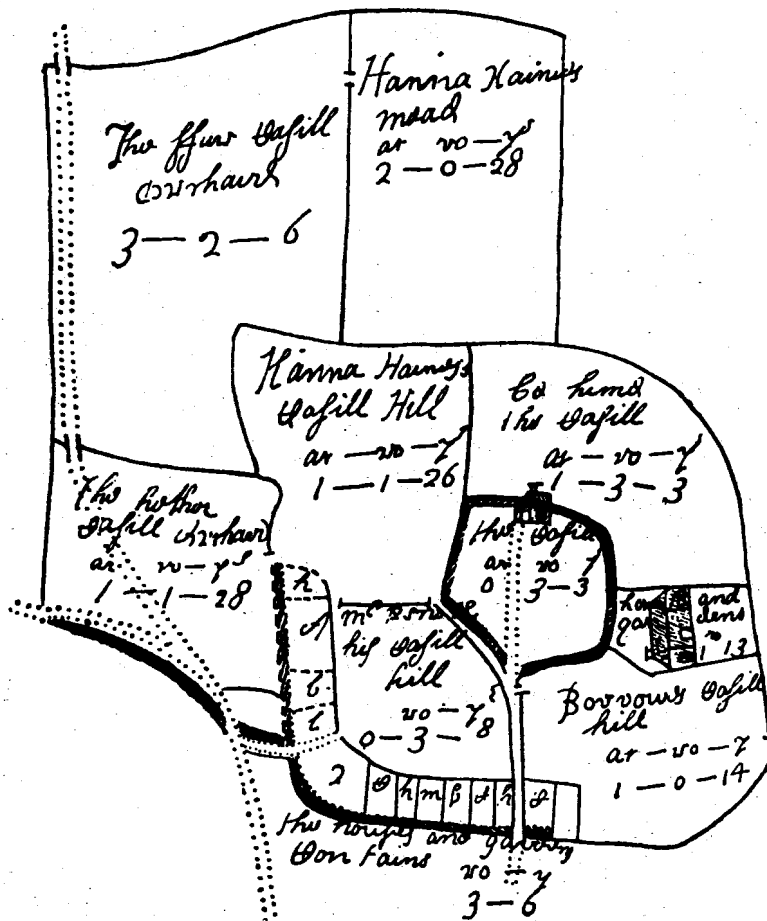


CAKE AND COCKHORSE



Banbury Historical Society

Summer 1973

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President: The Lord Saye and Sele

Chairman: F. Willy, B.A., Raymond House, Bloxham School, Banbury

Hon. Secretary:
G.J. Fothergill, M.A.,

Hon. Treasurer:
Dr. G.E. Gardam,
11 Denbigh Close,
Broughton Road,
Banbury
(Tel. Banbury 2841)

Hon. Information Officer:
Miss C. Bloxham.,
c/o Borough Museum,
Marlborough Road,
Banbury
(Tel. Banbury 2282)

Hon. Editors

Cake and Cockhorse
B.S. Trinder, B.A.,

Records Series
J.S.W. Gibson, F.S.A.,
11 Westgate,
Chichester

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

Hon. Archaeological Adviser:
J.H. Fearon, B.Sc.

Committee Members

A. Donaldson, J. F. Roberts

* * * * *

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

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

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(Barrie Trinder, who has edited *Cake and Cockhorse* since 1962, is retiring as editor with the publication of this issue.)

Eleven years ago *Cake and Cockhorse* was much more unusual than it is now. The past decade has seen what a distinguished scholar has recently called a 'tidal wave' of local history publishing. A large part of this tidal wave consists of magazines, journals, bulletins, newsletters and like publications brought out by voluntary societies and by such bodies as museums and record offices. In this field of publishing *Cake and Cockhorse* was a pioneer. The Banbury Historical Society was one of the first records publishing societies to recognise that there was a place in local history for good quality journalism as distinct from the belatedly published 'calf-bound volumes' for which the older societies were noted. In *Cake and Cockhorse* we have tried to show that it is possible to have a journal substantial enough for filing in libraries, which can include learned articles, re-printed source material and archaeological reports, and at the same time be journalistically effective, by printing up-to-date news of interest to local historians, and making its views known when appropriate on current issues. In technical matters too *Cake and Cockhorse* has been something of a pioneer. It was one of the first local historical publications to use offset litho printing, and its appearance has steadily improved as our printers, Express Litho Service, have enlarged their capacity.

How useful *Cake and Cockhorse* has been to the professional historian can be gauged by the number of footnote references to the magazine which appear in such scholarly works as the Banbury volume of the *Victoria History of Oxfordshire*. Through the magazine we have been able to draw attention to many useful sources for local history which would otherwise have been neglected, and have been able to set down for posterity some most interesting memoirs of the older inhabitants of Banbury and district. More important, we have published many articles of a high standard of scholarship to whose authors we are indeed grateful.

Journalistically there have been occasions when the magazine has enjoyed minor triumphs. It was a great pleasure in 1964 to report that the Globe Room panels were still in Great Britain, and subsequently that they would be returning to Banbury. It has also been gratifying from time to time to publish letters of outrage, dissent or correction following on articles in previous issues. Local History should be a lively and at times controversial subject, and a magazine which appears three times a year does offer opportunities for fruitful dialogue.

There comes a time when any journal needs a change, and *Cake and Cockhorse* now needs to be edited in Oxfordshire, where the Local History scene is now incomparably livelier than it was a decade ago. No editor stands down without some reluctance – the editorial page like the pulpit is an open temptation to indulge one's own prejudices – but eleven years is a good innings. With its growing membership the Banbury Historical Society is in a flourishing condition which augurs well for the Society's magazine on the next stage of its journey.

Our cover: reproduces the sketch plan of the site of Banbury Castle, part of a map of 1685 – thirty-seven years after the demolition of the castle – made for Lord Saye and Sele, and now in the possession of our President. This is the only contemporary map of the castle of any sort, and shows the little stable and store-house which were the only buildings left for Lord Saye and Sele to keep his Hundred Courts in.

SOCIETY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

The Society has a full summer programme and local members will have received details by post. On 12th May we visited Ratley Castle by kind permission of our member Mr Gordon Norwood. This year's Village Meeting is at Shenington at 7.30 p.m. on 7th June. Mr G. Forsyth Lawson and J.B. Barbour will show us parts of South Newington including the Church on 14th June (7.30 p.m.). On 30th June a party is visiting the reconstructed Roman Fort at the Lunt near Coventry. Mr A.E. Shipton has kindly agreed to show us round Wroxton Mill on Thursday 12th July at 7.00 p.m.

A reminder is included here of the A.G.M. at Wykham Park (Tudor Hall School) on 23rd June, 5.15 p.m. In October we hope to run a coach to the Iron Bridge Gorge Museum near Shrewsbury. This was a popular visit two years ago and Barrie Trinder assures us that the visit will be well worth repeating. Details of this will be issued at our first autumn lecture in September but members who do not attend that meeting should ask for details to be sent to them by writing to or phoning the Hon. Secretary. In connection with this, may we draw readers' attention to the new book written by Barrie Trinder, *The Industrial Revolution in Shropshire* – the definitive history of the area which saw the birth of the Industrial Revolution – the perfection of the technique of smelting iron with coke, by Abraham Darby I in 1709, the first cast iron rails for trucks, the first iron boat, the first railway locomotive, the first home of Coalport and Caughley porcelain, and of course the great iron bridge over the Severn itself – and also the site of the most ambitious open-air museum yet – available from local bookshops, price £4.50 (468 pages, 33 plates, 13 diagrams and maps) or, in case of difficulty, direct from the publishers, Phillimore & Co. Ltd., Shopwyke Hall, Chichester (add 21p for p & p).

Victorian Banbury

An exhibition of 'Victorian Banbury' is to be held at Banbury Museum in August. The curator, Miss C. Bloxham, would be very pleased to hear as soon as possible from any reader who has any material or photographs that they are prepared to loan and which might be suitable for inclusion.

Hon. Officers of the Banbury Historical Society

This summer sees the retirement of Barrie Trinder, after eleven years as Editor of *Cake and Cockhorse*; and the resignation of George Fothergill as Secretary of the Society, on his appointment to a new post in Winchester, where we wish him every success.

It is hoped to elect their successors at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. In the meantime, and until our next issue can publish their names and address, any correspondence relating to the magazine or secretarial matters should be sent to Banbury Museum, where Miss Bloxham will see that it is forwarded or dealt with appropriately.

Summer Archaeology

A Day School on *Settlement Patterns and the New Archaeology* is to be held in Oxford on Saturday 30 June, 10.30 a.m. – 6.00 p.m. chaired by Humphrey Case, with contributions from Andrew Sherratt, Andrew Fleming, Ann Ellison, Ian Hodder and Richard Bradley. Course fee including lunch, etc., £1.00.

Volunteers are required to help with the excavation of a round barrow at Middleton Stoney, under the direction of Trevor Rowley and Don Benson, from 1 to 31 July. Trevor Rowley will be conducting a detailed ground survey of Dorchester on Thames from 1 to 10 August, 9.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.

Anyone interesting in taking part in any of these activities should contact Mr Rowley at the Oxford University Department for External Studies, Rewley House, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA, immediately, as the official closing date is already past.

Nearer home, Peter Fashma is hoping to continue excavation of Banbury Castle, and will welcome volunteers. Information from Miss Christine Bloxham at Banbury Museum.

