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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.

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Following the success of our 'road show' visit to Chacombe last April we shall hold another meeting away from Banbury. On 1st April (yes, really!) we shall gather at Somerton. You will find full details and directions on the back cover. Our members were very enthusiastic about last year's event so do come along and enjoy meeting in a delightful and historically fascinating place.

Our AGM will take place on Thursday 10th July at Broughton Castle. This will be a popular event so we recommend that you arrive at 5.00 in good time for the start of the meeting at 5.30.

Most material in this issue has again been supplied by members of your committee. We are truly fortunate in having their expertise available to us, and I hope that I can rely on them for a long time to come, but I want to take this opportunity of appealing to anyone with material (or an idea) that they think might be suitable for publication to get in touch. We will be very happy to offer advice.

Cover: Raphael Roussel: Diorama of medieval ploughing (pp162-70). Reproduced by permission. © Science Museum / Science & Society Picture Library.

SOMERTON'S FARMERS 1279 - 1734

Deborah Hayter

Note, Somerton lies south of Deddington, across the Cherwell from North Aston.

In 1279 John Cole, 'villanus', held one yardland of land in Somerton; he held it from Rober. de Grey, and paid 44d each year for it; it was recorded that he was due to work (*operabitur*); he would be tallaged (taxed); and he would pay a fine for his children to leave the manor.¹ Hugh the Reeve also held one yardland for the same payments and services, and after him all the rest of Somerton's farmers were listed, each of whom held half a yardland for an annual payment of 22d and similar services. Lastly the free tenants (*liberi*) were listed, with the lands that they held, together with the rather more random payments and services that they owed in return.

This extraordinary level of detail for such a relatively minor and insignificant place as Somerton came about because of Edward I's desire for information about the diversion or loss of possible Crown income. In 1274-75 he commanded that the operation of local government through the hundreds be investigated, and in 1278 all holders of franchises, such as the right to hold courts and markets, and the right to hunt (known as the right of free warren), were made to justify their claims at *Quo Warranto* enquiries.² The results, along with enquiries into who held land from whom, and for what, were written up in a series of rolls, known as the Hundred Rolls. They do not cover the whole country, and survive only for parts of Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Warwickshire; Oxfordshire is the most complete, covering every hundred except Binfield and Bloxham.³

¹ *Rotuli Hundredorum*, 2 vols, Record Commission (1812 - 1818), Somerton entries translated from the Latin by Deborah Hayter. A 'yardland' was the basic unit of farming in the medieval open-field system, very variable in area from place to place, but usually c. 25 - 30 acres.

² The hundreds are subdivisions of the shire (south of the Danelaw) and go back to 10th century local administration. They may originally have been based on a hundred hides, a hide being a fiscal unit of taxation.

³ It is not known whether the enquiries were ever undertaken or completed for other counties; see Sandra Raban, *A Second Domesday? The Hundred Rolls of 1279-80*, OUP (2004).

Unlike the Domesday Book, which in many ways this later investigation resembles, the Hundred Rolls listed all the information geographically, place by place, and gave much more detail, down to the names of the peasants who were actually tilling the soil. The operation of the feudal system is laid out for us here, and as in the Domesday Book, it is made clear at every stage who holds what land and from whom. The word 'holds' is important (in Latin, *teneo, tenere*, hence 'tenant' and 'tenement'): legally no-one except the king owned land, and everyone else held land in return for something – loyalty, soldiery, services, money. From the greatest magnate down to the lowly peasant plodding behind his plough, there was a *quid pro quo* for every piece of land.

So we see in Somerton that the two lords, Robert de Gray and William de Gardinis (the manor was divided) held directly from the King and had to find three knights to guard Dover Castle.⁴ They were also bound to attend the county court when it met at Oxford once a year and each had the right to hold a View of Frankpledge and take the profits from it.⁵ Those were their obligations, and for that service they had (as well as their lordship of the manor) a protected fishery on the River Cherwell, the advowson of the church, and 'in demesne' four carucates of land, with meadow and adjacent pasture.⁶ The word 'carucate' is more usual in the Danelaw than in Oxfordshire, but is equivalent to the hide, the fiscal unit (of taxation) most often used in Domesday Book. Each carucate was probably equivalent to four yardlands.

After the two lords, their rights and their obligations, the 'villani' are listed, beginning with John Cole, as above. The Latin *villanus* means an inhabitant of the vill, the equivalent of the OE *tunsmann*. I have

⁴ Dover Castle seems to have no connection with Somerton but castle-guard duties at Dover were also found elsewhere in the Midlands and in Suffolk; N.G.Pounds, *The Medieval Castle in England and Wales*, Cambridge (1991), 46-7.

⁵ The 'View of Frankpledge' was the medieval system of mutual responsibility for law-keeping, when all male householders were 'viewed' to see that they were part of a 'tithing' or group of 10 or 12 who were responsible for each other's good behaviour. Later View of Frankpledge became synonymous with Court Leet, the manorial court which dealt with petty law and order and the administration of open-field agriculture.

⁶ The advowson of the church meant that they had the right to appoint whom they wanted to the living; their land 'in demesne' (Latin *in doménico*, literally 'in lordship') was the land that was in their own hands; in later centuries this would be called the Home Fann.

deliberately not used the word 'villein' here as that implies serfdom, and it can be argued that these were no longer serfs in any very servile sense. Lawyers were building up the common law at this period and they made an absolute distinction in law between the 'free' and the 'unfree', but in practice the relationship between lord and unfree, or customary, tenant was regulated at the local level by the manorial court, which was governed by custom. In common law the unfree had no rights whatsoever against their lord, 'saving only life and limb', but manorial and estate documents show that custom protected against the lord's whim, and as the thirteenth century progressed rentals and customs specified ever more carefully exactly what the tenants' obligations customarily were.⁷ The peasant was tied to his land, but the land was also tied to him by custom. Many of the restrictions on the tenant's freedom, such as the freedom to marry, migrate, be educated, or buy or sell property, were in effect financial burdens and could be bought, and substitutes could be paid to perform labour services.

Returning to the Somerton 'villani', who were 'unfree' by law: though the record states that they would work, yet they were all paying a money rent for their land, and it is not specified what those works would be. In other places in Oxfordshire the works are described in much more detail – ploughing, reaping, carrying for a certain number of days, and so on. Even where such services are described, it is clear from other records that they were not necessarily being performed, and it is probable that all the Somerton labour services had in fact been commuted to a money rent. Paying a fine for children to leave the manor was a relic of feudal tenure which was presumably bung on to by the lords as it was a source of income.

After the twenty-five unfree tenants, the fourteen free tenants were listed, the first of whom was the Abbot of Eynsham, with three yardlands, which were sublet to a member of the lord Gardinis' family. There was much land given to monasteries at this time, and the abbot held the land 'in pure and perpetual alms': his obligations were to prayer and good works. Hugo de Brok held two yardlands in return for a pair of gilded spurs each year: this seems odd, but not so odd as some other local payments – in Middle Aston and Steeple Aston the Hundred Rolls record payments of a rose at midsummer, a pound of cumin, one clove,

⁷ See John Hatcher, 'English Serfdom and Villeinage: towards a reassessment', in *Past & Present*, 90 (1991) pp 7–8.

and a pair of gloves.⁸ More generally throughout the Hundred Rolls the payments of the free tenants are often things that they would have to buy. The last seven tenants listed all had specific responsibilities for attending the hundred court and the county court when each met twice per year.

Some of the Somerton names appeared more than once – that is, they were the tenants of more than one holding. John Cole held a half-yardland further down the list from his main holding of one yardland, and Hugh the son of the Reeve is listed among the free tenants although his father is second in the list of the villani. So it was complicated, and there was a great deal of sub-letting going on. Two major studies of the thirteenth century attempted to make sense of the information given in the Hundred Rolls; both concluded (amongst a lot of other things) that there was no such thing as a 'typical manor' and that the development and disintegration of the feudal system had left an infinite variety of local customs and patterns.⁹ Sandra Raban pointed out that many complicated tenures had to be reduced to succinct descriptions for the written record, and there was a possibility that many small sub-tenancies were oversimplified or left out completely. She gave as an example Islip, near Oxford, where a rental dated soon after 1279 listed ninety-one customary tenants as opposed to the sixty-nine in the Hundred Rolls.¹⁰

Including the two lords and the Abbot (none of whom would have been getting their own hands dirty), there were forty farmers in Somerton in 1279, and they were farming between them forty-eight yardlands. The largest holdings were of eight yardlands each (the lords' demesnes) and the smallest were half a yardland, but they were all working alongside each other in the same open-field system. Each yardland had strips in every furlong right round the system, and the whole arable area was divided into two or possibly three great fields. With three fields one would be sown with winter grain, one in spring with peas, beans and some spring cereals, and the third would be left fallow to recover its fertility and to provide grazing for the farmers' animals, assembled in great communal flocks and herds. The yardlands included only the

⁸ *Rotuli Hundredorum*, 2 vols. Record Commission (1812 – 1818), Middle and Steeple Aston entries translated from the Latin by Deborah Hayter.

⁹ G. C. Homans, *English Villagers of the Thirteenth Century*, USA & London, (1941); E. A. Kosminsky, *Studies in the Agrarian History of England in the Thirteenth Century*, Oxford (1956).

