true friends and a superb partnership.

We were privileged to have been warmed by Terence’s infectious enthusiasm and by his ability to spark the possible out of what appeared impossible situations. In this little corner of Lincolnshire, Methodism is indebted to Terence, for his vision ensured John Wesley Chapel at Raithby would survive intact. Now the project, costing £48,917.13 is complete. Somehow I feel Terence knows.

Terence not only recognized that an understanding of the past was relevant to our late twentieth century lives, but was prepared, in talks and in his writing, to share his unique knowledge with so many ordinary people. That mantle now must be passed on, but we will forever remain in Terence’s debt for making the past come alive in a way that is a pointer and inspiration to us all for the future.

Alan J. Robson
Superintendent Minister, Spilsby Methodist Circuit

[A memorial volume for Terence Leach is in preparation for publication next year. This will contain some thirty essays as well as an appreciation of Terence’s historical work and a bibliography of his writings.]

Professor Herbert Hallam (1923-1993)

Members of the society and especially those interested in the medieval fenland, will be saddened by the news of Herbert Hallam’s recent death. His early service as history master of Spalding Grammar School, followed by a period as lecturer at Loughborough Training College, and even his final appointment first as lecturer, then as professor of history in the University of Western Australia at Nedlands, gave him many opportunities (with his archaeologist wife Sylvia), to explore the fenland, and to become a familiar figure among local historians here. At an early stage he sought the help and advice of Mrs Riddick; he was a regular reader in Exchequer Gate, and especially in the Foster Library, and exploited to the full the resources of the Spalding Gentleman’s Society. As a member of the ‘old’ Lindsey Local History Society, and of the Lincolnshire Architectural and Archaeological Society, he was a regular participant in their meetings.

Some of us remember vividly his contribution to a weekend school at Stoke Rochford in conditions of extreme cold. Here, he and Joan Thirsk and I all read papers which were eventually published (in Reports and Papers), and tried to control our shivers. Hallam’s most important contribution to Lincolnshire local history is undoubtedly his exploitation of the rich charter sources of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, and perhaps his best work is represented by his Leicester pamphlet, The New Lands of Elloe (1954) and by Settlement and Society (1965). His interest later shifted to population studies and general agrarian studies, but Lincolnshire continued to appear in most of his work. We cannot hear of his loss without great regret.

D.M.O.

A Bibliography of H. E. Hallam’s Principal Writings


The New Lands of Elloe: A Study of Early Reclamation in Lincolnshire, University College of Leicester, Department of
English Local History, Occasional Papers, 6 (1954).

Agricultural History Review

Economic History Review (2nd series)

Historical Studies, Australia and New Zealand

Lincolnshire Architectural and Archaeological Society Reports and Papers
"Salt-making in the Lincolnshire fenland during the middle ages", 8 (1959-60), pp.85-112.

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