THE BANBURY WORKHOUSE CHILD DURING THE 1890s

In accordance with the terms of the 1834 Poor Law (Amendment) Act, every workhouse was required to provide accommodation for destitute children as well as for other classes of pauper. In carrying out this obligation, Banbury proved no exception and at the time of the 1871 Census of Population over one-third of the inmates of its workhouse were children (i.e. out of a total of 231, 87 were under the age of 16).¹ The youngsters might be orphans, illegitimate or abandoned children, or merely the sons and daughters of able-bodied adult paupers who were for the time being living in the workhouse. Whereas in some of the larger urban areas they were housed in special 'district' schools, away from the older inmates, in such small communities as Banbury and its surrounding villages this was not practicable. Juveniles and adults must live together under the same roof, even though arrangements were made for the former to attend school in the town itself (at St. Mary's National School in Southam Road) and, where possible, for them to be accommodated away from the adults.

Education

Those attending St. Mary's were marched to and from school each day under the direction of a burly ex-sergeant-major style escort, 'with a big voice, and useful walking cane.' Mr. K. H. Tripé, to whom I am indebted for these reminiscences, also recalls that as they walked along, 'the thud of (their) hob nailed boots could be heard quite a way off, and they arrived to the commands of Left! Right! Halt! Dismiss! etc. Needless to say they were never late.'²

During the 1890s the workhouse contingent formed a sizeable group within the school community and if they were absent for any reason, an entry in the school log book normally noted the effect this had on overall attendance levels. The Girls' Department log book for 15 May 1895 records: 'All the Union girls absent this afternoon for their monthly catechising. Attendance poor in consequence.'³

Once inside the school the youngsters quickly divided themselves among the three Departments of Boys, Girls and Infants, with each joining his or her own particular class – or standard. The curriculum provided for the older children at the end of the century included the three 'R's' (reading, writing and arithmetic), scripture, grammar, history and singing, plus needlework for the girls. From 1889 arrangements were also made for the more senior girls (approximately one-third of the 150 or so on the girls' school register) to attend cookery classes at the Cookery School in Britannia Road. They received two two-hour periods of instruction per week during part of the spring and summer terms, and this was clearly regarded as a valuable preparation for those who were later to enter domestic service.

Whilst the older children attended school in this fashion, the smallest – the infants – were taught at the workhouse itself, two separate school rooms for boys and girls, respectively, being provided. During the 1890s the infant mistress was Miss Ellen Mold, who was the daughter of Thomas Mold, a gardener and dairyman of Neithrop.⁴ Miss Mold had been appointed on 15 December 1881 as an unqualified teacher and, unlike her predecessor (who had been paid almost £40 per annum), she received an annual salary of only £15, plus 'board, lodging, washing, candles, firing and an allowance of £1 per quarter in lieu of beer'.⁵ In return for this she was required 'to instruct the Infants, to take charge of the Girls under 16 after school hours, to assist the Matron in the performance of her several duties and to devote the whole of her time to the duties of her office.' (Included in that was, of course, supervision of the older children during their school holidays.) Early in the 1890s Miss Mold's meagre salary was temporarily raised to £20 per annum, but by 1897 the amount had once more been cut – to £17 10s., a level which was *below* that paid to any other permanent employee at the workhouse, including the cook! (Indeed, in July 1897, £20 was thought an 'insufficient salary to offer' a cook, and a vacancy for that post was advertised by the *Guardians* at £25 per annum.) But for Miss Mold £17 10s. was the sum still being paid at the end of the century.



Figure 1. Photograph of Miss Ellen Mold (seated), after her retirement from Banbury workhouse. Miss Mold died on 26 February 1924 after several years of ill-health. I am indebted to her second cousin, Miss R. O. Mold of Banbury, for this information and also for the photograph. According to her cousin's memories, Miss Mold was short and rather plump, with dark hair. At the workhouse she had her own private bedroom and living room, furnished with her own furniture, and her cousin can remember regularly going to tea with her on Sundays, in the early years of the present century.

Despite the low esteem in which the position of infant mistress was apparently held, spasmodic efforts were made during the decade to improve the situation of the children themselves. Thus in September 1897 it was resolved by the Board of Guardians that those of pre-school age – the under-fives – ‘should be put together’, with the ‘brightest and most motherly inmate (in) charge of them under the supervision of the Labour Mistress.’ A properly fitted out nursery was to be provided, whilst mothers were to be allowed to look after their own babies out of working hours, although during the day they could have access only ‘at such times as considered necessary.’⁶

Charity and entertainment

Presents of toys and books were also received from well-intentioned benefactors. Although from 1891 the Guardians were allowed to use money from the rates for the purchase of these extras, there is no evidence of their doing so in Banbury.⁷ Reliance on charitable gifts was, therefore, the usual recourse of the children. Each New Year during the 1890s they had a special tea organised for them by Mrs. Flowers of West Bar Street; after the meal, oranges and sweets were distributed and presents given. According to the *Banbury Guardian* at the January 1898 treat these took the form of Prayer Books for the older children, ‘the others having toy books, dressed dolls, and warm woollen cuffs.’ The celebrations ended with a much-appreciated concert.⁸ Less regular gifts were equally welcome; thus, to quote one instance, on 24 December 1896 grateful acknowledgement was made of a supply of books provided by a Miss Anker, and a selection of toys received from Mr. Ernest Samuelson, nephew of the developer of Banbury’s famous agricultural implement firm and a local J.P.⁹ These were not isolated incidents.

Charity played an extremely important part in the lives of the workhouse children, especially as regards their leisure time activities. There are regular entries in the Minute Books of the Board of Guardians throughout the 1890s acknowledging with thanks various offers of entertainment, etc. Perhaps a few examples will show the range of events covered. On 10 June 1897 there was an offer from the Harriers Athletic Club for the children to attend their Whit-Monday Sports day, while on 24 June it was recorded that Miss Gillett and Messrs. Stutterd and Pearce, woollen drapers of High Street, had asked 'the women and children to their houses to see the Jubilee procession'.¹⁰ This referred to the celebrations for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, when, according to the *Banbury Guardian*, the procession included 'displays of the military, friendly societies, manufacturers, and of an historical character.'¹¹ At the workhouse itself, the great event was marked by serving 'a good cold dinner' to the inmates.¹²

Again, on 3 February of the following year, the children were invited, rather surprisingly, to the Banbury Poultry Show, whilst in July Miss Page of Bodicote and Mrs. Raye, wife of Dr. Raye, the medical officer for the Cropredy district, both invited them to tea. Mr. William Edmunds likewise asked them – as was his regular custom – to the Wesleyan Sunday School treat, where they doubtless enjoyed the swings, merry-go-rounds and tea provided.¹³ Edmunds, a partner in the Hunt Edmunds brewery, was also for many years superintendent of the Marlborough Road Wesleyan Sunday School.¹⁴ Other events during that same year with which the children were concerned included the annual summer treat organised by Mrs. Flowers for all of the inmates; an invitation from Lieutenant-Colonel Norris of Swalcliffe for them to attend a Dog Show; and an offer by the Rev. P. W. Jordan, workhouse chaplain and rector of Drayton, to provide a Magic Lantern Entertainment. However, perhaps most welcome of all was the opportunity given to the youngsters to attend the Michaelmas Fair and to have a free ride on the switchback; Mr. E. H. Durran, one of the poor law guardians and a local watch and clockmaker, offered to escort them and to give each 'a fairing', as he had done the previous year.¹⁵

Neither were the youngsters left out of the contemporary temperance movement, for in February 1898 Mrs. Durran wrote to the Guardians, asking if they would allow 'the Banbury Branch of the British Women's Temperance Association to conduct a children's Band of Hope meeting at the Workhouse once a month.'¹⁶ Permission was readily given, since the Guardians obviously considered this a worthy cause likely to set their charges on the right path in their later life.

Boarding out

Of course not all of the children remained in the workhouse for the whole of their childhood. Apart from those whose relatives were eventually able to support them outside – the so-called 'ins and outs' – efforts were made to board the long-stay children with local families.¹⁷ For example, a Minute Book entry for 21 January 1897 records that two infant children named Fox were to be boarded out for one year with a Mrs. Phillips, the Guardians paying the foster mother 8s. per week. Before they left for their new home each was provided with a fresh outfit of clothes (at a cost of 25s. per child). There are several other entries of a similar type – as on 15 April 1897 when Thomas Young, aged 3, was boarded out with Mrs. Baldwin of Globe Yard, Calthorpe Street, Neithrop, and William Summerton, aged 10, with Mr. J. Varney of Horley. The poor law district medical officers were paid fees of up to £1 10s. per annum to visit the children from time to time to make sure that they were properly cared for and to submit quarterly reports of their investigations. Unfortunately they were not always as vigilant as they should have been. On 7 December 1899 a letter was received from the Local Government Board in London pointing out that their Inspector, Mr. Murray Browne, had visited Sarah Elizabeth Walton, aged 3, and Thomas Young, now aged 5, who were in the charge of Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin of Globe Yard, and had recommended their removal as the locality was 'not a fitting one for the children'. It was further recommended that the medical officer should visit two other children – aged 1 and 3, respectively – residing with Mrs. Phillips at Oxford Road, Banbury. Although some of the Guardians objected to Murray Browne's attitude – one

plaintively wondering why he could not have concerned himself with cases where the children 'were kept clean and . . . generally well cared for' – they nevertheless agreed to remove the youngsters from Globe Yard and to ask the medical officer to look into the second case. On 20 December he wrote to say that this had been done and he had found the children 'healthy and in good condition and that he had never found anything amiss with them on any of his visits'.¹⁸

Happily for the children, however, the Guardians were not quite satisfied. Early in January 1900, the Relieving Officer, Mr. J. H. Bonner, paid a visit and discovered a very different state of affairs. He found 'the girl with a bad bruise on her face and her feet tied, and . . . the boy . . . ill'. In the circumstances, it was decided that the children must be returned to the workhouse as soon as possible. But one wonders how many other youngsters had suffered ill-treatment before the true situation emerged, since the woman in question appears to have been regularly employed in fostering workhouse children during the 1890s.¹⁹ And there were, in all, fifteen children boarded out by Banbury Union during the year 1899 – including the four who were the subject of the inquiries.²⁰ Nevertheless, the practice of boarding-out was not abandoned in the new century, although perhaps more satisfactory safeguards were provided. In fact, prodded on by the Local Government Board, the Banbury Guardians became increasingly anxious to reduce the number of children accommodated in the workhouse. In 1911 they even appointed a committee for that purpose, but a few years more were to elapse before a special Children's Home was opened at Horley to house youngsters from the workhouse (see Appendix A).