¹⁰ Raban, *A Second Domesday?* p. 127.

arable land, but each had, as of right, 'appurtenances', which would be a share in the village's hay meadow and in any common pasture.¹¹ The end of the thirteenth century was a time of increased population and great land hunger, so it is likely that the village lands were being ploughed to their maximum extent. Where ridge-and-furrow survives in large amounts (always a signifier of medieval arable), we can see the land laid out in ridges and in strips right up to the boundary of the township.

This was all regulated by the farmers themselves, meeting at the Court Leet, electing a jury and setting out the bye-laws for the coming season. The system could only work if all the animals were herded together to graze; if similar harvests were sown and cropped; if all the haymeadow was mown at the same time. There is a record of Somerton Court Leet in 1482, when it was recorded that some houses were ruinous: they were to be repaired otherwise fines would be payable; Richard Scrove had let Somerham mill flood the meadow and the road, and he would be fined 30s if he did not amend it. In 1527 it was ordered 'by the whole homage that no tenant permit his horses to go at large in the common field before the end of autumn under a penalty for each of them making default for each horse, 12d'; in 1530 'it was ordered in the last courtthat every tenant should sufficiently repair and scour his hedges and ditches ...under a penalty of 40d.'¹² Later in the sixteenth century the court records show that no-one was above the necessity of complying with the communal will, as in 1566 'the jurors (say) upon their oath that Thomas Fermor (gent), Thos Rond, Robert Kylbie (and four others) have lopped certain trees called ashes, contrary to the custom of the manor aforesaid Therefore they submit themselves into the hands of the lord'. They were fined 2d for each tree. At this stage Elizabeth Fermor, widow, was the lord of the manor and Thomas presumably her son. Two years later Thomas Fermor (gentleman) was taken to task because he had two water mills 'and took excessive toll'.

In 1573 the 'Court of the Supervisor' was held, when Thomas Fermor had become the lord, and all the tenants had to present themselves with

¹¹ For a fuller explanation of how the open-field system worked, see D. Hall, *Medieval Fields* Shire Publications (1982).

¹² From *The Reports and Transactions of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Society* (1906); this contains a collection of transcriptions from Somerton court records, mainly of the 16th century. The whereabouts of the originals is not known.

the evidence of title to their holdings, generally a copy of the relevant court roll. The forty farmers of 1279 had been reduced to seventeen: Henry Tredwell now had five and a half yardlands (possibly 125 to 150 acres), there were three farms of three or three and a quarter yardlands, with the rest mostly of one or two, except for William Poynter and Richard Smyth each of whom laid claim to a cottage and a 'quarterm of land', presumably about five to eight acres.

We know that William Fennour (sic) enclosed eighty acres of arable and turned it over to pasture for sheep and other animals in 1512.¹³ This must have been in one consolidated block of demesne, as it does not appear to have affected the general working of the open fields. We get more information about Somerton's farming in the seventeenth century from a document of 1634, a very full glebe terrier, found in Oxford Diocesan records. Every time the Archdeacon or the Bishop made a visitation, the parson and churchwardens had to draw up a terrier to record everything that belonged to the church in that parish.¹⁴ Sometimes these terriers list church furnishings and give details about the parsonage house, but mainly they focus on the glebe land, the income of which supported the parish priest. In an open-field system, the parson's land was scattered, like the other farmers, right round the system, so the only way to record it, in the absence of a competent map, was to map it verbally, giving the location of each strip in each furlong and with the names of the neighbours on each side. (For example: 'In the Wheate feild lying towards Frittwell moore.... Item in Ridge furlong one acre butting into Oxford Way East Robert Apletree North Widdow ffox South'.) We can't tell from this how many other farmers there were, but we can tell that in 1634 the land was organized into four fields: 'the Wheate feild lying towards Frittwell moore'; 'the second feild butting on the south side Ardeley way'; 'the third feild adioyning to the way leading to Bister South being at the townes end'; and 'the fourth feild lying on the south side Bister way'. There was also an area of 'furze land', for gathering fuel, divided into plots one of which went with the parson's land, some 'sward ground', or what we might call permanent

¹³ Wolsey's Commission of 1517-18 looked into enclosure, particularly 'depopulating enclosure'; I.S. Leadam, *The Domesday of Inclosures, Vol. I*, London (1897) pp.348-349.

¹⁴ Oxfordshire Record Office, Oxf.Archd. Oxon b.41, ff.101-2, f.108, f.99.

Même Cerrier of the Eslebe Land

ONE land next to Bridgeway James Collingridge Deces
 This land being given to Oxfordway William
 Juniper at such Robert Deo South

The Sower quarter in the 21st field

This land at the lower end of the field near the post Hall
 Charles Deller East John Dear West
 Now lands on the North side of Bridgeway William Es
 East James Collingridge West
 This land on the South side of Bridgeway James Collingridge
 East John Dear West

This land on the North side of Bridgeway William East East
 John Dregre West

This land being given to West of James Cardinal East
 William Juniper West

James Es
 Deces
 Colling
 Es
 of a bent
 The
 Mill
 Parsona
 Deces
 Dregre
 Deces
 Place

pasture, again divided into lots, and very importantly, the hay meadow, a share of which also belonged to the glebe land.

So the rest of the farmers had followed William Fennour in grassing down some of their ploughland, though it looks as if they had not enclosed all of their new pasture into separate plots. The conversion of arable to pasture was happening everywhere from the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries, and a later glebe terrier of 1734 shows that in Somerton even more was down to pasture at the beginning of the eighteenth. The parson's land was described in quite a different way: he now had 'eight cows commons with a bull'; 'five Lammas commons for horses or cows', and 'ninety-seven sheep commons'. His arable acres were also described as before, but much reduced in number, and the cows and sheep commons were an expression of his rights in the common pasture, the equivalent to his former strips of ploughland. Over the years the collective decision of the farmers must have been that Somerton did grass best and that they would all do better if they concentrated on grazing, so they had grassed down many of the furlongs, but without dividing and enclosing them into individual allotments.

Arthur Young described Oxfordshire's open-field farmers as 'Goths and Vandals'; 'dark ignorance under the covert of wise suspicions... the old open-field school must die off before new ideas can become generally rooted'.¹⁵ Like Arthur Young, many of the proponents of enclosure in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries wrote about open-field farmers as though they were still stuck in the middle ages (and many historians of enclosure have done the same since). But we can see that the farmers of Somerton had moved with the times and had reacted to the markets – this was a long way from subsistence farming. There were fewer, bigger fanns, which would have been employing at least some of the landless cottagers, and though the village fannland was still in open-field and a prime candidate for enclosure by Parliamentary Act (which happened in 1765) much of it was turned over to pasture: it was a very long way from the forty peasant farmers of the Somerton of 1279.

Opposite: The 'Glebe Terrier' of 1734 which describes the land belonging to the Rector, in the form of a 'verbal map' giving the location of each strip in each furlong with its neighbours. (Somerton Glebe Terriers: Oxfordshire Record Office, Oxf.Archd. Oxon h.41, f.108.)

¹⁵ Arthur Young, *General View of the Agriculture of Oxfordshire (1813)* reprinted Devon (1969), pp 35-36.

Appendix

The names given in the Hundred Rolls entry for Somerton are as follows:
Holding the vill from the Lord King in chief: Robert de Gray and William de Gardinis

Villani:	Walter Caperun	Bartholomew Carpenter
John Cole	Robert Punch	William Bonde
Hugh the Reeve	Alexander Pestel	William Rys
John Alexander	Margaret/Margey	William Ginner
William Alexander	Prestes	William Lovel
Thomas the Nywenian	Walter Coleman	John Walter
Robert Muchelman	William of Dene	John Goze
Richard Pestel	Robert Brun	Roger le Burs
William the Gardiner	Ralph at the Well	Hugh le Ginner

Free tenants:	William of Rucote	Richard Perri/Pari
Abbot of Eynsham, 3 yardlands let to	Hugh of Finmere	John Sclici
Ralph de Gardinis	William de Covingtre	Roger the Acreman
Hugo de Brok	Simon son of [?]	Thomas de Ledwell
Hugh son of the Reeve	Johanna de Brok	William Cok
	William le Smech	

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The Hopes and Fears of an Entrepreneurial Couple: Eleanor and Henry Stone's new business

Jeremy Gibson

In the preceding issue of *Cake & Cockhorse* [19.4] Barrie Trinder wrote an excellent account of the development of what became 'Henry Stone & Son', the 'Box Factory', from Henry Stone's return to living in Banbury late in 1869, based upon his wife's journal from 1867 on.

At the editor's request, we now reprint Henry Stone speaking for himself. These reminiscences are about his career as a bookseller, before he was presented with the patent for a letter-filing box that was to transform his life.

To my regret, effectively I know nothing about Henry's youth, presumably in or near Banbury, although I have written about his father's unsuccessful time as a carrier.¹ His first appearance as a Banbury bookseller is in Rusher's *Trade Directory* in 1841, when he was in Paison's Street, soon to move to High Street. From his account of this life, I believe that bookselling was always closest to his heart. I also empathise with him in shared interests. Effectively the predecessor of our own Society, the Archaeological Society of North Oxfordshire was founded in 1853. By the time of publication of its first *Transactions*, dated 1853-1856, Henry Stone was on the Committee (together with such well-known Banbury names as T. Beesley, T.E. Cobb, W. Potts, and W. Rusher).

At some stage Henry, whilst still retaining the Banbury shop, also opened a bookshop in Coventry. There, then or before, he met fellow Quakers, the Cash family.

