CAKE AND COCKHORSE

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Cake and Cockhorse

We very much regret to report the death of Fiona Thompson (formerly Foster) early in February. Recently she had been in poor health but retained her keen interest in our affairs. To my amazement, when I checked back on inside front covers, I found that she had been a committee stalwart for twenty years, for many of those organising village meetings and taking on the chore of minutes secretary. We will greatly miss her cheerful and unassuming presence.

The Eydon Historical Research Group were joint winners of our Society's 2011 Local History prize. We are pleased to be able to publish a description of the activities which made the Group such worthy recipients.

Excellent reviews have recently appeared in *Oxoniensia* 76 (2011) of both *Banbury past through Artists' Eyes*, from our old friend John Steane, and *Turnpike Roads to Banbury*, from Dorian Gerhold, described respectively as 'an invaluable visual commentary' and 'a valuable resource'.

Cover: The Friends' Meeting House at Adderbury (from *A Short History of Adderbury* [1964], by the late Walter H. Clark, an early *C&CH* contributor).

EYDON'S PHOTO ARCHIVE –
and its surprising consequences

Caroline Bedford

Background

Eydon Historical Research Group is a small group, of some six to eight active members, which as the name suggests, researches the history of the village of Eydon. In 2006, we began to consider how we should preserve and store not only the photos we had been given or loaned but, more important, the information we had concerning the photos. In this we benefitted from the help and expertise of the enthusiasts behind the Byfield Photo Museum, who have been collecting, digitising, and displaying their photos and database since 1998 and have over 2,700 photos of the village in their archive.

As our plans progressed, one of our members, with experience of applying for grants in the Arts area, urged us to apply for funding from the Lottery. To comply with their aims, the project grew, so that our archive was no longer just for the group's use, but through the media of a website, exhibitions and talks, for anyone interested in researching local history. To our surprise, despite have no fashionable minorities, we received our grant of £7,450, which had to be spent before December 2007.

Setting Standards

During the first few months we concentrated on establishing standards for each stage of the project. We based our work on what the Byfield group had been doing, but we also looked elsewhere and, on the internet, we found the TASI website <www.tasi.ac.uk>. This is the 'Technical Assistance Service for Images' and is a support site for Image Libraries in Higher Education. Its background papers are superb and deal with most issues, from acquiring images, scanning standards, naming conventions, copyrights, to project management and archiving the results. Most of these are dealt with at a simple, management-briefing level as well as at a detailed technical one. Although this is a site for professionals, whose standards are gold-plated, it gave us a good idea of the factors to consider and which standards to adopt when planning and later operating our project.

To ensure widespread compatibility and minimise deterioration when taking further copies, we decided to use the uncompressed TIFF format for our master copies of the original images, scanned to give 5-10MB file sizes. Photographs with more significant technical or historic value often require more detail, so these are scanned again at the highest quality the image will stand.

Next a copy of the initial TIFF image is taken and 'improved' by straightening horizontals, cropping and adjusting the levels to get the best output (all done with Photoshop Elements). We see the photos as primarily social history documents rather than works of art, so we carry out only minimal photo restoration – just enough to remove distracting blemishes. Three other electronic copies are made and optimised for the web site; the web image, its magnified version and its thumbnail. Finally copies are made that are optimised for printing (at up to A4 size), these are saved as JPEGs, and used for the printed images of our paper database.

As our interest is primarily social history, in parallel to the manipulation of the images, a major part of our work is involved in researching their contents. This includes identifying who or what the image shows, where and when it was taken and any background information that we can discover. In most cases feedback from the donors and their families is crucial, although as the archive builds, we are also able to cross check information against our own records and research. Once we have compiled the information it is loaded on to the website with the relevant photographs.

The Website

We were fortunate to have a locally based website developer, David Howes, whose tender for the website far surpassed others in terms of value for money and scope of ideas. He turned our initial ideas of how we would like the website to appear into reality and added many other features, such as the regular changing of the photograph on the home page, to keep the site looking fresh.

The website also allows us to promote our publications, which are funded solely through sales; publish family history threads which enable researchers to share information; share details of our current research and make our photo archive available to researchers around the world.

Fig 1: Doctors Lane, Eydon, in the morning after the fire of May 28 1905.
From the left, Bill Bull, Annie and her father, Herbert Parish and his mother in law Frances Bromfield.
Then Mrs Needle and (up ladder) Henry Peck, followed by Rosie Aldridge, Walter Bromfield and his sister
(Herbert's wife) Rosetta Parish with her daughter Bessie then John Bromfield.   *[KL001]*

The Heart of the Project

Our main concern, when applying for the lottery grant, was how we could best preserve and store not only the photographs we had been given or loaned, but also, and much more important, the information we have concerning them. This leads us to the heart of the project, which is the searchable database. It allows us to link the photos with the history of the people, places and events shown in them.

Searching the on-line database can be done in several ways, including inputting a simple photo ID (if known); word search; use of pre-selected keywords; key-words combined with picture titles; and an advanced word search of all text associated with the image as well as date-limiting the search period. The system also allows map-based searching, so clicking on the displayed map of Eydon lists the photos taken at that location.

Searches result in a list of images in batches of four. These show the thumbnail image, its title, and the first few lines of text. Clicking on the thumbnail brings up the full sized image and all associated text. By clicking on the full sized image it is possible to access a magnified part, enabling details to be viewed more easily. Selection of a person's head produces not just the magnified image of it, but also a potted biography of the person, if known. Furthermore, images which are associated are linked, which enables all relevant information to be accessed easily.

Our aim is not just to record what is shown but, by linking them to other photos, to trace as much as possible of their stories, thus providing as comprehensive a database as possible.

For example, we have a photo taken in Eydon in 1905, showing villagers cleaning up after the Great Fire [Fig 1].

We now know who all the people in the photo were, what happened to them and their families and, in many cases, have links to their work and interests. So, in the background is Bill Bull, a waggoner with his cart, who was also a hand-bell ringer, and we now have a picture of Herbert, his son, who died in the Great War. On the right is the little girl who preserved the photo, and we have her picture, 70 years later, at the Eydon WI Golden Centenary Celebrations [Fig 4]. Her grandmother is in the centre of the 1905 picture and we have photographs taken after the fire of the remains of the laundry she ran [Fig 5]. We also have pictures of her grandmother's mother and siblings [Figs 2 & 3].

Fig 2: This is probably Frances Bromfield's mother Ann Aldridge, founder of Eydon's laundry, taken in 1874. [IB016]

Fig 3: Frances Bromfield's sister, Elizabeth Aldridge. Elizabeth married Sam Spencer, an Eydon sheep dipper, and lived in the village for many years.[IB019]

Fig 4: Eydon WI celebrates its Golden Jubilee, in June 1974. Bessie Parish, then Mrs Tomalin, is standing on the left. [KL075]

Fig 5: Part of High Street, Eydon during the Great Fire of 1905, showing the contents of the laundry: the box mangle; the buck tub and buckets.
[DK030 -part]

Also in the photo (Fig. 1) are Henry Peck, a coachman at Eydon Hall and latterly a bit of an entrepreneur, Herbert Parish, a builder and John Bromfield, a part-time fireman, all of whom played in Eydon's cricket team, the history of which has been documented in *Maidens Matches and More...* published by EHRG in 2009.

Surprising Consequences

One of the consequences of having a website was a significant rise in interest in the village and its inhabitants from people in other countries, including New Zealand and America. Many fascinating stories have emerged from their enquiries and Annie Adkins' pin is one of them.

Annie Adkins' Pin

In 2008 we were contacted by John Owen, from Walnut Creek, California. His wife, Renate, who deals in antique jewellery, had bought a pin brooch from a wholesaler, who had obtained it in the UK earlier that year. On the back is an inscription: "To Annie Adkins, a Token of Gratitude, Eydon, 1888." John and Renate were keen to learn more about the history of the pin [Fig 6].
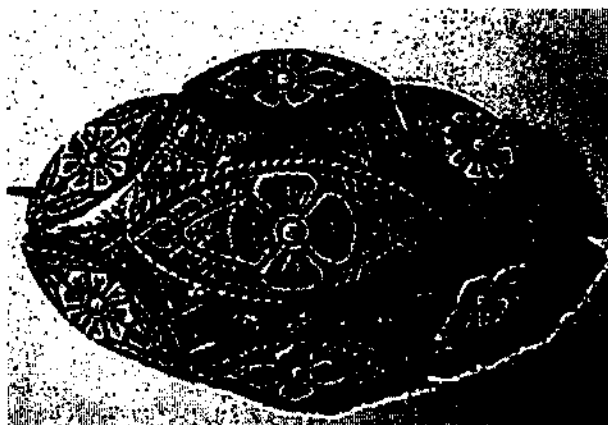
Fig 6: Front view of silver and black stone (possibly jet) brooch - the purchase of which in America initiated our research. [KL225 part]

We first checked the group's resources to uncover what information we held about Annie Adkins and what she might have done to warrant the presentation. We quickly came to the conclusion that it was not from Eydon, as a village, for some public duty (the wording or punctuation of the inscription does not suggest this) but that it had probably been a personal gift for some special service.

