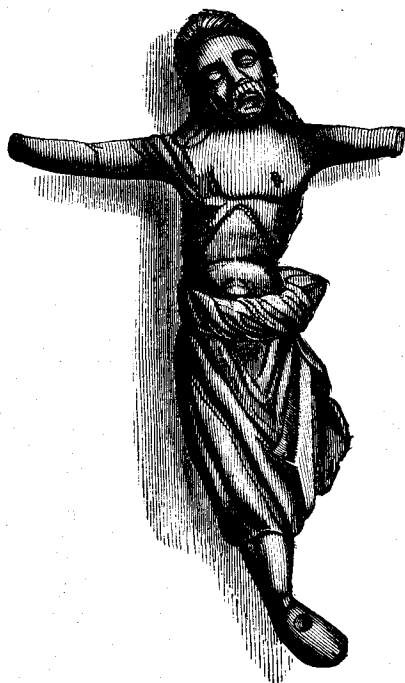


CAKE AND COCKHORSE



Banbury Historical Society

Summer 1972

20p

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The Society was founded in 1957 to encourage interest in the history of the town of Banbury and neighbouring parts of Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

The Magazine *Cake & Cockhorse* is issued to members three times a year. This includes illustrated articles based on original local historical research, as well as recording the Society's activities. Publications include *Old Banbury – a short popular history* by E.R.C. Brinkworth (2nd edition), *New Light on Banbury's Crosses*, *Roman Banburyshire*, *Banbury's Poor in 1850*, and *Sanderson Miller of Radway and his work at Wroxton*, and a pamphlet *History of Banbury Cross*.

The Society also publishes records volumes. These have included *Clockmaking in Oxfordshire, 1400–1850*; *South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1553–1684: Banbury Marriage Register, 1558–1837* (3 parts) and *Baptism and Burial Register, 1558–1723* (2 parts); *A Victorian M.P. and his Constituents: The Correspondence of H.W. Tancred, 1841–1850*; a new edition of *Shoemaker's Window*; and *Wigginton Constables' Books, 1691–1836*. *Banbury Wills and Inventories, 1591–1650*, *Bodicote Churchwardens' Accounts, 1700–1822* and *Banbury Politics, 1830–1880* are all well advanced.

Meetings are held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 p.m. in the Town Hall. Talks on general and local archaeological, historical and architectural subjects are given by invited lecturers. In the summer, excursions to local country houses and churches are arranged. Archaeological excavations and special exhibitions are arranged from time to time.

Membership of the society is open to all, no proposer or seconder being needed. The annual subscription is £2.00, including the annual records volume, or £1.00 if this is excluded. Junior membership is 25p.

Application forms can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary or the Hon. Treasurer.

CAKE AND COCKHORSE

The magazine of the Banbury Historical Society. Issued to members three times a year.

Volume Five	Number Three	Summer 1972
NEWS		Society Activities 46
'NAME THIS CHILD'	Erik Chitty	Naming after Godparents 47
ARCHAEOLOGY		Banbury Castle Excavations 48
	P.J. Fasham and T.G. Hassall	The Archaeological Implications of Redevelopment in Banbury 49
BOOK REVIEW	Colin Bell	<i>Shoemaker's Window</i> 57
MUSEUM NEWS	Christine Bloxham	Recent Accessions 58
BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY		Annual Report and Accounts, 1971 58

Banbury Castle has long intrigued everyone with an interest in local history, and ever since the Banbury Historical Society was founded there have been suggestions that the castle should be investigated and something about it published. Suggestion is easier than action. Our earliest efforts were directed towards excavation, and in 1959 Mr V. Bromley directed the cutting of two trenches in part of the castle mound, but with little positive result (*C&CH*. 1. 2, November, 1959, 18-19). In 1960 Mr R.K. Gilkes summarized the documentary evidence (*C&CH*. 1. 5, September 1960, 52-57). Since then, until recently, our knowledge of the castle has remained abysmally meagre. A few scraps of documentary evidence here, a few archaeological finds of many years ago there; a funny sketch in the corner of a map at Broughton Castle; assertions by people drawing on their ancestors' memories that the moat ran along a certain line, or that the keep stood in a particular place. Nothing, in short, upon which to base a more worthwhile account than had already been attempted.

The first attack on the history of the castle has come from documentary sources. Dr. Paul Harvey's article in the forthcoming Banbury volume of the *Victoria History of Oxfordshire* will certainly give a very full picture of the medieval town and of the place of the castle in it. The article's conclusions have already been foreshadowed by Dr. Harvey in volume one of the *Historic Towns* series which was reviewed in this journal some time ago.

Now the centre of Banbury is under threat of redevelopment. Whatever the damage done to our understanding of the town's history by the obliteration of ancient street lines, the imminent changes do at least give an opportunity to take a glimpse, and, alas, the last possible glimpse, of the archaeological remains of the castle. We are pleased to include in this issue Mr Fasham's survey of the implications of redevelopment for our understanding of Banbury's history. He shows that a carefully planned series of excavations should reveal evidence which will never again be available, not only about the castle, in which everyone is interested, but about the whole character of the medieval town. The wealth of historical evidence recently unearthed in some towns, as well as the vandalism which has allowed the destruction of archaeological sites elsewhere, shows how important it is that the very maximum effort should be made to ensure that Banbury's medieval past is not to be destroyed for ever. The first results of Mr Fasham's excavations have been most encouraging. The Historical Society will give its full backing to all future attempts to record sites prior to redevelopment.

Note: The urgency of the present archaeological situation in Banbury has caused the postponement of the planned industrial history issue.

Our cover: shows a relic of medieval Banbury, the crucifix found on the site of St. John's Hospital near South Bar and recently presented to Banbury Museum.

SOCIETY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Members will have received details of the Summer visits, but they are listed briefly below.

So far this year there have been four meetings: In January Mr T.G. Hassall spoke on 'Recent Excavations in Oxford', in February Mr B. Crawford gave a talk illustrated by films on Mop-making and Steam Engines, whilst in March Mr N. Cooper spoke on Banbury Church, its architects and building. This year's Village meeting was held at Kings Sutton, April 27th, when an excellent audience heard Mrs Coxon speak on the Wells and Waters of Kings Sutton, Mr Forsyth Lawson spoke on the architecture of the village, using his own splendid slides, and the whole evening was completed with tea made from the Bog Spring water. The Society continues in good health.

Summer Programme

The **Annual General Meeting** is to be held this year at **Bloxham School**, by kind invitation of the Headmaster, at 5.15 for 5.30, on *Saturday 3rd June*.

Thursday, 18th May. Visit to **Adderbury Church**.

Thursday, 1st June. Visit to **Wardington Manor**.

Thursday, 15th June. Visit to **Kings Sutton Church**.

Thursday, 22nd June. Visit to **Epwell Mill**.

All these visits are timed for 7.30. Members wanting transport should meet outside the Cromwell Lodge Hotel, North Bar, at 7.15, and those able to give lifts are kindly asked to call at that time, where possible, to offer transport.