I have a copy of *In Memoriam* dedicated to "Eleanor Cash, in memory of a Snow Storm on Hansell Common, Jan'y 26th 1857, from a companion traveller" – perhaps when they became engaged? They married later that year.

¹ 'The immediate Route from the Metropolis...', *C&CH* 12.1 (1991), 10-12



Portrait of Henry Stone (born 1818), undated but perhaps in the 1850s/1860s.

Some Experiences of A COUNTRY BOOKSELLER

Henry Stone (1818-1895)
(written about the year 1879)

Nearly forty years ago, at the age of two and twenty, with some liking for books, and a small capital, I ventured to open shop and call myself Bookseller, Stationer, and Librarian, in a Midland provincial town.

The town [Banbury] was my native one, and I had friendly neighbours. The apparent competition was not active; indeed, in my youth and inexperience, I flattered myself that my possible competitors had been quietly going to sleep and left the course open to my unedged efforts. There were, in addition to the County Book Club, two Circulating Libraries, neither very readable collections – old Novels of the Fielding, Richardson, and even of the Minerva Press School, ancient Travels and more ancient Memoirs, many of them in the old grey boarding, and some in the old quarto size of the previous century. In competition to these attractions it was not difficult to get together a very tolerable collection of readable modern books, the Novelists, Essayists and Poets, the Historians, Biographers, and Travellers of a brilliant period, with a sprinkling of Modern Science and Speculative Thought, could hardly fail, when for the first time offered on loan and on reasonable terms, to give my little venture a considerable lift, and help to gather round me a fair number of both readers and customers.

The trade of a Stationer in those remote days was very different from that of to-day. Up to the year 1840 the postage of a single letter to London was eightpence; if in an envelope it was a double letter and was charged sixteen pence; consequently, for practical purposes, envelopes had not been invented; neither had Book Post or Sample Post. The staple medium of correspondence was Bath Post Paper, a smooth machine-made writing paper which was gradually superseding the rougher hand-made paper of former centuries. The usual size was quarto, and it was sold either plain gilt or black edged, as the case might be. Note Paper came into use with the Penny Post, and black bordering, with its four widths of mourning, became general about the same time. Steel pens were only slowly creeping into general use. Sealing was considered a respectable method of finishing a letter, though now and then an unlucky clerk was said to

be poisoned by the use in quantities of the more expeditious fastening of Red Wafers. Adhesive envelopes were for the future, and the endless knick-knacks which now make up a stationer's shop were hardly dreamed of.

Leather goods included little beyond Memorandum Books and Blotting Cases. The dainty Portemonnaie of this day, so contrived as to fit every sized pocket and to accommodate itself to every boy's riches, had not then superseded the long silk purses, which in their construction found pleasant occupation for the fair fingers of our aunts and mothers of fifty years ago. There were Drawing Materials, and mild attempts at Hand Screens and Card Racks. Water Colour was an art in the bud, and Winsor and Newton were hardly known to fame. If, however, the trade of a Stationer was not then very progressive, that in showy devotional books attained unlooked for proportions, instead of the sober Prayer Books, and still more sober Bibles, which had formed the furniture of nearly every family pew. Dainty volumes, sometimes singly, sometimes in pairs, sometimes in cases in gay morocco silk and velvet binding, with elaborate gilt and metal ornaments, took their places, and the handsome little sets of Church Services carried to and from Church got to be considered as no unimportant addition to female walking costume. This change made a very important addition, both directly and indirectly, to the dealings of a Country Bookseller. Indirectly by encouraging the possession of nicely bound books, religious and secular, by the great increase of presents, and the crowd of handsomely illustrated works which furnished the drawing room tables.

Another fast growing tendency was the enormous increase of periodical literature, when, instead of a very limited sale of expensive magazines such as *Blackwood*, *The Gentleman's Magazine*, *The New Monthly*, and others, circulating about two thousand at half-a-crown each, we became familiar with shilling and sixpenny magazines, each with a circulation of from one to two hundred thousand, and those from a halfpenny upwards, circulating by the million. With this greatly increased distribution of Literature there came, unfortunately, at the same time, great increase in competition and an almost minous squandering of legitimate profit of the trade in the attempt to underbid and undersell, so that year by year it seemed as if the occupation of Country Bookseller must cease out of the land, and his only chance lay in trying to glean a subsistence from a multiplicity of more or less allied callings. He must be a Letter Press and Copper-plate Printer, a Newspaper Proprietor, an Advertising Agent, a Bookbinder, an Account Book Manufacturer, a Die Sinker and Stamper, and Photographer, Print Seller,

Artists' Colourman, Music Seller, and Pianoforte Dealer. Still with all these sources of income the Country Bookseller does not often grow rich, mainly, perhaps, because his attention is divided among too many trades, without any adequate knowledge of either, and so at the mercy of mere Agency, the proper execution of which he is unable to check. Possibly he may have learned the art of setting type and superintending a printing press; if so, his attention is thereby apt to be much absorbed and the shop left, very often to mere chance attention, or to young people whose training and education is little beyond that of the Bazaar or Fancy Shop. An intelligent knowledge of Books and the Book Trade seems to be fading out of the land, and it is not easy to meet with an assistant away from the larger towns who lays claim to any such acquirements.



To return to my own experiences; such was the kind of trading among which I had to make my way as circumstances permitted, but I never lost sight of my liking for Books and Bookselling, and as time went on, and such little culture as had fallen to my lot, somewhat deepened by age and reading, my conversation was sometimes, and possibly my advice also, listened to with some attention by my customers. Sometimes early knowledge came to me of the names of unrevealed authors, and now and then I had been one of the first to read the *Quarterly* or *Edinburgh Review's* article which was making its impression on the prominent

controversy of the day — sometimes could say a word about Faraday, Tyndal, and Huxley, and could propound, or could reply to a question about Darwinism. With the many shades of theological controversy I got tolerably familiar, and could point out to a clerical customer the bearings of a trenchant pamphlet, or could venture to hint to his wife what tinge of doctrinal fiction she would hardly care to put into the hands of the young people of the family. At times I could venture on a dry pleasantry with the Roman Catholic Priest, or the Presbyterian Minister. To the young ladies I might be able to reveal when a new book by Tennyson, Thackeray, Browning, or Charlotte Brontë, was on the eve of publication, and with the younger men to discuss the last striking utterances of Kingsley, Macaulay, or Carlyle; and so it fell to my lot to lead from year to year a life that, while it did not lead on to fortune, did provide me with a modest competence, with some warmly attached friendships, some recognition from a strata a little above my own, and a share in the public business of my native town.

Looked at, however, in its most hopeful light, the business of a Country Bookseller is one not likely to lead on to wealth. It is, as a late respected publisher once remarked to me, something in the nature of a craft in which your knowledge, experience and judgement will never cease growing. I also laid to heart a word of advice from the late Mr. John W. Parker, of the Strand, who said, if he were a Retail Bookseller, he would never keep in stock any book that in some way he did not know. Often thinking of it made me escape the keeping of much bad stock, and often enabled me to sell books somewhat different.

After a time there came to me a wife to whom I could look up, and children who, as years went on, were not unwilling to look up to me: and now that I am drawing towards old age, it is with no hope or expectation of ever quite laying down the cares and labours of my trade, but tolerably happy in the occupation and interest of my calling. Careful in the avoidance of personal habits, or mode of living, likely to lead me much out of my depth, I may hope that my later years may not be clouded by severe anxieties, that as summer comes round, year by year, I may hope to get away with my wife for our summer holiday among the hills and streams, and that still we may be able to welcome in sober kindly fashion such old friends as the lapse of years may still permit us to count among our circle.

Before concluding it would be hardly gracious to forget to mention, and may I never forget, the life long kindness of a dear old friend whose business experience in a neighbouring county had for some years

preceded my own, and who was always ready with his sage wisdom and shrewd tact to come to the aid of inexperienced youth; and now let me add, I have never had reason to doubt but that the business of a Bookseller, pursued with knowledge and diligence without undue subserviency, would land a man in such a position as would render life by no means devoid of interest and pleasure, even in these days of hurry and fierce competition.

*The foregoing has been preserved in a four-page leaflet written by my great-grandfather Henry Stone about 1879. Readers may like to compare his remarks with those of his wife Eleanor (née Cash), as recorded by herself in her occasional journal (see Barrie Trinder, *Journal of Eleanor Stone, C&CH 19.4*), and now quoted directly below.*

Jeremy Gibson

Eleanor Stone's occasional journal opens in October 1868, when the family was living at Leamington Spa.

1868, Oct 12th. Went to Banbury with Henry, slept at the shop.

1869, 4th March. The recovery of my husband from that state of depression and his return to better health and spirits than I have ever known him in is a great comfort and blessing. He will now I trust be able to come to a just conclusion as to the propriety of our going to live at Banbury. The motives for doing so are many. We hope to live in a smaller way, with one servant and less expence [sic] every way, as our dear lads will we hope go to school this summer. Then Henry finds a real pleasure in attending to the Banbury business, where there is room for him to do his writing at the shop.

We might stay here [Coventry or Leamington] and try a new branch of business, such as box-making using some of the labour which is to be had here in plenty – but Henry has no practical knowledge of the trade and the anxiety attending such a step might cause a return of the serious affection from which he suffered last year.

1869 Nov 3rd. My husband has gone on his weekly visit to Banbury and I am alone for the evening; my little Nelly is in bed.

