

CAKE & COCKHORSE

The Magazine of the Banbury Historical Society



Vol. I, No. 1

September 1959

*To be issued four times yearly, September, November, January, March
Price to non-members, one shilling and sixpence*

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President : The Rt. Hon. Lord Saye & Sele, M.C., D.L.
Chairman : Dr. C.F.C. Beeson, C.I.E., D.Sc.

Hon. Secretary:
J.S.W. Gibson,
Humber House,
Bloxham, Banbury.
(Tel: Bloxham 332)

Hon. Treasurer:
A.W. Pain, A.L.A.
c/o Borough Library,
Banbury.
(Tel: Banbury 2282)

Hon. Archaeological Director:
V. Bromley.

Hon. Research Adviser:
E.R.C. Brinkworth, M.A., F.R.Hist.Soc.

CAKE AND COCKHORSE

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The Magazine of the Banbury Historical Society
Issued to Members four times a year.

VOLUME I. NUMBER 1. SEPTEMBER 1959.

Hon. Editor : Dr. C.F.C. Beeson,
Westway Cottage, Adderbury. Banbury. (Tel. Adderbury 272.)

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LOOKING AHEAD

Since it was formed in January 1958 the Society has made notable progress with many of its objects. Membership has increased six-fold. Lectures and excursions have been well attended. Local historical research has attracted several members to study parish and town archives and to undertake archaeological field-work. A booklet on the history of Banbury and the Society's first Christmas card have been published and sold well.

This initial response has encouraged the Committee to plan future activities of the Society on more ambitious lines in the expectation of increasing support and interest. Proposals will be put before the General Meeting of the 29th September which involve, briefly,

- (i) Alteration of the rule covering the classes of members and amounts of subscriptions in each class;
- (ii) Creation of a permanent Records Section for the publication of volumes of value to scholars and researchers;
- (iii) Issue of a magazine four times a year to record programmes, proceedings and progress.

The appropriate resolution is given on page 6.

The reasons for these proposed changes and the objectives they are intended to reach are discussed in detail below. These arguments should help members to decide whether to approve, or modify or reject them.

THE MAGAZINE

While it has been possible to inform all members of forthcoming lectures and visits by postal circulars it is inevitable that only a small proportion are able to take part regularly in such events or to learn subsequently what has actually transpired. The main object of the magazine is to provide better and fuller information of the Society's activities for everyone, but particularly for those individuals who can rarely attend a meeting. Lectures, talks, excursions, visits and so on will be reported by the Officers of the Society or by the lecturers or organisers. Field-work, archaeological investigations, and documentary research will be communicated by those actually engaged in the work.

Secondary objects of the magazine include current news on matters of local historical interest from various sources. It can become a forum for the exchange of members' views by means of correspondence, queries, notes and special articles. The development of the Society's policy should not be left entirely to the executive Committee.

It is planned to publish four times a year, in September, November, January and March, approximately a fortnight before each of the four winter meetings. This is the first number. Its production cost and possibly that of a second number can be met from funds in hand, but the continuous publication depends on the provision of finance that members are now asked to sanction. (See the section below on Subscriptions).

The magazine is produced by a duplicating process which, though not aesthetically perfect, is legible and, compared with type printing, is very economical. For technical reasons it has been possible to provide a printed cover.

To some the title "Cake and Cockhorse" may seem frivolous; others may see in it an epitome of Banbury's legend and history and a challenge to discover the ultimate truth.

THE RECORDS

An important function of any historical society is to publish reference works of lasting value to research workers, professional and amateur. As has been stated in the first Annual Report it is our policy to build up from general publications a fund which can be used to produce volumes of value to scholars and researchers.

The first effort to produce a Record volume of this sort - "An Index to Wills Proved in the Peculiar Court of Banbury, 1542 - 1858", edited by J.S.W. Gibson - has been made in co-operation with the Oxfordshire Record Society.

Your Executive Committee, having reviewed the quantity of literary copy that is already completed or in active preparation, can confidently recommend the undertaking of an independent long-term publishing programme. Transcripts of parish registers offer an almost inexhaustible supply of material; a regular sequence of annual volumes is therefore predictable. Nevertheless it is hoped to diversify this series with other subject-matter.

