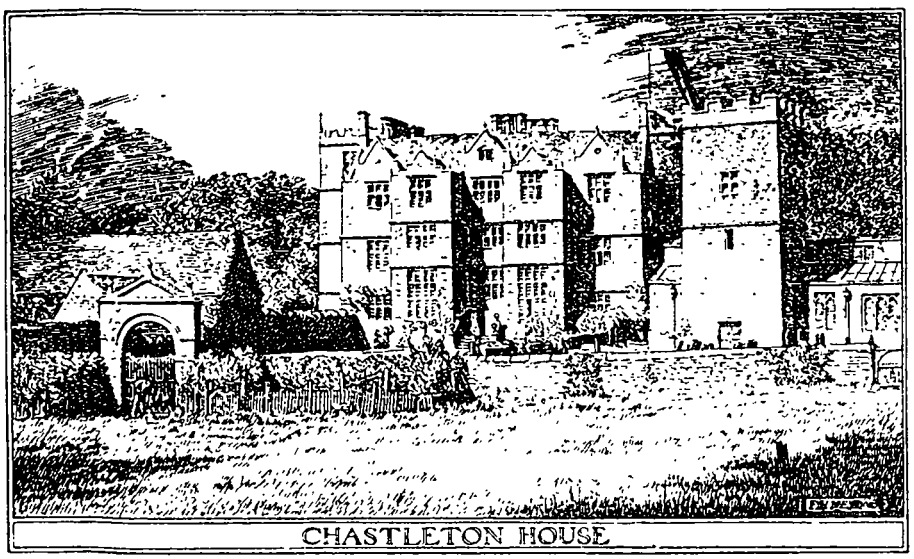
CAKE AND COCKHORSE


CHASTLETON HOUSE

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Cover: Chastleton House, by E.H New, in Methuen's 'Little Guide' to *Oxfordshire*, 1906

Cake and Cockhorse

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

Volume 13 **Number Five** **Spring 1996**

Our heritage is in danger - at least in so far as County Council support is concerned. Over the past forty years Oxfordshire's services in this field have steadily improved, with the County Museum network, the Centres for Local Studies and the Archives organisation all becoming recognised as amongst the best in the country, at the same time some of the most economical or worst funded. In addition, the bedrock of local history, the *Victoria County History*, supported since the 1960s, gives our county the best series of volumes of this (twelve, with another due this year) in the country.

We are all sick to death of hearing of government dictated cuts in local funding, and know that, despite our plethora of influential ministerial MPs, our county is one of worst treated. The threat of 'capping' the county budget may mean £7.4 million has to be saved. This generally would be spread over the board at about 2%, except for Heritage Services, whose total cost of £1.8 million is only about 0.5% of the County's budget, where the cuts would be nearer 8-10%. The message is clear - history doesn't have the emotive vote-winning power of children and the aged, even though the effective saving would be derisory in the county's spending - but catastrophic to the Heritage Services. The County Museum at Woodstock would be closed, hours cut and skilled staff made redundant in all services, but to our mind, most serious of all, the *V.C.H.* closed down. This is like deciding to cut costs by leaving out the final span of the new Severn Bridge. The *V.C.H.* represents years of dedicated research, with only five volumes to go, an enduring achievement close to fulfillment. Its complete cessation at this point would be a waste of work done and a betrayal of all those whose rates have supported publication for other parts of the county.

What can we, readers of *C&CH* and therefore historians, do? Write to your M.P., your local County Councillor. NOW! Nicolae Ceausescu's enduring memorial is that he destroyed Romania's heritage - do we want to become England's Romania, our county councillors England's Ceausesçus? **J.S.W.G.**

Acknowledgment: Oxford Central Library, for the spelling of the Romanian dictator's name

MISS BROMLEY'S SCHOOL IN THE NINETEEN-THIRTIES

John Cheney

Introduction

Historians will despair at the lack of accurate dating in this memoir. All I can say is that I left Miss Bromley's in 1938 to go to boarding school. The book from which I recited, which I have still (see ghastly episode below) is inscribed 'John, with love from Auntie Ethel, Christmas 1933', so I think I must have started chez Bromley in 1934.

Memories can be deceptive and I cannot vouch for the total veracity of all that appears here. I am, however, indebted to my two elder sisters, Margaret and Christine, Old Bromleyians both, who have jogged and, in one or two cases, disputed my memory. With some trepidation I suspect that other former pupils may contribute their own recollections, which will put me firmly in my place.

9 North Bar

The school was housed in a two-storey building joining the back of Miss Bromley's house. This was opposite Wyncolls the florists (now a restaurant) and between the 'Dog and Gun' inn, and the Rudyard Hotel, which is now the Cromwell Lodge. It was a plain, Hornton Stone building. The number '9' was on the front door which was opened promptly at nine o'clock in the morning to admit the crowd of, I suppose, about thirty or forty pupils whose parents had entrusted their education to Miss Dorothy (Dolly) Bromley.

On entering one found oneself in a dark corridor with firmly closed doors on either side. This part of the building was Miss Bromley's home. At the end of the corridor it was lighter and on the left hand side there was a row of pegs for our hats and coats. To the right was a door into the garden. To the left a curving, rather ricketty staircase, and ahead another door into the ground floor schoolroom.

In this ground floor schoolroom, which I remember was rather dark, the 'middle class' was educated by Miss Stevens. The desks were 'twins' so that if you had someone bright next to you cheating at sums was easy. Christine thinks that the desks were just worktops without lift-up lids, but they all had a groove for pen and pencil and an inkwell in the top right

hand corner. Infuriating if you were left-handed, as I was, because when you leaned over to dip your pen, your sleeve smudged your work.

The desks could be pushed back to make space for 'drill'.

To be excused (in the immortal words of Private Godfrey) one went up two steps at the back and on the left was an elementary flush toilet. The door had a lock somewhat similar in design and power to a mousetrap, and I was always frightened that I would get locked in if the spring jammed. There was blackboard and easel in the classroom, and a green-painted radiator.

Upstairs was brighter. At the far end was the 'little class' where the very young were taught. They had microscopic chairs and little tables. That was about one-third of the room. The rest was occupied by the 'top class', separated from the little class by a heavy maroon curtain with enormous wooden curtain rings. This could be drawn back to form an area for assemblies, end of term functions and the like. In an alcove was the piano.

Round the main schoolroom there were pictures of Jesus from 'Child Educational' and other pictures of happy, smiling children at home or on holiday.

In the 'little class' there were number charts on the wall, in various colours (see page 143).