We expect to spend [Christmas] at Banbury, in our new home in that place. I wish to record the motives ... to the advantage... of my beloved husband's peace of mind. In the first place the Banbury business is more remunerative than the one at Coventry and it also appears to possess the

clement of growth. My husband can work well with Mr Hartley, who is his partner and has been with him since he was a boy. They hope together to increase the business, by the constant presence of one of the principals in the shop and establishing an Advertising Medium and Paper – there is an abundance of room at Banbury for my husband to do his share of the writing and book-keeping on the premises and he is at home with the people. I believe that my Henry will be happier and possibly live some years longer [*In fact another 26 years. J.G.*]

We went to Banbury the week before last to look at a house... and we decided on the one lately occupied by Henry Beesley and situated in the Horsefair; we are to pay £25 per ann. rent and to make any trifling alterations which may be required ourselves. It is an old house but one which will not bring any ideas of extravagance with it yet will I think be comfortable and look pretty.

[1870] March 24th. Banbury. We came as proposed on 7th of December and settled in this pleasant little house. Many of Henry's old Friends called on us and I had plenty of occupation the first two months...

My brother John [*Cash*] made Henry a present of the patent for the letter Boxes which he has taken out and this has given Henry much thought and work, yet he is very well and satisfied that he did right in coming to Banbury. He had to go often to London and remain for some days, but I hope this is only during the first days of the trade and whilst it is in its infancy.

1870 Dec 6. The year is coming to an end, and with it our first year of life in Banbury... My dear husband [*after being well until the autumn, has been*] very depressed and low in spirits, the trade is very poor and the Box Trade tho' promising does not make rapid headway, and all profits are spent in advertising at present. I have good hope for the future, if Henry can keep up a little longer. He is going to advertise in the Railway Stations.

1872 Dec 28th. I have not made a personal entry... since Dec. 1870.

It has been a time of great experience [*Henry was very ill for some weeks*]. We were requiring in March of '71 to make the Patent Boxes in the upper rooms in High Street and Henry was too nervous to be at home when the two young people from Coventry came, which they did on the last Wednesday, I believe, in the month. A young woman from my brother's Box Room [*the ribbonweaving firm of J. & J Cash at Coventry*] who could make paper boxes well and a young man who was

of Banbury but had been in their employ for a time and could cut mill board, to do which a machine had come a few days back and Mr Hartley and Henry had put it up. We got on very slowly at first but on the second day I was proud to send a Box to Henry which he got at Coventry. [*During all this time and the summer Henry was still sick*] One symptom of his improvement was the return of his love of the pipe.

The Trade was increasing and our rooms in High Street very cramped. [*On advice we*] decided on moving into some premises in Parsons Street, two long rooms 50 feet in length, into which we got at the new year and had for three months very good trade. During the summer it slackened and I was very much depressed and not a little overdone with work and worry – we dismissed a few hands and in the Autumn it revived again so that we should now gladly have our old number and could well employ them – indeed I feel that a good living may readily be got out of our trade by introducing new articles to sell along with the Patent but fear whether I have strength for such constant effort as is needful to keep my household tolerably straight, entertain visitors etc, and in addition spend at least 5 hours daily at the works in over-looking every part of the Manufacturing which if I go away for a week is almost sure to get wrong some way or other. We now have a Banbury girl as over-looker, Miss Clarke having gone back to Coventry – and Henry too finds that he has as much on his mind as he can well do with, but we must go on and do our best.

1873 21st Dec. It is long since I wrote... for very busy the year has been.

On the whole very happy, Henry has been so well, better than I have ever known and always in good spirits. With one or two very short exceptions Trade better than last year though not very much increased. This month has been very flat and were it not for hope in the next year we might be out of spirits. There are some encouraging symptoms, *viz.* Our people do the work better and some can earn good wages for girls in Banbury, which encourages the others; our Boxes are an acknowledged article in the Market and the same Customers keep on; the Cabinets too are we hope getting accepted and we can make them better and in greater variety. We have made for De La Rue a Playing Card Cabinet[?] which is much approved and may bring in custom.

1875. Aug. The days and weeks go on much as usual. Constant occupation at the Works, where tho' we are very busy we do not earn very much. Last Spring our Landlord built us a new room as our Cabinet Trade required more space. This has grown very much and promises to increase

yet further. We have for the past 6 months had an agent in London and a room for him to keep stock in, but whether this will be sufficiently remunerative to be continued is doubtful. We have after much trouble and thought made a new kind of ornamental work which we call Alambique and which those who have [received?] like very much – this will give us employment during the slack months if we have any.

1876. Sept 9th. Nearly a year since my last entry, on the whole a happy time my dear husband has enjoyed unusually good health. I omitted to say last year that in Nov. Henry was chosen Mayor, this appointment has been threatening for several years and it seemed best after due consideration to it take now, and we have found on the whole that it has not been a great burden, I think Henry has so far filled the office to his own satisfaction and credit.

1876. Dec 10th. Henry's year of Mayoralty has expired and Mr Tanner succeeds him in office. Great pressure was put on him to take office for a second year, but this was more than he could afford of both time and money.

* * * * *

The continuing development of the business is well recorded in Barrie's article, especially my grandfather Lewis's engagement in and eventual responsibility for the 'box factory'. The journal mostly lapses into comment on holidays, relatives, illness and, inevitably, death.

It is clear that Henry Stone suffered from relatively frequent periods of illness, including prolonged depression. Without his wife's participation the business would have been unlikely to succeed.

The journal reveals Eleanor's obviously deep involvement from the start. Born in 1820, she would have been around 37 when married, nevertheless bearing four children within so many years. Her younger brothers were John and Joseph Cash, of the celebrated 'name-tape' firm.² Eleanor herself had won a prize for ribbon design in 1856, and one wonders how much she too before her marriage may have worked with her brothers. Sharing her brothers' genes and with her children sufficiently grown, she may well have welcomed the opportunity of productive work rather than remaining just as a wife and mother, cooking for the family!

The business perhaps should have been "Cash daughter and grandson"!

² Early this year I was saddened, although there's been no family involvement for fifty years, to learn Cash's had gone into administration.

Book Reviews

Britain's Industrial Revolution: The making of a manufacturing people 1700-1870, Barrie Trinder. Carnegie Publishing, 2013, 676pp, numerous illus & maps. ISBN 978-1-85936-175-7 (£20 p'b.), ISBN 978-1-85936-219-8 (£25 h'b.).

Barrie Trinder has been an active supporter of the Banbury Historical Society since its earliest years, and it is a privilege to review this marvellous book. It is probably the fullest account of the Industrial Revolution that has yet appeared, covering virtually every aspect of the industrialisation of the British Isles between c.1700 and 1870.

The book's arrangement makes it easy to read or to consult. The first chapters discuss how industrialisation was achieved: the power sources (water and steam), the development of technical skills, the advances in engineering that made possible the structures and the machines that industry needed, and the spread of the transport infrastructure that facilitated the assembly of its raw materials and the distribution of its products. The central part of the book describes the evolution of the main branches of industry: coal mining and metal extraction, the making of iron and steel and their products, textiles in their many forms, and paper. In the final part Trinder discusses the physical impact of industrialisation on urban development and workers' housing. Throughout, each topic is described in a way that shows how it relates to a broader picture of growth and innovation, and makes clear its contribution to the development of technology, to the national wealth, to the structure of society and to the transformation of the landscape and the built environment.

On almost every page the account is illuminated by maps and illustrations. Modern photographs show significant surviving remains, but many of Trinder's pictures are taken from contemporary sources. There were many reasons why people drew, painted and published views of industry. They might be attracted by pride in British achievements, by the drama of the industrial scene, by the scale of industrial enterprises or by striking juxtapositions of old and new. Books and periodicals illustrated factories and mechanical processes, and official reports might illustrate housing or working conditions. Many artists simply wanted to record the new and the unfamiliar. Early OS maps show, as no description can, the dense congestion of working and living in the early industrial cities. These well chosen illustrations and their detailed captions add greatly to the book's accessibility.

Most readers will remember the amazing opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympics, when a bucolic idyll was suddenly disrupted by smoking chimneys bursting skywards, transforming England's Green and Pleasant Land into the Workshop of the World. The spectacle was terrific, and conforms with a popular idea: that thanks to a few heroic men such as James Watt, the Abraham Darbys, Richard Arkwright, James Brindley, Thomas Telford and the Stephenson's England was changed almost overnight into a land of coal mines and

cotton mills, criss-crossed by canals and railways. Trinder gives the pioneers their due, but shows too that the story is really much more complicated.

To begin with, it is not a story either of steady or of sudden progress. We are apt (and not just in the history of industry) to take the work of pioneers as representative of progress as a whole: it is much more common for a generation or more to elapse before their achievements become common practice, and Trinder describes how in many fields innovation alternated with stagnation. He notes for example that primitive Newcomen steam engines were already widely employed before the great advances of industrialisation that followed James Watt's improvements in the later eighteenth century. Yet he notes too how much of industry was still powered by water or by Newcomen engines long after more efficient steam engines were generally available. In some areas of production, hand-loom weaving continued to prosper long after the building of vast, mechanised mills; on the other hand factories, which we generally think of as places where power drives machines, actually pre-dated external power sources and originated simply as places where manual workers were gathered together under one manager. In many places industries grew from ancient origins: lead mining in Derbyshire, tin and copper mining in Cornwall and the cloth industry of the west of England are classic examples, only gradually evolving to take advantage of technical and scientific discoveries. Nor was regional development uniform even in single-industry areas, as Trinder shows through the differing scales, speed and periods of growth of the Lancashire mill towns.