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There is now in preparation for issue in 1960 "The Parish Register of Banbury, 1558 - 1654" - about 250 printed pages.

One must emphasise that to publish this type of Record it is essential to create a records subscription membership. We rely mainly on attracting corporate members, libraries, learned societies, etc. But we also hope that some of our present membership will wish to acquire these publications, and that others will consider the venture worthy of support as a means of increasing the prestige of the Society.

Present members are therefore being offered the choice of alternative classes of membership, and are invited to consider carefully the respective advantages, as set out in the following section.

THE SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual income of the Society in each of the two years of its life was about £20, which has not covered all its expenses. In at least one important aspect the Society has been living on charity and its printing costs have been largely subsidised. Whilst such financial help is welcome it is no basis on which to plan ahead. To be self-supporting annual subscriptions must be raised to realistic levels. The proposed changes from 1st January 1960 are:-

1. Ordinary Membership. To be raised to Ten Shillings.
2. Junior Membership. To be raised to Five Shillings.
3. Life Membership. Present life members, no change.
4. Life Membership. New life members, Five Pounds.
5. September to December Members. To be raised to Five Shillings.

Each of these classes is entitled to all the privileges of ordinary membership and in addition one copy of the Magazine.

6. Records Membership. To be fixed at One Pound Five Shillings per annum, entitles the member to all the privileges of ordinary membership and one copy of the Magazine and one copy of the Records Publication.

7. Corporate Membership. To be fixed at One Pound Five Shillings per annum, entitles the member to representation at Society Meetings and one copy of the Magazine and one copy of the Records Publication.
8. Present and Future Life Members may obtain one copy of each Records Publication by an annual subscription of Fifteen Shillings.
9. The cost of one Records Publication after issue will be One Pound to Ordinary Members and One Pound Fifteen Shillings to Non-Members.

To implement these proposed changes the Meeting should consider and, if thought fit, pass the resolution to alter Article 3 as set forth on page 6.

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PROGRAMME, 1959/60 SEASON

Note: All Meetings will be held at 7.30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Tuesday, 29th September. - Dr. E.R.C. Brinkworth - "Worthies of Banburyshire". In the Council Chamber.

Tuesday, 24th November. - Dr. M.J. Aitken - "Scientific Techniques in Archaeology". - In the Court Room.

Tuesday, 26th January, 1960. - Mr. F. Anker - "The History of the Banbury Fire Service". - In the Court Room.

Tuesday, 29th March, 1960. - Annual General Meeting - In the Court Room. It is hoped to show a series of films of local views, buildings, etc. Anyone willing to loan photographs, particularly colour slides, that might be of interest is asked to communicate with the Hon. Secretary.

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AGENDA, GENERAL MEETING, 29th SEPTEMBER.

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.
3. Reports of Honorary Officers (circulated in the Magazine, No. 1.)
4. Proposed Alteration of Article Three of the Rules (see Resolution below.)
5. Any other business.

ALTERATIONS TO ARTICLE 3, MEMBERSHIP.

Due notice has been received by the Honorary Secretary under Article 11 of the Rules to move the following proposed alterations and amendments to Article 3, and the same have been inserted in the Agenda of the General Meeting to be held on 29th September 1959.

Article 3.

Delete first two lines and amend as "The Society shall consist of ordinary, junior, records, corporate and honorary members".

Clause (a)

line six, penultimate word, delete "Five" and insert "Ten".

Clause (a)

line ten, delete "Two Shillings and Sixpence" and insert "half the annual subscription."

Clause (b)

delete entire clause and insert new clause (b) "JUNIOR MEMBERS. Applicants who have not left school may have their subscriptions reduced to half the ordinary annual subscription."

Clause (c)

relist as clause (e)

Clause (d)

relist as clause (f)

Insert new Clause (c) "RECORDS MEMBERS. For a subscription of Twenty Five Shillings per annum such members shall be entitled to receive one copy of an annual records publication in addition to the privileges of an ordinary member."

Insert new Clause (d) "CORPORATE MEMBERS. Any Society, School, Library, Club, Corporation or similar Organisation may join the Society and shall then be entitled to send one representative to any meeting or other function of the Society, but without power of voting. They shall be entitled to receive one copy of the Magazine and one copy of an annual records publication. The subscription shall be Twenty Five Shillings per annum or such other sum as the Committee may decide."

