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

Cover Illustration - Souldern Rectory (from Blomfeld, 1893)

Cake and Cockhorse

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

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It is not often that a Historical Magazine contains a 'Ghost Story' but in this issue of C&CH we have one. A fascinating article written and researched by Geoffrey Stevenson, certainly a case of from little acorns oak trees grow.

A further addition to our knowledge of Banbury Corporation is found in the article by P. Renold on William Judd, prompted by the article by Jeremy Gibson in our previous edition.

I have once again to announce some changes to the committee, as is mentioned in the Annual Report, Alan Essex Crosby is retiring after a number of years as committee member and Treasurer. We have fortunately found another member to join, and this is Fiona Foster. Our secretary Julia Nicholson is also on the move, but only as far as the Public Library in Marlborough Road to become the 'Client Services Manager for Libraries and Museums in Cherwell' May I on behalf of all our members extend our congratulations and thanks.

D.A.H.

A VISIT FROM THE OTHER SIDE IN A TOWNSHIP NEAR BANBURY IN 1706

Richard Chambre was a Shropshire lad of some parts.¹ The son of a gentleman of Wolverley, he was educated at Wern School and, after a conventional Cambridge career (he was admitted a pensioner at Sidney Sussex College in 1702 at 17, and took his bachelor's degree in the early months of 1706), was instituted to the living of Loppington, two miles from Wern, in 1710. He was perhaps impressionable in his youth, for we find him writing the following:²

"Another account of the apparition of Mr Naylor to Mr Shaw in his Church of Souldern from a M.S. of the Revd. Richard Chambre. (This account I had in these very words from the Revd. Dr. Whitfield, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge)³.

About the end of last summer Mr Grove the public register (Registrar*) of the University was in the country at a small town (township*) near Banbury in Oxfordshire with his old friend Mr Shaw lately Fellow of St John's, & who was presented by the College to the Rectory where he resided. While Mr Grove tarried with him which was about four or five days he told him this remarkable story, viz. that some days before as he was sitting in his study late one night, after eleven, & while he was smoaking Tobacco & reading the Spectre of his old Companion Mr Naylour (who died about five years ago in St John's College) came into the room habited in a Gown & Cassock & Exactly in the same manner as he used to appear in the College when alive. Mr Shaw remembered the figure well & was therefore much surprized, but the spectre took a chair & sitting down close by him bid him not be afraid for he came to acquaint him with something that nearly concerned him. So entering into discourse together, the Spectre told him that their friend Mr Orchard was to die very suddenly & that he himself should die soon after him & therefore he came to forewarn him that he might prepare himself accordingly. After this they talked of many other things (for their Conference lasted about two hours) & amongst the rest Mr Shaw asked him whether one might form some sort of notion of the other world from anything that one saw in this? He answered no, without giving any farther satisfaction to the question; upon this Mr Shaw said to him, how is it with you? His answer was I am very well & happy. Whereupon Mr Shaw asked him farther whether any of his old acquaintance were with him? His answer was that there was not one of them: which answer Mr Shaw said (as told the story by Mr Grove) struck him to the heart. At last after two hours conference together the Spectre took his leave, & Mr Shaw desiring him to stay longer he told him that he could not — for he had only three days allotted him to be absent, & they were almost expired. Mr Shaw desired that he might see him at least once more before his death. But he told him it could not be & so left him — after this he walked about his room a considerable time musing upon what had happened.

Mr Grove is a person of undoubted credit who tells this story & (which is the greatest confirmation of it that can be desired) is that he told it several times here in College before Mr Shaw died; who fell down dead in his desk as he was reading prayers. The other Gentleman who was mentioned Mr Orchard died suddenly in his chair while his Bedmaker went from him to fetch his commons for Supper. This story is further

confirmed by two country gentlemen of Mr Shaw's acquaintance to whom he had likewise communicated it, & in truth it hath met with much universal credit here that I have found very few who made any scruple of believing it — It is remarkable that Mr Shaw was a noted enemy to the belief of apparitions — & used always in company to dispute against them."

Mr Shaw was the Rector of Souldern, and lived in the old Rectory, which stood to the north of the church. Wordsworth stayed at the house, possibly in 1820⁸, having been at St John's at the same time as Rector Jones, who spent heavily in improving the south front of the building, see front cover, as the curate during the last seven years of his life up to 1835 did at the rear of the house, William Cotton Risley was to do the same at Deddington House later on: his move there was determined by the college's being patron of the living, for he had no hopes of taking over, nor reasonable expectations of continuing as curate,⁹ Lawrence Stephenson, Rector from 1836 to 1889 was more circumspect in building works, and allowed all the buildings of the glebe to deteriorate during his long incumbency, hence no doubt the demolition of the Rectory in 1890.¹⁰

Both Risley and Stephenson went to the trouble of transcribing the *Chambre* manuscript, presumably from the account in *The Gentlemen's Magazine* for 1783, and Blomfield made use of it soon afterwards. A close check reveals 26 points of difference between the 1783 version and the one in the Risley collection, and a further 19 in Stephenson's account, the greater part of these being the inevitable cyphering errors creeping in. Thus Risley wrote 'Registrar' for 'Register' as Grove's University post, and Stephenson extended 'town' to 'township' (both are indicated by * in the text); and both inserted a date which, by footnote, the *Gentleman's Magazine* account specifically denies. Neither included the interpolation at the start which indicates the story is third hand. However, the "Another account" with which it begins (except in Stephenson's copy!) implies knowledge or existence of other versions, beyond or including the "two country gentlemen" to whom Shaw had spoken, one of whom appears to be Thomas Cartwright¹¹ of Aynho, two miles from Souldern. There are three such versions — letters rather than manuscripts — like *Chambre's*. A fuller picture emerges with a letter, written on December 12, 1706 by Edmund Waller to his friend in the country, Thomas Offley,¹² in which Waller added a few specifics: he named 28 July as the date of the apparition of Naylor¹³; he added Mr Shaw's declaration of pious resignation on the departure of the spectre — 'Fiat voluntas Domini'; he stated that Orchard died on August 7; finally he pointed to other auditors of the story before Shaw's own death. These were Peter Clark,¹⁴ curate at "Clopton or Claxton" visited by Grove on his way back from Souldern to Cambridge, and the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr Baldiston.¹⁵ A second letter from the Rev. J. Hughes to the Rev. Mr. Bonwicke, in January 1707, is part of a correspondence on scholastic business chiefly between Robert Turner and the latter, and there are three Turner's letters, which widen the scope of the story considerably and are discussed later¹⁶. A third letter, of which a copy exists in the *Landsdowne* papers, may well have had its origin in correspondence between Waller and his brother William, a Norfolk rector: it too adds materially to the story.¹⁷

Rector Shaw died suddenly on Sunday 17 November 1706 after a nine year's incumbency: his last words were from the second lesson for that day (1 Timothy 6 verse 19) "Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to

A very True and Faithful ACCOUNT
OF THE
Apparition, or Ghost,
OF
Mr. John Nailer!

Fellow of St. John's-College in Oxford,

Who after his Death, came to Mr. Shaw, Fellow of the same College, and Minister of Seldon in Oxford, as he was lately sitting in his Study between eleven and twelve at Night, who not being at all surprized, asked Mr. Nailer several Questions, who appeared to him in the same Habit when Living, and with his Arms clasped before him.

