

# CAKE AND COCKHORSE



## BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Autumn/Winter 2016**

**Volume 20 Number 4**

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**Autumn 2016 / Winter 2017 Programme**

*Meetings are held at Banbury Museum at 7.30pm,  
Entrance from Spiceball Park Road*

*Thursday 8th December 2016*

**The Elgin Marbles**

Dr Steve Kershaw

2016 marks the 200th anniversary of the purchase of the so-called 'Elgin Marbles' from Thomas Bruce, the 7th Earl of Elgin, by the British Parliament

*Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017*

**History from Underneath: Girls' Lives in Early Industrial Britain.**

Professor Jane Humphries, Oxford University

*Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017*

Dr Alan Crosby, Editor, *The Local Historian*

**A small-town politician: George Crosby 1820-1886, mayor of Banbury 1872-1873**

*Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017*

Dr James Hamilton

**Turner's Romance with Oxfordshire**

Oxford and Oxfordshire's magnetic attraction for Turner

*Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017*

History Quiz for members and guests

See the Society's website: [www.banburyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.banburyhistoricalsociety.org)  
For further information on the programme's subjects and speakers

# *Cake and Cockhorse*

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

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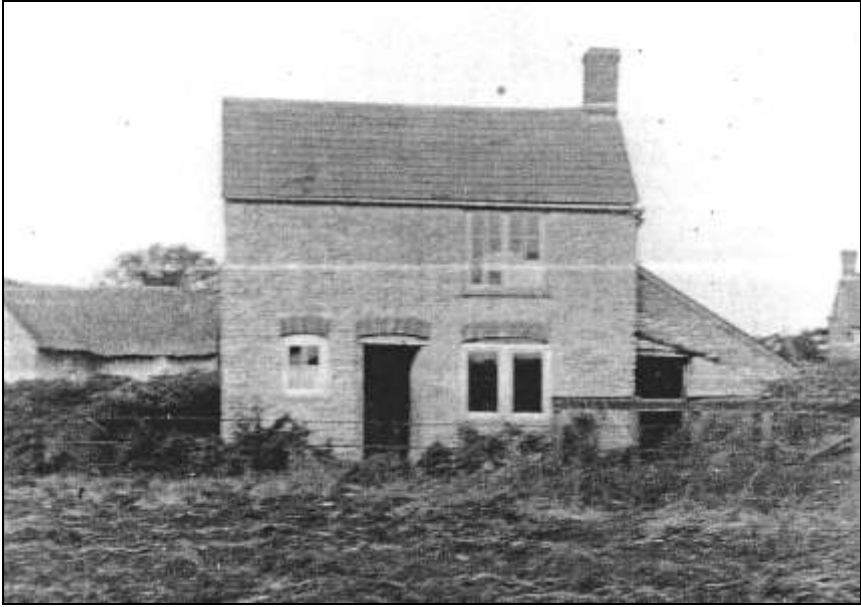
In this issue we continue our exploration of aspects of the more recent history of Banburyshire. This time Judith Harvey writes about what it has been like living in the goldfish bowl that is sometimes Juniper Hill (aka Lark Rise), and about changes there. Nick Allen concludes his history of Adderbury House with an account of the creation of the delightful Adderbury Lakes nature reserve. Our coverage of recent history has proved popular with readers and we will continue to publish interesting accounts so long as they are submitted to us.

After a decent summer weather-wise that favoured our popular excursions, and the first BHS AGM to be waited on by a butler (at Thenford House – how are we going to top that?), the Society’s 2016-17 season has begun well. Lecture attendances have been good and are likely to get even better as word spreads about the superb new audio-visual equipment that the Museum has installed in the lecture theatre. We hope that it will resolve the issue of people at the back of the room not being able to see clearly what is projected onto the screen. Good visuals, however, have a short-lived appeal if they are being experienced in discomfort, and the lecture theatre has on occasion left us feeling rather too closely acquainted with one another. There is nothing to be done about the size of the room but we are introducing new seating that we hope will allow large audiences to be seated more comfortably.

Finally, a reminder that a simple set of contributors’ guidelines is available for anyone considering submitting a piece of work for publication in *Cake & Cockhorse*. Just let me know and I shall be happy to send them.

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Cover: The Tuscan archway, Adderbury House (see pp.114-116)



*'The End House' in 1918 (photo courtesy Martin Greenwood)*



*'The End House' today (photo Chris Day)*

## LIVING AT LARK RISE

*Judith Harvey*

In June 2004 my husband and I moved into the garden of Lark Rise Cottage. No, not into the house itself, but into a cabin in the garden. We were there for about four months in what was a blessedly dry summer whilst the cottage which appears in Flora Thompson's *Lark Rise to Candleford* as 'the end house' was carefully renovated. So our first experience of the hamlet of Juniper Hill, aka Lark Rise, was being at close quarters with the wildlife which is still abundant. Oh, and I can vouch for the fact that there are still plenty of larks rising from the field beyond the hedge. On warm days their invisible singing is positively noisy.

The garden was our main reason for buying the house. After many years teaching English in schools and colleges around Stockport and living the life suburban, we moved south with the aim of spending as much time as possible out of doors. The Flora Thompson element was an interesting bonus, although – having taught her trilogy to sixteen-year-olds in a boys' grammar school – my husband was less than enchanted with her work. I had first read her as a studious seven-year-old, and looked forward to seeing how much of the life she described remained in the early twenty-first century.

The cottage was built in about 1820, as a one-up, one-down house in the local soft chalk rubble. At some point in its history the thatched roof was replaced with Welsh slate and the stone was painted white. In the 1950s someone added a bathroom, second bedroom and hallway, in the 1970s a kitchen and in the 1980s a dining room. We added a conservatory. When Flora Thompson, born Flora Timms, lived here, from a few days old to fourteen, the garden was a little patch of about six feet beyond the one downstairs room, but some later owner had incorporated three-quarters of an acre of land, either incrementally or in one big land-grab. Much of what we know about the property and its surroundings is hearsay, guess and semi-folk-memory. One thing is certain, though: the young Flora's family of two adults and up to five children at any one time must have been squeezed in like sardines. The custom of sending the older children to sleep at less-crowded relatives' houses may well have applied, but it is no wonder that children spent the

daylight hours in the fresh air! We still have the tight little spiral staircase in solid oak which leads up to the original bedroom. The beams and 18-inch-thick walls of Flora Thompson's childhood remain. We can pick out in old photos just which bit of the cottage was a backdrop for a picture of Emma Timms, Flora's mother. We never feel as if we are living in a museum, though, for so much else has changed.

