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BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Cake and Cockhorse

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

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First I must apologise for the delayed appearance of *Cake & Cockhorse*, and now as a 'double' number. At forty pages that might seem reasonable, except that I am aware the Spring issue was of equal length. Still a total of eighty pages for the year seems good value for a subscription of only ten pounds (with other benefits as well). One coincidental advantage is that our main article, on cricket in Banbury, coincides with most exciting and triumphant test series against Australia for many years.

Which brings me to another matter of concern. Having passed three score years and ten, I am aware of my increasing reluctance to go out of a night, especially when it inevitably involves driving in the dark. I was 23 when Ted Brinkworth and I founded the Society. After almost fifty years I still feel I am one of the younger members! So it doesn't surprise me that years are catching up on us, and despite excellent talks this autumn, attendance is sadly down. We need new younger members.

Cover: Marston St Lawrence Church, from *A Short History of Marston St Lawrence*.

TO SEE A FINE LADY UPON A WHITE HORSE

Jeremy Gibson

The idea of erecting a statue to Banbury's most famous historical character, even if mythical, has been mooted around for a good many years.

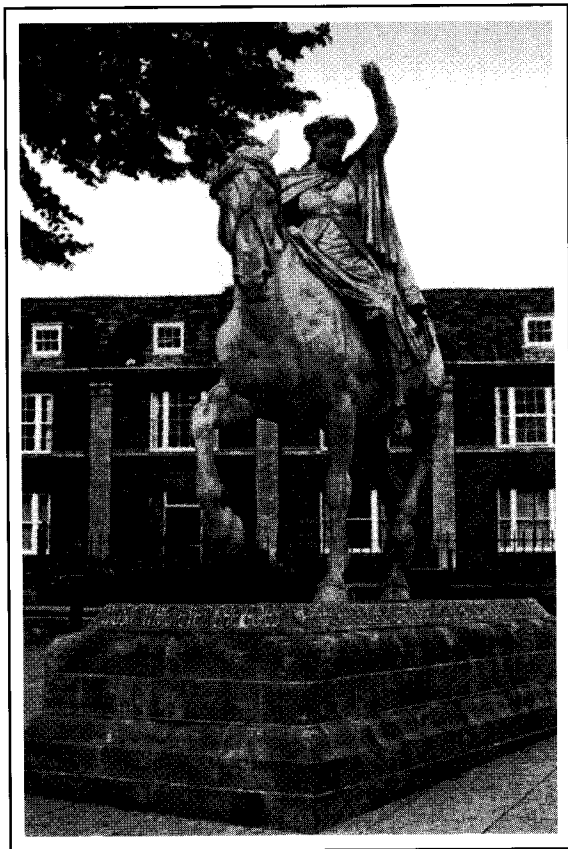
The committee of our Society, which endeavours to present our local history based on authenticated research, were never enthusiastic at what we saw as a 'tourist' attraction, and I was one of the most dismissive.

But the project went ahead, our lack of support probably unnoticed.

Now it is in place, and who can but applaud. It is a really magnificent statue, both of horse and lady (and, thank goodness, no suggestion she was a 'Fiennes' lady).

Behind her is Linden House, precious to me as it was the home of my godmother, 'Teenie' Pemberton (whence the dolls' house and the fireback displayed in Banbury Museum came, alas not identified as such because it would upset the designers of the captions there, apparently more important than what used to be called the Curator).

An excellent article by Jeremy Sacher is in Banbury Civic Society's August *Newsletter*.



REFORMATION or DEFORMATION?

Victorian Dissent in Bodicote

Ruth Brown

The early Victorian period was one of fundamental change both socially and religiously. The Industrial Revolution and its accompanying modifications in agriculture, including the acceleration of the enclosure of open fields and commons, led to a fall in the rural population, as people left their villages to seek work in the new industrial towns. Freed from the constraints of their traditional communities, they demanded and gained political reform. Since the reformation the bonding of church and nation was etched into the identity of the 'Englishman as a Protestant'. The political union with Ireland earlier in the century made five million Roman Catholics a large faction of the population of Britain. This, coupled with the subsequent Catholic Emancipation act of 1829, put a strain on the relationship between church and state. Nonconformist communities too, were becoming aggrieved that they should pay rates to support the parish church. The established Church of England was under threat.

In order to shepherd the urban masses back into the fold, the Church of England had to shake off its rigid and rustic system, to one more flexible – directed less to the village and more to the slum. Growing public concern for the religious welfare of the population of industrial towns was also mixed with a desire to counter any revolutionary tendencies that might be developing there – the French Revolution was still fresh in people's minds. There was at this time a significant growth in population, new churches were needed and old ones renovated and enlarged. The idea of mission not only being directed to the heathen overseas, but to those at home too, took root. Money was provided both from state and voluntary sources to build new churches as well as enlarging, restoring and refurbishing existing ones.

This article considers how these sweeping changes affected rural Oxfordshire. It focuses on the small village of Bodicote and seeks to discover what effects the Victorian restoration of its church had on the residents, the clergy and the laity.

Bodicote is situated in north Oxfordshire some two miles from Banbury. Until 1855, when it became a separate parish, its church, dedicated to St John the Baptist, was a chapel of ease to its mother church in Adderbury. In 1841 George Warriner MA took up the curacy, having served in Epwell for two years since he was ordained in 1839. In the same year his father wrote in a letter to George's uncle,

"George is proceeding very satisfactorily with the curacy; he has wonderful schemes in his head of enlarging and new pewing the church and erecting an organ, the only difficulty is where to find the money required to pay for the above improvements" (Faith, Hope and Charity: The Story of Bodicote Church, George C. Walker, 1994).

In a letter to Robert Morrell, the Registrar of the Diocese, dated March 1842, W.H. Hitchcock from 'Boddicott' House mapped out plans for the redevelopment of the church. In it he explained the need to enlarge the church, complaining that children attending Sunday school were obliged to sit within the altar rails – the Chancel being full. He talked of the lack of free seating for the poor and suggested demolishing the tower in the north aisle, because it was unsafe, and rebuilding it in the west end of the chapel. He also had great plans for increasing the seating and estimated the cost would be about £750 – to be raised by public subscription. In a further letter a week later, Hitchcock mentions that an application for funds had been forwarded to the Church Building Society. This society was founded in 1818 to raise funds to repair and enlarge churches. A condition to receiving a grant was that a certain number of seats be free from pew rents for the use of the poor. This is probably why in his initial letter Hitchcock details the plans to install two hundred 'free and unappropriated sittings'.

In his book *The History of Banbury* published in 1841, Alfred Beesley gives an insight into how the church looked before renovation work began. He spoke of the 'somewhat unusual positioning of the tower on the north side', before going into some detail about the existing rood loft.

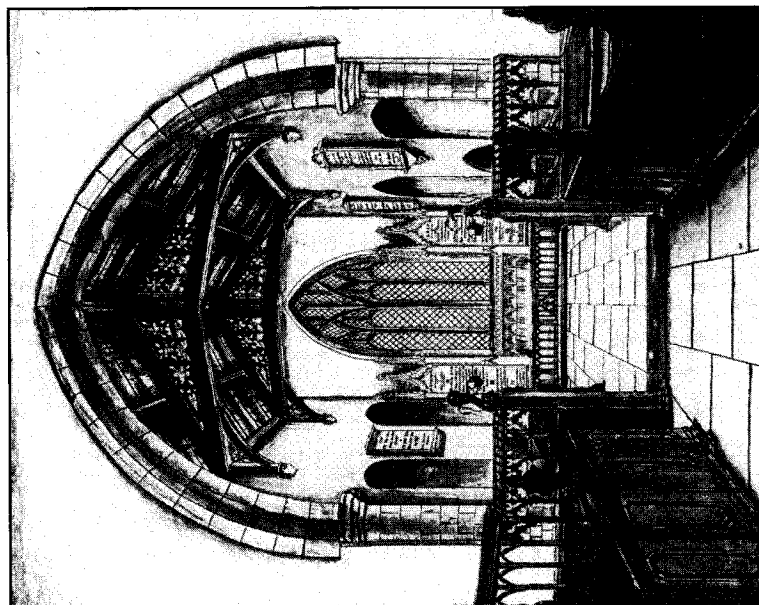
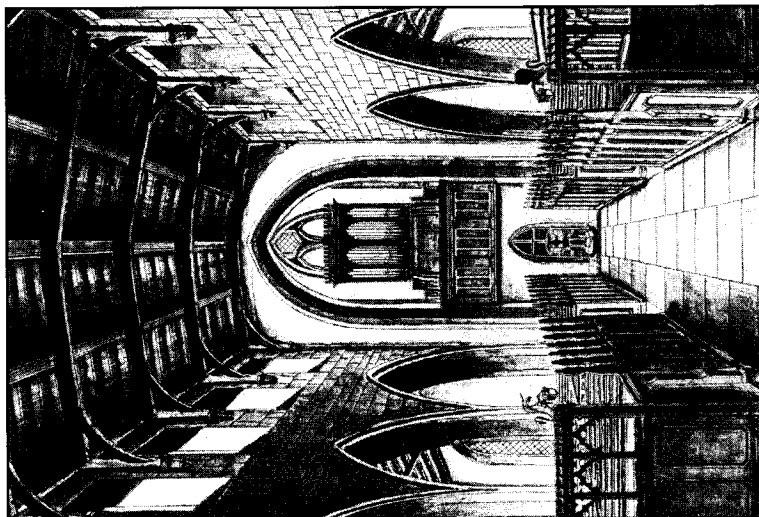
'The Roodloft, or ancient gallery in which the Holy Rood was placed, between the nave and chancel, remains perfect, and should be carefully preserved, as such relics of antiquity are far from common.'

J.C. Buckler's wash drawing (right) dated 1825, gives a good view of the exterior of the church some eight years before rebuilding. It shows an Early English style church, enlarged in the fourteenth century to include two aisles and a fifteenth century embattled tower rising from the north side.



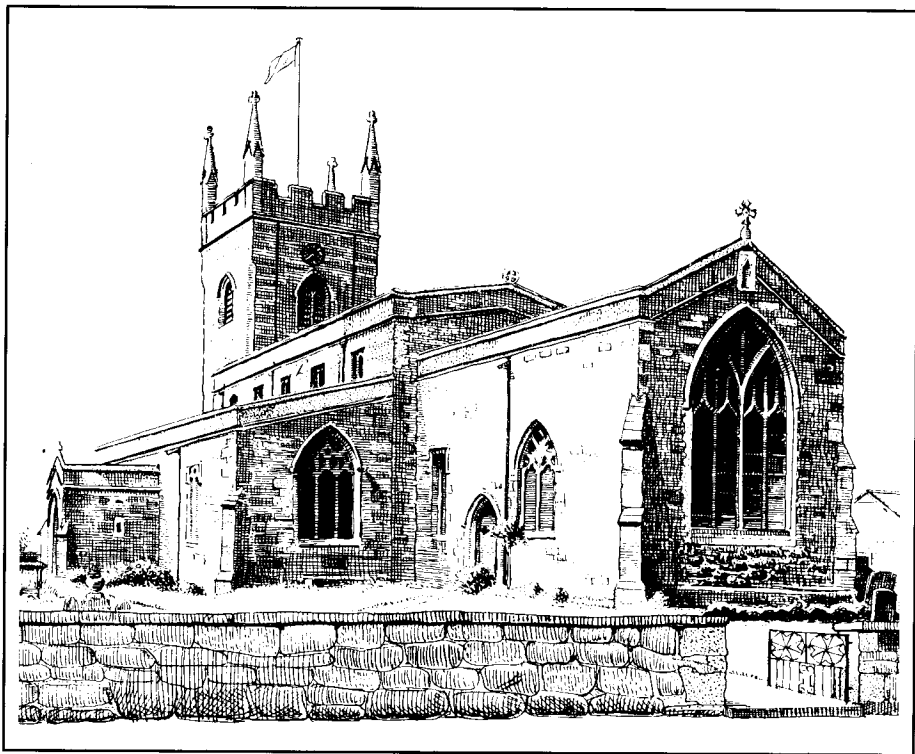
Bodleian Library, Oxford MS. Top.Oxon a65 fol.108

Permission to proceed with the proposed work was granted by the Bishop of Oxford and plans were prepared by two eminent Oxford architects, Plowman and Underwood, who had already worked on local churches in the area, including designing the new pews and font in Adderbury Church. Work began in 1843 with the demolition and rebuilding of the tower on the west side and the addition of four pinnacles. The space gained allowed for an extra two hundred seats to be added. There were alterations to the windows and doorway in the chancel and, sadly, the roodloft was removed; no part of it remains. The tracery in all the windows in the church was renewed and the old medieval tub font was discarded and replaced. This was rediscovered in the churchyard and reinstated in 1918. When the work was finished a memorial board was hung in the bell tower commemorating the rebuilding of 1843.



