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Cake and Cockhorse

The magazine of the Banbury Historical Society, issued three times a year.

Volume 17

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Ranging from 2000BC to the 21st century, who can say that *Cake & Cockhorse* does not attempt to cover the whole range of civilised history.

As Catherine Robinson tells us, but who would guess, a unique turf labyrinth, the only one of a 15-ring classical layout, dating back centuries, lies in the parish of Somerton, only just down the road. Coming back to the present, Brian Goodey opens our eyes to the origins and special features of Banbury's eastern suburb of Grimsbury, long neglected if not despised.

The second (concluding) part of the list of Banbury wills proved in the P.C.C., 1800-1858, provides important sources for researchers into Banbury's hierarchy in that time of great change. These come from The National Archives website, where in theory they should be easily found - but only if you know what name(s) to look for. New to the internet, we thought we had better check the reference so blithely provided in the last issue. We're relieved to find that the information given was correct, and thus we now possess a facsimile of the will of our 3gts grandfather Edward Stone, a Quaker grocer who died in 1808. He "was very clever and much noted for his cure of eyes, though no Doctor, and one room in his house [in High Street] was called the surgery and people came to him for treatment" [unpublished memoirs of Eleanor Stone, 1882].

Early Victorian Squarson: The Diary of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington, 1835-1848, is at last available. Hot on its heels is coming *Banbury Past through Artists' Eyes*, our 50th Anniversary publication (October). Many of its illustrations (200 in all) show buildings long gone. The current demolition of Neithrop House (against the advice of CDC's own officers and many other bodies) shows that nothing changes. Information from the Membership Secretary, Banbury Civic Society, Pitts Orchard, Station Road, Bloxham, Banbury OX15 4QG (tel. 01295 722925).

Cover: A classical labyrinth.

TROY TOWNS AND TURF LABYRINTHS: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Catherine Robinson

A traveller on the road between Ardley and Somerton in north Oxfordshire might idly wonder why a prominent house half-way along the route is named Troy Farm – without ever suspecting that opposite the house, on private land hidden behind trees, lies the only 15-ring classical turf labyrinth extant in Britain. The accidental discovery of this fact has led me on a long and meandering journey of research which is still far from complete. I hope that this account of the journey so far will prompt others to contact me with their own ideas and comments.

First, a definition: although the two terms ‘maze’ and ‘labyrinth’ are often used interchangeably, this article is concerned with unicursal (single-path) labyrinths, rather than multicursal mazes. The former consist of a spiral path, leading from the entrance to the centre and out again without any junctions; the latter offer a choice of paths, incorporating blind alleys and trick corners. Puzzle mazes, as a form of fashionable garden ornament, spread to England in the sixteenth century from Italy, where they were created as amusements for rich landowners. Labyrinths have altogether more ancient origins.

A brief history

Classical seven-ring labyrinths (Figure 1) date back at least 4000 years. As symbols carved in rock, or patterns marked out on the ground in stones or turf, their remains have been traced in places as diverse as pre-conquest Arizona, India, Egypt, Greece, Turkey, and northern Europe. Of the 500+ stone-lined labyrinths that survive in Scandinavia, Fisher and Gerster¹ assume that at least twenty could date from the Bronze Age, although most are post-medieval. The earliest dateable example in Scandinavia was created c.815 in Uppland, Sweden.

It is generally estimated that England once had more than 100 turf labyrinths. Of these, only seven survive to this day (see Appendix I for details), although records exist for at least another 29 (Appendix II).

¹ Fisher, Adrian and Georg Gerster, *The Art of the Maze*, London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1990.

The Romans adapted ancient labyrinth symbols and incorporated them into complex decorative patterns on mosaic floors. The standard Roman pattern was Christianised by the medieval Church. Medieval labyrinths, laid out on church floors and village greens, had eleven rings rather than seven, and a characteristic cruciform design (see Figure 2). According to Fisher and Kingham,² ‘It is probable that the Christian church, faced with a deeply rooted tradition of pagan turf mazes, simply replaced them with their own more acceptable form and allowed their use to continue with the blessing of the church.’ It is thought by some that labyrinths, traversed on the knees, were used for ritual penance or even as pious substitutes for pilgrimage to the Holy Land during the Crusades.



Figure 2: A typical Christian labyrinth

By the late sixteenth century in England, the religious significance of village-green labyrinths seems to have been forgotten, and they featured in popular festivities such as maypole dancing and ‘maze running’, in which young men would compete in a race to the centre, where a young maiden stood waiting to be claimed. Many turf labyrinths were lost during the enclosure of common land, and almost all of those that remained fell into disuse during the years of the Puritan Commonwealth (1649–1659),

² Fisher, Adrian and Diana Kingham, *Mazes*, Princes Risborough: Shire Publications, 1991.

when such folk customs were forbidden. Obviously, unless a turf labyrinth is regularly maintained, it will soon be obliterated ('the quaint mazes in the wanton green for lack of tread are undistinguishable' – Titania, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act 2, Scene 1). But the customs and beliefs associated with those that remain are remarkably persistent: W.H. Matthews³ recorded that villagers living near the Fairies' Hill labyrinth in Asenby, Yorkshire, told him in 1908 that they used to tread the labyrinth on summer evenings and kneel at the centre 'to hear the fairies singing'.

Troy Farm, Somerton, Oxfordshire

As mentioned, one of the seven extant turf labyrinths in England is in Oxfordshire, on land belonging to Troy Farm in the village of Somerton (Anglo-Saxon 'Sumortun' = a farm used in summer). According to the *Victoria County History* (vol. 6), 'Troy Farm dates from the sixteenth century, probably built on the site of the manor house known as "Somertons", which belonged to the fifteenth century Aston family'.

The Somerton labyrinth (Figure 3), still in excellent condition, measures 60 ft x 50 ft. According to Harrington,⁴ its full length is approximately a quarter of a mile, and its turf path is one foot wide. It is the only 15-ring classical turf labyrinth known in Britain. Sherwood and Pevsner⁵ date its origins to the sixteenth century, but there are reasons to believe that it is much older than that, even if one does not accept the theory of Mr and Mrs R. Hall, the owners of Troy Farm in the 1970s, advanced in a pamphlet quoted by Harrington:

The weight of opinion inclines to the view that such a maze is a legacy of Roman occupation and was cut by Roman colonists to play The Troy Game, 'Iulus'. The Roman Road, Portway, passes nearby.

This supposition echoes a confident statement by E. Carleton Williams, in *Companion into Oxfordshire*, cited uncritically by Gelling,⁶ to the effect that the Somerton labyrinth was 'cut by Roman colonists to play the Troy

³ Matthews, W. H., *Mazes and Labyrinths: A General Account of their History and Development* (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1922; reprinted by Dover Publications in 1970).

⁴ Harrington, Frank, article about the 900th anniversary of St James' church, Somerton, in *The Advertiser*, 25 July 1974 (filed in ORCC 100)*.

⁵ Sherwood, J. and N. Pevsner, *The Buildings of Oxfordshire*, New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1974.

⁶ Gelling, Margaret, *The Place Names of Oxfordshire*, Oxford: OUP, 1953.

Game *Lusus Trojae*, which they had enjoyed as youths in the Circus Maximus in Rome'. For reasons explored in the next section, I doubt the almost universal claim that the name Troy Town, commonly associated with labyrinths, had anything at all to do with the ancient city of Troy.



Figure 3: *The Troy Farm labyrinth, Somerton, Oxfordshire*

Leaving aside a local tradition quoted by Barnes⁷ that the Somerton labyrinth was cut by a shepherd on open common land, I suspect that more reliable clues to the date of the Somerton labyrinth might be suggested by the fact (recorded in the VCH) that the lordship of Somerton had been held before the Norman conquest by Ketel, a Dane; or else by the fact (noted by Pennick)⁸ that in the eleventh century Somerton belonged to Bishop Odo of Bayeux, where there is still a pavement labyrinth inside the cathedral.

As for the survival of the Somerton labyrinth into the present day, it may be explained by the fact (noted by Harrington) that the village was always strongly High Church and royalist – tendencies which might have protected the labyrinth during the depredations of the Puritan years. Certainly, according to Hutchison,⁹ folk customs such as maypole dancing, with a May King, May Queen, May Garland, and May Doll, were still faithfully observed there in the mid-twentieth century; the VCH

⁷ Barnes, W.G., Letter to *Country Life*, 7 December 1929*.

⁸ Pennick, Nigel, *Mazes and Labyrinths*, London: Robert Hale, 1990.

⁹ Hutchison, G.M., Manuscript account of May Day Ceremonies in Somerton (filed in ORCC 100), 1959.*

too records a vigorous tradition of morris dancing in the village, including an old dance called 'Shepherd's Hey'.

In the now-lost hamlet of Saxenton in the parish of Bucknell, approximately 2½ miles south-east of Troy Farm on a direct footpath, lies a pond named *Trow Pool* on modern OS maps, but *Troy Pool* on Davis's map of 1797. Nearby are Trowpool Lane and Trowpool Spinney. Margaret Gelling would presumably derive these names from OE 'treow' = tree, as she does with the name of the town of Trowbridge. But the nearby location of the Troy Farm labyrinth, and also Troy Lane in Kirtlington, might suggest a different derivation, and a reference in Kennett's *Parochial Antiquities* of 1695 to 'a ground called the Ball-Yards' in Saxenton might even suggest that the hamlet once had a labyrinth-turned-pleasure-ground of its own.

Troy Towns

John Wall, one of the more scholarly writers on the subject of labyrinths, states: 'About 40 of the 110 or so known or conjectured sites of British turf mazes carry the title "Troy's Walls" or "Troy Town"'.¹⁰ Unlike most of the popular or esoteric works on the subject, Wall's article for *Lincolnshire Past and Present* does not attempt to make a link with the legend of the Minotaur in the labyrinth at Knossos in Crete. He merely notes the existence of an Etruscan vase on which is depicted a classical labyrinth with the inscription TRUIA ('Troy'); and cites without enthusiasm a fifteenth-century reference to Troy Town (in the 'Voyage d'Oultremere en Jherusalem') as a title for the Cretan labyrinth.

Although it is tempting to suppose that in popular legend the walls of the city of Troy were constructed in such a confusing and complex way that any enemies who entered them would be unable to find the way out, I find it hard to accept a Mediterranean origin for a name that is found all over northern Europe, even as far as Poland and Russia. Common Scandinavian names include *Trojaborg*, *Trojeborg*, *Trojenborg*, *Trojn*, and *Tröborg*. Alone among commentators, Nigel Pennick¹¹ offers an etymological explanation: 'troy', he claims, is cognate with Old German *drajan*, Gothic *thravian*, Celtic *troian*, Anglo-Saxon *thrawen*, Dutch *draien*, and Swedish *dreja*, all meaning *to turn*. Cornish *tro* or *troyow*

¹⁰ Wall, J. 'Lincolnshire turf mazes and associated sites', *Lincolnshire Past and Present* vols. 10/11 and 12, 1993 (kept in the Mazes file at Oxfordshire Studies, Westgate Library)*.

¹¹ As footnote 8, page 74.

denotes a circular or twisting shape. Do the name 'Troy' and its variants refer to the twists and turns of the classical labyrinth design? The Welsh word for labyrinth, *caerdroia*, means 'city of turns' or 'castle of turning'. A 19-ring labyrinth at Stolp in Poland was known variously as 'Winding Path' or 'City of Winding'.

