

# CAKE AND COCKHORSE



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**Details of the Society's activities and  
publications will be found on the back cover.**

# Cake and Cockhorse

The Magazine of the Banbury Historical Society  
issued three times a year

Volume 11

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Autumn 1990

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This issue contains the final part of J.S.W. Owen's work on the Banbury Golf Courses, although the story continues with the possibility of changes in the structure of the Company at Tadmarton Heath.

An innovation in this issue is the inclusion of the reports on our Winter Lectures written by Brian Little. It was felt that many members are unable to attend the Lectures and that this was a way of allowing all members to partake. The Speakers so far this year have been of a very high standard. It is hoped that these brief reports may also induce members to attend the Lectures, and not miss what is an important part of the Society's Annual Programme. Jeremy Gibson has again supplied another interesting facet of The Borough of Banbury's History.

D.A.H.

Cover Picture:- Joyce Wethered (Lady Heathcoat Amory), one of the greatest lady players of all time. In 1932, she played for Tadmarton Heath against Oxford University.

## BANBURY AND DISTRICT GOLF CLUB 1894-1919

An article in the Spring number, 1989, of Cake and Cockhorse gave an account of the early days of the Banbury Golf Club and of its move at the turn of the century from Bodicote to Overthorpe. The Golfing Annual description of the new course read:-

Banbury and District Golf Club

Instituted March 14th 1894

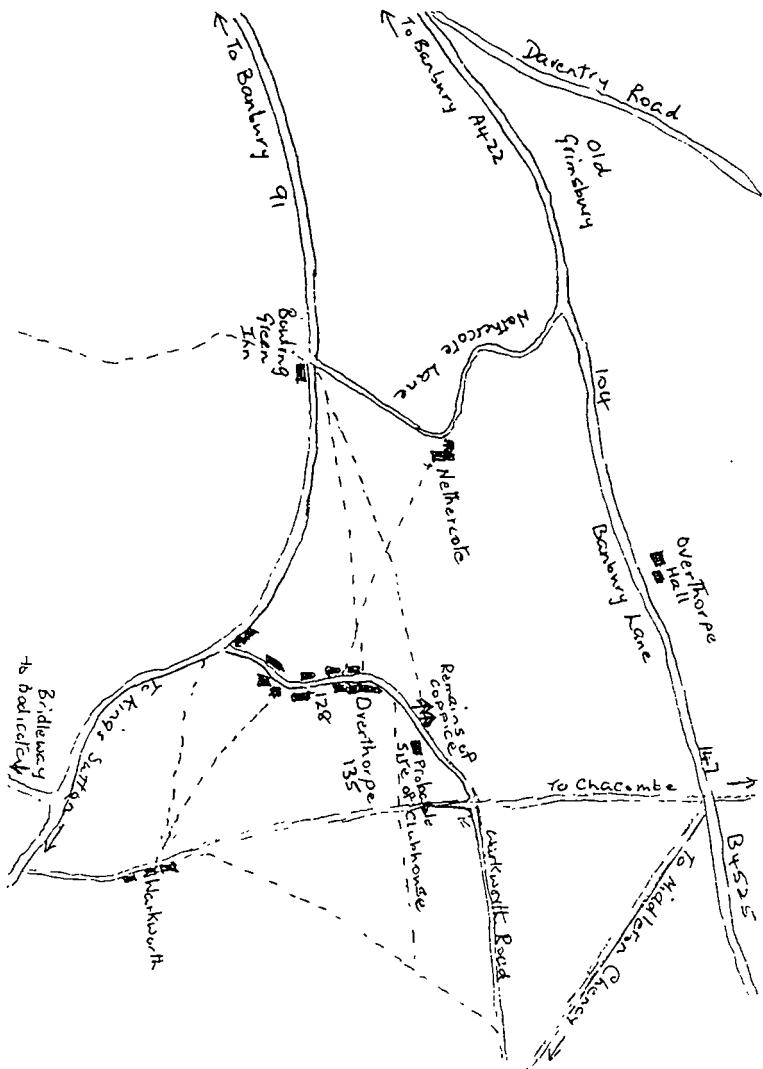
"The course of nine holes is a mile and a half from Banbury Station (L. & N.W.R., G.C.R., G.W.R.). The hazards are hedges, a long deep grip and coppice of fir trees. There is a Club-house close to the course which is beautifully situated on very high undulating ground. The greens are very good and the course is in every way superior to the old one. Visitors (introduced) three days free, after that 5s a week. There are two good hotels. [White Lion and Red Lion]"

In case the word 'grip' should send anyone, as it did me, diving for the dictionary, it has in this context a meaning of a ditch. The course, laid out on fields belonging to Sydney Griffin, who lived at The Grange, Overthorpe, extended as far as the lane running between Nethercote and the Bowling Green Inn. In fact, in one year, the Golfing Annual refers to the course as being at Nethercote, not Overthorpe. A fair number of the fir trees have survived the passing of the years, even though they are in an exposed position, acting as a windbreak against the prevailing winds. Footpaths, which were of course much used before the coming of the motor car, still criss-cross the old course, including a path from the coppice to the Bowling Green Inn.

From where the club-house was situated, there is, as the Golfing Annual says, a very fine view looking over Banbury at one's feet to higher ground in the far distance, including Tadmarton Heath. I fear though that the pleasure of dwelling on such a landscape will soon be destroyed by the scar in the country-side created by the motorway below - the ear offended by the unceasing roar of traffic. Reactionary that I am, I share the feelings expressed by A.L. Godley in his doggerel "The Motor Bus":-

"What is this that roareth thus?  
Can it be a Motor Bus?  
Yes, the smell and hideous hum  
Indicat Motorem bum!  
Implet in the Corn and High  
Terror me Motoris Bi."

Of my earlier article on the history of Banbury Golf Club, Jeremy Gibson, to whom the Historical Society owes so much, made the remark that I had constructed bricks with very little straw. With Overthorpe, straw is in such short supply that one is reduced, as were the Israelites, to searching for stubble. Whereas, in the case of Bodicote, the Banbury Guardian reported events such as Annual General



Map showing the site of the Overthorpe Golf Course.

Meetings and Inter-Club matches, the only entry to be found for Overthorpe is in the Almanac which was published at the end of each year. From this source we learn that in 1898 Banbury had two golf courses running alongside, Bodicote and Overthorpe, the secretaries being C.F. Edmunds and E. Crowe. On the other hand, the Golfing Annual continues to list only the Bodicote course until 1901 when Overthorpe takes its place, naming A.B. Field, a member of the original General Committee of 1894, as the Club's honorary secretary and treasurer. The annual subscription was two guineas and there were 60 members.

It seems reasonable to assume that this scarcity of news was because little or no golf was played after the outbreak of the Boer War in October 1899. Many of the members were in the Volunteer Force - and for them, playing golf became the least of their priorities. Only two years earlier, the country had been celebrating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee with fitting pomp and ceremony. Banbury, for example, had a Jubilee Celebration committee with Wm. Edwards as its chairman and Fred G. Day and Oliver J. Stockton its joint secretaries. Some five weeks before the event, the Committee announced 2,300 persons had already applied to partake of the "DINE OR TAKE TEA" on the 21st June.

With the outbreak of war, a patriotic fervour swept the country. A good illustration of this fervour and how it would affect those serving with the Volunteers is shown by the reminiscences of a Mrs Elsie William's, born in 1891, the daughter of the postmaster of Victorian Hay-on-Wye, now famous for its second-hand bookshops:

"And the Volunteers, of course. They sent a contingent to the Boer War, five I think it was; and I distinctly remember them marching down Broad Street, with the WHOLE TOWN escorting them off. Five Volunteers, with Hay Town Band in their red coats blowing away in front of them: one of them died in Africa, but the rest all came back."

[Shades of Kipling's

"O it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an'  
'Tommy go away'; But it's 'Thank you,  
Mister Atkins,' when the band begins to  
play - "]

At this stage I should perhaps give my reasons as to why I have dealt at some length on the state of the country and on the Volunteers.