We are apt too to see the Industrial Revolution mainly as it affected the great manufacturing cities and the mining and iron-making regions. However, Trinder describes how skills and techniques were acquired and diffused, and how ubiquitous industry became. Mining and processing went on wherever there were suitable materials, and water mills could be adapted for many purposes, and not only for grinding corn. By the mid-nineteenth century almost every country town had an iron foundry. It would have a brewery as well, fired by coal, producing for the area on an industrial scale and supplanting the domestic brewing of the past. If there were clay deposits there would be at least one brick works. Even the smallest towns tended to grow, and industrial slums were not confined to the great cities.

Industrialisation reached far down into the rural environment. One does not think of Banbury as an industrial region, yet there was a blast furnace at Hook Norton to process locally mined ironstone. In Deddington a factory supplied axles for the nation's leading coachbuilders, and another supplied high quality woodwork for distinguished buildings in England and abroad. Plush weaving in Banbury and Shutford prospered despite remoteness from other centres of textile production. Everywhere, the ease and the economics of distribution offered first by canals and then by the railways either killed off local, mainly manual, manufacturing or else compelled local makers to expand and to industrialise if they were to compete. Most people who live in a house built

before the mid-eighteenth century are familiar with at least one consequence of industrialisation: the alterations made to domestic fireplaces when wood was supplanted by the much more thermally efficient coal. The Industrial Revolution impacted everywhere, even where no industry was carried on.

Not the least achievement of *Britain's Industrial Revolution* is to give due weight to each of the great range of enterprises that is described – judgement that could only be reached by someone with the breadth of knowledge that Trinder displays. Very few people have such a wide command of the material, and it is inevitable that readers whose interest may be slanted towards some particular aspect of the Industrial Revolution might wish for more on their own area of concern. I would have liked a bit more on ship building and marine engineering, given Britain's pioneering roles in both and the fact that in the middle of the nineteenth century so much of the world's trade was in British manufactures carried in British-built ships. One impact of industrialisation that Trinder says little about is its effect on agriculture by means of machinery, transport and artificial manures. Perhaps a little more on the pottery industry would have been in order too, given (among other things) most Britons' insatiable thirst for cups of tea. But by describing so wide a range of activities, Trinder makes it possible for readers with particular interests to see how their own subject relates to the whole.

Central to the themes of Trinder's book is that the crucial period of industrial development in Britain took place between the middle of the eighteenth century and the early years of the nineteenth. Thereafter, the story is of growth and consolidation rather than of radical innovation. Even the steam powered railways which spread so rapidly after 1830 merely cheapened and further speeded up the transport of people and goods that had already been greatly improved by canals, turnpikes and better road surfaces, and Trinder points out that by 1790 there were already horse-drawn railways in every significant coalfield. The hideous working and living environments that create much of the negative image of the Industrial Revolution were probably at their worst before 1840; thereafter, albeit by fits and starts, agitation and publicity increasingly prompted both private and official initiatives to control abuses and to improve industrial housing and working conditions.

The Industrial Revolution is long past; Britain's industrial pre-eminence peaked around 1870, Trinder's closing date, and the huge accumulation of national wealth that it had created long disguised a slow relative decline due to foreign competition, neglect of technical education, and complacency engendered by success. Technological advance has of course continued, but in industry Britain has long since ceased to lead the world. In finance it still aspires to do so, largely through financial systems and institutions that were first developed to serve British businesses of a kind that now scarcely exist. Industry once created national wealth; however hard politicians may now exhort bankers, it is probably too much to hope that their wealth can re-create industry.

The bridges and the aqueducts, the networks of canals and railways that survive help to promote an image of an heroic age – which in terms of the sheer scale of development, the Industrial Revolution undoubtedly was. But the great cities that industry first created have very largely been rebuilt by later generations. Scarcely any are left: of the many hundreds of chimneys and the many thousands of looms that once filled the northern towns with smoke and noise, and nothing at all to show the conditions that most operatives lived in before the slow introduction of building regulations. Nowhere in Manchester now can one gain any idea of the typical horrors of Little Ireland, so graphically described by Trinder from contemporary accounts. Thanks to the Industrial Revolution, Britain is still a rich country, but the working conditions that once rewarded English mill owners are now to be found in Bangladesh.

In spite of our knowing so much about it, much about the Industrial Revolution is still hard to grasp. The devastation of the Black Country in the nineteenth century cannot be comprehended even at the Black Country Museum, and probably few Comish holidaymakers – however enthralled they may be by the ruined pumping engines and their roughly built chimneys – can visualise the desolate landscapes that the mines created or imagine the working lives of the tin miners. Behind the extraordinary wealth of information in this wonderful book there often lie these elusive images and conflicting values, and Barry Trinder is sensitive to them as well.

Nicholas Cooper

The Quaker Clockmakers of North Oxfordshire, Tim Marshall. Hardback, 256 pp, 500+ illustrations, 20 x 25cm., Mayfield Books, 2013. (ISBN: 978-0-9540525-6-1). £48.00 + p&p.

This book is the culmination of over twenty years steady research by the author and focuses on an area of horology never covered before in a dedicated publication.¹² By including historical information on Quakerism, details of the Meeting Houses, extracts from documents, and details of clocks, the book delivers an integrated view of the north Oxfordshire clockmaking industry and the people who drove it until mass production in the nineteenth century eventually forced the decline of rural clockmaking skills. The historical detail combines with the horological content to give the book a broad appeal. Historians gain a detailed insight into one of the eighteenth century trades in the area and clock enthusiasts benefit from the extensive fresh material that has been included.

¹ The wider topic of Oxfordshire clockmaking has been covered some fifty years ago in *Clockmaking in Oxfordshire 1400 - 1850*, C F C Beeson, 1962, published by the Antiquarian Horological Society in association with the Banbury Historical Society.

² Books on longcase clocks often include north Oxfordshire Quaker examples, but are not dedicated to the topic.

The overall structure of the book works well, moving gradually from a general history of Quakerism to its history in north Oxfordshire, the involvement of local clockmakers, and the clocks they produced. The book can thus be read in its natural sequence or the later chapters used directly as a reference aid. Features of clocks are described in the (often lengthy) captions to illustrations. Separate chapters are provided on signed and unsigned "hoop and spike" clocks which formed the bulk of the clockmakers' output in the mid eighteenth century and which are often a specific interest of collectors. These clocks gain their name from the frame of the clock movement which has an iron hoop and two spikes projecting from the rear, allowing the clock to be hung on an iron hook which could be either in a case or on a wall.

The page facing chapter 1 has a handy map of the main area covered, showing the clock-making towns and villages of north Oxfordshire and nearby parts of Warwickshire. Chapter 1 concentrates on the origins of Quakerism and its practices, explaining the years of persecution and eventual acceptance. The Quaker organisation was not hierarchical and was represented by concentric circles and the author asks whether this inspired the ring and zig-zag dial design that appears on so many of the mid-eighteenth century clocks. Quakers supported the practice of "apprenticeship" and the author includes a diagram of clockmaking families with different colour lines to show relationships that are family, "master and apprentice" and "Quaker meeting associate". Horologists will recognise the families of Gilkes, Fardon and May that form the major part of the diagram.

Chapter 2 describes how Quakerism came to north Oxfordshire in the mid 1650s, first to Banbury, closely followed by meetings being established in the nearby villages, each of which feature strongly as the locations of clockmaking families. Later expansion of clockmaking to other villages is outlined, helped by the strong support of apprenticeship.

In chapter 3 the author delves deeper by discussing the history of several Meeting Houses, the roles that clockmakers took in the organisation, minutes involving clockmakers and burial information. For example in Sibford, Thomas Gilkes senior was the first clockmaker and was minister there for over fifty years and his son was Clerk. Richard Gilkes married there in 1744, and three Sibford clockmakers lie in the burial ground.

Clockmakers and their clocks are the focus of chapter 4, which contains 333 of the book's 500-plus illustrations. The chapter is organised by family name, and for each, all clockmaking descendants are described, with biographical information on their working locations, involvement in Quaker meetings, apprentices, immediate families and examples of clocks that bear their name. The author takes the opportunity to add numerous other details for each clockmaker when available: examples are will texts, inventories, property, clockwork styles and dating conclusions, and more. The chapter is a mine of information on each clockmaker, which needs to be studied carefully to absorb the detail. Generally, pictures of the clocks are very good and a credit to the publication, but for the keen collector some may not show enough of the detail.

The first clockmaker described is John Nethercott of Long Compton (despite the fact he was baptised into the Church of England,) as what is deemed the earliest ring and zig-zag dial clock bears his name. Substantial sections follow on the Gilkes and Fardon families followed by the May family of Witney, William Green of Milton, the Harris family of Deddington and Bloxham, Matthias Padbury, the Atkins family and others. Not all of the clockmakers operating in the mid eighteenth century produced clocks with the familiar hoop & spike movement, as none have been discovered with the May surname. Of the makers, the author records that William Green seems to have been quite prolific in his output.