*Bodicote Church after rebuilding. Hurst Collection, Centre for Banburyshire Studies.
© Oxfordshire County Council Photographic Archive.*

The two undated drawings (left) show the church after rebuilding. The left hand picture shows the east end of the church where all traces of the roodloft have vanished. The illustration on the right shows the west end of the church, with the organ in place. It was removed to the chancel in 1866, but the suggestion of the old gallery was retained by the creation of a ringing chamber, open to the nave, in its place.



*Illustration from 'Parish Accounts for the Town of Bodicote 1700-1822',
Banbury Historical Society, Vol. 12, 1975.*

This 1975 drawing by George Walker shows the church as it is at the present day. It is interesting to compare it with the Buckler drawing. The most obvious change is the repositioning of the tower and its additional pinnacles. Note also the changes in the window tracery and the chancel door.

The service of reconsecration was held on the first of May 1844. The details of the occasion were set out in the *Banbury Guardian* the following day. It was a splendid affair with many local clergy attending, the service being led by the Bishop of Oxford.

That evening a further service was held, this time led by the Reverend W.C. Risley, the vicar of Deddington. In his sermon he made a pointed reference to certain villagers who had not contributed to the cost of the rebuilding.

'How justly must those who had contributed to the present work feel a pride in what they had done, but that there were some among the inhabitants who had kept aloof from the work, was an event which the Reverend Preacher must ever lament and deplore.'

To whom was Mr Risley referring when he made this comment? There is no doubt that all three hundred people in the congregation knew exactly who these inhabitants were and why they had not contributed. The following week a letter to the editor was published in the *Banbury Guardian*. Stung into action by the vicar's words, the writer set out the salient facts in a '*. . . succinct statement of the facts to set them right.*' He had several grievances. He claimed that the north aisle could have been repaired and the tower made safe. He said the tower's northern situation was unique and added to its antiquity and that it was an object of regard for the inhabitants. The inhabitants, he claimed, were uneasy about disturbing the dead, as they must surely do when the floors were dug up. As for the seating, he said that there were plenty of seats for those who attended church and he quoted the 1831 and 1841 censuses showing an actual fall in the population of the village. Most of all he was concerned that the financial burden for the work would fall on the parishioners. He signed himself 'A Dissentient'.

When he disclaims the need for extra seating the Dissentient was later proved correct. The census figures for 1831 showed a population of 779, in 1841 it stood at 729 and by 1851 the population had fallen again to 673. According to the 1841 census there were ten families involved in plush weaving living in Bodicote. They were probably outworkers for one of several plush manufactories in Banbury. Many of these people moved to Coventry to work in the factories operating the new powered looms, thus reflecting the national trend of rural depopulation. His claim that there was seating for all may also have had a personal edge to it. Pews belonged to individual houses and were bought and sold with those properties. If the Dissentient was a property owner his estate could lose value if he were to have his seating reduced. Alteration of the situation of his pew could affect his status in the village. He had much to protect.

The question that prevails is – did he act alone? Recorded in the minutes of a vestry meeting held on the 24th September 1841, twenty-three parishioners had signed a petition objecting to the ‘alteration of the chapel’. At the top of the list was a man called George Deer, a property owner whose family had lived in Bodicote for at least one hundred and fifty years. By April 1842 the objectors had engaged a solicitor from Neithrop to act for them. However, in the beginning of May an agreement was reached and the objection withdrawn. The agreement came in the form of a Bond of Indemnity to the Bishop of Oxford. Five leading gentlemen of the village, including George Warriner, the Curate, and W.H. Hitchcock, who wrote the original petition to the registrar requesting the enlargement and repewing of the church, signed it. The document stated that the

‘opponents should not only be exonerated and indemnified from all expenses attending such alterations and improvements but also of and from all expenses which may be incurred in completing in every respect the said chapel’.

Was George Deer the Dissentient who wrote such a long and aggrieved letter to the *Banbury Guardian*? Further proof of his involvement can be found from two separate sources. The first is from a further vestry minute showing that George Deer was arguing strongly against the alteration of the pews.

‘George Deer having a good Pew in church which will now accommodate 12 will not be allowed to have one by James Gardner and W. Hitchcock when the church is reopened on the ground that Mr Deer’s Brother will have one and the said Geo Deer now residing with his Brother might sit with him. The said Geo Deer does not intend residing with his Brother and considers his property injured as it would neither sell or let for so much when deprived of Church Accommodation.’

The second source of information is the memorial board itself. Once hanging in the ringing chamber it is now in the north porch. It commemorates the extra ‘sittings’, notes the grant obtained by the Church Building Society and lists the clergy, laity, architect and builder who were involved. On closer inspection there is only one churchwarden named – Jas Gardner. Looking at a list of churchwardens in the parish chest there are two names listed as churchwardens for that year: James Gardner and George Deer. George Deer’s name must have been deliberately omitted because of his dissension.

So the church was rebuilt, the roodloft destroyed, the tower moved and some general tweaking of the building brought it in line with the gothic fashion of the day. That the church was in disrepair was not denied, but how much work was actually needed to bring it up to standard was a bone of contention to many inhabitants of the village. Twelve years later there were still repercussions. In 1855 the curate found dry rot in the church and once again the dissentients refused to pay for repairs, quoting the terms of the Bond of Indemnity. George Warriner had to write to the Registrar to get confirmation that the Bond of Indemnity referred only to the restoration work and not to any future maintenance that might become necessary. Poor George Warriner, in what turned out to be his final year of his curacy, was still dealing with controversy and dissent.

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George G. Walker, *Faith, Hope and Charity: The Story of Bodicote Church and Parish*, 1994.

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- Centre for Banburyshire Studies, *The Banbury Guardian Archives; The Hurst Collection*.
Centre for Oxfordshire Studies, *The Packer Collection*.
Bodleian Library, *Vestry minutes from the Parish Chest*.
Oxfordshire Record Office, *Bond of Indemnity to the Bishop of Oxford 1842*.

Note. This article's title, 'Reformation or Deformation', is taken from an 1868 publication comparing eighteenth and nineteenth century church design and furnishings as well as forms of service. This was used as an example of 'Victorian Propaganda' in P. Cunningham's *How Old Is that Church?*, including entertaining illustrations of 'The Deformation' and 'The Reformation', which unfortunately we do not have space to reprint here.

BANBURY v ALL ENGLAND: CRICKETING CONNECTIONS, 1851-1852

George A. Smith

Introduction

Cake and Cockhorse, Spring 2004, contained two contributions which connected Banbury with historical cricket of the mid-nineteenth century. Jeremy Gibson's¹ republication of Thomas Ward Boss's *Reminiscences of Old Banbury* (in 1903) included "There was a large level field running from Perry's field² to the Old Parr boundary. This was used as the old Banbury Cricket Ground for over twenty years. I remember the Eleven of England playing there in their tall black hats."³ This would certainly have been appropriate cricketing costume in the 1850s.⁴ Later in the same issue Brian Little reports on the talk 'The History of Deddington Castle' by Chris Day, in which Mr Day had referred to the castle site as being used for 'gentlemanly' sport (cricket) with a thatched pavilion.⁵

The *Victoria County History [VCH]: Oxfordshire Vol X. Banbury Hundred* condenses Banbury cricket in a nutshell: "A cricket club was in existence c.1832⁶ but it seems to have been short-lived for in 1844 a new club was formed⁷ which in 1852 was listed among the 87 leading clubs

¹ Jeremy Gibson's help and encouragement has been greatly appreciated. His contribution will become fully apparent when a further article on Deddington is published.

² Presumably the horticulturist, Perry, referred to in Barrie Trinder's *Victorian Banbury*.

³ *Cake and Cockhorse [C&CH]*, 16.2 (Spring 2004), p.64.

⁴ This was the cricketing attire of the time. See "J.H. Dark as drawn by John Corbet Anderson in 1852" in *Lord's, The Cathedral of Cricket*, Stephen Green, Tempus 2003 (p.48). Stephen Green had been Curator and Librarian of the MCC for 35 years when he retired in September 2003.

⁵ *C&CH* 16.2 (Spring 2004), p.82.

⁶ *Victoria History of the County of Oxford, Vol X. Banbury Hundred [VCH]*, The Institute of Historical Research, OUP, 1972, p.15. British Library, *Lillywhite's Guide to Cricketers* (1852). (The British Library contains a *Guide to Lillywhite's Cricketer's Companion*, by G. Derek West, North Moreton Press 1995, but it does not mention Banbury specifically. I have not been able to trace the actual *Companions*, which were published between 1865 to 1885 – they might be in the process of being reprinted.)

⁷ *VCH* p.15. *Banbury Guardian* 1st August 1844 (The British Library). This report is actually incidental to an account of a match between Banbury and Evenley, which the latter won.

in the country: in 1851 it defeated an All England XI with the help of professionals who bowled throughout. During the Second World War the club ceased playing, and the Banbury Twenty Club was formed to continue senior cricket. In 1949 the Banbury Club was reformed, and in 1969 there were three cricket clubs in Banbury, the two already described and the Banbury Town Originals.”⁸ On page 60 it records “In 1888 the Mayor felt that bank holidays and cricket matches had done away with the need for pleasure fairs.”

William Potts’ *A History of Banbury* (2nd edition, ed. E.T. Clark, Gulliver Press, 1978, p.341) refers in passing to the Banbury Cricket Club and the Twenty Cricket Club having ‘attractive grounds’, whilst Banbury & District Cricket League embraced many clubs in annual competition. Such activities were outside the scope of Potts’ 1st edition.

Barrie Trinder in his *Victorian Banbury* refers to a cricket ground on the Oxford Road, used by a cricket club founded in 1836.⁹ He deals with the sport more extensively on pp.137-138, focusing on the 1850s. Cricket was part of the social cohesion encouraged and facilitated by enlightened employers such as Bernhard Samuelson. His company’s departmental matches were first played on part of the former racecourse, and in 1869 new playing fields were acquired near the Great Western Railway, “and the old ground was made available for wider use by the landlord of the *Cricketers* public house on its perimeter”.¹⁰ Trinder comments that other employers imitated Samuelson’s provision, but could not afford to match them. “the role of the workplace as a recreational agency was significant”. The Oddfellows Friendly Society had a cricket team in 1858.¹¹

The library of the MCC, which has a massive collection of cricketing literature, contains nothing specifically about Banbury or Deddington. The index to *Wisden’s Cricketer’s Almanack* 1864-1984 has no entry under Banbury, Bicester or Deddington.