Additional evidence comes from a surprising range of sources. Blomfield, in his *History of the Deanery of Bicester*,¹² says that Scottish children trace mazes on sandy beaches and play a game called 'The Walls of Troy'. Miss M. Courtney, writing in *Folklore Journal*,¹³ says 'All intricate places in Cornwall are called Troy Town. ... Nurses say to children when surrounded by a litter of toys that they look as though they were in Troy Town.' A Manx website¹⁴ translates 'a Troy-Town' as a state of untidiness and confusion, as in 'Her house is a proper Troy-Town', and 'The flood left a regular Troy-Town after it.' An etymological explanation seems far more convincing than fanciful associations with the Minotaur of Knossos, or the *Lusus Trojae* played by Roman youths in the Circus Maximus.

Before leaving the subject of Troy Towns, I cannot resist noting a reference to not one but two turf labyrinths, now lost, on Bullingdon Green in Cowley, about four miles east of Oxford. Herbert Hurst, a Victorian historian writing in 1884, noted in the second edition of his book *Rambles and Rides Around Oxford*:

There were cut in the turf of Bullingdon, in two separate spots, mazes formed of a pathway, about 20 inches wide, and spaces of six inches; they were very simple in their construction, and alike in the tortuous arrangement; circular in outline. The names given were Tarrytowns, or Troytowns. Why 'towns' no one pretended to say.

The VCH makes no mention of these labyrinths, but tells us that Bullingdon Green was a large common pasture, dating from the Middle Ages, and that popular tradition alluded to the existence of a lost village and castle there. It seems that the labyrinths were destroyed when the Cowley Barracks were built in 1876, as too was a rectangular earthwork near the Roman road, which I suppose might have been the actual site of the labyrinths.

¹² Blomfield, J.C., *History of the Deanery of Bicester, Part IV: Middleton and Somerton*, 1888, pp.101-102. *

¹³ Courtney, M., *Folklore Journal*, vol. 5 (n.d.). *

¹⁴ www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook

Julian's Bower

Another common name for turf labyrinths is *Julian's Bower*, sometimes appearing in corrupted forms such as *Gillian's Bore*, *Geylan Bower*, *St Julian's*, *Julaber's Barrow*, and even *July Park* (see Appendix II). Fisher and Gerster¹⁵ note also *Den Julianske Borg* in Orsta, Norway.

No entirely convincing explanation has been offered, although W.R. Lethaby¹⁶ noted: 'In the reign of Commodus [Emperor of Rome from 180 to 192], Q. Julius Miletus built a labyrinth as an institution for the amusement of the people'. Most commentators take a view similar to that of Bendixon and Lattey,¹⁷ who say that the name Julian's Bower 'suggests an association with Julius, the son of Aeneas, who was present at the siege of Troy'. The eighteenth-century antiquarian William Stukeley seems to be ultimately responsible for this fanciful theory. He noted in his *Itinerarium* that many places called Julian's Bower were located near Roman sites, where (he supposed) complex cavalry manoeuvres, introduced by Julius Caesar, resembled mazes; but he also offered an alternative explanation, noting that Virgil's *Aeneid* tells how after the fall of Troy Aeneas founded a Trojan settlement at Latium, where his son Iulus led a riding display by cavalymen in training, known as the *Ludus Trojiae*. Thus Stukeley tied together the names Troy Town and Julian's Bower in one neat theory. John Wall comments dryly that Stukeley 'uncritically accepted legend as history' – but Stukeley is by no means the only writer on labyrinths to do so.

An equally likely explanation, perhaps, derives from the semi-legendary life of Saint Julian, who was immensely popular in the Middle Ages as the patron saint of travellers, innkeepers, and pilgrims. His life story is told in a medieval French poem, *La Vie de Saint Julien*, found in ARSENAL MS 3516, folio 84, dated 1286, and available in an English translation on the Internet.¹⁸ This epic tells the convoluted story of the twists and turns of Fate that led the pious Julian to build a shelter (a bower?) for benighted travellers. Is it possible that the medieval Church employed popular labyrinths to enact the story of this exemplar of selfless obedience? It would be interesting to look for correlations between the recorded sites of lost labyrinths and field names such as 'The Bowery'.

¹⁵ As footnote 1, page 70.

¹⁶ Lethaby, W.R., *Architecture. Mysticism and Myth*, 1892. Full text at www.sacred-texts.com/earth/amm/amm10.htm

¹⁷ Bendixon, E.E. and R.T. Lattey, *Top. Oxon.*, No. 2, Spring 1959*.

¹⁸ www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/julian.html

The labyrinth at Piddington, Oxfordshire

As it happens, there is a small field called ‘The Bowery’ half a mile south-east of Piddington (itself south-east of Bicester), a village where the existence of a long-lost labyrinth has been recorded. Tempting though it is to assume that this field was the site of the labyrinth, there is an even stronger contender on the summit of Muswell Hill, which rises to nearly 400 feet, one mile south of Piddington. According to the Boarstall Cartulary, in the early twelfth century a certain Ralph founded a hermitage in the manor of Piddington at a place called Musewell. (I am indebted to Ian Costar of Ludgershall for this information.) Did the hermit create a labyrinth inside the ramparts of the earthwork that is still visible today on the summit of Muswell Hill? The flat space inside the ramparts, some 250 ft square, bears the traditional name ‘The Wilderness’.

According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, a particular usage of the word ‘wilderness’ once denoted ‘a piece of ground laid out in an ornamental or fantastic style, often in the form of a maze or labyrinth’. The first recorded usage of ‘wilderness’ in this sense is relatively late – 1644, in connection with a horticultural type of maze – but, to quote W. H. Matthews,¹⁹ writing of the Piddington turf labyrinth, ‘it is not improbable that it was used in connection with mazes in general’. One might even surmise that an owner of Muswell Hill Manor in the seventeenth or eighteenth century appropriated and prettified a much more ancient structure. But how ancient? Is it possible that the medieval name ‘Musewell’ was a corruption of an earlier form, namely ‘Mazewell’, referring back perhaps to a pagan site? Unfortunately the OED does not record any use of the word ‘maze’ before 1385, so presumably the derivation proposed by Gelling and Cole²⁰ is correct: ‘a mossy or boggy spring’. How easy it is to get carried away when studying mazes and labyrinths!

Postscript: ‘Jericho’ labyrinths

Some labyrinths in northern Europe bore (or still bear) the names of famous cities, such as Jericho, Babylon, and Nineveh. Fisher and Loxton²¹ conjecture a resemblance between the rings of a labyrinth and

¹⁹ As footnote 3, page 73.

²⁰ Gelling, Margaret and Ann Cole, *The Landscape of Place-Names*, Stamford: Shaun Tyas, 2000.

²¹ Fisher, Adrian and Howard Loxton, *Secrets of the Maze*, London: Thames and Hudson, 1997.

the biblical story of the Israelites circling the walls of Jericho. Nigel Pennick²² mentions a ninth-century manuscript which shows Jericho located within a labyrinth, and an eleventh-century Syrian manuscript depicting the seven walls of Jericho as a labyrinth.

Space does not permit a detailed discussion of this question, but the temptation to assume a now-lost labyrinth in the north Oxford suburb of Jericho is irresistible. The usual explanation for the name is that it signifies remoteness, but the neighbourhood is not particularly remote – less than one mile – from the city wall in the old Northgate Hundred. According to Hibbert,²³ the name was actually taken

from Jericho Gardens, which lay to the west of the Radcliffe Infirmary when the hospital opened in 1770. These were mentioned as early as 1688 by [the diarist] Anthony Wood. At that time an inn named Jericho stood near the site of the present public house, Jericho House.

It must be admitted that the name ‘Jericho Gardens’ could have signified the existence of market gardens (in an area just south of ‘Cabbage Hill’, now Kingston Road) – but why ‘Jericho’? It seems at least possible that the name referred to a pleasure ground that had developed on the site of an ancient turf labyrinth. This theory, however, must be the subject of further research. Meanwhile, I would be interested to receive information about any turf labyrinths, lost or extant, in Oxfordshire.²⁴

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Deborah Hayter, an inspiring teacher, for her encouragement. This essay began life as a 1,000 word assignment for her course on the Making of the English Landscape at the Oxford University Department of Continuing Education.

** against footnote, consulted at the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies, Westgate Library, Oxford*

Websites:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Troy_Town

www.crystalinks.co.80/labyrinths2.html

www.beakman.com:80/contour/edkins_maze

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labyrinth>

www.indigogroup.co.uk:80/edge/Mazes

www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/julian.html

²² As footnote 8, page 74.

²³ Hibbert, C. and E. Hibbert, *The Encyclopedia of Oxford*, Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1988.

²⁴ 12 Hayfield Road, Oxford OX2 6TT.

Appendix I: Extant turf labyrinths in England

<i>County</i>	<i>Nearest settlement</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Design type and date if known</i>
Cambs.	Hilton	Hilton Maze	Christian, dated 1660
Essex	Saffron Walden	Town Maze	Christian, medieval, re-cut 1699
Hampshire	Breamore	Mizmaze	Christian, re-cut 1783
	Winchester	Mizmaze	Christian, recorded 1710
Lincolnshire	Alkborough	Julian's Bower	Christian, possibly 13 th century
Oxfordshire	Somerton	Troy Farm	Classical
Rutland	Wing	The Old Maze	Christian
Yorkshire	Dalby/Brandsby	City of Troy	Classical

(Photographs of all these sites can be seen at www.indigogroup.co.uk:80/edge/Mazes)

Appendix II: 29 lost English mazes of which records exist

<i>County</i>	<i>Nearest settlement</i>	<i>Name if known</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Cumbria	Brougham	Julian's Bower	
	Rockcliffe Marsh	Walls of Troy	
Dorset	Bere Regis		
	Dorchester	Troy Town	
	Leigh		<i>Sited on an earthwork</i>
Glos.	Pimperne	Troy Town	<i>Recorded 1686, destroyed 1730</i>
	Chipping Campden		
	Wyck Rissington		<i>Christian processional maze, incorporating 15 Mysteries of the Gospels</i>
Kent	Chilham	Julaber's Barrow	
	Walmer	Troy Town	<i>On the coast</i>
	Westerham	Troy Town	
Lincolnshire	Horncastle	Julian's Bower	<i>Numerous Roman relics</i>
	Louth	Julian's Bower	
Northants.	Boughton Green	Shepherd's Race	<i>In use since 1353 at least</i>
Northumbd	Carvoran	Julian's Bower	
Notts.	Clifton	Shepherd's Race	
	Sneinton	Robin Hood's Race	<i>Christian design</i>
	Bullington Green	Tarrytowns/Troytowns	
Oxfordshire	Piddington	Muswell Hill	
	Tadmarton Heath		
	Guildford	Troy Town	
Surrey	Guildford	Troy Town	
Wiltshire	Trowbridge		
Yorkshire	Appleby	Troy's Walls	
	Asenby	Fairies' Hill	<i>Sited on an earthwork</i>
	Egton near Whitby		
	Goathland	July Park	
	Holderness	Walls of Troy	<i>Christian design</i>
	Marfleet, Hull	Walls of Troy	
	Ripon Common		

(Main source: 'Turf mazes and associated sites' by John Wall, Lincolnshire Past and Present, vols. 10/11 and 12, 1993 – kept in 'Mazes' file at Oxfordshire Studies, Westgate Library.)

GRIMSBURY CONSERVATION AREA: EXPLORING THE FAÇADE OF FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETIES

Brian Goodey

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On the 8th January 2007, Cherwell District Council approved parts of Grimsbury, the eastern inner suburb of Banbury, as a Conservation Area.¹ Such designation brought public and official attention to an area of nineteenth century housing which, with varied social perceptions, has long provided a first step on the local housing ladder.

Earlier, two authors writing of Oxfordshire, had put the area firmly in place. Frank Emery² on Banbury, ‘... it grew to be a Victorian manufacturing town of the familiar Midland kind ... as its townscape still testifies’ and Sherwood & Pevsner³ on Grimsbury, ‘a suburb laid out in the second half of the C19 with red brick terraced cottages of the most dismal kind.’