1. If it had not been for the Boer War, Overthorpe might so have established itself that the move to Bretch and subsequently to Tadmorton Heath would not have taken place. In the same way, the 1914-1918 war brought golf at Bretch to a halt with the result that, in 1919, the Club had not only to make what virtually amounted to a fresh start in life, but it had to raise funds at a time when the country was facing massive social and economic difficulties. This meant the Banbury & District Golf Club Syndicate, which was formed to buy Holywell Farm, Tadmorton Heath, had little option but to raise funds by way of share or risk capital, thus becoming a Proprietary Club,

a Club owned by shareholders, as opposed to issuing debentures and/or loans and so remaining under the control of its members. In fact, it was to be 1937 before the Company was able to declare its first dividend.

2. When the Club moved from Bretch, its name was changed to Tadmarton Heath. Its centenary therefore falls in the year 2022, and not 1994. Whether this matters is a debatable point, but just as the Light Infantry Territorial Battalions acknowledge their ties with the Volunteer Movement by including in their letter heading "The Light Infantry (Volunteers)", so could Tadmarton Heath, if they so wish, acknowledge their ties with the founding fathers of 1894 by adding to their notepaper "(Originally the Banbury and District Golf Club, Instituted in 1894)". The Royal and Ancient confirm it would be in order to do this, as funds invested in 1919 by the Banbury Club were made over to the new Tadmarton Heath Company.

As a matter of interest, there are more than 50 Clubs in the U.K., including Chipping Norton, reaching their 100th birthday this year, the 1880s being the decade the game spread in earnest. Returning to the affairs of the Banbury Golf Club, one is faced with various questions. While it seems reasonable to assume that the move from Bodicote was made because part of the course was at times waterlogged after rain, why, at the end of the war, was the decision made to leave Overthorpe?. And why did the Club decide to move to Bretch, its third course within the space of ten years - a move which we, with our foreknowledge of the future, can see was doomed to fail? In the absence of written or oral evidence, one can only speculate, as T.S. Eliot might have said, in a world of what might have been. If for instance the Club had stayed at Overthorpe and had gradually improved its facilities over the years, buying land at the give-away prices then ruling so that the course could become one of 18 holes - if these things had happened, the golf course would probably still have been at Overthorpe, motorway notwithstanding. North Oxford, now surrounded on all sides by dual carriageways, have, so far as I know, no alternative but to stay where they are. These are not, I like to think, idle imaginings. In 1919, when bicycling around the countryside searching for an 18 hole course to take the place of Bretch, Dr. Clive Gardiner-Hill, a partner in the Horse Fair surgery, and Eric Crossley of Tadmarton Heights gave serious consideration to moving back to Overthorpe. However, when Farmer Griffin laid down two conditions - that sheep must continue to graze the land and that no bunkers could be constructed - the good doctor, a former Captain of Cambridge University, used to playing on some of the most famous links in the country, not surprisingly called off the negotiations and pursued his search elsewhere, eventually finding the perfect site for a golf course, Tadmarton Heath.

I can offer no more than theories as to why the move was made. The better to do this, I have tried to transport myself back through time and imagine I am a golfer living in the Banbury of those days - a Banbury without cars - where the railways were of such importance

that each week the Banbury Guardian devoted a full page to their time tables. A Banbury where most of the golfers lived the far side of the Cross; West Bar, South Bar, Oxford Road - in villages such as Adderbury and Bodicote, thus needing a bicycle or pony and trap to reach Overthorpe.

To golfers of today who enjoy the benefits of a comfortable well-furnished clubhouse with good catering facilities - a place where you can meet friends and join in social activities, Overthorpe would have seemed quite unacceptable. A wooden building without heating or running water, used mainly for changing your clothes or sheltering from the rain. Many golfers would have started and finished their round at Nethercote to avoid an unnecessary climb up the hill leading to the clubhouse. In contrast to today's courses which are fed, watered and generally pampered throughout the year, little would have been done to change Overthorpe from its pastoral setting of hedges and grazing sheep. In the early days of golf, even at Prestwick where the Open Championship was played on a three year rota, the grass could be long and unkempt; just off the green the ball was quite capable of losing itself and Willie Fernie once complained (during an Open Championship too!) that he had lost his ball twice on the putting green.

Although inflation over the years makes it virtually impossible to compare monetary values, it is an indication of how little was spent by Clubs, such as Banbury, on fixed assets and running costs when one learns that Chipping Norton, in its first year of 1890, could make ends meet with an annual subscription of only 10/- (50p) and no entrance fee.

The point I wish to make is that, because of the war with few if any members playing, the clubhouse and course were in such a primitive state that members would have been indifferent as to whether or not the Club stayed at Overthorpe. When, therefore, the insurance broker, J.W. Prescott, put forward a proposal that the Club should move to Bretch, there was no opposition apart from members who lived the Overthorpe side of Banbury, some of whom continued to play golf there after the move, just as had been the case at Bodicote.

Brech had one great advantage. It was within walking distance of the Cross - and a pleasant walk too in the days when there were only a handful of houses beyond the top of Constitution Hill, with field paths leading to North Newington and Wroxton. The farmer, Tom Hankinson, recalled how when he was a child living in West Bar, his nanny on Sundays used to take him for walks over the golf course. Mrs Gladys Walker remembers how she and Mrs Kath Hunt, when children, used to fish for tadpoles - and for golf balls - in a pond by the second green.

One could, of course, put forward other theories as to why a move was made. Perhaps there had been rumblings of discontent from the ladies. Why, they asked, should our sisters at Chipping Norton have been welcomed with open arms at that Club while we at Banbury, after ten years, are still waiting for admission?

It may be the men shared the opinion of a certain Lord Wellwood, who



in the Badminton edition of Golf, 1890, is quoted as saying "If they choose to play when the male golfers are feeding or resting, no one can object. But at other times - must we say it? - they are in the way."

Whatever the men's view on ladies playing golf at Overthorpe, there was an insurmountable obstacle - the clubhouse had only one changing room. Now, even in today's enlightened attitude at Tadmarton Heath on sex equality, you would be sure to find some diehards who would object to a communal changing room. How much more so would have been the case in Edwardian times when dresses were designed to cover as much as possible of the female frame. It therefore followed that, in order to fall in with the wishes of the ladies, the Club had to look round for an alternative site which would allow changing rooms for both sexes.

Whatever the reasons, the indisputable fact is that the members decided to leave Overthorpe. The Banbury Guardian in its issue 24th March 1904 tersely reports "At a meeting of the Golf Club on Monday evening, it was decided to wind up the concern owing to lack of support".

Although the report does not say so, plans to move to Bretch must already have been in an advanced state, as ten weeks later the Banbury Guardian 2nd June published an article headed:

#### Formation of a new Golf Club

"It will be gratifying to golfers in this neighbourhood to hear that a new club is in course of formation, and judging by the progress already made, the venture bids fair to success. An inaugural meeting was held at the White Lion Hotel on Thursday night, when the various officers were elected and other business transacted. The links are to be on the Bretch estate about a mile from Banbury on land tenanted by Mr. J.I. Miller, Mr A.J. Hobley and Mr. G. Busby. Lord Algernon Gordon-Lennox has been elected president, with Mr. Albert Brasseley, M.P., Viscount Villiers, Mr. F. Fitzgerald, and Mr. J.F. Starkey as vice-presidents. Mr. J.W. Prescott has been appointed honorary secretary and Mr. Webb-Bowen honorary treasurer, and a committee of six consists of Messrs. E.W. Barrows, J.A. Maxwell, A.I. Johns, D. Pellatt, A.B. Davison and Rev. B.W. Bradford. We wish the new venture every success. We understand that at present the club can count upon a membership of about 25."

Regarding the various officers elected, the President, Lord Algernon Gordon-Lennox, was born in 1847. He was the second son of the four sons of the sixth Duke of Richmond. After Eton, he spent two years in the Navy, following which he transferred to the Grenadier Guards with whom he served in the Egyptian campaign of 1882. In the following year he became A.D.C. to the Duke of Cambridge, Commander-in-Chief, a position he was to hold for twelve years. Lord Algernon died in 1921. The Times obituary speaks of him as one "whose popularity it would be difficult to overestimate."