Chapters 5 and 6 are dedicated to hoop and spike clocks, with 5 describing clocks with a signature and 6 describing the unsigned clocks. In chapter 5 there is a list of the makers who are known to have produced these clocks and the method of producing the familiar ring and zig-zag dial pattern is outlined. Also described are the types of spandrel³ used (noting the poorly defined castings often encountered), the patterns of hands, various types of movement frames and other constructional details. This is followed by details of wheelwork, strikework etc and finally clock cases. Of the hoop and spike clocks the author has recorded, about one third remain unsigned and these are reviewed in chapter 6.

A final Chapter in the book discusses associated clockmakers. These include John Fry of Sutton Benger (who, the author concludes, sourced some hoop and spike clocks from north Oxfordshire), Tobias Gilks of Chipping Norton (seemingly not related to the Gilkes family in north Oxfordshire) and Thomas Wagstaffe (who is believed to have been from a leading non-conformist family in Oxfordshire).

The Appendices include one on recently discovered clocks (emphasising there are still many to be recorded) and another on the list of clockmakers and their birth, "working" and death years.

This book scores highly on its broad appeal and depth of the subjects covered, all in a single easy to read publication with copious illustrations. Throughout, the author has cited his reference material which will help readers who wish to carry out further study. Tim Marshall has done an excellent job over twenty years assembling the information in his book, suggesting possible answers to difficult questions (just where did Thomas Gilkes learn his trade), speculating on the origin of the zig-zag dial design (the circles used in describing the Quaker organisation), but leaving the door firmly ajar for further research.

This new publication with its colour illustrations is a valuable addition to the studies of regional clockmaking and the local history of north Oxfordshire. With a main interest in horology and some appetite for the historical and social contexts, I found this book both easy to read and rather difficult to put down.

David Harris

³ A spandrel is the area remaining between a curved area (in the case of a clock dial it will be a circular chapter ring or similar) and a wider boundary, often square or rectangular (in the instances being discussed, it is the square clock dial). On a clock dial, the spandrel spaces are commonly filled with applied castings, also called spandrels.

Dr PAMELA HORN (1936-2013)
Her contributions to *Cake & Cockhorse*

Pamela Horn's death, reported in our last issue, has deprived us of a notable historian of nineteenth-century social history. She taught at Oxford Polytechnic, now Oxford Brookes, for many years but is best known as the prolific writer of over twenty books, mostly on Victorian society. Her writing achieved the difficult feat of being both popular and scholarly. She wrote *inter alia* on rural life, on the lives of servants, on childhood and on education. Pamela lived well away from Banburyshire in Sutton Courtenay but she was a great supporter of the Banbury Historical Society, as the list of her publications for *Cake & Cockhorse* demonstrates. C.D.

- 3.9. Autumn 67 Banbury and the Riots of 1830 (for an update, see 'Swing in Banburyshire: New light on the riots of 1830', 18.9.)
- 3.11 Spring 68 The New Society of Plush-Weavers: Articles, Rules and Orders, 1822; The Banbury Weavers Union of 1834
- 4.2 Winter 68 The Chartist Land Company, 1846-49
- 4.7 Spring 70 Banbury Widows' Society, 1878-82
- 4.10 Winter 70 The County Child, 1850-70 (rural education in north Oxfordshire)
- 5.6 Summer 73 The Banbury Workhouse Child during the 1890s
- 6.1 Autumn 74 Aspects of Labouring Life: The Model Farm Farm at Ditchley, 1856-7
- 6.5 Spring 76 Superstition and Witchcraft in the Nineteenth Century (examples from northern Oxfordshire)
- 7.1 Autumn 76 Oxfordshire Village School Teachers: 1800-1880 (includes Claydon, Cottisford, Cropredy, Horspath, Launton, Tacklcy, Souldern)
- 7.4 Autumn 77 Mrs Frances Ann Bowkett: A Banbury Schoolmistress at the turn of the century (1888-1911)
- 7.5 Spring 78 *The State of the Poor* [pub'd 1797], by Sir Frederick M Eden (1766-1809) [with parochial notes on Banbury & Deddington]
- 7.8 Spring 79 The Mutiny of the Oxfordshire Militia in 1795
- 8.3 Summer 80 Aspects of Oxfordshire Poor Relief: The 1830s (including Cropredy, Deddington, Ilook Norton, Kings Sutton)
- 8.4 Autumn 80 Oxfordshire and the Census of 1811
- 9.4 Autumn 83 Mary Dew (1845-1936) of Lower Heyford: A Model Teacher
- 9.9 Summer 85 A Teenage Diary, 1890s: George James Dew of Lr Heyford
- 10.4 Autumn 86 The Chipping Norton Deanery Magazine for 1888
- 10.8 Spring 88 Country Teachers in Victorian Oxfordshire: Some Case Studies (Alker: on, Barfords, Bloxham [2], Cottisford, Cropredy, Drayton, Milcombe, Tadmarton, Wardington)

- 12.5 Spring 93 Oxford's Last Public Hanging: The case of Noah Austin
- 15.2 Spring 2001 A Bloxham Servants' Book, 1852-62
- 15.6 Summer 02 Fortnam versus Fortnam: Marriage Breakdown in Georgian Oxfordshire (Steeple Barton in 1775)
- 16.8 Spring 06 Eighteenth Century Shopkeepers and the Shop Tax: 1785-89 (includes returns for the whole county and a list of Banbury shopkeepers from Directories, 1784-98)
- 17.4 Autumn 07 Review of *Early Victorian Squarson: The Diaries of Willikon Cotton Ristey, Vicar of Deddington* (BHS 29)

Banbury Historical Society: A check-list of occasional publications:

The formalisation of arrangements for keeping the Society's archive in Banbury Museum, mentioned in the Annual Report for 2013, is a reminder that the Society has brought out several occasional pamphlets and this seems an opportune moment to publish a check list. Some, as indicated below, were straightforward reprints of articles in *Cake & Cockhorse*. The texts can be accessed in bound volumes in libraries or on the Society's website, but bibliographies sometimes refer to them as separate titles and to avoid confusion they are included in this list.

- Bromley V., & Steed, V. Wickham, *Roman Banburyshire* (1964, 20 pp., reprinted from *Cake & Cockhorse*, vol 2 [7]).
- Brinkworth, E. R. C., *Old Banbury: A Short Popular History* (1958, vi + 26 pp)
- Brinkworth, E. R. C., *Old Banbury: A Short Popular History* (2nd edn., 1966, vi + 34 pp).
- Edwards, M.S., *Methodism in Boddington* (1965, 12 pp., reprinted from *Cake & Cockhorse*, vol 3 [1]).
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- Harvey, P. & Trinder, B., *New Light on Banbury's Crosses* (1967, 16 pp., reprinted from *Cake & Cockhorse*, vol 3 [10]).
- Hodgkins, V., & Bloxham, C., *Banbury and Stamford Plush* (1980, 32 pp.; reprinted 2004). Copies still available.
- Trinder, B., *A History of Banbury Cross* (1964, 8 pp.).
- Trinder, B., *The Story of the Globe Room* (1966, 8 pp., joint publication with Banbury Borough Council).
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Lecture Reports

Brian Little

Thursday 14th November 2013

The Woodland landscape of Anglo-Saxon England

Dr Della Hooke

Our speaker quickly warmed to her subject and developed the lecture in a most enthusiastic manner, which made for an enjoyable and instructive evening.

Distribution maps were critical to the presentation. These revealed just how much woodland existed in Anglo-Saxon England and the way some of this acted as boundaries between territories or coincided with nucleated settlement. However it would be wrong to picture this as dense primeval forest, it was more open like the New Forest today. In some areas particularly in the East Midlands and Dorset wooded areas were more scattered.

Dr Hooke went on to emphasise the extent and importance of pasture within wooded areas and how grazing assisted regeneration. Access to such land was by drove ways in line with river crossings, which were typical of areas like the High Weald of Kent. The map that illustrated these also showed how seasonal extensions to these ways gave access to summer pastures. Nearer to our area was the reference to pasture rights in Wychwood Forest and also Warwickshire drove ways linking Arden and Feldon.

Another topic within the overall lecture was the significance of specialist place names relating to woodland. Sometimes these varied regionally such as Holt (Worcestershire) and Hlyrst (Warwickshire) signifying a wooded hill but they also offered clues to species of tree, oak and ash being the most common. Specific trees were also mentioned in charters, oak and ash again occurring most often. Especially interesting was that woodland and agricultural regions exchanged products. Some of these were valuable fodder crops.

Hunting featured towards the end of her talk and focused on the Norman forests of the Midlands.

In the ensuing question and answer session the issue of correlation of Anglo-Saxon woodland with underlying geology was raised. Members were interested to learn that woodland patterns and rock outcrops did not always coincide. This was one of many fascinating aspects of an absorbing evening.

Thursday 12th December 2013

Notorious Neithrop: sex and cohabitation in nineteenth century Banbury

Professor Rebecca Probert

Professor Probert's starting point was the generally held view that the nineteenth century civil parish of Neithrop was 'a place inhabited by the poor and persons of bad character' that was 'notorious' for non-marital arrangements.

The lecture was largely an expansion of her article in *Cake and Cockhorse* Vol. 19:1 (Autumn 2012) and described how by various digital means unavailable to previous researchers she was able to examine and cross check data from census returns, birth/baptism and marriage registers. Having demonstrated that most women listed on census returns as housekeepers were just that and in a number of cases lodgers were in fact family members she then turned her attention to those couples who described themselves as married. Remarkably, given the reputation of the area, it was possible to confirm 95% of the marriages.