An afternoon visit limited to 15 has been arranged on *Tuesday, 4th July*, to **Donnington Brewery**. Applications for this should be made to Mr Alan Donaldson, c/o Stockton, Sons & Portescue, 38 High Street, Banbury.

We are grateful to all those who have co-operated over this summer programme, especially Mr G. Forsyth Lawson, who will guide us round the churches.

Oxford Canal Exhibition

We wonder how many people realize what a busy highway the Oxford Canal once was, or that we have one of the last canal boatbuilders in Banbury? The canal must have made a gay sight with its brightly painted horse-drawn narrow boats and equally colourful canal people. It was once an important part of the economic structure of the area, although now used primarily for pleasure boating. An exhibition is to be held in Banbury Museum from July for a year, in an attempt to reconstruct something of the life of the canal.

Day School on the Archaeology of Banbury

With the exception of the Treasurer and Mr Gibson, members of the Society missed this Day School held on 15th April conducted by Mr Peter Fasham. This was a great pity, as the ten people who did attend enjoyed a most interesting and stimulating day. The morning session, held at the Technical College, consisted of two talks, on 'Urban Archaeology - The National Situation' and on 'The History of Banbury' - the latter from a mainly archaeological and topographical aspect. The group reassembled in the afternoon outside the *Vine*, and spent a pleasant sunny afternoon touring the area probably covered by the medieval castle, including the inspection - at a distance, due to the twin perils of a bull and alsatian guard dogs - of an earthwork on the eastern side of the canal. The 'school' ended with the highlights of the actual excavations of the Castle, then in progress, which Mr Fasham was directing, and a view of the finds to date. It is greatly to be hoped that longer notice and more adequate publicity will be given to any repetition of such day events, as they would be sure to appeal to a great many of our members.

Mr Fasham will be conducting a 24-session course on Archaeology throughout the autumn and winter, in Banbury, on behalf of the Oxford University Department for External Studies (who also organized the Day School). Anyone interested in receiving more details as soon as they are available should apply to Mr Trevor Rowley at Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford.

NAMING AFTER GODPARENTS¹

It is generally known that in the past children have often been named after close relatives, such as parents and grandparents. Indeed in the west of Scotland and in Ireland specific patterns can be shown to exist.² However, in considering the descent of Christian names, godparents must be recognized as a most important secondary influence, after the family. It seems likely that in certain periods naming after godparents was the orthodox practice, and that only the fact that godparents were most often chosen from within the family produces the appearance that 'family names' were deliberately perpetuated.

Bequests to godchildren bearing the testator's name or to selected nephews and other kin similarly named support this contention, though we naturally find godchildren bearing other names, since a child bore only one name though it had more than one godparent – two of its own and one of the opposite sex being made the ecclesiastical rule in 1661.

This theory is interestingly illustrated in Banbury Parish Register³.

In the first 59 baptisms recorded (1558–1559), although the parents' Christian names are not given, the godparents' names are – 174 of the 177 in full. Incidentally, the custom of having two sponsors of the child's own sex and one of the opposite was already in full operation.

Only 8 of the 59 children were *not* named after a godparent.⁴ In 11 entries, two godparents of the same name had been chosen. If I am right in my view that the giving of the same name to two or more living children (common in the sixteenth century) was due to the desire to honour two (or more) friends of that name, these parents perhaps avoided this need for repetition by inviting, for example, Richard Peryn and Richard Peake or Annys Long and Annys Bull to stand together as godparents.

Of the rest, 36 children were named after the first-named godparent (of the same sex) and 4 after the second.

The most surprising fact to emerge from a study of these 59 baptisms is that only two godparents bore the child's surname. Together with the comparatively frequent appearance as sponsors of several leading citizens, this suggests that godparents were less often near relatives than distinguished friends of the parents. John Knight appears six times and his wife Joan four,⁵ Alderman Edward Brightwell five times and the Vicar and two more aldermen three times each. The most popular godmother (six times) was one Alice Hornesleye. (Could she have been an admired midwife?) Friswide Barnesley was also in demand and gave her name to three of the 28 girls, and probably to many of the 27 further Friswides baptized up to 1581 – though Friswide Hill was also active. The local popularity of this name was initially due to the association of St. Frideswide with Oxford.

Without considerable research in wills and other sources, it is not, of course, possible to estimate how many of the sponsors were relatives with other surnames, or whether any of the eight children not named after them were given 'family names', but the conclusion seems inevitable that – at least in mid-sixteenth-century Banbury – Christian names were generally determined by the choice of godparents rather than by a desire to perpetuate names in a family.

Of the eight exceptional cases, 'Epiphany Hill', baptized on 6 January, looks at first sight a typical 'foundling name'; but as Alderman Brightwell stood sponsor and Hill himself was later to become an alderman, one supposes rather that his parents considered the natal feast as of more importance than the godparents. Although Hill himself had two sons baptized in January he did not give them his name; but he was presumably godfather to several children baptized as Epiphany in unsuitable months of the year – June, July, October and December.

Mr. Abell, the Vicar, does not seem to have wished his name, John, to be given to his godsons; but could Abel Adams and two more Abels baptized later during the Vicar's lifetime have been named in his honour? No more children were given this name during the 30 years following the burial of 'Sir John Abell, a vicar'.

I should mention two points that have been put to me whilst preparing these notes. The first seeks to explain the rarity of obvious relatives among the Banbury godparents.

By Roman Catholic doctrine, a spiritual consanguinity or affinity is created which leads to a ban on marriage between godparents and godchild or its parents. It has been suggested that this could have led to a complementary disapproval of near relatives acting as godparents. However, I am unable to find that relatives other than parents were ever barred; at the present day uncles and aunts and even brothers and sisters frequently act as sponsors in both the Catholic and Protestant Churches.

The other suggestion was that, just as parish clerks often acted as marriage witnesses, a Churchwarden might be standing by to fill up the ranks of godparents, and this would explain the frequent appearance of leading citizens; further, that prominent tradesmen might volunteer for this duty in the hope of securing the grateful parents' custom. My own feeling is that sponsorship was viewed more seriously, and that parents thought it politic to invite their most distinguished acquaintance to act, both by way of compliment and in the hope of legacies to the child.

On another subject of perennial debate, this register provides a curious example of 'alias' in the baptism (1591/1592) of Joan daughter of William Bartholomew alias Eglesfield, who must have been a son of old Alderman Bartholomew Eglesfield. Bartholomew does not appear as a surname elsewhere in this register, and William is simply Eglesfield in other entries.

Erik Chitty, M.A., F.S.G.

