

CAKE & COCKHORSE

The Magazine of the Banbury Historical Society



Broughton Castle Banbury

Vol. 1, No. 12.

1961/1962

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BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Hon. Archaeological Director:

V. Bromley.

Hon. Research Adviser:

E.R.C. Brinkworth, M.A., F.R.Hist.Soc.

Committee Members:

R.K. Bigwood, J.H. Fearon, B.S. Trinder, B.A.

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

VOLUME I.

NO. 12

MARCH, 1962

PROGRAMME 1962

IMPORTANT CHANGE. It has been found that Fridays are unsuitable for many members, and consequently our lecturer has very kindly agreed to speak to us a day earlier. The next meeting is therefore on

Thursday, 29th March - "Local Church Architecture" an illustrated talk by Mr. G. Forsyth Lawson. 7.30 p.m. in the Court Room of the Town Hall. The speaker is a local architect, whose interest in and work on many of our local churches is well-known. The talk will be illustrated by colour slides, many of which Mr. Lawson has had specially taken for this occasion. On page 163 are given preliminary details of a "Church Architecture Group" which it is hoped to form, and this talk is specifically designed as an introduction to the project.

Saturday, 5th May - Annual General Meeting. "The Norths of Wroxton and their Local Influence" by Dr. E.R.C. Brinkworth. Please see page 162 for Agenda and details. 3.00 p.m. at Wroxton Abbey.

Tuesday, 5th June. Departure, 6.00 p.m.

Expedition to Williams-cote House, by kind invitation of Dr. Thomas Loveday.

Dr. Loveday's ancestors have lived at Williams-cote since 1635. The house was built in 1568 by Walter Calcott, a wool merchant from Hook Norton, and a wing was added in 1799. The Elizabethan school building also survives. We are very fortunate to be invited to Williams-cote, which is not open to the public, and the party has to be limited to twenty-five. Applications to come should be made immediately, in writing, stating whether a lift would be required, to the Hon. Secretary, and will be dealt with in order of receipt. In view of the limited number this expedition will be open to members only. Tickets will be issued at the A.G.M., and any applicant not receiving should assume that places are "sold out".

An expedition to Farnborough House or to Upton House will be arranged later in the summer, and members will be notified in due course.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at 3.00 p.m. on Saturday, 5th May, 1962, at Wroxton Abbey, by kind invitation of Lady Pearson.

BUSINESS

- (1) Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held 28th March, 1961.
- (2) Annual Accounts.
- (3) Report of the Executive Committee.
- (4) Election of the President of the Society.
- (5) Election of Vice-Presidents.
- (6) Election of the Honorary Officers of the Society (ex-officio members of the Executive Committee)
- (7) Election of the Executive Committee.
- (8) Appointment of the Honorary Auditor.
- (9) Any other business.

Members of the Society wishing to propose a Member for election to the Executive Committee must notify the Hon. Secretary in writing before the Annual General Meeting, having first obtained the Candidate's written consent.

After the business meeting Dr. E.R.C. Brinkworth will speak on "The Norths of Wroxton and their Local Influence". Lord North was not one of our most successful Prime Ministers. Nevertheless the close connection of him and his family with Banbury and Wroxton cannot fail to be of interest and importance. The speaker, whose knowledge of the local and national history of the area is unrivalled, needs no further introduction to our members.

The talk will be followed by tea, and those who wish can see over the house before leaving.

Departure for Wroxton will be from the Essoldo Cinema at 2.40 p.m. Transport will be by members' cars, and those intending to go are asked to contact the Hon. Secretary stating whether they can offer, or require, lifts.

CHURCH ARCHITECTURE GROUP

On Thursday, 29th March, Mr. G. Forsyth Lawson will be giving a talk on "Church Architecture" and your Committee feel that this is an opportune moment to enquire whether members are interested in a further study of this subject. The area around Banbury is unusually rich in the quality of church architecture and, if the proposal is well received by members, it is intended to arrange during the coming summer a series of visits to local churches. We hope that the incumbent will be able to show us some of the interesting, but at times inaccessible, parts of his church and Mr. Forsyth Lawson has offered to come along and speak about the features of interest.