I used a wide range of sources to reconstruct Annie's story, which was published as 'A Token of Gratitude' in *Poverty, Plots and the Palace* by EHRG in 2010.
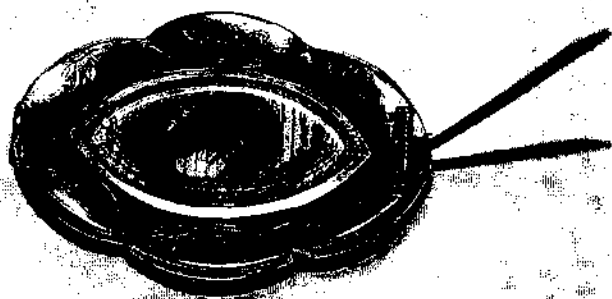
Fig 7: Back view of Annie Adkins' brooch, showing the inscription and a lock of hair – not mentioned in the initial correspondence.
[KL25 – part]

She was born in Hanwell in 1855, the daughter of Richard and Mary, née Hazlewood. They had six children, three girls and three boys, but the two other girls died in infancy, so Annie grew up with three brothers. She remained at home, helping on the farm until at some point after the spring of 1881, she moved to Eydon to become housemaid to Susannah Ivens, wife of John Ivens, a farmer, then living at Rectory Farm in School Lane.

It is possible that Annie initially came to the village at a time when Susannah was growing infirm and unable to cope with the duties expected of a farmer's wife. Mrs. Ivens died in 1888, suggesting that the brooch was a memorial gift from the Ivens family, given to Annie for her help in nursing her through her last illness. Annie remained in Eydon after Susannah's death, first acting as domestic servant for John Ivens and later, after his death, for his son, John Henry, who took over the running of the farm.

She was still in the village at the time of the 1911 census and it is probable that she continued acting as housekeeper for John Henry until he died in 1917. Local historian Syd Tyrrell's words lend weight to the assumption that Annie remained in the village until John Henry's death. *"Although I remember her as a very formidable sort of person, she was very kind to many folk and she nursed John Henry with wonderful devotion, some folk said for his mother's sake."* (Tyrrell 1973:180-181).

Life would have been hard at that time for an unmarried woman of 60 who had lost her position as housekeeper, especially if she had few close relatives on whom to rely for support. Although Lloyd George introduced the Old Age Pensions Act in 1908, this provided an income only to those over seventy years old so this would not have helped Annie. Although it appears she was lucky enough to obtain another post, in Middleton Road, Banbury, we cannot be sure exactly when she moved from Eydon or how long she was able to work. She died in Banbury at her brother, William's, home on 6th March 1920, and so our story of Annie Adkins and her pin was brought to its conclusion. [Fig 8]

The Future

Our drive to collect and preserve as much information as possible about Eydon and its inhabitants continues using a variety of storage media including paper and CDs. We have recently been successful in our application for the website to be archived by the British Library. The creation of the website based photo archive has enabled us to expand and enhance our store of knowledge considerably, as website researchers share their stories with us.

In turn their interest and questions have inspired us to research new areas and, as with the story of Annie Adkins and her token of gratitude, to become engrossed in the lives of those who once lived here. We look forward to receiving many more enquiries and mysteries to solve.

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1690: HOW NORTH OXFORDSHIRE VOTED

Jeremy Gibson

As readers will be aware, last year I discovered, transcribed and published a quasi-pollbook which showed how those entitled (forty shilling freeholders) cast their votes – Tory or Whig – in the 1690 election for Oxfordshire's two 'Knights of the Shire'.

Space did not allow me to discuss the varying support for each party in different parishes and parts of the county, nor has there yet been comment on this from reviewers. Oxfordshire was well-known for being predominantly Tory, and in this election the two Tory candidates had votes in the 900s compared with their Whig rivals in the 500s. In 1698 Tories polled in the 1500s against the Whigs just over a thousand each. But this was not reflected by voting in 'Banburyshire'.

The 1690 turnout in any case was low, around 1500 against 1698's over 2,500. Any analysis is bedevilled by the contrasts of numbers of those eligible to vote in different parishes or places. In 'closed' villages, where only a very few landowners predominated, the incumbent, with his parson's freehold, might be the only other qualified voter (and the clergy almost invariably voted Tory). It was only in 'open' villages, with rather more small freeholdings just qualifying with 40s. income, that there could be a sizeable (for the times) electorate. As the figures below will show, this was still tiny even by post-1832 reform standards.

Banbury borough had its own MP and franchise restricted to the eighteen corporation members. By 1690 the influence of the North family at Wroxton Abbey had been established, though due to Sir Dudley North's ill-advisedly close association with James II the family had for the time being been supplanted by another Tory royalist, Sir Robert Dashwood. He had become the owner of Wickham in Banbury parish and was credited with being one of the wealthiest men in the country – the corporation members found it politic to back him, and, to give them their due, they did expect financial help for the town in return.

With the town's puritan reputation it is hardly surprising to find that the townsfolk who owned property providing an annual income of 40s. or more in the extensive parish outside the borough, disfranchised from electing their very own M.P., expressed their views in the County election. Twenty-four votes were cast for the Whig candidates, and only nine for the Tories. Of those Tory votes, one was from Sir Robert himself;

four were from Corporation members, plus the Town Clerk and the Sergeant-at-Mace; and the innkeeper of the Red Lion, a leading hostelry probably patronised by all of them. The 24 Whig voters were the expected mixture of tradesmen; none were Aldermen or Burgesses.

The two places with sizeable numbers of voters were Great and Little Bourton (in Cropredy parish), with 13 Whig voters, all yeomen or tradesmen, no Tories; and the Sibfords (in Swalcliffe parish) with 24 Whigs to two Tories, one a clergyman. Both were 'open' villages with no dominant landowner or nearby church. In a smaller way, the three Whig voters in North Newington contrasted with just Dr John Knight, [1] the Tory rector of Broughton. In Wardington there were 16 Whigs (five from Williamscote) to three Tories, one of those being the squire, George Chamberlain Esq.[2] Wroxton's single (Tory) voter contrasted with two Whigs at Balscote. Horley (seven) and Hornton (six) voted solidly Whig. Wigginton voted seven Whigs to one Tory. As peers, the landowners at Broughton and Wroxton did not feature.

In the larger villages the number of voters is too small to be significant: Adderbury had six Whigs and one Tory; in contrast its chapelries Barford St John had four Tories and one Whig, whilst Bodicote had six Tories to four Whigs. Bloxham including Milcombe had two Tories and one Whig. But at Hook Norton, also presumably an 'open' village, there were no less than 28 Whigs, mainly yeomen, to one Tory. Moving south, in contrast and perhaps more in tune with the rest of the county, Barford St Michael's eight voters all were Tories, and Deddington had only five Whigs to 13 Tories. Very few in the county used their two votes to support one of either party, but three of these were at Deddington, one at least, John Kempster, being an innholder – perhaps trying to please *all* his regulars.

Statistics can be used to try to prove anything, and the numbers here are far too small to be acceptable. Nevertheless, those able to vote in the 25 north Oxfordshire places showed by 100 votes to 67 their Whig preference. As the rector of Alkerton expressed himself in taking the Association Oath to King William III five years later, "We have no Jacobites here!" He was to an extent speaking for Banburyshire.

Politics and Loyalty in Post-Revolution Oxfordshire: The '1690' County Parliamentary Poll; The Association Oath Rolls, 1695-6. 80pp., Oxfordshire Family History Society, 2011. £5 + £1 p&p from the writer.

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[1] *Victoria County History, Oxfordshire*, vol. 9 (Bloxham Hundred), pp.97-8.

[2] *Victoria County History, Oxfordshire*, vol. 10 (Banbury Hundred), pp.214-5.

The DOYLYs of ADDERBURY and their QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

'The D'Oylys are a family of almost tedious antiquity' – Michael Riviere, M.A.

