

# CAKE AND COCKHORSE



## BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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# BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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.

# *Cake and Cockhorse*

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

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In 2018 the Banbury History Society will proudly celebrate its sixtieth anniversary. But it is worth bringing to our readers' attention the fact that the Society had its genesis at a meeting held the previous November, almost precisely sixty years prior to the date that this issue of *Cake & Cockhorse* is being prepared for publication. On Tuesday 26 November 1957 Ted Brinkworth concluded a series of talks (in the Town Hall court room) on 'New Light on Old Banbury'. Five of those attending immediately indicated an interest in pursuing further research. The following Wednesday, 4 December, about fifteen people met in the Reference Library under the chairmanship of Dr Brinkworth, and agreed to go ahead with forming an historical society. A further meeting took place on Monday 6 January 1958 when the Society was officially formed and officers appointed. Two founding members, Jeremy Gibson and Barrie Trinder (who were, of course, infant prodigies in 1957), have remained active and influential ever since and we are indebted to them for the part they have played in ensuring that this Society continues to flourish when others have fallen by the wayside.

Our latest edition of *Cake & Cockhorse* continues our exploration of housing in Neithrop, this time in the form of an assessment by Jane Kilsby of the role of Herbert Payne, the 'Cow Fair Roarer', in the provision of decent housing in the borough. We also have an article of a sort that has become something of a speciality of ours: a study by George Hughes that, originating in family history, has broadened out to become a significant piece of social and economic history. Thomas Pinfold was one of the remarkable group of watch- and clockmakers, frequently Quakers, that Banburyshire produced. More such case studies will be most welcome. Or if you have an idea for a prospective historical study of any kind relating to our area, please get in touch and I will be happy to advise.

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Cover: Thomas Pinfold's house on The Green, Middleton Cheney (photo C. Day).

## COUNCILLOR H. PAYNE.

### ONE CROSS—ONE CROWN.

Air: *There is a Green Hill Far Away.*

There is a Law Court far away,  
Near by a city wall,  
Where Herbert Payne was sorely tried  
The Champion of all.

We may not know, we cannot tell  
What Payne has had to bear ;  
But we believe he fights for us,  
And fights his battles fair.

He stands for justice and for right,  
He helps the needy poor ;  
A Corporation man is he,  
And not an evil-doer.

There was no other bold enough  
To thunder forth a shot ;  
His arguments are always sound—  
Exempt from Tommy Rot.

O dearly, dearly has he kept  
The "pledge" betrothed to all ;  
We'll trust him in his judgment still,  
And may he *never* fall.

## Early Council Housing in Banbury: King's Road and the Cow Fair Roarer

*Jane Kilsby*

It is amazing what turns up on eBay these days. Recently I bought the postcard reproduced opposite.

It is a tribute to Herbert Payne, local councillor and advocate of social reform in early twentieth-century Banbury.<sup>1</sup> Forty houses were built by Banbury Borough Council in King's Road in 1913 and they came about largely as a result of Herbert Payne's powerful commitment to the benefits of good housing for working people.



*King's Road in November 2016.*

With the coming of the railways, Banbury's population grew by about 40 per cent between 1851 and 1881. Rapidly constructed terraces and much older agricultural workers' houses made of the local ironstone rubble left a legacy of sub-standard property.

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<sup>1</sup> Postcard from *Past Time Postcards*.



*Rag Row in Neithrop – a notorious slum pictured c.1890. These houses lasted at most forty years. Photograph courtesy of Oxfordshire History Centre.*

Banbury was one of the boroughs reformed by the Municipal Reform Act of 1835. The councillors and Town Clerk came from the local élite and the Liberals and the Conservatives busied themselves with matters of great importance such as new lighting for the town hall in time for the Hunt Ball. They received regular reports from the Medical Officer of Health on the extent of insanitary housing but did nothing about it. But the wider world was changing. Campbell-Bannerman's Liberal landslide in February 1906 brought about a period of social reform and, with 29 Labour MPs elected, there was some impact on local affairs, even in Banbury. A Banbury branch of the Independent Labour Party (ILP) was formed in 1906; Herbert Payne was among its early members.

One of the first ILP meetings in Banbury, in September 1906, took as its topic the *House Famine – its cause and cure*. 'The workers of Banbury are waking up', it declared.<sup>2</sup> In Banbury there was a scarcity of houses suitable for working men and high rents appeared to be the order

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<sup>2</sup> Contemporary quotations from the press, unless otherwise credited, are taken from the *Banbury Advertiser* between 1905 and 1930, held by the British Newspaper Archive.

of the day, and yet no attempt had so far been made by the Town Council to provide houses for the workers and their families, notwithstanding the utter failure of private enterprise. The proposal to run two ILP candidates, one of them Herbert Payne, in the next Borough elections was met with acclaim and housing became a hot topic as the ILP renewed its case for municipal homes: ‘These cottages will be let as near cost as possible and would not cost a penny to the ratepayers. Private builders are making fortunes. Why then should it be a failure for the Council to build?’<sup>3</sup>

On 1 November, the two ILP candidates were elected. With victory declared, Payne and William Timms were lifted up in chairs, cheered and paraded around the town, finally coming to rest at the ILP committee rooms, then in Parsons Street.<sup>4</sup>

Herbert Payne was born in Uppingham in Rutland in 1882. Nothing is known about his education, except to say that he did not attend Uppingham School. He came to Banbury c.1901, working at Mawles, a large ironmongers in the Market Place. Dismissed for talking politics in the shop, he set himself up as a commercial traveller, selling cutlery, and that was his business for the rest of his life. He lived in a terraced house in Queen Street, now Queen’s Road, later moving to Marston House, 37 Bridge Street, now demolished, where he had his business premises. He was 24 when elected to the Town Council.<sup>5</sup>

Payne was a respectable radical, Congregationalist, pacifist, teetotaler and vegetarian. Above all, he was a great speaker, described as someone who could really hold a crowd, with a voice full of resonance and power. It was not long before his opponents began to call him ‘the Cow Fair Roarer’.<sup>6</sup>

Payne lost little time in making his presence felt at the Town Hall. In February 1907 his motion to increase the wages of corporation workmen was agreed unanimously. At the same meeting, he demanded the council appoint a ‘Housing Investigation Committee... to enquire into...the sufficiency or otherwise of the existing supply of dwelling-houses’ for local working people. Furthermore, he requested that it look into the work of other councils under the 1890 Housing of the Working Classes

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<sup>3</sup> Labour election leaflet of 1906 quoted in J.R. Hodgkins, *Over the Hills to Glory: Radicalism in Banburyshire 1832-1945* (1978), p 85.

<sup>4</sup> Hodgkins, *Over the Hills to Glory*, p. 87.

<sup>5</sup> *Banbury Advertiser*, 8 November 1906.