As how it fared with him in respect to Health, and how they lived in another World? To which Mr. Nailer answered, *far different to what they do here.*

Likewise, how Mr. Shaw askt him, Whether there was any of their old Acquaintance with him in the Place where he had been? To which Mr. Nailer replied None. Also, how he foretold the Death of Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Arthur Orchard Minister of Copen, who both died of an Apoplexy according to the time that Mr. Nailer predicted, the former dying as he was Reading Prayers.

To which is added, The Letter that was sent from Oxford to the Printer here at London, by Mr. Edmund Waller Gentleman.

Licensed according to Order!

London: Printed by D. Brown, in Fetter-Lane, 1707.

come, that they may lay hold on eternal life". At this point, as Chambre stated, he fell down dead; or, as his funeral sermon stated, "Mr Shaw fell out of the Reading-desk into the Isle of the Church; and his Skull was shatter'd by the Fall, so that he died immediately".¹⁸ The Bible from which he was reading, marked at the text, survives.¹⁹ He was interred in the churchyard, and on 8 December a funeral sermon was preached in the church by a neighbouring clergyman. In the following year, a pamphlet was printed in London offering a version of events following the Waller letter: "A very true and faithful Account" it is not, bearing some relationship to stories in the contemporary tabloid press. It is some surprise to discover that it was the sermon which was printed 'at the Sun against St Dunstan's Church' in Fleet Street, whereas the pamphlet came from Fetter Lane.²⁰

Lunn made a critical inquiry into the sequence of events, working from the Waller letter, and tracing its history through several nineteenth century publications,²¹ though he made no mention of the Chambre letter. In 1706 28 July was a Sunday, the tenth after Trinity; Cambridge term had ended that year on 5 July, after which it can be presumed that Grove would have gone down to the west country, taking in Souldern on his way. From the manner in which Shaw speaks, it is prudent to assign his second visit no earlier than Monday 5 August, Lunn argues "it is a tempting conjecture that the conversation may well have taken place on Tuesday 6 August, the very day of Orchard's death, as given in Nichols. It is right to say that the 7th is given in Lee's work as the date: probably the death occurred in the night, & the exact time is unknown." However, he had sight of Chambre's account he would have known of his having died in his chair, the "bedmaker having gone to fetch his commons for supper" which is unlikely to have been in the small hours! The explanation is more likely the common one of errors of transcription, of which the authorship of "Edward Walter" is one which is readily explicable. (Even more so if Lunn had gone back behind the Nichols and Lee corruptions to the correct appellation in the Gentleman's Magazine). Clark's report to Grove suggests that the latter was on his way back from Souldern to Cambridge, for though Waller is unsure, doubtless having the information second hand, of Clark's curacy — Clopton or Claxton — either would be on route. Thus Grove's arrival at Cambridge unsurprised at Orchard's death implies his arrival by August 10, the day before his burial at All Saints, the church just across the road from St John's College, in Trinity Street, Cambridge. 'This,' Lunn argues, 'would seem to render it impossible that there should have been any intercommunication or ordinary information forthcoming, so Grove's knowledge could only have been obtained in the manner alleged, & therefore that apparition was a genuine fact'. His conclusion is, 'The combination of facts is a remarkable one, and I must express my own opinion that this was a real case of an apparition, although I am myself not very much disposed to believe in ghosts, & generally think the transactions in spiritualising seances to be impostures. The dates are remarkable.'

St John's College, Cambridge, was at that time "a High Church and Tory stronghold in a predominantly Whig university".²² Four of the seven bishops imprisoned in the Tower by James II, for opposition to the Declaration of Indulgence (to Roman Catholics as well as Protestant Nonconformists) in 1688 had connections with it. After the revolution which brought William and Mary to the throne, tender Anglican consciences which could not accept the rupture which it represented to divine right

refused the oath as 'non-jurors' and suffered deprivation: many of these too were associated with Shaw's College. It is in this light that his friendships may be viewed. Orchard, Naylor and Shaw were near-contemporaries, born in 1640, 1656 and 1658 respectively; their fellowships were gained in 1666, 1677 and 1680. Such fellowships were hard to sustain in the political climate after 1688. In 1693 the Court of King's Bench issued a writ of mandamus calling for the ejection of twenty non-juring fellows of St John's, including Naylor, who refused the oath to William and Mary, but a Cambridge Grand Jury refused to find a true bill, testimony of some public sympathy for their stand; thus no deprivations occurred then.²³ However, the three of the twenty who survived to 1716 were then ejected: one of them, Thomas Baker, would have known all parties concerned, but his history of college (assisted by early retirement from his office — he was not deprived of his comfortable college rooms) makes no reference to the "ghost" incident.²⁴ Another deprived fellow was Thomas Verdon, in whose place Caleb Pamham was elected (his history being the occasion of Lunn's rehearsing of the story).²⁵ The Master from 1679 to 1711, Humphrey Gower, was also an object of suspicion, though he conformed, having 'a mastership, a canonry, a rectory & professorship to lose, and nothing to gain in room of them, but paltry satisfaction & empty honour of having acted according to his conscience. However, with all these emoluments & conveniences, it required more than common self-denial to quit, at the latter end of life, advantages & comfort of every sort, & embrace beggary.. in the room of them'.²⁶ The inter-personal tensions of such a community may have had its effect on their private thoughts in country rectories, particularly when visited by an old colleague at the beginning of the Long Vacation.²⁷

The credibility of the witnesses is sustained by so many scientific backgrounds. Shaw was an examiner in Mathematics and reader in Geometry (the University curriculum was still based on the seven liberal arts) and Waller a medical Fellow.²⁸ Grove, and Shaw himself, were known to be of a sceptical frame of mind. Lunn was, later, convinced by a critical examination of the circumstances, as was Turner, one of the letter-writers and subsequently a fellow himself.

A further letter adds substance by introducing an independent witness, spoken to directly by Shaw. Dated 21 January 1707, it is from Robert Turner²⁹ to Ambrose Bonwicke senior³⁰: 'There is a circumstance relative to this apparition which adds great confirmation to it. There is one, Mr Cartwright, a Member of Parliament, a man of good credit & integrity, an intimate friend of Mr Shaw's, who told the same story with Dr Grove's (which he had from Mr Shaw at the Archbishop of Canterbury's [Tenison] table), but he says furthermore that Mr Shaw told him of some great revolutions in the State, which he will not discover, being either obliged to silence by Mr Shaw, or concealing upon some prudent & public reason'. What this could have been can only be guessed at: Thomas Offley, however, as chaplain to a leading Tory politician, the Earl of Nottingham³¹, could well have had a notion, though in view of his apparently being the vehicle by which the story became 'popular' through the London pamphlet, it is difficult to consider that he saw it as a weighty matter. All did not rest easy in the court and country that winter, despite euphoria over Ramillies and John Churchill's adding to that reputation later to be accorded the supreme reward of Blenheim Palace.³²

It is perhaps pertinent to take into account the age of some of the confidants and retailers of the story. *Chambre's* account is the product of a young BA graduate of 21 from Sidney Sussex College, resting on the account of a former Wem school friend scarcely much older. Grove's curate colleague Peter Clark was 26; the letter-writer Waller was 24 — both being recently-elected Fellows of St John's. Robert Turner was 24 also, and about to gain his fellowship. Accounts of the supernatural are inclined to cause excitement: when Abraham de la Pryne was an undergraduate at St John's in 1690-4 a poltergeist was alleged to have disturbed the peace of a painter's house in St John's Street,³³ "Hype" needs to be taken into account. The minister of the Round Church, opposite the college, himself a Fellow of St John's, complained that 'it is observable that among the university men that almost half of them are hypt (as they call it), that is, disordered in their brains, sometimes mopish, sometimes wild, the two different effects of their laziness and debauchery.' Not only the "hype" of the young, but also a certain animosity and venom in such tight-knit circles. Thomas Edwards, the minister in question also wrote of his colleague, Thomas Verdon, who was deprived of his fellowship in 1716 along with Baker, that 'Mr V a fellow of St John's, has at rack and manger at a house 5 or 6 miles off Cambridge — He is absent from his benefice and charge in the country, and never repairs to the college but when there are leases to be call'd, or a dividend to be receiv'd; yet none remind this man of his duty'.³⁴ It appears that reports of the Souldern event may be conditioned by the rarified atmosphere in which the stories spread: only Thomas Cartwright was a local witness to Shaw's description, and he seems, except at the Archbishop's dining table, to have kept his counsel. Two of the writers showed restrained enthusiasm — Waller stated he would have said nothing, if not pressed by Thomas Offley; Turner's friend Hughes merely filled out a letter on Cambridge news which began with affairs of church politics.