Everyone he met fell under the influence of his charming personality, and it may be doubted whether he had an enemy. From boyhood he was an excellent rider, he was a fisherman of more than average skill, (a pool on the River Spey is named after him) and he was extremely fond of yacht racing. At Goodwood, the glories of which were firmly maintained by his father, he was for years a constant figure. But he will be remembered best of all for his real kindness of heart, which gave special value to his natural and unerring tact. A sociable, friendly man, who always thought the best of every one, he was not content to live an idle life, but gave of his best in every position to which he was called."

Through an introduction by Lady Saye and Sele, I was invited by a Mrs. Julian Vinogradoff to tea at the Morrell family house in Broughton, at one time rented from the Morrells by a former Banbury M.P., Neil Marten. Mrs. Vinogradoff, who died earlier this year, was the only surviving child of Philip and Lady Ottoline Morrell of Garsington Manor, near Oxford. Her father was a member of the Morrell brewing dynasty and an M.P. for South Oxfordshire. Her mother, Lady Ottoline, was one of the most flamboyant and famous literary hostesses of the twentieth century.

As Lady Ottoline was the half sister of the Duke of Portland who, in 1915, had married Lord Algernon's daughter, Ivy, Mrs. Vinogradoff was as can be imagined a rich mine of information. She kindly allowed me to read a charming letter written to her some years ago by the Duchess of Portland; she told me of the continuing kindness she had received at the hands of the Duchess's daughter, Lady Anne Bentinck of Welbeck Woodhouse. It is of interest that Lady Anne is a friend of Lord and Lady Saye, occasionally visiting Broughton Castle where her grandparents once lived and where her mother spent her childhood.

As an avid reader of books from my youth up, I had the greatest of pleasure in being shown, with a running commentary, photograph albums of political and literary celebrities who were guests of Mrs. V's mother at Garsington Manor - celebrities such as Lytton Strachey, Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury set - Bertrand Russell, T.S. Eliot, W.B. Yeats, Henry James, D.H. Lawrence, Aldous Huxley. Of these visitors, Mrs. V's favourite was the poet, Siegfried Sassoon.

Mrs. Vinogradoff told me it was sheer chance the Gordon-Lennox family came, in Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee year, 1897, to live in Broughton. Lady Algy (sic) was living in a flat in London recovering from influenza, when she read that a delightful castle at Broughton was to let, whereupon Lord and Lady Algernon more or less decided there and then to move to Broughton Castle where they were to stay for sixteen years. It could be that Lady Algernon was to an extent influenced by the fact that her sister, Daisy, Countess of Warwick, lived only some twenty miles away.

Up to the outbreak of the 1914 war, the social order was such that the Banbury Guardian gave extensive coverage of the comings and goings of the aristocracy and the landed gentry. The following extracts, chosen from 1904, the year Lord Algernon became the Club's President,

gave an indication of how Lady Algernon herself entered into the social life of the neighbourhood.

14th January 1904

The Bystander of yesterday (Wednesday) says:-

"Among lady gardeners, Lady Algernon Gordon-Lennox, who has recently returned from America, is one of the most celebrated. All her gardens at Broughton Castle have been laid out from her own designs, and her rose garden and her well known sundial are unique in their way. Lady Algernon has one daughter, called Ivy, who promises to rival even her mother in the way of good looks. She is to be one of Lady Marjorie Greville's bridesmaids on the nineteenth of the month, and is to be presented at one of the early Courts this season".

(Lady Marjorie was the daughter of the Earl and Countess of Warwick and married Viscount Helmsley).

4th August 1904

"The Lennox Cup" Horticultural Competition

Tysoe's Victory at Warwick  
Wholesale Disqualifications

"The beautiful grounds of Warwick Castle made a fitting scene for the inter-county competition which took place there on Bank Holiday for the possession of the 'Lennox Challenge Cup', the splendid silver trophy of the value of fifty guineas, which Lady Algernon Gordon-Lennox offers to the Horticultural Societies of Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire...."

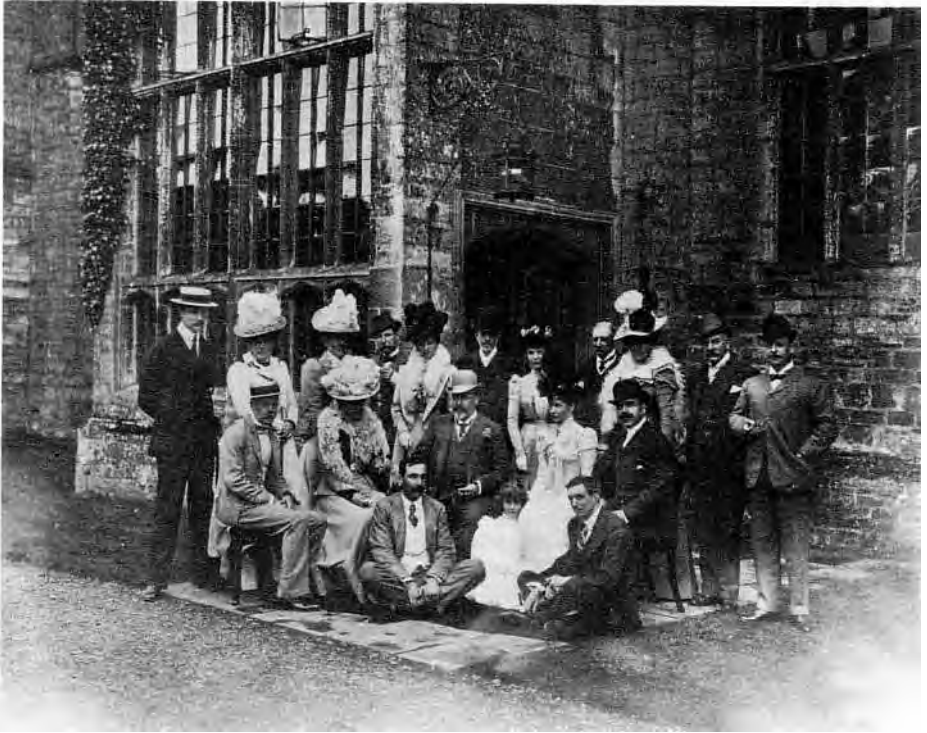
"Lord and Lady Algernon Gordon-Lennox and Miss Ivy Lennox were early on the show ground..."

"It was past four o'clock before the judges had completed their task. Then the waiting crowd rushed into the marquee, and loud cheers were raised by the visitors from Tysoe when they found that for the second time the Horticultural Society from that village had succeeded in carrying off the coveted trophy."

"Much disappointment was caused by the discovery that the Grimsbury, Banbury and Neithrop Allotment and Horticultural Society had been disqualified, because to quote the official notification - there were 'two dishes of potatoes, same variety'."

[The three gardens, Broughton Castle, Garsington Manor and Welbeck Woodhouse, are open to the public under the National Gardens Scheme.] An example of how things used to be at the great country houses before the Second World War is provided by the recollections of Diana, Viscountess Gage; "Somebody asked Winnie, Duchess of Portland, how many gardeners they had. She couldn't remember. She sent for the head gardener. He had to send for someone else."

The old established Banbury photographers, Blinkhorns, have an excellent photograph taken in 1901 of a house party at Broughton Castle. The photograph includes King Edward VII, Lord and Lady Algernon Gordon-Lennox with their daughter Ivy and the Earl and Countess of Warwick.



House Party at Broughton Castle 1901 (Photo Blinkhorns)

Other officers elected were:

Albert Brassey was the M.P. for North Oxfordshire. He lived at Heythrop Park, now occupied by the National Westminster Bank. Viscount Villiers was the son of the 7th Earl of Jersey of Middleton Park, Middleton Stoney. He became the 8th Earl on the death of his father in 1915.

The Viscount's brother, the Hon. A.G.C. Villiers, served with the Oxfordshire Yeomanry in France in World War 1 (despatches), D.S.O. 1917 and bar 1918.

In 1938, the Viscount's son, the 9th Earl, had a luxurious mansion built at Middleton Park. According to Sherwood & Pevsner, (Buildings of England), this was probably the last great country house to be built in England. The architects were Sir Edwin and Robert Lutyens.