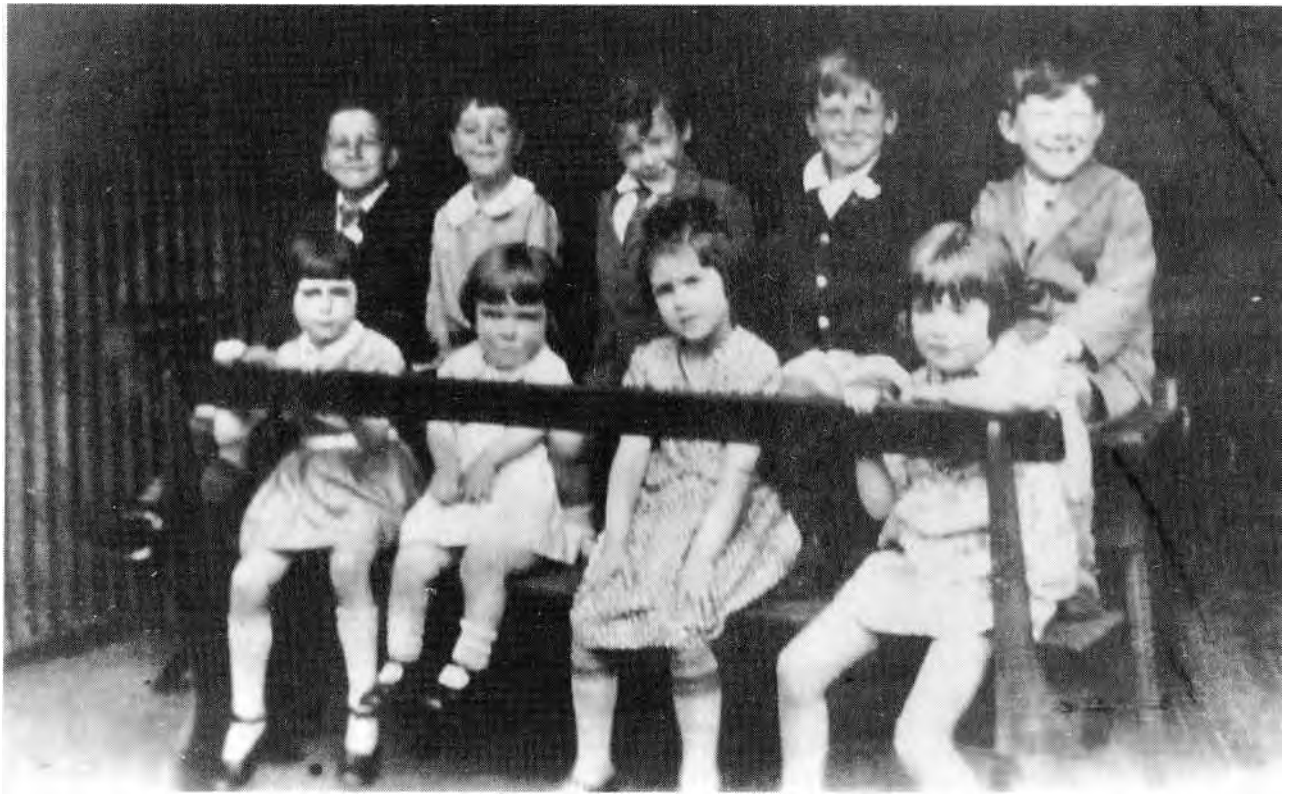
On my first day there it was discovered that I was left-handed, so my left arm was tied with a duster to the arm of the little chair, in an endeavour to make me write right-handed. I told my father about this at lunch-time and the result was a row between my father and, I think, Miss Stevens at about two o'clock outside the Whately Hall Hotel. I was allowed to continue to write left-handed after that.

The Staff

In the 'little class' we were taught by Miss Railton (one of the shoeshop Railtons in High Street, though they lived up Oxford Road). My sister Christine also remembers a Miss Palmer, who wore a brightly coloured smock, a pretty girl who lived in Broughton Road.

Miss Mabel Stevens took the 'middle class'. She lived along by the Municipal Buildings in Marlborough Road, She was very strict and we were in awe of her.

Miss Bromley took the 'top class'. She had a curious high desk not unlike a pulpit, from which she peered down at us through wire-framed spectacles. Her chief attraction to us children was a thin thread of spit which used to form between her upper and lower teeth. It was fascinating.



A class in the shed in the early thirties. *Back row:* Unknown, Peter Francis, Tony Amos, John Fox, unknown, *Front row:* Daphne Francis, Ida Jelfs, Yvonne Bennett, Margaret Cheney.

One minute it would be there, then it was gone, then there it would be again. We watched spellbound.

The Curriculum

My sisters have better memories of this than I do, but I think it must have been pretty comprehensive because when I went to boarding school I sailed through the first couple of terms in the First Form with no problems at all. After that, things deteriorated.

For reading we had the Beacon Readers. I remember the red covers, and the words being peppered with hyphens. Christine's memorandum speaks of 'Spot and the family and Old Lob and then fairy story Beacons', but her memory is superior to mine.

For writing we had oblong copy books for doing 'joined-up' writing; first, double ruled ones so that we got all the lower-case letters the same size, and then single rules. For dictation we had single rules upright exercise books with red covers. For sums (which I detested, and still do) we had exercise books with problems in, and we wrote the answers in our own books with squared ruling, and tables of weights and measures badly printed on the back.

Incredible though it may seem, we were taught the rudiments of a sort of North Oxfordshire French from a large illustrated book called *Le Livre Rouge*.

In summer we were taught sums in the shed. This was a small corrugated iron affair reached by a cinder path up the rather wild brick-wall-enclosed garden. The path was bordered by bricks set at 45° angles. Margaret recalls the lovely pepperminty or pear-drop smell from Salmon's sweet factory which was just beyond the Rudyard Hotel, up North Bar Place. I remember listening for St. Mary's church to chime the hour that would release us from the agonies of mental arithmetic.

We would be lined up outside the shed, in hot sunshine to recite tables. If you got something wrong you were consigned to the shed. I was always first back to the shed so consequently never flourished at tables or indeed anything to do with sums. One day I was safely back in the shed, and about five of the more expert mathematicians were still out in the midday sun when one of them, Dick Bolton, fainted. His head hit one of the 45° bricks. Miss Stevens got in a state and rushed for help. While she had gone we all gazed at Dick Bolton because we thought he was dead. Then, like Lazarus, he sat up and uttered the time-honoured words 'Where am I?' He was taken home, which mercifully was just opposite the school in North Bar.

Handcraft

This consisted of plasticine modelling on wooden boards, raffia (one made useless raffia bags), french knitting, which consisted of winding lengths of wool round four pins at the end of a sort of elongated cotton reel, sewing cards (a futile occupation) and drawing and painting which I adored.

Assembly

Christine and I think there was some sort of daily assembly, with bible reading, a prayer and a hymn. The piano wasn't very well, and not every note functioned. In the introduction to John Bunyan's wonderful hymn, the paino went 'He who would valiant ....' because the note for 'be' didn't work. Russ Conway would have loved that piano.

Punishment

The principal punishment was to be sent out of the room, or told to stand in the corner. I have vague recollections of Miss Stevens with a ruler, which she tapped across outstretched palms, but I may be wrong.

Drill

This took place in the downstairs room. The desks were pushed back and we marched round the room with Miss Stevens banging on a green radiator with a pencil and yelling 'left, left, left right left' in a high pitched voice. Then we did marching on the spot, arm-wheeling, bending, hands on hips, and so forth.

Breaking up

At the end of each term there was 'breaking up' (though it might have been only at the end of the summer term). People sat on chairs and desks and parents stood against the walls or at the back in the big room upstairs, with the curtains drawn back. School work was on view on the wide window ledges - handcraft, exercise books, drawings and so forth.

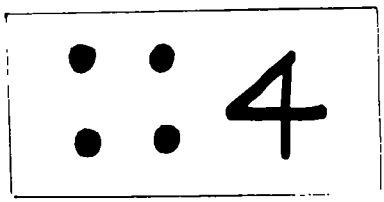
Miss Bromley read the register of absentees and latecomers. Due to my sister Margaret's passion for punctuality and near panic if she thought we would be late our register entries normally read: Margaret Cheney, never absent, never late; Christine Cheney, never absent, never late; John Cheney, never absent, never late.