Nicholas Allen

The Quaker Movement (properly known as the Religious Society of Friends) originated in the North Country during the Cromwellian Interregnum, arriving in the Banbury area in 1654. North Oxfordshire, then as ever, was a hotbed of nonconformity as it had been since long before the Civil War; so one more nonconformist sect melded into the local scene very easily and was even warmly welcomed by certain influential tradesmen.
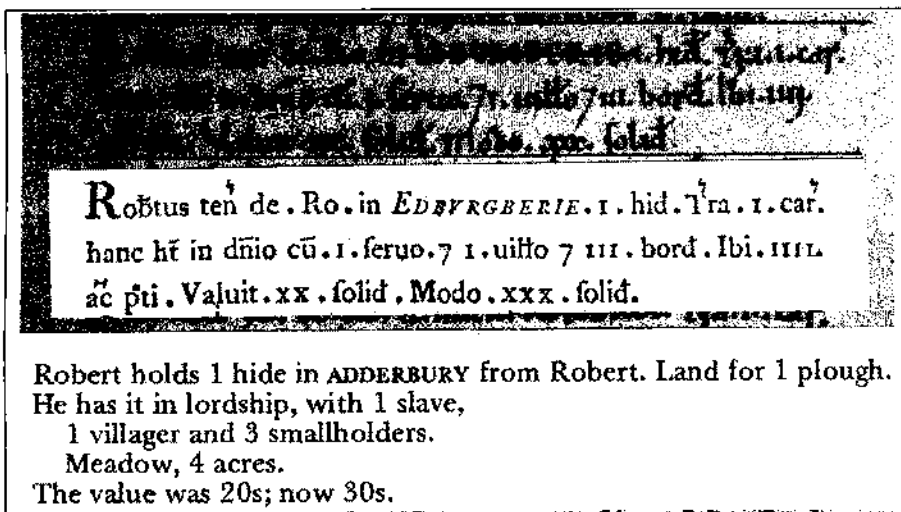
Two men from the North Country, John Camm and John Audland, who were to all intents and purposes Quaker 'missionaries', arrived in Banbury in late August or early September 1654. They had already preached their message in London, and, pausing in Banbury on their way to Bristol, took time off to preach their message. They were initially well received by Edward Vivers, a successful cloth merchant, son of a man twice appointed mayor of Banbury. Vivers and his family rapidly converted to the Quaker way of thinking and he soon became the leader of the local movement.

It was not too long, as was inevitable at that period of Quaker history, before Camm, Audland and the Vivers families had members imprisoned for their beliefs and actions. By 1655 there was further strong influential support for the local Movement from three prominent local men, one of whom was Bray Doyly of Adderbury. Doyly, born in 1634, spelt his name that way; but there have been many variations since. He was a member of that extensive, wealthy and very landed gentry, the Oxfordshire Doylys. His Adderbury home was a delightful rambling house (still there now and known as Little Manor) on the corner of Manor Road and Horn Hill Road in West Adderbury.

The Doylys first appeared in Oxfordshire in the guise of Robert d'Oilly one of Duke William of Normandy's supporters at Hastings in 1066. William I, as king, awarded d'Oilly, for his services, two baronies – Oxford and Hook Norton, fifty plus properties in Oxford and forty lordships, mainly in Oxfordshire. The d'Oilly family, incidentally, already held extensive lands and titles in Normandy.

To cement his place in Anglo-Norman society Robert d'Oilly married Algitha daughter of Wigotu, a Saxon thane who owned the manor of Wallingford. D'Oilly was tasked, by King William, to build a motte and bailey castle at Oxford; this he did in the typical Norman manner by annexing some meadowland by the Thames, west of Oxford, belonging to the Benedictine monks at Abingdon. When completed d'Oilly was appointed King's Constable of the Castle.

In 1086 the Conqueror had extensive land holdings in Oxfordshire which included 34½ hides of the composite Hundred of Bloxham and Adderbury (a little over 4,000 acres of prime Oxfordshire agricultural land).

Robert holds 1 hide in **ADDERBURY** from Robert. Land for 1 plough.
He has it in lordship, with 1 slave,
   1 villager and 3 smallholders.
   Meadow, 4 acres.
The value was 20s; now 30s.

The page from the Oxfordshire section of Domesday Book, 1086, which records the single hide of land held in Adderbury by Robert (of Stafford) and sub-let to Robert (d'Oilly).

Walkelyn, the then bishop of Winchester, held 14½ hides and the remaining one hide (in Adderbury) was held by Robert de Stafford, who had sub-let it to Robert d'Oilly. This is the first mention of a d'Oilly holding land in Adderbury. In due course the large royal estate was broken-down into three manors one of which encompassed contiguous land in Milton and Adderbury; later to become known as St Amand's, it was valued at half a knight's fee (a knight's fee was an obligation imposed upon a manorial lord to provide and support a fully armed knight for forty days at a time of war).

This hived-off manor of three hides (about 350 acres) was held in 1199 by a Richard D'Oilly, probably the grandson of Guy d'Oilly, the youngest brother of Robert, who arrived in England shortly after the invasion; it was his descendants who founded the Adderbury branch of the d'Oilly family. For some unexplained reason Richard had enfeoffed (surrendered) his Adderbury manor to a member of the de Mandeville family. This manor then experienced, as medieval manors did over the years, many complicated land transactions involving various aristocratic landowners until 1230 when it came into the hands of Amaury de St Amand just before he joined the royal household of Henry III.

Three hundred and thirty-five years later, in 1565, the wheel turned full circle, as the manor of St Amand's, then held by George Danvers of Calthorpe House at Banbury, was sold to his brother-law Sir Robert Doyly of Merton (near Bicester), who had moved in court circles, hence his knighthood. This Robert, a direct descendant of Guy d'Oilly, purchased St Amands (sometime before 1577) for the children of his second wife Katherine Tregyan.

In the event Robert died of the Black Death in 1577; many of Oxfordshire's gentry were wiped out that year. Presumably Katherine, his wife, stayed put with her first brood in their manor at Merton and their only surviving son Robert, born in 1566, was aged nineteen when he inherited St Amands in 1577: this then, is where our story really starts.

This Robert also married twice: his second marriage was to widow Ann Yates of Witney; they produced six sons and three daughters. John, their eldest son, born in 1592, was considered to be mentally challenged and his step-mother had taken a violent dislike to him, spending much time trying to get her husband to settle his manors on her and her first brood. He refused so she sued out a Commission of Lunacy against John in 1599. This was granted in 1600 but her husband countered by presenting a petition to the Court of Wards who partially reversed the Lunacy Commission's verdict. They deemed him *per lucida intervalla* 'lucid at intervals'. The Court of Wards, however, retained the management of his estates. John, nevertheless, married Ann Bray of Fifield and they too raised a large brood of six boys and one girl. It was their eldest son, born in 1634 and christened Bray, his mother's maiden name, who became a Quaker.

This not only infuriated his family, but also thoroughly upset the local gentry, particularly those who served as magistrates, and the church – the 'Establishment'. Bray very publicly refused to pay his tithes, being fined several times for his pains; for a respected member of the landed gentry to have anything to do with Quakerism, let alone embrace and encourage it, was definitely beyond the understanding of his social equals. Bray must have spent much of his time in Court, appearing in 1661 for the first time for refusing to pay his tithes, for which he was duly fined. He continued to refuse to pay them right up until his death in 1695.

There exists a detailed record, in the Quaker Book of Sufferings, of the first time Doyly was charged with refusing to pay his tithes:

Bray Doyly, being prosecuted in the Hundred Court for 13s demanded for Tithe, demurred to the Jurisdiction of the Court, as having no Right to take Cognizance of tithe; this he produc'd some Statutes to prove, and the Jury, desiring to inspect them, were forbid by the Steward of the court, who arbitrarily order'd them to go out, with Directions to find for the Plaintiff. They accordingly found 13s Debt and the cost. Whereupon the court order'd them out again and said, they must find treble Damages, which they would not do. Nevertheless the Court proceeded as if they had, and gave Judgement accordingly. The same Bray Doyly had about the same Time two cows worth 7 l. taken on pretence of an Outlaw.

In practice the Court took just one of his cows recorded as worth £3.10s.

Doyly was arrested three times for attending Quaker meetings and, on the third occasion, it was at North Newington, in Lord Saye's own parish of Broughton. He came before Sir Thomas Cobb, the Adderbury magistrate who heartily loathed Doyly – Cobb 'had a mind to hasten his preparation for banishment' – meaning transportation as the law required for three such offences. Doyly had a powerful friend in Sir Thomas Chamberlain of Wickham, a senior magistrate, who commuted Bray's sentence to two months imprisonment, paid his fine and then had him released; this of course deeply upset Cobb.

The vicar, the Reverend William Beaw, complained bitterly to his bishop that Doyly would only employ Quakers, also he would not only fill his cottages with Quakers but from outside the parish too. Doyly's acceptance of Quakerism prompted William Fiennes, the 1st Viscount Saye & Sele, to put pen to paper, writing an open letter to Bray Doyly in 1659 (printed by Oxford University Press in 1660) with the snappy title

The Quakers Reply manifested to be railing or A pursuance of those by the light of the Scriptures, who through their darke imaginations would evade the Truth; wherein Not only the unsoundness of their principles, but their weakness in maintaining of them is further discovered.

Bray's father, John, despite his so called mental instability, had not only been a firm social friend of Lord Saye, they had served the Parliamentary cause together during the English Civil War. Indeed, soon after the Battle of Edgehill (23rd October 1642) Lord Saye, Nathaniel Fiennes (Saye's second son), John Doyly and Sir William Cobb were all excluded from a pardon granted by King Charles on 3rd November 1642 'to all persons in Oxfordshire who had taken up arms against him'.