The cottage still abuts an unmade road, part of the Rise described in Flora Thompson's trilogy. This was published just before the Second World War and describes life in our hamlet in the 1880s. It is next door to the former home of the old lacemaker and bee-keeper (Queenie, real name Eliza Massey). Her house is at least twice the size it was then. Several of the original cottages have been united and would seem impossibly grand to their 1880s occupants. There are now 21 houses in the hamlet, but several sources suggest that there were more in the nineteenth century. The first houses were thrown up in the eighteenth century by an underclass removed from Cottisford by the landlords, Eton College, and some were 'squatter-built', so would have fallen prey to jerry-building and decay. The pub, The Fox, renamed by Thompson as The Waggon and Horses, has been a private house for years. The 'turnpike road' is now the A43, and the modern equivalent of the carrier's cart is a bus from Northampton to Bicester. Fringford (Candleford Green), a few miles away, still contains the forge/post-office where the author went to work at the age of fourteen. The magic lantern shows, that the author may have enjoyed as a child and adolescent, have their counterpart in the Fringford Village Cinema, where *Mr. Turner*, *The Imitation Game* and other recently released films are shown. Brackley, Bicester, Buckingham and Banbury (all providing inspiration for Candleford) are still the towns which circle the village – but the nearest, Brackley, is four miles away, and there is no slipping out on foot for a pint of milk or a loaf of bread. Older patterns of life can seem very attractive at times, if you forget the poverty, disease and poor education!

Beyond our bottom hedge is the field named on old maps as Lark Rise and it was across it that Laura and Edmund, based on Flora Thompson herself and her young brother Edwin, walked to school on fine days. The school, in Cottisford (Fordlow) was converted to a private house over forty years ago, but retains its high schoolroom roof in the sitting-room. It was sold, eighteen months ago, for over £500,000; and so continues the gentrification of a formerly peasant society. The church where the

Timms family worshipped still contains ‘their’ pew. Above it is a memorial brass on which Flora Thompson’s brother Edwin, who died in the 1914-18 war, is commemorated. Flora’s parents are buried somewhere in the churchyard, but were not of the rank in society which could afford headstones, so it is uncertain exactly where. Ironic, given that Mr. Timms was a monumental mason. When I do my stint on the church flower rota I always sit for a minute in the family pew and enjoy the view through the open door into the churchyard beyond, as described in *Lark Rise*. The church still has no running water or loo, and so is closer to the living conditions written about by Flora Thompson than the houses are.

One feature of our hamlet is the allotments. In one corner is the stile for the field path to Cottisford. When the common land was being enclosed in the mid-nineteenth century, the ‘Juniper Hill Mob’ put up such a fight that the authorities granted every householder a piece of land on which to grow enough fresh produce to help keep the wolf from the door. The particular varieties of veg. grown by the men of the hamlet may have changed, but the allotments are still given over to fruit and vegetables, with the addition of sheep.

When the television series based on *Lark Rise to Candleford* was current, numbers of visitors to Juniper Hill and Cottisford rose appreciably, but there has always been a steady rate of ‘pilgrimages’ made by people who want to see the places which inspired the book. It is not unknown for large coaches to be parked by the post box on the road through the hamlet, nor for mini-coaches to turn up on our drive, having ignored the fact that the lane is scarcely navigable, especially in wet weather! A chain slung between the two conifers at the end of the drive and polite but firm notices deter all but the most impertinent of ‘Flora buffs’, but we have occasionally dwelt lovingly on the idea of installing tank traps or tiger nets to safeguard our privacy.

This makes us sound like miserable and anti-social misanthropes, but we decided soon after moving to Lark Rise Cottage that ‘managing’ the inevitable interest would be far more productive than leaving ourselves open to intrusive enthusiasts at any time of the day and night. We have had many visits from students at Denman College, local history groups and guided Flora Thompson walks. Lark Rise Cottage has hosted open garden afternoons, one such being after a performance, in a marquee on the playing field, of the play based on the book. Local historian Martin Greenwood held a book launch in the garden and fellow-authors

Christine Bloxham and Gillian Lindsay have both made visits. Garden parties and produce sales have also proved popular. We don't get a penny from any of these activities, but we do feel that we are doing our bit for both charity and literary heritage. It's a pity that Flora Thompson could not foresee that several authors of books about her writings, life and times would spend hours soaking up the atmosphere of her old home. Olivia Hallinan and Linda Bassett, two stars of the television series, have both been here, the latter becoming quite overcome with emotion! One interesting visitor was a Japanese lady who sent us a copy of her translation of the trilogy in Japanese. Unfortunately, our command of that language is non-existent. Still, it's the thought that counts.

Our eleven years here has been full of incident and we have met a wide range of people just because we happen to live in this house. We have a large archive of articles and old photos, some of them given to us by neighbours, and one delightful old gentleman, Flora Thompson's great-nephew, gave us a watercolour he had done of Watford Tunnel Cottage, where she is believed to have been born. When we have 'events' we usually include some lardy cake and dough cake, both mentioned by the author, and still available in Bicester. There are six or seven community events a year, including a picnic and games afternoon on the playing field and a bonfire. Our lack of a communal building means that we use a marquee on the field or each others' houses for events. The days when the squire would open house and grounds at the drop of a hat have gone, chased away by fear of theft and vandalism, not to mention sky-high insurance premiums. Inevitably, in a time of great social mobility, most of us are 'incomers' from other parts of the country. I would like to think, though, that were Flora Thompson, in some time-slip phenomenon, able to revisit her childhood home, she would not feel completely at sea!

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Nick Allen has some early *Cake and Cockhorse* copies available:

I have been given some copies of the very early issues of *Cake and Cockhorse* – the donor is very happy for me to pass them on to a 'good home'. They are listed below:

Volume 1 Nos. 5-8 1960/61 (Nos 5-8 were all lumped into one issue) there are three copies.

Volume 2 Nos. 5, 8, 10, 11 & 12. Covering September 1963 – March 1965.

Volume 3 A complete set of twelve. September 1965 – Summer 1968.

Volume 4 Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 10. Winter 1968- Winter 1970.

Please contact **Nick Allen** on 01295 811087 – I can bring them to one of our forthcoming meetings. Incidentally I'm short of a copy of issue no. 9 to complete my set of Volume 1 – would anyone have a spare copy floating around?



# ADDERBURY HOUSE, OXFORDSHIRE

*Nick Allen*

The extensive (6,045 acres) Saxon royal manor of Edburgberie (Adderbury) was gifted in 1014, by Aethelstan, son of Aethelred II, to Ethelwold, the then bishop of Winchester – he, in turn, leased it to Osgod Clappa, a Dane in the service of King Hardicanute, the Danish king of England.

Prior to the Domesday survey of 1086 both the manors of Adderbury and Bloxham were in the hands of a Saxon earl, Edwin of Mercia: after the Norman Conquest the manor of Adderbury was held by the king, Walkelyn, bishop of Winchester, and Robert de Stafford. Stafford had already leased his portion to Robert d' Oilly, builder of Oxford Castle.

In 1381 William of Wykeham, bishop of Winchester, split the Winchester royal manor of Adderbury into two, gifting part to his newly founded college at Oxford (St Mary College of Winchester in Oxford, to become known later as New College). This manor, then, became the rectorial manor of Adderbury, its annual income forming part of Wykeham's initial endowment to his new college. The College thereafter had the rectorial responsibility for Adderbury's church.