As is evident in the latter quotation, Pevsner’s ‘Buildings of England’ series established and maintains the battleground between ‘architecture’ (the cathedral) and a mere ‘building’ (the bicycle shed ... or, in this case, Grimsbury). The latter receive short shrift and Grimsbury, as architecture, has hardly roused even the local enthusiast.

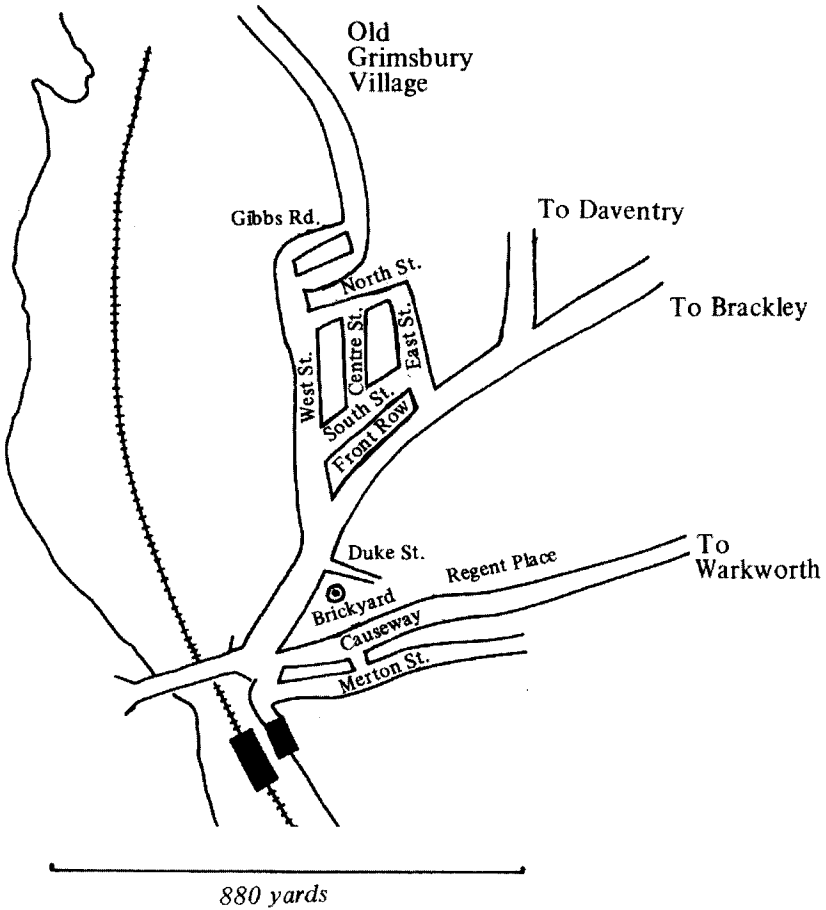
Confirmed as ‘on the wrong side’ by the nineteenth century tracks, Grimsbury has, of course, been extended in several directions with new homes applied to the current (2006 on) Cattle Market site development.

Any association of buildings is identified and estimated at various levels, from dismissive generalisations, to the weaving of stories around every door, post and gap by those who daily pass by, or live there. The

¹ Cherwell D.C.: Grimsbury Conservation Area Appraisal: Consultation Draft, Sept. 2006. p.9; (On Line) Retrieved 7:II:2007 from <http://www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk/talktous/publications.cfm/publication/778/>

² Emery, Frank: *The Oxfordshire Landscape*, London: Hodder & Stoughton – The Making of the English Landscape, 1974, p.199.

³ Sherwood, Jennifer & Pevsner, Nikolaus: *The Buildings of England: Oxfordshire*, London: Penguin (1990 edn), p.444.



The growth of Grimsbury. 1850-1880.
(from Barrie Trinder, *Victorian Banbury*, BHS 19, 1982)

estate agent prospectus of Grimsbury as a 'new Jericho' (referring to the Oxford canal-side community endowed by industry, the OUP, Thomas Hardy and Morse) may never be realised but, as everywhere, there is history, less in buildings than in the residents and passers by.

By origin, however, the core of the newly emerging Grimsbury indicates a significant democratic movement, which seems increasingly distant in an age where the right to vote is hardly recognised as an asset.

'Only in Britain did the great events of 1846 fail to inspire mass uprising. In E.P. Thompson's hopeful phrase, Great Britain "trembled on the brink of Revolution". However, in spite of this exaggerated view of events, it did not happen'.⁴

What did happen was a quiet, largely middle-class, progress towards wider political involvement, which, in country towns, was reflected in property.

The development which most epitomised the ethos of Liberal Banbury was New Grimsbury, originally called Freetown. Early in 1851 an audience of 300 heard James Taylor of Birmingham lecture in Banbury on Freehold Land Societies. Taylor was a disciple of the Unitarian minister George Dawson, and a zealous crusader for working-class self-help. The principle of a freehold land society was that members should subscribe to buy land at wholesale prices, and distribute building plots among themselves at the same price. By creating freeholds, such societies extended the franchise in county constituencies, but Taylor denies that such consequences had a party objective.⁵

The purpose of this paper, which was largely prepared in report form as part of the documentation for Conservation Area designation, is to begin to uncover the Freehold movement and to illustrate Banbury's place in a national wave of home-building which still lacks any comprehensive review or text. It is largely, therefore, a statement of research required, rather than delivered.

Grimsbury and other Freehold areas elsewhere have come of age in the past twenty years. Properties in decline have been retrieved through planning intervention, and their character, size and location have found increasing favour with a new generation of residents. They represent one of the earliest stages of residential design to be regarded as townscape groupings, rather than architecture, and current interest shows how a broader concern for local and family history have widened public responsibility for urban architecture.

⁴ Hughes-Wilson, John: *The Puppet Masters*, London: Cassell, 2004, p.208.

⁵ Trinder, Barrie: *Victorian Banbury*, Chichester, Phillimore; BHS 19, 1982, p.99.

The Freehold Movement

The historical literature on Freehold agitation is extensive. The use of land ownership as a political tool to increase the number of voters and to effect change probably has several originators.

Townley⁶ notes the roles of the Chartist leader Fergus O'Connor and of Richard Cobden, one of the leaders of the Anti-Corn Law League.

In the late 1840's and early 1850's a series of freehold land societies was formed. The first was started in Birmingham in 1847 by James Taylor (Junior) (1814-87) who had emerged as a national Temperance leader in 1840. By the end of 1847 he had assisted the formation of six independent societies – Dudley, Stourbridge, Coventry, Worcester, Wolverhampton and Stafford. With Birmingham they comprised 2108 members with 2837 shares. By December 1852 there were 130 societies with 85,000 members with 120,000 shares, 310 estates and 19,500 allotted freeholds.

According to *The Freeholder*, the movement's monthly newspaper published from January 1850 (later monthly as *The Freehold Land Times*), it is clear that Taylor was touring the country, possibly focusing on counties where the balance of political parties was so nearly equal that the addition of a few hundred voters would turn the scale for the Liberal cause.

There was an inevitable reaction – in 1850 a Birmingham Conservative, John Merridrew, warned of the political danger in a tract, noting that Birmingham Conservatives had responded by forming the Victoria Freehold Land, Building and Investment Society.

As a result of growing publicity (further Freehold schemes had been established in Carlisle, Burton on Trent, Burslem and Ipswich) Banbury worthies visited Birmingham to learn the details of the schemes.

In early February 1851 a public meeting of some 300 people was held at Crouch Street British School, Banbury to hear James Taylor, the Birmingham preacher, 'a zealous young non-conformist' who wanted to be part of any 'new crusade in the cause of working-class self-help.'

(This 'self-help' is, perhaps, best expressed in a report in the *Illustrated London News* of an 1850 meeting in Woolwich (!) to promote the Westminster Freehold Land Society at which a Mr J. Duncan:

⁶ Townley, Chas.: 'Kidderminster's Revolutionaries: The Development of Land Clubs and Building Societies in Victorian Kidderminster,' 2007.
(Online) Retrieved 6:11:2007 from <http://www.uplands->

‘exhibited the great and beneficial results which society has every reason to expect – politically and morally – will be effected by the operation of Freehold Land Society, not forgetting to impress upon the audience the value to the individual as an investment of capital and as one of the best kinds of savings-bank, and as inducements to motives of prudence and forethought amongst the industrious classes.’⁷

In Banbury, Taylor outlined his successful launch of a Freehold Land Society in Birmingham. Its aim was to purchase land at favourable wholesale prices and to sub-divide it into lots which were available to members through a ballot.

The positive meeting was chaired by the Mayor, Edward Cobb, and concluded with the formal acceptance of the desirability of a Freehold Land Society. In proposing the motion Francis Francillon, an attorney, stressed that the organisation would be dedicated to the moral, social and political condition of the working classes.

The scheme ‘went public’ in a boxed advertisement in the *Banbury Guardian* of 10 April 1851. ‘Banbury Freehold Land Society’⁸ had been enrolled on 27 March as ‘The Banbury Co-operative Benefit Building Society.’ In historical context, this was one month before the opening of The Great Exhibition in London.

The advertisement details the practical development of the process, with membership through a one shilling share, emphasising the advantages of wholesale group purchase of land and re-sale at wholesale rather than retail prices.

It also notes that the Society would operate in Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire. It is not evident that it promoted other schemes, although The Northampton Town & County Benefit Building & Freehold Land Society, with a first development surrounding Freehold Street in Northampton, had been established around 1848.⁹

The President was Banbury’s M.P., Henry William Tancred. James Cadbury (another Birmingham link?), a Quaker and Temperance leader

⁷ *Illustrated London News*: Report of meeting of the Westminster Freehold Land Society, 1850. (Online) Retrieved 7:II:2007 from <http://www.londonancestor.com/iln/freehold-property.htm>

⁸ Little, Brian: *Freehold Land Society*, manuscript note of article (undated) which subsequently appeared in the *Banbury Guardian* and other notes.

⁹ Utopia Britannica : British Utopian Experiments 1325-1945: Northamptonshire (Online) Retrieved 7:II:2007 from <http://www.utopia-britannica.org.uk/pages/NORTHANTS.htm>

was a Trustee. Brian Little¹⁰ notes the prominence of Cobb (banker), John Gazey (spirit merchant) and Bernhard Samuelson (industrialist) as Vice-Presidents and William Potts (newspaper editor) as one of the Arbitrators. Subscribers were invited to register at the Society's room in the Mechanics' Institute on Church Passage.

The Grimsbury Scheme

In April 1851, a further meeting was held in the Town Hall when members were told of the site in Grimsbury which had been purchased by Timothy Rhodes Cobb from Sloan Stanley, and had been sold on to the Society at the same price. The Northamptonshire site – variously known as South Grimsbury, Freetown or even as ‘the Diggings’ – was divided into 151 allotments. The cost to the allottees varied according to proximity to the turnpike road, now known as Middleton Road. The cheapest lots (1-13) were each 1s.8d. whereas those close to the road ranged from 3s.1½d. to 3s.6d.

The 101 purchasers included many known locally for welfare concerns: Ebenezer Wall (rope maker), Richard Grimly (retailer), William Potts (newspaper editor) and James Cadbury. Leadership roles and opportunities thus provided deserve some exploration. By 1855 some fifty houses had been built or were under construction along five roads which were under the control of the Board of Health.

No such scheme could remain in principled isolation. The Great Western Railway, needing accommodation for its workers, is reported by Trinder¹¹ as assisting in the construction of one street, probably West Street. Samuelson was similarly interested in the properties for his workers who could not be housed in the developing Cherwell area.

East, South and West Streets began to be used by carters as a prototype ‘rat run’ to avoid the Banbury and Lutterworth Toll Company charges on the Middleton Road. The Company threatened to move its toll point closer to Banbury and by this means would have charged Grimsbury residents for access to town (here Trinder¹² provides considerable detail).