The temperament of Geoffrey Shaw is also an important factor. Waller sums up the 'opinion of men that cannot digest the matter that it was only a dream'; Hughes a believer, allowed there were those 'rejecting it as a ridiculous story, and the effect of spleen and melancholy'. What is clear is that, contrary to the 1707 pamphlet, Shaw did not make his will in the wake of the visitation; or at least, not the one which was proved in December 1706.³⁵ He appears to have kept in touch with the College, as a letter from another non-juring fellow, Thomas Browne, of October 26 1704 makes clear, sending news that 'Mr Bursar and yr other Friends present their services' as well as concentrating on material needs, Brown's to ascertain fees for tutoring a young gentleman, Shaw's to have College support in a matter of compositions due from farmers to the Rector. This latter was a long-standing local grievance, involving Shaw in Chancery business: in 1708 the Bursar wrote a stern letter to Gough, one of the largest Souldern landowners (presumably the one who caused the gazebo in the grounds of Souldern Lodge, inscribed 'R G 1706' to be erected).³⁶ Even with the aid of a curate, Shaw may not have found parish business always rewarding.

A cautionary word needs to be added to the location of this story. Even Joseph Foster, in *Alumni Oxonienses*, managed to sow confusion by adding "perhaps vicar of Enstone" to the curriculum vitae of John Naylor the non-juror who was incorporated at Oxford, (a common occurrence for a don at "the other place") in 1680.³⁷ This coincidence of name confuses the existing Oxfordshire accounts, Goughs and Blomfield, and a more recent survey by Marshall in the second edition

of her book.³⁸ It would be a remarkable twist to add another Oxfordshire context to this story, but in view of its nature, very awkward indeed to have an individual interred beneath the chapel of St John's College, Cambridge in 1701, only to require further burial at St Kenelm's Enstone in 1704, when the point of the story is an other-worldly appearance at Souldern in 1706.³⁹ Too much mobility by half.

Geoffrey Stevenson.

Notes:

1. Chambre's biographical details are drawn primarily from J A Venn (1922) *Alumni Cambriensis*, as are those of other university members here. The Oxford equivalent, J Foster (comp) (1891) *Alumni Oxonienses* has been used for John Naylor, and to supplement details of Cambridge graduates who were incorporated at Oxford, such as another John Naylor. As Foster explains, 'Following the example set by Wood, I have included those men from the other universities who were incorporated at Oxford, though I regret annotation of names is often meagre'. Or, in the case of Naylor, tentative and very confusing! The date of Chambre's institution to the Shropshire living is 4 January 1709/10 (Old Style); Lichfield Joint Record Office, B/A/1/19, p. 112.

2. Copies of this occur in the Risley papers at the Bodleian Library, in MS D D Risley C 2/29, and in the Register of Burials, 1813-51, Souldern, Oxon., where the story was re-written in 1888 when the book was re-bound, by the curate, Rev J E W Rotton, who states that it was 'obtained by the Rector, Dr Stephenson, & translated faithfully by him into a private MS book from which this copy was taken & placed here as Parochial History'. typed transcripts of the register are in Oxfordshire Archives, and Local History Studies Centre. The common source of these two copies appears to be *The Gentleman's Magazine*, 1783, vol.i, pp. 412-3. The magazine appears to have received the manuscript by the hands of Chambre's executor (he died in 1752) who gave assurances that it was in Chambre's handwriting, with no date, but bearing visible marks of age. Chambre's will has not been located either in Lichfield or Canterbury probate records.

3 John Whitfield was an old schoolfriend of Chambre's at Wem, being three years his senior, and already in 1704 a fellow of Trinity College. He acquired a doctorate in 1717, which throws into question when Chambre added this sentence to an account clearly written in 1707.

4 Robert Grove: Admitted pensioner (aged 17) at St John's College 20 October 1687; son of Robert, clerk. Born in London, School Eton. matriculated 1688; BA 1691/2; MA 1695. Fellow 1694-1726. Taxor 1699. Registry 1707-26. Died 20 April 1726.

5 Geoffrey Shaw: Admitted sizar (aged 18) at St John's College 29 May 1676; son of George deceased of Stainmore, Westmorland, born there. School Appleby. Matriculated 1676; BA 1679/80; MA 1683; BD 1691 (Blomfield stated 1681 in error); Fellow 1680-1700. Junior Proctor 1689-90. Vicar of Hauxton with Newton, Cambs. 1687-96. Rector of Souldern, Oxon. 1698-1706. Died 17 November 1706. Blomfield added that he was Examiner in Mathematics 1682, and Reader in Geometry 1684, without giving his source; he also added that he came into residence at Souldern in the year following his institution, when his hand writing first appears in the Church registers. He 'continued a bachelor'. John Cooper was curate from 1703 to the end of his incumbency.

6 John Naylor: Admitted pensioner (aged 15) at St John's College 22 April 1672. Son of Joseph DD. Born at Richmond Yorks. School Durham. Matriculated 1672; BA 1675/6; MA 1679; BD 1686. Fellow 1677-1701. Junior Proctor 1684-5. Incorporated at Oxford 1680. A non-juror. Will proved (Vice-Chancellor's Court) 1701. (For an account of his 'apparition' in 1706, see St John's College History p210). Buried College Chapel 7 November 1701. Venn, above and: fellow St John's College, Cambridge; BA 1675; MA 1679 — perhaps vicar of Enstone, Oxon, 1689. See Foster's Index

Ecclesiasticus. Foster, above. Note that Foster never published his Index except for the years 1800-40, so that such a reference is of no assistance here.

7 Arthur Orchard: Admitted pensioner (aged 19) at St John's College 30 June 1659; son of Arthur, of Pilton, Devon. School, Barnstaple (Mr Hughes). Matriculated 1659; BA 1662/3; MA 1666; BD 1673. Fellow 1666-1707 (sic). Tutor 1666-1702. Incorporated at Oxford 1669. Rector of Meeth, Devon 1663. Rector Hardwick, Cambs. 1679. Died in Cambridge. Buried at All Saints 11 August 1706. Venn, above. There is no reference to his having been 'Minister of Copen', nor is there such a parish: despite the 1707 pamphlet's claims.

8 H W Garrod (1959) 'Wordsworth and Oxfordshire' Oxford Magazine 27 April 1959 pp. 400-2.

9 "...You have begun to see your way out of the difficulty in which you are placed by the death of the Rector of Souldern. I cannot indeed anticipate that you will have the good fortune to be continued as Curate by his successor, especially indeed when Church Reform is compelling residence as much as possible. What you have done in improving Souldern, I suppose will only have the effect of making the next incumbent wish to enjoy so comfortable a residence as it now is, & certainly is a melancholy instance of the 'Sic vis non vobis'..." Letter from Viscount Encombe to W C Risley, 7 May 1835. MS D D Risley C 2/14/20 (Bodleian).