Professor Probert concluded her lecture by looking at the outcast mother such as those with a history of workhouse occupation. In a sample of 900 births in Oxford across 10 parishes she found 35 mothers described as single women and/or appearing alone on baptism registers.

Returning to Neithrop she concluded that the township experience was a 'Banbury tale', that is to say a gross exaggeration of the facts.

Thursday 9th January 2014

The Green Man trail in Oxfordshire

Tim Healey

This was a highly entertaining talk about a variety of images grouped under the broad heading 'The Green Man' perceived by many to symbolise our oneness with the earth or God in Nature warding off evil spirits. Examples date from pagan times with a fine Roman example in Trier and have inspired artists throughout history up to the present day.

Tim Healey's early comment of 'seems to be everywhere' set the tone for the evening, which was an exploration of Green Man variants in locations all over Oxfordshire from a pub sign at Mollington to modern examples at Watperry Garden Centre. Not all are men, there are some Green Women and Ifley Church has its Green Beasts.

Illustrations covered a wide range of facial expressions and treatment of foliage. Commonest occurrences featured links with a leafy environment as in New College, Oxford, where a Misericord included a face with a leaf mask. Broad categories included weeping with foliage sprouting from the eyes in Chipping Norton church, disgorging from the mouth as at Kidlington St Mary's, and streaming from the nostrils. The foliage issue was also a matter of type and stage within the growth cycle. Oak leaves occur as at Broughton Castle and occasionally flowers but more often fruit predominates.

An especially fascinating theme was the association of the images with churches throughout Oxfordshire exemplified by fine examples in Christ Church Cathedral, Dorchester Abbey, Eynsham St Leonard's and Ewelme Church.

The Green Man has a strong link with folklore and is a central figure in May Day celebrations in Northern and Central Europe. The Morris dancers' Jack in the Green was pictured with Balliol College dancers on May Day 1886.

A remarkable evening ended with a lively exchange of information/question time during which it emerged that Green Man images were most often found at transitional points within buildings such as porches, doorways and chancel arches

Thursday 13th February 2014

From Gough to Google: the development of Printed Maps of Oxfordshire

John Leighfield CBE

In a beautifully illustrated and well presented lecture, John Leighfield focussed on the key stages in the development of printed maps of Oxfordshire. At the conclusion of the lecture those present were given the opportunity to look at a range of original maps and were given a detailed précis hand-outs of the talk.

Our speaker commenced with maps of the British Isles prepared by the 13th century historian Matthew Paris. In this period the most significant representation was the Gough map (c 1360) held in the Bodleian Library.

From the early 16th century onwards Oxford Colleges produced good examples of estate maps and the latter half of the century saw the first county maps, usually as part of projects to map the whole of England and Wales. The earliest and one of the most accurate formed part of an atlas by Christopher Saxton who revolutionised map making and provided the basis for later maps. Saxton maps also appeared as illustrations in the 1609 edition of William Camden's *Britannia*, the first time Oxfordshire appeared on its own rather than grouped with other counties.

Another early map maker was John Speed who, using Saxton as a base, was the first to show hundreds on his county maps published between 1611 and 1770 some with added town plans. Roads were missing from early maps but featured in John Ogilby's *Britannia*, which was the forerunner of strip maps. After it was published other mapmakers drew roads on to the plates of the classic atlases such as those of Speed and Saxton.

Dr Robert Plot's illustrated *Natural History of Oxfordshire* published in 1695 has a highly decorated map of the county on the largest scale to date.

However, it was not until the second half of the 18th century that we see an expansion of mapping of counties. In 1759 the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce (Royal Society for Arts) offered a prize of £100 for an original survey of each county at one inch to the mile. Oxfordshire was surveyed by Thomas Jeffreys and the result was a very accurate and detailed map with a plan of Oxford. It was engraved by John Carey, one of the most able and prolific of the English cartographers.

In 1797 Cary also collaborated with Richard Davis, 'the last great figure in the mapping of the counties'. The emergence of the Ordnance Survey in 1790 largely put an end to commercial activities. The one inch to one mile reached Oxfordshire in 1833.

John Leighfield concluded his fascinating talk by illustrating the succession of scales used by the Ordnance Survey from 1 inch to 1 mile for general topography up to an amazing 10 feet to the mile for built up areas. In his own words the OS 'put British mapmaking in the pre-eminent position in the world'. Could he possibly resist the logical progression 'and so to Google!'

Banbury Historical Society

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

This has been in most respects a satisfactory year for your Society. Our well-established activities continue to arouse the interest of members, one particular innovation proved highly successful, and some long-term issues, characteristic of those of a society that is more than half-a-century old, have been satisfactorily resolved.

Our major expenditure in 2013 was on the production and distribution of *Victorian Banburyshire: Three Memoirs* edited by Barrie Trinder for which we received yet another generous grant from the Greening Lamborn Trust. We showed a small deficit of £289 on the General Fund, but the balance on the General Fund at the end of the year was more than sufficient to meet the cost of the one record volume currently in advanced preparation. From the Brinkworth Museum Fund we made a contribution of £500 to Banbury Museum's Natural Histories Exhibition.

Banbury Museum ceased to be the responsibility of Cherwell District Council and passed into trust status with effect from 1 November 2013. The Museum is not just the venue for the Society's meetings but its official address, the host for its website and the repository for its archive. We are pleased to report that relationships with the Museum remain close, and that we were able to provide financial support for the Museum's Natural Histories exhibition which opened in November. Changes to the website are anticipated early in 2014. We are grateful to our member Philip Richards who has scanned recent volumes of *Cake & Cockhorse* prior to incorporation on the website.

The change in the Museum's status provided an opportunity to define the Society's Archive. The Archive is now held at the Museum. It has been agreed that it should comprise the minutes of the committee, a complete run of *Cake & Cockhorse*, and a set of records and other publications. *Cake & Cockhorse* includes annual reports and financial statements. Other financial records are retained by the Treasurer only as long as they are required for current purposes. There is in addition a small collection of ephemeral items relating to the Society's activities, chiefly photographs, posters and other publicity material, which is being put in order by our member Wendy Passmore. Further contributions will be welcome.

The Society does not intend to become the owner of archives, books or artefacts, but it will happily take into custody items which people wish to dispose of, and facilitate their transfer to appropriate libraries, record offices or museums.

Our winter lecture programme continues to be well-supported, although maximum attendances are a little below the levels achieved in 2011-12. Our aim has been to attract outstanding scholars able to communicate fluently the results of their research. Lectures were given by Dorian Gerhold, an acknowledged authority on the history of roads, Dr Shaun Morley, secretary of the Oxfordshire Records Society, Professor Helena Hamerow and Dr George Speake of the University of Oxford, Dr Malcolm Dick and Dr Della Hooke of the University of Birmingham, and Professor Rebecca Probert of the University of Warwick. The serving of coffee after concluding discussions continues to be popular.

The summer programme, organised by Beryl Hudson, followed the pattern of previous years, with visits to Chalgrove Manor and the museum at Piddington, Northamptonshire and the excavations then in progress on the site of the nearby Roman villa. The annual general meeting at Combe Mill was exceptionally well-attended although enjoyment of the occasion was somewhat curtailed by heavy rain.

An innovation was a village meeting held in Chacombe in April. This was intended as a 'road show', displaying in a village where there is no historical society something of what the Banbury Historical Society can offer. Two short talks were given by members of the committee, refreshments were provided, and a bookstall with the Society's publications and those by four members was well-patronised. The event attracted more than 80 people and we gained several new members. A similar event is planned in a different village for the spring of 2014.

Another unusual event took place on 12 September, when the Society was one of three organisations, the others being Banbury Museum and Carnegie Publishing, to host an event that jointly celebrated the forthcoming new status of the museum and the publication by Carnegie of our chairman's substantial work *Britain's Industrial Revolution*. The guest speaker was Sir Neil Cossons, formerly Chairman of English Heritage and Director of the Science Museum.

Our thrice-yearly journal *Cake & Cockhorse* has continued to appear at regular intervals. With one exception, detailed below, all the principal articles that appeared in 2012 were by present or past members of the committee. As usual, books relevant to 'Banburyshire' have been reviewed, and there have been reports on lectures as well as obituaries and other news items.

The committee were saddened in January 2013 when Jeremy Gibson announced that he wished to retire as editor of *Cake & Cockhorse*. He had carried out this post, with the assistance of other committee members, since 1994, and felt it was time for a successor. His involvement with the production

side of the magazine goes back to the Society's earliest years, and this he would be happy to continue. We are delighted that Chris Day agreed to take on the editorship, with the support of an editorial committee. The Society is indebted to Jeremy for his contribution to a journal that has given much interest and pleasure to members, as well as gaining respect in the academic community. He will continue to edit the records series.

Jeremy Gibson's retirement was marked by a lunch given by his current and past colleagues in the Society, held in the Globe Room at the *Reindeer Inn* on Friday 28 June 2013. This was an appropriate venue since it was through Jeremy's diplomatic skills that when it was discovered in 1964 that the Globe Room panels had not been exported to the United States in 1912, but remained in London, the borough councillors were persuaded to purchase the panels and to bring them back to Banbury. Jeremy's retirement was also commemorated by a *festschrift* edition of the *Cake & Cockhorse* in the autumn of 2013, which included two articles based on his family papers, and one on the second Earl of Downe by his old friend Nicholas Cooper.