Francis Fitzgerald, who lived at Wroxton, was a barrister. He married the eldest daughter of Lord North of Wroxton Abbey. A director of Tadmarton Heath.

J.H. Starkey lived at Radway Grange. In World War 1 he served as a Colonel in the Rifle Brigade. He and his son, Peter, were both directors of Tadmarton Heath. His father, J.F. (Starkey), lived at Bodicote House, now the headquarters of Cherwell District Council. Perhaps both J.F. and his son played golf at Bodicote

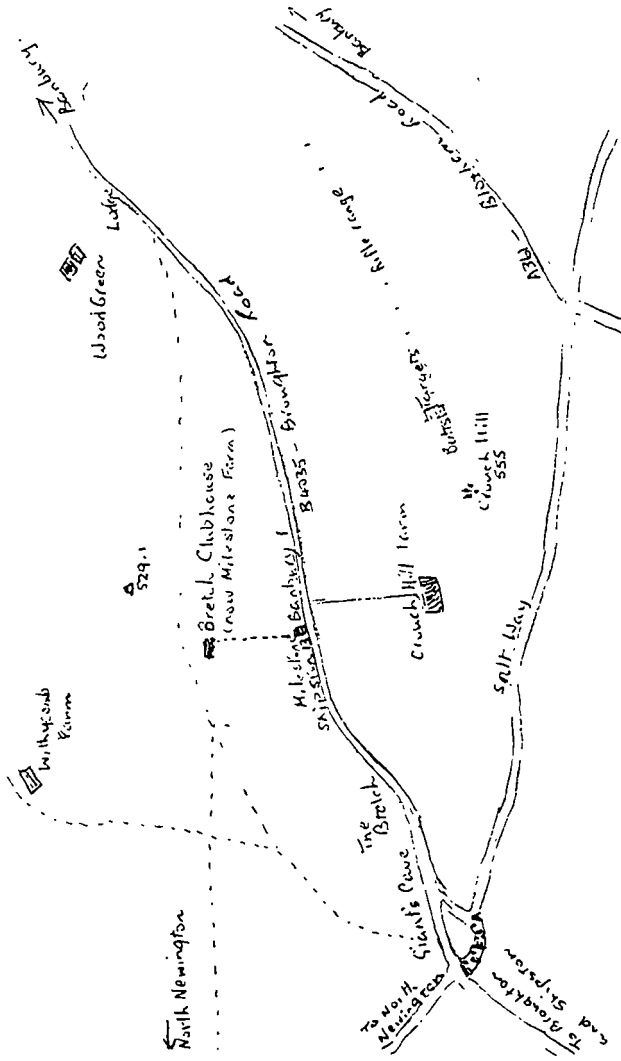
J.W. Prescott was an insurance broker. Still a family business, it recently celebrated its centenary under the management of his grandson, Patrick.

I.I. Webb-Bowen was manager of the Lloyds Bank branch in the High Street. Originally known as 'The Old Bank' it had been founded by Timothy Cobb in the year 1783. In 1825, one of Timothy's sons, George, built a lodge at Wigginton Heath crossroads, intending at a later date to build a mansion (sic) for his own occupation. In the same year, George planted the trees which have grown into a sizable spinney, still known by the older villagers in Wigginton as 'the plantation'. Most members would probably agree that the sight of these trees, in all seasons of the year, greatly adds to the pleasure of playing golf at Tadmarton Heath.

On the Bank's staff of 1904 was Walter Page, later to be a director and honorary treasurer of Tadmarton Heath. He caddied for Roger Wethered at the opening exhibition match in October 1922. Dan Pellatt's brother, Frank, caddied for Cyril Tolley. A photograph of the four men is on display in the clubhouse.

Rev. B.W. Bradford was the rector of Broughton. Several Committee meetings of the Syndicate were held at the rectory. The title deeds of the Bretch clubhouse property show that the rector was either the owner or a trustee for members of the Bradford family when the property was sold to Henry Busby in 1919.

His brother, Cyril Charles Bradford, who lived at the Rookery, Adderbury, was chairman of the Syndicate formed to purchase Holywell Farm. The brothers were two of the largest subscribers of shares in the new company. In 1989, C.C.'s grandson, Major C.R.W. Bradford, Coldstream Guards, attended a General Meeting held at the Clubhouse.



Map showing the site of Golf Course on the Broughton Road

Dr. A.T. Johns was a member of the Horse Fair surgery partnership later to be joined by Dr. Clive (Peter) Gardiner-Hill. A director of Tadmarton Heath.

Daniel Pellatt was a solicitor in partnership with his brother Frank. A pen portrait was given in the earlier article. A director of Tadmarton Heath.

No doubt thanks again to the energetic Mr. Prescott, the Banbury Guardian 1st September 1904 informs us:

"The new golf links on the Broughton Road are now ready for play. We should imagine that the links will be somewhat extensively patronised by golfers in this neighbourhood, and the charming situation ought to attract others who have not yet taken to the game. A feature of these links is that by the suitable formation of the ground, members will be able to play all the year round. A professional golfer from Oxford has been entrusted with laying them out and he has been most successful in his undertaking. The club room is only a modest affair, but this could be improved upon should the finances warrant it, as it is hoped they will, because a convenient club house goes a long way towards popularising a club of this character."

The following autumn the Banbury Guardian published an article by Cantab:

#### Golf in Banbury

"When are the citizens of Banbury going to 'wake up' and to realise that they have a charming golf course within easy reach of the town? Just past the first milestone on the Broughton Road the entrance to the links is reached. Turning to the right up a field, we find ourselves at the first tee near the humble cottage and barn which for the present is the headquarters of the Banbury and District Golf Club.

The budding golfer is somewhat daunted by discovering that his first drive, from the tee in the hollow, will have to clear a forbidding looking hedge, across the ridge in front, but this obstacle overcome, he finds himself on some of the highest ground round Banbury, from which he has some exquisite views of the country around Broughton and Tadmarton Heath, and on the right the Wroxton Woods which were but lately in their autumnal glory. The hole is 250 yards. The second hole is a short sporting one of about 112 yards, with the green lying in a natural (Spoon-shaped) hollow near a pond. The third lies along the ridge that slopes towards the village of North Newington and is about 330 yards in length - a good straight drive is very desirable here, as trouble lies to the right and the left. The 4th hole is 128 yards, and the drive from the teeing-ground is over the deep picturesque gorse-clad ravine and the field path which runs to North Newington. The green lies on sloping ground on the other side of a hedge which has also to be surmounted. This is a

'sporting' hole, inasmuch as a 'foozled' drive will land the player into fearsome country - many a topped ball, 'with a smile on its face', lies hidden among the whin bushes. The 5th hole (270 yards) takes the player along the sloping side of another ridge, at the end of which the green is reached. This is the furthest limit of the course. Turning towards the town again, the player faces the longest hole on the links (420 yards). The second shot is a 'death or glory' one over a ruined wall with broken, moss covered stones on the other side - as satisfactory a hazard as the most exacting golfer would wish. The 7th is 245 yards and known as 'Spion Kop' it lies along the right side of the projection named, the turf is exceeding good, and the green is near Wythecombe Wood. The 8th is a shortish one of about 160 yards, and involves a drive over a tall hedge and past some high trees. The green is one of the best on the course. The 9th and last is a kind of 'Scylla and Charybdis', 'Scylla' being an arable field out of bounds, and 'Charybdis' the pond mentioned above. The hole is 275 yards. About 80 yards from the tee in the direct line of the drive is a gate and a hedge, which has also to be cleared. The green - a good one - is near the hedge, which faces the club house.