Notes and References

1. This article was first published in *The Genealogists' Magazine*, vol.16, no.2, June 1969, pages 45-47, and is reprinted here by kind permission of the Society of Genealogists.
2. This has been discussed by D. J. Steel in *The Genealogists' Magazine*, vol.14, no.2, June 1962, 'The Descent of Christian Names', pages 34-43, and in the *National Index of Parish Registers*, vol.1, page 112 *et seq.*; and by the writer in *The Genealogists' Magazine* vol.14, no.8, December 1963, pages 268-269.
3. *Baptism and Burial Register of Banbury, part 1, 1558-1653*, ed. J.S.W. Gibson, Banbury Historical Society, 1965-66.
4. I am assuming that Roger Denmore's godfather 'Robert Jackson' is an error for Roger Jackson who appears elsewhere.
5. But there were two John Knights with wives Joan - the baker, Alderman and Bailiff, and the labourer.

BANBURY CASTLE EXCAVATIONS - APRIL 1972

Of dominant interest to local historians this spring have been the exploratory excavations that have been taking place on the site of Banbury Castle, north of the Market Place. These have been directed by Mr P.J. Fasham, working in conjunction with the Oxford City and County Museum at Woodstock, and have been financed by the Department for the Environment and Banbury Borough Council, with a contribution from the Banbury Historical Society.

Members will have seen reports and photographs in the local press; several members were amongst the many volunteers who helped Mr Fasham and his small professional team. We are grateful to Mr Fasham for the following brief report, which he emphasises is only a preliminary summary, without any attempt to draw conclusions, and must in no way be regarded as final. We are promised an extended report, we hope after further excavation, for a future issue.

Three sites were excavated.

1. 27 Cornhill (behind the *Vine* and the former *Plough*). A large stone lined pit of medieval date was uncovered. It measured about 4.10m by 2.85m, and was 1.50m deep. A good cross-section of medieval pottery and three coins were found in this feature. Its function is not clear. This pit was cut through a gully which probably dates to the eleventh century.
2. Castle Street Car Park. This site produced evidence for the central mound of the castle which appeared to have been built in two stages. The demolition layers of the castle were located; in them were the remains of a skeleton. Underneath the mound was very vague evidence of buildings pre-dating the castle.
3. Factory Street (behind the *Bear*). A small trench excavated mechanically revealed what might be the medieval and the rebuilt Civil War rampart. The evidence for this is the pottery and clay pipes found in the possible rampart material.

Thanks are due to the organizations and individuals who helped in many ways, financial and physical, to make these excavations successful.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF REDEVELOPMENT IN BANBURY

by P.J. Fasham, B.A.

Introduction

Archaeology is now recognized nationally as one of the major sources of historical information. Yet this source of information is being eroded at an alarming rate and nowhere is the destruction greater than in historic town centres. In these areas archaeological remains are at their deepest but there also the pressures for redevelopment are at their greatest. The combination of modern building techniques and the necessity to ensure an economic return from new development projects will virtually ensure the total destruction of all English urban archaeology within the next two decades.

The archaeological situation in Banbury as outlined in this report reflects the national position. Banbury's historical heritage does not lie simply in old documents or the town's ancient buildings, it lies also in its archaeology which is in danger of being destroyed simply because it lies hidden and therefore unnoticed. Yet in the centre of Banbury at least eight hundred years of vital evidence for the early development of the town await archaeological investigation.

Redevelopment will inevitably destroy Banbury's archaeological evidence, but at the same time the redevelopment will present unique opportunities to examine this evidence before its destruction. Archaeology is itself a destructive process, but it is a process which ensures that what is destroyed is *recorded* in a controlled and scientific way. Archaeology is not preservation; archaeology and redevelopment are not incompatible, they should be thought of as one in the same process.

A series of planned excavations phased with the redevelopment programme could ensure that the evidence for Banbury's past receives the attention it deserves. Such evidence could be of both regional and national importance. The recent excavations on the site of the castle, coupled with this report, amply demonstrate the wealth of Banbury's archaeology and the potential of an organized archaeological programme integrated with the redevelopment. This integration can and must be achieved by the understanding and co-operation of all parties concerned.

T.G. Hassall, M.A., F.S.A.
Director

Oxford Archaeological Excavation Committee

The Object and Importance of Archaeological Work in Banbury

For many English provincial towns the earliest documents date only from the twelfth century. This is certainly the case with Banbury. However, often these towns have a history reaching back at least five centuries before their first written record. For this period the only archive for a town's history lies buried beneath its present streets and buildings.

Thus the object of archaeological investigation is to recover and unravel as much information as possible about the origins and growth of Banbury. This information is relevant not only to local history but also in a regional setting – Banbury was and still is an administrative centre for a large and prosperous area of north Oxfordshire. With its castle set adjacent to the market place the opportunities offered by development present a rare chance in Britain to examine the very close relationship between town and castle.

Banbury is regarded as a town of important historic interest by the Council for British Archaeology. Its history from documentary evidence is well covered – both in the recently published first volume of the *Historic Towns* series and, in greater detail and at greater length, in the forthcoming volume of the *Victoria County History*. Thus the history of the town is well documented, but this is not matched by the archaeological record – which is, at best, fragmentary. Proposed development will destroy most of the remaining archaeological evidence relating to the castle and the north side of the market place. This emphasises the need for archaeological exploration.

The excavations in April 1972 have given us some idea of the very rich and promising nature of the archaeological deposits under the roads and houses of Banbury. The coming months will really be the last opportunity to examine Banbury Castle.

Historical Development

Prehistoric and Roman

There is, as yet, no evidence to suggest pre-Saxon settlement in the town area; nevertheless random finds in the region do point to more ancient occupation in the Cherwell valley.

Saxon

The name Banbury is an early Saxon word (c. A.D. 450–650), meaning the enclosed homestead of a man called Banna. This settlement would most probably have been in the area of either St. Mary's Church or at the east end of Castle Street East. It is almost certainly paired by a similar settlement on the east bank of the river Cherwell at Grimsbury.

By the time of the Domesday Book in 1086 it seems as if there was a small hamlet in Banbury which acted as an administrative centre for a fairly large area. This settlement would probably have been around St. Mary's Church. It is quite likely that there was a substantial church in Banbury perhaps as early as the tenth century.

Medieval

Bishop Alexander of Lincoln built the castle about 1125, and laid out the market place adjacent to his castle. This simultaneous planning is a rare occurrence in England. To the west the earlier settlement would expand until the two met. Meanwhile a small hamlet remained independent at Calthorpe.

By 1321 the Abbot of Eynsham had a manor house at Newland, outside the town limits at the East Bar.

Although having four gates, or bars, to control traffic, no traces of any town defences have been identified.

During and after the Civil War in the seventeenth century about one third of the town was destroyed and the castle was completely obliterated. Only a few buildings now survive from before the Civil War.

Archaeological Potential

Banbury was an important and flourishing town and administrative centre in the Middle Ages, although apart from the magnificent castle, and the church, there do not appear to have been many major buildings in the medieval period. Nevertheless a vast amount of valuable information can be learnt about the development of the streets of the town in general, and also, in more detail, about the development of the frontages on these streets – the houses and shops of a thriving medieval market town.