In the meantime, reformers everywhere were recognising that although children were probably less likely to suffer physical ill-treatment in the workhouse than in the worst type of boarded accommodation, yet the dulling routine, strict discipline and institutional atmosphere provided a *poor background* for any young person's early years. At Banbury until January 1898, for example, no Nonconformist (either adult or child) was allowed out to attend public worship on a Sunday in a Dissenting Chapel; instead all were forced to attend a service conducted by the Church of England chaplain. But in 1898 the restriction was eased, and Dissenters permitted to attend a local Chapel on 'every Sunday, Good Friday and Christmas Day subject to such regulations as (the) Board may determine'.²¹ Whether the inmates took advantage of their new-found freedom is another matter. Certainly Mr. Tripé, who attended St. Mary's Sunday School before the First World War, remembers that the children were 'paraded for Church' each Sunday, along the Warwick Road. 'They walked sedately into Church sitting in the side aisle (known locally as the "cattle pens"!).' Their "sergeant-major escort" then retired 'to a local public house one hundred yards away – The Dog and Gun – to reappear in time for the line up and return to the Union'.²²

Great emphasis was placed on religious instruction. In addition to the Scripture lessons which the workhouse children, in common with other pupils, regularly attended at school, special catechism classes were held at the workhouse itself on one afternoon per month. Often this meant that they had to miss a half-day of their ordinary schooling in order to take part.

Food and dress

It was in the matter of food and clothes that the monotony was most apparent. All of the children wore regulation-style dress, and hair was cropped very short. The boys wore corduroy suits 'much washed until all colour went down to an "off white", and had hob-nail boots with steel toe caps and heel plates. The girls wore a heavy woollen material in a grey colour – below knee length – wide hem (for growing) and in summer . . . a lighter material in brown – again much washed'. Indeed, as one sympathetic observer noted of workhouses generally, 'of whatever material made, the frocks (were) too often clumsily cut and ill-sewed . . . and the long skirts in which the little girls (were) apt to be attired . . . (impeded) their movements, adding to their awkward gait'.²³ In addition, the girls at Banbury normally wore holland pinafores and unattractive heavy boots.²⁴

The food served was equally unenlightened, one week remorselessly following the next, with menus drawn up strictly in accordance with a diet sheet which had received the prior approval

of Local Government Board officials in London. At Banbury in January 1892 new diet sheets were made out, and these indicate the sort of food provided during the 1890s. For infants aged 2–5:

Breakfast consisted *each day* of 4 oz. of bread and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of milk (no butter);

Mid-morning lunch *each day* comprised 2 oz. of bread and dripping;

Supper *each day* consisted of 4 oz. of bread, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of milk and water, and $\frac{1}{4}$ oz. of butter or dripping.

The only variety, therefore, could be supplied by the mid-day meal – the dinner. The menu for this was:

Sunday: 4 oz. bread, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of pea soup (no meat at all).

Monday: 8 oz. of suet pudding (made of flour and suet, without meat) plus 1 oz. of sugar.

Tuesday: 4 oz. of potatoes or other vegetables and 6 oz. of meat pudding.

Wednesday: 8 oz. of baked rice pudding.

Thursday: 2 oz. of cooked meat and 4 oz. of potatoes or other vegetables.

Friday: 4 oz. of bread and $\frac{1}{2}$ pint pea soup.

Saturday: 4 oz. of potatoes or other vegetables and 6 oz. of meat pudding.

The children thus obtained cooked meat on *one day* per week only (Thursdays) and meat pudding (consisting of 4 oz. of meat, 7 oz. of flour and 1 oz. of fat to every 1 lb. of pudding!) on *two days* per week.

Youngsters aged 5–9 and 9–16 fared in much the same fashion, except that quantities were slightly increased, e.g. breakfast and supper for the 5–9s included 5 oz. of bread, instead of 4 oz., with the $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of milk or milk and water, while those aged 9–16 secured 6 oz. of bread for the same meals. Again, the children aged 5–16 each received 3 oz. of bread and dripping for



Figure 2. The Banbury workhouse.

their mid-morning lunch, instead of the 2 oz. served to the infants. And the 9–16s obtained 3 oz. of cooked meat on Thursdays, instead of 2 oz. — although they still only received cooked meat once a week. Their portion of meat pudding likewise amounted to 10 oz., instead of the 6 oz. given to the infants.²⁵

It was this sort of diet which caused Florence Davenport Hill, writing in 1889, to condemn work house feeding of children: 'exactly the same food, in exactly the same quantities, is served on exactly the same days, so that appetite and enjoyment are never heightened by a surprise. The same quantity of food is provided for the child who can eat but little and the child who can eat largely. The result is insufficient nourishment for the large eaters, sometimes remedied by bullying the little ones into giving up food they really want, and frightful waste in regard to children with small appetites. We have seen a look of despair, almost of loathing, in the face of a delicate child on a plate loaded with not tempting fare being put down before it, and many such scarcely touched when the meal was over . . . One feels as though these children should be little automata instead of human beings, to obey all these clockwork arrangements'.²⁶ However, most serious from the health point of view was the great emphasis placed on cheap carbohydrates, with little protein supplied and no fresh fruit at all. It was in response to this state of affairs that the Poor Law Schools Committee of 1896 recommended that 'arrangements be made to consider the appetites, tastes and health of the children, and to vary the dietary according to the season; green vegetables, fish and fruit being provided as occasion serves'.²⁷

As far as one can gather, their words fell on deaf ears in Banbury. Although in both 1897 and 1898 alterations were made to the diet, they brought about no material improvement. Thus, as a result of the 1897 changes, children under the age of 9 had bread pudding substituted on Mondays for the earlier suet pudding, while on Wednesdays, rice pudding and jam were given for dinner instead of rice alone — but the quantities of pudding were cut by 2 oz. per child to compensate for the added 'luxury' of the jam. They and the 9 to 16-year-olds were also allowed to have treacle, jam or cheese instead of butter on four nights per week for supper, although on the remaining three nights butter was retained.²⁸

And in order to emphasize further the attitude of 'less eligibility' which characterised workhouse relief, in inviting tenders for certain foodstuffs a distinction was made between items intended for the inmates and those for the officials. Thus in October 1899 the cheese provided for the latter was quoted at 7½d. per lb.; for the former at 6d. Legs and shins of meat for the inmates cost 2½d. per lb.; 'officers' joints', 7d. per lb.²⁹ Not surprisingly, there were complaints from some of the older inmates about the toughness of the meat.

Employment

Yet, despite all the drawbacks of workhouse life, the day eventually arrived when even the long-stay children must leave to seek employment, and the Guardians had the duty of finding their first post for them. Before any child could leave he or she must have achieved a certain standard in the three 'R's' — normally this would mean passing the so-called 'Labour Certificate'. In addition, in accordance with Poor Law regulations, no youngster could be bound out as an apprentice to a person 'not carrying on business on his own account or who was not a housekeeper in his own right'.

For the girls, employment normally meant domestic service. For example, on 9 October 1890, 'Laura Hatton, an orphan, aged fourteen years' was 'permitted to leave the Union Workhouse to take a place of service with Mr. Richard Henry Bedford of Warwick Road, Neithrop, Carpenter'. As was customary for children leaving the workhouse, she was also provided with an outfit of clothing 'to the value of Two pounds and Ten shillings'.³⁰ Again, on 14 May 1896, 'Harriet Buckingham, aged 14 years', left to take a 'place of service with Mr. Day of Deddington, Watch and Clock Maker'. She, too, was provided with clothing to the value of £2 10s.

In obtaining these situations, the Guardians would use the help of outside well-wishers, where necessary. One who assisted in this way early in the twentieth century was Mrs. Gillett of North Newington House, Banbury. Not only did she regularly entertain the youngsters to tea whilst they were still at the workhouse, but she frequently found 'places' for them in domestic service when they were ready to leave school.

(continued on page 117)

A SUMMARY OF EXCAVATIONS IN 1972

Historical Background

The history of Banbury castle has been summarized in two recent publications, vol. 10 of the *Victoria County History* and *Historic Towns*, vol. 1. The main details are that the castle was built some time between 1125 and 1136 by Alexander the Magnificent, Bishop of Lincoln (1123-48). It is quite likely that he also laid out the Market Place and, if this is so, he can be rightly regarded as the founder of Banbury as a town.

Although we know a reasonable amount about the duties and functions of various castle officials, we do not know a great deal about either the physical history of the castle or the buildings within it. We do know that in the sixteenth century there were quite grand buildings on the northern side of the inner enclosure, and that in 1606 there was, again in the inner enclosure, a 23-bayed 'mansion house', roofed with lead. There were also, at various times, houses, yards, courts, gardens, a gaol and a chapel. We have no idea where exactly these buildings stood, and even less idea of what they looked like.

In its latest stage, the castle was defended by two roughly concentric enclosures, both with walls and protected by ditches. These ditches were wet, provided with water from the Cuttle Brook. There were, apparently, gatehouses in both enclosures, and a barbican. During the Civil War in the seventeenth century, the castle was extensively refortified and a third moat was constructed.

At the end of the Civil War in 1648, the castle was demolished and the townspeople used the stone to rebuild their damaged houses. In 1685 a survey of the castle lands was undertaken and it showed that the castle enclosed some 7 acres, and the inner enclosure about $\frac{3}{4}$ acres (see cover).