It is the present intention to visit one church each month during the period of light evenings. Would any member interested kindly communicate with R.K. Bigwood, 17 Pinhill Road, Banbury, or give his name to either the Secretary or Mr. Bigwood on March 29th so that it can be seen whether there is sufficient support to justify making further arrangements.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT - 1961.

The Committee has pleasure in submitting its Fourth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 1961.

Membership: Total numbers have risen from 149 to 187. The deaths of three of our Life Members, Mr. P. Bracchi, Dr. M. Frost and Miss H. Loveday, are recorded with much regret. Obituaries have appeared in the magazine.

Accounts: 1960's serious deficit has not been repeated, and indeed this trend has been so far reversed that there is a surplus of £20 on the year.

As foreshadowed in last year's report the cost of "Cake & Cockhorse" continues to rise. Nevertheless it is felt that the interest and value of the magazine to all members is such that this expenditure is fully justified. The hoped-for reduction in the cost of printing and stationery has also been achieved, the only major items necessary during the year being Banker's Order and Membership forms. The Christmas Card account presents a misleadingly encouraging position. In spite of a most helpful bulk purchase by a business firm (which necessitated a special reprint) it can be seen that a loss was made on the 1961 cards. The profit was entirely made on the sale of previous years' cards,

particularly of Banbury Cross, and included an amount received from the Mayor for prints used on his official card.

Sales of "Old Banbury" and of past publications doubled, and this helped to offset the additional £20 cost of the 1960 Records volume which had not been allowed for in that year's accounts. A more generous and realistic provision has been made this year. The renewed grant from the Borough Council has again played an important part in balancing the publishing budget.

The overall surplus can be attributed to the £10 profit on Christmas Cards and two £5. life membership subscriptions. As these are non-recurrent items there are no grounds for complacency; but it is at least satisfactory that revenue at present appears to be covering the Society's running costs.

Lectures and Meetings: Five general meetings have been held, when the following lectures were given:-

January "Parish Government in the 18th Century: Wigginton and its Records" - F.D. Price.

February "The Civil War in North Oxfordshire" - Margaret Toynbee.

March "Barrow Diggers of the 19th Century" - Humphrey Case.

October "Ancient Roads and Trackways in North Oxfordshire" -
Mrs. V.S. Wickham Steed.

November "The Bloxham Feofees and their Activities" -
Clarence Butler.

As before we are most grateful to all our speakers, who have given their services without charge.

There was an excursion in June to Chacombe Priory.

In October the County Record Office mounted a one-day exhibition of records in the Town Hall. To mark the occasion the Society held a Reception, during which short speeches were made by Sir Charles Ponsonby, Chairman of the Victoria County History for Oxfordshire, and the Mayor of Banbury, who opened the Exhibition.

Archaeology: It was not possible for work to continue this year on the Society's site at Broughton. Excavations at Rainsborough, by the Oxford University Archaeological Society, and at Sulgrave, by Queen's University, Belfast, have given a few of our members a chance to gain experience. Reports on both sites have appeared in "Cake & Cockhorse". The threat of large-scale ironstone mining in the area has for the time being been removed, the application by Richard Thomas & Baldwins having been rejected.

Magazine: In addition to reports, book reviews, correspondence and general notes and news, a major article has been published in each

of the four issues. The contributors were Dr. C.F.C. Beeson, E.R.C. Brinkworth, M.A., A. Potts, B.A., and B.S. Trinder, B.A.
Publication: The 1960 Records volume "Banbury Marriage Register, Part one, 1558-1724" was belatedly issued in June. It is regretted that the 1961 volume, Part Two of the same register, 1724-1790, is similarly delayed.

Christmas Card: We are again indebted to our member Mr. W.H. Clark, A.R.I.B.A., who drew this year's card of the Old Gaol and Bluecoat School, Banbury.