<sup>6</sup> Hodgkins, *Over the Hills to Glory*.



*The Cow Fair was the favourite meeting ground for local politicians. Cows were tethered and sold in the street until 1931. The Town Hall with its tower is in the background.*

Act and whether Banbury itself should build. After a lively debate, Payne got what he wanted. The *Banbury Advertiser* mentions that this Council meeting set a record, lasting three and a quarter hours. The reporter must have been exhausted.<sup>7</sup>

Payne kept up the pressure, chivvying the Town Clerk for news of progress inside the council chamber and agitating outside it. In Boxhedge Square in Neithrop, an area notorious for its squalor, stench and unruly behaviour, Payne roared to a large crowd about ‘the rotten and bad houses with foul drains, leaky roofs, small windows and dirty walls...only inhabited because the people had nothing better to go to.’<sup>8</sup> Payne’s campaign was supported by the local Co-operative movement and railwaymen. Mr T. Jackson, Secretary of the Banbury Branch of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, told the council in December that many of his members who were sent to Banbury ‘had to

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<sup>7</sup> *Banbury Advertiser*, 7 February 1907, which includes a report of the council meeting held on 4 February: the meeting, which lasted from 6.30pm to 9.45pm, was a record for the length of a council meeting in Banbury

<sup>8</sup> B. Trinder, ‘Banbury’s Poor in 1850’, *C&CH* 3.6 (1966), pp. 83-127.





*A house in the Tan Yard, c.1903. Banbury Borough Council issued a demolition order on it in June 1914.*

wait weeks or even months before they could bring their wives and families to the town owing to their inability to procure houses at a rent suitable to their earnings.’<sup>9</sup>

Local businesses added their own pressure. An open letter from W. Braithwaite, President of the Banbury Borough Development Association formed in 1907, suggested that some firms had declined to set up in Banbury due to ‘the present and prospective insufficiency of housing accommodation for their workpeople’.

The Medical Officer and the Inspector of Nuisances also reiterated to the Council the dire facts of Banbury’s housing situation. The population was 13,483 by 1911 and the number of inhabited houses was 3,085. Rents for workmens’ dwellings ranged from 2s. to 6s. a week. The former were mostly unfit for habitation (some had no backs and many were overcrowded) but 6s. was more than most working men in Banbury could afford when the average wage for unskilled men was 15-20s. a week. The Medical Officer often stated that he would have condemned more houses had there been any possibility of alternative housing for the residents to move in to.

It was to be six years before King’s Road was built. Most councillors were hesitant and they were anxious about costs – they wanted expansion but didn’t want to increase the rates. Some of them were landlords and they worried that a larger pool of accommodation for working men and their families would reduce their rents. Payne, too, was adamant that any house building should be done with a minimal impact on the rates. In 1908 he tried to persuade the council to back the campaign of Huddersfield and other councils for land tax reform which would encourage landowners to sell land for housing: ‘Land is being held in Grimsbury and Neithrop – if people chose to hold their land idle, let them pay what they ought to pay for it in taxation.’<sup>10</sup> The debate rumbled on.

J.R. Hodgkins mentions that Payne never enjoyed good health,<sup>11</sup> and it is tempting at this point to speculate that at times he was not particularly well. Certainly he was absent from several consecutive council meetings in 1909 and 1910. By then he must have been working hard on his business, which took him away from home for long periods.

It was the Housing and Town Planning Act, passed in January 1910, combined with Payne’s tenacity, which crystallised Banbury’s decision

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<sup>9</sup> *Banbury Advertiser*, 5 December 1907.

<sup>10</sup> *Banbury Advertiser*, 7 May 1908.

<sup>11</sup> Hodgkins, *Over the Hills to Glory*, p. 101.

to build. The Housing Committee also visited Newbury and returned impressed by the ten houses recently built by the local council: ‘Let at 4s.6d. per week each: these rents are rather lower than those charged by private owners for similar property and therefore there is no difficulty in obtaining tenants.’<sup>12</sup> The death of both the Town Clerk and the Medical Officer – on whom the Council was heavily reliant for facts and advice – in August 1911 delayed progress but Payne, at last appointed to an enlarged Housing Committee, kept up the pressure. In May 1911 he addressed a mass meeting. The *Banbury Advertiser* described ‘a large assembly round the waggonette in the Cow Fair’, alongside Liberal councillors Ewins and Viggers, and Mr Jackson of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. They accused councillors of slumbering ‘very peacefully’ and Ewins pointed to the example of Hornsey, which he had visited, where he found that ‘after six years the local authorities had 60 houses and were £360 to the good with which to put up two or three more houses’. He added ‘If other towns where land and labour were dearer than in Banbury, could go in for housing schemes and make them successful, why could not Banbury? Were not Banbury workmen as good, as clever and as hard-working as those in any other place?’<sup>13</sup>

Payne and his comrades railed against complacency. The crowd called for action: ‘people were in favour of having something practical and useful and why should the Council not build 50 or 100 houses, to start with, to commemorate the coronation of the King?’<sup>14</sup> The question, however, remained: where to build? The Council already owned several acres of land in Grimsbury but there were problems of drainage and flooding. Eventually the decision was taken to construct a new school and a mechanical sewerage system but no housing.

Thankfully, there were the Gilletts, Banbury bankers, Quakers and philanthropists. In the mid-nineteenth century many Oxfordshire farmers had their accounts with Gilletts’ Bank and, as farming profits fell, the bank acquired fields through forfeiture. In 1895, Gilletts’ began a programme of land disposal, creating Queen Street in Neithrop (now Queen’s Road and parallel with King’s Road) by selling parcels of land to builders to build terraced housing for sale.

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<sup>12</sup> *Banbury Guardian*, 6 April 1911.

<sup>13</sup> *Banbury Advertiser*, 25 May 1911.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.* 7 May 1908.



*Queen's Road. The bay windows and house names are a token of its respectability.*

Gillett's set strict rules on the quality of construction, thus ensuring that Queen Street became an attractive residential area. Payne's first family home was in Queen Street; his rent was £15 per year.<sup>15</sup> Joseph Gillett approached the Council with a field northwest of Queen Street that was let out as allotments. At just a shilling a square yard, the price (£1000) was considered reasonable but the councillors still saw a dilemma – the site was too large. To everyone's relief, a deal was struck. The Council paid £500 for half the land with an option to buy the rest for the same amount three years later. From then on, the whole project ran smoothly.

The Council elections of November 1911 saw cross-party agreement that housing had become the most pressing requirement of the town, and the council committed itself to a housing scheme.<sup>16</sup> This was a striking achievement for Payne, a councillor for just five years and still a young man under thirty. In a future article I shall examine the fine new homes which resulted and the personal tragedy which followed Herbert Payne's early triumph.