Such is a very brief sketch of the course which was laid out over a year ago by Sherlock, professional of the Oxford University Golf Club. He has done his work with great judgement. The greens are natural and are gradually getting into good order. The Committee have been fortunate in their choice of ground. It is near the town. As already stated, it stands high: the air is pure and bracing, and the views are magnificent. Though only a year has elapsed since the club took possession of the course, some notable improvements have been effected. The greens have been surrounded by post and rails, rendering them safe from the invasion of cattle. They are under the constant supervision of a capable groundsman. With a larger membership, further improvements - especially in the club house accommodation - could easily be carried out. The present membership consists of 40 gentlemen and nine ladies. It is hoped that as the merits of the links become more widely known, the members will increase. Nowhere in the neighbourhood can golf be played at a more reasonable cost. The subscription for gentlemen is two guineas per annum and that for ladies one guinea. There is no entrance fee. The caddies' charge is 3d. per round of nine holes.

An inland course is an excellent training ground for beginners. So much has been written about golf as a physical and intellectual recreation that little needs to be said on this score. Its value lies in the fact that as



exercise it is a capital tonic for the tired brain and body, demanding a concentration of the faculties which for the time being shuts out all other mundane concerns; while it brings out some valuable moral qualities, among which patience and determination are perhaps the chief. The President of the club is Lord Algernon Gordon Lennox, while in Mr. J.W. Prescott, of 40 High Street, the club has an indefatigable and enthusiastic honorary secretary, to whose enterprise the present club largely owes its existence. We may add he will be glad to furnish all information to those - and we hope they will be many - who think of joining the club and indulging in the fascinations of the 'Royal Game'. We may state that there is a good stable and covered shed at the rear of the clubhouse, where players may place their conveyances."

Thanks to Cantab's most informative and readable article, there is little difficulty in sketching out a plan of the nine holes. In case anyone should wish to walk over the course, it should be mentioned that the pond by the 2nd green no longer exists. The appeal for new members cannot have met with much success as, when war broke out ten years later, there were still only a modest 54 male members. In considering these figures it has to be remembered that golf was not the sport of the masses as it is today. In many of the English Clubs, membership was largely the preserve of Oxbridge society. Even in the University City of Oxford, golf had such limited appeal that Frilford Heath and North Oxford Clubs were not instituted until 1908. Notwithstanding their small membership, Banbury engaged in fixtures with other Clubs and, as press reports show, not without some success.

B.G. 6th June 1907

Banbury Golf Club v North Berks

"The weather on Saturday afternoon interfered somewhat with the meeting of the above teams on the Banbury course, although otherwise the occasion was a very enjoyable one. Arriving at Banbury about 11 o'clock, the visitors were met at the station by the Banbury Secretary, Mr. J.W. Prescott, and they were conveyed to the links in a brake supplied by Mr. J.W. Bloomfield on the Red Lion Hotel, who also provided luncheon in the clubhouse. The result of the singles, which were played without any climatic interference before luncheon, was a win for Banbury by five to three with one halved.

Banbury was represented by Lord Algernon Gordon-Lennox, Mr. Hadland, Mr. Gillam, Mr. Robertson, Mr. Hannay, Mr. J.W. Prescott, Mr. Stone, Mr. Webb-Bowen, Mr. Maxwell and Mr. E.L. Fisher. North Berks arrived two men short, the intention being to play ten a side, so Mr. Maxwell acted as a substitute for the visitors which made the two sides level. During luncheon, over which Lord Algernon Gordon-Lennox presided, a heavy storm passed over the neighbourhood, and it was some time before the foursomes could be commenced,

and these were eventually checked by a second heavy downfall, though it should be stated that, as far as the games had gone, they were in favour of the visitors." Oxford Journal Illustrated Banbury G.C v Frilford Heath G.C.

9th March 1910

"The above photographs were taken on Saturday at Frilford Heath, which was the scene of an interesting golf match between the home club and Banbury Golf Club. Twelve a-side took part, the visitors arriving by motor car about 10am. The weather was ideal and the links in fine condition. Banbury were successful both in the singles and the foursomes; in the former they won by seven matches to five and the latter by a margin of two. About the most interesting encounter of the series, both in closeness of the match and in the quality of the play, was that by Mr. A.W. Greatbatch (Frilford) and Lord North's son (Banbury) who only won on the last green."

There are five photographs; Mr. Fisher (Banbury) driving; Mr. T Dickinson (Frilford) driving; The rival skippers - Mr. Prescott (Banbury) without cap, and Mr. D'Almaine (Frilford) watching the result of the latter's putt; Dr. Macan (Frilford) driving; Mr. Prescott (Banbury) putting.

[J.W. Prescott's grandson, Patrick, has most kindly presented to the club the family copy of this newspaper report]

Nothing of any importance appears to have happened in the years leading up to WW1. It is known that some bunkers were added to the course and doubtless the civilizing influence of the ladies would have led to improvements in the clubhouse and its facilities. But, as time went by, members must have been increasingly aware that there had arisen "a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand" - a little cloud that was gradually building up over Bretch into ominous storm clouds. Bernard Darwin, in his usual delightful way, explains in his book "British Golf" the nature of this happening.

"Here are two dates for every earnest student to remember since each marks the beginning of an epoch. They are 1848 and 1902. For untold years before 1848 the golf ball had been made of feathers tightly stuffed into a leather cover. In 1848 a new star arose to lighten the golfer's darkness, the star of gutta-percha. From that moment the feathery was doomed.

That was unquestionably a revolution but there was a still greater one in 1902, when the gutty was hurled from the throne... by the rubber-cored Haskell from America. Never was an overthrow more sudden and complete and how quickly it came I may illustrate by a mild story about myself. In May of 1902 I was setting out for the Amateur Championship at Hoylake when I met a friend at Euston who said, "Are you going to play with the new American ball?" and I had never heard of it and asked what it was. The final of the Open Championship was between two users of the Haskell, and its

fame soon spread abroad.

In the first few years of its existence..... the ball went farther but not enough to make fools of the courses. It was rather when golf began again after the 1914 war that the harm became apparent. The ball-makers concentrated more and more on one point, power; the new smaller and heavier ball they produced bored its way too easily through the wind and went too far. More and more lengthening (of golf courses), more and more space and so more and more money were wanted."

As the Bretch course measured under 2,200 yards, averaging out at 240 yards a hole, with hedges and gates as hazards, post war golfers would have regarded it as a relic of the past - of the days of the gutty, as indeed it was. This would have been especially so in the case of golfers such as Clive Gardiner-Hill and Beaumont Pease (Lord Wardington) who were now living in the neighbourhood. Both played off scratch and were members of prestigious clubs such as Royal Wimbledon. Golfers may like to know that Gardiner-Hill's brother, Harold, and Harold's son, Peter, were both destined to be captains of the Royal & Ancient, a rare family occurrence and honour. Beaumont Pease himself was captain of the R & A in 1931/32. Among his many golfing friends, he numbered the legendary figures of Joyce Wethered (Lady Heathcoat Amory) and Bobby Jones. Lord Wardington's son remembers how, when a child, he was woken up at night and brought downstairs to meet the great man, who was staying the night at Wardington Manor, so that in years to come he could say "I have shaken hands with Bobby Jones".

The Great War brought matters to a head. In March 1919, a meeting was held at which members decided to wind up the club. Although the Banbury Guardian does not say so in its report, we know from minutes (What joy, what rapture. Yes, Minutes!) of the Banbury & District Golf Club Syndicate that surplus funds were invested for use by the club when a suitable site for an 18 hole course could be found.

And although they did not know it, ahead lay Tadmorton Heath - the Promised Land.

J.S.W. Owen

#### Banbury and District Golf Club

##### POSTSCRIPT

These two articles have been written so that there might be some record of the Club's history from the date of its institution in 1894 to the date of its closure in 1919. A secondary object has been to bring out the ties between the Banbury Club and its successor, Tadmorton Heath.

When, after many comings and goings, the Syndicate was eventually able to complete the purchase of Holywell Farm in June 1921, the Banbury Golf Club members would, I believe, still have thought of it as the same Club - in the same way they had thought it the same Club when they had moved from Bodicote to Overthorpe and then to

Bretch. Most, if not all, of the directors of the Company, even to the present day, have lived in Banbury or surrounding villages. Cantab's article of 1905 is framed and kept in the Club Archives, as is a list of the 1914/15 members with names of the 1922/23 members on the reverse side.