10 J C Blomfield (1893) History of Souldern [in History of the Deanery of Bicester parts 7-8] p.90.

11 Thomas Cartwright: Admitted Fellow Commoner at St Catherine's College, 14 January 1686/7. Probably son of William, of Aynho. Born 1671, of Aynho, Esq. MP for Northamptonshire 1695 and 1701-48. Burke, Landed Gentry; Gentleman's Magazine; see also N Cooper (1984) Aynho [Banbury Historical Society Record Series 20] pp 97-103, 175-6.

12 This Letter is incorporated in one of 18 December 1706 from Thomas Offley to his brother William; Gentleman's Magazine 1801, ii, pp.995-6. The letter is published separately, attributed to Edward Walter, with the date of 6 December 1706, by J Nichols (1822) Illustrations of the Literary History of the Eighteenth Century vol.4 pp.119-20, and reproduced in F G Lee (1875) Glimpses of the Supernatural vol.2 pp.7-10, and F G Lee (1878) More glimpses of the World Unseen p.58. It is twice made use of in antiquarian journals: in J R Lunn (1883) 'Memoir of Caleb Pamham' in Cambridge Antiquarian Society publication 21. Appendix A., and in J H & A P Gough (1887) 'Historical & Descriptive Notes of the Parish of Souldern' in Transactions of the Oxfordshire Archaeological Society 22, pp. 30-1; it is also used by Blomfield, above.

13 This is the date which Lunn accepts, but there are grounds for reading it as 21 July, which is done by R.S.H. in an article in the Oxford Times of 6 February 1932. There are none for reading it as 20 July, which is done by the 1707 pamphlet.

14 Peter Clark: Admitted sizar (age 16) at St John's College 6 April 1696, son of William, gent. Born Beverly, Yorks. School Beverly. Matriculated 1696. BA 1669/70. MA 1703. BD 1710. Fellow 1703-36 (sic). Ordained deacon (Lincoln) 23 May 1703. Rector of Cockayne Hatley, Beds. 1711, & Rector Moreton, Essex 1733. Died 4 July 1735. There is no record of his curacy at either Croydon with Clopton, near Royston, or at Croxton nearby, according to Lunn, who suggests Caxton in Cambridgeshire, a small post town on the route, Cambridge itself being served from it at that time. Mullinger, below, locates Clopton in Gloucestershire, doubtfully. There is no record of Copen parish, suggested by the 1707 pamphlet.

15 Dr Baldiston, the Master of Emmanuel College, entered the office of Vice-Chancellor only on 4 November 1706, according to Lunn, so that there is less than a fortnight during which Grove could have conversed with him before Shaw's death.

16 Gentleman's Magazine, 1778, pp. 583-4, 621. Blomfield refers to these, but from some transcription, it would appear, as he cites the recipient as 'Rev. Mr Boradiker': clearly a poor decoding of Bonwicke. John Hughes, Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge from 1705, was educated at Merchant Taylors, and died aged 28 in 1710 at Deptford.

17 'Coppye of a letter sent to one in Norwich by one in Cambridge', Landsdowne MS 846, fol. 162, in the British Museum. This identifies neither writer nor recipient, but Edward Waller's brother William was Rector of Brisley, Norfolk from 1704-11. RSH in the *Oxford Times*, 1932 (above) states that such a letter is to be found in the Brisley registers, written by the Vicar of Gately, but the churchwarden, Mr A S McLean, informs me (4 February 1992) that no such record survives there. More curiously, the letter allows the apparition to name a third 'victim', Dr Thomas Thurlin, the Vicar of Gaywode, Norfolk, and a fellow of St John's, and states 'he is now very ill'. As he survived till 1714, when his monument in his parish states he was an octogenarian, it would be presumptuous to give weight to his mortality having been affected by this version of Naylor's prediction.

18 William Offley (1707) *Sermon on the death of the Revd. Geoffrey Shaw, Rector of Souldern*, who died whilst he was in the church at Evening Prayers. Bodleian Library, Gough Pamph. 2288 (13). Offley was the Rector of Middleton Stony, and was educated at Eton (about ten years before Grove) and King's College, Cambridge. The sermon was preached on 8 December 1706, and his brother Thomas wrote him a letter on 18 December incorporating Waller's, and seeking further hard facts, including the date of Shaw's will, and his state of mind, in a matter 'now very public, and much talked of in the university and this country'. *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1801, ii, pp.995-6.

19 In Oxfordshire Archives, MS. D.D. Par. Souldern b.14. Holy Bible, 1660.

20 'The Souldern Ghost' as Blomfield describes it when in the possession by purchase of Mr George Dew of Lower Heyford, who showed it to Stephenson's successor, Rev J W Doran, as rector of Souldern. Doran, on 11 January 1892, added 'The thing that strikes me as most curious is that Mr Shaw — since he was smoking — when he offered his visitor from the other world a chair, did not (apparently) offer him a pipe also'. The pamphlet, and Doran's letter, are in the uncatalogued Dew MSS. in the Bodleian Library. It has many bald errors; naming an Oxford college, misnaming the parish, and giving Orchard a ministry which he did not hold. It prefers to go straight to what it considers will interest its readers.

21 J R Lunn (1883) above. He makes no use of the *Chambre* account, nor of the 1707 pamphlet.

22 V H H Green (1964) *Religion at Oxford and Cambridge*, p. 170.

23 J B Mullinger (1901) *St John's College History*, Cambridge, p.210 for the events of 1706; *passim* for further college details.

24 Thomas Baker: Admitted pensioner (aged 16) at St John's College 13 June 1674; son of George Esq of Crook Hall, Lanchester, born there 14 September 1656. School Durham. Matriculated 1674; Scholar; BA 1677/8; MA 1681; BD 1688; Fellow 1680-1717; deprived as a non-juror. Venn, above. He continued to live in the college until his death in 1740, giving up his time to antiquarian pursuits, which resulted in T Baker (1869) *A history of the college of St John the Evangelist*, Cambridge. ed. J.E.B.Mayor.

25 J R Lunn, above. I am indebted to Mr M G Underwood, Archivist of St John's College, Cambridge for drawing to my attention the transcript by the Master R F Scott, of the relevant extracts from the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and in addition the following articles from *The Eagle* (the magazine of St John's College): vol. XVI (1889) pp 17-22, 'The Souldern Ghost Story'; vol. XXI (1900) p.123, an extract from the Landsdowne papers; and vol. XXIV (1903) pp 21-4, a note relating to the Non-Juring Fellows.

26 J B Mullinger, above, p.200 et seq. quoting a remark by the Buckinghamshire antiquarian Rev. William Cole of Milton (1715-82) who printed a collection of college materials beyond the 1670 date where Baker ceased his comment. It is worth noting that Thomas Offley wrote to his brother on 18 December 1706 from Milton (being peer's chaplain to the Earl of Nottingham).

27 G V Bennett (1975) *The Tory Crisis in Church & State, 1688-1730*, p.10 says that 'Private diaries and surviving correspondence attest the agony of spirit endured by those faced with the oaths to the new rulers'.