Since 1685 the castle has disappeared under the streets of the modern town and is only indicated by the name 'Castle Street'. In advance of the redevelopment planned in the middle of the town, it is the archaeologist's task to uncover and piece together as much as possible about the castle from its origins to its finish.

Methods of Archaeological Approach

In Banbury a three-pronged approach to the uncovering of the castle's history has been adopted.

1. *Trial excavations.* These excavations were carried out in some, not all, of the available open spaces within the redevelopment area. Their aim was just to assess the archaeological potential in various areas.

2. *Full-scale excavations.* Once the potential has been assessed it is sometimes necessary to organise a full excavation. Such a site was Site B (Fig. 1). As with nearly all urban excavations Site B was a rescue excavation, where the site is threatened by destruction by one or other agency of redevelopment.

The full-scale excavation means the controlled destruction of an archaeological site where copious notes and drawings, both horizontal plans and vertical sections, are made. This detailed recording enables the archaeologist to reconstruct the site on paper at a later date. Without this recording and later publication, all excavation has no value.

3. *Watching briefs.* Often the archaeologist can recover a wealth of valuable information simply by observing commercial excavations, and again making notes and drawings. In this way the cost to the archaeologist of digging is reduced to virtually nothing, and so is the cost of the information. Several developments were observed in the town during 1972, the most informative being associated with the sewer trench and the subway in Castle Street.

It must be stressed that in all three approaches detailed records are always kept, and a vast amount of information gathered, which later needs assimilating.

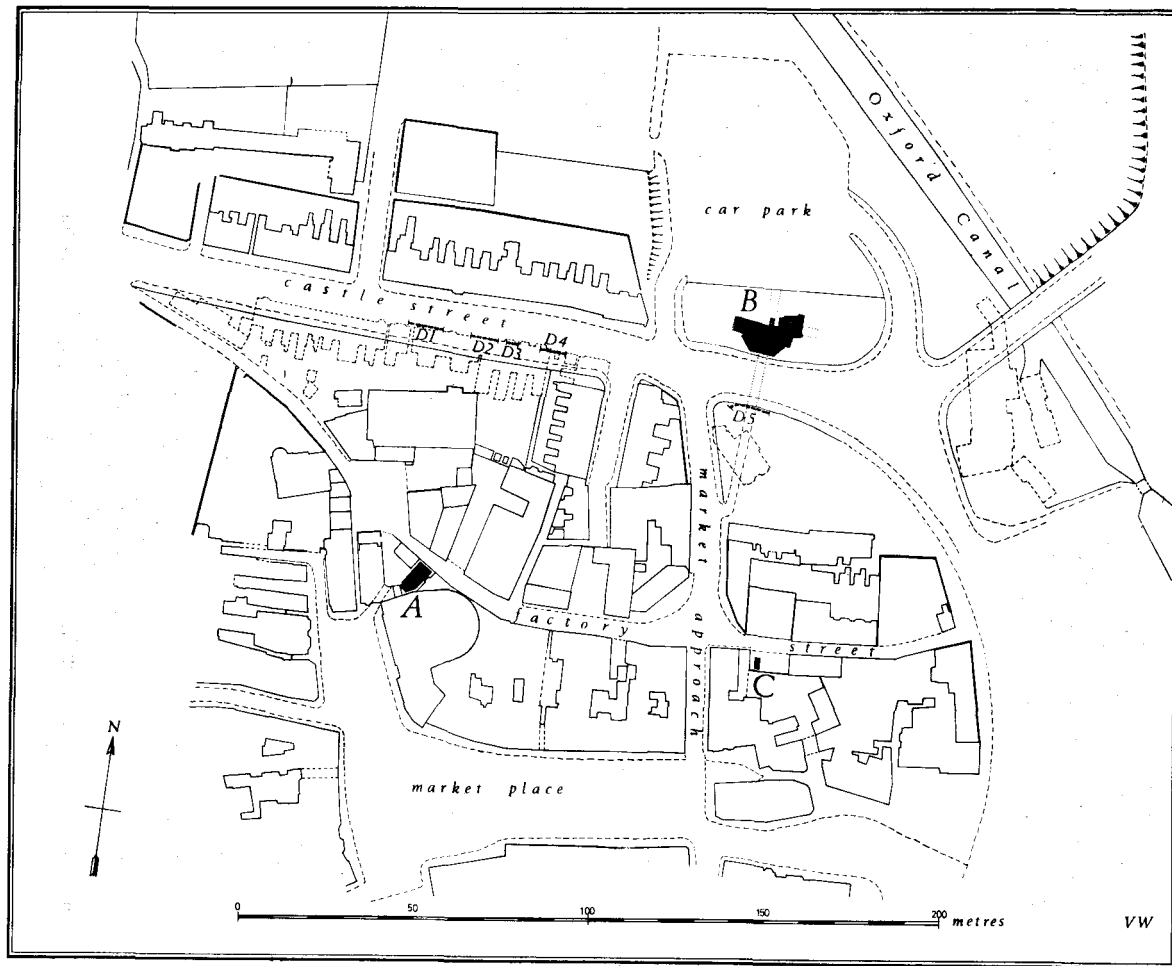


Figure 1. General plan of the castle area showing sites mentioned in text.

Saxon Banbury

There is no evidence, as yet, for occupation in Banbury in either the Prehistoric or Roman periods. The name Banbury suggests that there was an earlier Saxon settlement, a defended enclosure belonging (burh) to a man Banna – hence Banna's burh. There is still no archaeological evidence for occupation in this early Saxon period.

The earliest remains found date from the eleventh century onwards and might be associated with the suggested late-Saxon Church and its attendant settlement.

At Site A two stake-lined gullies were located. The gullies were 90 centimetres to 1 metre wide and 20–30 metres deep. They probably formed some sort of property boundaries. Pottery found in them, including the distinctive Stamford Type ware, suggests that the gullies were constructed sometime around the middle of the eleventh century and were in use for about a century. These represent the earliest proven occupation in the town.

On Site B there were a series of very large pits dug right into the natural gravel. The bottom of some of them were as much as 5 metres below the present ground level. They were clearly earlier than the earliest buildings in the castle, and the few fragments of pottery found in them suggest that they were dug in the eleventh and early twelfth centuries, dating, once again, right to the end of the Saxon period and continuing after the Norman conquest.

On this basis we can anticipate finding more evidence for the Saxo-Norman period in Banbury than had hitherto been expected.

The Castle's Defences (Fig. 1)

The laying of a mains sewer along Castle Street in the summer of 1972 led to a trench being excavated along the whole length of Castle Street. This trench was up to 4.5 metres deep and just over 1 metre wide. It was observed from start to finish, and surrendered a considerable volume of information. It ran approximately at right angles to the castle's defences and thus provided a cross-section through the defences. This was the first time the defences had really been seen for almost 300 years.

Ditch 4 (D4)

This eastern-most ditch was almost 17.5 metres wide at its highest recognisable level. The only finds would appear to come from its upper levels, as it silted up over the years. There was, however, a fine piece of a stoneware greybeard bottle, which had on it a medallion bearing the arms of Amsterdam.

Ditch 1 (D1)

Ditch 1 was the most westerly ditch identified and must represent the ditch of the outer enclosure of the castle. Again this was a massive defence, some 10 metres wide at its highest undisturbed level. Once again it was impossible to find any pottery or other dateable object in its lowest layers, which might have given a clue as to when it was constructed.

Ditch 2 (D2)

Again this was a large ditch, 10 metres wide, and once more no dateable material was found in it. Its function is not clear, although it may be the third moat that is recorded as being dug during the Civil War in 1644.

Lying immediately west of Ditch 2, and underneath it, was a shallow feature dug into the natural gravel. This may be a ditch, in which case it must be earlier than the castle by many years. Again no pottery was found in it.

Ditch 5 (D5)

As the subway under Castle Street was constructed, the inner edge of a ditch was located in the south side of Castle Street. It was aligned east-west and the western end turned slightly south. The 1685 survey shows that the inner enclosure does exactly that.

Discussion

At their lowest levels all these ditches were filled with a layer of blue heavy silty clay containing much preserved wood. When a controlled excavation of the defences is carried out, much information regarding the ecology of the castle area may come to light from these water-logged deposits.

Ditches 4 and 5 probably form part of the inner enclosure, and Ditch 1 is almost certainly the outer enclosure.

It is all very well to be able to report on the location of these ditches, but much more work needs to be done on them. Another section on the west side and several on the side of the outer enclosure need to be cut. The relationship of Ditches 4 and 5 in the area of Compton Street need to be clarified, and the outer edge of Ditch 5 needs to be located to the south of the subway.

Excavations within the inner enclosure. Site B.

This site is traditionally the site of the original motte of the castle. As it was to be destroyed by the construction of the subway under Castle Street, a trial excavation was undertaken. This revealed a quite complex archaeological sequence and the site was later extended four times. Many thanks are due to the contractors, Oxcon Ltd. for allowing us to extend beyond our original area. As with many urban sites, strict limitations on the area and the depth to excavate were imposed. These were carefully adhered to, and work finished on the site two days before the contractors moved in. No delay to the contractors was caused by our activities. The site was observed while the subway was being constructed.

This site lay on the south side of the inner enclosure and revealed a complex history of development and rebuilding within the castle.

Pre-Castle Occupation (Fig. 2)

As mentioned above a series of pits of the eleventh and early twelfth centuries were found. Their function was unknown, and only a handful of pottery was found in them.

Pre-Gravel – Phase 2. (Fig. 2. Plate 1)

The main feature of this first phase of the castle proper is the large stone building at least 10 metres long by 7 metres wide. It was of drystone construction, using local ironstone. Its main alignment was roughly north-south, although in the northern extension of Trench 1 an east-west robber trench was located. This would indicate that the building was either of courtyard or winged type. The floors had been kept spotlessly clean, but a few sherds of pottery of twelfth century type were found in a hearth in Trench 2.



Plate 1.
First phase of castle building –
looking east.