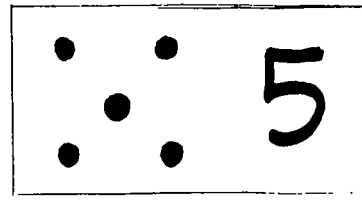
Verses were recited, songs sung and piano solos haltingly played. There was always a big cut-glass bowl containing Cadbury's chocolate biscuits and playbox biscuits. These were oblong, hard biscuits with a coating of icing: red, yellow, a curious shade of khaki and other colours, with

outline designs piped on them in white. You could lick the icing off and put the rest of the biscuit in your pocket.

I end on a personal note which shows that I must have been a horrible little boy (nothing has altered). My mother took me to 'breaking up' at the end of the term before the one I was due to start, so that I would see my sisters performing and get an idea of what the school was like. All the ceremony of 'breaking up' proceeded, and right at the end, Miss Bromley said, 'Has anyone else something they would like to do?' 'Yeth, Miss Bromley' said I, with a slight lisp. I had learned a poem and I was damned well going to recite it. I stood:

'RIDING ROUND
Today I went out in my new open car
I have been travelling ever so far
I stopped at the punp, two gallons I bought
It never would do if the petrol ran short.
Molly's blue car is as small as can be,
"Bet it goes faster than your car" cried she
"Bet you it doesn't" I shouted, but Oh!
Something went wrong and my car wouldn't go.'





The numbers cards on the wall of the 'little class'. They were about twelve inches by six inches

TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF BARFORD HISTORY

Ron Knight

With the extension of Barford St. Michael Churchyard came the need for a new boundary wall. Its foundations would yield excavated material likely to contain examples of the everyday rubbish that was thrown away, or lost, in the past. The amount of material excavated from the trenches, although on average only about eighteen inches (450mm) deep, would be considerable and could well yield clues from Barford's past. I therefore sought permission from one of our churchwardens. Mrs Lindsey Ladbrook, to investigate the excavations. Only the material from the trenches was thoroughly searched, as the accumulated rubbish and spoil from the existing collapsed boundary wall would be in a chronologically confused state and probably very recent (*i.e.* within the last century). However, it was likely to contain some objects of interest and was therefore given one or two fairly cursory searches, one of which did yield an interesting find.

During September and October 1995, I paid several visits, with occasional help from Mr Frank Miller, Mrs Dawn Higgs and Mr Basil Butler, sorting over excavated material, especially after the all too frequent rain, looking for 'foreign' objects. Rain is very helpful as it quite efficiently rinses off soil adhering to hard surfaces. Quite separately, whilst keeping a general eye on things, Mrs Ladbrook picked up a pair of late Victorian/Edwardian steel Curling Tongs from the tumble of material in the existing collapsed wall.

The material collected was gently cleaned by soaking in soft water (except for the ferrous and leather objects) and then grouped as ably as very amateur knowledge would allow, into categories of type and age, with additional sub-grouping of those fragments of pottery which were found close together and which might have come from the same pot, or type of pot. Each group was then individually enveloped and labelled, and taken to the County Museum for formal identification. Fortunately, several pieces were parts of pot bases or, especially, rims, which are diagnostic.

As always, the Museum Staff were extremely helpful and the identifications were carried out under the control of the Senior Museum Officer, Mrs Carol Anderson.

The following notes are made from my own observations; the Museum notes are tabluated at the end. The majority of the ancient finds were concentrated near the north-west corner of the Churchyward Extension. This, together with fine blue clay very close to the surface at that point, may indicate the presence of an ancient, silted up drainage collection pond into which rubbish was thrown (a habit which we are still wont to indulge!), or it may be no more than the gradual downhill drift of a general scatter of fragments mixed in with applications of manure during ancient times. However, from inevitable familiarisation with the soil characteristics gained by closely inspecting the area over so many visits, one fact became very obvious. This was the remarkable absence of any objects, whether natural, including small pieces of stone from the near-surface rock, or man-made, occurring in the surface soil. The soil is a fine redlands crumb structure typically indicating long usage as pasture, probably derived mainly as hill washings, with little evidence of ploughing recently or in the past. The only evidence that I found of cultivation was the infrequent presence of limestone fragments and charred ash which may indicate operations to 'sweeten' the soil and of 'stifle burning' soil to remove perennial weed roots. Three 'grades' of limestone were found: flat, possibly wrought, although well weathered, pieces of oolite, possibly Stonesfield Slates, discarded from nearby (Church?) roof repairs; flat pieces of friable limestone and weathered pieces of sandy limestone, some burnt pink; the latter two possibly from 'liming' operations.

Several small pieces of natural stone were collected including three fragments of flint and a few fossils typical of the Lias strata from the local Jurassic formations.

Pottery from the Roman period and the Late Saxon and Medieval to the Nineteenth Century was found, and also samples of modern ware from the old collapsed wall were collected, including a few metal objects and leather. Saxon remains are generally rare and no definite pieces were found, despite the provenance of a Saxon wall in the Churchyward extension, excavated as part of the investigations prior to agreeing the extension.

Several large ruminant teeth were found.

Museum Identification

Natural Minerals

Rock

Stone fragments Mostly of local provenance; some possibly introduced by fluvo-glacial action (outwash from melting Ice Age ice sheets*) Two pieces of coal ash.

Flints. Yellowy-brown possibly burnt.

Limestone 1 Typical of Great Oolite with fossils of *Exogyra nana*

Limestone 2. Platy limestone with fossil fragments.

Limestone 3. Sandy limestone, burnt piece coloured pink

Fossils

Serpula worm tubes - individually identified in a piece of red ironstone

Ammonite (fragment) (*Liparocera schelttense?**)

Cererithyris intermedia (Frachiopod*).

Oyster (*Ostrea* sp.*).

Ruminant teeth Sheep's tooth, cow's tooth (both recent*).

Human Agency

Artifacts

Roman pottery (all items 100-451 AD*) 'Greywares' 'domestic' pottery made locally and found all over Oxfordshire Red ware, a decorated piece is 'New Forest Ware'; other pieces very like that made in kilns at Oxford.

(An expected break in sequence of finds here, due to unsettled chaos of the Dark Ages*)

Medieval pottery (1066-1400 AD)

1 Including Greenglaze material (possibly some Late Saxon 1000 AD).

2. Some very like pottery made in kilns at Ascott-under-Wychwood

Post-medieval pottery. Hard red 'bricky' material still being made in Eighteenth Century and even Nineteenth Century

Modern Items

Modern Pottery Nothing of any great significance (contains parts of 'stoneware' Kilner jars and marmalade pots, Victorian vases and earthenware flower tubs or fermenting pans*).

Modern metal and leather

1 Pair of late Victorian/Edwardian iron curling tongs (very fine box joint at fulcrum*)

2. Leather (fragments of harness).

3. (Metal chain; wrought iron nails; bronze bicycle-bell*)

The Museum has stated that, although the 'finds' themselves contain nothing significant, they are representative of the type and spread of material scatter that can be found all over the County, including domestic gardens (so please keep a good look out!*) The specimens help to confirm the widespread settlement of the County from Roman times and indicate that the Barfords have been occupied for at least the last two thousand years.

It is hoped to arrange and house the 'finds' on permanent display in the Church as an indication of our history, and for the interest of villagers and visitors.