The grange and tithe barn, sited next to the church (sometimes known as the rectory house) was the home of New College's bailiff; who was their man-on-the-ground responsible for administering the rectorial manor. The remaining land from the old royal manor of Winchester was retained by the bishop of Winchester with its manor house in Mill Lane. Adderbury House, with much of its estate sited on land just to the east of the Banbury to Oxford road, was never a manor house.<sup>1</sup>

## **The House in the Seventeenth Century**

An archaeological dig in 1996 produced evidence that this site had been in use during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.<sup>2</sup> However the earliest, firm, mention of a house on this site is in 1612 when Sir Charles Wilmot, President of Connaught in Ireland, took out a lease on it for use

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<sup>1</sup> N. Allen, *Adderbury, A Thousand Years of History* (Phillimore and BHS 25, 1995), pp. 1-6, 11.

<sup>2</sup> *Oxoniensia*, Vol. LXX1 (2006), pp. 416-21.

as a shooting lodge; the house was, in all probability a Tudor residence. Sir Charles, who had been elevated to the Irish viscountcy of Athlone, had the house completely rebuilt in 1624 in typical Jacobean style. It is not recorded whether Sir Charles ever used the house but from an account of his life at this period, which records that he was fully engaged on military and maritime matters, it is hardly likely that he did.<sup>3</sup>

Nothing more is heard about the house for another nine years until Henry Wilmot, Sir Charles's only surviving son, enters the story in 1633. Henry that year married Frances Hopton, making Adderbury House their home. By 1635 Henry, as a captain of horse, was serving as a mercenary in the Dutch army; they were much engaged in fighting the occupying Spanish. In 1639 Wilmot returned to join the king's army to fight in his second Scottish war. After a spell as a prisoner of war of the Scots, Wilmot became MP for Tamworth, managing fairly rapidly to upset Parliament by meddling in affairs that didn't really concern him; he ended up being committed to the Tower of London in 1641.

By July 1642 he was involved in the early stages of the English Civil War. He had joined the king at York as a general of horse. His wife Frances died in 1644, probably in childbirth. Later in the year Henry, by then Lord Wilmot of Adderbury, married Ann Lee, the widow of a Parliamentary officer. In the same year he was once again in deep trouble as he was caught trying to negotiate a peace with the Earl of Essex, the Parliamentary army commander. He was charged, tried for treason, and sentenced to death; such was his popularity with the army that there was a threat of mutiny if the king would not commute his sentence. By the end of August the king had sent him into exile, to join Queen Henrietta-Maria as one of her courtiers; she had already been in exile for some considerable time in Paris.

In 1645 the Parliamentary commissioners sequestered Adderbury House and estate, selling it on to Edward Ashe. The house and estate eventually reverted to the bishop of Winchester in 1649. The dowager countess was fortunate as she still owned Ditchley Park, her first husband's home, so she would not have gone homeless. Lady Anne did not get Adderbury House back until 1661, a year after the Restoration. Wilmot probably never saw Adderbury House again but he did somehow manage to slip back into the country, no doubt to Ditchley, to beget two sons, only one of whom survived.

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<sup>3</sup> *Dictionary of National Biography.*

Wilmot died in exile in February 1657/8 having been elevated to the earldom of Rochester in 1652, partly for his friendship and loyalty, partly for his heroic efforts enabling the king's escape from Worcester to Shoreham (he had procured a boat to get them to the continent), and partly to make Charles more acceptable in European courts, where Wilmot had spent much time begging money to support the king and his vast court in exile.

Anne, dowager countess of Rochester, once more chatelaine of Adderbury House, continued to reside there, out-living both her son John, the 2<sup>nd</sup> earl, and her grandson Charles, the 3<sup>rd</sup> earl; she died in March 1696. She willed her house and estate to her nephew by her first marriage, the earl of Lichfield. Lady Anne had spent a great deal of money (estimated at £2,000) between 1661 and 1676 on updating the house and park; a contemporary detailed description of the interiors shows that she also lavished a great deal of money on furnishing her home.<sup>4</sup>

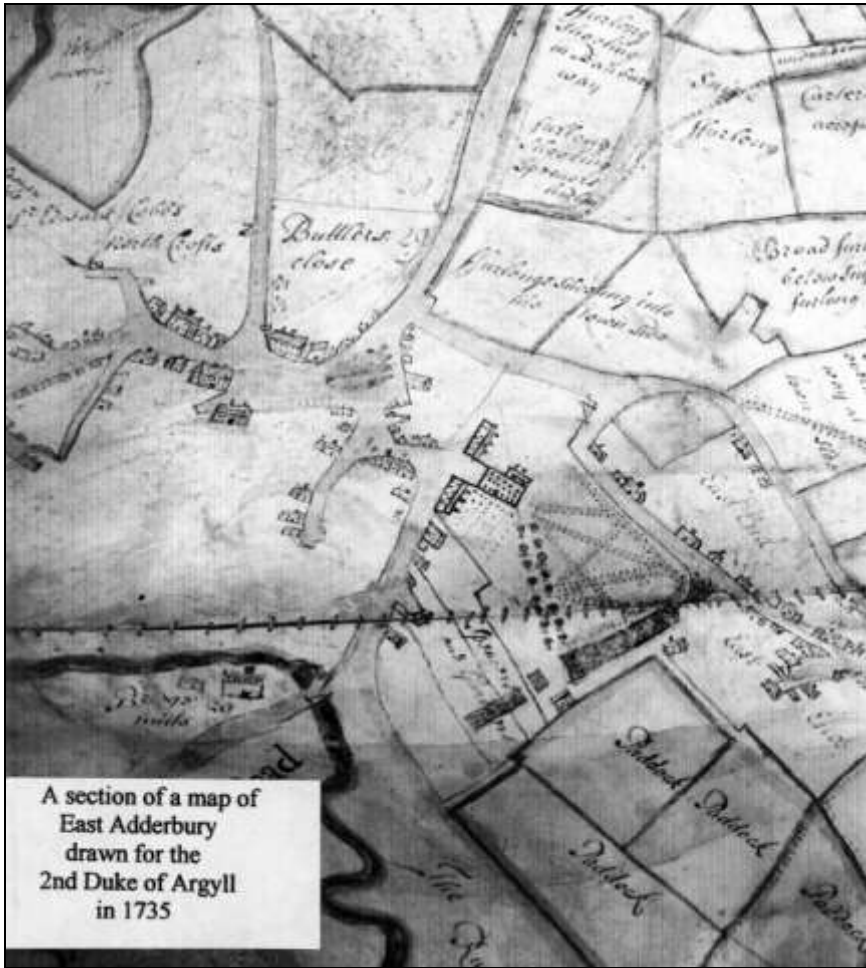
### **The House in the Eighteenth Century**

Lichfield was not particularly interested in living at Adderbury House. John Campbell, 2<sup>nd</sup> duke of Argyll and 1<sup>st</sup> duke of Greenwich, having married in June 1717 Jane Warburton, maid-of-honour to the Princess of Wales, acquired the leasehold of the house and estate on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1717 to use as their principal home. The newly married couple were both courtiers deeply involved in national politics and as such needed to be within fairly easy reach of London. He was one of Marlborough's generals, Groom of the Stole to the Prince of Wales, Lord Steward of the household, Master General of Ordnance (1725) and Field Marshal (1736). Incidentally, Argyll was the first officer in the British army to wear that rank.