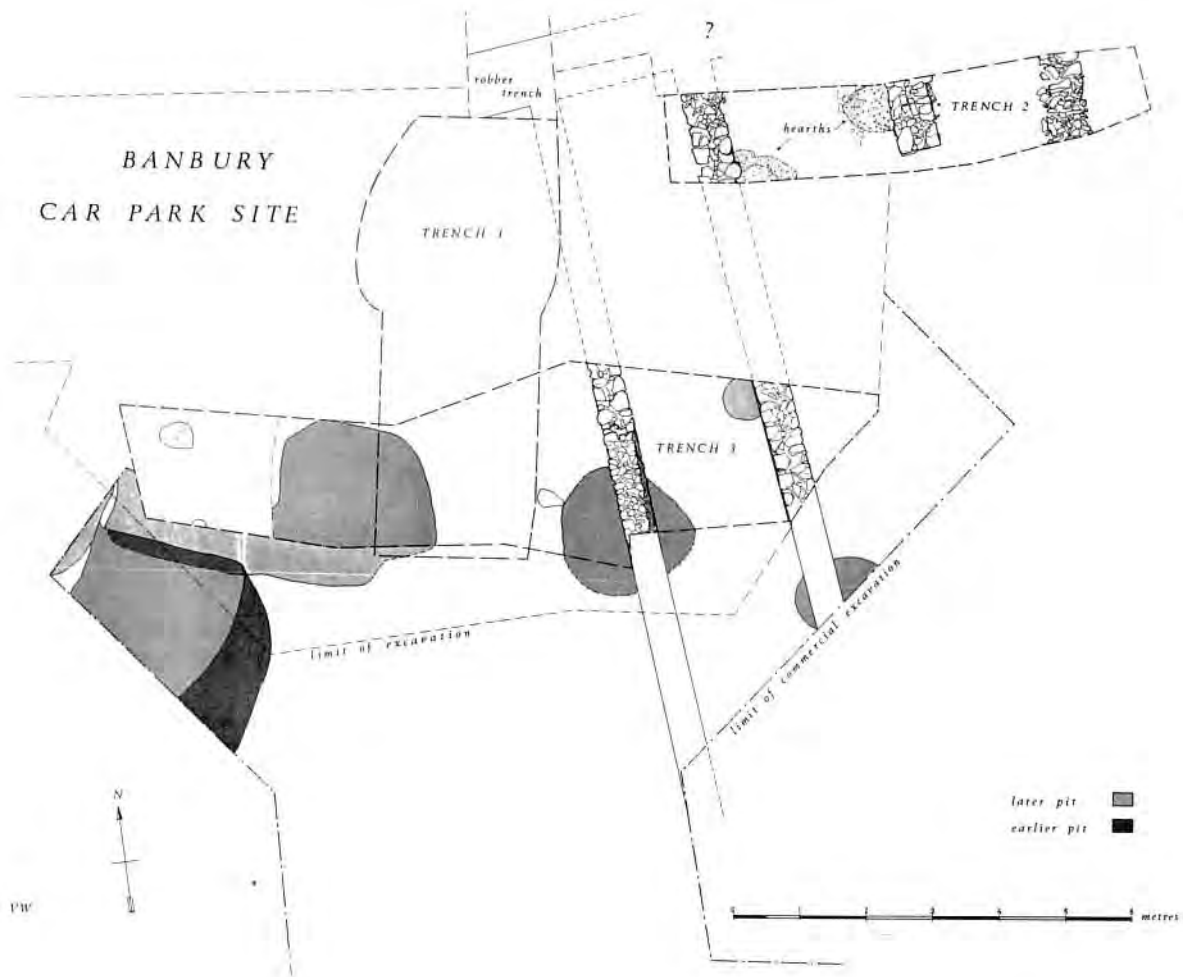


Figure 2. Plan showing pre-castle pits and the first main castle structure.

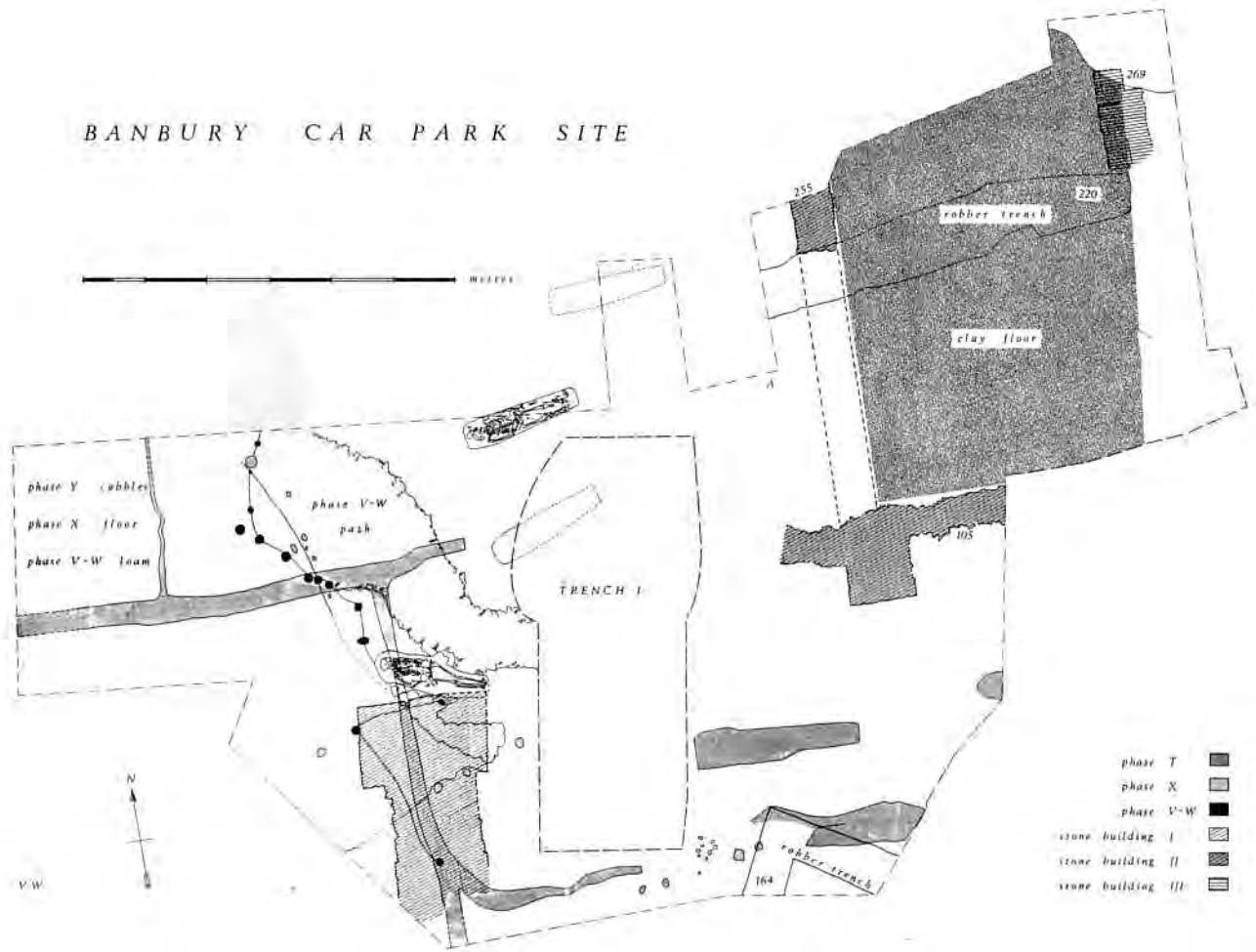


Figure 3. Plan showing the latest structures on the site.

Gravel Dump

Sometime towards the end of the thirteenth or the beginning of the fourteenth century, the inner enclosure was rebuilt on a vast scale. The large stone building was partly demolished and buried by a dump of gravel which was about 1 metre thick. This is obviously a very deliberate and considerable rebuilding of the castle.

Post-Gravel Occupation. (Fig. 3)

The first building on top of the gravel was a large structure with timber partitions. None of the outside walls of this building were found. When it was abandoned stone buildings were erected on the eastern end, the west end was used first as a rubbish dump and then had a succession of four stone and timber buildings erected on it.

The final occupation found on the site was probably in the seventeenth century. It was represented by four burials, which may be associated with the Civil War.

Site A. (Plate 2)

This small excavation was aimed at locating the south-west corner of the outer defences of the castle. To that end it was unsuccessful, but it did provide a lot of valuable information. The Saxo-Norman discoveries have been mentioned before. Cutting through these gullies was a large rectangular stone-lined pit with battered sides. It measured 2.84 metres by 4.10 metres at the top, and 2.00 metres by 3.40 metres at the bottom. Ten courses of stone lining remained to a depth of 1.50 metres. The south corner of the pit had been damaged by the construction of the former Corn Exchange, which was built in 1857. The stone lining of the pit was very carefully laid, with ashlar blocks at the bottom and squared-off lumps of ironstone at the top.

Less than one half of this pit was excavated but about 400 pottery sherds were found, in association with three coins. It has been possible to identify two of them as halfpennies, of Henry III, of a type which was first issued in 1251. Edward I recalled all of Henry III's coinage in 1279, so these two coins must have been lost in the pit sometime between 1251 and 1280, which gives us a very accurate date for the pottery. Most of the pottery came from high quality glazed vessels, mainly jugs.

In the bottom silt of the pit was a selection of preserved wood, mainly twigs, but also including fragments of one or two boards.

The most likely function for this pit is that it was used originally as an underground store. There are several examples in Britain of deep stone-lined storage pits, particularly in medieval Southampton. Some time between 1251 and 1280 it was abandoned as a storage pit and used as a rubbish pit. It may be that rising dampness no longer made it suitable for use as a storage pit.