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LECTURES

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF BANBURYSHIRE

This talk given by the Society's Hon. Archaeological Director, Mr. V. Bromley, at a well attended meeting held at Banbury Town Hall, on Tuesday, August 25th, was illustrated with maps, aerial photographs and specimens.

The speaker outlined the course of pre-history from the Old Stone Age to the coming of the early Saxons. The Stone Ages (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic) saw Man develop from a primitive Hunter and Food Gatherer to Man the Food Producer who for the first time lived in small, self-sufficient and organised communities.

Invasions from the Continent by pastoral warrior peoples versed in the rudiments of metallurgy, heralded the beginning of the Bronze Age (circa 1900 BC). These peoples have left some evidence of their occupation in Banburyshire - a possible occupation site and a number of round barrows. After some 1300 years, further invasions from the Continent saw the introduction of the Iron Age, a legacy of which are the many fine hill forts in

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the district - Madmarston, Charlton, Ilbury, Gredenton, Arberry (Thenford).

The coming of the Romans during the first century AD brought a period of peace and prosperity which lasted some 400 years. Townships grew rapidly, new cities were founded, communications improved greatly and a large import/export trade flourished. This prosperity is reflected in the number of fine villas and their associated settlements which are scattered throughout the district.

Then, with the withdrawal of the Legions in the 5th century, the "painted folk" from the North and the invaders from the East, swept over the land enveloping it in the pall of the Dark Ages - a period about which so little is known.

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EXCURSIONS

ROUSHAM HOUSE

About 26 members assembled on Wednesday evening, 1st July, at Rousham House seat of the Cotrell Dormer family and a place of pilgrimage for students of the later work of William Kent (1685-1748). In a conducted tour of rooms rich in artistic treasures we saw the valuable collection of portraits and other paintings of the 16th - 18th centuries, also fine furniture, lovely porcelain and interesting clocks and watches. The painted and great parlours revealed some of the most typical and imposing features of Kent's interior decoration. The visit concluded with a walk through the landscape gardens planned by Kent in the Italian style in which the trees and avenues are now seen in full maturity.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR

On a fine Saturday afternoon, the 29th August, over 30 persons visited ancient sites selected by Mr. V. Bromley. Rainsborough Camp near Charlton is a large Iron Age hill fort originally protected by a ditch and ramparts, which still retains traces of dry stone facing. Near Sulgrave is a somewhat damaged Bronze Age round barrow, which should still contain remains of a Beaker Folk burial. Norman castle sites were seen at Culworth - of the mound and ditch type - and at Sulgrave - a typical motte and bailey fortification - both close to churches.

RESEARCH

PARISH REGISTERS

- ADDERBURY** (including Milton). Burials were previously copied and indexed by the late Miss M. Bradford.
 Marriages, 1599-1756 completed by Mr. J.S.W. Gibson;
 continuation to 1840 in progress.
- ALKERTON**. Marriages, 1546-1738 completed by Mr. J.S.W. Gibson.
- BANBURY, ST. MARY**. Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1558-1653, completed by Mrs. N. Fillmore, and now in the Press. Marriages, 1723-54, completed; Burials, 1723-1738, completed, and continuation in progress by Mrs. Fillmore.
 Baptisms and Marriages, 1653-1723; Publications of Intentions of Marriage, 1653-1659, completed by Mrs. A.W. Pain.
 Burials, 1653-1723, in progress by Mrs. Pain.
- BODICOTE**. Baptisms and Burials, 1563-1840; Marriages, 1563-1753, 1837-1840, completed by Mr. J.W.S. Gibson. (Note: Marriages, 1754-1837, probably entered in Adderbury Register).
- BROUGHTON**. To be copied by Mr. K.E. Riley.
- MARSTON ST. LAWRENCE**. Baptisms, from 1813 begun by Mrs. G.M. Coffin.
- SWALCLIFFE**. Marriages, 1558-1840, completed by Miss A. Lillie.
 Baptisms, 1558-1840, Burials, 1577-1840, both completed by Mr. J.S.W. Gibson; indexing begun.