Library: The donation by our member Mr. E.R. Marshall of a number of books has made the formation of a library necessary. To this nucleus has been added the Society's own publications, review copies and other donations. The Borough Librarian has most kindly made available a book-shelf in the Reference Library to house the collection.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st December 1961.

| 1960 | 1960 | 1960 | 1960 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 2 Hire of Room | 1 15 6 | 106 Subscriptions | 154 15 0 |
| 6 Postages | 7 12 9 | Less Proportion | |
| 18 Printing & Stationery | 9 13 6 | attributable to | |
| 2 Insurance | 1 15 0 | 61 Records | 79 0 0 |
| 4 Lecture Expenses (Advtg.) | 4 17 6 | 45 | 75 15 0 |
| - Reception Expenses | 5 15 4 | (Note. This total | |
| 3 Subscriptions | 2 7 0 | includes 2 £5 Life | |
| 23 Cake & Cockhorse | 33 0 0 | Subscriptions) | |
| 3 Wheelbarrow | - - - | 2 Sales of "Cake & | |
| - Door to Library Cupboard | 1 2 6 | Cockhorse" | 3 3 0 |
| - Photographs | 3 18 2 | 1 Donations | 1 8 3 |
| 2 Christmas Card deficit | - - - | - Interest on Deposit | |
| | <u>71 17 3</u> | Acc. (less Bank Chs.) | 1 3 4 |
| | | - Surplus on Christmas | |
| | | Cards | 10 9 2 |
| - Revenue Surplus | | 15 Revenue Deficit | |
| for the Year | 20 1 6 | for the Year | - - - |
| <u>63</u> | <u>£91 18 9</u> | <u>63</u> | <u>£91 18 9</u> |

(166)

CHRISTMAS CARDS ACCOUNT

| 1960 | | 1960 | |
|-----------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 23 | Printing 1961 Cards | 18 4 0 | 17 Sales 1961 Cards |
| | | | 15 Previous Years Cards |
| 11 | Reprinting 1961 Cards | 6 13 0 | |
| <u>34</u> | | <u>24 17 0</u> | <u>32</u> |
| - | Surplus for the Year | 10 9 2 | 2 Deficit for the Year |
| <u>34</u> | | <u>£35 6 2</u> | <u>34</u> |
| | | | <u>35 6 2</u> |
| | | | - - - |
| | | | <u>£35 6 2</u> |

PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

| | | | | |
|------------|--|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 86 | Production Costs 1961 Publication. Provision for further exp: to be incurred during 1962 | 75 0 0 | 61 Proportion of Subs: | 79 0 0 |
| | | | 9 Sales of 1959 vol.(Wills) | 5 0 6 |
| | | | - Sales of 1960 vol.(Reg.) | 13 5 0 |
| | | | 10 Sales of "Old Banbury" | 20 5 8 |
| | | | 20 Grant from Borough Council | 20 0 0 |
| | | | 1 Donation | 5 0 0 |
| <u>10</u> | | <u>45 0 0</u> | | |
| <u>96</u> | | <u>120 0 0</u> | | |
| | Production Costs 1960 pub. 27.3.0 Less | | | |
| 6 | Prov: <u>10.0.0</u> | 17 3 0 | | |
| | Postages | 4 0 0 | | |
| | | <u>141 3 0</u> | | |
| - | Surplus for the Year | 1 8 2 | 1 Deficit for the Year | - - - |
| <u>102</u> | | <u>£142 11 2</u> | <u>102</u> | <u>£142 11 2</u> |

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st DECEMBER 1961.