28 Edmund Waller: Admitted pensioner (age 16) at St John's College 30 March 1676; son of John (1664) MD. Born Newport Pagnell, Bucks. School Newport Pagnell (Dr Banks). Matriculated 1698; BA 1701/2; MA 1705; MD 1712. Fellow 1705-45. Buried in College Chapel, 1745. Will (PCC), Venn, above, Baker, above, vol.1, pp 293-302, gives 1708 as the date of Waller's elevation to the Medical Fellowship.

29 Robert Turner, admitted sizar at St John's College (aged 19) 14 June 1701. School Pocklington, Yorks. Matriculated 1701; BA 1704/5; MA 1708. Fellow 1708-16. Ordained priest 19 December 1708. He had been aiding Ambrose Bonwicke in his private school, which was the occasion of his first letter on 31 December 1706 announcing that John Hughes would send a fuller account.

30 Ambrose Bonwicke, educated at St John's College, Oxford where he was a Fellow, 1669, incorporated at Cambridge in 1678 where he took his BD in 1682, became Headmaster of Merchant Taylors School, 1686-91, when he was removed as a non-juror. He afterwards kept a private school at Headley, Surrey where he died aged 70 in 1722. His son Ambrose, who was educated at Merchant Taylors school after his father's ejection, refused to read the prayer for the Queen and the House of Hanover thus depriving himself of the entitlement to election to St John's College, Oxford. He was admitted sizar to St John's College, Cambridge in 1710, where the ardour of his religious exercises undermined his health, and he died in 1714 aged 22: his two brothers also died in the college at 14 and 21. His monument, a work entitled 'The Pattern for Young Students in the University, set forth in the life of Ambrose Bonwicke, sometime scholar at St John's College, Cambridge' by William Bowyer, 1729, was published in 1870, edited by J E B Mayor.

31 Thomas Offley; admitted King's College, a scholar from Eton, 1690. Brother of William (1679). Matriculated Easter 1691; BA 1694-5; MA 1698; Fellow 1694. Ordained priest 24 September 1699; Usher in Northants. Chaplain to Earl of Nottingham. Rector of Monckton, Hants. 1713. Died 5 September 1723.

32 H Horwitz (1968) *Revolution Politics: The Career of Daniel Finch, Second Earl of Nottingham*.

33 J B Mullinger, above pp. 212-3.

34 J B Mullinger, above, p. 204. Edwards became a Fellow of St John's College in 1669, was later minister of the Round Church, and died in 1716.

35 Shaw's will is in the PRO. PCC. Prob./11/491, Quire 267. His executor was his brother-in-law, John Harrison, of Bolden in Hampshire, and the will was signed and witnessed on 3 April 1705.

36 Oxfordshire Archives: MS D D Par Souldern. E. 'A short account of the inclosure & decrees (c1717-28) &c. pp.19-22.

37 J Foster (1891) *Alumni Oxonienses* gives details of the two John Naylor, but confuses the issue by ascribing to the "spectre" 'perhaps Vicar of Enstone'. The vicar, John Naylor, who was, according to Canon Oldfield's 'Clerus' in Oxfordshire Archives, instituted at Enstone on 13 December 1689 and, according to the marble plaque at the entrance to St Kenelm's church there died on 29 June 1704, in his 49th year (marginally too old for the other Naylor) was also "Coll: Univ: Socius" according to the plaque. Thus, Foster's John Naylor who was son of Thomas, of Newcastle (town) minister. University College: matriculated 17 July 1672 aged 16. BA 1676; Fellow, MA 1 March 1678/9 has an uncompleted career, not a typical of these style of entries. Thomas Hearne (1885-1921) *Remarks and Collections*, I, 85 alleges he was turned out of college for being a papist, and states critically "Dr Radcliffe's character of Mr John Naylor Fellow of University College (a Huge great lubberly Fellow) was, that he was only fit for clearing Wood", but from W Carr (1901) *History of University College, Oxford* we learn of his role in thwarting the will of the papist-leaning Master Obadiah Walker over the election of a fellow, his wishes being "frustrated by a single vote — the unexpected return of John Naylor 'fere fortuito ad medium noctem ante diem electionis' in January 1684, which sits uneasily with the Heame remarks. The second action would better qualify him for holding Enstone during the William & Mary period.

38 Goughs, and Blomfield, above; and R M Marshall (1949, revised edition) Oxfordshire Byeways pp. 98-100 entitled "Enstone Ghost Stories".

39 For more supernatural activity in Souldern, see A Clark ed. (1892) *The Life & Times of Anthony Wood, antiquary, of Oxford, 1632-95, 'described by himself'* vol. 2, p.53. "1664.... a blazing starr which appeared in England from the beginning of December to the late end of January (see Colly's Almanac 1666) — .. the devil let loose to possess people, as at Souldern in Mr Kilbie'[s]maid...". The Kilbies were a Roman Catholic family there.

A DAY'S WORK IN THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY JULY 5 1866.

I am much engaged in making further researches in the Bodleian Library, which I find full of important MSS., and where I am treated as reverentially as if I were a queen. For the last four or five days this has been my routine: I rise at half past six to be in time for the first train, & get to the Bodleian before the Library is open, & amuse myself in the picture-gallery. Mrs Cottrell-Dormer gives me a fine bunch of grapes every day to take with me & her housekeeper provides me with sandwiches (sic) for Luncheon, which enables me to work till past three. I find employment, too, for my transcriber. Then I drive down to the station, and my maid meets me at Heyford with the key of the grounds. So we return through a lovely green valley by the beautiful river (Cherwell) cool and shady, for about a mile — resting in the seven-arched alcove, or in some other of the pretty pavilions in the grounds. We reach the Hall near five, where coffee and biscuits are ready for our refreshment, and dear Fanny to welcome me back."

A letter from Agnes at Rousham Park to Jane Strickland: Mrs Cottrell-Dormer was a Strickland of Cokethorpe before her marriage! See J M Strickland, *Life of Agnes Strickland*. London, 1887.

WILLIAM JUDD AND BANBURY CORPORATION

I would like to add a postscript to Jeremy Gibson's interesting article, "*The Immediate Route from the metropolis to all parts...*", in this Journal's issue for Autumn 1991, in which figures, among others, the career of William Judd, Banbury's long distance carrier for many years in the later eighteenth and early part of the nineteenth centuries. When helping with some research on Judd for that article, I became interested in another aspect of his career: his entry into the Corporation of the town. On this body, first a few words.

The vicissitudes of the history of Banbury's charters, the first of which was granted to the town by Queen Mary, need not detain us here. Suffice it to say that the one which was in force for much of the eighteenth century, and which lasted until the great changes of 1835, came into force in 1718, when the town's government resumed its course, after an unpleasant episode of factional strife. To set the extent of this government, however, against present day ideas, or even those of the later nineteenth century, affords not the faintest idea of the powers, duties or resources of an eighteenth century Corporation. In its own context, Banbury's Corporation was probably much the same as other similar corporative bodies of the age, no better perhaps, but no worse either. Just about everything we now consider essential in the work of local authorities, was not only non-existent, but had not then even been thought of: for instance, the town does not even appear to have had any night watchmen before the 1790s, and the first scavenger, appointed to do some cleaning of the streets, did not long precede them. The number of inhabitants, too, was very small: it had only reached 2755 by the first Census in 1801. Neithrop was still an insignificant hamlet.