The resulting area, focus of the newly-designated Conservation Area, is characterised by pairs, with occasional single homes, trios and short terraces of brick-built two or three storey properties with modest decoration and relatively small plots. A row of packed town houses, or

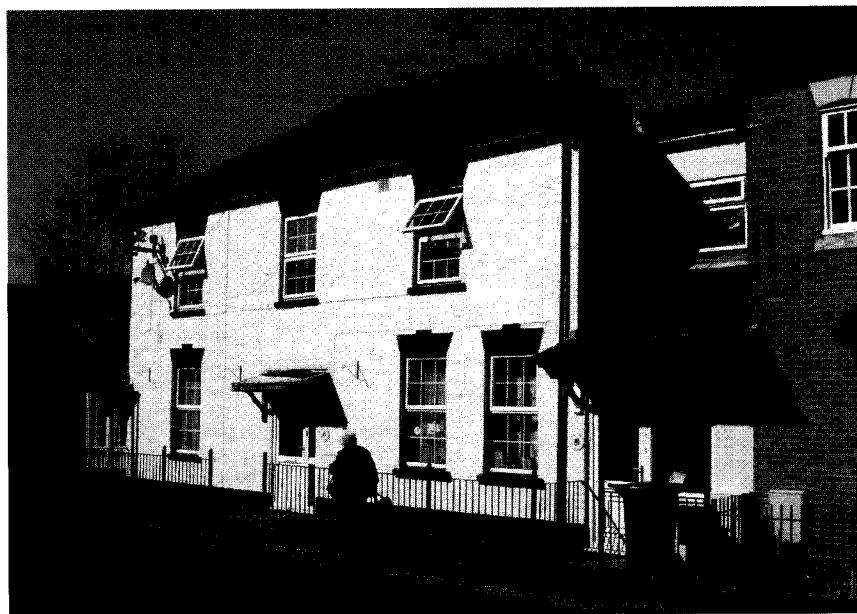
¹⁰ Little, Brian: ‘Homes for the working man,’ *Banbury Guardian*, 13:IV.2006: p.8.85

¹¹ As fn. 5, p.84

¹² As fn. 5, p.84



The intended villa 'gateway' to Banbury, the north side of Middleton Road; East Street entrance to the right.



The former Prince of Wales pub at the corner of Centre and South Streets, built in 1855 and formerly a Hopcrofts (Brackley) house. Now converted into flats.



*Above: Feature property on the corner of East and South Streets.
Below: The Bell, Middleton Road.*



villas, again often paired, fronts the Middleton Road. Streets are named from compass points and some pubs (notably *The Prince of Wales* and the *Our House* beerhouse) and shops were integral to the development.

Whilst some other Freehold schemes suggest rapid development with a coherence in period and style, Grimsbury evolved over a fifty year period, although the availability of plots, and more recently of garden portions, shows evidence of continual evolution. Modern additions and infill, though seldom incompatible in form or style, are very much part of the Freehold tradition and it will be interesting to see how Conservation policy captures this characteristic.

We do know that the facades facing Middleton Road had a very specific design purpose. James Cadbury owned five plots here and envisaged what would now be termed a 'gateway' entrance to Banbury.¹³ In contrast, the streets behind Middleton Road are inward looking, with few views out, a characteristic reinforced by more recent traffic calming measures. The façade terrace was established as, and remained, a residence for professional and business families, hence retaining evidence of servants' accommodation.

Today the area has a multi-cultural population and some multi-occupation. A series of local authority initiatives has raised the area's quality although it largely remains in the lower area of the housing market. Frontage and fenestration revision, together with the demands of the motor car, have had a major impact on the image of the area.

In a note prepared in March 2006, three Banbury Town Councillors¹⁴ provided an initial survey of the prospective conservation area for Grimsbury. This includes a substantial collection of photographs, together with a street-by-street survey of the types of property involved, some historic comments, and observations on evident threats to building integrity. The Cherwell D.C. Conservation Area Appraisal report provides a detailed account of the design and condition of the area.

Brian Little¹⁵ interviewed Mr Stanbra of the estate agents, Stanbra Powell, who noted the recent rise of the Freehold Estate in Grimsbury as

¹³ Potts, William: *Banbury Through One Hundred Years*, The Banbury Guardian Office, 1942; quoted in Cherwell D.C.: Grimsbury Conservation Area Appraisal: Consultation Draft, Sept. 2006. p.9; (On Line) Retrieved 7:II:2007 from <http://www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk/talktous/publications.cfm/publication/778/>

¹⁴ Robbins, Stuart, Parish, George & Bonner, Ann: *Grimsbury: Conservation Area for Grimsbury*, duplicated note dated 22:III:2006.

¹⁵ Little, Brian: 'Homes for the working man,' *Banbury Guardian*, 13:IV.2006: p.8.

offering 'character' Victorian houses, preferably with bay windows as found in North Street, which, with the cul-de-sac of Centre Street, is particularly favoured.

Grimsbury as Typical?

An initial designation question is whether the Grimsbury Freehold estate is typical of this housing and holding type. Whilst unique in Banbury, is it just another example of a common national phenomenon, or does it have characteristics which mark it as of regional, or even national, importance? How have such areas fared, have they been modified beyond recognition or demolished, and how robust are they as an urban form for modern needs?

This paper only begins an enquiry into such questions, relying on the Web, a scan through standard texts and visits to two Freehold Land Society estates, in Longton (Staffs.) and Stamford (Lincs.)

The initial comment by Barrie Trinder quoted above (page 85) highlights the major features of these estates :

- James Taylor was the key national instigator of the schemes; his speaking programme should reveal a national (but largely Midland?) pattern of initiation.
- His work, in the middle of the nineteenth century, was associated with Liberal (possibly Radical) agitation for the extension of the *franchise* through *freehold* ownership. The names of *Cobden*, *Ricardo* and other Liberal figures appear in the named streets. The agitation for an extended vote was, of course, politically contentious.
- Methodist churches seem to feature in Freehold estates but, paradoxically given strong Temperance support, so do a supply of public houses.
- A very preliminary survey of the occupations of those involved suggests the craftsmen, traders and service suppliers who were to provide the growing urban lower middle class, but with the potential for larger villas for those with servants.¹⁶

Extensive library and archive research could reveal considerable detail. The Freehold Societies were gradually embraced by Building Societies (for which they have been suggested as forerunners) and web and

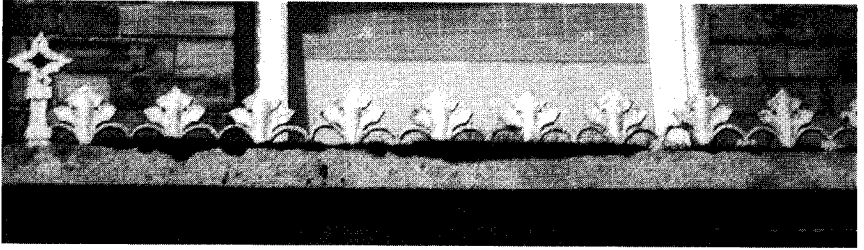
¹⁶ On this, see also Burnett, John: *A Social History of Housing 1815-1970*, London: Methuen, 1978, ch.4.



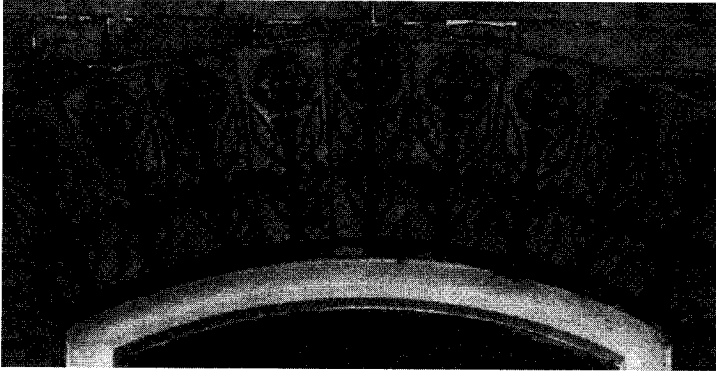
Original front door detailing, corner of Centre and South Streets.



Former business premises, West Street, west side.



Middleton Road, balconette detail.



West Street, moulded brick detail.



West Street, south end, Star Building House, built for Farmer Atkins.

archive sources exist, as do local histories throughout the country. As examples, a surviving local society, the Ipswich Building Society,¹⁷ notes its origins in a Freehold Land Society of 1849¹⁸ and Abbey, formerly the Abbey National, originated in the National Freehold Land and Building Society of 1849.

Few readily available published sources are to hand. Barrie Trinder cited Chapman and Bartlett¹⁹ as a major source, although there may be more recent primary research. Surprisingly, Tarn²⁰ does not mention the Freehold movement, but may have excluded this ‘middle-class’ movement in his predominantly working-class history. In his excellent study of the terraced house as a building type (a valuable visual reference), Muthesius²¹ notes :

‘In the 1840s and 1850s we witness what was called the “freehold movement”, but its main aims were to obtain franchise for the small man through possession of property, and it mainly concerned rural areas. In many working-class areas “building societies” or “building clubs” were operating, as in Leeds, Burnley, Swansea and the west Midlands.’

Gauldie²² devotes a chapter to the Freehold Land Societies and discusses the 1840’s Chartist settlements, such as Charterville in Oxfordshire, as precedents. She considers Taylor’s role in establishing six separate freehold land societies in Birmingham by 1850 with two others in Sheffield. She also notes the tendency to what we would now call ‘gentrification’ with London and other societies going ‘up market’ with villa developments.

From this limited literature, the Grimsbury scheme begins to emerge as typical in origin, participants, date and form. But what of the visual evidence?

¹⁷ Ipswich Building Society: Home page (Online): Retrieved 7:II:2007 from http://www.ipswichbuildingsociety.co.uk/history.php?sub_area=history

¹⁸ Howlett, Ivan: *One Hundred and Fifty Years On*, Ipswich: Ipswich Building Society, nd.

¹⁹ Chapman, S.D. & Bartlett, J.N.: ‘The Contribution of Building Clubs and Freehold Land Societies to Working Class Housing in Birmingham,’ in *The History of Working Class Housing*, ed. S.D. Chapman, David & Charles, 1971, pp.223-46.

²⁰ Tarn, John Nelson: *Five Per Cent Philanthropy: An Account of Housing in Urban Areas Between 1840 and 1914*, Cambridge: University Press, 1973.

²¹ Muthesius, Stefan: *The English Terraced House*, New Haven : Yale U. Press, 1982, p.18.

²² Gauldie, Enid: *Cruel Habitations: A History of Working-Class Housing 1780-1918*, London: George Allen & Unwin, 1974, Ch 18.

Other Freehold Schemes

The immediate question was to find where such schemes existed, as no convenient list was available. We know that the Midlands were the focus, being the speaking range of Taylor. There are hints as to 'rural' locations and although there are schemes in Birmingham and Sheffield, disentangling them from local housing history might be difficult, and Banbury is, after all, a small and identifiable town.

From the Web there are hints that Freehold Societies existed as far south as Weymouth (a Franchise Street in a conservation area), in Hillfields (Freehold Street) and Earlsdon, Coventry,²³ in Birkendale, Sheffield,²⁴ and in New Moston, Manchester.²⁵

Birmingham deserved attention by reason of its proximity, and the origins of the Freehold movement, although no website provided background information on a particular area. Of available websites, that for Kidderminster²⁶ was particularly rich; from the same period the Dresden site offered detailed walking information and, in contrast, the Conservation area proposal for Stamford²⁷ focused on a much later designation in a smaller market town.