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<sup>15</sup> D. Knight, *Once Upon a Time: Queen's Road, its Origins, its Growth, its Character* (2014); idem, 'The Making of Queen's Road, Banbury', *C&CH* 19.9 (2015).

<sup>16</sup> *Banbury Guardian*, 5 October 1911.

## Thomas Pinfold, Clock- and Watchmaker

*George Hughes*

Whilst thumbing through the 1762 militia listing for Middleton Cheney<sup>1</sup> a name stood out on page 43, not only because it was from my maternal family line – the Pinfolds, but more due to the occupation listed for him – a clockmaker. The man in question was Thomas Pinfold and to be listed he had to have been aged between 18 and 45 years old, giving his date of birth between 1717-1744. My maternal Pinfold line started with my grandmother Linda Pinfold, born on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1904 in Middleton Cheney, the daughter of John Pinfold and Rachel Minnie Waters of Victoria Terrace in Upper Middleton Cheney – a row of terraced cottages at the junction of Glovers Lane and Chacombe Road that still stand today, built to celebrate one of Queen Victoria's jubilees. The question for my family history research was 'is Thomas Pinfold related to my grandmother Linda Pinfold?' The probabilities were good, as within a small village like Middleton Cheney most families of the same name were related back in history. Going back in time with my Pinfold family was a simple task as generation followed generation, the only difficulty being the continual recurrence of the names John, Thomas, Daniel and Richard. Records<sup>2</sup> show that Thomas Pinfold was in fact the eldest son of Richard Pinfold, blacksmith (1690-1772), and his wife Anne Evans of Helmdon who married at St. Mary Magdalene in Helmdon on 2 April 1719. Richard Pinfold was the eldest son of my 5x great grandfather Thomas Pinfold (1657-1741). Thomas Pinfold, the clockmaker, was born in Middleton Cheney in 1720 and baptised on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1720 at All Saints' Church, Middleton Cheney, right in the correct age range for the militia listing. An interesting point to note from his Militia entry is that he is not recorded as 'married with children', when he is 42 years old.

Investigation into Thomas Pinfold on the internet quickly showed that he had been a celebrated clock- and watchmaker in Middleton Cheney and Banbury during the latter half of the eighteenth century. Several websites highlight that many of his clocks and watches have been sold

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<sup>1</sup> *Militia Ballot Lists: Chipping Warden, Green's Norton & King's Sutton Hundreds* by The Eureka Partnership.

<sup>2</sup> Ancestry UK and Northants Family History CDs (Alan Clarke).

by prestigious auction houses including Sotheby's and that Thomas Pinfold had made the turret clock in 1768 for the church tower of St. Peter & St. Paul in Chipping Warden (Northants) and carried out clock repairs at St James the Great, Claydon (1751-1758), St. Peter & St. Paul, King's Sutton (1759-1793),<sup>3</sup> and St. John the Baptist, Bodicote (1768-1789).<sup>4</sup> Further investigation<sup>5</sup> has established that Thomas Pinfold also carried out repairs over the years for the churches of St. Peter & St. Paul at Chacombe (1757-1793), St. Lawrence at Marston St. Lawrence, and St. Michael & All Angels at Farthinghoe (1769-1783), all located in Northamptonshire. Similar investigations for Oxfordshire<sup>6</sup> have established that Thomas worked on the clock at Holy Trinity at Shenington from 1763-1777 and possibly carried out major repairs at St. Mary the Virgin at Broughton in 1788. Contemporaneous churchwarden accounts for St. Mary's church record that all the repair work on the clock had been undertaken by Richard Gilkes (1715-1787), a member of the famous Quaker clockmaking family of Sibford Gower, Richard being the third son of Thomas Gilkes senior (1675-1757).<sup>7</sup> The bill for the clock on the 14 October 1788 was seven guineas, a small fortune in those days and indicative of major works being undertaken. Unfortunately, the bill itself has not survived and the Oxfordshire History Centre does not hold any minute books which might have mentioned the clock needing a major repair and established exactly who had undertaken the work.<sup>8</sup> It certainly wasn't Richard Gilkes as he had died the previous year in 1787. It is a small step to conceive that the churchwardens at St Mary's would have sought out Thomas Pinfold, who we know was regularly working three miles down Wykham Lane in Bodicote.

From investigations into the churchwardens' accounts in Northamptonshire it can be seen that the Pinfolds of Middleton

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<sup>3</sup> C.F.C. Beeson, *Clockmaking in Oxfordshire 1400-1850*.

<sup>4</sup> J.H. Fearon, *Parish Accounts for the Town of Bodicote 1700-1822* (BHS vol. 12).

<sup>5</sup> Reports commissioned from Northamptonshire Archives (NA) (Andy North) from Churchwardens' Accounts.

<sup>6</sup> Reports commissioned from Oxfordshire History Centre (OHC) (Rachel Hancock) from Churchwardens' Accounts.

<sup>7</sup> Website: [thesibfords.org.uk/sibipedia/sibfords-quaker-clockmakers](http://thesibfords.org.uk/sibipedia/sibfords-quaker-clockmakers).

<sup>8</sup> Report commissioned from OHC (Rachel Hancock) from Churchwardens' Accounts.

Cheney were working in a very similar manner to the Gilkes of Sibford Gower in the early years of the eighteenth century. Both families were formerly blacksmiths and both had a senior member passing on his experience to the next generation of clockmakers. In the case of the Pinfold family the churchwardens' accounts for St. Peter & St. Paul at Chacombe show that the first Pinfold to attend to carry out repairs was Daniel Pinfold in 1730, Daniel being the uncle of Thomas, yet another blacksmith, born in Middleton Cheney in 1698. Daniel's attendance followed several years of 'tinkering' by the officiating churchwardens John Armitt and John Padbury, who it appears were *'loocking after the clock & chims and for winding up the clocke & chimes'*. Daniel Pinfold is recorded attending virtually every year until the first appearance of nephew Thomas Pinfold in 1757, with his charges ranging from 2s.2d. in 1731 to £3.1s.6d in 1739.<sup>9</sup>

Earlier it was noted that Thomas Pinfold was simply recorded in the militia listing as a clockmaker, with no reference to a wife and family. Records show that Thomas Pinfold was indeed married having tied the knot on 3 May 1752 at St. Peter's church, Brackley, with Elizabeth Williams; both were from Middleton Cheney. Elizabeth was born in 1722 and was related to the Williams family of King's Sutton which included clockmaker Thomas Williams (1678-1759) and his more famous kinsmen John and Richard Williams, bell hangers, who are extensively described in Chris Pickford's excellent article in *Cake & Cockhorse* Autumn/Winter 2002.<sup>10</sup> Thomas Williams, it has to be noted, was the primary clock repairer at St. Peter & St. Paul, King's Sutton, until his death in early 1759; on 30 July 1759 his kinsman Edward Williams, farmer of Kings Sutton, *'was paid for tow year looking after the clock on Thomas Williams account – 5 shillings'*.<sup>11</sup>

I was also very interested in Beeson's claim that Thomas Pinfold had *'made the clock at Chipping Warden which was converted to dead beat and reconverted to recoil escapement in 1952'*. With trepidation a visit to Chipping Warden was planned where the writer met churchwarden Barbara Bartlett, who in correspondence had confirmed that 'bits and bobs' of the clock remained. Imagine my surprise, after finding the clock

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<sup>9</sup> Report commissioned from NA (Andy North) from Churchwardens' Accounts.