So Lord Saye's letter to Bray Doyly started with a heartfelt:

Mr Bray Doyly, you being a sober & discrete Gentleman, and a neighbour of mine, whom in both respects, I had cause to value; It grieved me when I heard that you were wrought upon by these seduced, and seducing people...[sixty-one pages later he finishes up with] *I will trouble myself no more with anything they write except to cast it into the fire.*

Doyly, nevertheless organized a counter-attack on Lord Saye; he must have been a man of great courage who also held very firm beliefs to have done what he did, bearing in mind his social position and how very important the maintenance of that was in the seventeenth century: for he continued to be active in both local and national Quaker affairs.
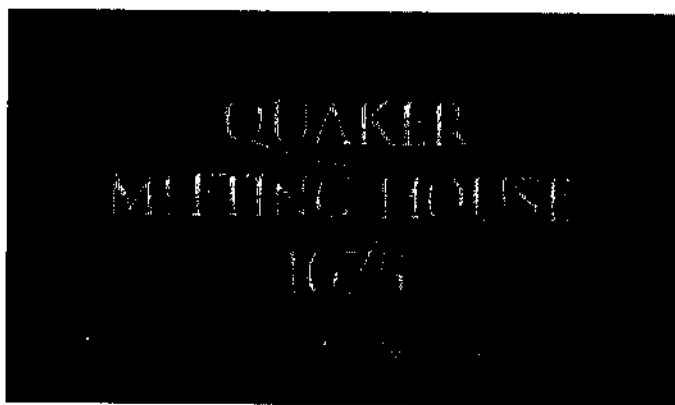

To add insult to injury Bray, in 1675, had a Quaker Meeting House built on his own land for which he paid the cost of building. For this he was, again, imprisoned for two months by Sir Thomas Chamberlain, a very minor punishment in the scheme of things.

Adderbury Quaker Meeting House with attendant cottage, c.1830.

The Meeting House was formally opened in 1675 by George Fox, the founder of the Quaker Movement, who was also a friend of Doyly: it was designed to accommodate 162 attenders as the Quakers called themselves, 102 men on the ground floor and 60 women in the loft (Quaker parlance for a gallery). Once the Meeting House was established it acted as a magnet attracting Quakers to come and live in the area, thus exacerbating the, already, unhappy relations between the vicar, Doyly and the Quakers. Those Quakers attending meetings at Adderbury were known, in Quaker parlance, as the Adderbury Particular Meeting; they were part of the Banbury Division; Adderbury was regarded as being second to that of Banbury

It was not too long before the local Quakers had to find more accommodation as so many attenders were turning-up for meetings – they came from Deddington, Clifton, Bloxham, Milton and South Newington. They eventually had to build two small cottages immediately in front of the Meeting House to accommodate the women's meetings; although they were used from time to time as somewhere to house Quaker families that had become temporarily homeless.
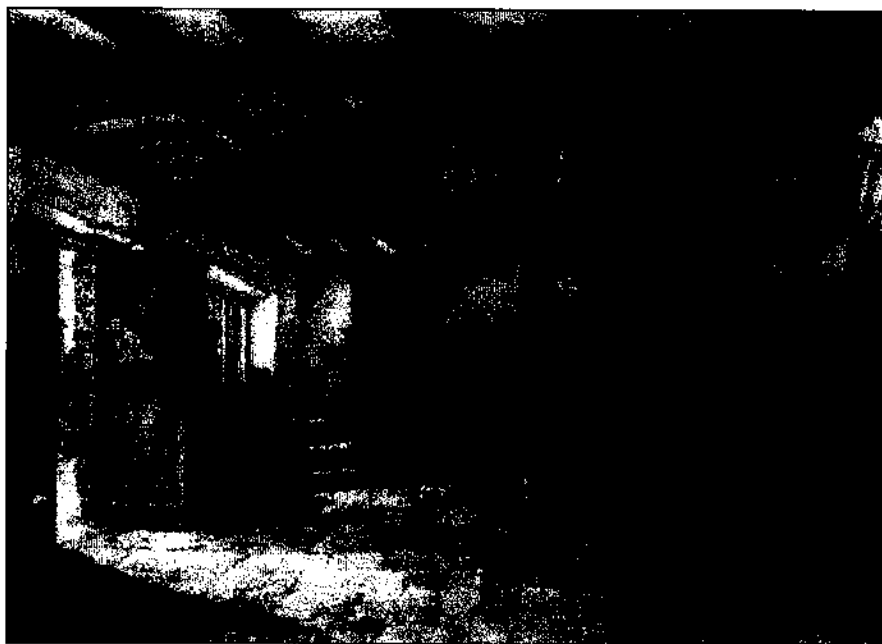
The Meeting House interior showing the loft and original, Quaker, furniture.

The earliest, extant, record of a Quaker meeting held at Adderbury Meeting House is recorded in a minute book (held in the Oxfordshire History Centre) for one of the women's meetings. Their first meeting was held on the 4th (day) of 1st Month 1678. Quakers declined to call the days and months by their conventional names as they had pagan origins and were considered unworthy of use by a deeply Christian organization. This Quaker date, in the conventional manner, reads Friday 4th January 1678. The main topics minuted were concerns about families who were in dire need of help.

Bray was often called upon to act for Banbury Quakers in financial matters and to attend assizes to look after presentments and indictments of Friends. Beside Bray Doyly the following Adderbury Quaker names frequently appeared in Court records for various offences relating to Quaker activities: Aris, Barret, Baylis, Garner, Gilkes, Halkes, King, Maules, Pottinger, Poultney, Robinson, Soden, Stow, Trafford,Treppas, Turford, Williams. Quaker records show that the hard-core of offenders were the Maules of Milton, Soden, Barrett and Williams – all collectors of Quaker clocks will know of the name Williams!

Bray Doyly died in Adderbury, a wealthy man; he was buried in the Parish Churchyard on 2nd September 1696;* presumably that was at the behest of his family. He had no surviving children so he left most of the, considerable, cash-in-hand to his two married nieces, the daughters of his brother Robert who had died that same year (they were actually un-named in his will as he only mentioned their husbands by name). Of his five brothers and one sister only his youngest brother Edmund had survived; Bray left him an annuity for his lifetime, worth £30 a year, from a property in Neithrop on the outskirts of Banbury.

By 1746 there were about fifty Quaker families left in Adderbury and by the last quarter of the eighteenth century the local Quakers were in serious decline with only sixteen people attending on Census day in 1851: the men and women's meetings merged. Adderbury's Meeting House was officially closed in 1910; but one local lady, Sophie Fanny Buck (whose family lived at Ivy House next to the Old Vicarage) insisted that she should have a key to the Meeting House so that she could continue to 'attend' on her own. Sophie, in the twentieth century, and well into living memory, continued to dress in the early conventional Quaker manner with a long black skirt and top and black hat; which she did until the day she died in the Quaker twelfth month (December) 1945. Unusually for a Quaker she has a gravestone – it is the large one sited just to the east of the Meeting House; presumably her family, who were not Quakers, had it put in place.

Adderbury's Quaker Meeting House still had a role to play in the twentieth century – a bit-part in the last war. Believe it or not but the local authorities allocated two evacuee families from the London blitz to live in the Meeting House; in a very old building that had no water or electricity. One can only imagine the feelings of young Londoners dragged away from their homes in London finding themselves stuck in such primitive, rural conditions.

* The Right Reverend William Beaw, as he properly was by 1696, was not only the vicar of Adderbury, *in commendam* he was also bishop of Llandaff, near Cardiff in South Wales. He chose to live in Chepstow which was neither near Llandaff nor Adderbury so it would have been most unlikely that he would have known of Doyly's death or even that he was to be buried in his church at Adderbury. Beaw *in absentia* employed two curates to administer the, then, vast parish of Adderbury, who would, no doubt, have just got on with Doyly's funeral and burial, collecting the appropriate fees on the way. See 'The Church Militant, William Beaw...' *C&CH* 14.6 (Summer 1999).

One family stuck it out for a month or so; but they so missed London and the excitement of the blitz they went back. The other family stayed put throughout the war and became so enamoured with their little Quaker wartime home that every year since the end of the war they have made an annual pilgrimage to Adderbury – I have had a great delight in meeting them a couple of times on their annual pilgrimage.

Unsurprisingly Sophie Fanny Buck kept a very close eye on the evacuees and 'her' Meeting House; and one day she spotted that they were using as a kitchen table the Jacobean gate-leg table that had always been in the Meeting house. This table, as it happened, was very special to the Quakers – it was the table that George Fox, founder of the Quaker Movement, was reputed to have sat at when he opened the Meeting house in 1675. Sophie swiftly took it away replacing it with something a little more workaday.

There is a sequel to this story for when Sophie Fanny died in 1945 her family called in an auctioneer to sell her effects. The gate-leg table, mentioned above, was listed in the auction catalogue as a Tudor gate-leg table; thus causing a great deal of interest except that John Langley, clerk to Banbury Preparative Meeting, got to hear that Miss Buck's things were up for auction so he got in touch with the auctioneers arranging to meet them at Sophie's house.

