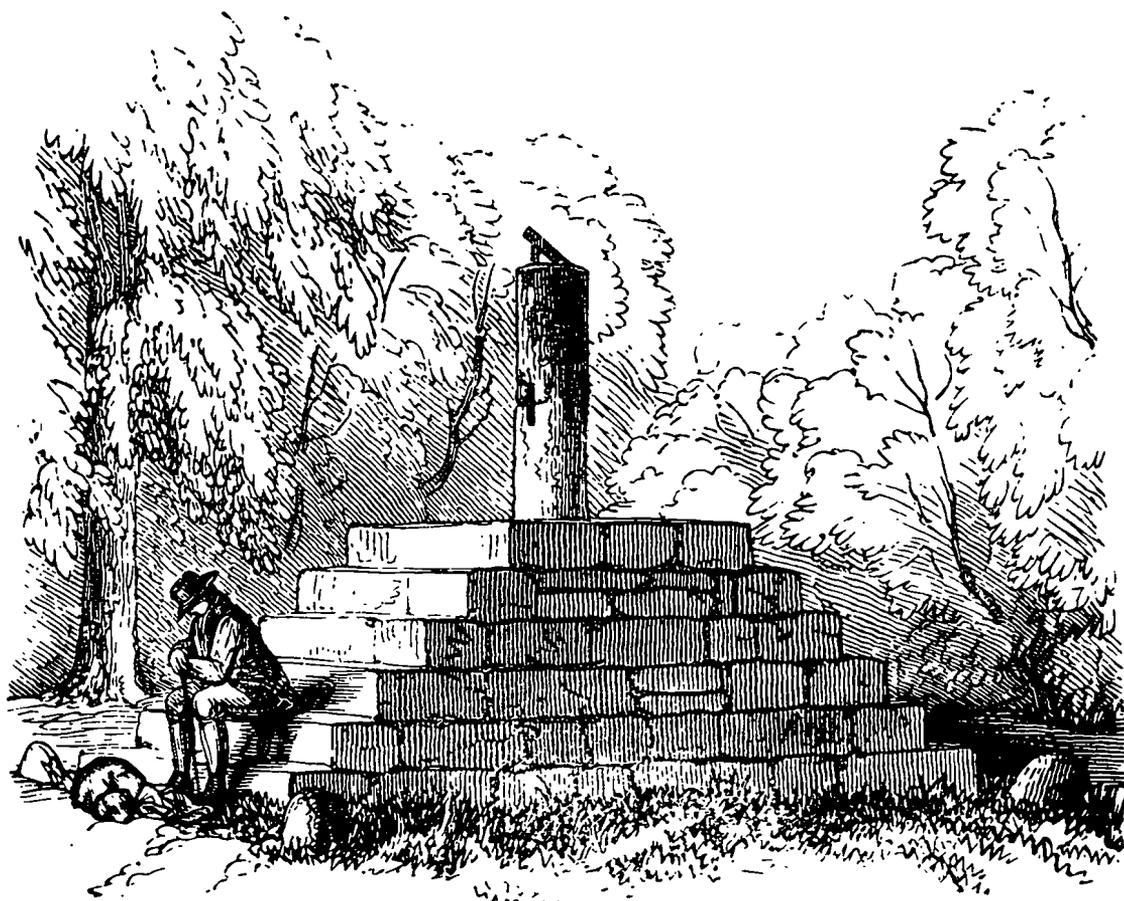


CAKE AND COCKHORSE



Banbury Historical Society

Spring 1967

2s.6d.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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* * * * *

The Society was founded in 1958 to encourage interest in the history of the town and neighbouring parts of Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

The magazine Cake and Cockhorse is issued to members four times a year. This includes illustrated articles based on original local historical research, as well as recording the Society's activities. A booklet Old Banbury - a short popular history, by E.R.C. Brinkworth, M.A., price 3/6 and a pamphlet A History of Banbury Cross price 6d have been published and a Christmas card is a popular annual production.

The Society also publishes an annual records volume. These have included Oxfordshire Clockmakers, 1400-1850; South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1553-1684; Banbury Marriage Register, 1558-1837 (3 parts) and Baptism and Burial Register, 1558-1653. Volumes in advanced preparation include the Correspondence of Henry Tancred and Banbury Inventories, 1621-50.

Meetings are held during the winter, normally at 7.30 p.m. at the Conservative Club. Talks on general and local archaeological, historical and architectural subjects are given by invited lecturers. In the summer, excursions to local country houses and churches are arranged. Archaeological excavations and special exhibitions are arranged from time to time.

Membership of the Society is open to all, no proposer or seconder being needed. The annual subscription is 25/-, including the annual records volume, or 10/- if this is excluded. Junior membership is 5/-.

Application forms can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary or the Hon. Treasurer.

CAKE AND COCKHORSE

The magazine of the Banbury Historical Society. Issued to members four times a year.
Volume Three. Number Seven. Spring, 1967.