⁸ *VCH* p.15. The recently issued computer index to *Cake & Cockhorse* might provide additional leads.

⁹ Trinder, *Victorian Banbury* (BHS 19, Phillimore 1982), p.75. He cites a report in *The Banbury Guardian* of 19th December 1844.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* pp.137-8, citing *Banbury Advertiser* 27 Feb 1866; *Banbury Advertiser* 25 March 1869. Vera Wood, in her *Licensees of Inns, Taverns and Beerhouses of Banbury*, says that the ‘Cricketers’, Middleton Road (the only pub of that name in Banbury), was first licensed as a beerhouse in 1869. Centre for Banburyshire Studies, Banbury Library.

¹¹ Trinder, *Victorian Banbury*, p.138.

The principal source of information about cricket matches played nationally from 1746 to 1879 is contained in the 16 volumes of Frederick Lillywhite's¹² and Arthur Haygarth's *Scores and Biographies*, which have been indexed and reissued by Roger Heavens over the last few years.¹³ Personal details of all cricketers who have appeared in first class matches are contained in *Who's Who of Cricketers*, by Philip Bailey, Philip Thorn and Peter Wynne-Thomas¹⁴, from which the details noted have been taken.

The match to which T.W. Boss referred was probably one of the two that took place in 1851 and 1852.

The Matches of 1851 and 1852

Volume 4 of *Scores and Biographies* (p.247) contains a report of a game "At Banbury in Oxfordshire, June 16, 17 and 18 **1851**". It first prints the detailed scorecard. It is reproduced on page 224 as it appeared in the *Banbury Guardian* of 19th June 1851.

The England Eleven, apart from Sampson, all appear in *The Who's Who of Cricketers*. They were, in batting order, with a brief extract from *Who's Who's* assessment:

Joseph Guy, 1814-1873. "He was one of the leading batsmen of his day, noted for the elegance of his style."

William Caffyn, 1828-1919. "Regarded as one of the leading batsmen of his time."

H. Sampson. No entry in the *Cricketers' Who's Who*, but the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians' website indicates that he lived from 1813 to 1885, and was a prominent player in the North of England.

Fuller Pilch, 1804-1870. "For a period of about 15 years commencing in the early 1830's Pilch was the premier batsman of England."¹⁵

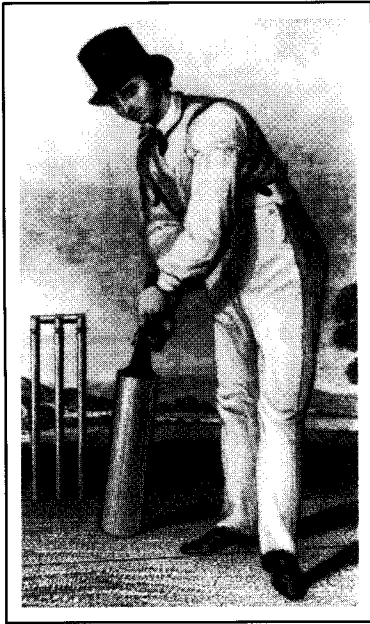
George Parr, 1826-1891. "About 1860 he was regarded as the best batsman in England."

¹² G. Derek West (see footnote 6) writes "Frederick Lillywhite 1829-1866, was no cricketer but a journalist, scorer, statistician and publicist of the first four volumes of *Scores and Biographies*. He made many enemies in his last few years on account of the bitter comments he printed on the demeanour and character of several of the leading professional cricketers of the early 1860s."

¹³ I consulted the copies in the Surrey County Cricket Club's Centenary library.

¹⁴ Guild Publishing London, 1st edition 1984, includes all players to the end of the 1983 season.

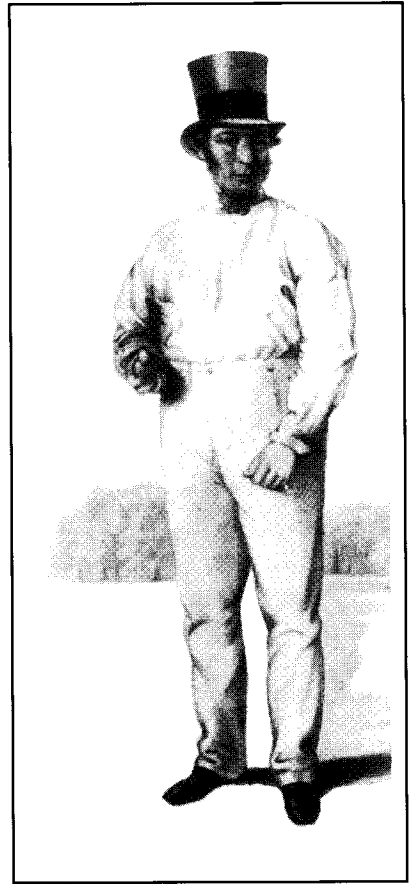
¹⁵ A picture of Fuller Pilch appears on p.11 of *A History of Cricket*, Trevor Bailey, Book Club Associates, 1978.



Fuller Pilch.



*Alfred Mynn and (right) 'Felix'
(Nicholas Wanostracht).*



*William Clarke, demon slow
bowler, founder of the All
England Eleven.*

Illustrations reproduced by kind permission from *A History of Cricket*, Trevor Bailey, Book Club Associates, 1978, and *Cricket – A Way of Life*, Christopher Martin-Jenkins, Marks & Spencer, 1985.

Nicholas Felix, 1804-1876 (real name Wanostracht). "One of the greatest players of his day."¹⁶

George Anderson, 1826-1902. "One of the most prominent professionals of his day."

William Clarke (or Clark), 1798-1856. "He did not become prominent outside his native County [Nottinghamshire] until he was about 45 years old, and then for some ten seasons his bowling was most successful – he practised the art of under-arm deliveries."¹⁷

William Ridding 1830-1900. [Not yet ordained].

William Richard Hillyer 1813-1861 "Described by some as 'the best of all bowlers', he was at his most brilliant about 1845."

Daniel Day 1807-1887. His first-class debut was for England in 1842.

When considering the bowling analysis, it is interesting to note that, as was normal practice, only the "given men" bowled.¹⁸ It should also be recalled that these were four-ball overs. The number was raised to five in 1889, and to six in May 1900. It has remained at six except for the 1939 season.

The England eleven's 22 opponents comprised twenty men of Banbury, and Bickley and Burrin, the "given men". It was a normal practice to include "given men" to help balance otherwise disparate sides. Stretching a point, perhaps one might see an analogy to this in the introduction of the "overseas player" from the late 1960s.¹⁹

D. Burrin. No entry in the *Cricketers' Who's Who*, but the Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians indicate that he lived from 1823 to 1875, was born in Oxford and died at Temple Cowley. His only first-class appearances were for Oxford University.

John Bickley, 1819-1866. "For England against Kent & Sussex at Lord's in 1856 he took 8 wickets for 7 runs."

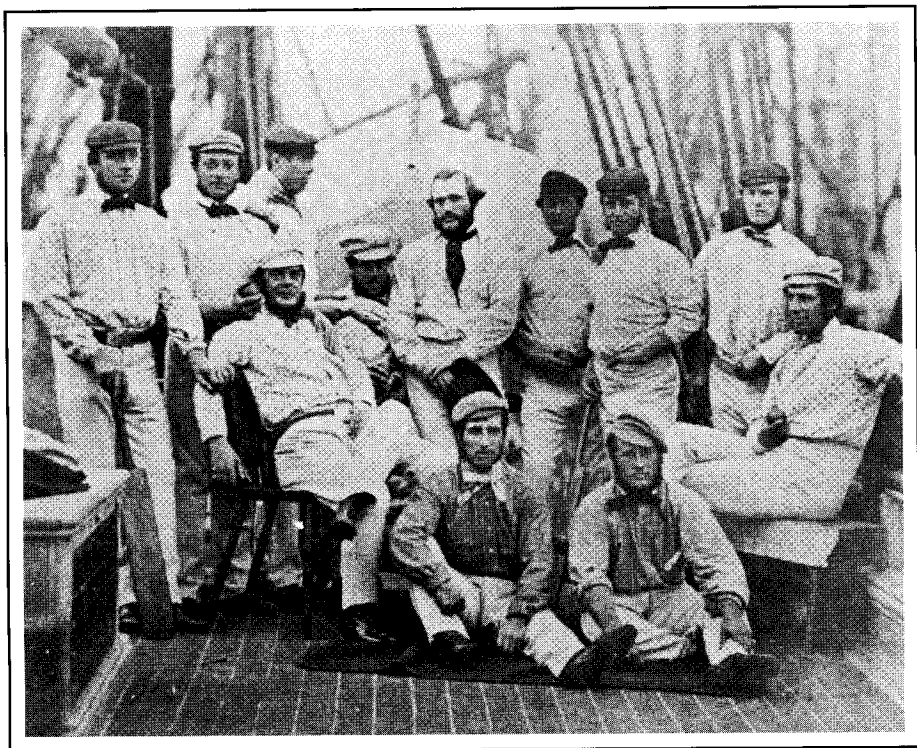
The result of the game was that Banbury won by 9 wickets (as they had 22 players, 12 wickets fell in their second innings).

¹⁶ A lithograph of "Felix" [Nicholas Wanostracht] appears at p.15 of *A History of Cricket*, Trevor Bailey, Book Club Associates, 1978.

¹⁷ A lithograph of William Clarke, by Nicholas Wanostracht, appears at p.18 of *Cricket – A Way of Life*, Christopher Martin-Jenkins, Marks & Spencer, 1985.

¹⁸ Years ago, one of the privileges of membership of a County Cricket Club was the right to be bowled at by the club's professionals. Before his own elevation, one of Alec Bedser's favourite jokes was that no bowler had been knighted since Sir Francis Drake. John Major is credited with causing that to be remedied.

¹⁹ Cf *The Enemy Within*, Alastair McLellan, Blandford Books 1994.



*The England team which toured America in 1859. It includes three who played at Banbury: William Caffyn (back, second from left); George Parr (centre, with cravat); and Julius Caesar (third from left) (reproduced by kind permission from *Cricket – A Way of Life*, Christopher Martin-Jenkins, Marks & Spencer, 1985).*

Not only the entries in *Who's Who of Cricketers* testify to the quality of the team which Banbury opposed. It was a side which included some of the most highly distinguished cricketers of the time. Five²⁰ were "profiled" by W. Dennison in his *Sketches of the Players, 1846*. Dennison is regarded by John Arlott, among others, as the father of serious cricketing reporting. All "Histories of Cricket" include accounts of the cricketing prowess of most of these players and, despite the infancy of photography, many likenesses of them.²¹

²⁰ Guy, Pilch, Clark, Hillyer and Day.

²¹ A picture of the English team that toured America in 1859, the first overseas tour, (reproduced above) appears on p.22 of *Cricket – A Way of Life*, Christopher Martin-Jenkins, published by Marks & Spencer in 1985.

This match was extensively reported in the *Banbury Guardian* of 19th June 1851.²² A month earlier, on May Day, Queen Victoria had opened the Great Exhibition, the brain-child of her husband Albert, Prince Consort.²³ In its issue of that day the *Guardian's* editorial was as full, laudatory and flag-waving as you might expect.²⁴ The *Banbury Guardian* of 20th February had contained a full page engraving "Interior of the Crystal Palace for the Great Exhibition of 1851", presented to the subscribers to *The Banbury Guardian* February 20 1851. It is almost certain that this was the first illustration ever to appear in that newspaper. It would be interesting to know when the next illustration appeared.