Langley pointed out that the table was not Tudor but Jacobean made especially for the opening of the Meeting House in 1675 and to prove it he said that there was a drawer with an ink bottle, a pen and a pad of certificates used at meetings. The auctioneer seeing a lucrative sale rapidly fading away, was unbelieving, saying there was no drawer. Edith Langley, there with her husband, slid her hand under the table and pulled out the hidden drawer complete with an ink bottle, pen and pad. They also told the auctioneer that the table was not part of Miss Buck's estate; as it actually belonged to the Meeting House – the auctioneer capitulated and the table was withdrawn from the sale. It now, safely, resides in the Quaker museum at Swarthmoor Hall, Cumbria. Banbury Meeting House, to this day, has a small gate-leg table, conventionally placed in the centre of its main room when used for meetings.

Adderbury's Meeting House was handed over to the Parish Council in October 1954, on a ninety-year lease. The Parish Council now have the responsibility for its upkeep, with the understanding that it should be available for Quaker meetings four times a year. The *quid pro quo* was that the spare land to the west of the Meeting House would be available

for future Church of England burials. In fact the Quakers have recently started to use the Meeting House more frequently. The building until about ten years ago was in a dreadful state; but fortunately the Quakers grasped the nettle and have had it fully, and sympathetically, restored at their own expense and now that it is used more it has that air of a building in use and cared for.

After all the early centuries of appalling treatment of the Quakers by the Establishment in the form of the law and the established church, this charming little building still maintains the magical aura of peace and serenity engendered by the Friends' presence over hundreds of years. I have, in the past, given talks to several parties of local primary school children and when they walk into the Meeting House they do so quietly and reverently entirely without prompting.

Adderbury's little Quaker Meeting House is very special; it is one of the very few Meeting Houses left in England that is still in its original state and in use. Incidentally Banbury's present Meeting House, not quite as old as Adderbury's, is also still very much alive and kicking and well supported by modern attendees from all over Banburyshire.

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HS2 and the Edgcote battlefield

(High Speed 2; HS1 being the Channel Tunnel rail link)

Now that a proposed route has been published, the Battlefields Trust has been among the first to respond, saying that the Trust is 'very pleased that the proposed HS2 route had been adjusted to avoid a number of heritage sites', but concerned nevertheless that 'whilst the revised route avoids Edgcote House it appears that the railway will still destroy a significant part of the probable location of the battlefield. Although it is called the Battle of Edgcote the evidence suggests that the battle was actually fought on Danesmoor, a mile or so to the east of Edgcote. Indeed, in some early accounts it was called the Battle of Danesmoor.'

The Battlefields Trust says that it is in principle 'neither for nor against HS2' but it believes that it is essential that the battlefield at Edgcote is recognised as an historic site of national and not purely local importance. The Trust goes on to say that it would prefer the route of HS2 to be diverted away from the battlefield area because 'building HS2 through the centre of this site as is currently planned will almost certainly lead to the destruction of valuable archaeological evidence and quite probably the destruction and desecration of the mass grave pits which we believe to be in the area.'

EXCAVATIONS AT THE *REINDEER INN*

Barrie Trinder

The editorial in our Autumn/Winter issue for 2011 recorded that archaeological excavations were carried out at the *Unicorn* and the *Reindeer* in Banbury between 10 and 14 October 2011 as part of a television series entitled 'The Pub Dig' produced by Oxford Scientific Films Ltd. The resultant programme was broadcast on a subscription channel in December, but may be transmitted on a free-to-air channel within a few months. The following is a digest of the report on the project, *'Archaeological Investigations at The Unicorn and Ye Olde Reindeer Public Houses, Banbury, Oxfordshire'*, whose principal author was Giles Dawkes, senior archaeologist for the excavations. The report was published by Archaeology South East (www.archaeologyse.co.uk) in November 2011. The project was approved and monitored by the county archaeologist and the site archive will be deposited with the county museum service (accession number OXCMS: 2011.173). The excavation at the *Unicorn* proved unproductive since the archaeologists encountered a previously unknown cellar of eighteenth or nineteenth century date, the construction of which appears to have destroyed all stratified deposits in the vicinity of the building.

Television producers, like tabloid journalists, love stories about celebrities, and sure enough we learn in this report that Oliver Cromwell is believed to have planned the Battle of Edgehill in the Globe Room at the *Reindeer*, something which accounts of the events of 1642 suggest was extremely unlikely. Fortunately the findings from the excavation are reported in a more scientific manner.

The archaeologists dug a pit approx 1.5 x 5 metres in the yard of the *Reindeer*. The hard standing and recent overburden were removed with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless digging bucket, and the lower levels were excavated by hand. The trench revealed part of a linear feature filled with several sherds of twelfth- or thirteenth-century pottery. The feature was possibly the boundary of a burgage plot, associated perhaps with the extension of the town with newly-laid out streets west of the Market Place. A century or so after the plot was first used a substantial masonry building containing an oven and therefore, presumably, a kitchen was erected there and remained until it was abandoned in the late fifteenth or sixteenth century.

Some 61 pottery finds were found on the site, all of medieval or later date. They are characteristic of those found on other sites in Oxfordshire, and come almost entirely from potteries in Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire. The dearth of fourteenth-century finds suggests that Banbury may have shared the economic decline in that period that has been observed elsewhere in Oxfordshire. Analysis of the botanical samples found on the site

suggests that they were intended for human consumption rather than animal fodder. Finds of bones suggest that beef and mutton formed a substantial part of the diet of those who lived on the property.

This is the first time that archaeologists have investigated medieval deposits within the core of Banbury away from the castle. While the excavation was limited in scope it does appear to provide archaeological evidence for the extension of the town to the west in the twelfth or thirteenth century. The scale of the masonry building suggests that it formed part of the dwelling of one of Banbury's more prosperous medieval citizens. It seems likely that the collapse or demolition of the building may have been associated with the acquisition of the site in the mid-sixteenth century by the Knight family who for more than a century afterwards ranked amongst the town's élite.

While the excavation was in progress a survey was carried out of the surviving buildings of the *Reindeer*, which, it is understood, suggests that they are of rather earlier origin than has generally been supposed, dating from around 1500 rather than from the late sixteenth century. When a full report becomes available we hope to publish a summary in *Cake & Cockhorse*.

CARRYING IN WINTER, 1881

One of our members brought to Dr Barrie Trinder's lecture on country carriers on 10 November an account of the severe weather suffered in the Banbury area in January 1881, taken from the *Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser* of 18 March 1916, and written by A.C. Mills, whose family were carriers from Brailes.

'Sir,

The recent fall of snow appears to have been exceptionally heavy in the district between Brailes and Banbury. March 2nd was the first year my father's cart or van has missed Banbury Market since the year 1847. In 1881 (the drift year) the only carrier to attend Banbury Market on 12th Fair day was Henry Mills, a good part of the journey being made through fields &c. After the roads were dug out I well remember the snow piled many feet above my head on either side as I occupied the position of postilion. It was at this time that the waggon and team of Messrs Edmunds & Kench (Banbury millers) was lost in the snow, it being several weeks before the body of the unfortunate waggoner was found, by which time all the exposed parts of his hands and face had been eaten by birds.

Yours &c.
A.C. Mills'.

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AS THIN AS BANBURY CHEESE

Martin Thomas

In "The Merry Wives of Windsor" (1597),[1] Shakespeare has Bardolf address Slender as "You Banbury Cheese". This is not just some local reference by a Warwickshire man: at the time, Banbury was nationally famous for its cheese. Indeed, it was better known for its Banbury Cheese than for its Banbury Cakes.

Banbury Cheese is variously described as having a keen, sharp savour,[2] and soft, rich[3] and creamy.[4] It was golden yellow in colour[5] with an outer skin that needed to be pared off.[6] In the sixteenth century at least, there were hard and soft versions. It was round, and only about one inch thick[7] – hence the Shakespearean insult. Surprisingly, perhaps, given Banbury's long association with the wool trade, it was made with cow's milk, not sheep's milk.[8]

The centre of Banbury's cheese-making seems to have been the Northamptonshire hamlets, Grimsbury and Nethercote, although some cheese was made in the town and the Oxfordshire hamlets.[9] The main cheese market was in the vicinity of the old High Cross,[10] in the Market

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[1] William Shakespeare. *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Act 1 Scene 1.

[2] Richard Jones, *The Good Huswifes Handmaid for the Kitchin* (1594).

[3] Daniel Defoe, *Tour Through the Whole Island of Great Britain*, published between 1724 and 1727.

[4] Camden's *Britannia* (1607).

[5] As fn.2.

[6] *Jack Drum's Entertainment* (1601)

[7] *Victoria County History A History of the County of Oxford:* Vol 10: *Banbury hundred* (1972) *[VCH]*, 'Origins and growth of the town', pp. 18-28.

[8] *VCH*. 'Banbury: Economic history', pp. 49-71.

[9] *VCH*. As fn 7.