So far extensive excavation and research into urban development has been undertaken only in the larger medieval towns such as Winchester, Oxford, York and Southampton. Virtually no comprehensive work has been carried out in the smaller, yet important, market towns like Banbury. The little that has been done in market towns has always been rather piecemeal and without a view to a planned campaign of study. In Banbury itself only very small-scale excavations have taken place in the past. The central development scheme presents an opportunity for Banbury to be the first market town in the country to be thoroughly investigated by excavation.

As an ecclesiastical town, used as a centre for administration and commerce, Banbury is likely to have been quite wealthy. The recent excavations give every indication that this was the case: large quantities of good quality medieval pottery and three coins were recovered from just one of the very small areas excavated. The damp nature of parts of the town suggests that there will be considerable quantities of preserved leather and wood: for instance part of a wooden fence was found. Leather was a major trade in Banbury – by the sixteenth century there was even a 'Leather Hall' – and the recovery of remains of this trade would add another dimension to the history of the town.

The local ironstone was obviously a very popular building material in the later Middle Ages. We may therefore anticipate very fine and impressive masonry structures beneath the ground. It is rare for pits to be so well lined with stone as was the one found at 27 Cornhill (behind the *Vine* and the former *Plough*). Indeed stone-lined pits are the exception rather than the rule. The discovery of more substantial remains is a reasonable expectation.

The great archaeological potential of Banbury is quite apparent and the opportunities, presented by development, must not be ignored.

The main problems to investigate are (Fig. 1):

1. The origins and early growth of Banbury. The site of the early Saxon settlement needs to be located and examined.
2. The development of late Saxon Banbury, almost certainly in the area of Horsefair and around St. Mary's Church.
3. The Abbot of Eynsham's residence in Newland on the south side of Banbury; first mentioned in 1321.
4. The market place. So far no shops with frontages on to the market place have been excavated in England. In Banbury this central area has changed little in plan since it was laid out in the twelfth century. Consequently, excavation of sites around the market place would provide information about the shops and their designs from the twelfth century through to the present day.
5. The Castle. This was the dominant feature in Banbury for over 500 years. It is the only site which comes close to being well-documented and excavations of the castle area would help provide much information about the size, shape and character of the castle, as well as providing a relative sequence of dates for Banbury and the surrounding area.

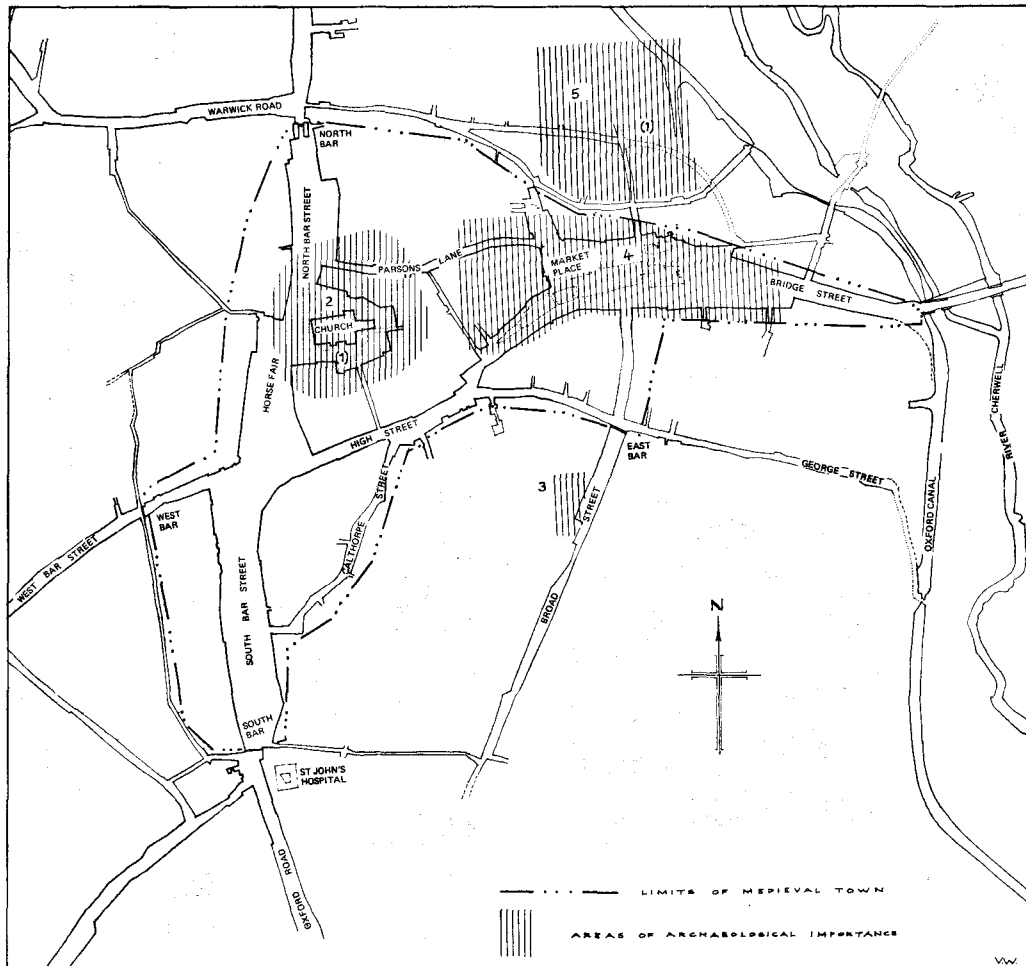


Figure 1. Areas of archaeological importance. Numbers mentioned as in text.

The Redevelopment of Banbury

The appearance of Banbury is soon to be more radically altered than at any other time since the Civil War, a period of over three hundred years. Redevelopment in towns comes either in the form of new buildings or of road improvement schemes (Inner Relief Roads, widening, etc.). No matter in what shape it comes the redevelopment will virtually destroy the archaeology in the area to be rebuilt. Office blocks and shopping precincts need large basements and deep foundations. This means digging a very deep hole which will remove the archaeological layers and with them the evidence for man's activities in the past. Even a building erected on piles will destroy, to all intents and purposes, more of the archaeology than it preserves. Road schemes are just as destructive as major building projects since they obliterate the vital relationships between the medieval streets and their frontages with their buildings. Although some information may be obtained from the pits and wells at the rear of properties this information will be of little value if it cannot be properly related to the street and adjacent properties.

Extensive redevelopment is planned for Banbury. Already Castle Street is being widened to form part of an Inner Relief Road scheme. Work will soon start on the construction of the new shopping precinct with its attendant service areas and car parking facilities on the site of the castle to the north of the market place.

Redevelopment causes widespread destruction of the buried history of a town. However, it is only when redevelopment takes place that an opportunity is offered to the archaeologist to examine the evidence for man's past which lies under the streets and buildings of a thriving town like Banbury. It is a rare opportunity and, in Banbury's case, an opportunity which ought not to be missed.