Headed "Cricket. GRAND CRICKET MATCH AT BANBURY." The introductory half-column details the preparations for "showing the inhabitants of Banbury such play as few of them had ever had an opportunity of seeing", and refers to the practice undertaken by the players so that they could face "such bowling as some of them had never before faced". On the Monday 1,100 persons were present "graced by the presence of many ladies". Tuesday saw 1,500 with the number of ladies greatly increased over the previous day. Monday and Tuesday were fine, but Wednesday was overcast and damp. However, Banbury won.

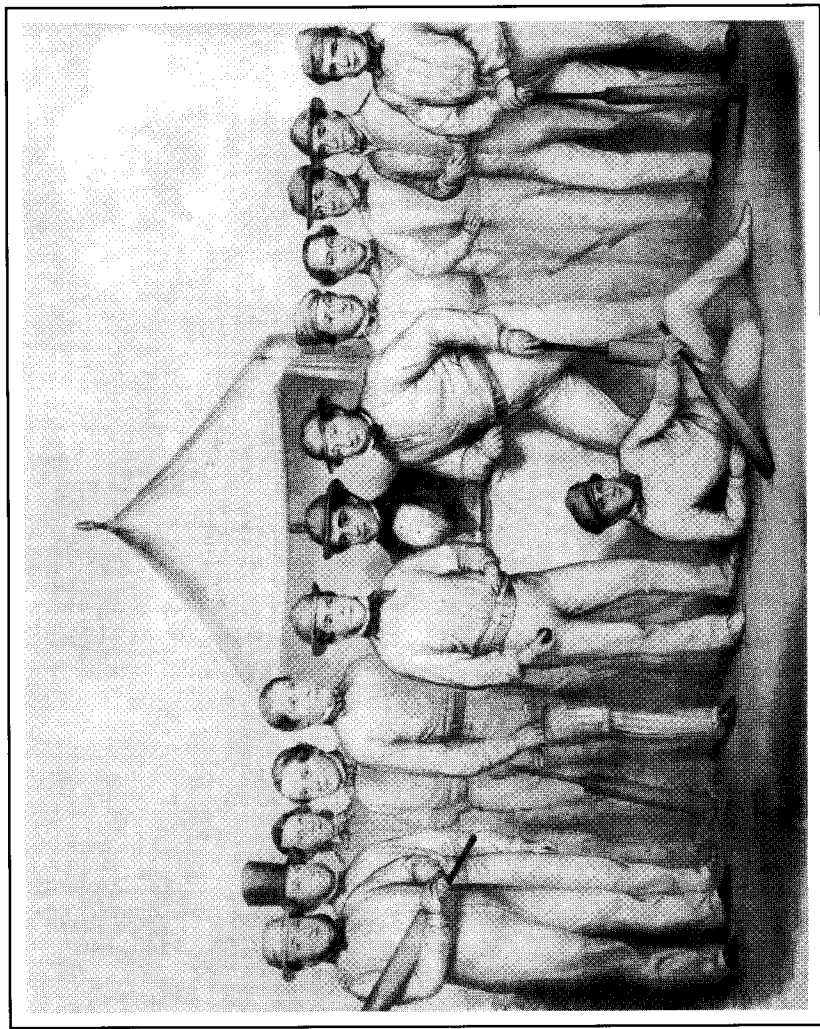
The arrangements were "very complete with great credit being due to the honorary secretary Mr T. Mitchell"; refreshments were supplied by Mr Hayward of the White Horse Hotel. On Monday evening Sig. Persiana²⁵ gave a Promenade Concert and a display of Fireworks on the Bowling Green and Tuesday evening was wound up with a dance at Mr

²² We are fortunate in having such a good local history library in the Centre for Banburyshire Studies in Banbury. Except where otherwise noted, all the local information included here has been sourced from it. I am especially grateful for the help and encouragement of the librarian, Mr Martin Allitt.

²³ *Iron Bridge to Crystal Palace*, Asa Briggs, Thames & Hudson 1979.

²⁴ The report notes that because of the Queen's visit to the Exhibition the demand for tickets rose from 7,000 to 11,000-12,000. The Commissioners wanted to raise the price to 3 guineas for ladies and 4 guineas for gentlemen "But this arrangement did not meet the views of Prince Albert, and the request was abandoned."

²⁵ Giuseppe Persiani (1799-1869), Italian composer. He settled as a singing-master in Paris, and wrote operas. *The New Everyman Dictionary of Music*, 6th edition, Eric Blom, revised by David Cummings. Everyman's Reference Library. J.M. Dent 1988. He is also noted as the husband of the noted soprano Fanny Persiani (1812-1867). They were contemporaries, therefore, of Jenny Lind (1820-1887). Banbury Reference Library has a copy of the 29-volume *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*, 2001, volume 19 of which contains a much fuller account of Persiani's life.



The All-England XI in front of the printing tent
(reproduced by kind permission from Lord's, *The Cathedral of Cricket*, Stephen Green, Tempus 2003).

Page's. Wednesday "the players and their friends dined together with at Mr Hayward's T.R. Cobb Esq., the President of the Club took the chair and W. Ridding, Esq. joined the Club".²⁶

There then follows a day-by-day account of the match which would do credit to today's *Test Match Special*. This report also resolves a personal query for me. Although the records of all such matches show that all 22 players batted, this was the first time I had seen it specifically reported that they all also fielded simultaneously.²⁷

After setting out the score-card, the *Banbury Guardian* writes "Mr F. Lillywhite attended the ground with his printing press, and the fall of each wicket printed the score, for which we were glad to see he had a large demand".²⁸ The account concludes with vignettes of the eleven players of England, from *Lillywhite's Guide to Cricketers*.²⁹

The 1852 game is described in Volume 4 of *Scores and Biographies* (pp. 372-373.) Again it gives the venue as "At Banbury in Oxfordshire, June 28, 29 & 30th 1852". The narrative account follows the printing of the scorecard. Again, it is reproduced on page 000 as it appeared in the *Banbury Guardian* of 1st July 1852.

The England Eleven differed from that of 1851 by the exclusion of Sampson, Pilch, Felix, Ridding (who played for Banbury, having joined the club at the conclusion of the previous year's game), and Day. In compensation, maybe, Bickley moved the other way. The new men were:-

Alfred Clarke, 1831-1878, son of William Clarke.

William Martingell, 1818-1897. "One of the great bowlers of his day."

Thomas Box, 1808-1876. "He was regarded in his day as the best wicket-keeper in England."

Julius Caesar, 1830-1878. "He was one of the best batsmen of his day and excelled at the on-drive." [He is the subject of a recent biography.]

(No bowling analysis is recorded.)

²⁶ I have reproduced the capitals as in the *Banbury Guardian's* report.

²⁷ *Scores and Biographies* reports one game of 11 v 56 – the mind boggles at the logistical exercise of placing 56 fielders.

²⁸ See footnote 6 in respect of Frederick Lillywhite. I do not remember when this practice ceased. Most County grounds had their own printing presses until the 1960s at least, usually striving to provide printed up-dates at the fall of each wicket. In the matches of 1851 and especially that of 1852 this must have been a mammoth task. A coloured painting of *The United England XI "in front of the printing tent"* (date and artist not given) appears at p.56 of Lord's, *The Cathedral of Cricket*, Stephen Green, Tempus 2003.

²⁹ These are somewhat fuller than my brief précis from *The Who's Who of Cricketers*.

ALL-ENGLAND.			BANBURY.		
1st Innings.	2nd Innings.		1st Innings.	2nd Innings.	
J. Guy, b Bickley	run out	1	Burrin c Guy, b Hillyer		79
W. Caffyn, b Bickley	run out	0	T. E. Cobb, Esq., b Hillyer		3
H. Samson, b Bickley	run out	21	W. Hartley, run out		0
F. Pich, run out	run out	4	c Day, b Hillyer		1
G. Parr, b Burrin	run out	9	b Hillyer		0
N. Felix, Esq., c Tanner b Burrin	run out	1	b Clarke		0
G. Anderson, b Burrin	run out	11	not out		28
W. Clarke, b Bickley	c Tanner b Burrin	9	b Clarke		17
W. Ridding, Esq., b Burrin	b Bickley	10	not out		0
W. Hillyer, not out	not out	6	b Hillyer		4
D. Day, c Levien, b Bickley	b Bickley	2	leg before wicket, b Hillyer		1
Byes, &c.	Byes	0	c Caffyn, b Clarke		11
		6	b Hillyer		0
		68			3
ALL-ENGLAND.			BANBURY.		
1st Innings.	2nd Innings.		1st Innings.	2nd Innings.	
J. Guy, b Bickley	run out	1	Burrin c Guy, b Hillyer		79
W. Caffyn, b Bickley	run out	0	T. E. Cobb, Esq., b Hillyer		3
H. Samson, b Bickley	run out	21	W. Hartley, run out		0
F. Pich, run out	run out	4	c Day, b Hillyer		1
G. Parr, b Burrin	run out	9	b Hillyer		0
N. Felix, Esq., c Tanner b Burrin	run out	1	b Clarke		0
G. Anderson, b Burrin	run out	11	not out		28
W. Clarke, b Bickley	c Tanner b Burrin	9	b Clarke		17
W. Ridding, Esq., b Burrin	b Bickley	10	not out		0
W. Hillyer, not out	not out	6	b Hillyer		4
D. Day, c Levien, b Bickley	b Bickley	2	leg before wicket, b Hillyer		1
Byes, &c.	Byes	0	c Caffyn, b Clarke		11
		6	b Hillyer		0
		68			3

ALL ENGLAND.			BANBURY.		
A. Clarke, c Tawney, b Buttriss	3	c Tawney, b Buttriss	J. Webb, b Clarke	0	c Parr, b Clarke
G. Anderson, at Ridding, b ditto	3	b Buttriss	W. Bygrave, b Bickley	3	b Bickley
W. Martingell, b Buttriss	5	c Evans, b Buttriss	J. Fisher, b Clarke	5	b Clarke
W. Caffyn, c Fisher, b Buttriss	5	c Tanner, b Jackson	W. Hartley c Martingell b Clarke	7	b Bickley
G. Parr, c Gardner, b Jackson	5	c Hartley, b E. Cobb	Buttriss, c A. Clarke, b Clarke	0	run out
T. Box, at Ridding, b Buttriss	4	b Buttriss	R. Tanner, b Bickley	5	b Clarke
J. Guy, c Jackson, b Buttriss	3	b Buttriss	Hon. C. Fennes, at Box, b Clarke	9	c Parr, b Bickley
J. Caesar, at Ridding, b Buttriss	10	b Buttriss	T. W. Hale, Esq., b Bickley	2	run out
W. Hillyer, b Jackson	4	b Buttriss	W. Ridding, Esq., at Box, b Clarke	5	b Bickley
W. Clarke, b Jackson	1	not out	H. Evans, Esq., b Clarke	1	b Bickley
J. Bickley, not out	0	b Jackson	W. E. White, Esq., b Bickley	2	b Clarke
Byes 2, wides 2, no balls 2	6	Byes 2, leg bye 1, wide 1	W. Hitchcock, Esq., b Clarke	0	b Bickley
	40		T. E. Cobb, Esq., b Clarke	0	leg before wicket, b Bickley
	76		Hon. J. T. Fennes, leg bef. wick.	0	b Bickley
			R. Cobb, Esq., b Bickley	0	b Clarke
			Jackson, run out	5	at Box, b Clarke
			H. Wootton, leg before wicket	0	b Clarke
			A. R. Tawney, Esq., run out	0	b Bickley
			W. Haynes, b Bickley	0	not out
			J. Dew, b Clarke	1	c Hillyer, b Clarke
			J. Gardner, not out	2	b Bickley
			J. Snul, at Box, b Clarke	1	leg before wicket, b Bickley
			Bye 1, leg byes 2	3	Byes 2, leg bye 1
				52	
				42	

22 of Banbury with Buttress and Jackson.