There was some suggestion that Argyll acquired the house to provide a dower house for his new wife. It was still outwardly a Jacobean house of six gabled bays, with two-light attic windows mullioned with hood moulds, all surrounded with a continuous moulded sill band. It is not until 1735 that we first have hard evidence as to how Adderbury House, its gardens and park looked. Argyll tasked his agent the Honourable Charles Townsend, a relative, to set about buying up land, mostly in East Adderbury, to enclose so that they could farm it more efficiently. Records show that they paid a very fair price for the land – in fact they spent in total £12,000.

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<sup>4</sup> *Cockayne's Complete Peerage*, Vol. VI (1949).



Argyll, who had been the second-in-command to the duke of Marlborough, was mindful of Marlborough's Blenheim Palace, and of his (Argyll's) own elevated social status, as he set about remodelling his newly acquired house into a modern Georgian residence fit for a very important aristocrat. He commissioned Roger Morris to devise an extensive rebuilding programme. The date of 1722 on the rainwater heads showed that work was under way by then. There exists a set of drawings by Morris, signed and dated 1731, for two one-storey wings to flank a forecourt on the west side. The north wing was to be a service wing and the south wing a stable block; the latter is the one that survives today.

There are indications that other architects have added to this wing over the years. The Palladian galleries were added later and the house was then extended northwards to accommodate new quarters for servants; two lodges were added one either side of the main entrance off the Oxford road.

In 1735 Townsend commissioned a surveyor to produce a map of East Adderbury showing the duke's landholdings. The map was just under a metre wide and a metre and a half long, drawn on two animal skins sewn together; in the bottom right-hand corner was the following legend:

*A Map of the East Side of Adderbury  
Being  
The Enclosure that belongeth to his Grace  
John Campbell, Duke of Argile and  
Greenwich.  
With the Common Field good part  
thereof belonging to the above said  
Duke.  
And likewise part of Coatfield .  
Map'd by a Scale of 36 Perches to the Inch*

The map is a splendid piece of cartography; its cartographer went so far as to show not only all the fields with their names and the road system (as it was before enclosure in 1768), but intriguingly he very carefully added all the houses and cottages of East Adderbury in some considerable detail. Many of those buildings survive today and can be easily recognised. Most importantly the map shows in some detail Adderbury House with both its service wings in place; confirming once and for all that both these wings were built before 1735. The plan also shows the layout of the gardens and park and the Lakes area. It also shows how close to the main entrance to the big house, the road to Deddington was.

In parallel with Argyll's programme of land purchasing and the development of his house we get an inkling that some work was being done on the stream that must have then flowed through the small valley in his park. As the earliest formal mention of estate waterworks is contained in an Office of Works document dated 16 September 1724, recording that Richard Newsham, an engine-maker and employee, was 'detained at the duke of Argile's [sic] in Oxon longer than he expected', indicating that waterworks were likely in hand at that time. The estate plan of 1735 shows the park with three oblong waters in some detail. (The full story of the development of these waters, now known as Adderbury Lakes Nature Reserve, is given below in the Appendix).



*Roger Morris' Tuscan archway.*

Some indication of the sumptuous furnishing of the house is given by John Loveday, who visited it in June 1740. There were numerous busts and ‘four Tables of rich Marble’; and ‘an old large Elbow-Chair which has entirely escaped the injuries of time; it is all of Wood and stands on 2 cross side legs and a bar runs from one leg to t’other athwart under the Seat; on the Elbow[s], on the Back ... are carved’ various inscriptions.<sup>1</sup>

The duke died in 1743 leaving the house and estate to his widow. The next phase of work on and in the house began in 1749. Records show that John Phillips was paid £733 for remodelling the south front of the house in Palladian style. Phillips started life as a carpenter, then a builder-developer; he was also an occasional architect. Phillips removed the seventeenth-century gables, replacing them with an attic storey conforming to the style of the two floors below, thus giving the house the Georgian frontage that we see now.

It was the duchess who consulted Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown, sometime around 1760-63. He was working on nearby Aynhoe Park (only three miles from Adderbury), seat of the Cartwright family. She also asked him for some ideas for improving the water feature, park and gardens; his drawings are on record. Morris, working much earlier, had also produced some ideas for garden buildings; his drawings are also on record. It would seem that none of those ideas were ever executed.

The dowager duchess died in April 1767, right in the middle of an ambitious programme of enclosure that the late duke and his agent had instigated. She and her agent had put into motion elaborate plans to re-route the Banbury to Oxford road which ran immediately in front of the gates to her house. They had also planned to build a new, substantial, bridge over the Sor Brook to carry a causewayed road to Deddington that would cross the flood plain. This bridge became known as the Duchess Bridge; it is still known as such today. Moreover, they had already, in anticipation of setting these elaborate road works in motion, had the watermill moved in 1764 to a new site at the bottom of Mill Lane (where it is now). This old mill was sited on the spot where they planned to build the new bridge. It is often claimed that the duchess objected to the mill being where it was as it spoilt her view from the drawing room. This may well have been a factor in the equation but the move was really for more practical reasons.

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<sup>1</sup> Sarah Markham, *John Loveday of Caversham, 1711-1789; The Life and Times of an Eighteenth-Century Onlooker*, p.334, Michael Russell, Wilton, 1984.

Quite soon after his grandmother died Henry Scott, 3<sup>rd</sup> duke of Buccleuch, inherited Adderbury House.<sup>1</sup> The new duke and his duchess promptly set about commissioning Sir William Chambers to make some expensive alterations to the interior of the house. Chambers produced three drawings around June 1768 – an aunt of the duke noted that he was ‘carrying out great works’ at Adderbury. The duke honoured his grandmother’s ambitious, and expensive, road-building plans for Adderbury, ensuring that they were all executed; he even accepted the local highway authorities request that he should bear the costs of maintenance of the works for the first three years.