[10] The Records of the Court of the Star Chamber 1604 [TNA St.Ch. 8/82/23]. A deposition by Matthew Knight, mercer, of Banbury, on behalf of the plaintiff in the case of George Blynco v. William Knight, John Gill, Richard Wheatley, Thomas Wheatley and Henry Shewell. See 'Where was Banbury's Cross?', Paul Harvey, *Oxoniensia* 31 (1966); 'Where was Banbury's Cross?', Paul Harvey, *C&CH* 3.10 (1967); 'Trouble over Sheep Pans', J.S.W. Gibson, *C&CH* 7.2 (1977), p.38.

Place, which was pulled down by local Puritans in 1600, in an excess of the religious zeal for which Banbury became infamous. Banbury also traditionally held a cheese fair on the first Thursday after old Michaelmas.[11]

As early as 1430, fourteen Banbury cheeses were among the provisions sent to France for the Duke of Bedford's household.[12]

Richard Jones' cookbook *The Good Huswifes Handmaide for the Kitchin*,[13] published in 1594, includes a recipe for 'Tarte of Cheese' using Banbury Cheese.

Tithe records for Cropredy in around 1600 show that at least 21 dwellings within the parish were making cheese.[14]

Amongst the manuscripts collected by the physician Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753) and now held in the British Library is a recipe for making Banbury Cheese, dating from the fifteenth or early sixteenth century.[15]

Barnaby Googe, in 1614,[16] says 'In England the best cheese is the Cheshire, and the Shropshire, then the Banbury cheese, next the Suffolk and the Essex cheese.'

Robert Burton, in 1621,[17] bestows even higher praise upon the cheeses of Banbury when he says: 'Of all cheeses, I take that kind which we call Banbury Cheese to be the best.'

Daniel Defoe, in 1727, describes a very rich Banbury cheese made at a late season, never before Michaelmas.[18] It was called 'latter-made' cheese. It was almost white, about one inch in thickness, and resembled in appearance other soft cream-cheeses, but was apparently much more delicious. It bore the high price of 1s.6d. per pound when new, or about 1s.9d. when ripe (£8.90 and £10.40 in today's money). Each cheese was packed in its separate basket.

Richard Pococke in 1756,[19] spoke of the town's "great trade in cheese", yet the production of Banbury Cheese slowly faded away and,

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[11] *VCH*.As fn.8.

[12] *VCH*. As fn.7.

[13] As fn. 2.

[14] Pamela Keegan, *The Town of Cropredy 1570 – 1640*.

[15] Sloane Collection British Library. MS No. 1201 Paper, in folio, ff. 73. XV century. *A collection of recipes in cookery and confectionary.*

[16] Barnaby Googe. *The Whole Art and Trade of Husbandry* (1614).

[17] Robert Burton, *Anatomy of Melancholy* (1621).

[18] As fn 3.

[19] Richard Pococke, *Travels through England Volume 2* (1756).

by the middle of the nineteenth century,[20] it had entirely gone, with "latter-made" cheese being the last to disappear.

It is likely that the demise of Banbury Cheese manufacture, which was essentially a cottage industry, was a direct consequence of the Enclosure Acts of the late 1700s. The Tithe records for Cropredy a century and a half earlier show that many households were allowed to graze two cows on common land.[21] If the commoner could not afford to pay for the land once it had been enclosed – as frequently occurred – the cows had to go, and the new landowner might well prefer sheep to cattle.

Perhaps some local entrepreneur, who understands the art and technology of cheese-making, may one day revive this historic product – who knows? It is sad to have lost touch with a tradition which lasted over four centuries.

The 15th /16th Century Recipe for Banbury Cheese [22]
A Modern Transcription[23]

Take a thin cheese vat, and hot milk as it comes from the cow. And run it forth withal in summer time. And knead your curds but once. And knead them not too small, but break them once with your hands. And in summer time salt the curds nothing but let the cheese lie 3 days unsalted. And then salt them. And lay one upon another but not too much salt. And so shall they gather butter. And in winter time in likewise, but then hot your milk. And salt your curds for then it will gather butter of itself. Take the wrung whey of the same milk and let it stand a day or two till it have a cream and it shall make as good butter as any other.

(To "Break" means to reduce the lumpy curd to an even mass, and a "Vat", in this sense, means any kind of bowl.)

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[20] A Beesley, *A History of Banbury* (1841), pp.567–8.
[21] Pamela Keegan, *The Town of Cropredy 1570 – 1640*.
[22] Sloane Collection. As fn.15.
[23] *Cake & Cockhorse* 4.7 (Spring 1970).

SNIPPETS FROM THE ARCHIVES: 4

Deborah Hayter

From the Croughton Vestry Book 1830-31 [N'hants R.O. 93p/232]

1830 November 5th *. At a vestry held this day it was ordered that:-*

The labourers be employed in the proportion of one man to every 50s. of rate paid. The prices of labour to be as under:

Man & wife 5s. per week; Ditto + child 7s.; Ditto + 2 children 8s. and 1s. per week to be paid by the Overseer for every child above 2 under 10 years of age.
Nov 29th. *The vestry agreed the wages of an able labourer from this time to be 9s. per week.*

1831 February 20th:*... at a vestry held this day it was ordered that the sum of £100 be borrowed for the purpose of sending some Paupers to America to be paid off in four years from next Lady Day – and that Mr. Bennett to be requested to write to the landlords Mr. Lockhart & Mr. Ramsay on the subject.*

1831 June 19th. At a vestry *it was ordered that the Head Money be discontinued from this time and the wages of an able labourer be 11s. per week.*

Croughton's 'Vestry Book' begins in 1830, recording the meeting of the vestry every month. The 'vestry' here was not a room, but the meeting of the ratepayers, out of whom were chosen every year the churchwardens, the overseers of the poor and the parish constable. At the end of the eighteenth century and in the early years of the nineteenth, the 'Old Poor Law' of 1601, which had laid the responsibility for poor relief on individual (ecclesiastical) parishes, was in crisis. All over the country parishes such as Croughton were struggling to cope with and support the large number of unemployed labourers who applied to 'the parish' for relief, with little prospect of anything more than casual and occasional work. The ratepayers had a choice: either they paid for the labourers' support through their poor rate, which was both collected and distributed in the parish, or they paid that money directly to the labourers by employing them. In the first entry above, the vestry recorded that the labourers were to be distributed among the ratepayers according to the level of rates each paid. At other times 'Headmoney' was paid: the Overseers made up the low wages paid to the fathers of families with so much per 'head' in the family. There being no possibility of an increase in future employment in sight, many vestries, like Croughton's, sought to 'get rid of their surplus populations' by paying for them to emigrate to America or the colonies. This was a kind of investment in reverse: they borrowed to pay all the expenses for young men and sometimes young families to emigrate, saving themselves a considerable future outlay in parish rates.

Book Reviews

From Banbury Cakes to a Bushel of Sweetmeats: A Look at trades and trademarks, by Barry Davis and Brian Little. Card covers, 96 pp. Witney: Robert Boyd Publications, 2011. (ISBN: 978 1 908738 00 4). £9.95.

This book will delight all who knew Banbury in the first half of the twentieth century. It is a collection of nearly 150 images depicting retailing in the town ranging in date from a bill from Bernhard Samuelson for five patent turnip cutters issued in November 1854 to views of the Fine Fare supermarket opened in March 1961. Most date from the years between 1890 and the outbreak of the Second World War. A few are straightforward photographs but the majority would be regarded by archivists and librarians as ephemera, sheets of notepaper, bill and receipt headings, advertising postcards, handbills, cabinet cards, pages from catalogues and directories and even tickets. Not all include formally-registered trademarks. Ephemera have increasingly been regarded in recent times as a valuable historical source, and collecting them has a distinguished pedigree in Oxfordshire. Banbury's principal nineteenth century printers, the Potts, Rusher, Cheney and Walford families all left collections of their works, and that in the Bodleian Library accumulated by John de Morris Johnson (1882-1956), printer to the University of Oxford between 1925 and 1946, is recognised as the best of its kind in England.

The book is a valuable record of a period of formality in retailing. A bill heading of 1875-76 from the grocers Austen & Payne of 9 High Street is delightfully elegant, and proclaims that no business would be transacted on Bank Holidays, which had been introduced four years earlier. On a trade card of about 1907 the proprietors declare themselves Italian warehousemen as well as provision dealers, and undertook to pay the cost of delivering orders of ten shillings and upwards. A photograph of the shop of the same date shows three male assistants bedecked with white aprons standing by the Doric columns that framed the entrance. A flyer issued by the watchmaker, jeweller, engraver and optician Edward Durham lists in rather small type the many goods and services that could be supplied at No 36 Market Place, silver prize cups, gold and silver watches, items of jewellery 'unsurpassed for style and cheapness' and electro-silver plate by the best manufacturers.

The book provides records of some of Banbury's long-disappeared historic buildings, including the gabled premises at 69 High Street, between Church Lane and Butchers' Row, when it was occupied by Harry Boxold, seed merchant and English and foreign fruiterer, before it was replaced in 1934 by the Art Deco store of Montague Burton, the 'tailor of taste'.