<sup>10</sup> *C&CH* 15.7, pp.240-245.

<sup>11</sup> Report commissioned from NA (Andy North) from Churchwardens' Accounts for King's Sutton.

weights at the bottom of the clock tower stairs and reaching the clock floor of the bell tower, to discover that a lot of the original clock remained *in situ* located in its wooden cupboard (see photos below).



*Clock weights*



*Thomas Pinfold's turret clock*

Further research has established that Thomas's cage strike turret clock (1' x 3'6" backed skeleton) was in fact replaced in stages, to be finally supplanted by today's modern electrical drive unit on 23 November 1990 by Smith's of Derby. Records provided by Nicholas Smith<sup>12</sup> show that his father originally surveyed Thomas's clock on 11 December 1948, followed by a further survey on 18 June 1956. The detailed report includes hand-written notes by Mr Smith Senior, along with intricate freehand sketches of equipment and related church structure (see photo, page 220). The report adds that Thomas Pinfold's original turret clock was restored and altered in June 1889 by James Hare & Son of Handsworth, Birmingham. Interestingly, this is confirmed on the maker's label in brass affixed to the clock cage.

See also page 231 for an illustration showing John Ablott's 'Section through a Tower' from *The Turret Keeper's Handbook* (Antiquarian Horological Society Monograph 4, 1998).

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<sup>12</sup> Report and records provided by Nicholas Smith, Archivist for Smith's Clocks of Derby.

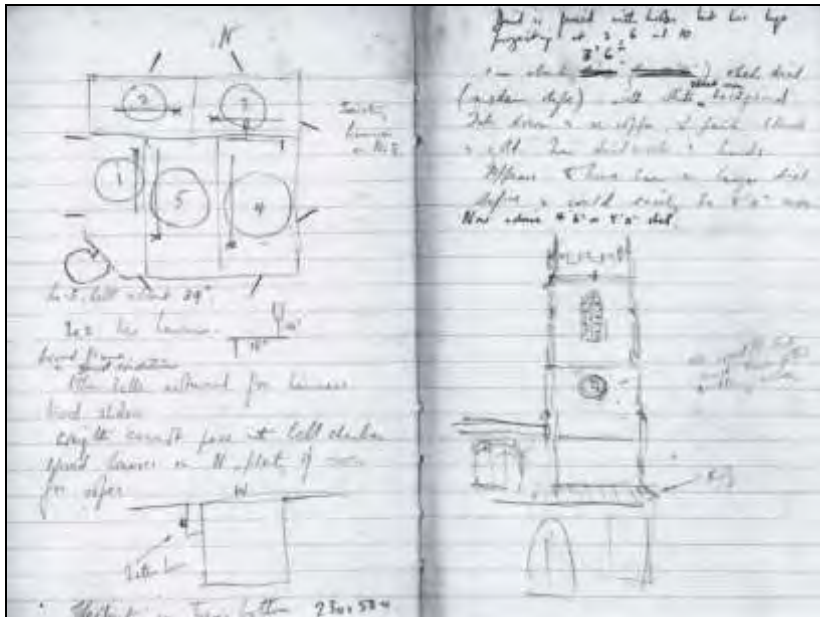




*Thos. Pinfold Banbury. Fecit [he made] 1768.*



*Thomas Pinfold's turret clock, still in situ.*



Smith's sketch dated 11 December 1948.



St Peter & St Paul, Chipping Warden.

As noted above Thomas Pinfold made the clock for Chipping Warden in 1768 and records clearly show that he was of Banbury, not Middleton Cheney. The question remains – why did he leave his small home village in Northamptonshire to take up residence in a large market town, just the other side of the border in Oxfordshire, somewhere between 1762 and 1768? Perusal of parish records for All Saints’ church Middleton Cheney soon clarifies the reason. His wife Elizabeth Pinfold died in 1764 and her memorial inscription<sup>13</sup> records *‘In memory of Elizabeth Pinfold, wife of Thomas Pinfold clockmaker who departed this life January 5<sup>th</sup> 1764 in the 41 year of her age. Likewise, four of their children who died in their infancy’* (see photograph overleaf).<sup>14</sup>

Records show that Thomas Pinfold lived in Lower Middleton Cheney, the Heritage Trail leaflet<sup>15</sup> recording that *‘The thatched cottage to your right was originally two dwellings; one was the home of Thomas Pinfold, clock and watchmaker in the 1760s. He was particularly noted for his turret clocks, but is also known to have made the church clock in Chipping Warden and repaired many of the church clocks in the surrounding district. Note: The garage of this cottage – it was once a framework-knitting workshop where a number of weavers were employed. The long wooden lintels indicate its original use as the workers needed as much natural light as possible’*. The building eventually became the local Post Office on the Green in Lower Middleton Cheney.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> *Memorial Inscriptions at Middleton Cheney* (Northampton F.H.S.), p.15, No. 96.

<sup>14</sup> By kind permission of Denise Howes of Middleton Cheney History Society.

<sup>15</sup> *Middleton Cheney Heritage Trail*, produced by Middleton Cheney History Society, item 15. See front cover.

<sup>16</sup> By kind permission of Denise Howes.



*Elizabeth Pinfold, died 1764.*





*Thomas Pinfold's house on the Green, Middleton Cheney.*

It seems clear that in early 1764 Thomas Pinfold had lost everything dear to him, and with nothing to keep him in Middleton Cheney, he left for Banbury. He did, however, retain the house he owned on the Green, of which we will hear more later.