Redevelopment Sites in Banbury (Fig. 2)

1. The Central Shopping Precinct (Fig. 3). This is the most obvious, immediate and archaeologically important area of redevelopment. It means the destruction of the medieval buildings which must lie on the north side of the market place under the modern buildings. About two thirds of the castle will be destroyed: about a fifth has already been destroyed by the canal and its wharves and by Castle Gardens Car Park. The location of the castle defences and their relationship to the market place needs to be established (Site A). The gatehouse requires investigation (Site B). The central enclosure needs to be defined (Site C). Areas within the castle perimeter must be sampled to locate internal buildings (other stippled areas). A careful watch needs to be maintained once the development is under way. The castle area must have priority over all other sites.
2. The Marina. The proposed Marina is located on the eastern edge of the castle. It will destroy what is left of the castle by the canal.
3. 42-44 Broad Street. Immediately to the south of the Co-operative store is a vacant piece of land, presumably to be developed. It seems likely that a medieval street with its frontages runs through this site. This would handsomely repay investigation, yielding information about the development of a street just within one of the town's gates.
4. 36-38a Parsons Street. These buildings are due to come down. Observation on this medieval street frontage would be valuable.
5. 18-19 Market Place (the front of the *Unicorn*). Should these two sixteenth century properties be demolished, as reported in the *Banbury Guardian* in April 1972, excavation on their site would provide valuable material about the medieval shops on a side of the market place away from the castle.
6. Corner of North Bar and Castle Street (site of the *Three Horseshoes*).

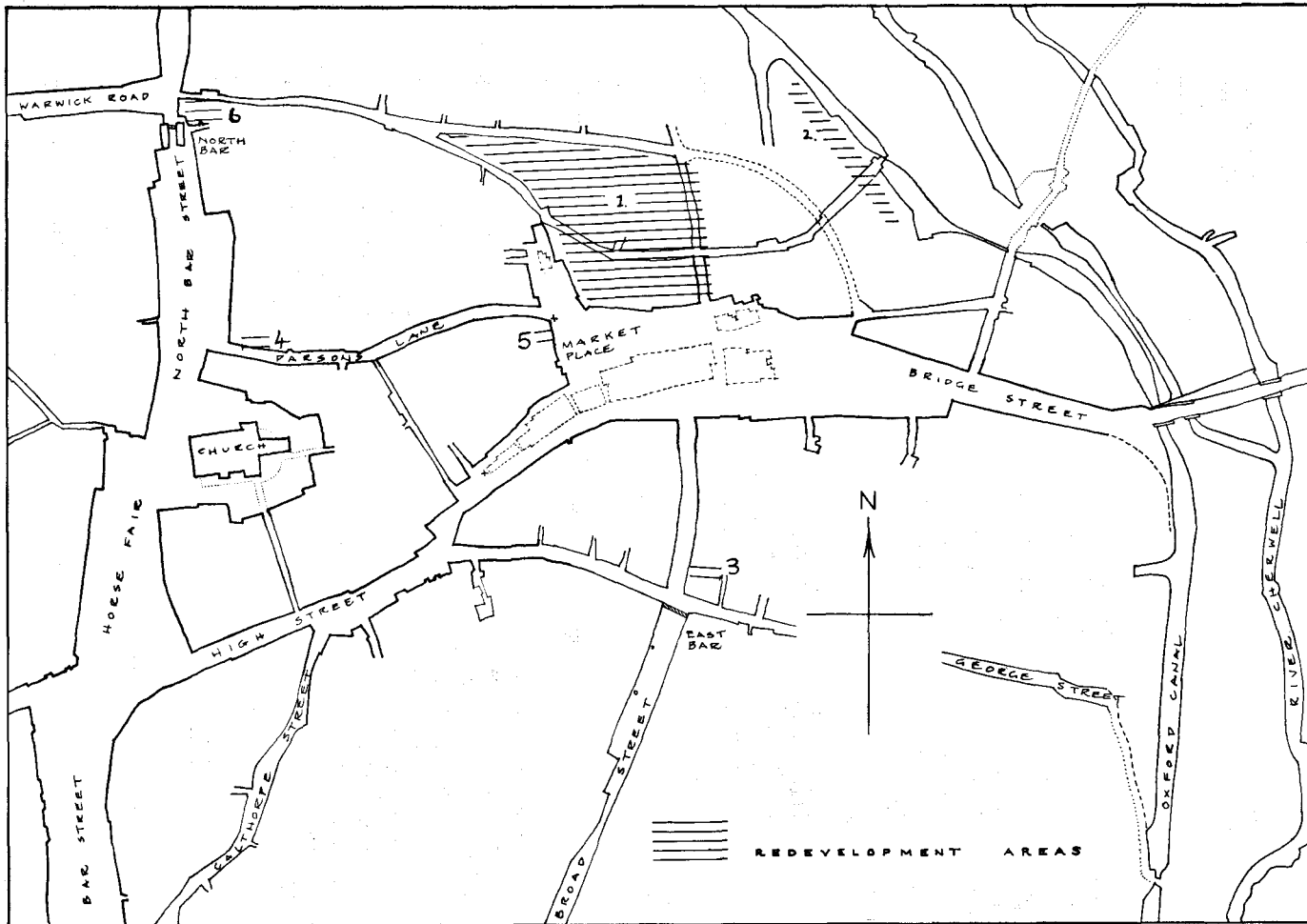


Figure 2. Redevelopment sites in Banbury. Numbers mentioned as in text.