Nevertheless, Banbury's eighteenth century Corporation certainly had duties, and it's 'closed' circle of those who shouldered these responsibilities, probably represented the only set of people able and willing to undertake the tasks required. We find, indeed, many of the same people also active in the parish's partly parallel body, the Vestry. These people had to have a certain position among their fellow citizens, and equally importantly, had to possess reasonable personal resources. The only rates anywhere at that time were the Poor Rates, which had sometimes to be put under contribution when repairs were needed, particularly to the Workhouse or the Gaol. Otherwise the Corporation received somewhat meagre rents from its various properties, from the pottage and stallage, usually let out to the Serjeants at Mace, rents from the Schoolmasters, and from the gaol keeper who, in common with most gaolers at the period, rented the franchise. Perhaps the biggest single source of income was the sums levied on those who made successful applications to become freemen of the borough. These sums were extraordinarily varied in amount, and always seem to have been voted on at Corporation meetings: some paid only two guineas, but more usually it was three, four, five, sometimes even ten guineas. Banbury's records are very stark for this century, and it is not possible now to assess how the amounts to be voted on were arrived at. Occasionally, a new Assistant, many of whom were local gentry or higher, might pay as much as £50. This section of the

Corporation's personnel was, in fact, increasingly throughout the century, padded out with such members, not only for prestige, but for financial or national political reasons. Its only specific corporate duty seems to have been to attend mayoral elections, though attendance was sometimes patchy. The body of Assistants, however, was also, and most importantly, the seedbed for those local citizens who went on to be elected Capital Burgesses, and later Aldermen. The Mayors were exclusively chosen from among the latter. Such were indeed, the people who did the Corporation's work.

This work included looking after its property, granting permissions for 'encroachments' to house owners and others, electing and supervising Corporation officers, supervising the running of the Workhouse and paying its keeper, appointing and paying, mostly with small sums, a host of minor office holders, such as ale tasters, bread weighers, leather viewers, and suchlike. The most important of the lesser officials were the Serjeants at Mace, whose numerous tasks seem to have been as varied in their own field, as were those of apparitors in that of the Oxford diocese. It was well into the nineteenth century before these essential officials had any regular pay. They and the others mentioned could survive only because they all had other main jobs as well, being mostly settled tradesmen. The Constables, elected annually, were unpaid.

Not least of the Corporation's responsibilities lay with the maintenance and administration of the law: in his term of office a mayor was one of the magistrates, but at least two others were elected from among senior members of the Corporation, and these might occupy the office for many years, as indeed did William Judd. Sessions presided over by an outside Recorder, were held in the town twice yearly, only becoming quarterly early in the nineteenth century. Unfortunately little evidence now survives to throw light on the effects of this system, until later.

One other source of Corporation income should also be noted, and this was the fines levied at meetings on anyone who refused to accept an office, mayor, alderman etc., to which he had been elected: the sums were usually five or six guineas a time. Many such refusals appear in the records, indicating probably, that the resources of some active members of the Corporation were not always equal to the expenses of office, but there may well have been other reasons for refusing, for they were never noted. A mayor had no grant at this period to cover the duties, many of them ceremonial, which he was expected to perform, beyond the rather uncertain 'profits' arising from some waste ground and butchers' stalls, first agreed upon at a meeting in October 1724.

Later propaganda tended to castigate the old town Corporations, such as that at Banbury, for being 'closed' bodies. One reason why this might in fact have been true, has already been noted above, and it was in its age a very practical reason. Another was that, once 'in', a man tended to stay in: few resignations are noted. But, that membership was restricted to certain families and their connections, was probably everywhere something of a myth; for shifting economic circumstances, as well as family disasters, particularly unexpected early deaths, worked unforeseen changes over the years. It is true, certainly, that old Banbury names appear again and again throughout the century in the working part of the Corporation, but there must

have been a recurring necessity for new blood. One such case is that of William Judd.

He is a good example to consider for 'new blood' for the working part of the Corporation, for he was not even a native of the town. There were quite numerous Judds living in Horley, a village about three miles or so north west of Banbury, and one of these families appears to have been his: William Judd, a farmer, and his second wife Rhoda had, as their eldest child, William, who was baptised there in July 1750. A second son, Simon, appeared in 1752, and after him several other children. Those of the previous marriage had all been buried by 1755. The unusual name of his mother, as well as that of his second son, seem to clinch the identification for, years later, in 1791, Rhoda Judd, then a widow went to Banbury to make her will. In this her son, Simon, was both executor and residuary legatee, and though William himself did not benefit, he was one of the witnesses.

Exactly when or why William Judd moved from Horley to Banbury cannot be ascertained, but he first enters the town's records in December 1774, when the baptism of William, son of William Judd, carrier, and Mary, appears in the Parish register. Richard, his second son, followed in 1776, followed by other children. After Mary died, William senior married again, at Banbury in December 1785. There was at least one daughter from the second marriage. He was thus already one of Banbury's carriers, not necessarily then long distance, by the age of about 24, and had prospects good enough to be able to marry some time before this.

With regard to the Corporation, however, nothing happened, not even the obtaining of the freedom of the borough, until 29 August 1794. The file of certificates of admission of Members of the Corporation reveals that he was sworn freeman of the borough, and also as Assistant and Capital Burgess all on this one date. These certificates relate to the day of swearing and admission, rather than election, though it was often the same day, since the swearing had to be done at a meeting in Hall. The certificate series is not complete, and it is the Corporation Minute Book which notes his election as Alderman on 18 August 1797. He served as Mayor in 1799, 1805 and 1812, and as Chamberlain of the Corporation from May 1802 until he resigned the office in 1814. He was sworn in as one of the town's magistrates on 10 August 1812, and as such served until a few months before his death, when in August 1831 he resigned both as magistrate and alderman. He was buried at Banbury on 27 January 1832, aged 81. As a working member, William Judd, senior, certainly gave the Corporation remarkably good value, with some sixty years of service. His eldest son, William, junior, also rose through the ranks quite speedily, the Certificate and Minute Book mentioned above revealing that he became an Assistant in 1797, obtained his freedom of the Borough in 1801, becoming later the same year a Capital Burgess and Alderman in 1802. There, however, the resemblances falter, for though twice chosen to stand for election as Mayor during the ensuing years, he was both times defeated. He died in March 1824, several years before his father. The second son, Richard, was never elected to the Corporation. None of them seems to have had much, if any connection with the Vestry, though there is a long gap in its records after 1797, and one cannot be sure.

It is, perhaps surprising to find that the bankruptcy of William Judd, senior, and of his sons, William and Richard, in March 1814, referred to in Jeremy's article above

mentioned, had virtually no effect on the standing in the Corporation of the two William Judds. This seems to show, as Jeremy has suggested to me, that the bankruptcy declaration may have been, as could sometimes happen, a device for calling in debts and obliging clients to settle their accounts, with a view to handing over an unencumbered business to Richard, when his father, already an old man, retired from the business at that time. as far as I can ascertain William, senior, only resigned from the office of Chamberlain in 1814, but otherwise continued as magistrate and alderman, as above noted, whilst William, junior, remained an alderman till his death. There was obviously, therefore, no scandal attached to this particular bankruptcy.

There are undoubtedly other examples of outsiders being brought into the Corporation in the eighteenth century, to help maintain its viability, but the rather meagre records have not been searched for this purpose before. I have, in passing, discovered at least one other, another carrier, a certain William Barrett, a few years before William Judd. In neither case is any reason recorded for the promotions.