*Adderbury House from the south: drawing made between 1767 and 1774.*

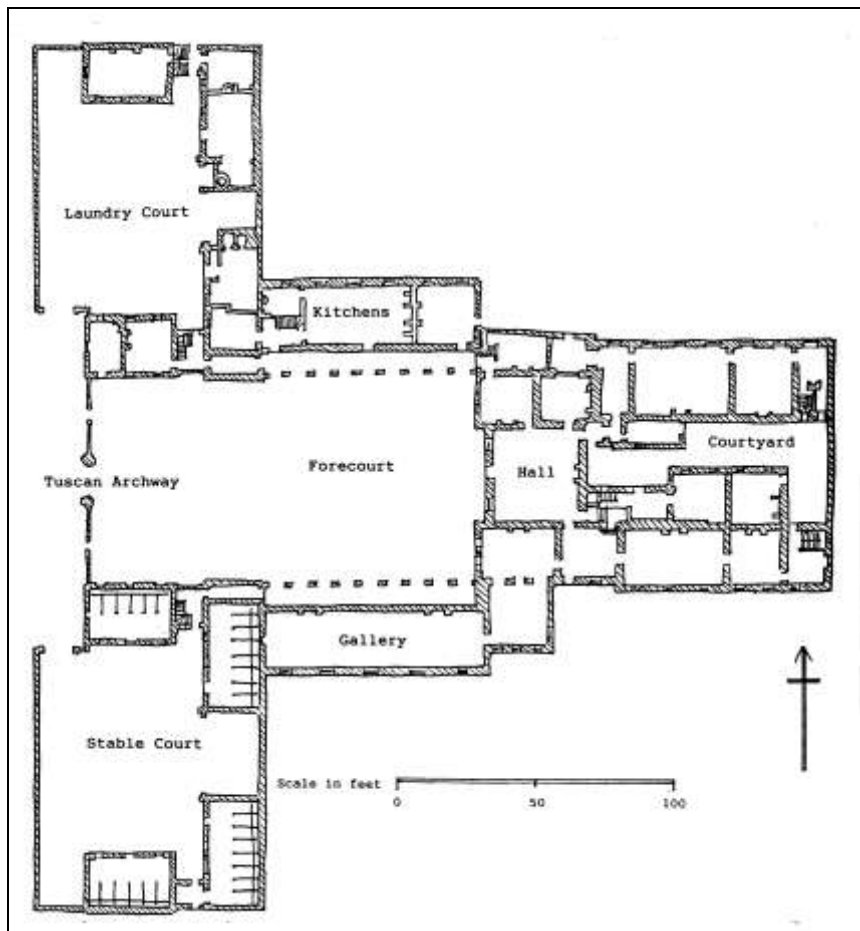
By 1774 Adderbury House was described as having 56 rooms, a lofty entrance hall with a glass dome, galleries around the hall on to which all the bedrooms opened up on with three drawing rooms, a library and a billiard room. The park and gardens extended to 224 acres, with a ‘fine serpentine stream of water’. The working estate amounted to 1,250 acres of fine growing land, all valued at £56,000. Brewer in his *History of Oxfordshire* (1813) described it as having ‘dimensions adequate to the

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<sup>1</sup> For correspondence between George Montagu regarding his new ducal neighbours, and Horace Walpole, see Allen, ‘The Cobb Mansion’, *C&CH* 17.6 (Summer 2008), pp.197-201.



residence of royalty’ but Horace Walpole’s described it as ‘large but very inconvenient’, like Loveday admiring the numerous pictures and busts more than the architecture, his considered opinion was ‘as bad as Vanbrugh’ in taste ‘with horrid stucco’ decorating much of the interior.<sup>1</sup>



*Plan of Adderbury House circa 1767  
(after a drawing in the Soane Musum)<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Allen, *Adderbury*, pp. 99-100.

<sup>2</sup> Allen, *Adderbury*, p.98.

## **The house in the Nineteenth Century**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> duke and his duchess resided intermittently at Adderbury House, keeping the lease going until 1801 when the house and estate reverted to the bishopric of Winchester. The Buccleuchs had sold off much of the land, including some farms, of which some went to New College with land also going to other Oxford colleges.

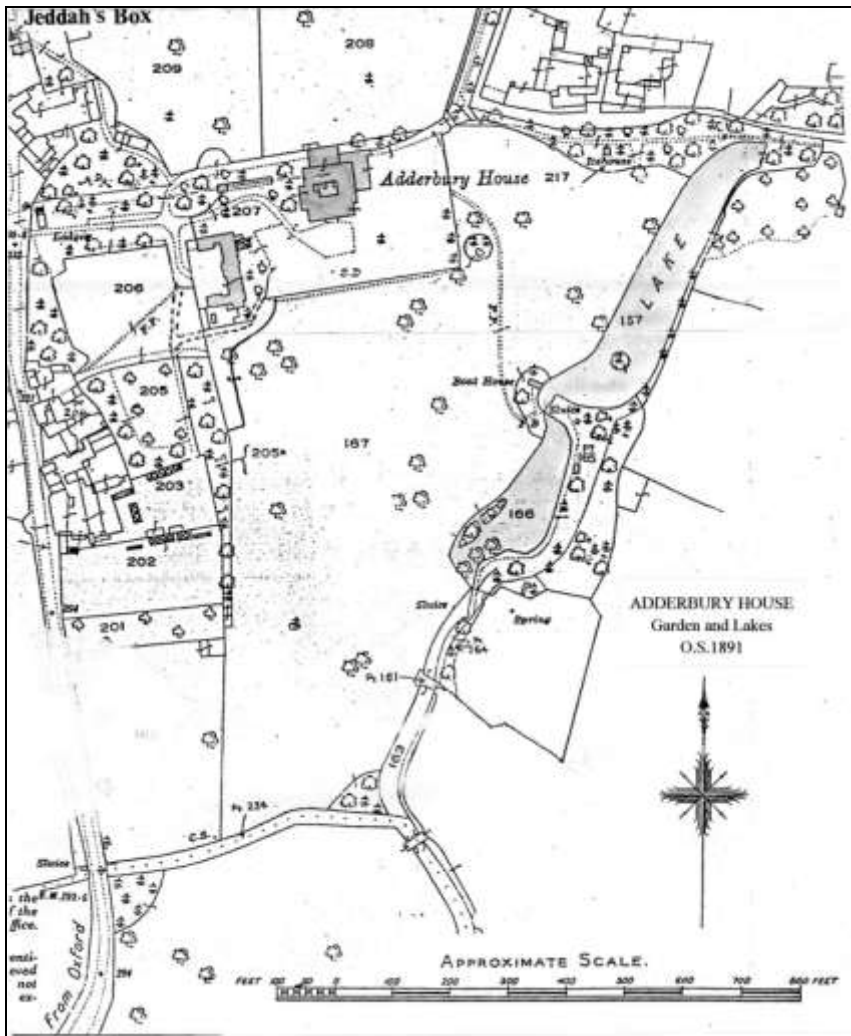
In 1805 Mr John Field took up the lease, purchasing in 1808 the freehold of the house and 500 acres plus the home farm from the bishopric. He drastically reduced the size of the house; in effect it was the end of the 'great' house.

Field sold the house and estate to Mr William Hunt Chamberlin from Kegworth in Leicestershire in 1826. It was he who, in 1848, had the lakes area altered to make them more decorative. Chamberlin died in 1851. Another William Chamberlin (presumably a family member) moved into the house, living there until he died early in 1891. James Larnach, a very wealthy land-owner, was the new purchaser; he was married to Lady Isobel Boyle daughter of the earl of Cork, purchasing the house and 350 acres of estate for £22,500.

Larnach had the interior of the house considerably altered, improving the accommodation and kitchens. It was he who had the front door moved from the west front to the south, bringing forward slightly the two centre bays and having them topped with a triangular pediment centred by a blind oculus. The front was finished off with a four-column, Ionic portico centred by a pair of front doors with a semi-circular, glass head. To top it all a plain parapet was added with iron balconies added to the first floor windows (only two left now). His house has been described as a happy adaptation of a mansion to a modern house, though there was still only one bathroom. This then is the house you see today, though presumably with more bathrooms.

The stables were remodelled and the Home Farm became Stud Farm, turning them into a racing establishment. In 1898 one of Larnach's race horses foaled; it was named Jeddah and it was trained in Adderbury. Part of Jeddah's training was that it was walked with its groom all the way to Epsom. Jeddah won the Derby as a rank outsider at odds of 100-1 making considerable winnings for its owner and other locals 'in-the-know'. In 1899 Larnach very generously gave the cost of building the Parish Institute, built just outside the entrance to his house at the junction of the Oxford road and The Green. This generous gesture left Henry Gepp, the no-alcohol, no-gambling vicar, who had campaigned

for many years to have a parish institute, somewhat nonplussed: how was he to say a sincere ‘thank you’ to Larnarch for fulfilling his cherished ambition with the proceeds from gambling?<sup>1</sup>



*Adderbury House, garden and lakes, O.S. 1891*

<sup>1</sup> Allen, *Adderbury*, pp. 26-7, 101.