The question arises as to why the Club did not retain the name of Banbury. Most Clubs that move do so, even if they move several miles. For example, York (1890) and Shrewsbury (1891) both moved to courses some five miles away, (Strensall and Conover respectively), but they retained their name of origin and date of institution. I cannot say whether members of Tadmerton Heath would wish to acknowledge their ties with the founding fathers of 1894 in the same way that the Light Infantry acknowledge their ties with the Volunteers, but, perhaps because I have lived for so long in the company of these figures from the past, I, for my part, would wish that it were so.

APPENDIX 1

The Editor,  
Country Life

Welbeck Woodhouse  
Worksop, Notts.  
10th June, 1971

Dear Mr. Adams,

Thank you very much for your letter. I saw the previous two photographs in Country Life figuring my father Lord Algernon Gordon-Lennox driving from Banbury station with King Edward VII. These were not quite correct and I thought of writing to you at the time, but did not bother as it is so long ago.

However, having received your letter enclosing the photograph I am very pleased to be able to help you.

I can identify everyone in it with the exception of one gentleman at the back. My father and mother, Lord and Lady Algernon Gordon-Lennox occupied the Castle for 16 years up to 1913.

Seated in front      Lord Lovat, myself, Mr. Gerard Moncreiffe  
left to right:

Seated                      My father Lord Algernon Gordon-Lennox  
left to right:              Lady Gerard, King Edward VII,

My mother Lady Algernon Gordon-Lennox  
Marques de Soveral

Back Row

left to right:              Mr George Cornwallis-West  
Mrs. George Cornwallis-West (formerly Lady  
Randolph Churchill mother of Sir Winston)  
Countess Howe, Sir Arthur Ellis, Countess  
Essex, Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild (who  
built Waddesdon Manor)  
Mrs. Hartman, Sir Allen Young, The Countess  
of Warwick, Sir Stanley Clarke, The Earl of  
Warwick.

I am afraid the Duke of Richmond would not know, as he was only born in 1904 and this photograph was taken about 1901.

Yours sincerely,

IVY PORTLAND

APPENDIX 2

Country Life - June 17, 1971

ROYAL WEEKEND

Sir,

In correspondence of October 15 last year you reproduced a photograph of King Edward VII driving en route from Banbury Station to Broughton Castle where he often visited Lord and Lady Gordon-Lennox.

The accompanying photograph was taken by my grandfather of King Edward VII, probably in the 1890s while he was still Prince of Wales, and some of his friends at Broughton Castle during one of his weekend visits. I would very much like to identify all of those in the group; some of them are known to us already - for instance, the little girl is now the Duchess of Portland. The figures in the middle row, apart from Edward VII, are thought to be, looking from left to right, Lord Algernon Gordon-Lennox, the Countess of Warwick, Lady Algernon Gordon-Lennox, and the Marques Soveral then Portuguese ambassador to this country. The Lions Club of Banbury are promoting a Son et Lumiere event at Broughton Castle, by kind permission of Lord Saye and Sele, on July 1, 2 and 3, and we wish to reproduce this photograph in the programme. Any information will be gratefully acknowledged.

Martin Blinkhorn

5 South Bar

Banbury Oxfordshire

APPENDIX 3

1914-1915

List of Members of the Banbury & District Golf Club

Ansell F.T.	Gillam R.S.	Phillipi A.H.R.
Brassey A.	Griffin J.E.	Robins J.L.
Barrows E.W.	Hadland J.W.	Samuelson E.A.G.
Braithwaite W.C.	Holland E.S.	Starkey Capt. J.H.
Barton W.J.	Hoskyns Sir Leigh. Bart.	Saville Rev. E.G.
Baldwin F.B.J.	Hunt J.	Thompson W.
Bush A.S.	Hunt R.G. Junr.	Wilks H.P.
Bloxham W.J.	Hyde J.D.	Whitty Rev. S.
Barton J. Junr.	Hyde J.D. Junr.	Wrigley E.G.
Braggins G.F.	Hodgkin G.	Yates Capt. S.P.
Chapman E.	Hawkins H.	
Chapman H.	Johns Dr. A.T.	
Crossley E.	Maxwell J.A.	
Cavers L.	Morris J.S.	
Edmunds M.	Morgan Rev.	
Fisher E.L.	North Hon. W.F.	
Fitzgerald F.	Pellatt D.M.	
Fairfax A.	Pellatt F.	
Fortescue E.C.	Prescott J.W.	
Fortescue C.L.	Prescott W.C.	
Fortescue C.W.	Page T.A.	
Gillett J.A.	Page W.G.	

### Notes and References

- P. 3 Reminiscences of Mrs Elsie Williams were from "Country Voices". Charles Kightly. Thames and Hudson 1984.
- P. 4 In the eighteen-nineties, few courses knew mowing machines except on the putting greens: the "through-the-green" was left to Providence.
- P.5 Mrs. Gladys Walker, a founder member of Tadmarton Heath, is the daughter of Edgar Chapman. Her son, Tony, is possibly the only member of Tadmarton Heath who is a direct descendant of the 1914-15 membership.
- p.7 Daisy, Countess of Warwick. She was a Beauty, a magic title of the time that conferred upon its bearer a public character. "Get up, Daisy," cried her mother when their ship docked after a particularly seasick crossing of the Irish Channel which had left her prostrate, "the crowd is waiting to have a look at you". The Countess of Warwick, "the prettiest married woman in London", was innamorata of the Prince of Wales and the cause of a famous fracas in which Lord Charles Beresford almost struck his future sovereign.  
The Proud Tower. Barbara Tuchman. Macmillan 1962.
- P.8 Recollections of Diana, Viscountess Gage, were from "The Country House Remembered". Edited by Merlin Waterson. Routledge & Kegan Paul 1985.
- P.9 Walter Page Times change .... In 1921, when Harold King journeyed from Brancaster to be interviewed at Tadmarton Heath for the post of professional, he was met at Banbury station by Bank manager Page - plus two bicycles!
- P.11. Spion Kop The battle of Spion Kop was fought in an attempt to raise the siege of Ladysmith. 23rd January 1900.
- P.13. "A little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand." 1.Kings.18.44
- P.13. The feather ball was a poor, perishable thing - cracking open and losing its "innards" when an iron hit its head, and going sodden-soft in the wet - whereas the "guttie" was waterproof, and would take a lot of walloping and come up smiling after all.  
The Game of Golf. Horace Hutchinson. The Lonsdale Library 1931.
- P.14. A Spalding Flite ball, used at the opening exhibition match at Tadmarton Heath, 14th October 1922, is on display in the Club's lounge.

### Sources

- Banbury Advertiser  
Banbury Guardian  
Victorian Banbury. Barrie Trinder. Banbury Historical Society. 1982.  
Burke's Peerage. Who's Who.  
Memoirs of Lady Ottoline Morrell, 1915-18. Robert Gathorne-Hardy. A.A. Knopf 1975.  
Solitary Wanderings by George Cobb. 1862.

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In particular, I should like to thank:

David Hitchcox, editor of *Cake and Cockhorse*, for his advice and guidance.

Julian Barbour, a former editor, for reading through the script and for his helpful suggestions.

Mrs and Mrs. John Adams, son-in-law and daughter of the late Mr and Mrs E.C. Fortescue.

Mrs. Sally Gardiner-Hill and especially for lending to me her husband's scrap-book, dating from his Cambridge days.

Lord Wardington

David King, for many years the professional at Tadmarton Heath.

His brother, Harold, was the Club's first professional.

Members of the Gordon-Lennox family.

Derrick Collier for obtaining "The Times" obituary of Lord Algernon.

Dr. P.G. Dickens for allowing me access to the archives of the Oxford University Golf Club and for placing at my disposal his delightful room at New College.

Members of staff at Banbury Library.

The Board of Directors of the Tadmarton Heath Golf Club Company for allowing me access to the Company's Minute Books.

Ron Wackrill, secretary/manager of the Tadmarton Heath Golf Club, and his assistant, Mrs. Margaret England. However busy they may have been, they always found time to help me with my enquiries.