The Banbury side had changes, too. Its "given men" were now:

William Buttress, 1827-1866. "He was regarded as one of the best bowlers of his day, but, for some reason unknown, was rarely selected for important matches." And...

There is no **W. Jackson** listed in *Who's Who*. The Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians indicate that he was born in 1820, date of death not known. His only first-class games, for Nottinghamshire, were from 1844-1848.

The Banbury men are dealt with, in what detail is ascertainable, later.

Result: England winning by 22 runs

Scores and Biographies comments "No one out of the Banbury side scored a double figure out of their forty-four innings."

Umpires John Lillywhite³⁰ and Peter Bancalari (of Oxford).

The *Banbury Guardian* of 1st July 1852 is somewhat less fulsome in its report than in 1851. Heavy rain on Sunday "no doubt had the effect of deterring many persons from visiting the ground on Monday, although the weather proved favourable to the players." "On Tuesday the weather was fine, and the attendance was tolerably good, there being 1,000 to 1,100 persons present. On Wednesday the attendance was scanty." It again praises the arrangements by Mr Mitchell, and the refreshments of Mr Hayward. On Wednesday evening the players and their friends dined at Mr Hayward's, with Archer R. Tawney, Esq., in the chair. This introductory section concludes "As on the last occasion, so on this, we sent no reporter to the dinner, because when gentlemen meet to make merry, and not to make speeches, we consider it unfair as well as obtrusive to set a watch upon their words".³¹

The daily reports for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are as detailed as in 1851.

In respect of these matches, I thought it might be interesting to try to see who the local players were, and whether they add credence to considered opinion of Professor G. M. Trevelyan that cricket teams encompassed all social classes³² It is possible to discover something of

³⁰ John Lillywhite 1826-1874, of the Lillywhite cricketing family.

³¹ I wonder what today's Press Complaints Commission would make of that!

³² In his *English Social History* (1944), Penguin Books 2000. p.423. "In 1743 it was observed that 'noblemen, gentlemen and clergy' were 'making butchers, cobblers or tinkers their companions' in the game. ...In 1746 Lord John Sackville was a member of a winning team of which the gardener at Knole was captain... Squire, farmer, black-

the players from the resources of the Centre for Banburyshire Studies, Banbury Library, which include the detailed census of 1851.³³ The certitude of identification from the 1851 census varies from the confident to the very, very dubious, but I include it for what it is worth, or for what memories it might stir. There are also the results of much research by the Banbury Historical Society, for example *Register of Baptisms 1723-1812*³⁴, and *Baptisms and Burials Registers of Banbury 1813-1858*³⁵ from which the specific birth dates for those whose birthplace was given as Banbury in the 1851 census can be ascertained. In addition, the Register of Electors for 1850 yields information.³⁶ I have also sought to try to trace them in the 1881 and 1901 censuses.³⁷ Taking the 29 players alphabetically:-

Blencowe, W. (Played in one game) – The census of 1851 shows him as aged 38, living at 127 Butchers Row. His occupation is registered as Tailor, and he was born in ‘Middlesex Southwark’.³⁸ He was married with 6 children (one of whom, aged 11, was a tailor’s apprentice). No entry in 1901 census. The 1850

smith and labourer, with their women and children come to see the fun, were at ease together and happy all the summer afternoon. If the French *noblesse* had been capable of playing cricket with their peasants, their châteaux would never have been burnt.” Cricket and Empire has recently been scholastically explored in Ramachandra Guha’s *A Corner of a foreign Field: The Indian History of a British Sport*, Picador 2002. An example of cricket and Jingoism is contained in an extract from a poem “*A Soldier’s Home*” printed in the *Oxfordshire Family Historian*, 10.1 (Spring 1996), p.15:

In that chest are Bats and Balls,
The wicket to which often falls,
Suggestive of our foes who must
Before the British bite the dust.

The Soldier was John Hill who served from age 18 in 1885 to 1893, in Princess Charlotte’s of Wales, Royal Berkshire Regiment.

³³ This census was taken on the night of 30/31 March 1851, and was the second national census. Its principal changes since the 1841 census were to give the actual ages of those 15 or more, and to specify the place of birth. I consulted the *Index to Oxfordshire Census 1851, Vol 9 Banbury Union*, compiled by Hugh Kearsey, Oxfordshire Family History Society, 1991. They transcribed the census in two volumes, undated, but acquired by the Centre for Banburyshire Studies, Banbury Library in September 1996.

³⁴ J.S.W. Gibson, Banbury Historical Society 16, 1978.

³⁵ J.S.W. Gibson & R.C. Couzens, Banbury Historical Society 22, 1988.

³⁶ In *Banbury Electoral Registers 1836-1850*, Centre for Banburyshire Studies, Banbury Library.

³⁷ These are the two which have easily accessible alphabetical indexes.

³⁸ Southwark was actually in Surrey.

Register of Electors shows William Blencowe as living at Bridge Street North, with a property (house) qualification based on that address.

Bygraves, W. (both) – (spelled Bygrave in 2nd match) 25; 74 High Street, Butcher, b. Aynho. 1850 electoral register: High Street, property (house) High Street. No entry in 1901 census under Bygrave or Bygraves.

Cobb, Rhodes (both) – Rhodes, baptised 3.6.1825 son of Timothy & Charlotte (P),³⁹ West Street. At 1851 Census he was 26; 39 Horsefair, colonial broker b. Banbury. In 1901 he was 76, a retired merchant living at Kingston-upon-Thames.

Cobb, Thomas (one) – Thomas Pix, baptised 11.6.1828; other details as for Rhodes. 24; 39 Horsefair, solicitor b. Banbury. No entry in 1901 census.

Cobb, T.E. (both) – Timothy Edward, baptised 21.10.1830, other details as for Rhodes. 20; 39 Horsefair, banker b. Banbury. In 1901 he was 70, living at Oxford St. Giles, banker.

Dew, J. (both) – John, baptised 25.2.1821 son of Thomas and Elizabeth, millwright, St. John's Street. 28 (sic); 29 South Bar Street, millwright, m., 4c, b. Banbury. In 1901 he was 78, living at Wortley, Leeds, a retired millwright.

Or James, baptised 24.5.1818; other details as for John. 34; 58 South Bar Street, cabinet maker, m. (wife a seamstress), 4c, b. Banbury. No 1901 entry.

Or James, 35; 72 Beargarden Terrace, Neithrop, millwright, m., 4c, b. Neithrop.

Evans, H. (one) – Henry, 36, Middleton Cheney, ag. lab., b. Middleton Cheney m. There are 14 Evans, but he is the only H.

Evans, J.H. (one) – not identified at all. Could he and Henry be the same?

Fiennes, Hon. C.B. (one) – Cecil Brownlow, 19. Second son of Lord Saye and Sele. Was to take holy orders. Died 1870.⁴⁰

Fiennes, Hon. J. (one) – b. 28 February 1830. Heir to the barony of Saye and Sele. He succeeded to the title in 1887 as 11th baron, and died in 1907.⁴¹

Fisher, J. (one) – 32; lodging in the The Green, Cropredy. Master tailor, b. Claydon. No entry in 1901 census.

Gardner, G. (one) – baptised 1.4.1825 (born 23.1.1825). There are 132 entries in the index under the name Gardner, and I restricted my search to those in Banbury Town (nos 309-435, containing 20 entries). This yielded no one whom I thought eligible.

Gardner, J. (both) – John, 33; 47 Monument Street, ag. lab., m., 2c, b. Broughton. (possible – could be known to the Fiennes?) No entry in 1901 census.

or Joseph, baptised 11.4.1828, son of Joseph and Hannah, ironmonger, High Street. 23, 13 High Street, Ironmonger, b. Banbury. No entry in 1901 census.

³⁹ Presbyterian.

⁴⁰ Burke's Peerage 106th Edition 1999 (Centre for Banburyshire Studies).

⁴¹ *Ibid*, which gives his full name as John Fiennes Twistleton-Wykeham-Fiennes.

Hale, Thomas W. (both) – not identified, neither is there a T.W. Hall.

Hartley, W. (both) – William, 27; 37 Horsefair “An Academy”, AS (assistant master?), publican’s son, b. Boddicott (the then spelling). In 1901, 77, living at Neithrop, retired schoolmaster. Entry says born Bodicote.

Or William, 54; 75 Bridge Street North, Baker in Business, b. Oxford, m., 3c. No entry in 1901 census.

Haynes, W. (both) – again, a restricted search. William, 22; 17 Crouch Street (off South Bar Street), tailor, m., 1c, b. Middlesex London. 1850 electoral register (full name William Henry) Crouch Street, property (house) Crouch Street. No 1901 entry.

Henfrey, W. (one) – not identified.

Hitchcock, W. (one) – William, 44; 10 Boddicott, Brewer etc., m., 1d, b. Chipping Warden. No entry in 1901 census.

Levien, F. (one) – not identified

Payne, J.S. (one) – John, 44; Upper and Lower Boddington, farmer 134 acres, 54 labs.; b. Boddington (the alternative, Jonas, also of Upper and Lower Boddington, was 51). No entry in 1901 census.

Ridding, W. (one for England; one for Banbury) – noted as joining the Club after the 1851 game. *Who’s Who of Cricketers* names him as Rev. William, b. 23.11.1830 at Winchester, Hants. He played for Oxford University 1849-53, blue 1849, 1850, 1852 and 1853, and one match for Hampshire. He also played for Oxfordshire, Wiltshire and Monmouthshire. He died at Clapton, London 1.5.1900.

Saul, W. (1) – William, 26; 79, Village of Horley, Ag. Lab.; b. Horley, m., 1c.

Or William, baptised 31.12.1803, son of William and Mary, shoemaker (no address given). 48; 70 High Street, General shopkeeper and hardware man, b. Banbury, m.; 1850 electoral register High Street, property (house) High Street. No entry in 1901 census.

Sloan, W. (one) – William, 58; 108 North Bar Street, Tea dealer, b. Scotland m, 1c (unlikely because of age ?). 1850 electoral register, North Bar Street, property (house), North Bar Street.

Tanner, R. (both) – Richard, 26; 65 West Bar Street, Draper, b. Oxford Chesterton, m., 1c. 1850 electoral register West Bar Street, property (house), West Bar Street. Also another house in West Bar Street jointly owned with William Fairbrother. In 1901 was 77, living at Bodicote, retired brewer.

Tawney, A.R. (both) – Archer R., 32; 57 Wroxton Village, Banker, b. Warks Dunchurch, unmarried, 4 servants. Took the chair at the 1852 dinner. 1850 electoral register (full name Archer Robert), Wroxton, property in Cornhill jointly owned with Joseph Ashley Gillett and Jonathan Gillett. *Rusher’s Directory* for 1851⁴² lists Gillett, Tawney and Gillett as bankers at Cornhill. Not in 1901 census.

⁴² Contained in *Rusher’s List and Directory 1809-1865*, Centre for Banburyshire Studies, Banbury Library.

Webb, J. (both) John, baptised 14.9.1800, son of William and Mary, blacksmith (no address given). 50; 84 South Bar Street, White Smith, 2 apprentices, b. Banbury, m., 2d.

Or Joseph W., 42; Neithrop 2, Beerhouse keeper, b. Northants Eydon m., 3c.