The next reference to Thomas Pinfold is when he married his second wife, Mary Turner of Banbury, on 5 November 1764 at St. Mary's church, Banbury. Obviously, Thomas was improving his social status in his newly adopted home town and climbing the hierarchy of Banbury society as Mary, who was born in 1736 and was some 16 years his junior, was the daughter of Richard Turner, brazier, who died in April 1764. His widow Dorcas Turner, née Box, was the daughter of William Box, brazier, who was also a burgess, later alderman, of Banbury. Lady Luck was to smile on Thomas for a while as he and Mary had two daughters in quick succession: Sally, christened Sarah, in April 1767 and Elizabeth, born a year later in November 1768. About this time, Thomas Pinfold became an Overseer of the Poor attending Vestry Meetings on a regular basis. Records show<sup>17</sup> his attendance from 5 April 1768 through

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<sup>17</sup> Draft copy of Banbury Overseers' Accounts kindly forwarded to the writer by Jeremy Gibson.

to 31 May 1769. There he rubbed shoulders with a host of Banbury's élite including Mayors Samuel Clarson, John Pain and Thomas Gibberd, John Cheney, innkeeper at the *Unicorn* in the Market Place<sup>18</sup> and founder of the printing dynasty, Urban Fidkin, draper & mercer, Richard Burford, mercer and brother of Dr. Edward Burford, who was the Mayor of Banbury in 1764, and many other key players who forged Banbury's economic prosperity.

However, tragedy struck again with the death of Mary in February 1770, her illness probably being the cause of Thomas's reduced attendance at vestry meetings. Mary was buried on 7 February at St. Mary's church, leaving Thomas Pinfold a widower again, with two young children to support. Financially however, all was well as in less than a year Mary's mother Dorcas Turner had passed away, being buried on 12 January 1771 at St Mary's. Dorcas in her will appointed friends John Tyler, mercer, and Richard Bignell, solicitor, both of Banbury, as trustees and joint executors to ensure her two grand-daughters were well provided for.

Thomas Pinfold again grasped the nettle and took wife No. 3 when he married Elizabeth Bloxham of Banbury on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1770 at St. Mary's church, some ten months after the death of his wife Mary. Some might say too soon, but with two small children needing a mother and a further advance in Banbury society being required, another wife was needed. This time Thomas Pinfold greatly improved his status in the town and increased his business opportunities as Elizabeth Bloxham, who was born in 1747, was just 23 years old, some 27 years his junior, and was the daughter of Robert Bloxham, landlord and owner of the *Leathern Bottle* in Bridge Street.<sup>19</sup> Robert was a member of the extensive Bloxham clan of Banbury that included Dew Bloxham (1723-1791), sexton of St. Mary's church for 33 years and witness at many marriages there, John Bloxham, timber merchant (1730-1791), and Amaziah Bloxham, butcher (1741-1806). Robert Bloxham was to sell the *Leathern Bottle* in May 1772 and apply himself full-time to his preferred occupation as a celebrated plane maker<sup>20</sup> (see photo, page 226,

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<sup>18</sup> V. Wood, *The Licensees of the Inns, Taverns & Beerhouses of Banbury*, pp.114-15.

<sup>19</sup> Wood, *Licensees*, p. 66.

<sup>20</sup> J.M. Gaynor, *18<sup>th</sup>-century Woodworking Tools*, p.107. Tony Murland *Catalogue 2 March 16 (lots 25 & 70)*.

10" wood plane made by him). His wife Priscilla Bloxham, née Partridge, was the sister of William Partridge, joiner and cabinet maker of Banbury. The trades of his new father-in-law (plane maker) and brother-in-law (cabinet maker), allied trades to that of his previous father-in-law, Richard Turner, brazier (i.e. a craftsperson who works in brass) helped a burgeoning clockmaking business that was changing from simple repairs to the production of quality long-case clocks (see photos overleaf).<sup>21</sup>

Thomas and Elizabeth Pinfold had no children, but business in Banbury was blossoming, with Thomas already a renowned clockmaker, until yet again tragedy struck. Elizabeth, his third wife, died in early 1774 and was buried on 30<sup>th</sup> January at St. Mary's church, aged just 27 years old. Thomas must have been devastated - three wives down, with him approaching his 54<sup>th</sup> year.

In typical fashion Thomas rebounded and found wife No. 4, making him the most married relative on my family tree; he is only matched by James Austin, cooper and grocer (1731-1806), and fellow attendee at the vestry meetings in 1768. Interestingly, Austin was apprenticed to Benjamin Lord, cooper of Middleton Cheney, in June 1744 and would have probably known Thomas Pinfold quite well. For his fourth wife Thomas Pinfold really excelled himself in choosing Elizabeth, daughter of John Reeve of Shipston-on-Stour and his wife Elizabeth Banbury of Tredington. When they married on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1774 by licence at St. Benet Fink Church, on the corner of Threadneedle Street and Finch Lane in the City of London, she was noted as being 27 years old with Thomas simply being recorded as a widower, although he was 54 years old and well into middle age. Witnesses were Elizabeth's brother Thomas Reeve and Wheldon Jones, a haberdasher of the City of London. Elizabeth Reeve had several siblings of interest to Banbury society. Firstly, her elder sister Ann (1746-1832) married Richard Roberts (1739-1787) of Edgcote in 1771. They went on to become the owners and mine hosts of the *Reindeer Inn* at 47 Parson's Street<sup>22</sup> following the ongoing debacles with William Moseley's bankruptcy hearings. Unfortunately, husband Richard Roberts died in 1787, with Ann carrying on as landlady of the *Reindeer* until 1794.

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<sup>21</sup> By kind permission of Denise Howes.

<sup>22</sup> Wood, *Licenses*, p. 90.



*Plane by Robert Bloxham*



*10" Pinfold Long Case Clock purchased by the father of Terry Barrio when he was stationed at Croughton Air Force Base in the 1950/60s. It was purchased from a pub owner for about £15.00.*

*Terry Barrio lives in Omaha, Nebraska and his mother came from Sibford. They still have family living in the Banbury/Bloxham/Bodicote area.*

Richard and Ann Roberts had seven children, including a well-known Banbury character, John Roberts (1776-1851), who was a liquor merchant and landlord of the *Wine Vaults* in Parson's Street<sup>23</sup>. Secondly,

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<sup>23</sup> G. Herbert, *The Shoemaker's Window*, p.100; Wood, *Licenseses*, p.133



her younger sister Sarah (1750-1815), who managed to remain a spinster until 1796, when she finally succumbed and became the third wife of Christopher Handy of Warwick (1739-1808), who lived in West Street and was a medicine preparer. After his death in 1808, Sarah Handy left the business and his 'patented recipes' to her stepson-in-law Charles Bromley.<sup>24</sup>

Sarah Handy's last will and testament<sup>25</sup> includes several references to close friends of her late husband who aided in the preparation and operation of an indenture, the most interesting being a certain Thomas Hawkes, cap maker of Piccadilly, London. Research has shown that this Thomas Hawkes (1745-1810) was the founder of Gieves & Hawkes, Savile Row tailors, and his will<sup>26</sup> is perhaps the longest and most generous yet found anywhere.<sup>27</sup> The *Evangelical Magazine* records his donations to charities alone at some £12,650 (just shy of £1 million in today's money), quite apart from personal legacies listed in his extremely long will, including several houses in Piccadilly. Thomas Hawkes had left his home town of Bromsgrove in 1760 to work for Mr Moy, a velvet cap maker in Swallow Street, London. After Moy's death Thomas Hawkes expanded the business and won many lucrative orders with the Army to become the leading Army accoutrement maker of the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth. Added to this, the patronage of King George III and his dandified, seriously spendthrift, son the Prince Regent ensured that Thomas's coffers were full and that he became the multi-millionaire of his day. The other interesting character in Sarah's will was someone she met whilst living in her elder brother Thomas Reeve's house at No.11 Chandler Street, now Weighhouse Street in the middle of Mayfair, from 1790 until her wedding in 1796: a certain John Wright Dent, tallow chandler (1738-1819), who was the grandfather of Edward John Dent (1790-1853).