Birmingham

Those who have attended the University of Central England will probably know that its Perry Barr site is superimposed on a former Freehold estate – the 'Franchise Street' entrance and, possibly, the pub located there being the only remains. The political importance of Freehold Estates was demonstrated by Carl Chinn²⁸ in his *Birmingham Mail* column. Here he refers to an area of Small Heath where Muntz Street was cut northwards from the Coventry Road in the mid 1800's. This was on land purchased by the Birmingham Freehold Land Society and the streets,

²³ Earlsdon (2006): Earlsdon Methodist Church, Coventry. (Online) Retrieved 8:II:2007 from <http://www.earlsdonmethodist.org.uk/where.htm>

²⁴ Birkendale (2007) Birkendale, Sheffield (Online) Retrieved 8:II:2007 from <http://www.birkendale.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/Birkendale.htm>

²⁵ New Moston History Society (2007): N.M.H. Society: Elijah Dixon: New Moston's Founding Father (Online) Retrieved 6:II:2007 from <http://82.138.229.146/~content2/nmhs/index.php?page=pages&menuid=10>

²⁶ Townley, as fn.6.

²⁷ Stamford (Lincs.) Proposed Conservation Area Northfields, Stamford Draft Appraisal May 2005 (Online) Retrieved 7:II:2007 from <http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/publications/publications.aspx?Category=Local Plan>

²⁸ Chinn, Carl: Signed column in *Birmingham Mail*, 11 March 2006.

as elsewhere, were dedicated to those who had fought for the vote. He cites Dawson Street, named from the Vice-President of the Birmingham Society, George Dawson, who was a charismatic and influential preacher. This street was replaced by playing fields in the 1960's.

This Small Heath area retains several streets with personal names and Muntz Street is the location of the Small Heath Library, now housing a Black History collection.

In a further article, Chinn²⁹ identifies another Birmingham Society area, in Balsall Heath off the Ladypool Road. Together with Hertford and Malvern Streets and Brunswick Road is White Street, named from a leading member who played a major role in the purchase. The area also includes 'Brunel' and 'Sunny' street names.

Birmingham and Black Country schemes deserve more exploration.

Kidderminster

The Townley web site³⁰ is extensive. He explores James Taylor's work as a revolutionary, citing his speech at Ross on Wye: 'If we seek to get the franchise without property they tell us we are revolutionary: if we get it with property, then we are revolutionary too!'

This site includes considerable research on Taylor and his speeches, identifies a range of towns for further research, and places Taylor within the Liberal agitation of the 1850 period; the research is unreferenced.

Harrison has provided a series of views of Franchise Street, Kidderminster, that suggests that the area has some close parallels with Grimsbury. It is not currently designated as a Conservation area.

Dresden, Longton, Stoke on Trent

This is a 'heritage walk' site through the area of the Dresden & the Longton Freehold Land Society, designated as a Conservation Area by Stoke on Trent as early as November 1985.³¹ It, again, provides history on Taylor, whose presence instigated the scheme in 1851. There is considerable history, early plans and a photographic tour of the area made in 2001. Here is a Ricardo Street, a Peel (!!) Street and Rowland Street (regrettably renamed from 'Taylor'). I was able to visit the Dresden area, noting the up-market reference to porcelain in the title. It is well above the former belching pot kilns of Longton, a preferable site apart from the

²⁹ Chinn, Carl: Signed column in *Birmingham Mail*, 6 May 2006.

³⁰ As fn.6, Townley, Chas.: (Online) Retrieved 6:II:2007 from <http://www.uplands>

³¹ Dresden, Longton, Stoke on Trent (Online) Retrieved 6:II:2007 <http://www.the.potteries.org/walks/Dresden>

industry below. Later a civic park was added adjacent to the substantial villa developments on one edge of the development. Today it is a middle class residential suburb, with a few shops hanging on, several pubs, a replaced church and a mixture of terraced and villa streets. Once the script is read you can discern the Victorian layout and the initial terraces. There is little evidence of the 'buy one, let one' pattern of Grimsbury, but the street names and occasional villas of quality hint at the way in which much of the area moved rapidly up-market. Although 600 houses were built, not all lots were developed initially, so there is later, and contemporary, infill and some subdivision of the more substantial properties.

Here, at the same date as Banbury, Longton's citizens were both more loyal to the Freehold cause (street names), but set themselves physically 'above' the industrial town, and encouraged a longer period of investment. The result is less coherence in style, and a greater diversity of properties. Some streets fit more closely with the Freehold intention, many less.

Stamford (Lincs.)

Stamford, as the first town in England to be considered as a conservation area in totality, might seem a strange place to find a Freehold Land Society, although it fits with the view that the Societies were an attraction in rural areas, especially where land was slow to be released. A conservation area for Northfields was approved in 2005. The web site includes detailed analysis and maps of the area.

The northern area of the 'Northfields' site was awarded to the churchwarden of St. George's church in 1875 as a result of late enclosures and was then purchased by the Stamford Freehold Land Society for development. Clearly this was very late in the movement's history and it allowed development into the twentieth century.

I was able to visit Northfields in Stamford. This is, again, a hilltop site, overlooking the medieval town; again a 'new' residential suburb, adjacent to a civic park. A looser allocation of plots allowed more villa developments amidst the terraces, which fitted well in terms of materials (polychromic brick-work) with the slightly earlier development down slope. Infill of various periods was evident, few surviving services, and no pubs or church in the neighbourhood.

This is a community of developer terraces and spacious homes on substantial plots. Yellow brick with red banding, slate roofing and small front gardens are characteristic, and there is nothing of Grimsbury's tight pairs and trios. As in Dresden and Grimsbury, new windows, doors and boundary markers have often been subject to change.

Research Directions

The Freehold Estate in Grimsbury was established in the heyday of the movement. It shared the dense allocation of lots, provision of church and pubs (!) which may have characterised the early days. Villa 'gentrification' was marginal and distinctly urban in character. Its residents were of the aspiring middle class who sought voting power as well as property. It was close to the associated town, developed steadily and provided a power base for a new urban influence. The 'two or three similar property' pattern is not so evident in other schemes and there were few opportunities for the park side gentrification evident elsewhere.

Banbury Freehold Estate, although locally instigated, was very much part of a national movement, as is evident from this note on a scheme contemporary with that of Banbury in another market town, Colchester:³²

'The Botanic Gardens east of the castle were to be sold in 1851, and by 1852 the National Freehold Land Society, which was affiliated with the Liberal party, had bought them and small plots had been laid out there in Castle and Roman Roads by T. Morland and C. Wilkinson; 72 lots were bought by builders, other craftsmen, merchants, and a few gentlemen, 41 of them from Colchester, the rest from the London area.'

Any search for origins, and for Banbury's typicality, will need to dig deep into the origins of the Freehold movement and into the land acquisition, design and ownership of the earliest Taylor-generated schemes. These were tightly-packed urban terraces, much improved in terms of layout and condition, but intended for urban workers who wanted to better themselves. In terms of research it is also likely that many of these early schemes will have suffered from wartime damage or subsequent urban renewal.

Rapidly, it seems, and with Metropolitan influence and national intentions, the process of Freehold establishment moved 'up market'. Tradesmen and professionals became more involved, villas infiltrated terraces and, in the case of Colchester, outsiders joined the aspiring local population.

The Freehold movement was a major political step in the mid-nineteenth century, generating a pattern of urban form which deserves recognition. Aside from being a residential area whose time for considered conservation

³² *Victoria County History* (1994) : 'Modern Colchester : Town development,' *A History of the County of Essex: Volume 9: The Borough of Colchester* (1994),pp.199-208. (Online) Retrieved 4:IV:2006 URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=21988>

has arrived, it may be that Banbury offers a surviving example of the design and tenure bridge between Birmingham's working class origins and the villa-owning middle class which rapidly infiltrated the movement. The contrast between the points-of-the-compass titled terraced streets and the servants' quarters designed into the Middleton Road houses are representative.

As significant elements in inner town housing stock, now recognised increasingly for conservation, there are also important contemporary questions to be asked concerning appropriate changes and infill. A comparative study of current condition and proposals would certainly assist local authorities responsible for Freehold areas.

The author would like to acknowledge the assistance of Brian Little (in addition to that reported April 2006), Ken Harrison of the Planning and Environment Division of Wyre Forest D.C. and Bob Stewart, Conservation Officer of South Kesteven D.C.



The former Prince of Wales, on the corner of Centre and South Streets

BANBURY WILLS PROVED IN THE PREROGATIVE COURT OF CANTERBURY 1800-1857

Jeremy Gibson

In the preceding issue of *Cake & Cockhorse* (vol.17, no.2, pp.56-63) an explanation was given of the status of Banbury as a Peculiar for probate purposes, with the only alternative (and higher) court being the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. A list of Banbury (town) P.C.C. wills from 1700 to 1799 was provided.

By 1800 the Peculiar Court was falling into disuse, and P.C.C. was increasingly used (especially as the Bank of England did not recognise lesser courts).

Recently The National Archives (T.N.A.), formerly the Public Record Office, utilising modern technology, have been able to create new indexes to the testators in P.C.C. for all the period to 1857. These are freely available on line through the internet, with the additional facility that searches can be made for place names as well as personal names. I was thus able (through the good offices of Bob Boyd) to have a print-out listing around 600 wills from Banbury itself (there may be others under Neithrop, Calthorpe etc.). These have been arranged chronologically with, where identified, dates of burial. The later section, for 1800 to 1857, is now published. The list concludes with an index to surnames, by year. It should be noted that as yet there is no modern index to letters of administration (admons.) for those who died intestate.

Thus we now have a simple list of many of the men (and their widows or unmarried daughters) who were influential in Banbury's government and trade from 1700 (here 1800) to 1857. It is of course confined to those who lived, or at least died, in the town. No attempt has been made to include the wealthy landed magnates such as those living at Wroxton or Broughton, or in London.

It is interesting, too, to discover those whose residence and livelihood were in the town, but who were evidently not recorded in the burial registers. Dissenters' burials were abstracted where possible from their own registers and shown in the published parish registers to 1838. They must account for some, but certainly not all, of the P.C.C. testators whose burial record has not been found.

This listing has been confined just to Banbury, as it should be simple for village historians to access the far fewer testators from their own locality.

Copies of the wills themselves are available, at a modest charge (currently £3.50), via the internet [DocumentsOnline (images of documents from TNA)]:

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/search/advanced_search.

Burial dates are from parish registers to 1812 (BHS 18), 1813-38 (BHS 22) and the later transcript by OFHS, with ages and addresses from 1813 on.