P. Renold.

SOURCES used for this article; the Parish Registers of Banbury and Horley, the first being printed in various volumes of the B.H.S. Records Series, the latter available in transcript. *18th/early 19th century Town Records*: Banbury Borough Journal 1772-1761, B.B.XV/ii; Banbury Corporation Committee Minute Book 1821-1833, B.B.IV/i; Banbury Borough Chamberlain's Accounts 1747-1816 and 1814-1834, 2 vols. B.B.V/iv; Admission of Members of the Corporation 1790-94 and 1797-1834, B.B.XVIII/i/1&2; there was, some while ago, another Corporation Minute Book for 1764-1812, but in various archive moves this has now disappeared: fortunately I have been able to use a partial transcript made in 1962 by R.K.Gilkes, which is now kept with the above original documents; Conveyance documents of property in Parsons Lane on 29 September 1814, by William Judd, senior, in which the bankruptcy of himself and his sons is noted, B.L.XII/iv/1&2; Rhoda Judd's Will dated 1 May 1791, Peculiars 44/2/47. All original material and transcripts above noted are available in Oxfordshire Archives. I also consulted A.Beesley's *History of Banbury*, 1841, for the census figures; the earlier issues of Rusher's *Banbury Lists*; and *Banbury Gaol Records*, B.H.S.Vol.21, for various matters regarding those who worked for the Corporation.

The MILLERS of BODDINGTON and BALSCOTE 1490 — 1990

This history of our family extends over the last five hundred years and records all that I can find of each generation since JOHN MILLER was born at Greatworth, Northants, about 1490. Besides the Millers that lived at Lower Boddington and then at Balscote Manor and Mill, it includes branches of the family that lived for a century or more at Alkerton, Shutford and Banbury.

Until this century the menfolk were, almost without exception, yeoman farmers (most of them churchwardens), and they have carefully hidden from my eyes any scandals that would have made the narrative more interesting.

Inevitably surnames have changed through marriage, so the book includes, *inter alia*, large families of Bennetts, Weavers and Chards of Banbury; Middletons, Courts and Nunneleys of Shennington and Pettifers of Eydon. All descendants of 'John Myller de Greatworth'.

There are over 80 Millers and Pettifers in New Zealand as a result of emigration from Alkerton and Eydon.

In addition to births, marriages, deaths and occupations, the narrative includes some interesting details of many of the families taken from obituaries, press reports, wills, leases and other documents. Also details of many of the family homes, farms, field names, villages, local industries and history.

Chapter IX (Other Ancestors) covers details (but with less research) of the families of my other grandparents — the Churchills of Deddington from about 1522, the Readings of Fenny Compton from about 1620 and the Keytes of Hatton from about 1700.

The book which will have a cloth hardback with dust jacket, will run to over 80,000 words and contain 20 pedigree tables and more than 30 illustrations. The index, tables and text contain about 900 names of John's descendants and their spouses.

The print will be limited to about 60 copies and will thus cost a considerable amount per copy. As I have researched and written the book as a retirement interest, I am prepared to cover a great deal of the cost myself. I propose charging £39 (including postage) per copy, about a half of the cost of research and printing.

Copies will be donated to the Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire County Record Offices, the Banbury Public Library and the Society of Genealogists.

Ralph Miller
85, Blackheath Park,
London, SE3 OEU.

NB. A copy is now available on request at the Banbury Public Library.

A few copies are still available from the Author.

BOOK REVIEW.

Oxford Church Courts: Depositions 1542-1550, Jack Howard-Drake, O.C.C., (Leisure and Arts), 1991. A5, card covers, 54pp., £3.95 (+ 50p p&p from Oxfordshire Archives, County hall, Oxford OX1 1ND).

Not the most exciting title or bargain price, superficially, but this booklet offers learning worn lightly, some very entertaining reading (up-market *News of the World*), simply and informatively presented, from some extremely difficult records.

For members of this Society, the mention of E.R.C. Brinkworth in the first line of the Preface is encouragement enough, and I only wish Ted was still with us to write this review. He certainly would have approved of this, just the first stage of an ambitious project to publish in similar form calendars to all 18 volumes of the series from 1542 to 1694.

Church courts dealt with humdrum matters that are meat and drink to grass-roots historians, local, social and family. They do *not* merely deal, in Ted's words, 'with rustic peccadilloes', though it must be admitted that those do enhance things if only showing that human fallibility remains the same (I write just after the Tyson trial!).

Each case is presented under three headings: 'Parties'; 'Others' (i.e., witnesses and other individuals mentioned); and 'Substance', a digest of the case in which we are spared repetitive verbiage but are still given the essence and flavour of the dispute.

Just 81 cases are covered in this first publication, but they are a digest of a 400-page manuscript volume, in a scrawled hand (or probably several) in a mixture of English and Latin, with abbreviations thrown in, and cases dragging on from session to session.

As an example, case 11, a dispute at Swalcliffe over tithes, mentions 16 'others', with residence (usually local), age or length of residence, providing fascinating details of what if any payment was due on sheep sold during the year, and an indication of how those involved actually felt about this. This succinct account is culled from no less than 20 pages of the original.

Case 34 is a testamentary dispute, over the will of Henry Tanner, who died of the plague, leaving a nuncupative will. 'Others' number 20, mostly from Adderbury and Deddington, and the case centres upon the possible influence of an unfortunate woman, Elizabeth Crackelow, 'generally known in Adderbury as a witch', who had herself been in a plague-ridden house.

Case 36 is one of defamation (one of the mildest ones), where Agnes Ludyat slandered 'Sir' John Apleton (perhaps a priest) of 'having had his pleasure of Agnes Compton, and that John Compton, coming upon them, might have knocked him on the head'. This case shows how easily misleading impressions of geographical locations and mobility may be given, as parties are from both Shenington, 'Glos.', and Mollington, 'Warw.', though we all know the places are firmly in 'Banburyshire'.

I hope that these examples will give an idea of the riches to be found in this small compass. With only 81 cases in all, obviously few are from the north of the county,

but all throw a revealing and absorbing light on the mundane affairs of our predecessors — and admirably indexed too.

Jeremy Gibson.

Oxfordshire County Council Dept. of Leisure & Arts. Civil War 350th Anniversary.

Tuesday 11th August

Lecture by Dr Christopher Hill

‘Was there a revolution in the 17th century?’

Banbury Library, 7.30 pm. Tickets in advance from Banbury Library.

Thursday 6th August and Thursday 13th August

‘What it was really like’ — Civil War art and drama activity for children (8-12).

Banbury Library. Cost (full day) £1. Tickets from Banbury Library.

Thursday 12th August

‘What it was really like’ (as above)

Kidlington Library.

Saturday 8th August and Sunday 9th August

Living history event for families with the Sealed Knot.

Broughton Castle. Cost adults: £1.50, children: £1.00.

Tickets from Banbury Library.

Date to be finalised

Stories with objects for children.

Banbury Museum and Mobile Libraries.

For further details contact Banbury Museum (0295) 259855 or Banbury Library (0295) 262282.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY —

ANNUAL REPORT, 1991

Your committee have pleasure in submitting the 34th Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for the year 1991.

As already reported in *Cake & Cockhorse*, after many years of service to our Society Mary Stanton has retired from the committee; and since the end of 1991, our indomitable nonagerian, Alan Essex Crosby, has also retired, though we were delighted to see him at the March 1992 meeting. A valuable addition to the committee, so familiar to members that they will be surprised to learn he was not already on it, is Brian Little, who, as 'our man at the Tech.' has ensured smooth running of meetings ever since we have been at the North Oxfordshire College. Moreover, whilst not on the committee, his wife Margaret has undertaken the vital job of Membership Secretary. The committee has otherwise remained unchanged under the chairmanship of Dr John Rivers.