The cast of "The Tales of Golf Clubs", the principal artistes being Bobby Burnet, historian of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, Laurence Viney, editor of the *Golfer's Handbook*, Richard Darlington - Aberdovey, John Adams - Huntercombe, Arthur Colver - Lindrick, Denis Vidler - Rye, Bunny Millard - Royal Wimbledon, Garnet Scott - Worcestershire Golf Club and John Pearson - York.

### ALL POWDER, MUSKET AND PIKE

The Banbury Historical Society's new season got off with a bang. Peter Dicks gave a graphic account of the Battle of Edge Hill, so graphic that you felt you had to be a pikeman, musketeer or member of the cavalry.

His opening foray was all about the King's mistakes. Quarrels with Parliament, the religious factor and ultimately the marriage of Charles and a French Catholic princess made civil war inevitable. That it erupted was down to the view that the King had evil advisers. The Charles standard was raised at Nottingham but few flocked to the cause. Only gradually did militia bands gain force and then chiefly by gathering up whatever weapons came to hand.

Though the members of both sides were markedly similar in appearance, key roles were strikingly different. Peter Dicks contrasted superior pikemen with lethal musketeers. Colour and sound were the order of

the day - trumpet, drum and flag.

The armies were bands of volunteers. Their tasks were to take up positions and haul the heavy guns. Their arena was an impoverished Warwickshire countryside inhabited by primitive folk. In their midst Rupert and Essex were fine contenders though neither had the ability to clinch the battle.

And so to his finale - by now blood and smoke. Amid the acrid confusion 1 in 10 died or were injured, perhaps 10,000 ran away. There was no winner and certainly not King Charles. If any gained it was the small boys who gathered up the cannon balls.

Soon it will be the 350th anniversary of the battle. There will be a feature series on television, Sealed Knot will re-live the experience and Leamington may say it with flowers - a floral tribute of crossed swords. And what will be left? Perhaps the greatest need of all, a map of allegiances within our local counties. I am sure Peter Dicks will lead the charge to achieve it.

B.Little.

#### REPORT OF BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OCTOBER MEETING

Gorgeous colours were the order of the evening when Vera Hodgkins spoke about Plush. Indeed who better to relate the story of its origins, growth and decline but a lady whose family totalled over 200 years of involvement.

The tale of girths, webbings and fine cloths begins in a Banbury dominated by its wool market and ends at Shutford shortly after the close of World War II. There is another sequence as well and that is from large firms like Cobbs to able entrepreneurs such as Thomas Wrench.

The 17th and 18th Century activity was located in Neithrop, Broad Street and Pepper Alley. By 1840 Shutford was home to 35 Plush weavers. Like the better known Yorkshire industry there was a transition from hand to power looms. The latter relied on Welsh coal from the Rhondda which was conveyed to Bloxham Station. there was an extensive market for Plush. Many of the world's past and famous dynasties benefitted from the products of local skill. Much cloth went to London and was even used to make gloves for athletes and to adorn the Heythrop Hunt. Plush was popular for all furnishings, especially curtains and table cloths. In the sunset years, Plush weaving had its characters and none more than a grand old man who at 90 went to work but slept through the day before returning home. It is memories like this that illuminate the history of local industry and remind us of a generation that is gone for ever.

Brian Little.



## THE BACKGROUND TO THE SURRENDER OF BANBURY'S CHARTER IN 1683; AND THE PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION OF THE BOROUGH, 1660-1698

In the early 1680's Charles II implemented a policy, that had its roots in the Corporation Act passed twenty years previously, designed to gain control of the membership of the (predominantly Whig) borough corporations, and thus influence the return of Members of Parliament. In most cases franchise of borough members was limited to members of the Corporation, and this was the case in Banbury, although this was to be a matter of dispute in 1681 and 1690. Charles II's campaign against the boroughs culminated in a legal victory against the powerful Whig Corporation of the City of London in June 1683, when under 'quo warrento' proceedings, it was successfully alleged, on trivial or trumped-up charges, that the Corporation had exceeded its powers and had therefore forfeited its charter. Judgement was entered against the City on 4th October 1683, and it was in the aftermath of this that Banbury, like many other boroughs, in November voluntarily surrendered its charter.

It is significant that amongst the chief Tory ministers of Charles II at this time and continuing under James II was Sir Francis North, who was appointed Lord Keeper of the Great Seal in 1682 and created Baron Guilford in 1683. Since his marriage in 1671/2 to Lady Francis Pope, daughter of Thomas Earl of Downe, his home had been at Wroxton Abbey. His younger brother Sir Dudley North had been closely involved in the campaign against the City of London Whigs, and in June 1682 his eventually successful nomination as a Sheriff of the City was an important victory for the King.

Banbury's Member of Parliament throughout Charles II's reign was Sir John Holman, baronet, second son of Philip Holman (d.1669) of Warkworth. Although his elder brother George, was a Roman Catholic convert, Sir John was a Presbyterian (he evidently conformed sufficiently to remain an M.P.) and doubtless was in sympathy with the puritan and Whig Banbury Corporation.

With the enforced replacement of the Charter the important proviso was added that the Crown had right of displacement of all Corporation members and senior officials. The extension of each of the seven fairs from one day to two, and of the jurisdiction of the Borough Justices of Peace over the whole of the Oxfordshire part of the parish, were small recompense for such a threat. However, for the time being, at least, all the former Corporation members were named Aldermen and Capital Burgesses again.

Of particular interest is the list of thirty Assistants attached to the Charter. Under the 1608 Charter (clause 15) not only were Chief Burgesses chosen from these Assistants, but they also had a voice in the election of the Mayor, together of course with Aldermen and Capital Burgesses, whom they out-numbered. It was by custom the Mayor who made the nominations for election to the Corporation (V.L.H.10, quoting Kent R.O., U.471 (1770)), thus in the long run

affecting its political make-up, which in turn was reflected in the choice of Member of Parliament. So the Assistants might have influence out of all proportion to their other activity or involvement in Corporation affairs. Unfortunately in the seventeenth century it is only in 1608 and 1683 that they are named. It is impossible to know whether the 1683 list was, like the Corporation members, unchanged. Amongst the local gentry included was Roger North, biographer brother of Tories Lord Guilford and Sir Dudley North. The political allegiances of the others (apart from Sir John Holman, who was presumably Whig) are unknown. It is intriguing that Samuel Irist, the Recorder, was specifically removed from the list of Assistants by royal command; and it is interesting that Bezaluel Knight (grandson of the William Knight who so dominated Banbury life earlier in the century), who still owned property in the town but was established in legal practice in London, should also be nominated. It is not clear if William Stokes was connected with the three brothers Henry, John and Charles, who were all members of the Corporation.

The first discernable affect of the new Charter is seen in 1688 at the general election following the accession of James II. Evidently the threat of displacement was sufficient to procure the election as Member of Parliament of the arch-Tory Sir Dudley North in place of Sir John Holman or any other Whig. Sir Dudley, 'the king's unofficial Chancellor of the Exchequer', chose to sit for Banbury where he later claimed, on account of the Guilford 'trust', 'he had a sure interest'. The threat of ejection was mollified by lavish entertainment of the Mayor and Corporation at Wroxton, where Roger North 'thought sack was the business and drunkenness the end', and finally 'dismissed them to their lodging in ditches homeward bound'.

Despite such apparent compliance, the Whig councillors failed to remain in favour, and November 1687 saw the summary removal from office of half of the Aldermen (including all three Justices), half the Chief Burgesses, the Town Clerk, and Philip Styles, a local lawyer who was an Assistant and later became Town Clerk himself. In February following the Mayor himself, four more Aldermen, and two more Burgesses, as well as Samuel Reynolds, the Chamberlain (already removed as an Alderman) and John Knight, an Assistant who was Vicar of Banbury, were likewise ejected. Of the Aldermen named in 1683, two had died and one retired. All the other nine had been ejected. Three of the 1683 Burgesses had thus become Aldermen, and of these only John Cave, who had been Mayor in 1686-7, escaped ejection. A further Burgess had died, and all four replacements were ejected. Of those, three had been Assistants in 1683, and included Joseph Mawle whose name had been specifically added by royal command. One of the two remaining Burgesses was also removed, leaving only Richard Crooke. Who were the replacements on this decimated Corporation? The new Mayor was John Austen, who doubled as Chamberlain - apparently no connection of three other John Austens who had served on the Corporation. At the Mayoral election in September 1688 he was succeeded by Nathaniel Wheatley, younger brother of the ejected Richard. Only five others are named then. John Youick, one of the

Neithrop farming family, was a maltster and was also Churchwarden. He had served as Tithingman and Constable in the early 1670s. Richard Gunn, another of the 1688 Corporation, was also a Neithrop yeoman. William Gulliver was a 'guilder'. John Bowers, also from Neithrop, was a Quaker. Of the only other (and first named), John Langston, nothing is known. These, then, were the 'Crown' replacements - none with any previous Corporation experience; and there is no mention of the two unpurged members. That this was a Corporation of Dissenters, enfranchised through King James's Toleration Acts, seems certain - a pattern repeated throughout the country.