Banbury Wills in P.C.C. 1800-1812

<i>Date</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Forename</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Prob 11/</i>	<i>Burial (nf = not found)</i>
1800	King	John	gent [bur at Broughton]	1343	20 May 1800
1801	Hawtyn	Ann	wife	1352	<i>nf</i>
1801	Wetherelt	Richard	gent	1358	<i>nf</i>
1801	Woodfield	Susanna	spinster	1359	15 May 1801
1801	Shirley	William	grocer	1365	10 Oct 1801
1801	King	William		1367	<i>nf</i>
1802	Knight	Robert	gent [alderman & JP]	1370	23 Jan 1802
1802	Lumbert	Thomas	yeoman [gent]	1373	9 Feb 1802
1802	Dawes	Ann	spinster	1374	31 Mar 1802
1802	Heming	Daniel	carpenter	1374	<i>nf</i>
1802	Gulliver	Thomas	victualler	1380	13 Nov 1801
1802	Pratt	William	innholder	1384	<i>nf</i>
1803	Pain	Hannah	wid	1400	4 May 1803
1804	Gibberd/Gibbard	Susanna	wid	1407	14 Oct 1803
1804	Pearson	Sarah	wid	1413	27 Jun 1804
1805	Clarke	John	shag manufacturer	1420	30 Nov 1804
1805	Brain	Richard	innkeeper	1421	8 Jan 1805
1805	Mallory	Daniel	collar maker	1424	5 Dec 1804
1805	Barnes	Timothy	gent	1426	6 Jun 1805
1805	Bennett	Mary	spinster	1426	0 Mar 1805
1805	Austin	Alice	wid [James, cooper]	1431	30 Sep 1805
1805	Walford	Susannah	spinster	1431	<i>nf</i>
1806	Dury	Jonathan	woolstapler	1438	19 Jun 1805
1806	Alvey	Mary		1439	<i>nf</i>
1807	Snow	Joseph	shag manufacturer	1456	14 Sep 1806
1807	Charles	Richard	innkeeper & cooper	1457	25 Feb 1807
1807	Shirley	Mary	wid	1466	28 Jul 1807
1807	Councor	Mary	wid	1487	<i>nf</i>
1808	Cheney	John	printer	1483	24 Feb 1808
1808	Stone	Edward	grocer [Quaker]	1484	24.4.1808
1808	Callow	John	[esq]	1486	22 Apr 1808
1808	Sansbury	Thomas	baker	1489	<i>nf</i>
1808	Spurrett	Ann	wid	1490	30 May 1808
1809	Hawtyn	Joseph	auctioneer [gent]	1499	16 Jan 1809
1809	Swinfen	Alice	wid	1503	<i>nf</i>
1810	Cox	Edward		1515	12 May 1810
1810	Herbert	George	currier	1515	<i>nf</i>
1810	Hobday	John	baker	1516	6 May 1810
1810	Perry	John	yeoman [gent]	1516	30 May 1810
1810	Pinfold	Elizabeth	wid	1516	<i>nf</i>
1811	Goddard	Samuel	gent	1521	<i>nf</i>
1811	Fairbairn	Archibald	innholder	1522	<i>nf</i>
1811	Callow	Mary	wid [gentlewoman]	1524	1 Jun 1811
1811	Beere	John	innkeeper	1526	2 Aug 1806
	[Beere	Mary	wid, victualler		2 Oct 1811]
1811	Woolley	Mary	spinster	1526	<i>nf</i>
1811	Green	Amelia	wid	1528	<i>nf</i>
1812	Hayward	William	surgeon	1529	22 Oct 1811
	{Hayward	William	senr, gent		25 Mar 1811]
1812	White	Bliss	wid [gentlewoman]	1530	3 Feb 1812
1812	Butler	Ann	spinster	1533	11 Jan 1812
1812	Walford	William	gent	1533	<i>nf</i>
1812	Longe	Martha	wid	1538	<i>nf</i>

Banbury Wills in PCC 1813-57

Burials 1813-1838 from Burial Register of Banbury, Part Three., BHS 22, 1988.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Forename</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Prob 11/</i>	<i>Burial (nf = not found) (age in brackets)</i>
1813	Dury	John	gent	1541	22 Jan 1813 (64) St John
1813	Claridge	Mary	spinster	1545	<i>nf</i>
1814	Milward	William	ironmonger	1554	17 Nov 1813 (62) Mkt Pl
1814	Rushworth	John		1559	15 Apr 1814 (78) Horse Fair
1815	Haddon	Richard	baker	1565	25 Jul 1814 (72)
1815	Hill	Samuel	sadler & haberdasher	1565	12 Jul 1813 (72) N Bar
1815	Dickins	Susanna	spinster	1566	9 Oct 1813 (61) Church L
1815	Norton	John	innholder	1569	<i>nf</i>
1816	Golby	Thomas	gent	1582	<i>nf</i>
1816	Gunn	William	gent	1582	25 Nov 1814 (42) Neithrop
1818	Pain	Sarah	wid	1606	8 Jun 1818 (83) N Bar
1819	Austin	Richard	gent	1613	<i>nf</i>
1819	Chapman	Richard	surgeon	1614	<i>nf</i>
1819	Taylor	Richard	butcher	1615	2 Mar 1819 (73) Church L
1819	Heydon	John	banker	1616	30 Mar 1818 (53) Bull Bar
1819	Barnes	James	gent	1618	<i>nf</i>
1819	Baker	George	grocer	1619	9 Dec 1818 (58) Mkt Pl
1819	Golby	James	coal merchant	1619	21 Dec 1818 (77) Cornhill
1819	King	James		1620	<i>nf</i>
1819	Cockerill	William	chinaman	1622	22 May 1819 (52) Mkt Pl
1820	Roberts	Mary		1626	20 Dec 1819 (84) Neithrop
1820	Spittle	Edward	pawnbroker	1634	<i>nf</i>
1820	Aris[s]	Elizabeth [Betty]	spinster	1635	3 Nov 1819 (75) Horse Fair
1820	Newman	John	[of Finmere, 'Bucks']	1637	22 May 1820 (63) Finmere
1821	Moss	Sarah	spinster [Quaker]	1639	22 Dec 1820 (68)
1821	Hodgson	William	warfinger	1643	<i>nf</i>
1821	Lumbert	Philip	grazier	1648	20 Aug 1821 (70) Bridge
1821	Cheney	Thomas	stationer & printer	1649	13 Dec 1820 (38) High
1822	Weston	Elizabeth	wid	1652	<i>nf</i>
1822	Wyatt	Charles		1653	<i>nf</i>
1822	Lucas	Christian	spinster	1656	22 Mar 1822 (69) Horse Fair
1822	Spittle	Elizabeth	pawn broker	1657	20 Jan 1822 (41) Parsons
1822	Woolston	William	clerk	1658	<i>nf</i>
1822	Cook	William	servant	1660	11 May 1822 (40) St Johns
1823	Staley	James	mealman	1671	<i>nf</i>
1823	Malsbury	Elizabeth	spinster	1672	<i>nf</i>
1823	Bull	Sarah	spinster	1675	13 Jun 1823 (65) Neithrop
1823	Gulliver	Catharine	wid	1678	18 Jan 1823 (59) N Bar
1824	Weston	Mary	wid	1686	<i>nf</i>
1824	Caless	Richard	fishmonger	1688	21 Mar 1823 (72) High
1824	Crossby	Charles Essex	victualler	1688	11 Jun 1624 (58)
1824	Essex Crossby	Charles	victualler	1688	11 Jun 1624 (58)
1825	King	Elizabeth	wid	1694	<i>nf</i>
1825	Hodges/Hoghes	Mar(e)y	wid	1699	<i>nf</i>
1825	Burchley	John	gent	1701	15 Jan 1825 (79) Bridge
1825	Rosenbergh	Thomas als Moses Jacob Cohen		1702	<i>nf</i>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Forename</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Prob</i> <i>11/</i>	<i>Burial (nf = not found)</i> <i>(age in brackets)</i>
1825	Belcher	William	tailor & draper	1704	<i>nf</i>
1825	Bignell	Francis	gent	1704	<i>nf</i>
1826	Golby	John	carrier	1710	12 Nov 1825 (66) Bridge
1826	Ashby	Ann	spinster [Quaker]	1711	21 Apr 1826 (65)
1826	Cave	Stephen	victualler	1711	8 Apr 1826 (45) Mkt Pl
1826	Jordon/Jordan	William	baker	1711	<i>nf</i>
1826	Hawtyn	Ann	wid	1713	23 May 1826 (73) N Bar
1826	Dury	Hannah	wid	1719	28 Sep 1826 (74) St Johns
1827	Beesley	Joseph	druggist [Quaker]	1722	19 Jan 1827 (33)
1827	Kerby	George	innholder	1724	<i>nf</i>
1827	Walford	Mary	spinster	1724	<i>nf</i>
1827	Dorset	William	cabinet-maker & upholsterer	1725	31 May 1826 (65) High
1827	Norton	Ann	wid	1726	<i>nf</i>
1827	Burchley	Phebe	wid	1728	22 Sep 1826 (73) High
1827	Wyatt	Joseph	innholder [White Lion]	1729	13 Dec 1826 (68) High
1827	Garrett	William	mason	1731	[?20 Dec 1823] (64) Sheep
1828	Chambers	Charles William	wine merchant	1737	<i>nf</i>
1828	Taylor	Thomas	victualler, farmer & grazier	1739	[?16 Sep 1825 (70) Church]
1828	Woolley	Ann	spinster	1739	<i>nf</i>
1828	Bloxham	William	carpenter	1741	11 Sep 1827 (68) N Bar
1828	Woolley	Frances	spinster	1741	<i>nf</i>
1828	Luker	William	gent	1742	<i>nf</i>
1828	Nasbey	Thomas	wine merchant	1743	13 Apr 1828 (55) Parsons
1829	Gulliver	Samuel	grocer	1751	20 Oct 1828 (64) Mkt Pl
1829	Dickason	William	tailor	1758	27 Feb 1829 (56) Broad
1829	Leatherborrow/ Leatherbarrow	Esther	spinster	1758	17 May 1829 (72) Broad
1829	Padbury	Thomas	gent	1763	3 Jun 1829 (58) St Johns
1829	Ward	William	coal merchant	1763	15 Dec 1828 (44) Bridge
1830	Bearsley	James	warehouseman	1766	17 Nov 1829 (80) Parsons
1830	Hopcraft [Hopcroft]	Hannah	spinster [Quaker]	1770	29 Nov 1829 (74)
1830	Ashness	George	malster	1773	<i>nf</i>
1830	Gardner	Joseph	late ironmonger	1775	<i>nf</i>
1830	Herbert	Thomas	victualler	1779	10 Nov 1829 (55) Parsons
1830	Wise late Matthews	Hannah	wid	1779	26 Feb 1830 (79) Bridge
1831	Roberts	Hannah	'wife'	1783	22 Apr 1828 (56) Parsons
1831	Bloxham	Richard	surgeon	1785	27 Aug 1828 (75) Bridge or 24 Dec 1830 (43) Neithrop
1831	Beesley	Mary	wid [of Thos, Quaker]	1787	3 Jul 1831 (66)
1831	Hartley	Richard	gent	1791	7 Sep 1831 (60) High
1831	Strange	Sarah	wife	1792	<i>nf</i>
1832	Dury	Mary	spinster	1798	28 Nov 1831 (63) West St
1832	Arne	William	clerk	1799	14 Dec 1831 (58) Bridge
1832	Green	Richard	victualler	1805	22 Jun 1832 (56) Cow Fair
1832	Raleigh	Magdalen Oakley	wid	1809	<i>nf</i>
1833	Bloxham	Elizabeth	spinster	1815	12 May 1830 (34) Bull Bar