For what has been, alas, the penultimate year of lectures organised by Penelope Renold we have as usual been entertained whilst being instructed: Sue Allitt showed us some of her many brass rubbings whilst kindling our interest in this art; Mr J.E. Plaister shared with us the tip of the iceberg of his vast knowledge of church clocks (particularly welcome for those who remember our founding editor of *Cake & Cockhorse*, Dr C.F.C. Beeson, who wrote their definitive history); Eddie Birch (from British Telecom) told us something of the wide-ranging coverage of communications history, including the changing designs of the much maligned phone box; Rhoda Woodward gave us glimpses of seventeenth century Adderbury based on research of their historical group; nothing daunted by the bad weather cancellation of the February meeting, in November we were eventually able to hear John Cheney on the history of Banbury's oldest business; and finally railway buffs were once again catered for, this time by Steve Banks on the old Great Central Railway — another speaker whose all-embracing knowledge of his subject left his audience awed but fascinated.

The village meeting was at Hanwell, where we started in the church but soon moved to Hanwell Castle and were given the opportunity to mount the tower — surely an ambition realised for more than one of us present. We spent a lovely summer afternoon overlooking the battlefield of Edgehill, where Peter Dix, unlike the Duke of York, led us first down and then back up the hill, in the lively fashion usually used with school parties. Another ambition achieved was the holding of our A.G.M. at Compton Wynyates, by kind permission of the Marquess of Northampton. We were able to tour garden and house, and the traditional brevity of the A.G.M. itself made the restricted seating no great burden. In August Mr and Mrs Jacques showed us round Chalgrove Manor, a house which they have revealed as Elizabethan through their ongoing restoration, and a very pleasant contrast to the stately homes regularly open to the public.

In the Autumn 1991 issue of *C&CH* there was an article entitled 'A Banbury Adventure'. This might appropriately have been a description of our final visit, a

return to Hanwell Castle, this time to tour the grounds. One of the few cloudy (and rainy) days, this combined with the approach of autumn to make our Indian file procession along narrow muddy footpaths, through a forest of giant rhubarb, with dusk ever thickening, into the most intriguingly hazardous trip ever made by our Society. No one had thought to count those setting out, but at least no one has since been reported missing. For the Hanwell visits we are most grateful to Mr and Mrs C. Taylor, Dr Rowena Archer and Ann Reay, for two most memorable and hospitable occasions.

Mention should also be made of Brian Little's historical tour of Banbury, on behalf of the Cherwell District Council, a most popular event which is to be repeated this summer.

During the year issues of *Cake & Cockhorse* continued a political slant, with Jeremy Gibson's background article accompanying a facsimile reproduction of the 1754 poll book for North Oxfordshire (together with canvassing lists), and David Eastwood's account of the post-Lord North era representation of the borough in parliament. Other contributors included J.A. Blencowe, G.A. Coalbran, J.M. Hoadley, Brian Little, P. Renold, Sheila Stewart and Graham Teager, with a facsimile of pages from *Cary's Roads* (1828) which is sure to have helped visitors to Banbury confused by changes in the road system resulting from the opening of the M40.

The records volumes promised last year are now imminent. Dr Tennant's book on the grass roots repercussions of the Civil War is being published in collaboration with Alan Sutton, to coincide with the 350th anniversary of the battle of Edgehill in October 1992, and promises to be especially interesting.

The financial affairs of the Society remain healthy, despite the bargain level of the subscription. Production of two records volumes during 1992 will undoubtedly reduce balances and your Committee will keep a careful eye on the eventual need to raise subscription to a level more in keeping with the benefits received by members.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st December 1991

	1991		1990
CAPITAL ACCOUNT			
As at 1st January 1991	2842		2438
Add Surplus for the Year	<u>688</u>	3530	<u>404</u>
			2842
PUBLICATIONS RESERVE			
As at 1st January 1990	2991		2065
Add Surplus for the Year	<u>913</u>	3904	<u>926</u>
			2991
BRINKWORTH PRIZE FUND			
As at 1st January 1990	2742		2710
Add Surplus for the Year	<u>307</u>	3049	<u>32</u>
			2742
SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE		154	144
SUNDRY CREDITORS		—	70
		<u>£10637</u>	<u>£8789</u>
REPRESENTED BY:-			
<i>Cash at NATWEST BANK – Banbury</i>			
Current Account	408		528
Deposit Account	<u>7180</u>	7588	<u>5980</u>
			6508
BRINKWORTH FUND INVESTMENT			
NATWEST Premium Account		3049	2281
		<u>£10637</u>	<u>£8789</u>

I have examined the above Balance Sheet and the annexed Revenue Accounts and they are in accordance with the books and information and explanations supplied to me.

10th February 1992

R J Mayne FCA FCMA

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st December 1991

	1991	1990
<i>INCOME</i>		
Subscriptions	1664	1709
Less Transfer to Publications Account	<u>489</u>	<u>509</u>
	1175	1200
Income Tax Refund on Covenants	85	88
Bank Interest	551	332
Donations – General	83	52
– re Postage	<u>157</u>	<u>—</u>
	<u>2051</u>	<u>1672</u>
<i>EXPENDITURE</i>		
Cake & Cockhorse:-		
Printing	986	761
Postage & Envelopes	<u>140</u>	<u>276</u>
	1126	1037
Less Sales	<u>90</u>	<u>90</u>
	1036	947
Lecture & Meeting & Secretarial & Administrative Expenses	142	151
Hall Hire & Speakers Expenses	175	166
Less Donations at Meetings	(10)	(16)
Subscriptions to other Bodies	20	15
Sundries	<u>—</u>	<u>5</u>
	1363	1268
<i>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</i>		
Transferred to Capital Account	<u>£ 688</u>	<u>£ 404</u>

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Publications Account for the Year ended 31st December 1991

	1991	1990
<i>INCOME</i>		
Proportion of Subscriptions	489	509
Sales of Publications	514	507
Less Share of Cake & Cockhorse	<u>90</u>	<u>90</u>
	913	926
<i>EXPENDITURE</i>	—	—
<i>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</i>		
Transferred to Publications Reserve	<u>£913</u>	<u>£926</u>

BRINKWORTH PRIZE FUND

<i>INCOME</i>		
Interest Received	307	282
<i>EXPENDITURE</i>		
Prize Grant	—	250
<i>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</i>		
Transferred to the Prize Fund	<u>£307</u>	<u>£ 32</u>

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 history research, as well as recording the Society's activities. Well over one hundred issues and approaching three hundred articles have been published. Most back issues are still available and out-of-print issues can if required be photocopied.

Publications still in print include:

Old Banbury - a short popular history, by E.R.C. Brinkworth.

The Building and Furnishing of St. Mary's Church, Banbury.

The Globe Room at the Reindeer Inn, Banbury.

Records series:

Wigginton Constables' Books 1691-1836 (vol. 11, with Phillimore).

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

Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart (vol. 15).

Victorian Banbury, by Barrie Trinder (vol. 19, with Phillimore).

Aynho: A Northamptonshire Village, by Nicholas Cooper (vol. 20).

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

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

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

In preparation: Lists of Tudor and Stuart Banbury Taxpayers, including the May 1642 subsidy for the Hundreds of Banbury, Bloxham and Ploughley (mentioning almost as many as the Protestation Returns of a few months earlier, for which Banbury Borough and Ploughley Hundred returns do not survive). Others planned: documents showing how the Civil War affected those living in the Banbury area; selections from diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington 1836-1848; selected years from Rusher's *Banbury List and Directory*, 1795-1880; news items from the Banbury area from Jackson's *Oxford Journal* (from 1752) and the *Oxford Mercury* (1795-6); and letters to the 1st. Earl of Guilford.

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

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

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

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