| 1960 | <u>Liabilities</u> | | 1960 | <u>Assets</u> | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 5 | Subs: in Advance | 5 5 0 | 14 | Sundry Debtors | 36 0 4 |
| - | Sundry Creditors | 10 5 0 | | <u>Cash at Bank</u> | |
| 10 | Provision for future expenditure | 45 0 0 | 39 | Current a/c <u>17.3.9</u> | |
| | <u>Capital Account</u> | | 11 | Deposit a/c <u>74.5.0</u> | 91 8 9 |
| 65 | as at 1.1.61 | 48.17.2 | | Cash in Hand | 3 7 9 |
| | Add: Revenue surpluses | | | | |
| 15 | Def. Gen. a/c | 20. 1.6 | | | |
| 1 | Def. Pubs. | <u>1. 8.2</u> | | | |
| <u>49</u> | | 70 6 10 | | | |
| <u>64</u> | | <u>£130 16 10</u> | <u>64</u> | | <u>£130 16 10</u> |

I have audited the books and accounts of the Banbury Historical Society for the year ended 31st December, 1961, and have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of my knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of my audit. The foregoing Balance Sheet and Revenue Accounts, which are in agreement with the books of account, give in my opinion and to the best of my information and according to the explanations given to me, a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs as at 31st December, 1961.

81, Courtington Lane,
Bloxham, Banbury.

(signed) K. Wren, A.I.M.T.A.

8/3/62.

BICESTER WILLS & INVENTORIES.

The period covered by Miss Dannatt's talk ranged from 1600 to 1800 with special reference to the years up to 1732, as after 1732 inventories were often not available. All the wills mentioned were proved before the Bishops' Consistory Courts in the 17th and 18th centuries, and the value of the bequests ranged from £3 to £485.

During the 16th cent. a farm labourer and his family could be maintained at subsistence level on an annual wage of £2.10.0. In 1647, for example, a Bicester labourer earned 5d or 6d a day, whilst a mason was relatively well-off on 1/- per day. £100-£150 were sufficient to found a grammar school: a merchant could set up in business on a capital of £40. Even after the ravages of the Civil War, £2.16.8 supported a

family for a year.

A common factor in most of the wills was the spirit of piety in which they were made. Catharine Hayward in 1672 left her soul to God, her body to the earth and bequests of her worldly goods - mostly pairs of gloves. A codicil added in 1680 benefited Sarah Miller, a cousin who had evidently looked after her.

A hint of the perennial "in-law" discord is afforded by the will of George Hancock in 1602. After leaving 20s. to the poor, he bade his wife live in amity under his father's roof. In default the luckless woman was to make the father an annual allowance of 20s. One Deeley - a cordwainer - left his granddaughter one shilling, but in return forgave her the debt of having been supported by him all her life.

One of the intriguing features of the inventories is the minute detail given. Small, everyday possessions such as a packet of needles, domestic iron, reels of cotton were itemised room by room along with major pieces of furniture. With the aid of one of these inventories it is possible clearly to reconstruct a household, as number and position of rooms together with their contents were given.

It was the usual practice for friends of the deceased to assess the value of his goods. Thus, amongst the possessions, valued at £12, left by a draper, were well over fifty items.

Social historians find these inventories invaluable for the light shed on different trades and occupations in Bicester. Of the 267 wills studied, 16.1% were engaged in agriculture; 10% inn-keepers; 10% servants; 6% butchers; 6% drapers; 3.7% glovers; 3.7% bakers; 2% clerks; 1% gunsmiths, carpenters, etc. Farmers accounted for 39 of the wills and it is interesting to note that 19 sheep were valued at £4, a hog at 10s. and a cow at £3.15.0. Weaving and spinning were very much cottage industries. One Alexander, who died in 1636, left two looms valued at £3, and five yards of cloth were worth 15s.

The interest shown by a regrettably small audience was reflected in the many questions Miss Dannatt answered at the end of her talk.

Although "fascinating" is a much-abused word, it is the only one adequately to describe a talk both scholarly and humorous given by a speaker who has obviously spent many patient hours in research.

A.W.P.

OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

The Society is concerned with the archaeology, history and architecture of the Oxford region. Its activities include lectures, excursions and the publication of an annual journal, Oxoniensa. The Society also endeavours to preserve and safeguard local buildings and monuments. Full membership (to include Oxoniensa) one guinea. Ordinary membership ten shillings. Apply Hon. Treasurer, O.A. & H.S., Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.