The young Edward Dent was apprenticed as a tallow chandler to his grandfather under an indenture dated 20<sup>th</sup> August 1804. Under the terms of the indenture his grandfather was expected to find suitable lodgings for his apprentice, which he balked at. Fortunately, Edward's cousin,

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<sup>24</sup> *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, 5 November 1808.

<sup>25</sup> Ancestry UK, Will of Sarah Handy of Warwick proved 5 October 1815.

<sup>26</sup> Ancestry UK, Will of Thomas Hawkes of Piccadilly proved 20 February 1810.

<sup>27</sup> *Panoplist and Missionary Magazine*, vol. 3 (1811), p. 350.

Richard Rippon, was willing to take him into his home. Richard was a watchmaker and young Dent's growing fascination with watchmaking echoed his diminishing interest in the malodorous business of making candles. Indeed, Edward became so fascinated by watchmaking that on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1807 his grandfather agreed to the transfer of the remaining years of his apprenticeship as a tallow chandler to Edward Gaudin, watchmaker of London. Edward went on to found E.J. Dent, the company that was to make the mechanism of Big Ben at the Palace of Westminster.

Thomas Reeve (1743-1799), brother of Elizabeth Pinfold (wife No. 4), was another interesting character who left his home to make his fortune in London. Following his apprenticeship as a currier to his uncle Thomas Banbury of Cheltenham on 12<sup>th</sup> April 1759, he followed Thomas Hawkes to London where he set up his currier and leather cutting business at No.11 Chandler Street, in what is now fashionable Mayfair. Although no records have yet been found he probably supplied Thomas Hawkes with all his leather needs for the manufacture of Dispatch Boxes, Shako hats and other associated leather goods required to meet the Army's extensive and ever-growing needs. Thomas Reeve died a very wealthy man in Banbury, living with his beloved sister Ann, and, as requested in his will,<sup>28</sup> he was laid to rest next to his brother-in-law Richard Roberts, the husband of sister Ann Roberts at St. Mary's church. In his will he left his sisters Ann Roberts, Sarah Handy and Elizabeth Pinfold several properties in both Mayfair and the Fitzrovia areas of central London which they all insured after his death through Sun Fire Office.<sup>29</sup> Their value today would be staggering.

Going back to Thomas Pinfold's house in Lower Middleton Cheney, land tax records show<sup>30</sup> that Thomas Pinfold was the owner of land in Lower Middleton Cheney measuring 1 acre, 3 roods and 23 perches, bounded on the east by the homestall of Francis Eyre. Eyre was a very wealthy landowner who lived at Warkworth Castle and had married Lady Mary Radcliffe, the daughter of Charles Radcliffe, titular 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Derwentwater, who lost his head in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1715. The record goes on to say that the 1780 land tax for Middleton Cheney

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<sup>28</sup> Ancestry UK, Will of Thomas Reeve of St. George's, Hanover Square, London, proved 19<sup>th</sup> July 1799.

<sup>29</sup> London Metropolitan Archives, Sun Fire Office records.

<sup>30</sup> Land Tax Report from NA (Andy North), ref R/2016/42.

records Thomas Pinfold owning land in the occupation of himself, James Golby (*i.e.* James Golby, hempdresser, father of James Wake Golby, solicitor of Banbury), Richard Parker and John Pinfold (1725-1820) (*i.e.* Thomas's brother, a master framework knitter in Middleton Cheney). From the land tax records and the 1762 militia listing, where James Golby (*c.*1728-1818), a single man, is listed as a flaxdresser, it is evident that Thomas Pinfold was a close friend of his and that they probably left Middleton Cheney around the same time, Thomas to marry Mary Turner in 1764 and James to marry Ann Wake of Stratford-upon-Avon in 1768, both seeking their fortunes in Banbury. James Golby, as noted in his will of 1818,<sup>31</sup> clearly made good as a flaxdresser, grocer and, finally, coal merchant, leaving a lump sum of £6,000 (£1/2 million today) to his daughter Ann Golby (1775-1852) along with an annuity of £250 for life. His only son James Wake Golby (1769-1842), as many Banbury records show, was a leading solicitor in Banburyshire whose name is to be found everywhere throughout the county and even further afield.

Thomas and Elizabeth Pinfold went on to have a single child, a son, predictably named Thomas, who was baptised at St Mary's church, Banbury, on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1775. Unfortunately, as with most of Thomas' progeny, his only surviving son and last child passed away in July 1777, cruelly taken by smallpox. Thomas's surviving children Sally and Elizabeth fared much better and were married at St Mary's church within a month of each other in 1788: Elizabeth married William Peacock on 26<sup>th</sup> February 1788, and her elder sister Sally followed her down the same aisle on 24<sup>th</sup> March to marry Joseph Wyatt of Banbury (1758-1826), the son of William Wyatt, mercer, member of the Wyatt clan who were Mayors of Banbury in 1761, 1791, 1800, 1807 and 1818 and co-founders of the New Bank of Banbury.

William Peacock (1763-1829) was well known to Thomas Pinfold, being one of the apprentices he took under his wing on 10 October 1780. Peacock, clock and watchmaker, was working in Banbury from 1788-1823 at Bridge Street. He was also an Overseer of the Poor in Banbury in 1795 and again in 1796. He is recorded as looking after the clocks at St. John the Baptist, Bodicote, from 1798 to 1802 and St. James the Great, Claydon, from 1801 to 1809, following in the footsteps of his mentor Thomas Pinfold. Thomas's other son-in-law, Joseph Wyatt, was another of those interesting Banbury innkeepers, being mine host of the

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<sup>31</sup> Ancestry UK, Will of Thomas Golby of Banbury, proved 20<sup>th</sup> August 1818.