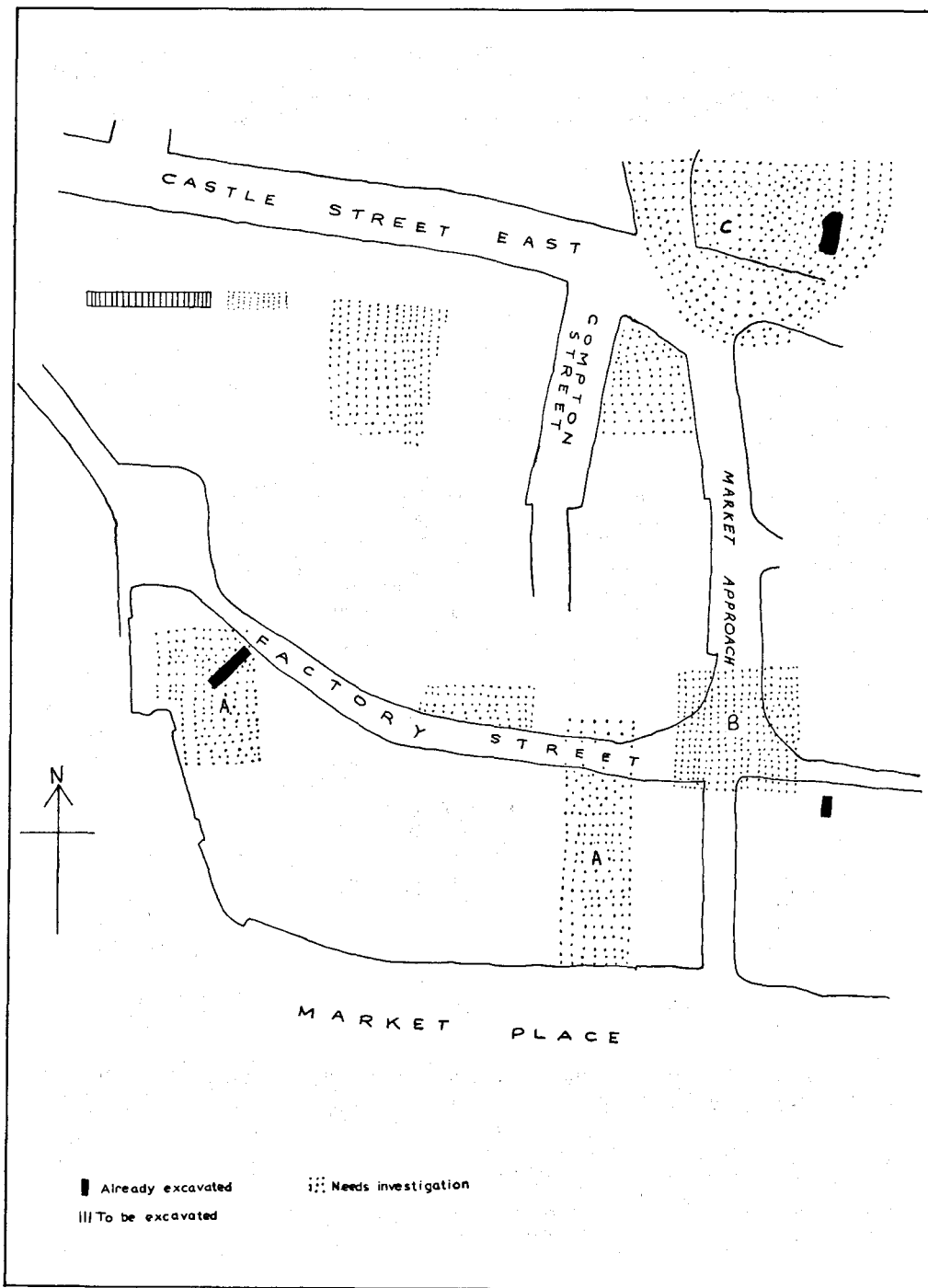


Figure 3. The area of the Central Shopping Precinct showing what is left of the castle, compare with Fig. 1. Shows areas where archaeological investigation is vital.

Some Conclusions

The archaeological evidence required to build up a picture of a town's past comes in different forms and can, therefore, be recovered in different ways. The examination of defensive features can be achieved by small trenches set at right-angles to the line of the feature. Thus the perimeter of the castle could be located by a series of such trenches dug at well-selected sites. The larger defensive structures, such as towers and the gatehouse, could only be satisfactorily examined by opening up much larger areas. Indeed if buildings inside the walls of the castle are going to be studied open-area excavation on quite a large scale is essential. Open-area excavation is essential, too, on any site containing medieval buildings and street frontages, since the structures to be investigated were often very flimsy and ephemeral. In this case excavation must be over a large area and cannot be rushed.

Although total excavation of each redevelopment site would be the ideal, the high cost of town excavation, the shortage of time available and the lack of skilled manpower, makes this quite clearly out of the question. However, selective excavation of some sites and very careful observation of any constructional excavation would yield a rich harvest. A planned programme of excavation and observation minimizes the risk of delay to the contractors from archaeological activities. Indeed, the instances of delay caused by archaeologists in the past have been negligible. The notable and often quoted example of the Temple of Mithras found in Walbrook in London was a rare exception. Some archaeological sites are not discovered until development actually starts; in these circumstances the archaeologist has to rely on the goodwill and co-operation of the developer and more immediately the contractor. When sought, this co-operation, enabling archaeological observation to take place, has usually been forthcoming.

This type of work is of the scale that can only be undertaken by a full-time organization with sufficient staff and resources. The redevelopment and attendant obliteration of the archaeological remains of the castle demands full investigation.

The findings of the archaeologists rather than hindering the developers can be of extreme value to them, giving information about subsoil conditions. This is particularly the case where wide and deep defensive ditches are found, such as castle moats. Once located the ditches can be emptied of their soft infilling and concrete can be poured in to give the soil much greater stability. This was done, for example, on the Westgate Centre in Oxford. The longterm saving in structural damage easily repays the cost of the archaeological investigations.

As a general rule the ideal cost of excavation is regarded as about one per cent of the cost of the development. In towns where major excavations have been carried out, the financial burden has been, and still is, shared by the local council and the Department of the Environment (Ancient Monuments Section). Winchester, a city with the same size population as Banbury, allows a rate of 0.58p for archaeology.

An allowance of 0.125p on the rates, matched by the Department of the Environment, would realize sufficient finance to make possible the proper archaeological investigation of the castle area in Banbury. This price is not high when balanced against the archaeological importance of Banbury and the consideration that it would be the first medieval market town in the country to be thoroughly investigated.

Acknowledgements: I am very grateful to Mr T.G. Hassall for writing the Introduction, and to Messrs. D.G. Benson and R.T. Rowley for reading the text and offering constructive criticisms.

Shoemaker's Window, Recollections of Banbury before the Railway Age by George Herbert (1814–1902), Edited by Christiana S. Cheney, Second edition with a new introduction and additional notes by B.S. Trinder. Published for the Banbury Historical Society (Records Volume 10) by Phillimore, London and Chichester, £1.25, 1971

Historians are belatedly realizing that there is more to history than what is to be found in their traditional sources – written documentary sources of all sorts, the accounts of parliamentary debates, the ecclesiastical records, from the centre down to the parish, from voting figures to poll books, which are the latest quarry to be enthusiastically mined by local historians. There is also an 'oral tradition' that by definition hardly ever got written down. Now historians are belatedly talking to old people about their childhood to capture, before it disappears for ever, the detail of life in Edwardian Britain. Yet there were even earlier 'oral traditions' – tales told to enliven what would perhaps seem to us a monotonous existence in Victorian Britain and before. These traditions are almost, but not quite, totally lost beyond recall, for from this remarkable volume under review, we learn about the bull in Mr Rowe's sweetshop, the naming of the barge *Billy Strange*, the visit of Sir Rowland Hill, the legendary rat-catching at the Tithe Barn, the man whose wooden leg was sawn in two, the cries of 'Shakell's Dead' – all old tales which must have been repeated many times in Victorian Banbury.