### **The house in the Twentieth Century**

The Larnachs moved on in 1904, selling the house and estate to Mr Hugh Cawley, a cotton magnate from the North of England. His name is preserved in the village in Twyford – Cawley Road. Cawley sold the house on to Mrs Shaw from London; she passed it on in 1934 to Mr Gerald Firzgerald. He put in a tenant, Lady Houston, for a short while, then the War Office (as it was) requisitioned the house for military use for the duration. Throughout the war the house was used to accommodate British and American units up until just before D-Day, 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944, when they all moved out.

Oxfordshire County Council acquired the property in 1947 to be used as a residential home for the elderly, which opened in 1948. Sadly, all the fine Jacobean doors and panelling were taken out on the instructions of the fire service who declared them to be a fire hazard. They were sold off to help cover the costs of conversion. The home was closed down and a new, purpose-built, home was erected in 1989 in the grounds and named Lake House; it had a grand royal opening. Adderbury House a year or so later was purchased by a private buyer to be converted back to a domestic residence, so it has now reverted to what it always was – a private home.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Report in *Adderbury Contact* (July/August 1989), of a paper presented to Adderbury History Association by Lt Col E.W. Hadfield, Chairman of the Parish Council.

## Appendix

### ADDERBURY LAKES

The earliest, formal, mention of estate waterworks at Adderbury House is contained in an Office of Works document dated 16 September 1724 where it records that Richard Newsham, an engine-maker and employee, was ‘detained at the Duke of Argile’s [sic] in Oxon longer than he expected’ indicating that waterworks were likely in hand at that time. An estate plan (already mentioned) shows the layout of a formal garden to the east of the house merging into a park with three oblong shaped waters flowing roughly north-east/south-west.<sup>2</sup>

There is an undated plan in Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown’s day book showing one long water. Brown was working for William Cartwright during the period 1760-63, redesigning the great park at his beautiful house at Aynho in Northamptonshire, three miles east of Adderbury. There is no evidence that Brown’s plan was ever executed.<sup>3</sup>

The Buccleuchs retained the lease until 1801 when it reverted to Winchester. In 1805 Mr John Field took up the lease, purchasing the freehold in 1808. It is not until 1848 that we hear again about the lakes at Adderbury House, now in the hands of Mr W.H. Chamberlin, who had purchased the house in 1826; he set about turning these oblong waters into an ornamental feature. The south bank to the top water was lined and strengthened with stone and concrete with a controllable sluice; a boat-house was installed near the spillway. The bottom water was turned into a formal water garden with the spillway from the top water cascading down into a meandering stream running through what is now the middle of the bottom water. He had exotic plants planted: two or three of the bamboo plants can still be seen. A pathway was created all the way around the bottom water with a stone summer house constructed on the east side, alongside which was a well-head with ‘1848’ carved into a large head-stone. Nearby is a small, stone ‘sentry-box’, probably used as a viewing place.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Paper on Adderbury House presented by Richard Hewlings to a conference on ‘Early Eighteenth-century Great Houses’ at Oxford Brookes University, 1996.

<sup>2</sup> Allen, *Adderbury*, p. 93.

<sup>3</sup> Allen, *Adderbury*, p. 101.



The Lakes, Adderbury

Whence does the water that supplies these waters originate? The primary source emanates from five springs sited to the north side of Long Wall path. The springs never seem to dry up, however hot the summer. There are several other springs at the top end of the top water on both the east and west sides of the water. They manifested themselves when the waters were dredged in 2013.

From 1939 until 1982 the lakes area was totally neglected. The waters had silted up with several very large trees that had fallen into and sunk in the waters. The planting had deteriorated into a secondary jungle, virtually impossible to walk into.

In 1982 parish councillor Mrs Aline Smith (now Griffiths) suggested that if this area could be cleared out that it would make an attractive leisure feature for local residents and visitors. The council agreed and the chairman, Lt Col 'Teddy' Hadfield, rapidly grasped the nettle and set about putting in hand a full restoration. Work started in May 1984 under the supervision of a local resident, Andrew Barnes. The county council, which owned the land, was enthusiastic and very supportive from the word go.

Six hundred tons of silt were taken out, and many fallen trees. Heavily tangled undergrowth was removed, paths reinstated, bridges built and fishing platforms installed. Most of the physical work was done by youngsters from the Manpower Services Commission, many of them picking up good jobs as a result of their work, which had been the main purpose of the Commission. A grand opening ceremony was held on 24 July 1985 when Mr Harold Clifton, chairman of Oxfordshire County Council, presided, with representation from the various agencies who had provided funds and material.

A management committee was set-up in October 1985, initially headed by Colonel Hadfield. His deputy, Mrs Diane Bratt, later took over as chair of the parish council and as chair of the Lakes Management Committee. In due course she negotiated with the county council to buy the land for a very modest sum. She then set about acquiring sufficient funds to buy the land. As a consequence Adderbury now has a very popular and well used leisure feature, since designated as a nature reserve and held in perpetuity for Adderbury's residents and visitors.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The full story of the creation of Adderbury Lakes is contained in reports published in ten issues of the years 1982- 85 of *Adderbury Contact* (details in the bibliography, below).

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- The detailed story of the restoration of Adderbury Lakes is contained in the following issues of the village newsletter *Adderbury Contact*, mainly contained in the monthly parish council reports. Copies of the *Contact* are held in Adderbury village library:
- Vol. 4 no. 9, Vol. 5 nos. 4 & 11, Vol. 6 nos. 3, 4 & 10, Vol. 7 nos. 4, 6, 8 & 10, Vol. 10 no. 5, Vol. 13 no. 5, Vol. 15 no. 2, Vol. 16 no. 3, Vol. 17 no. 11, Vol. 18 no. 4, Vol. 20 nos. 7 & 8, Vol. 25 no. 2, Vol. 26 nos. 5, 8 & 11, Vol. 28 no. 16, Vol. 34 nos. 1, 6 & 9.



## Apprenticeship Disputes in the Lord Mayor's Court of London 1573-1723: Banbury cases. British Record Society vols. 132-133

*Jeremy Gibson*

In 2006 (C&CH 16.9, 17.1) we listed the names of over fifty boys from Banbury who'd been apprenticed in London. Two new publications provide a few more whose apprenticeship became disputed. One sympathises particularly with William Gulliver, whose complaint was 'unreasonable chastisement'. Each is shown as in the listing, followed by information culled from Banbury parish registers and the Corporation Records, revealing the families from which the boys came. *Apprenticeship was for seven years unless shown otherwise.*

*Reason for discharge:* C = Unreasonable chastisement; E = Non-enrolment,

Master a 'foreigner'; N = Necessaries not provided; P = Expelled from service.