*Mitre* Inn in the Market Place. Joseph and Sally Wyatt took over at the *Mitre* just before their marriage and ran the inn from 1786 to 1790 until they moved on to bigger and better things<sup>32</sup>. As noted by Vera Wood, Joseph Wyatt held the Annual Florists Feast at the *Mitre* Inn 1788–90; tickets, including dinner, were priced at 2s.6d., with special prizes of silver spoons for the best carnations. The Wyatts moved onto the *White Lion* at 64 High Street,<sup>33</sup> a very busy inn in the centre of town where they stayed for the next 31 years, until Joseph handed over the reins to his son Charles and his wife Sophia. Vera Wood's book makes specific reference to Joseph Wyatt, stating that he 'was a respectable man without fault, except his remittances'. It appears that he was constantly in arrears and was finally replaced as mine host in 1821, dying a few years later in 1826. The inference is that Joseph was not the quickest at paying his bills, his creditors finally losing patience with him. Whether his son was any better at paying his bills there is no mention. Another of Thomas Pinfold's apprentices was Matthew Wise (1759-88), the son of Matthew Wise and Rachel, née Bowers, maltster of Bodicote. Matthew married Ann Pinfold of Middleton Cheney at Banbury by licence on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1781: Ann was Thomas Pinfold's niece, the daughter of John Pinfold and his first wife Ann Golby, another relation of James Golby, flaxdresser. He was later in business at Daventry from about 1786 and was admitted a freeman of Daventry in 1783.

Thomas Pinfold and Elizabeth remained in Banbury, with Thomas working at his trade until his death on 24th April 1799 at his shop in the Market Place<sup>34</sup>. Elizabeth lived on for another ten years until her death in 1810. In a codicil to her will<sup>35</sup> she outlined that '*It is my particular desire to be buried in the same grave with my dear husband at Middleton Cheney*'. Her wish was granted and she was laid to rest next to Thomas on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1810, their memorial inscription<sup>36</sup> recording on a flat stone 'In memory of Thos. Pinfold who died ye 24<sup>th</sup> day of April 1799 aged 79 years. Also of Elizth (wife of) Thos. Pinfold who died Sept 1810 aged 62 years'.

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<sup>32</sup> Wood, *Licensees*, p.71.

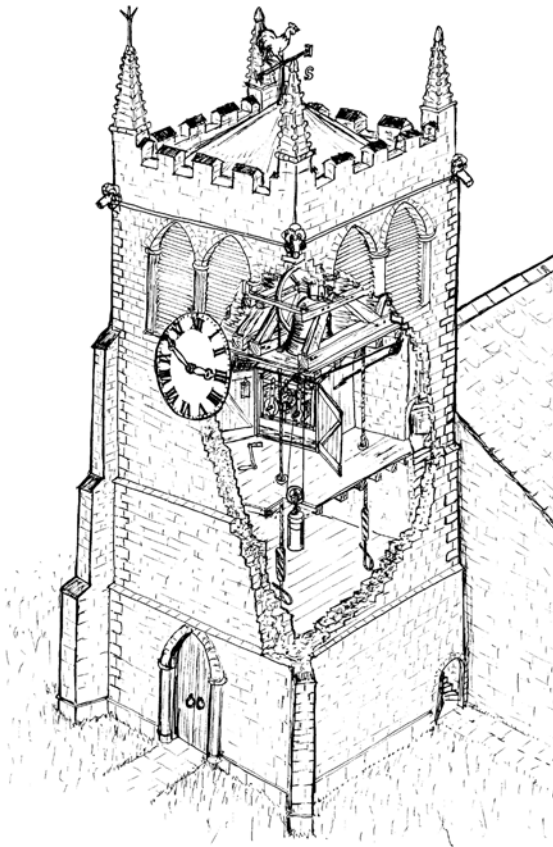
<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.* p.129.

<sup>34</sup> *Jackson's Oxford Journal*, Obituary of Thomas Pinfold, 27 July, 1799.

<sup>35</sup> Oxford Family History Society, transcribed will for Elizabeth Pinfold, 1802.

<sup>36</sup> *Memorial Inscriptions at Middleton Cheney* (Northampton F.H.S), p.13, No.63.

So ended the life and works of my great-ancestor Thomas Pinfold, a very worthy man to have on your family tree. I'm particularly proud of his achievements and his tenacity with the adage 'don't let life grind you down'. Every time he suffered a set-back, and he suffered more than most, he got up, dusted himself down and got back on the horse, as they say. Even more enjoyable is that the wonderful long-case clocks and watches he produced with his own hands remain in today's world and are sought after by collectors. Still more amazing is that his turret clock, fashioned out of wrought steel, carried by horse and cart from Banbury to Chipping Warden, and manhandled up a tight twisty flight of stone stairs, remains there to this day and will celebrate its two hundred and fiftieth anniversary next year.



John Ablott , 'Section through a Tower', in C. McKay, *The Turret Keeper's Handbook* (Antiquarian Horological Society Monograph 4, 1998).

## SNIPPETS FROM THE ARCHIVES: 12

*Deborah Hayter*

**Petition to the Lord Chancellor from a committee of the ‘working classes of Adderbury & Milton’ regarding the maladministration of the Feoffees charity (dated c.1830 – 1834).**

*From Adderbury Parish Records [Oxford History Centre (PAR2/13/1A/4)]*

*To the right honourable Lord Brougham*

*My lord*

*We the working Classes of Adderbury & Milton in the County of Oxford, fully sensible of the importance of your Lordship’s Talents, and the necessity of your exertions in parliamentary affairs at this important crisis; yet earnestly beg the favour of your Lordship’s attention to the grievances we are now labouring under concerning certain Lands, Houses, Stocks of Money, so called Feoffees property, left by charitable and well disposed persons at various times for the relief of the aged, impotent and poor people, and other good and charitable uses, but is not now (nor for a length of time been) distributed according to the donors’ intentions, nor according to two decrees that are in our possession, which were issued under the great seal of England dated 1602.*

The petitioners go on to complain that there should be twelve feoffees, amongst whom should be the vicar and the churchwardens; that having distributed the money they should make their accounts public and have them audited by three JPs; that there should be a table setting out these charities in the church so that everyone might know about them and it might encourage others to do likewise.

They say there are only three feoffees living, and one of those refuses to act; the table of village charities in the church is erased; part of the land has been sold; the rest is not earning a proper rent; ‘*despite the inclement weather*’ not a shilling of the £45 set aside for coal has been expended. ‘*We blush to tell the reason, the faults of our fellow creatures, people in so important an office whose duty it ought to be, to feed the hungry and clothe the naked.*’ They describe what seemed to be a system of issuing tickets instead of money, to be used at neighbouring shops, when those refusing the tickets got less money.

The petitioners describe how they have made requests and protests in the village, to no avail, so they have formed a committee and are applying to the Lord Chancellor for redress.