Or John, baptised 13.1.1805, as for previous John⁴³, 46; Wardington, Grocer, b. Banbury, m., 2c.

The 1850 electoral register for the Grimsbury division of Banbury lists Joseph Webb of Lower Cherwell Street, property (house, Lower Cherwell Street).

White, W.E. (both) – William, 31; 74 Hardwick Road, Neithrop, Innkeeper (his wife was named Temperance), b. Wks, Shotteswell; m., 3c. No entry in 1901 census.

Wootton H. (one) – none identified.

The conclusion would seem to be that the Banbury side was composed principally of the squirearchy, professional people and shopkeepers on their own account.⁴⁴ The age of some of the players might be suspect in today's terms, but Clark was then 52, Pilch 48.⁴⁵ Players in their 40s were quite common up to at least pre-war times.

Of the others mentioned in the reports:

Timothy Rhodes Cobb features prominently in all histories of contemporary Banbury. He was President of the Club in 1851, and was then aged 53 and a banker. He was born in Banbury. His wife was then named as Margaret Jane, 50, had been born in Liverpool. As well as the three boys there were two daughters. The 1850 electoral register lists him at Horsefair, property (house) Horsefair. Rusher's 1851 Directory shows T.R. & E. Cobb as bankers of Cornhill. It also shows Alderman Edward Cobb as Mayor of Banbury in 1851.

⁴³ It seems unlikely to have two of same name unless the first died?

⁴⁴ *The Times* of 9th September 1788 censures a "certain young gentleman" for descending to the office of a coachman and driving his own carriage, and for making his lamplighter a partner at a game of cricket." This is in contrast to an account (in *The Times* of 14th August 1844) of comments of Baron Alderson [Sir Edward Hall Alderson, 1787-1857 (notable for being made a judge in 1830 having never taken silk) baron of the Exchequer from 1834 until his death. *Oxford DNB*, 2004] "to a grand jury of a recent occasion when he had had the pleasure of seeing a cricket match at which a noble earl, the Lord-Lieutenant of his county, was playing with tradesmen, the labour and all around him....they loved him the better, but they did not respect him less." *Double Century, Cricket in The Times, Vol One 1785-1934* ed. Marcus Williams Pavilion Library 1985, pp.7 and 30.

⁴⁵ Grace played his last Test match at 50, Hobbs his at 47. D.B. Close, who played his last test at 45, is the only post-war Englishman to play at that age or older.

The only *Thomas Mitchell* in the 1851 census was 35, living at 17 Constitution Row, a solicitor's general clerk, born Sussex, Cuckfield. He is noted as married, but was living alone.

Charles Page, aged 53, of 55 Market Place, a hotel-keeper was born in Billesby, Warks., married with 5 children. With his wife Elizabeth he kept the *Flying Horse* from 1841-1858. It was a busy coaching inn, with weekly services to London (22), Birmingham (19) and Oxford (12). A Page remained licensee until 1875.⁴⁶

William Hayward, aged 25; 4 High Street, Victualler, born Hook Norton, Oxfordshire, living with his mother Catherine, 57, born Boddicott, and brother Henry, 20, born Banbury. William had become licensee of the *White Horse* in 1850, succeeding his mother and father (also William) who had held the licence from c.1830 to 1850. Vera Wood describes the *White Horse* as a "very early Banbury Inn". William was succeeded in 1859 (he died aged 34) by Richard Tanner (who had played in both matches).⁴⁷

As far as I could discover, there is only one other mention of Banbury in the 16 volumes of *Scores and Biographies*, a game against Bicester played in 1878, and recorded in Vol 14, p.856.

Conclusion

Cricket is intertwined with our cultural heritage, and its history is particularly well documented, although much of that documentation is embedded in records that are neither catalogued nor indexed, or are peripheral to the record's main purpose. Many of those who have contributed to Britain's national and local life have played cricket at its myriad levels of competence. The assessment of the history of any community in England, in particular, is likely to be enhanced if its cricketing aspect can be explored and integrated with its development.

⁴⁶ Vera Wood, *Licensees of Inns, Taverns and Beerhouses of Banbury*.

⁴⁷ *ibid.* She names his wife as Ann, daughter of William and Catherine, and describes Tanner as an Inland Revenue Office(r). The 1851 census gives Tanner's wife as Fanny, aged 21, born in Hook Norton, and they have a year-old daughter. Ann and Fanny are almost certainly the same – the younger William was also born in Hook Norton. They held the licence from 1859 to 1875.

The “Churchwardens’ Book of Accounts Marston St Lawrence 1758”, to the present

Clare Jakeman

The Office of Churchwarden has had legal recognition since the thirteenth century. Churchwardens have always had important responsibilities. Until 1921, they were the only official representatives of the laity of the parish and were responsible for the care and preservation of the fabric of the church and its contents and its land and crops. Even now the churchwardens are still the bishop’s officers in the parish and are responsible for the provision of seating for parishioners and for the maintenance of due order in the church and churchyard.

The idea for this article was inspired by the discovery of a book entitled “Churchwardens Accounts 1759” in the church safe. The same book is still in use.

Over the last two and a half centuries the detail and content of the Churchwardens’ Accounts have varied enormously. While some of the outgoings have ceased, many expenses, like the bread and wine sacrament, repairs to the church and visitation fees, are still the same.

One of the first entries in the book in 1759 reads:

Paid the funeral expenses of a vagrant’s child 7s. 6d.

It is the only entry of this type that I have found. However, in the middle of the eighteenth century, the churchwardens repeatedly made payments for the extermination of vermin, namely sparrows, hedgehogs and foxes.

In 1764:	43 Dozen of Sparrows	7s. 2d.
	4 Hedgehogs	1s. 4d.
In 1774:	2 Hedgehogs, 2 Foxes	2s. 8d.
In 1784:	24 Dozen of Sparrows	4s. 6d.
In 1794:	25 Dozen of Sparrows	4s. 2d.
In 1804:	11 Dozen of Sparrows	1s. 11d.

In 1834, there were no less than six entries relating to sparrows and payments were made for the extermination of over a hundred dozen. The last reference to sparrows occurs in 1838.

I conjecture that it was important for sparrows to be killed because they ate crops. Foxes killed chickens and hedgehogs stole the cows’ milk.

In about 1875, it would appear that a coke stove was installed. This involved the church in annual expenditure, which no doubt varied as a result of the weather. The winter of 1893-4 seems to have been particularly severe when nearly £12 was spent on coke. The normal annual amount was £3. The last mention of a coke bill was in the year 1920-21 when £10 was expended and in the 1934 entries there is the following note:

Two slow combustion stoves were placed in the church to take the place of the old coke stove in the pit before the chancel steps.

In the late nineteenth century, the church acquired an organ. In 1882, 12s.6d. was paid for tuning. The organ had to be handblown and there are entries every year recording the payments to various young boys for their labours. The rate was £1 a year until 1917 when the rate was raised to £1.10s. One of the present churchwardens remembers blowing the organ himself as a youngster but not being paid!

The church bells are very much older than the organ. In 1759, 13s 6d was paid for a set of bell ropes. New bell ropes were purchased every year. Marston bell ropes now last ten years! On 4th October 1761, there is an entry: *Allow'd the Ringers on the King's Coronation 5s.* On 18th May 1763, *the Ringers on the Thanksgiving 3d.* On 21st October 1771, *Ringers of 5 Nov 5s.* Five shillings were paid every year to the Ringers on the 5th November until 1779.

Another continuing expenditure was the maintenance of the church building itself. Major work was considered and authorised by the Vestry held at the church on 25th July 1829,

to take into consideration the present state of the church and the propriety of paving and pewing and of repairing the roof and to determine upon some plan for carrying the same into effect. Present J. J. Blencowe Esq. [John Jackson Blencowe who died from dropsy in 1830, aged 50] and Reverend T. Blencowe [younger brother of J. J. Blencowe].

There follow the names of the two churchwardens and five parishioners. The Blencowe family lived in Marston St Lawrence until 1988.

It is resolved that the plan for flooring, pewing, putting up new pulpit and desk etc be adopted and that T. Hands, T. Allett and J. Webster be employed to lay fit and complete the same for the sum of two hundred and forty two pounds.

Resolved that the Porch Belfry passages and all parts of the church

not occupied with pews be paved with the old stones fresh worked and as much new Hornton stone as may be necessary...

The Roof of the North Aisle being in a very decayed state it is resolved that the lead be taken off and sold, that slates with gutter and flashings of lead be used instead thereof and that the whole of the timber be new...

Resolved that F. Turbitt do plaster the North wall and whitewash the whole church.

Resolved that it is expedient to raise the Gallery to put up new stairs into it, to take away the Belfry floor, to raise and pave the ground floor with stone and to wall up with brick the arch between the nave of the church and the tower instead of the old wooden partition and that proper workmen in each department be employed to carry the same into execution.

Resolved that the churchwardens do collect a levy at the rate of one shilling in the pound that application for pecuniary assistance be made to the Incorporated society for promoting the enlargement and Repairs of churches that Contributions be solicited from Proprietors of land within the Parish and that the remainder of the money necessary to complete the above mentioned works be borrowed upon the security of the church rates and paid off by annual instalments according to the Act of Parliament.

It was resolved at a subsequent meeting, held in October, to repair and point the tower and church walls, to repair the floors and windows in the Tower and to glaze and put casements in some of the windows in the church.

On the 23rd January 1830, at a meeting held:

to take into consideration the receipts and disbursements for the various repairs and alteration of the church, it was resolved that the Churchwardens do give Mr Aplin [Banbury solicitors still extant] instructions to prepare a sufficient security upon the church rates according to the Act of Parliament for Messrs Gillett and Tawney [now Barclays Bank] for the sum of two hundred pounds borrowed off them by the churchwardens agreeably to a Resolution passed at a Vestry 25 July 1820. It is proposed in each of the two first years to pay off twenty-five pounds of the principal (besides the interest) and in each of five following years to pay off thirty pounds of the principal with interest so that the whole shall be liquidated in seven years.

Marston St Lawrence church still banks with Barclays.

In 1829:

over £600 was contributed towards the repair and pewing of the Church.

£100 was received from the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement and Repairs of Churches.

£100 from John Jackson Blencowe Esq.

£50 from Revd Thomas Blencowe

£200 from Gillett and Tawney

£87 by 1 shilling levy

£38 by the sale of the old lead.

The expenses that year were over £470 and included nearly £64 for repairing the roof and nearly £250 for pewing the church.

The Accounts include a memorandum written in 1830.

The Parish Church of Marston St Lawrence was repaved and the accommodation enlarged in the years 1829 and 1830 by which means 115 additional sittings were obtained ... 77 of that number are declared to be free and unappropriated for ever in addition to 193 formerly provided. A schedule of the number of free sittings and a plan describing their situation in the Church signed by the churchwardens are deposited in the Parish Chest.

Sometimes it was resolved that expenditure should be defrayed by voluntary subscriptions and the subscribers are listed. This is what happened on Easter Monday 1st April 1872. Thomas Blencowe, a son of John Jackson, was vicar and subscribed £2.10s., J. A. Blencowe Esq subscribed £3.10s. and John Kilbey, appointed churchwarden that day, 10s.6d. A descendant of his, a Miss Grace Kilbey, left Marston St Lawrence church a legacy in excess of £100,000 in the year 2000.

The frequent lists of subscribers are a marvellous source for family genealogists. I recommend a perusal of these accounts not only to local historians but to anyone who thinks their kith and kin may once have lived in Marston. Ideally this primary source should be transcribed in total.