KINGE, Robert son of Robert, [-], Banbury, appr. to William Clapham, apothecary, [-] 1627 for 8 yrs. As apothecary. Petn: [E] 31 Jul 1632. [7383] Father Robert, mercer. Tithingman 1607-7; Constable 1616-18. Died 6 July 1638. Roberte son of Roberte Kynge baptised 15 May 1608.

HUMFREYES, James s of John (decd), husbandman, Banbury, appr. to Robert Leatherland, spectacle maker, 9 Jul 1638 for 8 yrs. Petn: [E] 16 Feb 1640. [6718]. Father James, husbandman, of St John's, Banbury; and Neithrop. Buried 21 Oct 1624; Will/Inv [262]. House 'where I now do dwell', to second son James when 21. Baptism of son James not found.

HAWTAINE, Jonathan son of Henry (decd), gent, Banbury; appr. To Michael Pyndar, fishmonger, 1 Jul 1658 for 8 years. Petn: [E, N] [no date]. [6041] Jonathan son of Mr Henrie Hawtain baptised 19 Jan 1618/9. Will PCC Henry Hawtaine, esquire, of Calthorpe, 1626. VCH.10, p.43. See also J. Gibson, 'A Disputed Inheritance', C&CH 6 (1976), p.83, re. Hawtyns of Calthorpe. For an apprenticeship of 1658 this seems to be one or even two generations out, but is noted because of the apparent coincidence of names.

BELLAMY, John son of John, barber, Banbury, appr. to George Carleton, fishmonger, 25 Jul 1667 as scrivener. Petn: [E] 27 Jun 1671. [988] Daughters born to father John 1666-8, but no C17 record otherwise

KING, Richard son of Henry, baker, Banbury, appr. to Roger Newbold, currier, 24 Oct 1679 as currier. Petn: [P] 24 Apr 1683. [7381]. Father Henry, baker, Tithingman 1658-60. Bur. 5 June 1685. Wife Margaret née Claridge bur. 1 Nov 1691; Bd, inv, PCB. Richard s of Henry bapt. 4 Mar 1660/1.

HORSEMAN, Ambrose son of Ambrose, maltster, Banbury, appr. To Ralph Allen, farrier, 12 Nov 1679. Petn: [E] 29 Dec 1682. [6565] Father Ambrose, maltster, Freedom 1660-1, Tithingman 166-4, Constable 1664-5, Corporation Assistant 1683-4. Buried 7 May 1684. Will, inv 1684 PCB. Son Ambrose baptised 24 Feb 1664/5.

LAMPREY, Richard son of Nathaniel, joiner, Banbury, appr. to John White, founder, 25 Mar 1686 as founder. Petn: [E] 4 Feb 1689; Wt. In Shandy Street at the Five Bells nigh Covent Garden, founder. [7533] Daughter of father Nathaniel buried. 31 Jan 1667/8 in Quaker house yard. Baptism of Richard not found.

WHITWICK, John son of John, [-], Netrope [Banbury], appr. to John Newton (decd), baker, 4 Dec 1704 as baker. Petn: [E] 17 May 1708. Deft. Hannah Newton, admin. [13667]. Mary wife of John Whitwick of Neithrop, buried. 7 Apr 1721, Quaker. John son of John Wigtwick, born Neithrop, baptised 23 May 1692.

GULLIVER, William son of Samuel (decd), Banbury, appr. To Robert Kempton, goldsmith, 12 Oct 1711 as goldsmith. Petn: [C] 7 Jan 1712. [5508] Father Samuel Gulliver, 'wheelrite', bur. 24 Feb 1704/5. Will PCC 1705:50(481). William son of Samuel Guliver, born 4 Jun, baptised 11 Jun 1697.

## SNIPPETS FROM THE ARCHIVES: 11

*Deborah Hayter*

### **Seventeenth-century tithe payment at Eydon, Northants.**

*Extracts from the Parish Register (Northampton Record Office):*

*'An account of the petty tithes by Thomas Prestidge, Edward Bull Lionell Bull and John Wigson husbandman.*

*Easter dewes Eggs to be payde on Good Fryday 3 eggs for a Cock  
2 Eggs for every Henn.*

*A smoake penny and offerings dew att Easter everyone above ye age of  
16 a penny.*

The 'smoke penny' or 'hearth penny' was a payment made by all householders (all of whom would have had a hearth) to their Minister on Maundy Thursday.

*For every foale a penny and for every calfe a half-penny for all under  
seaven – if seaven or above seaven to ten then one dew to the Minester  
at 14teen days olde – and if butt seaven then the owner of ye calfe is to  
recieve 3 half pence from ye Minester and so ratable more or less.*

Piggs and Sheep are dealt with in the same way, seven being the important number. The valuable wool is detailed with one fleece out of every ten going to the Minister, but in every case if the husbandman has fewer than seven then the Minister pays the husbandman.

*Every tenth Lamb of one mans dew to ye Minester and for ods a  
halfpenny a Lamb for all under seaven. – if seaven then ye owner to  
receive a halfpenny a Lamb from ye Minester.*

*Tithe Milke to begin the 13<sup>th</sup> of May and dew every tenth day until  
Snt Michael.*

*Noe Cowes Milke dew until ye calf be seaven weeks olde except the cow  
be bought in uppon ye Common then dew ye next tithe day after ye calf  
is gone.*

*All tithe hemp belongs to the petty Tithes.*

Tithes were based on the biblical injunctions to Moses and to Jacob to give one-tenth of all the produce of their land to the work of God, and they had been a legal obligation in England since the eighth century. The 'petty' or 'small' tithes are being recorded here, as these were due to the

Vicar. The Rector took the Great Tithes of corn and hay (and often wool) which were the most valuable part of the parish's crops. This is why in the past Rectors tended to be better off than Vicars and Rectories tend to be larger and grander than Vicarages. Every parish had a rector, though after the Reformation many of these were lay landowners, rather than ordained priests

Tithes were an important part of the incumbent's income in the seventeenth century. In the years after the Restoration in 1660 the church was being re-established both nationally and locally at parish level, and many parishes made a careful record of exactly what had been traditionally due to the parish priest. Tithing customs were very much a matter of custom and varied from parish to parish. The priest would be keen to ensure that he wasn't being short-changed, and the farmers would be equally keen to minimize their contributions. The husbandmen of Eydon were equally keen to record what they would get in return from their Vicar:

*The Minester is to keep and Bull and Boare att his charge att all times and he may keep a yearling.*

*The Sunday after Lammas Day the minester is to provide 16 gallons of ale to be delivered to ye Churchwardens for ye use of ye husbandmen.*

In an open field system where the flocks and herds of all the villagers were kept together on the fallow field and on any common pasture, it was the custom for the lord of the manor to be charged with maintaining a communal bull and boar for everyone's use. Where there was no resident lord of the manor, or more than one manor, this duty fell to the parish priest. Lammas Day was the 1st August (before the calendar changed in 1752) and this was the day that the hay meadows were thrown open for communal grazing after the hay had been cut and carried. (The word is said to be derived from the Old English *hlafrmaesse* 'loaf' 'mass' referring to the making of the first loaf from the harvest.) Lammas Day was often a day of celebration and feast, and in Eydon the Sunday after Lammas Day was at least a time for drinking. Sixteen gallons seems plenty of beer for a cheerful day.