Here lies the strength of these remembrances of Banbury past. Though the memory of a man of 85 looking back 60 years is fallible (and Barrie Trinder's notes, of course, put him right) George Herbert's recollections originally for his friends, now for us, capture what Banbury was like for an ordinary man in the 1820s, 1830s and 1840s – Banbury before the railway age. Herbert was a 'shoemaker, photographer, amateur musician, chemist and born gossip' and his *Shoemaker's Window* vividly portrays the fabric of market town society showing who spoke to whom and on which occasions. Through the pages of *Cake and Cockhorse* and from elsewhere, we know now that Banbury in the nineteenth century was fraught with social conflicts centring on both religion and politics. Yet George Herbert tells us little or nothing about Chartism, co-operation or teetotalism or the other radical causes that swept nineteenth century Banbury. He claims that he never voted – but we know (thanks to Mr Trinder's diligence) that he voted for the Conservative candidate in 1847, the two elections of 1859, and in 1865 and 1868, while most shoemakers in Banbury were radical. There is little about religion, though we know it was a major factor in the determining of the composition of social groups. So *Shoemaker's Window* is a charming and useful reminder that, for long periods, life in a nineteenth century market town was placid and uneventful. Historians naturally tend to focus on the dramatic and so may well have given us a misleading impression. George Herbert's wide ranging friendships show that there were strong forces which made for cohesion in Victorian England as well as the more familiar forces which brought about political, social and religious conflict.

We are all further in debt to Barrie Trinder – this time for his introduction to this edition of *Shoemaker's Window* which takes into account material published (much of it in *Cake and Cockhorse*) since 1948 when the first edition edited by Christiana S. Cheney and published by Blackwells appeared. This earlier edition has long been a collector's item and so the appearance of this cheap but nicely produced paperback edition is a venture to be warmly welcomed. It will assuredly have a large readership, both in Banbury and beyond.

Department of Sociology
University of Essex

Colin Bell

Railway History

Mr M.D. Grant of 12 Grove Road, North Finchley, London N12 9DY is doing research on the history of the Buckinghamshire Railway, especially the line from Banbury, Merton Street, through Brackley and Buckingham to Verney Junction. He is anxious to gain information about the services on the line, the locomotives and rolling stock used, the people who travelled on the trains, the customers who sent freight on the line, etc.

MUSEUM NEWS

The Museum has recently received many valuable and interesting donations. Dr. C.F.C. Beeson and Mr J.S.W. Gibson jointly presented a very fine long case clock made in 1750 by John Lamprey of Banbury. It is one of only two known surviving clocks made by the Lamprey family. The case was made by Hoods of Banbury. The clock has a very fine brass face, inscribed with the name of John Lamprey. It was presented in memory of Mrs Violet Mary Gibson.

Mr Gibson also presented a late 19th century dolls' house, once owned by his godmother, Miss 'Teenie' Pemberton of Banbury. This is full of a delightful collection of dolls and furniture, including two clockwork mantel clocks, which well illustrate the Victorian way of life.

Another item received recently, from an anonymous donor, is also of particular relevance to Banbury. It is a small bronze crucifix, found on the site of St. John's Hospital, Banbury, which was at one time in the William Potts collection. It probably dates from the 13th century, and is illustrated in Alfred Beesley's *History of Banbury*. Although less than 3 inches high, it has much character.

There is space here to mention only a few of the many items received by the Museum. The Museum is most grateful for all the donations and support it has received.

Christine Bloxham

Banbury Twelfth Fair

In our last issue we published a picture set in the Horsefair, Banbury, captioned 'The last Banbury 12th fair in 1900', as it was described in the Library collection. Our member Mr H.O. Bennett points out that this is certainly not a 12th fair, but the beginning of a meet of hounds. He believes that the last big 12th fair was held about 1914 or 1915, and the last fair of all about 1920. In its day the fair was a very big occasion with hundreds of horses from Welsh foals to shire horses, and extended to almost every pub yard in the town. The demise of this fair and of others like it was brought about by the advent of the motor car and lorry and by the many dispersal sales of ex-Army horses after the Great War. As on several occasions in the past, we are most grateful to Mr Bennett for his watchfulness, and for the additional information he has supplied.

Banbury Historical Society – Fourteenth Annual Report – 1971

The Committee have pleasure in submitting the Fourteenth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for the year 1971.

Membership: There has been a small increase in membership, to 370. On his departure from the neighbourhood Lord Elton, a Vice-President since the foundation of the Society, has resigned. We record with regret the deaths, during 1971 or subsequently, of our members Mrs W.H. Brown, Mrs L.J. Fillmore, Mrs V.M. Gibson, Mrs A.J. Hawkins, Prebendary A. Longden and Mr R. Parker.

The year has also seen changes amongst the Society's officers: Mr G.J. Fothergill has taken over from Mr J.S.W. Gibson, Hon. Secretary since the Society's foundation, on the latter's departure to Chichester, though we are glad to say he continues to be active in the Society's affairs as Editor of the Records Series and in many other ways; and Dr G.E. Gardam, already for many years Assistant Treasurer, has now succeeded Mr A.W. Pain as Hon. Treasurer. Mr Pain too continues on the Committee, as Hon. Information Officer. We have been delighted to welcome on to the Committee Miss Christine Bloxham, Curator of Banbury Museum since the Spring.

Lectures and Meetings: Eight general meetings have been held; the following talks were given:

January: Excavations at Middleton Stoney – Mr Trevor Rowley

February: Oxfordshire Watermills – Mr John Carter

March: The Gardens of Stowe – Mr George Clarke

April: Village meeting at Middleton Cheney – Bishop D.G. Loveday and Mr G. Forsyth Lawson

June (A.G.M.): Rousham Park

September: Women's Lib. in the 17th Century – Mr Christopher Hill

October: The Oxfordshire Election of 1754 – Miss G.H. Dannatt

November: Reminiscences of Old Banbury – Dr E.R.C. Brinkworth, Mr A.H. Cheney, Mr H. Sanderson and Mr N. Scroxton

As always we are most grateful to our speakers, all of whom gave their services without charge.

We were privileged to hold our A.G.M. at Rousham Park, by kind invitation of Mr Cottrell-Dormer; and other summer visits were made to Ironbridge Open Air Museum, Earls Barton Church, Easton Neston House (by kind permission of Lady Hesketh), and the excavations at Middleton Stony. The Society was also responsible for the research and script for the highly successful 'Son et Lumière' held at Broughton Castle in July.

The Annual dinner was again held at the *White Lion* when the toast of the Society was proposed by Mr J.P. Brooke-Little, Richmond Herald of Arms, and replied to by our Vice-President Bishop Loveday; followed by madrigals sung by a group from Banbury School.

Once again we record our appreciation of the work of our Hon. Press Officer, Mrs G. Brinkworth, whose reports regularly appear in the local press.

Research: The Society continues to answer numerous enquiries on the local history and genealogy of the Banbury area.

Archaeology: Work continued on the Roman site on Mr J. Gardner's land south of Deddington; and the site at Pike Farm, Broughton, was reopened with considerable success. Both excavations were directed by Mr J.H. Fearon with the assistance of Mr Fothergill, other members and pupils from local schools. Interest now centres on the excavations planned on the site of Banbury Castle.