(.*) indicates Author's note

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST'S VIEW OF CHASTLETON HOUSE

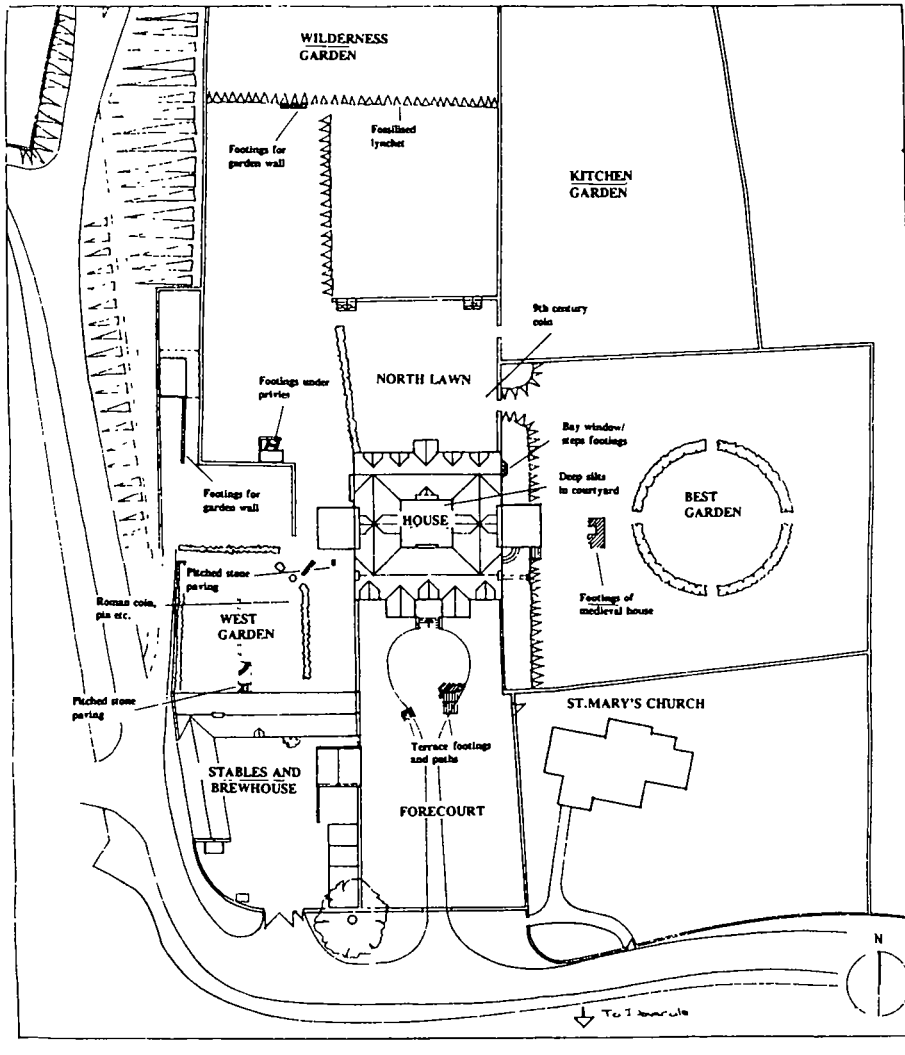
Gary Marshall

Archaeologist, Thames and Chilterns region of the National Trust

There are several aspects about Chastleton House which make it such an important acquisition to the National Trust. Built by Walter Jones between 1605 and 1612 the house could so easily have succumbed to the fashion of the eighteenth century for altering or rebuilding the Country Seat but in this case the Jones family did not have the money either to adapt or rebuild the Jacobean House. As a consequence it remains virtually unaltered, retaining the arrangement of rooms described in an inventory of 1633 and still with most of the original panelling and plasterwork. Likewise the arrangement of terraced walled gardens remains virtually unaltered. Perhaps more than anything else it is the secluded and unspoilt setting of the village and surrounding landscape which gives the house a special feeling of antiquity and permanence.

Following its acquisition in 1991 the Trust initiated a vital programme of repairs lasting more than two years with the objective of securing the long term preservation of the house and gardens. Both will be opened to the public in 1997. Despite careful planning some of the work has by necessity been disruptive, both to the fabric of the building and its immediate surroundings, and for this reason the Trust has maintained an archaeological watching brief throughout the duration of the conservation programme. As a consequence a number of important discoveries have been made which confirm that occupation on the site goes back into the medieval period, and perhaps beyond. In the house itself discoveries have been less dramatic but they led to an adjustment of the previously held belief that the house remains virtually unaltered from its seventeenth century design.

In the gardens the most significant discoveries have been made as a result of trenching for the installation of pipes and services. Several Roman artifacts, including a coin, dress pin and pottery have been recovered from the West Garden. The source of this material remains uncertain, as does an Anglian St. Edmund memorial coin dating from the late ninth century which was found when pipes were being installed at a shallow depth across the north lawn. A number of pieces of medieval


WILDERNESS GARDEN
Footings for garden wall
Fossilised lynchet
KITCHEN GARDEN
9th century coin
NORTH LAWN
Footings under privies
Bay window/ steps footings
Deep silts in courtyard
Footings for garden wall
HOUSE
BEST GARDEN
Pitched stone paving
Roman coin, pin etc.
WEST GARDEN
Footings of medieval house
Pitched stone paving
ST.MARY'S CHURCH
Terrace footings and paths
STABLES AND BREWHOUSE
FORECOURT
N

pottery dating from the twelfth or thirteenth centuries were also recovered from the north lawn. The source of this material seems to have been a substantial stone building, the footings for which were discovered just below the lawn of the Best Garden on the east side of the house. This could have been the house of Robert Catesby, previous owner of Chastleton and famous for instigating the Gunpowder Plot. Catesby sold Chastleton to Walter Jones in 1602 but did not leave the property until 1605 and this was almost certainly the year which Jones pulled down the existing building.

It is perhaps surprising that the present house does not incorporate medieval footings. It certainly overlies the site of the earlier building and the walls assume the same alignment. The north, south and east walls of the present house are laid directly onto the natural limestone bedrock and only the west wall is on made-up footings. In the north-east corner of the courtyard deep silts were discovered against a cut in the bedrock and these contained pottery of a similar date to that associated with the Best Garden footings. Perhaps then the earlier building was surrounded by a moat? The east wall of the present house seems to have undergone several phases of repair and this might have been in response to problems of subsidence resulting from construction over an earlier moated site.

What does seem certain is that the medieval setting was radically altered to allow for the formation of the Jacobean gardens. The house sits on what might best be described as a small hillock of rock and around it soils and loose rock had to be cut and pushed gradually in a north-westerly direction to create the existing series of terraces descending from south to north from the entrance Forecourt to the Wilderness Garden. Despite the exertions of the seventeenth century landscaping, features from the medieval period do survive within the gardens - perhaps the most notable is a broad north-facing bank running midway through the North Garden. This continued out into the adjoining field beyond the eastern margin of the gardens and is most likely to be a fossilised lynchet formed by contour ploughing.

Footings for a substantial garden wall were found running across the top of this bank and these probably indicate the most northerly limit of the Jacobean gardens before they were extended in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries. Likewise, substantial footings have also been found on the edge of the West Garden, again suggesting that the boundaries have been pushed out, here to accommodate the construction of a long narrow building housing a garden store and potting sheds.

Engraving of Chastleton House, published in Skelton's *Oxfordshire*, 1827. See page 152.