<i>Date</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Forename</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Prob</i> <i>11/</i>	<i>Burial (nf = not found)</i> <i>(age in brackets)</i>
1833	Austin	Mary	wid	1816	30 Apr 1833 (96) SheepMkt
1833	Longe	Mary	spinster	1817	26 Mar 1833 (74) N Bar
1833	Milward	Elizabeth	wid	1820	10 Dec 1832 (83) Mkt Pl
1833	Rusher	Philip		1820	<i>nf</i>
1833	Reynolds	Richard	druggist [Quaker]	1823	17 May 1833 (36)
1834	Smith	George Thomas	grocer	1827	5 Jun 1833 (39) High
1834	Spurrett	William	ironmonger & seedsman	1828	2 Dec 1833 (44) Horse Fair
1834	Isaac	Martha		1829	31 Jan 1834 (58) The Green
1834	Pain	John	timber merchant	1829	17 Jan 1834 (61) N Bar
1834	Boswell	Richard	cordwainer & leather-cutter	1838	13 May 1834 (74) Red Lion St
1834	Humphris	Richard	auctioneer	1840	16 Jan 1831 (60) St Johns or 7 Aug 1833 (36) Parsons
1834	Parish	John	butcher	1840	6 Oct 1834 (44) Mkt Pl
1835	Milward	William	gent	1843	7 Jul 1834 (49) Mkt Pl
1835	Dace	James	brewer	1844	8 Mar 1835 (71) N Bar
1835	Dace	Mary	wid	1845	5 Apr 1835 (50) N Bar
1835	Giles	George	yeoman	1845	28 Jan 1835 (82) Broad
1835	Burford	Edward	doctor of physic	1849	<i>nf</i>
1835	Walford	Samuel	gent	1851	<i>nf</i>
1836	Garrett	James	victualler	1857	3 Jul 1835 (35) Cow fair
1836	Drury	William	clock & watchmaker	1861	<i>nf</i>
1836	Rolls	Henry	gent	1864	<i>nf</i>
1836	Jarvis	Robert	auctioneer	1867	7 May 1836 (64) Parsons
1836	Walford	Sarah	spinster	1870	<i>nf</i>
1837	Bloxham	John	auctioneer	1871	26 Nov 1836 (64) High
1837	Lewin	Isaac	mealman	1873	11 Nov 1836 (72) N Bar
1837	Claridge	Elizabeth	spinster	1874	?1 Feb 1831 (48) Parsons
1837	Hadland	William	gent	1876	23 Jul 1836 (71) The Green
1837	Spurrett	Bernard	gent	1880	11 Jan 1837 (84) Horse Fair
1837	Hollier	Catherine		1880	<i>nf</i>
1837	Bignell	Peter Oliver	gent	1883	11 Jul 1837 (62) High
1837	Judd	William	gent	1883	?27 Jan 1832 (81) N Bar
1838	Cobb	Thomas		1890	9 Sep 1837 (62) Neithrop
1838	Giles	Mary	'wife'	1890	16 Dec 1837 (74) Neithrop
1838	Baughen	John	plush manufacturer	1896	26 Jul 1837 (67) N Bar
1838	Atkins	Edward King	gent	1900	<i>nf</i>
1838	Guttridge	Richard	butcher	1900	28 Feb 1835 (49) Neithrop
1838	Brayne	Thomas	surgeon	1901	10 Aug 1838 (42)
			[Calthorpe House]		
1839	Gillett	Richard	grocer [Quaker?]	1908	<i>nf</i>
1839	Looker or Luker	John	wine merchant	1912	<i>nf</i>
1839	Adams	Mary	wid	1914	<i>nf</i>
1839	Cobb	Timothy	banker	1916	20 Jul 1839 (84) High
1839	Cobb	Ann	wife	1918	?15 Jan 1836 (66) High
1839	Hearn	Mary	wid	1918	<i>nf</i>
1839	Smith	Martha	wid	1919	18 May 1839 (88) High
1840	Austin	Richard	common brewer & spirit dealer	1930	<i>nf</i>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Forename</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Prob</i> <i>11/</i>	<i>Burial (nf = not found)</i> <i>(age in brackets)</i>
1840	Bignell	Richard	gent	1930	10 Jun 1840 (70) N Bar
1840	Lambert	Penelope	wid	1931	21 Feb 1840 (70) High
1840	Potter	Richard	yeoman	1931	<i>nf</i>
1840	Fisher	Thomas	glazier	1932	7 Jun 1839 (52) High
1840	Osborn/Orsborn	Ann	wid	1932	25 Jul 1840 (54) Broad
1840	Judd	William	gent	1935	<i>nf</i>
1840	Roberts	John		1936	<i>nf</i>
1841	Rowell	George	ironmonger	1940	<i>nf</i>
1841	Heath	Benjamin		1941	2 Dec 1840 (62) Parsons
1841	Hadland	Charles	gent	1942	<i>nf</i>
1841	Walford	Joanna	spinster	1942	<i>nf</i>
1841	Hunt	Susannah	spinster	1944	<i>nf</i>
1841	Bloxham	William	stationer	1945	14 Nov 1840 (37) High
1841	Hollier	Joseph	soap boiler	1952	<i>nf</i>
1841	Bown	John	gent	1954	12 Nov 1841 (43) Cornhill
1842	Lines	John	labourer	1956	<i>nf</i>
1842	Butler	Sarah	wid	1957	31 Dec 1841 (76) N Bar
1842	Kirby	Burrows Matthias	ironmonger	1958	15 Dec 1841 (58) Bodicote
1842	Hunt	John	innkeeper	1961	20 Nov 1840 (51) Mkt Pl
1842	Golby	James Wake	gent	1963	4 Feb 1842 (72) High
1842	Parish	Rachel	spinster	1965	15 Sep 1841 (24) Mkt Pl
1842	Bearsley	John	warehouseman	1967	25 Jun 1841 (57) N Bar
1842	Cooke	Charlotte	spinster	1972	<i>nf</i>
1842	Pain	Joseph	gent	1972	2 Aug 1842 (67) S Bar
1842	Rowell	Charles	ironmonger	1972	5 Nov 1842 (45) High
1843	Brayne	Frances	wid	1974	20 Jan 1843 (51) Green
1843	D'Oyly	Kezia	spinster	1974	<i>nf</i>
1843	Humphri(e)s	Richard	innholder	1977	25 Nov 1841 (39) Grimsbury
1843	Lewis	William	tea dealer	1979	6 Mar 1843 (29) High
1843	Judge	John Pratt	innkeeper	1979	6 Nov 1839 (39) Middleton Cheney
1843	Beesley	Samuel	baker [Quaker?]	1989	<i>nf</i>
1844	Sanderson	Dr Aymer Rich[ard]	doctor of medicine	1992	<i>nf</i>
1844	Hall	John	hair dresser	1995	15 Sep 1843 (70) Mkt Pl
1844	Gibson	William	woolstapler	2001	17 Jan 1844 (55) Neithrop
1844	Spurrett	Lyne	gent	2004	2 Mar 1844 (32) Horse Fair
1844	Gillett	Edward	gent [Quaker?]	2007	<i>nf</i>
1845	Tawney	Henry		2015	<i>nf</i>
1845	Radford	Robert	dissenting minister	1647	<i>nf</i>
1845	Davis	John	gent	2025	<i>nf</i>
1846	Peaker	Jacob	officer of excise	2020	<i>nf</i>
1846	Gunn	Deborah	spinster	2031	5 Nov 1845 (84) Neithrop
1846	Coling	Sarah	wid	2034	20 Feb 1846 (51) Neithrop
1846	Fleet	Frederick	gent	2037	9 May 1846 (70) Neithrop
1846	Webster	William	auctioneer	2042	13 Jan 1846 (56) High
1846	Dawson	Charles		2043	9 Oct 1846 (33) Back Lane
1846	Councer	Beata Ann	spinster	2044	<i>nf</i>
1846	Horwood	William	postboy & carrier	2045	30 Oct 1846 (43) Pepper Al
1846	Peesley	Ann	spinster	2045	<i>nf</i>
1846	Stuart	Daniel		2047	<i>nf</i>
1847	Westwood	William		2049	<i>nf</i>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Forename</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Prob 11/</i>	<i>Burial (nf = not found) (age in brackets)</i>
1847	Green	Mary	wid	2050	25 Nov 1846 (71) Castle
1847	Shoveller	Rev John		2051	<i>nf</i>
1847	Fisher	Mary	wid	2052	1 Jun 1846 (65) High
1847	Beesley	Alfred	gent	2055	14 Apr 1847 (47) Cornhill
1847	Dobbins	Richard	gent	2059	5 Feb 1847 (76) S Bar
1847	Gardner	James	ironmonger & iron founder	2060	4 Jan 1847 (61) High
1847	Taylor	Thomas	cooper	2061	1 Dec 1846 (65) High
1847	Elkington	Sarah	wid	2064	<i>nf</i>
1848	Railton	Edward	saddler	2070	12 Dec 1846 (68) High
1848	Gardner	Thomas	gent	2071	17 Jan 1848 (67) S Bar
1848	Walford	William	gent	2072	<i>nf</i>
1848	Dorsett	Elizabeth	wid	2074	11 Apr 1848 (75) High
1848	Green	Thomas	corn dealer	2079	<i>nf</i>
1848	Watson	Samuel	cordwainer	2082	?17 Mar 1844 (93) Broad
1849	Hitchcox	Thomas	victualler	2086	<i>nf</i>
1849	Goffe	William	late watch maker	2904	25 May 1849 (26) Neithrop
1849	Turner	William	baker & coal dealer	2095	<i>nf</i>
1849	Heynes [Haynes]	Charles Rice	gent	2099	7 Aug 1849 (55) Oxford Bar
1849	Tandy	James	[RC]	2103	<i>nf</i>
1850	Butler	John	yeoman	2106	<i>nf</i>
1850	Hill	James	hatter	2110	20 Oct 1849 (75) N Bar
1850	Wilson	Isabella	wid	2118	<i>nf</i>
1850	Davis	Elizabeth	wid	2119	<i>nf</i>
1850	Hayward	Charles	innkeeper	2122	24 May 1850 (58) High
1850	Powell	William	dairyman	2122	<i>nf</i>
1851	Hunt	William	solicitor	2125	2 Sep 1850 (52) Oxford Rd
1851	Wyatt	Elizabeth	wid	2128	<i>nf</i>
1851	Linnell	William	gent	2129	12 Mar 1851 (74) Cal' Lane
1851	Milward	Jane	spinster	2129	16 Dec 1850 (67) Neithrop House
1851	Hobley	Samuel	slater & plasterer	2130	29 Jan 1850 (61) Neithrop
1851	Addams	Mary	wid	2141	<i>nf</i>
1851	Parish [Parrish]	Thomas	butcher	2142	26 Sep 1851 (38) Mkt Pl
1851	Hill	fly Burgess	'schoolmaster'	2143	18 Jun 1851 (49) Horse Fair
1851	Rainbow	Joseph	victualler	2144	<i>nf</i>
1852	Horn(e)	Francis	gardener	2149	8 Feb 1852 (76) Broad
1852	Thomas	William	cutler	2150	<i>nf</i>
1852	Webb	Daniel Hale	Wykham Park	2152	<i>nf</i>
1852	Kalabergo/ Kalabergh/ Calaberh	Giovanni Maria Ferdinando/ Fardinando	jeweller	2153	<i>nf</i>
1852	Golby	Ann	spinster	2154	27 Mar 1852 (76) High
1852	Hands	Benjamin	innkeeper	2159	15 May 1852 (63) W Bar
1852	Loftus	William Francis Benlinck	Lieutenant General	2161	<i>nf</i>
1852	Pratt	Henry	farmer	2163	18 Jul 1852 (25) Back Lane
1852	Munton	John	gent	2163	30 Jul 1851 (68) W Bar
1853	Judge	Charles	gent	2169	<i>nf</i>
1853	Walford	Rebekah	spinster	2169	<i>nf</i>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Forename</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Prob 11/</i>	<i>Burial (nf = not found) (age in brackets)</i>
1853	Wise	John	surgeon	2171	4 Feb 1853 (68) N Bar
1853	Scrivener [Scrivenor]	Thomas	grocer	2173	11 Mar 1853 (82) Cornhill
1853	Horseman	Sarah	wid	2174	11 Dec 1852 (75) N Bar
1853	Gillett	Joseph Ashby	banker [Quaker?]	2177	<i>nf</i>
1854	Clarke	Ann	wid	2185	14 Jan 1854 (71) Crouch
1854	Fowler	Charles White	hotel-keeper	2189	24 Mar 1854 (59) High
1854	Lumbert	John Philip		2191	<i>nf</i>
1854	Spurrett	Samuel	gent	2192	<i>nf</i>
1854	Welch	Jabez Bloxham	gunmaker	2192	<i>nf</i>
1854	Tasker	William	jeweller	2193	<i>nf</i>
1854	Stutterd	Dan(iel?)	woollen draper	2193	<i>nf</i>
1854	Hall	Ann	spinster	2194	<i>nf</i>
1854	Fennemore/ Finnemore	Mary	wid	2197	19 Aug 1854 (71) Prospect
1854	Hartall	Charles James	grocer	2197	<i>nf</i>
1854	Webster	Thomas	accountant	2203	9 Sep 1854 (62) Neithrop
1855	Kimberley	Edwin Robert	builder	2206	20 Dec 1854 (40) High
1855	Stevens	Willoughby			
		Pontifex	grocer	2207	<i>nf</i>
1855	Driffield	Rev William	minister of the Gospel	2208	<i>nf</i>
1855	Hall	John	baker	2210	<i>nf</i>
1855	Hill	Frances	spinster	2217	28 Apr 1855 (52) S Bar
1855	Golby	Thomas	carrier	2220	9 May 1855 (61) Bridge
1855	Hayward	Jane	wid	2220	<i>nf</i>
1855	Davis	John	gent	2222	<i>nf</i>
1856	Eason	Rebecca	wid	2225	<i>nf</i>
1856	Thomas	George	cutler	2226	20 Feb 1855 (51) Oxf'd Bar
1856	Heynes [Haynes]	Charles Rice	gent	2229	16 Feb 1853 (25) Crouch
1856	Hartley	Jane	wid	2234	<i>nf</i>
1856	Davis	Richard	builder	2235	<i>nf</i>
1856	Hadland	Sarah		2237	<i>nf</i>
1856	Walshaw	John	grocer	2239	21 May 1856 (53) Cal Rd
1857	Cowper	Sarah	spinster	2244	<i>nf</i>
1857	Milward	John Golby	of Calthorpe	2246	20 Dec 1856 (69) Cal Rd
1857	Claridge	Richard	builder	2247	?24 Nov 1853 (-) Neithrop
1857	Wyatt	Mary Ann Scott	spinster	2247	<i>nf</i>
1857	Lovell	Ann	spinster	2251	<i>nf</i>
1857	Welch	Jonas	grazier	2254	<i>nf</i>
1857	Matthews	John	labourer	2259	<i>nf</i>
1857	Williams				
	f'ly Matthews	Mary	wid	2259	<i>nf</i>
1857	Grantham	Thomas	coal merchant	2261	<i>nf</i>
1857	Holland	William	gunmaker	2261	<i>nf</i>