Lying immediately over the pit was a cellar. This cellar had two rooms, one at a slightly higher level than the other, separated by a thick ironstone wall, which had two doors and



Plate 2.
The stone-lined pit.

connecting steps to allow movement between the rooms. The date of this cellar is interesting. On the evidence of a sherd of pottery found in the partition wall, and by comparison of the mortar and style of that wall with St. Mary's Vicarage, the date of the cellar appears to be in the middle of the seventeenth century. Its proximity to the castle makes it likely that it is one of those buildings which by tradition were built out of castle stone.

In the middle of the nineteenth century a certain Mr. Scrivener had a tallow chandlery behind the *Plough*, and it may well be that this cellar was part of the chandlery.

Interpretation

The evidence from Site B suggests, contrary to all previous ideas, that in its original form the castle was not a motte and bailey. The excavations in 1972 and earlier by the Historical Society in 1959, 1960 and 1963 went into and under what was traditionally the castle mound. The mound was clearly a recent deposit, and all the medieval occupation found on that site was well below the level of the mound.

If the castle was not originally a motte and bailey or a shell keep, what was it? The answer lies in the large stone building. This was apparently erected on the existing twelfth century ground level with no artificial mound underneath. It was presumably a structure more in keeping with a manor house than a castle. The most obvious answer seems to be that in its original form the castle was possibly a manor house, perhaps undefended.

The inner part of the castle was reorganized in a major way about 1300 and this ties in with a trend of fortification and rebuilding of rural manor houses at that time in southern England. In Banbury we may have an urban example of this phenomenon. The rebuilding may have seen the development of the castle in its final concentric form, although there is, as yet, no dateable evidence for the construction of the two enclosures. The concentric shape may be an indirect consequence of the visits of the great castle builder Edward I to Banbury in 1275, 1276 and 1277.

A tentative suggestion can now be made as to where the outer ward of the castle lies in relationship to the street plan of Banbury in the spring of 1972. The evidence for this scheme comes from our own excavations, from the 1685 survey of the castle lands and the 1st Edition of the Ordnance Survey (1881).

The south side of the outer enclosure is probably on the line of Factory Street before turning north by Site A (Fig. 1) to run through D1 and immediately east of the car park entrance. The west side extended north for some 75 metres into the car park before turning to run east to just beyond the canal to form the north side. The east side would have run from the canal due south to Factory Street, passing just west of the new canal bridge. The gatehouse for the outer enclosure probably lies at the junction of Factory Street and Market Approach.

In all we have amassed quite a lot of information about Banbury's most important medieval building, and it is hoped that many more pieces of the jigsaw will be fitted together during 1973.

Peter J. Fasham

Further reading

There are two recent accounts of the castle based on the documentary evidence: Victoria County History of Oxford, vol. 10, Banbury Hundred, ed. Alan Crossley, 1972, pp. 39–42 (by P. D. A. Harvey).

Historic Towns, vol. 1, ed. M. D. Lobel, 1969, 'Banbury', by P. D. A. Harvey.

Acknowledgments

During 1972 the excavation received grants from The Department of the Environment; Banbury Borough Council; Oxford City and County Museum; Banbury Charities; Messrs. J. and M. Humphris; Banbury Postiche Ltd.; Banbury Historical Society (who also bore the cost of publishing the preliminary discussion on 'The Archaeological Implications of Redevelopment in Banbury'); and many more people who donated in smaller ways.

I am more than grateful to all those people who expressed interest and helped in this work.

Unfortunately the lot of these young servants often proved a hard and drudging one. On 8 October 1891, one of the Banbury Guardians, Mr. Robert Gibbs, even found it necessary to put a motion before the Board requiring that ‘all persons taking children from the Union Workhouse for service do allow them 1s. per week wages’. Sadly, nothing came of his initiative, as no one could be found to second the motion.³¹

For the boys, employment was more difficult to find. Although a number obtained posts as agricultural workers, errand boys or servants – such as the ‘orphan child . . . George Frost, aged thirteen years’, who obtained a position with the Rev. George Miller of Radway in November 1890³² – these outlets were not always available. By the end of the century, therefore, the Guardians had decided to publicise their problem by passing a resolution pointing out: ‘That having regard to the altered condition of the times since the General Consolidated Order of 24th July 1847 was issued to the inability of the majority of large employers of labour to take indoor apprentices to the preference of small employers for outdoor apprentices to the risk of lads going out to work without having a home to go to and generally to the increasing difficulties of Guardians in large centres of industry in finding situations for friendless lads chargeable to them this Board is of opinion that the time has arrived when Boards of Guardians should be empowered to bind lads as outdoor apprentices and to provide and maintain a small House for their accommodation until (they are) able to earn their own livelihood’.³³ Copies of the resolution were sent to local Members of Parliament, so that they could raise the matter with the authorities.

Nothing came of these efforts and by the autumn of 1899, the Guardians were taking action in another field. During September of the previous year they had received a circular from the Local Government Board pointing out that vacancies existed for boys on the Metropolitan Asylums Board’s training ship, *Exmouth*. This ship, lying off the Essex coast, had been converted in 1876 to receive pauper boys from London who wished to train for the navy or the merchant marine; during the 1890s, its area for recruitment was widened to include the provinces. To be eligible, youngsters had to be ‘between the ages of twelve and fifteen, healthy, without any defect in limbs, eyesight, or hearing, and up to a certain standard of height and girth’.³⁴ In 1899 the Banbury Guardians decided to explore the possibilities of this outlet for boys from their district and on 9 November the Clerk to the Board reported that he had been ‘in communication with the Metropolitan Asylums Board as to the admission of boys from this Union to the training ship *Exmouth*’. The negotiations proved successful, and two weeks later the Guardians ordered that ‘the Seal of the Board be affixed to an Agreement with the Metropolitan Asylums Board to receive boys (not exceeding 12 in number) from this Union in their Training ship *Exmouth*’.³⁵ Among the first to be despatched was an orphan named James Lovell,³⁶ who went away at the end of that same year. Although hardly an ideal solution to the problem of finding ‘places’ for the youngsters, it was perhaps preferable to entry to the dead-end job of errand boy, which proved the fate of many pauper children.³⁷

Pamela Horn

Appendix A

In 1910 the Local Government Board issued a Circular to Boards of Guardians entitled ‘Children under the Poor Law’. S. and B. Webb – *English Poor Law History*, Vol. 2, p.731 (London, 1929), describe its provisions as follows: ‘For the children under institutional care, the Board left open to the several Boards of Guardians the choice between the Poor Law Schools, the Cottage Homes and the Scattered Homes, on the one hand, and the Certified Schools, the Training Ships and organised emigration to Canada on the other. But, above all, the children over three had to be everywhere got out of the Workhouse, maintenance in which could no longer be recognised “as a legitimate way of dealing with them”’. For the children under three, the Workhouse Nurseries were to be reorganised, particular attention being paid to “a sufficiency of light and ventilation, a good supply of hot and cold water, means of airing and exercise, proper floorcovering, means of sterilising milk, etc”. It was remarked that “more trained nurses are required” for the Workhouse Nurseries; but there was no suggestion that the employment of pauper women to look the infants should be abandoned.’

However, not until 1914 was there a definite *prohibition* on the maintenance in the workhouse, or in any institution containing adults, of children over three years of age for a longer period than six weeks. It was against this background that the Banbury survey given below was taken:

9th October, 1911.

The Special Committee appointed to consider the best means of reducing the number of Children in the workhouse met at the union offices.

Present: Mr. J. J. Chard – Chairman.

Mrs. Day

Mrs. Gillett

Mrs. Mawle

Mr. H. Butler

Mr. R. B. Walker

Mr. F. W. Young

The Committee find there are 38 children in the workhouse which they would classify for the present purposes of this meeting as follows.

Babies remaining with mothers	10
To be at once dealt with by the Boarding Out Committee	2
To be sent to service shortly	2
Might be adopted by the Guardians with the view of being sent to an institution Suffering from some incapacity which will keep them in the workhouse for the present	3
Children having parents in the workhouse	4
	<u>17</u>
	<u>38</u>

With regard to the latter class of children at present numbering 17, the Committee realise that this class must vary in number from time to time, and before making any recommendation they seek power from the Guardians to allow them to make inquiry from unions who are dealing with the matter, and if necessary to make visits of inspection.

(Signed) J. J. Chard.

(Ref: T/G/I/VII/1 at Oxfordshire County Record Office. I am much indebted to Miss S. J. Barnes of the Record Office for her help.)

By 1915, however, action had been taken and a Children's Home had been opened at the Lawn, Horley with a Mr. and Mrs. Wedd as master and matron. (Information kindly provided by Mrs. R. Jackson of Daventry and Kelly's *Directory of Oxfordshire* for 1915.)

N.B. On 1 January 1908 there were 60 children under the age of 16 classified as 'indoor paupers' at Banbury Union. Fifty of them were resident in the workhouse itself. See *Pauperism (England and Wales)* Cd.130, Parliamentary Papers, 1908, Vol. XCII, p.13. On the other hand, on 1 January 1901 the total of indoor child paupers had been only 42 – 28 of them being the children of able-bodied inmates and 14 orphans, abandoned children, etc. See *Pauperism Returns* in Parliamentary Papers, 1901, Vol. LXIV.

Appendix B

Extracts from the Log Books of St. Mary's National Girls' School, Banbury

(N.B. In the late nineteenth century there were in fact three schools – for Boys, Girls and Infants. I am indebted to the present Headmaster of St. Mary's for permission to use this material.)

1889

8 March: The children have this week commenced to attend the Cookery School. The Lessons are to extend over a period of ten weeks, each girl making two attendances in one week.

1891

25 February: Union children absent this afternoon – numbers not so good.

11 November: Number low in consequence of bad weather . . . Union children absent for their monthly catechising.

30 November: Three Union children away with Ringworm – also a standard III girl.

1892

27 May: Had occasion to severely punish (sic) L. Mobbs and K. Hatton this morning for throwing stones in the playground. Two children A. Webb (Union) and R. Abell were very much hurt . . .