Many historical societies are encumbered by the weight and volume of their past publications, and we are delighted to report that through the energy of Jeremy Gibson our stock of back issues of *Cake & Cockhorse* has been thoroughly rationalised, and should not be a burden to future officers. Complete runs of the journal, which has been published since 1959, are now held by the editor, the editor of the records series, and in the Society Archive at Banbury Museum. During the summer and autumn of 2013 copies of past issues have been available free to members (apart from the cost of postage, and, in most cases, a donation). The stock has been considerably reduced, and while a small stock sufficient to meet likely demand for back issues will be retained, copies surplus to requirements will be pulped.

(The 4-page leaflet listing surplus articles/issues which had to be held over from the last mailing [page 152] is now enclosed, and these remain free to readers. Application to Jeremy Gibson [see front cover]. Send no money now.)

The 33rd volume in the Society's records series, *Victorian Banburyshire: Three Memoirs*, edited by Barrie Trinder, was published at the AGM in June. It consists of reprints of two well-known but almost inaccessible works, *My Life*, by Sarah Beesley, and *Reminiscences of Old Banbury* by Thomas Ward Boss, together with the diary for July-December 1863 of the Banbury-born illustrator and journalist, Thomas Butler Gunn. We are grateful to our member Alderman John Gazey for bringing the latter to our attention. Our publication for 2012, Geoffrey Smedley-Stevenson's *Mid-Victorian Squarson: The Diaries of William Cotton Kiskey, former Vicar of Deddington, 1849-1869*, has received several complimentary reviews during the year. Production of the 34th volume in the series, an index to Rusher's *Banbury Directories, 1832-1906*, with a DVD containing a facsimile of the text, is advanced. As in several previous years, we are grateful to the Greening Lamborn Trust for financial support in our publishing activities.

Our meetings are effectively publicised through emails sent at frequent intervals by Deborah Hayter, and by posters efficiently produced and distributed by Jeremy Gibson and Clare Jakeman.

The level of membership has remained much the same. Your committee are eager to take advantage of any opportunity to gain new members, whether through publications, the attractiveness of our regular meetings, or through special events such as village meetings or local history fairs.

With regret we record the deaths of two significant contributors to the Society's publications. Geoffrey Smødley-Stevenson, a member for many years and editor of the two volumes of the diaries of William Cotton Risley that have appeared in the Society's records series, died in August. We are pleased that after many tribulations the second volume of the diaries finally appeared in 2012, and that Geoffrey was able to meet old friends when he attended our AGM at Combe in June 2013. Dr Pamela Horn, formerly of Oxford Brookes University, author of many works on rural history, domestic servants and childhood, died earlier in the year. She had contributed articles relevant to Banburyshire to *Cake & Cockhorse* regularly since 1967.

The Society has expressed its views to the appropriate authorities on several planning issues in the course of the year, in most cases in collaboration with Banbury Civic Society.

One of the most successful local history events in Banburyshire for many years, attended by many of our members, was an exhibition of Quaker clocks staged by the Adderbury History Association over the weekend of 8-9 June. While the Society was not directly involved in the exhibition, we would like to congratulate our former chairman Nick Allen on his role in publicising it, and can take some satisfaction that our fourth records publication, C.F.C. Beeson, *Clockmaking in Oxfordshire 1400-1850* (1962, and twice reprinted) was one of the foundations of the scholarship upon which the exhibition was based.

We congratulate three of our members who have produced publications on local history during 2013. Martin Greenwood wrote *Pilgrim's Progress Revisited: the Nonconformists of Banburyshire 1662-2012*, published by Wychwood Press. Brian Little is joint author with David Shadbolt of *The History of Banbury Spencer Football Club*, published by Robert Boyd. Trevor Parry produced privately a 24pp pamphlet *A View from the Pew* which records his memories of the Marlborough Road Methodist Church and its Sunday School and Youth Club between 1948 and 1958.

The year 2013 proved eventful and generally successful for the Society, but this should not lead to complacency. Your committee hope to build new partnerships with village societies in Banburyshire, with schools in the region, and with other bodies involved in local history. We can celebrate our past achievements and the quality of our current activities but must be conscious that we are an aging society, and that we must look now to find the people who will be holding positions of responsibility ten or twenty years hence.

Banbury Historical Society

Income & Expenditure Accounts for year ending 31 December 2013

GENERAL FUND	2013	2012
	£	£
INCOME		
Subscriptions	3,015	3,206
Income Tax refund	407	465
Building Society Interest	24	25
Sale of publications	560	794
Other	381	59
Total Income	4,394	4,449
EXPENDITURE		
Cake & Cochlorge	1,134	979
Records/Volumes costs	3,624	4,293
Less Grant from Greening Lamborn Trust	<u>2,250</u>	<u>3,000</u>
Meetings	573	595
Reception B. AGM	163	59
Postage and other Administration costs	1,439	1,242
Total Expenditure	4,683	4,108
DEFICIT from Surplus to the General Fund	(289)	341
BRINKWORTH MUSEUM FUND		
INCOME		
Building Society interest	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Donations to Banbury Museum	<u>500</u>	<u>589</u>
DEFICIT from the Brinkworth Museum Fund	(490)	(378)

Balance Sheets as at 31 December 2013

	2013	2012
	£	£
GENERAL FUND		
Balance at 1 January 2013	11,480	11,139
LESS Deficit (PLUS Surplus) for the year	<u>(289)</u>	<u>341</u>
Balance at 31 December 2013	<u>11,191</u>	<u>11,480</u>
BRINKWORTH MUSEUM FUND		
Balance at 1 January 2013	3,325	3,903
LESS Deficit for the year	<u>(490)</u>	<u>(578)</u>
Balance at 31 December 2013	<u>2,835</u>	<u>3,325</u>
TOTAL BALANCE at 31 December 2013	<u>14,026</u>	<u>14,805</u>
Represented by:		
ASSETS		
NatWest Bank Banbury - Current A/c	3,540	4,026
Leeds Building Society - General A/c	8,182	8,158
Leeds Building Society - Brinkworth Museum A/c	2,835	3,325
Cash	<u>13</u>	<u>8</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>14,570</u>	<u>15,517</u>
less LIABILITIES		
Subscriptions in advance	<u>544</u>	<u>712</u>
NET ASSETS at 31 December 2013	<u>14,026</u>	<u>14,805</u>

GF Griffiths, Hon Treasurer

I have reviewed and examined the books and records of the Banbury Historical Society and confirm that the accounts prepared by the Hon Treasurer represent a fair and accurate summary of the financial transactions completed in the year ended 31 December 2013.

Peter Cottrell BA, ACCA, ACIMA

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. Over one hundred and fifty issues and five hundred articles have been published. All but the most recent volumes 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 over thirty volumes in the records series. Those still in print include:

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).

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

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

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

Turnpike Roads to Banbury, by Alan Rosevear (vol. 31).

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

Part 2. *Mid-Victorian Squarson, 1849-1869* (vol. 32).

Victorian Banburyshire: Three Memoirs, ed. Barrie Trinder (vol. 33).

Prices / availability of all back volumes, and of *Cake and Cockhorse*, from Jeremy Gibson, Harts Cottage, Church Hanborough, Wimey OX2 9 8AB. <jr@rany.gibson@efsbroadband.net>

In preparation:

Alphabetical Digest of *Rusher's 'Banbury Directory' 1832-1906*.

The Banbury Vesey Book, 1766-1797.

Hearth Tax Payers in Banburyshire, 1662-1674

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 or location.

Membership of the Society is open to all. The annual subscription (since 2009) is £13.00 which includes any records volumes published. Overseas membership, £15.00.

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

Spring and Summer 2014 Programme

Tuesday 1st April 2014, 7.30pm At Somerton Village Hall

Looking at Somerton's History

This village meeting which begins our summer programme will take the form established by our visit to Chacombe last year. From Banbury, Somerton is reached from A4260 through Deddington, turning left at the top of the hill just before the dual carriageway stretch, through North Aston. The village hall is in the main street. Parking on the road.

Talks by **Barrie Trinder**, 'The trains that ran through Somerton', and **Deborah Hayer**, 'Somerton's early landscape'. Refreshments and bookstall.

Thursday 15th May 2014, 2.00 for 2.30pm.

Holdenby, NN6 8DJ. Seven miles north-west of Northampton off A428 or A5199. The original house was built by Sir Christopher Hatton and finished in 1583. It was then the largest in the county. Charles I was imprisoned there for a few months in 1647. Later largely demolished, one wing of the house, about one eighth of the size of the original house, was restored in the Tudor style by the present owner's great-grandparents in the 1870s. Notable gardens. There is a falconry centre. The guided tour costs £8.50 and tea will be available.

Wednesday 18th June 2014, 2.00 for 2.3pm.

Sezincote, Glos GL56 9OW. Two miles west of Moreton-in-Marsh on A44, left opposite the entrance to the Batsford Arboretum.

Began about 1805, the house was designed by S.P. Cotterell (who also was architect for Banbury church), the brother of the owner. Although planned like an English villa it takes many exterior details from Moghul architecture, and has an orangery. It was the inspiration for the Prince Regent's Brighton Pavilion.

The gardens were originally designed by Humphrey Repton.

Guided tour of the house, £5.00. Tea probably.

Thursday 10th July 2014, 5.00 for 5.30pm. Annual General Meeting.

We have been delighted to be invited back to the home of our President, **Broughton Castle.**

It is hard to believe that any member needs directions, but, for the record, this is reached from Banbury by B4035, the Shipston road Parking by the Church.