Museum: The arrival of Miss Bloxham as Curator has stimulated interest in the Museum, with several special exhibitions and a great increase in donations and accessions. The Society has been instrumental in the acquisition of several important exhibits, in particular, through the generosity of Dr C.F.C. Beeson and Mr Gibson, a longcase clock, c. 1750, by John Lamprey of Banbury, and a late Victorian dollhouse, made for the daughters of Dr Pemberton of Linden House on The Green.

Cake & Cockhorse: Rising costs of production have led to the reluctant decision to cut the issues of the magazine from four to three, with effect from the new volume that started in the autumn, though it is intended that the total number of pages a year should remain the same. Contributors to the year's three issues included (in addition to the Editor and other committee members) Messrs. F.H. Anker, H.O. Bennett, R.K. Gilkes, G.C.J. Hartland, R. Kitchener, A.R.E. Messenger, A. Potts, M. Turner and Professor R.T. Vann.

The rise in printing costs means that each issue now costs well over £100, though sales and an increased grant, to £40, from the Recreational and Amenities Committee of the Borough Council has kept the net cost to Society down to £243. The total cost still exceeds the amount available from subscription income.

Record Volumes: The new edition of *Shoemaker's Window*, edited by B.S. Trinder, and *Wigginton Constables' Book, 1691–1836*, edited by F.D. Price, have now, at last, been published and issued to records members. The assistance of the British Academy and the Borough Council is once again gratefully acknowledged. Further support is promised for the *Banbury Wills and Inventories, 1591–1650*, volume, which will be the next to appear; whilst work continues on previously announced volumes: *Bodicote Churchwardens' Accounts, Banbury Politics, 1830–1886*, and a revised edition of *My Life* by Sarah Beesley.

Accounts: The saving on the fourth issue of *Cake & Cockhorse* has made it possible to create a reserve of £50 towards the cost of reprinting *Old Banbury*, stocks of which are again exhausted. There remains a small surplus, which is transferred to the Capital account. With the running down of stocks of pamphlets, postcards and Christmas cards the contribution from sales of these will diminish. In a year that has seen the production of two records volumes the balance of £268 in the publications reserve is satisfactory indeed, but this includes £100 grant from the British Academy and will be fully absorbed by the volume in production. It seems likely that an increase in the rates of subscription will shortly be necessary if the Society is to continue its present level of service to members and the community.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st December 1971

1970	Expenditure		1970	Income	
398	Cake & Cockhorse	340	472	Subscriptions	493
	Less: Grants	45	161	Less: Proportion attributable to records	169
	Sales	52			
<u>107</u>		<u>97</u>	<u>311</u>		<u>324</u>
291		243		Sales:	
-	Newsletter	6	76	Christmas cards	46
5	Subscriptions	5	55	Less: Production costs	-
26	Lecture and meeting expenses	34	21		
70	Printing, stationery, postages, telephone and sundries	65	41	Postcards & Pamphlets	16
-	Reserve for reprinting Old Banbury	50	56	Old Banbury	28
	Annual Dinner	125	6	Less: Reduction in stock	-
153	Less: Receipts	117	11	Calendars	1
<u>141</u>		<u>117</u>	<u>11</u>		<u>1</u>
12		8	79	Donations	91
5	Banbury Development Inquiry	-	1	Deposit account	3
-	Bad debts written off	14	20		15
2	Excess of Income over Expenditure	8			
<u>411</u>		<u>433</u>	<u>411</u>		<u>433</u>

Publications Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 1971

3	A Victorian MP & his Constituents (1967)	15	106	Publications Reserve and Provisions, balance at 1st January 1971	355
150	Historic Towns Map (1969)	-	161	Subscriptions - proportion attributable to records	169
-	Shoemaker's Window (1970)	185		Sales:	
-	Wigginton Constables' Book (1971)	285	37	A Victorian MP	26
-	Wills & Inventories (1972)	-	39	Shoemaker's Window	6
153		485	76	Historic Towns	22
20	Postage & packing	-		Other back volumes	35
355	Publications Reserve and Provisions, balance at 31st December 1971	268	135	Grants:	
			50	British Academy	100
				Banbury Borough Council	40
				Donations	-
<u>528</u>		<u>753</u>	<u>528</u>		<u>140</u>
					<u>753</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 1971

1970	Liabilities		1970	Assets	
54	Subscriptions in advance	96	3	Cash in hand	-
16	Sundry creditors	13	180	Deposit account	120
16	Unexpended grant for archaeological expenses	16	69	Current account	260
-	Old Banbury reprint reserve	50	252		380
355	Publications reserve and provisions	268	1	Payment in advance	1
	Capital account		100	Grants receivable	100
88	As at 1st January 1971	90	158	Sundry debtors	60
	Add: Excess of income over expenditure for the year ended 31st December 1971	8	20	Subscriptions overdue	-
<u>90</u>		<u>98</u>			
<u>531</u>		<u>541</u>	<u>531</u>		<u>541</u>

I have examined the foregoing accounts of the Banbury Historical Society and in my opinion they give a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs at 31st December 1971.

The activities and publications of some or all of the following bodies should interest readers:

- Arts Council of Banbury (Miss Rosemary Hall, Flat 33, 20 Calthorpe Road, Banbury).
Minimum £1.05
- Banbury Art Society (Hon. Sec., R. Edgson, Print's Cottage, Bloxham, Banbury) £1.00
- Banbury Geographical Association (B.E. Little, 2 Burlington Gardens, Banbury) 53p
- Bicester Local History Circle (Hon. Sec., Miss G.H. Dannatt, Lammas Cottage, Launton Road, Bicester, Oxon.). 50p
- Buckinghamshire Record Society (Hon. Sec., E.J. Davis, County Record Office, New Council Offices, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks.). £2.10
- Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Oxfordshire Branch (Mrs E. Turner, Woodside, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxon.). Minimum 50p
- Dugdale Society (publishes Warwickshire records) (Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon). £2.10
- Heraldry Society (59 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.). £1.50; or to include 'The Coat of Arms', £2.50
- Historical Association (59a Kennington Park Road, London, S.E.11.) (Oxford Branch: A.J.P. Puddephatt, 93, Old Road, Headington, Oxford). £1.00; or to include *History*, £1.75
- Northamptonshire Record Society (Délapre Abbey, Northampton). £2.10
- Oxford Architectural and Historical Society (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford). 75p or to include *Oxoniensia*, £2.10
- Oxford Preservation Trust (The Painted Room, 2 Cornmarket Street, Oxford). Minimum 50p
- Oxfordshire Record Society (Dr W.O. Hassall, Hon. Sec., Bodleian Library, Oxford). £2.00
- Shipston-on-Stour and District Local History Society (H.G. Parry, Hon. Sec., 8 Stratford Road, Shipston-on-Stour, Warw.) 50p
- Warwickshire Local History Society (47 Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa.) £1.00
- Woodford Halse Historical Society (J.W. Anscomb, 7 Manor Road, Woodford Halse, Rugby, Warw.) 50p

The Local Historian, published quarterly is available from the National Council of Social Service, 26 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.-single copies, 28p
annual postal subscription £1.05

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for the Banbury Historical Society

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