25 July: Numbers low in the afternoon (Union Treat). Union children were also sent for on July 19th at 2.45 p.m. to attend Wesleyan Treat. 12 attendances cancelled.

19 December: I have this week lost two boarding out girls – who are leaving for Service – both of whom have made their Cookery attendances.

1893

31 January: Seven children attended examination for Labour Certificate at Cherwell British School this morning.

15 November: Union children absent this afternoon to go to the Chrysanthemum Show. Numbers very low in consequence.

1896

15 January: . . . Numbers very poor. All the Union children away to visit the poultry and cat show.

1897

28 June: Received a note from the matron at the Workhouse saying nearly all the girls have blisters and cannot attend school.

5 July: Union girls still away.

References

- 1871 Census of Population for Banbury at Public Record Office, R.G.10.1466. Banbury workhouse was built on 6 acres of land in Warwick Road, Neithrop, shortly after the establishment of the Board of Guardians and Poor Law Union, in 1835. It was built in accordance with a model plan provided by the Poor Law Commissioners. The land cost £1,050 and the building itself, £4,580. See William Potts, *A History of Banbury* (Banbury, 1958), p.190.
- Information provided by Mr. Tripé in a letter to the author, May, 1972. Mr. Tripé is a former headmaster of St. Mary's School and I am indebted to him for his help.
- St. Mary's (National) Girls' School Log Books are preserved at the school and I am indebted to the present headmaster for permission to use them.
- Banbury Guardian*, 22 December 1881, and 1871 Census of Population for Banbury. At the time of her appointment Miss Mold was about 28.
- Minute Book of Banbury Board of Guardians at Oxfordshire County Record Office, T/G/1/1/23, meeting 15 December 1881 and advertisement for the post of infant mistress in *Banbury Guardian*, 8 December 1881. The advertisement also mentioned the possibility of the Local Government Board awarding a further sum 'in their certificate of merit', but Miss Mold was not eligible for this. Altogether eight people applied for the position, but in the event, the lowness of the salary appears to have deterred most of them. See *Banbury Guardian*, 22 December 1881.
- Minute Book, T/G/1/1/32, meeting on 2 September 1897.
- S. and B. Webb, *English Poor Law History*, Vol. 2 (London, 1929), p.358. The Webbs note that in 1891 the President of the Local Government Board issued a Circular allowing 'for the provision . . . of toys for the children'.
- Banbury Guardian*, 27 January 1898.
- For details of the life of Ernest Samuelson see A. Potts, 'Ernest Samuelson and the Britannia Works' in *C&CH* IV, 12 (Summer, 1971).
- Minute Book, T/G/1/1/32, meeting on 24 June 1897 and *Banbury Guardian*, 24 June 1897. John Langley in his 'Further Memories of Late Victorian and Early Edwardian Banbury' in *C&CH* III, 3 (Spring, 1966) p.40, recalled the Harriers' Whit Monday sports meeting. 'This was an outstanding event with champion walkers, runners and cyclists from all over the country taking part'.
- Banbury Guardian*, 10 June and 24 June 1897.
- Minute Book, T/G/1/1/32, meeting on 13 May 1897, when a decision was made as to the form the workhouse celebrations should take.

13. *Banbury Guardian*, 21 June 1898.
14. John L. Langley, loc.cit., p.42.
15. *Banbury Guardian*, 20 October 1898.
16. Minute Book, T/G/1/1/32, meeting on 3 February 1898. Mrs. Durran was probably the wife of Eustace Durran, also a Banbury watchmaker, since the local press reports her support for the temperance movement in the town. Eustace Durran himself was superintendent of the Grimsbury Wesleyan Sunday School.
17. This was a policy adopted by Poor Law Guardians all over the country and one strongly recommended by Mrs. Nassau Senior in her report to the Local Government Board in 1873. See T. H. Marshall, *Social Policy* (London, 1965), p.35. The Local Government Board took control of poor law matters from the Poor Law Board in 1871.
18. Minute Book, T/G/1/1/33, meetings on 7 and 21 December 1899, and *Banbury Guardian*, 14 and 28 December 1899.
19. Minute Book, T/G/1/1/33, meeting on 18 January 1900.
20. Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Local Government Board, for 1899; Miss Chapman's *Report on Boarding-out of Pauper Children*, Parliamentary Papers, 1900, Vol. XXXIII, p.177.
21. Minute Book, T/G/1/1/32, meeting on 20 January 1898.
22. Information from Mr. Tripé in a letter to the author in May, 1972.
23. Florence Davenport Hill, *Children of the State* (2nd edn.) (London, 1889), p.29. Information from Mr. Tripé concerning Banbury Workhouse clothes.
24. See Tenders for supplying the Workhouse, for example at a meeting on 22 September 1892, when quotations were received for pinafore holland at 5¼d. per yard. Corduroy (probably for the boys' clothing) cost 1s. 7d. per yard and boys' caps 10d. each. Minute Book, T/G/1/1/28. In October 1899 there were tenders for girls' shoes at 4s. 3d. per pair, boys' shoes at 4s. 6d. per pair, and boys' caps at 8s. 11d. per dozen. *Banbury Guardian*, 5 October 1899. In a letter to the author, Mrs. R. Jackson of Daventry remembers the heavy boots worn by the girls.
25. Minute Book, T/G/1/1/28, meeting on 28 January 1892.
26. Florence Davenport Hill, op.cit., p.27.
27. *Poor Laws School Committee Report*, Parliamentary Papers, Vol. XLIII, p.164. The Committee took evidence relating to pauper children in London only.
28. Minute Book, T/G/1/1/32, meeting on 28 October 1897. Instead of receiving 4 oz. of bread for their supper, however, all of the children were reduced to 3 oz. per night.
29. *Banbury Guardian*, 5 October 1899.
30. Minute Book, T/G/1/1/28.
31. Minute Book, T/G/1/1/28. Information about Mrs. Gillett kindly provided by Mrs. R. Jackson of Daventry in a letter to the author.
32. Minute Book, meeting on 20 November 1890.
33. Minute Book, T/G/1/1/33, meeting on 19 January 1899. The resolution was passed partly in response to a circular letter received from the Hunslet Union on the same subject.
34. Florence Davenport Hill, op.cit., p.53.
35. Minute Book, T/G/1/1/33, meetings on 9 and 23 November 1899.
36. *Banbury Guardian*, 16 November 1899.
37. S. and B. Webb, op.cit., p.731, point out that in its 1910 Circular, 'Children under the Poor Law', the Local Government Board 'urged that endeavours should be made to start (children), not in "blind alley" occupations, such as that of errand boy, but in skilled employments; and that training for domestic service should be provided for girls'.

A Countryman's Tale, by S.J. Tyrrell. 288 pp. Illus. Constable 1973. £3.50.

Sydney Tyrrell has been a well-known figure in the local history world of Northamptonshire and the Banbury area for many years, and no one who has heard him broadcast, read his articles, or argued with him, will expect his book about his native and beloved Eydon to be a dull one. Emphatically it is not. This is a work distinguished by a liveliness which makes it difficult to believe that it is the achievement of an octogenarian. Mr. Tyrrell knows his limits as a scholar, and at the same time recognises the value of his own experiences, themselves a vital part of the history of Eydon. He does not, like so many amateur historians, bore us by speculation about the details of such topics as manorial descent. These he leaves to the professionals, who can handle them much better. Twenty-five pages only are concerned with the history of Eydon before the 18th century. A whole chapter is devoted to the enclosure of the parish in 1762, which Mr. Tyrrell rightly regards as the crucial event in the history of the village in recent centuries. His feeling for landscape as he explains how eccentricities in field and road patterns are the result of decisions taken by the enclosure commissioners, is one which many professional local historians might envy. At the same time his discussion of enclosure is spiced by a righteous indignation that it was a procedure by which the rich became richer and the poor poorer. While Mr. Tyrrell recognises the argument that enclosure may have been necessary in order to increase food supplies for a growing population, we are never allowed to rest content that it was an inevitable process after which everything worked out for the best. On the penultimate page the author describes the predicament of the non-landowner: 'we have had to be scroungers ever since they enclosed the common fields here two centuries ago'. The first section of the book concludes with an interesting account of the Annesley family who moved to Eydon in 1788 and subsequently built the elegant Eydon Hall.

Over a hundred pages describe Eydon in the 19th century. This section is based partly on documentary research and partly on reminiscence. The section on village characters bears comparison with the best writing on the Victorian countryside. The chapter on railways in the parish is particularly interesting. Mr. Tyrrell saw the Great Central main line from Nottingham to London being built in his childhood in the 1890s, and then saw it closed in 1966. Like many younger people he regrets its closure, and still fancies he hears a train from time to time.

The third section of the book is concerned with Mr. Tyrrell's own family and contains further fascinating material on village social life, Methodism and the tailoring trade. This section will interest a wide variety of readers. The account of the significance of a pig killing in the life of a village family will delight the social historian, and those who love great events will find the description of the peace celebrations at Gibraltar in 1918, observed from a gun emplacement on top of the rock, especially memorable.

This book is not without its trivial mistakes. The wars with revolutionary France began in 1793 not 1773. Lloyd George's People's Budget was in 1909 not in 1910. But while the publishers should have ironed out such minor errors, they do not detract from the value of the book. This is not a model parish history but an historically inspired book of reminiscences of a most interesting character. Mr. Tyrrell says in his prologue 'This is not written to suit historians; it's for my own kith and kin and for the man in the street. To my own folk, our way of life will soon seem as remote as the seventeenth century does to my generation'. One can only emphasise the last sentence and rejoice that Mr. Tyrrell has given us a splendid book which he alone could have written, and has not tried to construct a parish history on pre-ordained lines.