PCC Wills 1800-1857 - Index - figures represent years, '18' omitted, i.e. '13' = 1813.

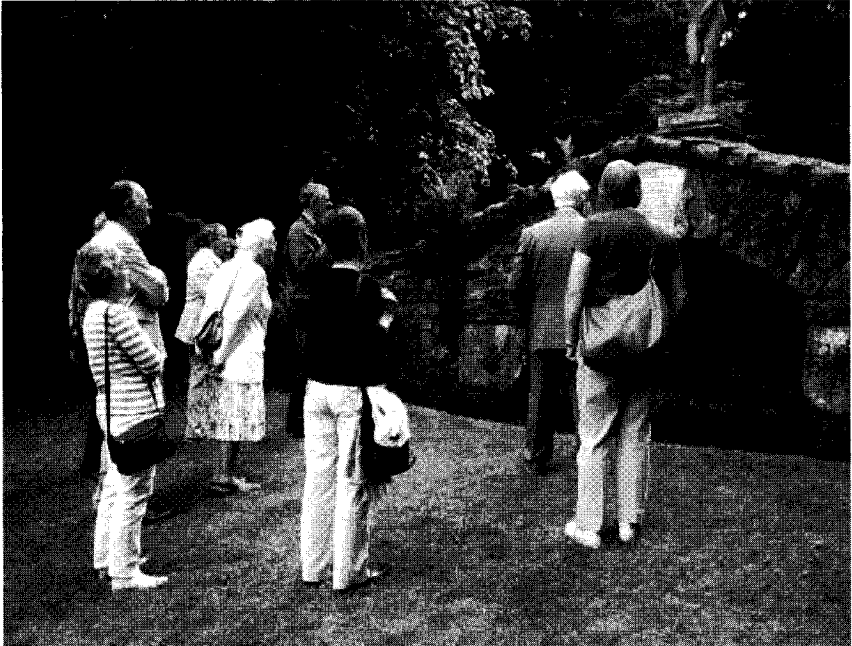
Ad(d)ams 39,51	Baker 19	Bignell 25,37,40
Alvey 06	Barnes 05,19	Bloxham 28,31,33,37,41
Aris(s) 20	Baughen 38	Boswell 34
Arne 32	Bearsley 30,42	Bown 41
Ashby 26	Beere 11	Brain/Brayne 05,38,43
Ashness 30	Beesley 27,31,43,47	Bull 23
Atkins 38	Belcher 25	Burchley 25,27
Austin 05,19,33,40	Bennett 05	Burford 35

PCC Wills 1800-1857 - Index - figures represent years, '18' omitted, i.e. '13' = 1813.

Burgess 51	Hawtyn 01,09,26	Pearson 04
Butler 12,42,50	Haynes/Heynes 49,56	Peesley 46
Caless 24	Hayward 12,50,55	Perry 10
Callow 08,11	Hearn 39	Pinfold 10
Cave 26	Heath 41	Potter 40
Chambers 28	Heming 02	Powell 50
Chapman 19	Herbert 10,30	Pratt 02,52
Charles 07	Heydon 19	Radford 45
Cheney 08,21	Heynes/Haynes 49,56	Railton 48
Claridge 13,37,57	Hill 15,50,51,55	Rainbow 51
Clarke 05,54	Hitchcox 49	Raleigh 32
Cobb 38,39(2)	Hobday 10	Reynolds 33
Cockerill 19	Hobley 51	Roberts 20,31,40
Coling 46	Hodges/Hoghes 25	Rolls 36
Cook(e) 22,42	Hodgson 21	Rosenbergh 25
Councer 07,46	Holland 57	Rowell 41,42
Cowper 57	Hollier 37,41	Rusher 33
Cox 10	Hopcraft/Hopcroft 30	Rushworth 14
Crossby 24	Horn(e) 52	Sanderson 44
Dace 35(2)	Horseman 53	Sansbury 08
Davis 45,50,55,56	Horwood 46	Scrivener/or 53
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Dawson 46	Hunt 41,42,51	Shoveller 47
Dickason 29	Isaac 34	Smith 34,39
Dickins 15	Jarvis 36	Snow 07
Dobbins 47	Jordan/Jordon 26	Spittle 20,22
Dorset(t) 27,48	Judd 37,40	Spurrett 08,34,37,44,54
D'Oyly 43	Judge 43,53	Staley 23
Driffield 55	Kalabergo 52	Stevens 55
Drury 36	Kimberley 55	Stone 08
Dury 06,13,26,32	King 00,01,19,25	Strange 31
Eason 56	Kirby/Kerby 27,42	Stuart 46
Elkington 47	Knight 02	Stutterd 54
Essex 24	Lambert 40	Swinfen 09
Fairbairn 11	Leatherbarrow 29	Tandy 49
Fennemore/Finnemore 54	Lewin 37	Tasker 54
Fisher 40,47	Lewis 43	Tawney 45
Fleet 46	Lines 42	Taylor 19,28,47
Fowler 54	Linnell 51	Thomas 52,56
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Garrett 27,36	Longe 12,33	Walford
Gibbaard/Gibberd 04	Lovell 57	05,27,35,36,41,48,53
Gibson 44	Lucas 22	Walshaw 56
Giles 35,38	Luker/Looker 28,39	Ward 29
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Goddard 11	Mallory 05	Webb 52
Goffe 49	Malsbury 23	Webster 46,54
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Gunn 16,46	Nasbey 28	White 12
Guttridge 38	Newman 20	Williams 57
Haddon 15	Norton 15,27	Wilson 50
Hadland 37,41,56	Osborn/Orsborn 40	Wise 30,53
Hall 44,54,55	Padbury 29	Woodfield 01
Hands 52	Pain 03,18,34,42	Woolley 11,28(2)
Hartall 54	Par(r)ish 34,42,51	Woolston 22
Hartley 31,56	Peaker 46	Wyatt 22,27,51,57



B.H.S. regulars at Deddington Castle, April, (above) conducted by Chris Day; and at Kent's Rousham gardens, May (below) conducted by Deborah Hayter. The modest lady above the bridge is not (alas) a member of the Society.



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. Approaching one hundred and fifty issues and five hundred articles have been published. All but the most recent issues have been digitised and are available on the Society's website (see inside front cover). Most back issues are also still available in their original form.

There are now thirty volumes in the records series. Those still in print include:

Banbury Wills and Inventories 1591-1650, 2 parts (vols. 13, 14).

Banbury Gaol Records, ed. Penelope Renold (vol. 21).

Banbury Baptism and Burial Registers, 1813-1838 (vol. 22).

The earlier registers, *Marriages 1558-1837*, *Baptisms and Burials 1558-1812*, are now out-of-print, but are available on fiche and CD from Oxfordshire Family History Society, website at: www.ofhs.org.uk

Oxfordshire and North Berkshire Protestation Returns and Tax Assessments 1641-1642 (vol. 24, with Oxfordshire Record Society).

The 'Bawdy Court' of Banbury: The Act Book of the Peculiar Court of Banbury and Cropredy 1625-1638, ed. R.K. Giles (vol. 26).

King's Sutton Churchwardens' Accounts 1636-1700, ed. Paul Hayter (vol. 27).

The Banbury Chapbooks, by Dr Leo John De Frietas (vol. 28).

Early Victorian Squarson: The Diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington, Part One, 1835-1848, ed. Geoffrey Smedley-Stevenson (vol. 29).

Banbury Past through Artists' Eyes, compiled by Simon Townsend and Jeremy Gibson (vol. 30, forthcoming, late 2007).

Current prices and availability of other back volumes, and of *Cake and Cockhorse*, from the Hon. Editor (Harts Cottage, Church Hanborough, Witney OX29 8AB).

In preparation:

Turnpike Roads to Banbury, by Alan Rosevear.

Selections from the Diaries of William Cotton Risley, ed. G.W. Smedley-Stevenson:

Part 2. *Mid-Victorian Squarson, 1849-1869*.

The Society is always interested to receive suggestions of records suitable for publication, backed by offers of help with transcription, editing and indexing.

Meetings are held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, at Banbury Museum, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury. Talks are given by invited lecturers on general and local historical, archaeological and architectural subjects. Excursions are arranged in the spring and summer, and the A.G.M. is usually held at a local country house.

Membership of the Society is open to all. The annual subscription is **£10.00** which includes any records volumes published. Overseas membership, **£12.00**.

All members' names and addresses are held on the Society's computer database for subscription and mailing purposes only. Please advise if you object to this practice.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Autumn/Winter 2007 Programme

*Meetings are normally held at 7.30pm at Banbury Museum;
entrance from Spiceball Park Road.*

Thursday 13th September

Houses and History: Reading buildings for clues to the past,
with case studies from the work of the Oxfordshire Buildings Record.
David Clark

Thursday 11th October

High Society at Astrop: The History of Astrop Spa.
Deborah Hayter

Saturday 20th October

Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration at Wroxton Abbey.
By prior application only, now fully subscribed.

Thursday 1st November, 5.30pm at Banbury Tourist Centre bookshop.

Official launch of our Fiftieth Anniversary volume (No. 30):

Banbury Past through Artists' Eyes.

Thursday 8th November

"Twenty-Four Square Miles" [Documentary film of the area between Banbury
and Chipping Norton, made in 1946].

Commentary by Graham Nottingham, after John Arlott

Thursday 13th December

Going to Town in the 2000s: Banbury's Typicality as a Market Town.
Professor Brian Goodey.