Some of the more subtle changes to the gardens can have only come about as a consequence of changing taste. A good illustration is in the Forecourt leading up to the south front of the house where the existing gravel drive from the entrance gates leads to a wide sweep of gravel below the steps up to the house. This arrangement is shown in an engraving published by John Skelton in 1827 but archaeological evidence confirms that the seventeenth century arrangement - still preserved beneath the gravel - consisted of a pitched stone drive leading up to an outer flight of steps ascending a low terrace across the width of the Forecourt. This arrangement must have been seen as too formal and perhaps rather inconvenient and by the time the engraving was published it had been partially swept away and covered over with gravel.

There is plenty of evidence to confirm the gradual move away from the formality and privacy of the Jacobean design. The Best Garden could originally only be reached from the house itself but openings were subsequently inserted into the north and west walls of the garden to provide access respectively to the north lawn and the Kitchen Gardens. The latter were added sometime after the Tithe map was surveyed in 1843. In the West Garden several pitched stone paths with neat stone kerbs have been found beneath later cobbled or grass surfaces and these provided 'critical routes' between key features, such as the Brewhouse door and the main cellar of the house. It would seem inconceivable that the Jacobean gardens would have incorporated privies for domestic staff so close to the house but by the time of the Tithe survey we find these buildings in place on the east edge of the West Gardens.

Turning to the house itself, the archaeological evidence again points to gradual and subtle changes carried out by successive generations of the family. The basement contains the 'Sellers', 'Kitchen', 'Pastry', 'Larder' and 'Dairy House' described in the 1633 inventory. However, not all of the basement rooms are mentioned and it is clear from the relationship between walls that some of the smaller cellars have been inserted at a much later date. It might be more appropriate to call these 'strong rooms' since they are of substantial construction with substantial oak doors and one can only assume that they must have been inserted for the storage of valuable commodities, perhaps fortified wines and spirits and perhaps the family plate. It follows that some of the basement windows were also blocked at this time to increase the level of security. In one of these rooms chalk dates found on the walls testify to the introduction of special vintages between 1810 and 1812.

In the absence of good documentary evidence archaeology provides the only clues to room use. In one of the basement rooms faint circular marks in the surviving wall plaster point to the use of the room as a store for casks, probably containing fermented beer, and confirm that stone footings on the floor would have once supported racks for these casks. If nothing else artifacts recovered from beneath floorboards and behind panelling can suggest something about the use to which a room was put. From the dirt beneath the floor of one of the ground floor rooms a number of small wooden animals, building blocks, gaming pieces and clay marbles have been recovered, and though these are unlikely to be seventeenth century items they do confirm that the room has remained in use as a Nursery, perhaps since 1633 when it is mentioned in the inventory. A collection of cork and feather shuttlecocks, rubber balls, clay marbles, playing cards and a ping pong ball (!) also recovered from beneath the floorboards illustrate the sort of recreational activity that was indulged in within the Long Gallery on the top floor.

A rather unusual hoard was recovered from a hole in the earthen floor of the basement beneath the Best Stairs. The purpose of the hole, which measured about a metre square and a metre in depth [*i.e.* a yard square and a yard deep], remains something of a mystery but for some reason it was partially filled with rubbish dating from the mid seventeenth century, including the almost complete remains of five glass wine bottles, the remains of two Bellarmine jars and a pottery mug. The bottles are shaft and globe shape and carry two letters - 'HI' - in a stamp on the shoulder. If the 'I' can be read as 'J' then these bottles were probably the possession of Henry Jones who died in 1656, in which case they are some of the earliest dateable bottles of this type to have been found.

The bottles and some of the other items referred to will be on display when the house is opened to the public next year.

There was a need for constant vigilance during the work and the most valuable tool was undoubtedly the torch since some of the most significant discoveries were made in the most cramped and inaccessible spaces. In the White Parlour on the ground floor a single small piece of oak panelling was removed to permit repairs but this was sufficient to expose the left hand jamb of an early seventeenth century fireplace with a rather ornate bell-stopped chamfer. The fireplace was subsequently moved to the centre of the east wall of this room and the earlier fireplace truncated with the insertion of a window. Exactly the same thing had happened in the Fettiplace Chamber above, probably at the end of the

seventeenth century when some of the rooms were slightly modified. The White Parlour for example originally had a small draught-excluding porch built into its north-west corner leading from the Hall, but this was subsequently removed when the door was placed centrally in the wall between the Hall and the Parlour.

Some of the other discoveries were equally dramatic. We may not have found a Priest's Hole at Chastleton but when the treads were lifted from the service staircases leading to the mezzanine floor and the attic we found parts of the original oak stairs still entombed under the later construction. Floorboards were lifted from the ground floor closet in what was almost certainly the original Garderobe Tower on the north side of the house. Below us there lay a drop of about fourteen feet to the rubbish filled base of the tower but nevertheless, with the aid of buckets attached to ropes, it was possible to clear the flagstone floor which was found to connect with a system of stone drains incorporated under the flagstone floors of the basement rooms. In this case the excavation had a practical value because the project architects were able to use these drains to run pipes draining the courtyard and the inner surfaces of the roof.

Needless to say much of the work was less dramatic but nevertheless important to our understanding of the building. Numerous carpenters' marks on the structural timbers have been recorded, and they are particularly prevalent on the seventeenth century trusses of the north range of the roof where there is a series of Roman numerals tying together the various joints. The feet of these trusses had in the past been repaired with carefully spliced timber and on one of these repairs we found the date of '1802' boldly applied with white paint. It would seem at the time that John Jones was concerned to authenticate any repairs that he was responsible for on the building.

Discoveries such as these were opportunistic, analogous to looking at the structural skeleton of the building after the covering 'flesh' - the floorboards, panelling, roof slates etc. - had been removed. Sets of Roman numerals were found on the principal floor beams and joists, linking together the structural timber members of the internal partitions of the building. A rather unusual mark consisting of a diagonal cross between two upright strokes was found on some of the roof truss members and on the floor beams and this seems to have been the mark of an individual carpenter. In the Hall a partially completed circle containing four petals has been deeply etched on to the central inward-facing panel of the timber screen. Rather than the work of a casual graffiti artist this

seems to have been deliberately placed since such marks were occasionally used to deter the presence of evil spirits, the idea being that if the circle is completed then a means of entry is provided for such spirits.

Very few masons' marks have been found on the masonry of the building but there are dates on two of the three sundial faces found on quoins on the exterior of the building. One of these, on the west stair tower, is dated '1649', but the other, on the south front, is dated '1612' and this could well have been inscribed when the house was completed.

If this assumption is correct it is the only piece of evidence to record the completion of the house. Documentary sources covering the history of the house during the seventeenth century are virtually non-existent and in their absence reliance has to be placed on the evidence contained in the fabric of the building. Likewise, there are no sources illustrating the earliest form of the Jacobean gardens. The situation improves slightly in the eighteenth century with the accounts kept by Anne Jones and during the first half of the nineteenth century some of the repairs and alterations described in the diaries of John Henry Whitmore Jones identified and matched with the archaeological evidence. To give just one example an entry for 1830 records that a new plaster ceiling was applied in the Great Parlour. In one of the drainage trenches below the Parlour window we found a number of pieces of plaster containing a moulded pattern of grapes, tendrils and vine leaves so it would appear that the original ceiling was literally thrown out into the garden and incorporated into the grass terrace below the Parlour window.