B.S.T.

Oxfordshire County Record Office

Amongst recent accession reported by the County Archivist are deeds and documents relating to Balscot, Shutford and Epwell, 17-19th century, and 20th century copy deeds and documents of the Oxfordshire Ironstone Company. These have been placed on permanent loan by Mr. J.S. Young on behalf of the Oxfordshire Ironstone Office of the British Steel Corporation.

Banbury Historical Society – Fifteenth Annual Report – 1972

The Committee have pleasure in submitting the Fifteenth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for the year 1972.

Membership: There has been a small decrease in membership, to 353. The Society suffered a great loss in the death of Mr Alan Pain, the Borough Librarian, a founder member, for many years a committee member and Hon. Treasurer, and at the time of his death Hon. Information Officer. The death of Mr H. Barrett, a member of longstanding, is also recorded with regret.

On the Committee, Mr F. Willy has continued as Chairman, and Mr J. Roberts has been co-opted a member.

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

January: Recent Excavations in Oxford – Mr T.G. Hassall

February: Mop Making in Witney – Mr B. Crawford

March: S.P. Cockerell, Architect of Banbury Church – Mr N. Cooper

April: Village meeting at Kings Sutton – Mrs E. Coxon and Mr G. Forsyth Lawson

June: (A.G.M.): Bloxham School

September: A Defence of Oliver Cromwell – Mr Maurice Ashley

October: Oxfordshire Recusancy, c. 1580–c.1640 – Dr A. Davidson

November: The Oxford Canal – Mr J.M. Taphouse

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

By kind invitation of the Headmaster, the A.G.M. was held at Bloxham School, where our Chairman had organised a small exhibition relating to the history of the school. Other summer visits were made to Adderbury Church, Wardington Manor, Kings Sutton Church, Epwell Mill and Donnington Brewery, to whose incumbents and owners we are most grateful. The Society assisted with the research and script for the 'Son et Lumière' held in Banbury Church in October.

A reception was held in March to mark the publication of two records volumes, *Shoemaker's Window* and *Wigginton Constables' Book*. The annual dinner was once again held in November at the *White Lion*, when the toast of the Society was proposed by Professor Cobb of Oxford University, whilst our Vice-President Dr C.F.C. Beeson replied; followed by an entertainment by the Bloxham Consort.

The hard work of Mr G. Fothergill and Mr A. Donaldson in securing speakers, organising meetings and arranging visits, and of Mrs G. Brinkworth, our Hon. Press Officer, are recorded with much appreciation.

Research: The Society continues to answer numerous enquiries on the local history and genealogy of the Banbury area. In November the long-awaited volume of the Victoria County History covering the Banbury Hundred was published, to which a number of members of the Society had contributed. With the earlier but still recent Bloxham and Ploughley Hundreds volumes for Oxfordshire, and the Kington Hundred for adjacent Warwickshire, members are well served with guides to the history of the area, especially with the backing of the magnificently detailed Beesley's *History of Banbury* (1841) and Baker's *History and Antiquities of the County of Northampton* (1822–30); there is plenty of opportunity for specialised research – whilst the editor of *Cake & Cockhorse* is always pleased to consider projects for publication.

Archaeology: Activity has been at its highest-ever pitch in Banbury where Mr Peter Fasham has been directing excavation on the site of Banbury Castle. An interim report appears in this issue, and Mr Fasham has also spoken on his discoveries to the Society. Whilst financial support has of necessity been limited, practical help has been rendered by the publication of Mr Fasham's discussion of 'The Archaeological Implications of Redevelopment in Banbury' both in the magazine and as a separate offprint; and a number of members have been involved with the actual 'digging'. Elsewhere Mr J.H. Fearon has continued work on the site at Pike Farm, Broughton, again with the assistance of other Society members.

Cake & Cöckhorse: Contributors to the year's three issues have included (in addition to the Editor and other committee members) Messrs. F. Anker, C. Bell, G.D.M. Braggins, Miss D. Bromley, Messrs. E. Chitty, N. Cooper, P. Fasham, T.G. Hassall, N. Scropton and Mrs D. White. To coincide with the 'Son et Lumière' at Banbury Church and the 175th anniversary of the opening of St Mary's Church (and 150th of its completion) Mr Cooper's article on 'The Building and Furnishing of St Mary's Church' was also published as an offprint.

These two offprints have contributed towards the very serious increase in the production cost of the magazine – £148 up on 1971 – though it is to be hoped that the latter will add to sales revenue for some years to come. A small sum received as a grant towards archaeological expenses some years ago has been put towards the cost of Mr Fasham's offprint. The Recreational and Amenities Committee of the Borough Council once again increased its grant, for this and other publications, to £100, and sales, thanks to the offprints, topped £100.

Publications: After the effort of producing two records volumes at one go, the publication programme has been going through a period of quiescence, but the long-promised volume of *Wills and Inventories*, to which Miss G.H. Dannatt is contributing a scholarly and immensely detailed introduction, now nears completion, and should go into production shortly. We must ask the forbearance of records members who do not see a volume every year for their subscription – but we are far from alone amongst record publishing societies in this respect, and we believe that eleven volumes in fourteen years is no mean achievement.

The reprint of *Old Banbury* was delayed until after the end of the year under review, but has now been completed and is on sale.

Local Government Changes, the Library and The Museum: Since the end of the year under review we have been pleased to welcome Mr Martin Elsom as Mr Pain's successor as Borough Librarian, with whom we are sure the Society will continue the same happy relationship. Under Miss C. Bloxham's supervision, an ambitious exhibition about the Oxford Canal, 'Along the Cut', has been staged, as well as a number of smaller special displays in the Globe Room. Reports on these and on recent donations and other acquisitions appear from time to time.

Whilst it is not clear quite how the changes in local government authorities will affect the Library and the Museum, their physical location is unlikely to be changed. Both in reality have long served the Banbury region and not just the town and borough, whilst this Society has always related itself to 'Banburyshire'. It is to be hoped therefore that the always harmonious relations with the Borough Council will only be enhanced by the much larger area covered by the new authority.

Accounts: The excess of expenditure over income (on the revenue account) is far greater than ever before, and must be of grave concern. Apart from the ever-increasing cost of the magazine, the normal running costs of the Society have risen £45 – when the unavoidable cost of postage is considered this is hardly surprising. At the same time income from sales has decreased sharply, as stocks run down. The *Old Banbury* reprint will reverse this trend, but it will take some time for its cost to be recovered. The reserve for records publications appears healthy, but only because no volume had to be paid for in the year, and in effect virtually the Society's entire cash reserves are earmarked for that – £25 even had to be withdrawn from another reserve to keep technical 'solvency'. In the circumstances an increase in subscription as soon as possible is inevitable, and a resolution to this effect will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

Church-Choir

Information given to O.V. Aplin by George and Richard Austin at the Manor Court Dinner, 25th October 1893:

'Old Ted Wilkins' grandfather had the Bodicote choir for many years. They all took their key from his A on the bass viol. He himself got the A on a Sunday morning in this way: he used to go to his hogtub and ascertain it it was filled up to a certain hoop, if not he would fill it up, or if too full keetch (*sic*) a drop out. The he kicked the tub and drawing his bow across the string set his A to the sound the hogtub gave out.'

(O.V.A.)

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st December 1972

1971		Expenditure		1971			
340	Cake & Cockhorse	488		493		Subscriptions	530
	45 Less: Grants	66				Less: Proportion	
	52 Sales	101				attributable to records	175
<u>97</u>		<u>167</u>		<u>169</u>			
243			321	324			355
6	Newsletter		6				
5	Subscriptions		6			Sales:	
34	Lecture and meeting expenses		47	46		Christmas cards	2
65	Printing, stationery, postages, telephone and sundries		97	16		Postcards and pamphlets	8
	125 Annual dinner	162		28		Old Banbury Calendars	28
	117 Less: Receipts	143		1			—
8			19	91			38
—	Research		5	3		Donations	—
—	Banbury Castle excavation		10	15		Deposit account interest	14
—	Other grants and donations		11			Excess of Expenditure over Income	115
50	Reserve for reprinting Old Banbury		—				
14	Bad debts written off		—				
8	Excess of Income over Expenditure		—				
<u>433</u>		<u>522</u>	<u>433</u>				<u>522</u>

Publications Account for the Year ended 31st December 1972

	— Baptisms & Burials, Pt. 1	25				Publications Reserve and provisions, balance at 1st January 1972	268
	15 A Victorian M.P.	—				Subscriptions — proportion attributable to records	175
	185 Shoemaker's Window	45	355			Sales of records volumes	69
	285 Wigginton Constables' Book	7	169			Grants:	
	— Wills & Inventories	12				British Academy	—
485			89	89		Banbury Borough Council	50
—	Postage and packing		42				50
268	Publications reserve and provisions, balance at 31st December 1972		431	40			562
				140			
<u>753</u>		<u>562</u>	<u>753</u>				

Balance Sheet at 31st December 1972

1970		Liabilities		1971			
96	Subscriptions in advance	31		—		Cash in hand	1
13	Sundry creditors	16		120		Deposit account	370
16	Unexpended grant for archaeological expenses	—	380	260		Current account	48
50	Old Banbury reprint reserve	25	1			Payments in advance	60
268	Publications reserve and provisions	431	60			Grants receivable	—
	Capital account					Sundry debtors	32
90	As at 1st January 1972	98					
	Add: Transfer from Old Banbury reprint reserve	25					
—	Excess of income over expenditure	—					
8							
<u>98</u>		<u>123</u>					
	Less: Excess of expendi- ture over income	115					
98			8				
<u>541</u>		<u>511</u>	<u>541</u>				<u>511</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 1972.

Bloxham, Banbury
12 April 1973

A.H. Cheney
Chartered Accountant

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 *Oxonienisia*, £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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