## Book Review

*The Real Candleford Green, the Story of a Lark Rise Village* by Martin Greenwood, Robert Boyd Publications, 2015. 160 pp; paperback, A4 size, 83 illustrations and photographs, ISBN 978 1 908738 22 6 (£9.99).

Martin Greenwood has added another well-produced volume to his existing publications about Fringford, the village portrayed by Flora Thompson in *Lark Rise to Candleford*, with additional archival and oral material. It includes a copy of a letter from Flora Thompson herself, in which she asserts that she had tried to make the portrait of Lark Rise as close as possible to the hamlet in which she had grown up (Juniper Hill, near Brackley) although when writing *Candleford* and *Candleford Green* she had allowed herself rather more latitude. Other additional material includes information about emigration from the Oxfordshire area to Australia in the second half of the nineteenth century, and the varying fortunes of those who built and maintained the farm they named Fringford, in the Murray Upper area of Queensland. The chance find of some ledgers in the attic of Pringle Cottage in Fringford gives very useful information about the plumbing, painting and glazing business carried on there by the Price family between 1869 and 1917; a rare example of a small rural business over a prolonged period. Analysis of John Price's customers demonstrates how important the patronage of the three great houses in the area was by comparison to the value of the work done for even relatively wealthy gentry, clergy and farmers. Details about some payment in kind, e.g one fat pig worth £4.6s., and additional photographic material also lend character to the otherwise dry accounts of the business.

The book contains a great deal of information about properties in Fringford, brought up-to-date, as well as about the many individuals who have lived, worked and died there. Modern colour photographs of the village suggest it is now a good deal more prosperous than in the nineteenth century but the character survives and the village remains proud of its connection with Flora Thompson as attested by the plaque unveiled in her memory in 2002. Local historians and current and future inhabitants of Fringford will remain indebted to the exhaustive work of Martin Greenwood who has made it possible to recreate much of the late nineteenth century history of the village and offer those who enjoy the works of Flora Thompson a real-life portrait of the village with which she was so closely connected.

**Helen Forde**

## Lecture Reports

*Brian Little*

### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

*The English Coach in the Kremlin*

**Julian Munby FSA**

Although a preface to the main part of the talk, there was a great deal of interest in the account of the journey of Sir Thomas Smith to Moscow in 1604 when he travelled there with the Muscovy Company. This arduous voyage included stops at St Nicholas and Molotov and navigation of Dvina River. On arrival in Moscow the embassy handed over presents to the Czar: the delivery note included a flagon, a cup and most importantly, a chariot-like carriage.

Julian Munby then turned his attention to a brief illustrated examination of the technical development of carriages from the Bronze Age, through the Middle Ages up to the early seventeenth century coaches, citing specific examples of the more notable. This included the surprising revelation (to me at least) of the close connection between coach building and timber-framed buildings.

The Russians have studied coaches in great detail. Especially interesting to them were the undercarriages which our speaker described in considerable detail. He focused on the component parts of the 'English coach' and how each was constructed. Numerous books of drawings yielded many woodcuts of its painted panels, some of which related to battle and hunting scenes.

Pioneer trading in coaches and coachwork prompted further and later ventures that attracted financial support from the Muscovy Company.

The well-attended meeting closed with questions and the sure knowledge that yet another Autumn/Winter programme was underway.

### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

*Wellington and Napoleon – a strange relationship*

**Christopher Danziger**

This meeting was the first opportunity for members to benefit from the new AV equipment donated by the Banbury Historical Society, which enabled everyone in the room to see the whole of the excellent slides on the screen clearly, with enhanced sound.

Dr Danziger's lively talk was inevitably dominated by the Battle of Waterloo. At this time the two commanders were of a similar age and of equal ability to marshal resources. However our speaker was at pains to point out that in many ways here was a battle that distorted their relationship. Prior to 1815 the two men had never met on the field of battle and Napoleon knew very little about Wellington beyond official reports. Each had made very public statements about the other but these were for public consumption and tell us little.

Prior to Wellington's successful campaign in the Iberian Peninsula there was an immense gap in status. Whereas at the start of the campaign in 1808 Napoleon was the emperor of a vast empire stretching from the Russian border to Portugal, Sir Arthur Wellesley (Wellington) was a junior commander newly arrived from India.

Possibly of greater significance were Wellington's qualities as a general. These were revealed by his desire to drive the French out of Spain and to attack them on home soil. He acknowledged Napoleon's abilities as a battle strategist: in 1811 after defeating both French armies blocking the road to Madrid he is famously quoted as saying 'If Boney had been there we should not have beaten them'.

A surprising fact that Dr Danziger revealed was that the two men were distantly related via marriage. A more personal tie was that on reaching Paris Wellington seems to have enjoyed the favours of a previous mistress of Napoleon at a time when the latter was marking time on Elba.

Concerning Wellington, about whom longevity and experience permitted a longer period for character analysis, an especially interesting approach to the topic of Wellington psychological relationship with his former foe was a consideration of his collection of Napoleonic portraits and memorabilia which were placed on display at Apsley House and his country house at Stratfield Saye. These included a study of Napoleon's sister Pauline and, more surprisingly, a nude statue of Napoleon as *Mars the Peacemaker* by Antonio Canova, which stood in the entrance hall of his London residence.

Perhaps Christopher Danziger's most interesting and challenging contention was that from a relationship point of view it did not matter who won at Waterloo.

# BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Lord Saye and Sele

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Simon Townsend  
Banbury Museum  
Spiceball Park Road,  
Banbury OX16 2PQ  
01295 753781  
[simon.townsend@banburymuseum.org](mailto:simon.townsend@banburymuseum.org)

## **Treasurer**

Geoff Griffiths  
39 Waller Drive  
Banbury  
OX16 9NS  
01295 263944  
[gs@gfgriffiths.plus.com](mailto:gs@gfgriffiths.plus.com)

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Margaret Little  
c/o Banbury Museum  
[bemelittle@btinternet.com](mailto:bemelittle@btinternet.com)

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**Editor:** Chris Day, 37 Gaveston Gardens, Hempton Road, Deddington OX15 0NX  
[chris.day@deddington.net](mailto:chris.day@deddington.net)

**Reviews Editor:** Helen Forde [helenforde1@gmail.com](mailto:helenforde1@gmail.com)  
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## ***Notes for Contributors***

We invite contributions on all aspects of the history and archaeology of Banbury and its surrounding region, often referred to as 'Banburyshire'. Material from amateurs and professionals is equally welcome. The Editor will be pleased to send guidance notes to potential authors, so as to ease the process of submitting a piece for consideration.

# 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](http://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).

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

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

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

*Rusher's 'Banbury Trades and Occupations Directory' 1832-1906*

(Alphabetical Digest and DVD facsimile) (vol. 34).

Current prices and availability of other back volumes, and of *Cake and Cockhorse*, from the Society, c/o Banbury Museum.

In preparation:

*Junctions at Banbury: a town and its railways since 1850*, Barrie Trinder.

*Georgian Banbury before 1800: Banbury Vestry Book, 1708-1797 and other records.*

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.

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.