In any case, all were to be swept away in their turn only a month later, when James II, as a final panic measure in an unavailing attempt to save his throne, abrogated all the newly issued charters and reinstated the ejected Corporation members. John West junior became Mayor again, and nearly all the old names reappeared, including Cave and Crooke.

At the 'Convention' parliamentary election of 1688/9, Sir Dudley North 'was obliged to retire'. In his place the Corporation chose Sir Robert Dashwood.

Dashwood was a newcomer to the Banbury area. Eldest son of George Dashwood, a very wealthy London merchant, he had married Penelope, the younger daughter of Sir Thomas Chamberlayne of Wickham in Banbury parish, in June 1682. Although Sir Thomas had died before the marriage took place, his will confirmed the terms of the marriage settlement, by which Dashwood and his wife inherited the Wickham estate and that of Northbrook (in the parish of Kirtlington), as well as other lands, on payment of £16,000 to the elder daughter. Heir too of his father George, who died in March 1682/3, he was immensely rich. Knighted, when still under 21, a week before his marriage, he was created a baronet in September 1684. From these marks of royal favour evidently a Tory, he was quick to desert James II at the Glorious Revolution. When William of Orange had landed at Torbay and ready money was in great demand, Dashwood was able to advance him £10,000, and it is recorded that at that time he was the only man in England that could produce that large sum. Although Dashwood was new to the Banbury area, his family had connections with the Norths, and it is interesting to speculate whether they may have influenced his marriage to the daughter of their neighbour at Wickham. Sir Dudley North, before his return to England in 1680 and subsequent close involvement in the Court party, had for twenty years been a highly successful Turkey merchant, being Treasurer of the Turkey Company in Constantinople. One of Robert Dashwood's half-uncles, Francis, was also a Turkey merchant, whilst Francis's son Sir Samuel Dashwood was, like Sir Dudley North, a member of the African Company. In contrast with other mercantile enterprises, in which Whigs predominated, this Company included prominent London merchants reputed to be attached to the Court interest.

Such was the background to Sir Robert Dashwood's choice as Member of Parliament for Banbury, whose representative he was to remain until 1698, although he chose to make his home at Northbrook in



SIR ROBERT DASHWOOD, BART.

Kirtlington rather than at Wickham.

As a postscript it is interesting to find John Austen and Nathaniel Wheatley, the Mayors of the replacement Corporation in 1688, heading petitions to Parliament in 1690 and 1691. They spoke for 140 'freemen and burgesses' who from ancient precedent claimed that all 'burgesses', not merely the Aldermen and Capital Burgesses that made up the Corporation were entitled to vote. The petitioners claimed that they had voted for one John Hawles, whilst Sir Robert Dashwood had been elected merely by ten of the Aldermen and Capital Burgesses. However the House of Commons decided against the petitioners, and the franchise remained with the Corporation alone. It is impressive that as many as 140 'burgesses' were wanting to vote against Dashwood, and tantalising not to know quite what John Hawles stood for. Dashwood himself appears to have been a Tory, though elected by a formerly Whig Corporation. It seems unlikely that John Austen and Nathaniel Wheatley were Tories. The alternative is that they were Presbyterian - Wheatley's son William, a schoolmaster at Calthorpe House, certainly was - and supporters of James II's because of the Declaration of Indulgence, which suspended the penal laws not only against Roman Catholics but also against Dissenters. The Quaker Sir William Penn was a supporter of James II for just this reason. This would lend credence to their fellow-councillor John Bowers being a Quaker, and also perhaps account for the large body of support in puritan Banbury for John Hawles.

But this is only speculation. The affairs of the Corporation itself for the next 25 years are extremely confused, with records almost totally wanting, and evidence of bitter conflict between Whigs and Tories, 'non-juring party' and supporters of the Hanoverian dynasty, which culminated in the forfeiture of the Charter of 1717 and the granting of a replacement in 1718. But that is another story.

J.S.W. Gibson

#### Corporation members in 1683-4

Aldermen		Ejected
James West	(J.P.) Died September 1684	
Samuel Rennolls [Reynolds]	(J.P.)	Nov.1687
William Hawtaine	(J.P.)	Nov.1687
Richard Wheatly (Mayor)	(J.P. in 1687)	Nov.1687
Samuel Hall	Retired 1684	
Andrew Harvey		Nov. 1687
Henry Stokes		Nov.1687
John Welchman		Feb.1687/8
John Stokes		Nov.1687
John West senior		Feb.1687/8
Thomas Sutton	Died April 1685	
John Allington		Feb.1687/8

**Capital Burgesses, subsequently Aldermen**

John West junior	Mayor 1687-8	Feb.1687/8
John Cave	Mayor 1686-7	
Charles Stokes		Feb.1687/8

**Capital Burgesses**

Samuel West		Nov.1687
John French	Died July 1684	
Richard Crooke		

**Subsequent Capital Burgesses**

Edward Rennolds	Elected 1684	Nov.1687
Andrew Smith	Elected 1685	Feb.1688
Joseph Maule	Elected 1685	Feb.1688
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## BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Banbury Historical 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 and 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. Well over one hundred issues and approaching three hundred articles have been published. Most back issues are still available and out-of-print issues can if required be photocopied.

Publications still in print include:

- Old Banbury - a short popular history*, by E.R.C. Brinkworth.
- The Building and Furnishing of St. Mary's Church, Banbury.*
- The Globe Room at the Reindeer Inn, Banbury.*

Records series:

- Wigginton Constables' Books 1691-1836* (vol. 11, with Phillimore).
- Banbury Wills and Inventories 1591-1650*, 2 parts (vols. 13, 14).
- Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart* (vol. 15).
- Victorian Banbury*, by Barrie Trinder (vol. 19, with Phillimore).
- Aynho: A Northamptonshire Village*, by Nicholas Cooper (vol. 20).
- Banbury Gaol Records*, ed. Penelope Renold (vol. 21).
- Banbury Baptism and Burial Registers, 1813-1838* (vol. 22).

Current prices, and availability of other back volumes, from the Hon. Secretary, c/o Banbury Museum.

In preparation: Lists of Tudor and Stuart Banbury Taxpayers, including the May 1642 subsidy for the Hundreds of Banbury, Bloxham and Ploughley (mentioning almost as many names as the Protestation Returns of a few months earlier, for which the Banbury Borough and Ploughley Hundred returns do not survive). Others planned: Selected years from Rusher's *Banbury List and Directory*, 1795-1880; Letters to the 1st Earl of Guilford (of Wroxton, father of Lord North, Prime Minister and M.P. for Banbury); News items for the Banbury area from Jackson's *Oxford Journal* (from 1752) and the *Oxford Mercury* (1795-6); and Selections from diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington 1836-1848.

Meetings are held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 p.m. at the North Oxfordshire Technical College, Broughton Road, Banbury, on the second Thursday of each month. Talks are given by invited lecturers on general and local historical, archaeological and architectural subjects. In the summer, the AGM is held at a local country house and other excursions are arranged.

Membership of the Society is open to all, no proposer or seconder being needed. The annual subscription is **£8.00** including any records volumes published, or **£5.00** if these are not required.

Application forms may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, c/o Banbury Museum, 8 Horsefair, Banbury, Oxon. OX16 0AA.