Recent archaeological work at Chastleton has therefore made a number of important discoveries which have plugged some of the gaps in our understanding about the way in which the house was altered and adapted according to taste and requirement. In the gardens and the surrounding landscape recent archaeological discoveries have told us much about occupation on the site predating the present house and this certainly extends back into the medieval period and perhaps beyond. The extent of the evidence has been restricted to the rather narrow trenches required for the various services but this has at least given us a number of narrow 'windows' looking into the archaeological potential of Chastleton House and its surroundings. By knowing something about this potential it will be possible to set an agenda for further research and investigation into the history of occupation on the site. It will also be possible to plan for future building work and repairs to ensure that any disruption to the archaeological potential is either avoided or otherwise properly recorded.

Lecture Reports

Brian Little and Jeremy Gibson

Thursday 14th December 1995.

***'Mrs Fitzherbert and Sons'* - Philippa Foord-Kelcey.**

This talk was previewed in the last issue of *Cake & Cockhorse*, which had whetted our appetite for the extraordinary account of Mrs Fitzherbert's marriage to and family life with the Prince of Wales, son of George III, subsequently Prince Regent and King, by the widow of one their descendants

Already twice widowed but still young, Mrs Fitzherbert did not lack suitors, amongst them the Prince However, she refused to become his mistress, and she was doubly disqualified for a legal marriage, both under the Royal Marriage Act, which required the King's permission, and as a Roman Catholic She fled his attentions to France and Switzerland, but the Prince followed, and eventually they were married, secretly, by a Church of England parson - only after elaborate, and equally secret, financial arrangements had been made for her, and any children's, maintenance.

Whilst the Prince's involvment, and even marriage, were or became relatively well-known, their eventually large family remained very carefully concealed, it being widely assumed she was barren - a fact disproved by the discovery of the birth of a short-lived child to her first husband

In the days before photography even people as important as the Prince of Wales were relatively unknown outside Court circles Thus the Prince and Mrs Fitzherbert were able to set up establishments, first in Sussex and then at Selby Hall in Northamptonshire, where the growing family could be brought up in rural seclusion - and excellent hunting country

In due course the Prince abandoned Mrs Fitzherbert for Lady Hertford, but at King George IV's death in 1830 he was found to be wearing a locket containing a miniature of the beloved wife and mother of his secret family. The descendants are many, but for an account of their varying fortunes one has to read the book written by Mrs Foord-Kelcey and her late husband - and well worth reading it is.

Thursday 11th January 1996.

***The History of Little Rollright* - Joy Timms.**

Laid waste at the Norman Conquest, devastated by the Black Death and depopulated through enclosures for sheep farming - it all happened at Little Rollright.

Thankfully the story is not all doom and gloom The Bishop of Dorchester revived its fortunes after the Conquest, by 1443 farmland had recovered sufficiently to be on a fifty year lease, and the highly attractive church of St. Philip was rebuilt in the thirteenth century and remodelled in the fifteenth and

seventeenth centuries. All the more curious therefore that a succession of priests turned their backs on Little Rollright.

Endowment with wealth seems to have been more significant from the seventeenth century when there appear to have been some well-heeled people around including the farming fraternity A change of clergy heart added to this trend as the Revd. Edward Jennings left money locally.

If the place needed someone to put it on the map then that person was Robert Fowler whose pedigree longhorns drew many glances.

By 1750 the place was attracting attention for the wrong reasons Locals appeared to be only too happy when priest and bishop clashed and the need for church repairs spoke only of warden neglect

No surprise therefore when in 1834 the living was added to Salford and visitors to Little Rollright could find a ruinous manor house.

Once more came a saviour to the rescue - this time in the shape of Bliss of tweed mill fame In particular land ownerships were sorted out and these included a sale of some space to the Osbornes of Over Norton.

In true story tradition there is a kind of happy ending as Lincoln College has control of the estate following reopening of the church in 1952 Forty years on the dedication of a bell has signalled new life for the ancient settlement.

This talk showed above all that the tiniest places have history, and no academic pretensions are required to research it.

Thursday 8th February 1996.

Sinners and Villains **- Carl Boardman,** Oxfordshire County Archivist.

An alternative title for this splendidly entertaining evening might well have been 'stories from the archives'. Such is the variety within Oxfordshire's collection that no talk could be complete yet equally no lecture would ever be dull. At least, not when related by that compelling story teller, Carl Boardman.

Those of us who had enjoyed his broadcasts from the studios of Radio Oxford (now alas deceased) were indeed amply rewarded for the cold trek to the North Oxfordshire College Rich indeed were the pickings from his Quarter Sessions bundles. Prime amongst them was an account of James Lower in early eighteenth century Henley on Thames. This was all about a workhouse and problems of coping with the poor. The tale drags in churchwardens as well as one Giles Wiggins, appropriately described as the Group 4 type of his day.

Just how great a difficulty was posed by the poor was demonstrated in his story of a prostitute called Black Moll. Having become pregnant and then given birth, the need was to shift her to another parish Enter once again a posse of churchwardens. A Thomas Pepper of Cowley was to marry her and eventually did but not before being made a ward of court

Perhaps the highlight of the occasion was Carl's dive into the Bishop's memorandum book. This gave insights into the behaviour of incumbents and was deemed scandalous a century ago. There was for instance a Rev Owen Jenkins

who was accused of adultery and a George Fuller who put his wife up for sale at Chinner and walked away with 29s.0¼d!

In Carl Boardman's view even more important are the many private records. Notable and recent amongst these are the papers from a twentieth century Oxford beggar and poet called John

His concluding story was about scattered homesteads and Wychwood funerals. The particular occasion was the death of a chap called Eldridge, a legendry figure in the area. Eventually his coffin was laid to rest at Shipton but only weeks after it had been abandoned in favour of a squirrel chase and then lost in a blazzard.

Carl's final message was for members to visit the basement of County Hall, the home of Oxfordshire Archives, and who could decline the invitation after so many and fascinating insights into the world of records.

Note. The talk encompassed just a few of the entertaining and scurrilous stories recounted in Carl Boardman's book, *Oxfordshire Sinners and Villains*, Alan Sutton Publishing, 1994, £7 99 paperback. We have been given permission to reprint a particularly enjoyable tale of detection in early seventeenth century Banbury, which will appear in *Cake & Cockhorse* in due course. Meanwhile we recommend readers to get the book

Thursday 14th March 1996.

***The Banbury Area through the Eyes of Local Photographers* - Barry Davis**

From the commonplace to the rare, from the heart of Banbury to the unexpected corner of a village, here was a delightful montage of pictures combining to profile the Banbury area through time and space Such is the quintessence of an evening with Barry Davis

The special interest in these slides of postcards is two-fold. Firstly what there is about Banbury and District, people, events, places, that caught the eye of photographers such as Beale and Blinkhorn Secondly, what curiosity was aroused by the presence of a photographer in the neighbourhood or street of the Victorian and Edwardian town. Invariably children appear singly or in groups, doubtless fascinated by the man with the camera.

The talk was also an occasion to spotlight aspects of Banbury taken by different people at different times Some features such as the Cross were caught from all angles whilst roads like West Bar Street were of more limited appeal.

Barry spent some time on the transition from one photographer to another and from one era to another. The popularity of certain types of card waxed and waned The period of the picture was superseded by the era of the photograph and message

Members were offered a superb example of what can be pieced together given access to a very big collection of local interest cards I am sure most if not all would have pledged even more of their viewing time to the world of the local photographer

Book Reviews

Adderbury: A Thousand Years of History, by Nicholas Allen, Banbury Historical Society **25** and Phillimore, Chichester, 1995 xvi, 144 pp , maps, copiously illustrated, indexed. £17 50.