It was in the period covered in the book that nationally-branded consumer goods came to be available in towns like Banbury, where Arkell Bros. at 57 High Street offered Morley's and Brettle's hosiery and Robert Stevens near The Cross sold Swan fountain pens. A further development was the appearance of chain stores such as Freeman, Hardy & Willis at 8 High Street, who proclaimed themselves 'the Largest Retailers of Boots and Shoes in the World', and gave away cards of British wild animals to attract custom. The brash typography of the advertisement for Fine Fare of 1961 contrasts sharply with the elegance of some earlier marketing material. The short reminiscence of the store's early days is particularly interesting. The book is not confined to conventional shops but includes material relating to motor agents, cinemas and some manufacturers.

Individual images have been generally well-researched and many have been precisely dated. Other aspects of the text are less satisfactory. The publisher for many years of Banbury lists and directories was *John* (not James) Golby Rusher, and after a spell when the business was controlled by his sister, Jane Eliza Rusher, the right to publish the lists and directories was sold in 1896 (not in 1905) to the historian William Potts. Some of the information in the text seems to be based on gossip. It seems scarcely credible, for example, that L T C Rolt, the celebrated canal and railway conservationist and author of engineering biographies, could have invested in a Banbury business in 1921 when he was only eleven years old.

Many town-dwellers identify strongly with particular shops. When Chapman Bros moved from their store that extended from High Street into Broad Street to smaller premises in Bridge Street in the early 1950s it was regarded by some of their customers almost as an act of treachery. This book helps to explain such feelings and will be a valuable source for future generations of historians of Banbury and of retailing. We must be grateful to our Honorary Research Adviser and his co-author for bringing these treasures from their private collections into the public domain.

B.S.T.

Oxoniensia, vol.76, 2011, The Oxfordshire Architectural & Historical Society, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

The most recent issue of *Oxoniensia* has two 'Notes' of archaeological activity in the Banbury area. Paul Booth *et al.* write on 'A portable Lead "Tank" from Wigginton'. Part of the site, first excavated as long ago as 1824, was reinvestigated 2001-5 by Banbury-based Phoenix Archaeology and Historic Research, when the Roman lead tank was discovered and removed. Stephen Wass and Rebecca Dealtry report on a 'Possible Early Christian Enclosure and Deserted Medieval Settlement at Prescote, near Cropredy'. This has connections to the 'bizarre and outrageous St Fremund' (John Blair) (see Peter Christopher in *C&CH* 17.7, 2008).

Lecture Reports

Brian Little

Thursday 12ᵗʰ January 2012
A Poor Place for the Industrial Population: Oxford's Victorian and Edwardian industrial buildings.
Liz Woolley

To those of us brought up on a diet of 'dreaming spires' this well-organised account of industrial development in Oxford was a revelation. For a city that largely missed out on the Industrial Revolution, Oxford in Victorian and Edwardian times had a remarkable range of linked activity even if the impact was less dramatic than in places like south Huddersfield with its massed ranks of textile mills.

Liz Woolley began by looking at the rise of public utilities, namely gas, electricity and water. Her first example was the complex site occupied by St Ebbes Gasworks and served by a spur from the Great Western Railway. Its presence spanned the years 1918 to 1960 and today observers are faced with housing and a nature reserve.

Equally significant was electricity generation at Osney though the only legacy is a lamp bracket where Cornmarket meets St Michaels Street.

Early Victorian inhabitants had a great dependence on wells for water but this led to outbreaks of cholera until a waterworks at Folly Bridge was established.

Brewing was a dominant industry in Oxford. By 1874 there were nine breweries. One of these, Morrells in the St Thomas district, was a major employer whose workforce included women who worked in the bottling department. Our speaker used brewing as a good example of an industry whose buildings' distinctive character owed much to specific architects such as H.G. Drinkwater.

Lucy's Eagle Ironworks in Jericho had a prominent place in the analysis of industrial sites. Starting in 1812 they were involved in the likes of lamp posts and shelving but today are recalled mainly through the street William Lucy Way, gates with eagles and a clock. An interesting link with the central shopping district was provided by Hughes' (later Pigotts') sausage factory. Despite an unfortunate smell the premises played a part in supplying the renowned covered market. Familiar names such as Coopers Marmalade, Salters Steamers and Morris Garages provided further examples of industrial diversity. The Longwall site of the last named was a prelude to the Cowley works.

Industrial development along with associated shops and housing for workers meant that even if Oxford avoided the clustering effect it did not escape the pollution, sweat shops conditions and wage struggles. Clearly the city of dreaming spires also had a skyline of chimneys and memorable industrial buildings. How right Liz Woolley was when she observed that Oxford deserves better recognition for its Victorian and Edwardian legacy.

Thursday 9th February 2011
Milestones and their place in the history of British travel
Mervyn Benford

Those members who braved the wintry conditions were rewarded with a talk that was both absorbing and challenging. Mervyn Benford's presentation was as much about the substantial variations in the character of milestones as it was to do with ensuring that these wayside features remain part of future landscapes. Originally these markers would have been placed at intervals of exactly a mile but their survival is very patchy with between 8,000 and 9,000 remaining across the United Kingdom.

The earliest stones in Britain were Roman and reflected a need to measure distances in order to achieve timings. Their large circular stones were placed at every 1,000 double-step pace or 1,618 yards. Sadly few of these have survived *in situ*.

A comprehensive system of markers took off in the 1660s with the establishment of the General Letter Office. Charges within the mail system were by distance. This threw up the need for a universal standard mile as the mile varied in length in different parts of the country. Accordingly in the early 1670s John Ogilby gained the support of King Charles II for an accurate survey of all major routes, which were published as strip maps showing each measured mile, angular directions and inclines. Locally one of the roads under review was Banbury to Chipping Camden.

To cater for the increase in travel, improvement in the condition of the roads was necessary. Acts of Parliament set up Turnpike Trusts to enable the erection of gates across roads and the collection of tolls to be used for road maintenance and to build new roads. The first trust was established in 1663 but most date from the eighteenth century. Like their Roman predecessors these roads needed mile markers to ensure accurate timings and pricing.

The new road system also required markers which could be read easily from a coach or on horseback that would provide more information about distances to major destinations. In addition two faces were needed to cater for both directions. By the nineteenth century metal plates, and in some areas metal markers, were preferred. Milestones of whatever type were shown on Ordnance Survey 25-inch scale maps but the quality of information varied from edition to edition. Today many of these stones have been defaced or lie buried, in an attempt to slow the progress of an invading German army in the Second World War.

Unsurprisingly concern over the rapid decline in numbers has given birth to a society dedicated to the identification, conservation and recording of existing stones. Mervyn Benford concluded his talk by stressing that the Milestone Society combines pleasure with this serious task. Its members also tried to generate interest in preservation amongst parish councillors. The Banbury area has been fortunate that Wroxton Parish Council showed enthusiasm and appreciation of the heritage aspect of milestones.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

The Banbury Historical Society has three objectives: to arrange for its members programmes of lecture meetings and excursions, to publish in various forms the results of research into local history, and to advocate with the appropriate authorities sympathetic policies towards the conservation of historic artefacts, documents, buildings and landscapes. Significant progress was made on all three objectives during 2011.

Lecture meetings have been well supported and lecturers have included Professor John Blair, Richard Hartree, Deborah Hayter, Dr Stanley Ireland, Steven Mileson, Dr Barrie Trinder and Richard York, with subjects ranging from the Warwickshire hoard of Roman coins to Banbury's twentieth century aluminium factory. The serving of coffee in the Museum café at the conclusion of meetings has proved a popular innovation. The capacity of the Education Studio at the Museum has been strained at the best-attended meetings, and your committee have discussed the possibility of providing a television monitor that could project lectures into the café area. Summer excursions included a village walk at Sibford hosted by members of the local historical society, a tour of medieval Oxford led by Julian Munby and a visit to Kenilworth Castle. The annual general meeting was held in July at Aynhoe Park, by kind invitation of James Perkins.

The most significant event of the year relating to local history in the Banbury area has been the proposed changes at Banbury Museum. Spending cuts in all areas of government are affecting many aspects of local history. Your committee has welcomed the moves taken during the year towards establishing trust status for the Museum.

The strong support for lectures and excursions owes much to Deborah Hayter's distribution by e-mail of news of Society activities, as well as to releases to the local press. Your committee are strongly encouraging guests attending lecture meetings to join the society. Membership has remained stable.

Dr Helen Forde completed her three-year spell as chairman in September 2011 and was succeeded by Dr Barrie Trinder who rejoined the committee in May. Sadly committee member Fiona Thompson died early in 2012. We remember with gratitude the long service she gave to the Society.