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SHUTFORD. Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1698-1840, all completed by Mr. J.S.W. Gibson; indexing begun.

WARKWORTH. Baptisms and Burials, 1814-1840, completed by Mrs. G.M. Coffin.

QUAKERS MONTHLY MEETING OF BANBURY (including Adderbury, North and South Newington, Shutford, and Sibford). Marriages (alphabetical copy of 1837) begun by Mr. J.S.W. Gibson.

The Hon. Secretary would be pleased to hear from any member willing to copy the volume of Quaker Births and Burials. Would any member like to do simple record copying and research in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, on Saturday mornings? Transport there and back will be provided; on occasions some remuneration can be offered. Helpers are also urgently required to type material already copied in manuscript.

MEMBERSHIP

As on 1st September 1959, the total membership is 126 - Life 19, Ordinary 106, Corporate 1. Of last year's members 16 have not rejoined, the majority having left the district.

We are pleased to welcome the following members who have joined since 1st. January 1959 - Life: The Bishop of Dorchester, Mrs. E.G. Shaw (formerly Ordinary), Brigadier J.S.W. Stone, (formerly Ordinary). Ordinary: Mr. H. Barrett, O.B.E. Mrs. N.J. Butters, Miss S.M. Clark, Mr. W.H. Clark, Miss M. Clarke, Mr. P. Cornall, M.A., Mr. and Mrs. H. Crowe, Mr. S. Crowe, Mr. R.W. Edge, Mrs. G. Ellacott, Mr. C. Fearon, Miss P. Green, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hanscomb, Mr. P.F. Herrington, Mr. E.R. Marshall, Mr. P. Ord, B.A., Mrs. O.B. Simpson.

FINANCE 1959

The Hon. Treasurer reports that Cash in Hand and at Bank amounts to £57; expenditure to date is £27 nearly half of which is for printing the Annual Report.

FOR YOUR FURTHER READING

By Beresford, M. History on the ground and Lost villages of England.

By Beresford, M. & Joseph, J. Medieval England : an aerial survey.

By Hoskins, W.G. Making of the English Landscape, and by Trent, C.

Terms used in Archaeology : a short dictionary. These books have recently been added to the Banbury Public Library.

Top.Oxon; a Bulletin of Local History for Oxfordshire, produced by the Oxfordshire Archaeological Society and the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, issued twice a year, is available from its Editorial Secretary, R.T. Lattey, the Old Shop, Near Enstone, Oxford; annual subscription 2s 6d, post free.

EXTRA-MURAL EXTENSION LECTURES

Mr. H.T. Kirby, from Gaydon, will lecture on Heraldry on Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. commencing 7th October, in the Borough Reference Library. The course of ten lectures costs 7s 6d or 1s 6d. per lecture.

NOTES and NEWS

Would any members who have joined this year and not yet received a copy of the Rules please contact the Hon. Secretary.

Inquiries have been received about local families, viz: Cox family - Mr. G. Cox, 20 Hayes Road, Cheltenham, Glos. Marshall and Chamberlain families - Mr. E.R. Marshall, 23 Warwick Street, Rugby. Wyatt family - Sir Stanley Wyatt, 39 Roland Gardens, London, S.W.7. Other inquiries include the families Cheater, Cleaver, Dumbleton, Green, Harris (Aris, etc.), Hawkins, Hiron and Miles.

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The Annual Meeting of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council will be held on Friday, 25th September, at 5 p.m. at the County Hall, Oxford. This Society will be represented on the Local History Committee.

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The 27th Annual Conference of the British Records Association, of which this Society is a member, will be held on 24th and 25th November at the Conference Hall, L.C.C., County Hall, London, S.E.1. Among the subjects for discussion are Records of the Trade Union Movement, Initiating an Archives Service in Smaller Repositories, and Modern Records - Texts, Articles and Calendars.

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The Cadbury Works Councils Held their annual conference in Banbury on 29th August. Before visiting Compton Wynyates in the afternoon they were addressed by Dr. Brinkworth, our Hon. Research Adviser. In lieu of fee a donation of two guineas has been received by the Society. We are most grateful to both the Cadbury Works Council and Dr. Brinkworth for their generosity.