Local and family history are now, it is said, the fastest growing hobbies in the land This is no doubt a reflection, in an increasingly mobile and fragmented society, of the growing need that we have of re-planting our roots wherever we happen to live and by learning about the past of our place of residence, identifying with it so that we can feel that we belong there.

It is doubly timely that this book should have been published in 1995, not only because this date commemorates the millenium of the first mention of Adderbury, in a Saxon will of *c* A D 995, but also it brings to mind the apt lines of Janet Blunt in the *Rhyme of Adderbury* written in 1907

'For the builders of our Empire come from every humble hamlet'
And the history of each village is the History of England '

before the seemingly unstoppable tide of greenfield development and the creeping suburbanization of the countryside which accompanies it, destroys for ever the villages that are our heritage

This book brings the history of one of North Oxfordshire's most beautiful ironstone villages up to date, superseding and developing the Rev Henry J Gepp's posthumous *Adderbury* published in 1924 [and supplementing the scholarly account published in the *Victoria County History*, vol. IX, 1969 *Ed*]. Whereas Gepp concentrated on the church and the great houses of Adderbury and their inhabitants, Nicholas Allen has given himself a much wider brief which, without the pretension to write the definitive history of the village, includes considerably more on the social and economic background giving the reader a more rounded view than his predecessor Based on thorough and detailed research by the Adderbury History Association - the author is one of its founder members - with the co-operation of other members and of villagers, the first chapter sets the scene and tells the story of the village from its earliest mention and sets it in its geological and historical framework. The following chapters are thematic and detail the history of the community Conformity and Nonconformity, Some of Adderbury's Men of God, Church and Village Administration, Adderbury Schools; Adderbury at War; Pubs, Clubs and Recreations, Communications; Industry and Trades, Seventeen Centuries of Farming, the Big Houses and their Gentry, and finally, the jewel in Adderbury's crown, the Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin. The book ends with four Appendices, a Bibliography and an Index It is generously and well illustrated with 91 photographs, line drawings, maps and plans.

It is a good read, filled with pen portraits and anecdotes of Adderbury personalities from Wynflaed - whose reference to her estate in the village gave us the first written record of Eadburggebyrig which must, even then, have been reasonably well established and valuable to rate a mention by name - to the present day It is crammed with information, not surprisingly in view of the amount of research on which it is based, yet it is neither boring nor dull The thematic approach and its chronological development does mean that there is a certain amount of repetition, but this is kept to a minimum and usually adds a new dimension to what has already been written and the index allows the reader to find further information on a given subject under other headings.

Though not intended as a scholarly book, it has a reasonable bibliography which contains many sources of further reading. However, I was surprised not to find references to the standard titles on some of the subjects mentioned in the text, *e.g* C F C. Beeson's *Clockmaking in Oxfordshire* on the Quaker clockmakers - after all, Beeson retired to Adderbury where he assembled the most complete collection of these clocks in the country, now in the Beeson rooms in the Museum of the History of Science in Oxford - and Raymond B Wood-Jones' *Traditional Domestic Architecture in the Banbury Region*, the 'bible' on the architecture of the many 16th, 17th and 18th century cottages of the area. The acknowledgments make tantalizing reference to research carried out by members of the Adderbury History Association on which much of the book is based; unfortunately, not all of it listed in the 'Other Sources' and 'Adderbury History Association Archives' sections of the bibliography. I hope that, emboldened by the success of the book, the Association will now publish a complete checklist of this research for the use of family and local historians.

The A H.A. has already published the Adderbury census returns; perhaps a map of the village showing modern and older street names, with the dates of their adoption and, where possible, a concordance linking the census numbers to at least a street if not an address could follow The list of tombstone inscriptions in the churchyard and Quaker cemetery I believe already exists - though I do not think it is available to the general public - it would be invaluable for genealogists. A listing of all the village houses, street by street with approximate date and possibly a list of past occupants would also prove attractive to present residents who are interested in the history of their homes and of those who have lived there before them . I digress.

Inevitably also, in this age of the word processor and a shortage of publishers' editors, there are some mis-spellings and typos as well as a few inaccuracies which have been pointed-out by eagle-eyed readers since publication Let us hope that in the light of the book's instant success the publishers will put a reprint in hand incorporating these corrections.

But this is to cavil *Adderbury: A Thousand Years of History* is an immensely enjoyable and useful book and sets a standard which authors and publishers of

local history could do well to emulate. It is destined to be read and re-read, dipped into, and used. It will make an ideal present for children to treasure as an heirloom, for former and present residents it will be a source of pleasure and information and will be a 'must' for all newcomers to the village; and, in view of the fact that the first edition is to all intents and purposes already sold out, it may also, if its predecessor is anything to go by, quickly become an investment

Jean-Claude Peissel

Note. For the fw remaining copies contact Nick Allen, Barn End, Keyte's Close, Adderbury, Oxon OX17 3PB (tel. 01295 811087)

The Open Fields of Northamptonshire, David Hall, Northamptonshire Record Society, vol **38**, 1995 xii, 378 pp Plates, maps, index of places Available from the N.R.S, Wootton Hall Park, Northampton NN4 9BQ. £20 00.

The long-term value of this volume is in its 215 pages of appendix and gazetteer, which provide in awesome and fully referenced detail the field-system types of most parishes or places in the county. It immediately becomes the authoritative source to which all Northamptonshire historians must turn when researching their individual places.

Any criticism must be trivial, but as I couldn't find Croughton or King's Sutton, I wonder how many other places may have been silently omitted, presumably because there were no relevant records or surveys. Inclusion of names of *all* parishes in the county, with an appropriate note against those without further reference, would have reassured. Grimsbury, Nethercote and Overthorpe appear under Warkworth, and although Banbury (in whose ecclesiastical parish they actually lay) is mentioned in passing, there is no entry for Banbury in the index of places Whilst the book is concerned with land, records giving people's names do occur, and it is to be regretted that there is no index of personal names

Nevertheless this must be the most useful county-wide volume to be published by the Northamptonshire Record Society for many years

Destruction in the English Civil Wars, Stephen Porter, Alan Sutton Publishing, Stroud, 1994 xi, 180 pp., illustrated, notes, bibliography, indexed, £17 99

In January 1643 King Charles, fearing parliamentarians were about to occupy royalist held Banbury, ordered the Earl of Northampton 'Speedily set it on fire . and burn it down'. Although this fate was avoided, during the course of the war the town's sufferings were only equalled by Pontefract Fourteen index references show the author has studied Beesley and the V.C.H. To have covered the whole country in this way denotes lengthy research. This meticulous survey of a subject that complements Philip Tennant's *Edgehill and Beyond* is very welcome

J.S.W.G.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT, 1995

Your Committee have pleasure in submitting the 38th Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for the year 1995.

At the A.G.M. the Committee lost David Hitchcox and Martin Allitt but gained Nick Allen, author of this year's records volume. Early in 1996 we were saddened to hear of the death of what must have been our oldest member, Alan Essex Crosby. He was for many years our Hon. Treasurer, but retired to make way for a younger man when he reached the age of 90! He was, rightly, very proud of his Banbury ancestry, for the family of Essex alias Crosby is to be found in parish registers and other records back to the seventeenth century.