We also record with regret the deaths during 2011 of George Fothergill, who was our very active chairman in 1968-71, but moved to Winchester in 1973, and Ross Gilkes, a historian who grew up in Banbury but spent his working life in Bristol. He contributed substantially through articles in *Cake & Cockhorse* , based on research originally carried out for the *Victoria County History*, to our understanding of the workings of Banbury Corporation between 1554 and 1835, and was perhaps our last remaining member to have been taught at Dashwood Road school by Ted Brinkworth, our first Honorary Research Adviser.

The Society's website continues to be hosted by Cherwell Borough Council. It makes available past issues of *Cake & Cockhorse* and in due course other sources will be added.

The competition organised by the Society in 2011 for articles or other items of local historical research attracted a select group of entries. The prize was awarded jointly to the Eydon Photographic Archive and to Gareth Richard for a study of ironstone workings in Hook Norton. The money for the prize was donated by one of our early members, a Banburian who has long been resident elsewhere.

Three issues of *Cake & Cockhorse* have appeared during the year, and have included a reprint of the late Professor Harry Thorpe's study of the landscape of Wormleighton, together with a summary of recent work on the topic by Dr Della Hook, and Dr Barrie Trinder's study of Banbury's country carriers, as well as regular items by Deborah Hayter and Brian Little, and reviews of various publications on local history.

Although no records volume appeared during 2011, plans are well-advanced for the long-awaited publication of the second volume of Geoffrey Smedley-Stevenson's edition of the diaries (1849-69) of William Cotton Risley, earlier vicar of Deddington. Also near completion is an alphabetical digest to Rusher's *Banbury Directories*, 1832-1906, typed from the late Mary Stanton's card index by our member Catherine Pritchard, together with a DVD facsimile of the texts. This will make widely available an invaluable source on nineteenth-century history that has few equals in other towns. Sales of publications of all kinds have been notably buoyant.

The Annual Accounts for 2011 (with no records volume or distribution) show a comfortable surplus of £2018 on the General Fund. New digital printing methods have substantially reduced the cost of producing *Cake & Cockhorse*. The balance on the General Fund at the end of the year is more than sufficient to meet the cost of the two records volumes in preparation.

The only expenditure from the Brinkworth Museum Fund was on the two prizes of £50 for history projects, the cost of which, as mentioned above, was met by a generous donation from one of our members who wished to express his support for the competition.

Out-of-print B.H.S. Records Publications

Although the Society has published over thirty volumes, most of these are now out of print, as the print-run is primarily to supply members.

We still have adequate stock of Vols. 27 *(Kings Sutton)*, 28 *(Banbury Chapbooks)* and 30 *(Banbury Past)* but hardly any of others (even of the latest, vols. 29, *Risley Diary Pt.1* and 31, *Turnpike Roads)*. Recently a member donated back several such, and we are always grateful for the return of others that are unwanted and are merely taking up space. These may be left at the Museum or even collected if local. Please let Jeremy Gibson know if you can help.

Banbury Historical Society

Income & Expenditure Accounts for year ending 31 December 2011

GENERAL FUND	2011 £	2010 £
INCOME		
Subscriptions	3,001	3,098
Income Tax refund	446	492
Building Society interest	25	26
Sale of publications	906	398
Other	97	82
Total Income	4,475	4,096
EXPENDITURE		
Cake & Cockhorse	939	1,502
Records Volumes costs	57	1,105
Meetings	537	621
Reception & AGM	167	134
Postage and other Administration costs	757	1,147
Total Expenditure	2,457	4,509
SURPLUS to (DEFICIT from) the General Fund	2,018	(413)

BRINKWORTH MUSEUM FUND		
INCOME		
Building Society interest	12	12
Donation from member	100	.
	112	12
EXPENDITURE		
History Prizes	100	250
SURPLUS TO (DEFICIT from) the Brinkworth Museum Fund	12	(238)

Balance Sheets as at 31 December 2011

	2011 £	2010 £
GENERAL FUND		
Balance at 1 January 2011	9,121	9,534
PLUS Surplus (Less Deficit) for the year	2,018	(413)
Balance at 31 December 2011	11,139	9,121
BRINKWORTH MUSEUM FUND		
Balance at 1 January 2011	3,891	4,129
PLUS Surplus (Less Deficit) for the year	12	(238)
Balance at 31 December 2011	3,903	3,891
TOTAL BALANCE at 31 December 2011	15,042	13,012

Represented by:

ASSETS		
NatWest Bank Banbury - Current A/c	3,365	1,405
Leeds Building Society - General A/c	8,544	8,418
Leeds Building Society - Brinkworth Museum A/c	3,903	3,891
Cash	30	12
TOTAL ASSETS	15,842	13,726
Less LIABILITIES		
Subscriptions in advance	800	714
NET ASSETS at 31 December 2011	15,042	13,012

GF Griffiths, Hon Treasurer

I have reviewed and examined the books and records of the Banbury Historical Society and confirm that the accounts prepared by the Hon Treasurer represent a fair and accurate summary of the financial transactions completed in the year ended 31 December 2011.

Peter Cottrell BA, ACCA, ACMA

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. Approaching one hundred and fifty issues and five hundred articles have been published. All but the most recent issues have been digitised and are available on the Society's website (see inside front cover). Most back issues are also still available in their original form.

There are now thirty volumes in the records series. Those still in print include:
    Banbury Gaol Records, ed. Penelope Renold (vol. 21).
    Banbury Baptism and Burial Registers, 1813-1838 (vol. 22).
        The earlier registers, *Marriages 1558-1837, Baptisms and Burials 1558-1812*, are now out-of-print, but are available on fiche and CD from Oxfordshire Family History Society, website at: www.ofhs.org.uk
    Oxfordshire and North Berkshire Protestation Returns and Tax Assessments 1641-1642 (vol. 24, with Oxfordshire Record Society).
    King's Sutton Churchwardens' Accounts 1636-1700, ed. Paul Hayter (vol. 27).
    The Banbury Chapbooks, by Dr Leo John De Frietas (vol. 28).
    Early Victorian Squarson: The Diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington, Part One, *1835-1848*, ed. Geoffrey Smedley-Stevenson (vol. 29).
    Banbury Past through Artists' Eyes, compiled by Simon Townsend and Jeremy Gibson (vol. 30).
    Turnpike Roads to Banbury, by Alan Rosevear (vol. 31) is, we regret, already out-of-print.

Current prices and availability of other back volumes, and of *Cake and Cockhorse*, from the Hon. Editor (Harts Cottage, Church Hanborough, Witney OX29 8AB).

In preparation:
    Selections from the Diaries of William Cotton Risley, ed. G.W. Smedley-Stevenson:
        Part 2. *Mid-Victorian Squarson, 1849-1869*.
    Alphabetical Digest of *Rusher's 'Banbury Directory' 1832-1906*.

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. The annual subscription (since 2009) is **£13.00** which includes any records volumes published. Overseas membership, **£15.00**.

All members' names and addresses are held on the Society's computer database for subscription and mailing purposes only. Please advise if you object to this practice.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Spring/Summer 2012 Programme

Thursday 24th May, 2.00 for 2.30 p.m.
Oxford Defences.

A walking tour led by **Julian Munby**, of Oxford Archaeology. Meet near Oxford Castle, next to the café at "Oxford Unlocked" (Castle Museum).

Access: Park-and-Ride bus from Peartree (Woodstock Road) (small parking charge) stops just by the Castle. That from Water Eaton (Banbury Road) has free parking, but runs only every twenty minutes and only goes as far as St Mary Magdalen (opposite Debenhams), but the walk (George Street - New Inn Hall Street or Cornmarket - Queen Street) offers a wider choice of eateries for lunch.

Thursday 21st June. 2.00 for 2.30 pm.
Stanford Hall.

Near the source of the River Avon (which flows through the Park), this is due north of Daventry, north-east of Rugby, on the Northamptonshire-Leicestershire border.

"The perfect William & Mary house", built in the 1690s by Smith of Warwick, replacing the earlier Manor House. Home since 1430 of the Cave family, ancestors of the present owner. Family portraits, furniture, costumes. Walled rose garden. Fourteenth century church.

Guided tour including tea & biscuits. **£9.00.**

Route from Banbury: A423 to Southam, A476 through Rugby (lengthy built-up area), cross M6 to A5 (Shawell). At the junction there is rural road (Gibbet Lane) to Swinford and Stanford (use gazetteer).

Alternative: A361 to Daventry (lengthy bypass) continuing to Kilsby (just north of M45). Various rural routes (including perhaps A5) for the last six miles. Stanford-on-Avon (postcode LE17 6DH) is just north of A14 and east of M1 (but access from those uncertain – again, use gazetteer).

Wednesday 27th June. **Annual General Meeting.**
By kind invitation, at **Hook Norton Brewery** (last visited in 2000).

We have access from **4.00 p.m.** with opportunity to walk around with guides at key places. This can involve steep staircases, and those who prefer are welcome to arrive any time up to the usual **5.00 p.m. for 5.30pm.**

After the A.G.M. there will be an opportunity to view the visitor centre and sample beer-tasting. Non-alcoholic and light refreshments as usual.
Access: just past Bloxham (A361), right through Milcombe to Hook Norton.