BERNHARD SAMUELSON'S RETAILING VENTURE IN SHROPSHIRE

Barrie Trinder

Sir Bernhard Samuelson was one of the most influential of nineteenth century Banburians. The 29-year old son of a Jewish mercantile family, who had been born in Hamburg, leased the foundry previously worked by James Gardner from 1 September 1849, and called it the Britannia Works. He then had 27 employees, but the number increased tenfold within a decade, partly due to a license that Samuelson secured to manufacture the McCormick reaper, the American machine shown at the Great Exhibition in the Crystal Palace in 1851. Samuelson became MP for Banbury at a by-election in 1859, lost the seat at a general election a few months later, then won it in 1865, held it until the borough lost its separate representation in 1885, and was representative of the Banbury division of Oxfordshire in the parliaments of 1885, 1886 and 1892. At a national level he was a distinguished advocate of technical education, and was highly respected in the House of Commons. From 1854 Samuelson began to invest in ironworks in the Cleveland region of Yorkshire, where in the 1870s he sustained severe losses as he attempted both to establish a large works for the manufacture of wrought-iron and to set up a steel-making plant.¹

These aspects of Samuelson's career are well-known, but none of the published accounts of his life refer to a retailing enterprise in Shrewsbury based in a small depot in Castle Foregate that he took over in 1860 from one John Cartwright. Initially he concentrated on selling mowing machines, apparently much needed in Shropshire as numbers of itinerant Welsh and Irish haymakers were diminishing.² He demonstrated his Banbury-made machines at several trials in Shropshire in 1861 and 1862.³ The business was nevertheless said to be

¹ For Samuelson's career see Trinder, B., *Victorian Banbury* (1982, BHS 19 and Chichester: Phillimore), which includes references to articles on particular aspects of his life. See also the article on Samuelson in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.

² *Shrewsbury Chronicle* 27 Jan, 27 July, 3 Aug 1860.

³ *Shrewsbury Chronicle* 5 Apr, 23 Aug, 20 Sep 1861; 22 Aug 1862.

at a low ebb, and the foreman, John Jones, was contemplating enlisting as a soldier in the Civil War in the United States. With effect from 14 February 1863 Samuelson appointed as manager Thomas Corbett (1843-1917), the nineteen-year-old son of Samuel Corbett, a Wellington ironmonger, on which behalf he may initially have acted.⁴ Thomas Corbett had hoped to make his career as a shorthand writer in parliament, but an injury to his right hand when he was fourteen frustrated his ambition. He had great business ability – it was said that ‘as a salesman few could excel him’. On New Year’s Day 1864 purchased the business from Samuelson.⁵ He sold 73 Samuelson reaping machines in the summer season of 1864, and 88 in the following year. In July 1867 he staged a public trial of a Samuelson mower against one made by Hornsby of Grantham, and sold seven machines the same day.⁶ In 1865 Corbett began to manufacture agricultural implements. In 1867 he exhibited his ‘Eclipse’ winnower at the Royal Show at Bury St. Edmunds, and began to manufacture ploughs the following year. In 1869 he purchased a builder’s yard that became the nucleus of an extensive range of buildings that still stands in Castle Foregate, having been occupied since 1929 by an oil blending company.⁷ Corbett concentrated increasingly on manufacturing, and in 1871 ceased to be act for Samuelson, although he resumed the agency in 1884.⁸ Corbett developed a considerable export business. He visited Australia and South Africa in order to establish agencies, and frequently referred in speeches to conversations at agricultural shows with crowned heads. He became a leading figure in Shrewsbury, and served as the town’s mayor. His Perseverance Ironworks came to employ almost as many workers as the Britannia Works in Banbury, although his overall wealth and political status never matched that of Samuelson. As far as is known, Samuelson did not embark on retailing ventures in other parts of England. It is interesting that his three-year venture in Shrewsbury nurtured the career of another successful entrepreneur in agricultural engineering.

⁴ *Shrewsbury Chronicle* 27 March 1863; 16 Jan.1914.

⁵ *Shrewsbury Chronicle* 1 Jan 1864.

⁶ *Shrewsbury Chronicle* 8 July 1865, 11 Aug 1865, 5 July 1867.

⁷ Trinder, B., *The Industrial Archaeology of Shropshire* (1996, Chichester: Phillimore), pp. 60-1.

⁸ *Shrewsbury Chronicle* 10 Feb 1871; 11 July, 8 Aug 1884.

OBITUARY

Christine Kelly (Day), 1948-2005

Chris was born and brought up in London. Indeed, after leaving school, her first venture into the world of work was as a British Rail clerk within the capital. Her first job in her adopted town was a secretarial post with Kraft Foods when that company was better known as Alfred Bird and Sons. Subsequent employment with Cherwell District Council claimed some twenty years of her life. Had she lived a few months longer she would have qualified for the long service award that she so richly deserved.

Although Banbury was something of an adopted home, its character allowed her to explore a considerable interest in local social history. Maybe it was this fascination with the role of individuals that encouraged her to seek a post at Banbury Museum.

It was whilst she worked for the museum at its former home at 8 Horse Fair that many people, including a large number of Historical Society members, benefited from the care and attention to detail which were her hallmarks. Always thoroughly at home here, Chris gave the impression that she had unlimited time for every enquirer and took a huge pride in finding a way through every issue and problem: older people especially were impressed by an overwhelming kindness. Whether one was just dropping in for a coffee and a chat with friends or with more serious intent, everyone, irrespective of age, was treated to that winning smile and gentle voice. Her colleague and friend of some fifteen years, Julie Rose, could only recall about two occasions when Chris was cross about something.

In Horse Fair days, Chris was the one who most personified the spirit of the place. Within its complex of rooms and passageways if there was somewhere that was exclusive to Chris it was probably the cupboard under the stairs. Here her capacious bag would often yield up its secrets in the shape of some collector's item she could not resist or had bought for a friend just in case it was what they were looking for. On one occasion this cupboard became a retreat when a visit from the T.V. personality and astrologer Russell Grant resulted in uncontrollable laughter. He and Chris had been filmed eating Banbury Cakes and attempts to suppress the giggles caused her to blow out her cheeks and reveal something of the contents of her mouth.

Outside work hours, Chris was a keen lottery follower. Once her husband John was greeted with the news that she had still to get a ticket. This inspired the truly wonderful response, 'I won the lottery when I got Chris'. Although not a member of the Banbury Historical Society she was always regarded as an honorary one though sadly now we shall never get the chance to make this official.

Her immaculate organisation of the introductory social event in September was so very characteristic of devotion to a task outside her normal duties and her obvious pleasure in putting on a good show. She dealt with many membership enquiries on the Society's behalf, and no doubt a number of members reading this have Chris to thank for convincing them of the benefits of membership.

In the Society and the wider Banbury public who visited the museum there is a great sense of loss made all the more poignant by the fact that post Horse Fair days were so very different. Her changed role meant that she did not meet people on quite the same terms. Nevertheless by the time the move to the canalside was underway, she had already impressed generations of enquirers for whom the museum was synonymous with 'Chris will know' and she usually did.

Brian Little

Lecture Reports

Brian Little and Nick Allen

Thursday 8th September 2005.

Preceding the meeting a large gathering of our members enjoyed a very good Reception organised by Fiona Thompson and Kay Smith (food) and Simon Townsend (drink). Their splendid efforts made for a most enjoyable occasion.

A Ramble around the Cotswold Woollen Heritage – Richard Martin, Cotswold Woollen Weaver.

This excellent and entertaining talk was indeed a roam through the world of weaving. The route was extremely well signposted and offered some unusual perspectives of one aspect of our industrial history.

Richard Martin's main theme was that of the search for written evidence of skills and inventions in the knowledge that processes and early technology were not committed to printed publications until well after industrialisation had taken place. He agreed that the reason for this lack of relevant texts was to be sought in the assumption early on that wool underpinned wealth in the form of money, available food and fine churches. Prior to the fifteenth century there was contentment with this situation. It was not until 1745 that a William Ellis put together a book about sheep. Even then illustrations did not convey the exact picture of pastoral Britain. Today we are better able to appreciate the excellence

of the Cotswolds for sheep farming and how this related to the vast open spaces and the lack of people.

Richard devoted much of the rest of his time to the way successful inventions had revolutionised weaving. He recognised that weavers were not especially keen on power looms and at first did not know how to use them. It was not until 1827 that there was a written study of weaving: well after the industrial revolution.

In a talk where digression was both welcomed and accepted, our speaker reminded his audience that specialisation was an important aspect of heritage. To this end he deplored the fact that Early's were not longer synonymous with blankets at Witney and that tanning of sheep skins at Bampton could only be discovered down Memory Lane.

B.L.

Thursday 13th October 2005.

Kelmscott before and after William Morris – Nicholas Cooper.

Nicholas Cooper, architectural historian and writer, took us on an architectural history tour of Kelmscott Manor. He called his guided tour 'Kelmscott before and after William Morris'. Those of you who know Kelmscott appreciate that the Manor House and its setting represents quintessential England and why it would attract any creative artist; particularly one of the calibre of William Morris.

The speaker sketched in the house's early history – a slide of the plan of a Tudor house (as it is now) showed that the core of the original house took the form of a medieval hall house despite it being built sometime between 1580 and 1630. The kitchen is to the south of the front door. The front door was directly opposite the back door with screens on either side of the passage so formed, with the larger hall to the north. The south facade of the house has a late sixteenth-early seventeenth century gabled front and the considerably enlarged north wing is twin-gabled with pediments over the top windows.

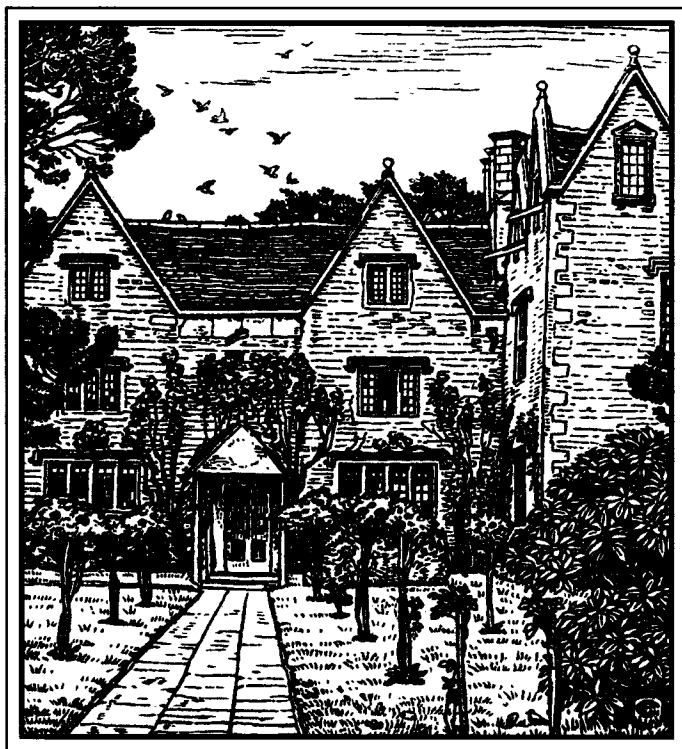
The house was probably built and lived in by a Thomas Turner: a member of a local family of wealthy yeoman farmers. The Turner family continued to live at Kelmscott until it was purchased by William Morris and his family in June 1871. Morris writing to his friend, C.J. Faulkner, in May 1871, said 'I have been looking for a house for the wife and kids, and wither do you guess my eye is turned now? Kelmscott....?'