Membership of the Society has again risen by between five and ten per cent, most as records members. Attendance at meetings and new membership continues to benefit from the publicity efforts of Joan Bowes, who has distributed posters (fresh for each meeting) for display in a number of key places.

The year's meetings were again arranged by Dr John Rivers, with the accustomed entertaining variety. Reports on most, prepared by Brian Little, have appeared in *Cake & Cockhorse*, though Shelagh Lewis, talking on the British Celts and their response to Rome, slipped through the net.

There were effectively two village meetings. The first was held at Bloxham, where Yvonne and Charles Huntriss conducted us round the church and museum. The second was at Cropredy, where again we saw the church, followed by a rather damp tour of this interesting village. Lavish hospitality in both villages was generously provided by the local historical societies. In June we visited Sezincote, near Moreton in the Marsh, an exotic house whose architect, Samuel Pepys Cockerell, also designed St. Mary's church, Banbury. We are grateful to Fiona Thompson for her initiative and efficient arrangements.

For the A.G.M. Mr Francis Sitwell invited us to Weston Hall, near Towcester. The North/Guilford of Wroxton mementoes there added an appropriately Banbury dimension to a fascinating house and contents.

As shown in this report and in earlier years, our Society has been entertained in many local villages. To attempt to return some of this

hospitality, at the start of September we held a reception at Banbury Museum to which members of local historical societies, as well as our own, were invited. This proved very popular. Our Chairman introduced our autumn/winter season, and Simon Townsend showed off computer historic picture enhancing gadgetry to absorbed audiences. We are very grateful to Simon and his staff for allowing us the use of the Museum and coping so willingly with all that the reception involved.

The three issues of *Cake & Cockhorse* provided the usual wide variety of topics, with contributions from Phillip Arnold, Joan Bowes, the late Ted Brinkworth, Betty Cameron, Dr John Clarke, Alan Donaldson, John Dossett-Davies, Philippa Foord-Kelcey, Jeremy Gibson, Ross Gilkes, Jeffrey Haworth, Michael Hoadley, Yvonne Huntriss, Ken Jakeman, Shelagh Lewis, Brian Little, Brian Roberts, and Margaret Spufford.

Two records volumes were distributed during the year, the latter (for 1995) being Nick Allen's *Adderbury: A Thousand Years of History*, published in association with Phillimore. Alan Rosevear's *Turnpike Roads to Banbury* is on schedule for 1996.

During the year the village of Shenington benefitted from grants from the Brinkworth Fund (awarded in 1994), helping with the publication of Nan Clifton's pictorial history and with the school's second world war historical project. Reports on both have appeared in the magazine. In 1995 grants were made towards the cost of two sets of reproductions of the large scale 1882-1911 Ordnance Survey maps of Banbury and area, for use in the Museum and classes.

The accounts for the first time show the benefit of the higher subscription rates which came into force in 1995. Income also includes donations towards postage in return for circulating publicity for *Past Times*. Despite increases of printing cost of *Cake & Cockhorse* of some £200, administrative costs (the new membership form and postage on books), and meetings (including the September reception and greater lecturers' costs and fees), there was a surplus of £439 on the revenue account.

The advantageous terms negotiated for the Adderbury volume issued free to records members gave them unprecedented value for subscription, but the publications account still shows a deficit of nearly £500 (almost half of it on postage), so taken together there was a slight but not serious deficit on the year. It is to be hoped that increasing membership will offset this in coming years. The fall in overall funds is due to the substantial creditors at the end of 1994, the cost of that year's records volume only invoiced in 1995.

Banbury Historical Society

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st December 1995

	1995		1994	
INCOME				
Subscriptions	2112		1533	
Less (Transfer to Publications Account)	*(437)*	1675	*(527)*	1006
Income Tax Refund on Covenants		169		75
Building Society/Bank Interest		518		606
OFHS Open Day		—		49
Donations - Meetings/Postage		375		72
		2737		1808
EXPENDITURE				
Cake & Cockhorse -				
Printing	1182		972	
Postage and envelopes	189		265	
	1371		1237	
Less (sales)	*(100)*		*(100)*	
	1271		1137	
Administrative Expenses	487		34	
Meetings Expenses	396		235	
Part cost of *Banbury Mug*	—		223	
Subscriptions/Donations	52		7	
Bank Charges	16		13	
Publicity	76		53	
		2298		1702
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR				
Transferred to Accumulated Fund		£ 439		£ 106

Publications Account for the Year ended 31st December 1995

INCOME				
Proportion of Subscriptions		437		527
Sales of Publications	941		637	
Less (Share of Cake & Cockhorse)	*(100)*	841	*(100)*	537
		1278		1064
EXPENDITURE				
Records Volume 25 (*Adderbury*)	1729		2373	
Other books	48		—	
Less (Grant)	———		*(750)*	
		1777		1623
***(DEFICIT)* FOR THE YEAR**				
Transferred *(from)* Publications Reserve		*£ (499)*		*£ (559)*

Brinkworth Fund Account for the Year ended 31st December 1995

	1995	1994
INCOME		
Interest received	165	163
EXPENDITURE		
Prizes/Grants	170	100
***(DEFICIT)* SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR**		
Transferred *(from)* to Brinkworth Fund	£ *(5)*	£ 63

Banbury Historical Society

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st December 1995

		1995		1994
ACCUMULATED FUND				
As at 1st January 1995	5298		5193	
Add Surplus for the Year	439	5737	106	5299
PUBLICATIONS RESERVE				
As at 1st January 1995	3530		4089	
Less (Deficit) for the Year	*(499)*	3031	*(559)*	3530
BRINKWORTH FUND				
As at 1st January 1995	3034		2970	
Add Surplus for the Year	—		63	
Less (Deficit) for the Year	*(5)*	3029	———	3033
SUBSCRIPTIONS received in advance		433		145
CREDITORS for services and supplies		340		2681
		£ 12570		£ 14688
REPRESENTED BY -				
GENERAL FUNDS				
NATWEST BANK - Banbury				
Current Account	141		200	
LEEDS & HOLBECK B/SCTY - Banbury				
Charities No 1 Account	9199		11330	
PETTY CASH	9	9349	31	11561
DEBTORS		193		94
BRINKWORTH FUND				
LEEDS & HOLBECK B/SCTY - Banbury				
Charities No 2 Account		3028		3033
		£ 12570		£ 14688

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

1st March 1996 R J Mayne, FCA, FCMA

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. Well over a hundred issues and some 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)
Edgehill and Beyond: The People's War in the South Midlands 1642-1645, by Philip Tennant (vol. 23, with Alan Sutton)
Oxfordshire and North Berkshire Protestation Returns and Tax Assessments 1641-1642 (vol 24).
Adderbury: A Thousand Years of History, by Nicholas Allen (vol. 25, with Phillimore).

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

In preparation:

Turnpike Roads to Banbury, by Alan Rosevear
Act Book of the Peculiar Court of Banbury and Cropredy 1625-38, ed. R.K Gilkes.
Selections from the *Diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington 1836-1848*

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 the North Oxfordshire College, Broughton Road, Banbury. Talks are given by invited lecturers on general and local historical, archaeological and architectural subjects. Excursions are arranged in the spring and summer, and the A G.M. is usually held at a local country house.

Membership of the Society is open to all, no proposer being needed. The annual subscription is **£10.00** including any records volumes published, or **£7.50** if these are not required; overseas membership, **£12.00.**

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