The good folk of Adderbury were not alone in complaining of the misuse of charitable funds. All over the country sums of money given for charitable purposes had gone missing, and property left to provide income in perpetuity had got into private hands. Ever since the medieval period there had been concern over the difficulty of ensuring that charitable bequests were distributed according to the testators' wishes, and that funds were not misused. The 1602 *Statute of Charitable Uses* empowered the setting up of commissions in each county to regulate the use of charitable funds, and between 1660 and 1742 over 950 such investigations were set up, but in the eighteenth century there was less appetite for such enquiries and there were only six between 1743 and 1818.<sup>1</sup>

At the beginning of the nineteenth century the only way to get redress for wrongful misappropriation of funds was to go to the Court of Chancery, which was usually very expensive, endlessly time-consuming and in the end futile. Henry Brougham, a young and active member of Parliament, campaigned successfully for Parliament to oversee charities, and for the setting up of a new Commission, usually known as the Brougham Inquiry. This inquiry's investigations between 1819 and 1837 led to the prosecution of four hundred charities. Volume 26 of the *Reports of the Commissioners* contains the findings from Oxfordshire and Rutland, and Adderbury's Feoffees Lands and various charities are enumerated in great detail over five pages (pp 200-205).<sup>2</sup> Eventually these investigations led to the creation of the permanent Charity Commission in the 1850s. In effect, the policing of charities had been transferred from the judiciary to Parliament and thence to an independent body answerable to Parliament. Henry Brougham was given a barony in 1830 to enable him to take his seat in the House of Lords as Lord Chancellor, and it was obviously his history as a campaigner for the proper use of charitable funds which led to this petition being directed towards him.

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<sup>1</sup> N. Alvey, *From Chantry to Oxfam: a Short History of Charity and Charity Legislation*, BALH (1995).

<sup>2</sup> *Reports of the Commissioners...Charities and Education of the Poor in England and Wales*, Vol. 26 (1815-1839).

## Book Review

*Playing With the Boys: Olga Kevelos, Motorcycle Sportswoman. An Extraordinary 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Life in Words and Photographs*, by Colin Turbett. Paperback, 160pp., illustrated, Benn Nuis Publishing, Isle of Arran, ISBN 978-1-5272-0795-0, £20. Copies available from the author: ctur282388@aol.com.

This book's shiny scarlet cover and its enigmatic title catch the eye. Olga Kevelos (1923-2009), the book's subject, caught the eye – and sought to do so. A troublesome Birmingham schoolgirl who left without any public exam grades, she nevertheless, self-educated, competed in Mastermind fifty years on. Startling convention, she crewed on war-time barges carrying coal and munitions and then, for some twenty years, succeeded in the man's world of motor cycle trials in Britain and Europe. Supreme confidence, physical strength, charm and ruthlessness were the key to all her successes.

The author, Colin Turbett, a classical motor cycle enthusiast, has charted Olga's unusual life and, particularly and in some detail, her motor cycling days and the machines she rode. His writing also illuminates the way life was led in the years before, during and after World War II, and that is enhanced by the unusual number of illustrations showing newspaper cuttings, family and competition photographs, teenage diaries, tickets, programmes, postcards, and bills from motor cycle garages. We read of life in a middle-class home in Birmingham's prosperous Edgbaston – garden games, plays, a bonfire for the King's funeral; about the threat of Hitler, air raid warnings, their air raid shelter, the 'all clear'; also avid cinema going (Errol Flynn was a passion), and night-time rambles.

Motor cycling was popular in the post-war years, bikes being cheap to buy and run. Birmingham was the manufacturing centre for major models and Olga took full advantage of that, meeting some key figures of motor cycle sport and manufacture through her Greek father's family run, city-centre café. Stories of Olga's motor cycling achievements abound, some of them having achieved legendary status, e.g. her solo ride to Reno for the Italian Six-Day Trial in which she broke a leg, the hospital bill being paid by an admirer from his casino winnings; there



are hints of passing attachments, but Olga never married. Women's motor cycling organisations and events had no interest for her; as she put it, she preferred to 'play with the boys.'

The second half of Olga's life was spent in the Northamptonshire village of King's Sutton, where her personality spiced its life. She ran the *Three Tuns* pub, now closed, with Ray, her brother. Licensing hours were loosely observed – Olga was always up for a drink and a party. She was a parish councillor, wrote for the village magazine and, as well as competing in Mastermind, competed in local pub quizzes, often sweeping the board. This writer, as an occasional 'quiz-ster' with her can vouch for her encyclopaedic knowledge, wit, and enduring Brummie accent. Colin Turbett has captured Olga (and her times) delightfully. This is a book that can be judged by its cover.

**John Duncan**

*Northamptonshire Past and Present*, No. 70, 2017 (Northamptonshire Record Society, Wootton Hall Park, Northampton NN6 8BQ. Free to members).

Of particular Banburyshire interest in this latest issue is the short biography by Bill Franklin of the Rev. Henry Jephcott (1700-77), Rector of Kislingbury (near Northampton), a prolific Enclosure Commissioner. Of the 55 enclosures he supervised over 26 years, a quarter were in Banburyshire. The earliest, appropriately enough, was Banbury itself (and Neithrop), the Act dated 1759, awarded 14 August 1760.

Other local parishes were:

*North Oxfordshire*

Wardington (incl. Williamsote & Cote) [1760]  
Steeple Aston [1766]  
Wootton [1769]  
Swalcliffe [1771]  
Epwell [1772]  
Sibford Gower [1773]  
Cropredy & Ast Mead [*sic*] [1774]  
Tadmarton (Upper & Lower) [1775]  
Claydon with Clattercote [1775]

*Southern Northamptonshire*

Marston St Lawrence [1760]  
Thenford [1766]  
Middleton Cheney (Upper & Lower) [1769]  
Astrop [1772]  
Charlton in Newbottle [1773]

Precise dates for the Awards are included in the article.

**Jeremy Gibson**

# 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).

*Junctions at Banbury: a town and its railways since 1850*, Barrie Trinder (vol. 35).

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

In preparation:

*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 is **£15.00** for one member, **£20** for two members living at the same address, which includes any records volumes published. Overseas and corporate membership, **£20.00**.

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.



**Autumn 2017 / Winter 2018 Programme**

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

*Thursday 14th December 2017*

**Wychwood Forest and Cornbury:** Recent work on the *Victoria County History*.

Dr Simon Townley

*Thursday 11th January 2018*

**Nation and region: Banburyshire in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.**

Dr Mark Curhoys

*Thursday 8th February 2018*

**“Old Obadiah, sing Ave Maria”:** the strange case of Obadiah Walker, Master of University College, Oxford, 1676-1689.

Dr Robin Darwell-Smith

*Thursday 8th March 2018*

**What can economic historians learn from medieval farmers?**

Dr Ros Faith

*Thursday 12th April 2018*

**Workshop session.**