Our speaker took us on a tour of some of Kelmscott's nooks and crannies; there were one or two rather esoteric items that looked as if they may have been recycled from some considerably older building. He also said that the house was built from the start using good quality timber and stone. He sketched in how the Turner family would have used the house and where it fitted in within the local community.

He also told us of the house's chequered career once William Morris died, the house passing to his wife Jane; their eldest daughter May made her will in 1929 naming the Society of Antiquaries as legatees. Jenny, the youngest daughter, died in 1935 leaving her residuary portion of the estate also to the Society. May, however, continued to live there until she died in 1938. Under the terms of her will the property went to the University of Oxford. In 1962 the University got the Trust declared invalid and Kelmscott passed to the Society of Antiquaries.

Finally Nicholas exhorted anyone who had not been to Kelmscott to make the pilgrimage. The gardens are lovely and the house is beautifully presented, it really does feel like a house that is lived in; the Morris family's presence is still very much there. He exhorted those in his audience who have not visited Kelmscott to do so – it is a very special place.

N.J.A.



Book Reviews

Banbury 1853: the first detailed map of mid-nineteenth century Banbury and Neithrop, Bob Mason (A4, 44 pp.), Banbury Historical Research, 2004. Obtainable @ £12.99 including postage and packing from Banbury Historical Research, 9 Centre Street, Banbury, Oxon.; www.banburyhistory.co.uk.

First, this is a considerable technical achievement, which in that respect deserves commendation. The map concerned is large, decrepit and has suffered from past attempts at restoration. The book makes it accessible at modest cost to anyone who wishes to use it, and is the result of patient copying work, involving the taking of more than 300 photographs, and some digital enhancement. Everyone interested in nineteenth century Banbury will find the publication of value. Banbury Historical Research, an agency that provides services for family historians, is to be congratulated on bringing this document into the public domain.

The map is one of many produced in the early 1850s for towns where local boards of health were established under the Public Health Act of 1848. The superb map of Derby in 1853 which names streets and shows many details of such suburban features as nurseries, allotment gardens and brickworks, has been published and is used by many urban historians. The contemporary map of Ludlow, kept in Shropshire Archives, details the primitive sewers then working in the town, but is also a valuable source on the topography of that medieval planned town from its origins to the date of publication. By contrast this is a less informative piece of work. No streets are named, no indications are given of what was happening in fields on the fringe of the built-up area, nor does it mark such primitive sewers as then existed. It is nevertheless an accurate representation of the buildings of Banbury in the early 1850s.

The survey was carried out in 1852 for the newly-constituted local Board of Health by Charles Henry Davids, then in his late 20s. He was born at Crayford, Kent, about 1824. He apparently worked for the London partnership Davis & Saunders, for whom he did the Banbury survey, but was subsequently appointed surveyor and inspector of nuisances for the Board of Health. His wife came from Wardington, and the couple were living in Neithrop when their daughter Alice was born in 1857. By 1861 the family had moved to Highland Villa, Tadmarton.

The map is useful to the historian of nineteenth century Banbury in many respects. It provides accurate outlines of several large buildings, particularly places of worship and industrial premises, that had been demolished before the production of the first large-scale Ordnance Survey plans in the 1880s. It shows that some of the houses in Monument Street were of back-to-back construction. It reveals buildings on plots in South Bar that were replaced by large new houses in the second half of the nineteenth century. Unfortunately Davids did not provide very much detail of what was happening on the fringes of the built-up area of the town.

There were allotment-type gardens, as in most other towns, but they can only be traced on this map where the holders had built huts. Similarly the map reveals little information about the brickyards on the edges of the town. Studying the map in conjunction with George Herbert's perambulation of Banbury in *Shoemaker's Window* brings it to life, particularly in the suburbs.

The map has been expertly copied and is reproduced in sections with generous areas of overlap. It has been supplemented in some parts of the town where it is scarcely legible, with copies from the map drawn up for the Revd. William Wilson in 1850-51 (described in B. Trinder, 'Banbury's Poor in 1850', *Cake & Cockhorse*, vol.3, 1966), and by some railway deposited plans. One of the latter provides details of the houses in the little-known community of Waterloo at the Northamptonshire foot of Banbury Bridge. The original map lacks some captions, but some streets have been identified on the published version, which is helpful, although on p.34 the mill stream is labelled as the Oxford Canal. While the scale (3 chains to one inch) is mentioned in the introduction, it would have been helpful to have scale bars on each sheet.

The principal deficiency in this publication is the complete lack of any archival history of the document. When was it accessioned in the Oxfordshire Record Office? Of what collection does it form part? Has the Record Office previously drawn attention to its existence in a catalogue or other publication? Many questions remain unanswered, but this is nevertheless an important addition to the documentation available for Victorian Banbury.

Barrie Trinder

Portrait of a River – The River Swere in Oxfordshire, by Walter Meagher and Peter Sheasby. Published by English Landscapes, 2005. Paperback, 176 pp. From Peter Sheasby, 71 Courtington Lane, Bloxham, Oxon OX15 4HS at £10.95 plus £4.94 p&p. Cheques to: River Swere Project.

As the blurb on the back of this book says 'England is a treasury of small rivers' and *Portrait of a River* is quite one of the most mouth-watering books I have held in my hand for many a long year; is the story of just one of them.

It is a lavish production with well over two hundred exquisite photographs (most of them taken by Peter Sheasby) of the river, the trees, plants, animals and insects that can be found in and around this little river. There are many maps and diagrams all of which aid the telling of the story of this charming little river. It starts a couple of miles south and west of Swerford then flows due east; on the way it delineates the boundaries between several parishes including that of Deddington and Adderbury - finally joining the River Cherwell just east of Stilgoe's Adderbury Grounds Farm.

The River Swere's story starts 10,000 years ago when the glaciers covering much of Oxfordshire started to retreat (we call it global warming now!) on the way scouring out the land in such a way that in due course they became the courses of the little rivers that criss cross Oxfordshire today.

The book reads so well; it's as if the authors take you, the reader, by the hand and walk you along the river's full length of sixteen miles describing minutely the flora and fauna found on the way with lots of explanations as to why things are the way they are.

This book is not only a sheer delight to hold in the hand but to read as well and to learn from. Largely written by professional botanist Walter Meagher, who lives in Deddington, and Peter Sheasby an amateur botanist who lives in Bloxham. It is Peter who has taken those gorgeous photographs already mentioned. This elegant book is designed by Wendy Meagher; she has so organized it that its contents are very easily accessed. Many more people have also contributed to this book, they are all acknowledged.

It is so well written that it will not only satisfy the serious botanist but the interested amateur and those who just wish to know more about the little rivers that abound locally (Adderbury's Sor Brook for instance!). I can also see it being used as a teaching aid and it is most certainly an exemplar to any budding author who would like to produce something like it for their own area.

N.J.A.

The Second Railway King: The Life and Times of Sir Edward Watkin 1819-1901, David Hodgkins (714 pp., illus.), Cardiff: Merton Priory Press, 2002. ISBN 1 898937 49 4. £40.00. Merton Priory Press Ltd, 67 Merthyr Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 1DD.

This is a scholarly biography of one of the eminent Victorians who created Britain's railway system. After distinguishing himself in railway management, Edward Watkin became chairman of the Manchester, Sheffield & Lincoln, the South Eastern and the Metropolitan railways. He was closely involved with the Grand Trunk Railway in Canada, and an ardent proponent of the Channel Tunnel. He was a Member of Parliament and in his last years a friend of W.E.Gladstone. Watkin was concerned with railways in the Banbury region at several points in his long career.

When he was 30, in March 1849, Watkin was appointed secretary to the Buckinghamshire Railway whose line from Bletchley to Merton Street station in Banbury was opened in 1850. Several of Watkin's unrealised schemes for railway extensions in the middle phases of his career also concerned the Banbury region, when he projected junctions at such places as Fenny Compton and Moreton Pinckney. In the late 1870s and subsequently he was closely involved with William Mewburn, the railway stockbroker and prominent Wesleyan who lived at Wykham Park. Watkin secured his election to the board of the South Eastern Railway in 1879, and subsequently Mewburn was involved in the Channel Tunnel project, and in the tower at Wembley built in imitation of the Eiffel Tower. From February 1881 Watkin became an antagonist of Bernhard Samuelson. When Banbury's M.P. moved for a Select Committee to inquire into railway charges, Watkin was the principal spokesmen before the committee for the railway companies.

One of the last acts of Watkin's career was his advocacy, as chairman of the Manchester, Sheffield & Lincoln Railway of the London Extension, the railway from Annesley near Nottingham to Quainton Road north of Aylesbury. By the time the extension opened in 1899 the MSLR had been renamed the Great Central Railway, and Watkin had retired as chairman, although he was present at Marylebone to see the arrival of the first express from Manchester. He died in 1901. The London Extension influenced the eastern fringes of Banburyshire through its stations at Culworth, Helmdon and Fimere, and its branch from Woodford made Banbury an important railway junction for more than six decades. This is a book that of which local historians should be aware.

Barrie Trinder

A classic in paperback

Victorian Banbury by Barrie Trinder was published jointly by this Society and Phillimore in 1982, and was widely welcomed as one of the most scholarly studies of a nineteenth century town. It sold well, and for many years has been absent from the Phillimore list, but the publishers have chosen it as one of the first of a series of paperback reprints of these most popular works to be called 'Phillimore Classics'. The paperback [ISBN 1 86077 369 9] retails at £16.99. Full details from www.phillimore.co.uk

BANBURY: A Century of Change, Brian Little, Breedon Books, 2005, £16.99.

By the time this belated issue of *Cake & Cockhorse* reaches members, Brian's new book will be available at Banbury bookshops and the Tourist Information Centre at Castle Quay Shopping Centre, where it is to be officially launched on Thursday 24th November. We have yet to see it, but we are sure that it will maintain the high standard of his earlier publications.

It is good that we have an historian who has been living and deeply involved with Banbury for much of the past half-century to record from personal knowledge the dramatic changes to our town for at least the second half of the period.

It will of course be reviewed in our next issue.

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.

Records series:

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

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

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).

Oxfordshire and North Berkshire Protestation Returns and Tax Assessments 1641-1642 (vol. 24).

The 'Bawdy Court' of Banbury: The Act Book of the Peculiar Court of Banbury and Cropredy 1625-38, ed. R.K. Gilkes (vol. 26).

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

The Banbury Chapbooks, by Dr Leo John de Freitas (vol. 28).

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

In preparation:

Selections from the *Diaries of William Cotton Risley*, ed. G.W. Smedley-Stevenson:

Part 1: *Vicar of Deddington 1836-1848* (publication late 2005);

Part 2: *Squarson of Deddington 1849-1869* (publication 2006).

Turnpike Roads to Banbury, by Alan Rosevear.

The Society is always interested to receive suggestions of records suitable for publication, backed by offers of help with transcription, editing and indexing.

Meetings are held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, at Banbury Museum, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury. Talks are given by invited lecturers on general and local historical, archaeological and architectural subjects. Excursions are arranged in the spring and summer, and the A.G.M. is usually held at a local country house.

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**.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Winter 2005-2006 Programme

All meetings are held at Banbury Museum.

Thursday 8th December. 7.30 p.m.

Excavations at Eynsham Abbey. *Graham Keevil.*

Thursday 12th January 2006. 7.30 p.m.

Buckinghamshire in the Civil War. *Julian Hunt.*

Thursday 9th February 2006. 7.30 p.m.

Telling the History of Houses. *Nat Alcock.*

Thursday 9th March 2006. 7.30 p.m.

The Lost World of the Beales and Blinkhorn Families. *Brian Little*

All meetings are held at the
Banbury Museum, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury,
at 7.30 p.m.