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40,000 or 70,000 ?

The Historical Society as such cannot take sides on the proposals for Banbury's future development. The primary considerations in the debate are political, social and economic rather than historical, and members of the Society are to be found among the most fervent supporters of both sides. It would be dishonest as well as presumptuous to allege that nearly 400 members incline one way or the other. In the mainstream of the debate we merely trust that our review (p. 147) will be a useful addition to the discussion.

There remain certain legitimate historical considerations which most members will wish to see incorporated in any plan for the future of Banbury, and it may be appropriate to measure "Banbury 70,000" by these standards. It is unfortunate that the whole controversy is taking place in almost complete ignorance of what the 40,000 plan will entail. It is therefore impossible to measure the two side by side, though there is no reason to suppose that the smaller plan will be materially more sympathetic to historical considerations.

Since the middle ages Banbury has been a market town, and its history is still reflected in the pattern of streets and open spaces. From the historical point of view it would be unfortunate if there was any wholesale erasing of the ancient pattern. The 70,000 plan proposes the construction of the Market Place by the erection of new buildings on the north side, though other open spaces, including the Horsefair and the Green will be considerably civilised by the proposed traffic restrictions. Should the plan be adopted, Banbury's history will still be largely explicable in its streets.

Banbury's chief architectural attraction lies in the diversity of its buildings, almost all styles from the time of the town's rebuilding about 1650 to the present day being represented. There are few structures of such outstanding merit that they should be preserved whatever the cost, but it is most important that an interesting variety of styles should remain in the town centre. There are no obviously outrageous demolitions proposed in the 70,000 plan, though it would be useful to have some clarification of future proposals for Castle House.

All planning is a compromise and it must be expected that whatever happens in the future development of Banbury some streets may lose their identity and some old buildings may disappear. But the present situation is also a compromise. An ancient street plan and 17th century pargetted buildings remain, though it is often impossible to cross the streets or to stop to look at the buildings. The 18th century houses on the Green present a fine panorama, which is spoilt by one of the motor industry's main lines of communication. It is impossible to say at the moment whether historical considerations will best be served by a town of forty or seventy thousand people. It should not be imagined that they are well served by the present situation.

OUR COVER: shows Weeping Cross, whose mutilated remains stood until 1803 opposite the third Bodicote turn on the Oxford Road.

SOCIETY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Winter/Spring Programme

Tuesday, 28th February 7.30 p.m. Conservative Club (next to Martins Bank), High Street

"Sanderson Miller, Architect and Dilettante"

Mr. Anthony Wood, Warwickshire County Archivist, will speak on the life and work of Sanderson Miller, the local 18th century architect. Miller's father was Mayor of Banbury in 1707, and he was himself born nearby at Radway. A country gentleman and dilettante, he became well known as a designer and builder of follies, both for himself and his friends. The Castle Inn on Edgehill still remains, and other local work included "beautifying" the park at Wroxton Abbey for Lord North. Mr. Wood has made a special study of this most unexpected and unusual of our local worthies, and his talk is sure to be most interesting.

Tuesday, 28th March, 7.30 p.m. Conservative Club.

"Field Archaeology in North Oxfordshire"

Mr. Don Benson, Field Officer of the Oxford City and County Museum, will speak on his work with special reference to the excavations at Ascott-under-Wychwood. The creation of this post two years ago by the Oxford City and County Councils, as part of the staff of the new Museum at Woodstock, reflects their enlightened attitude towards archaeology in the county. Mr. Benson is responsible for investigating all archaeological sites and discoveries locally, and undoubtedly his prompt action preserves much that might otherwise be destroyed. A party from the Society visited his dig at Ascott-under-Wychwood last year, and we eagerly await his interim report, which will of course be illustrated with slides.

Thursday, 27th April, 7.30 p.m. Conservative Club.

"Social Conditions in the Nineteenth Century"

A study of the poorer areas of Banbury, their living conditions and social habits a hundred years ago.

Sunday, 30th April, 3.00 p.m. A third in our popular annual series of "Perambulations" of part of Banbury, to be conducted by Mr. B.S. Trinder and others - meeting place and area to be announced, but the route will probably follow the line of the old Borough boundary.

At the meeting in December a good audience saw and heard a most interesting account of the Civil War, particularly as it affected the locality, making use of educational films. We are particularly grateful to Mr. E.R.C. Brinkworth and Mr. G.J. Fothergill for leading the discussion and answering questions.

Subscription

Members are reminded that their subscriptions for 1967 were due on 1st January, and if not already paid should be so now, either to Mr. A.W. Pain at the Borough Library or direct to the Assistant Treasurer, Dr. G.E. Gardam, 116 Bloxham Road, Banbury.

Index to Volume Two

Copies of the Index to Volume Two of "Cake and Cockhorse" are at last ready and are being sent to all corporate members with this issue. Any individual members who would like copies are asked to apply to the Hon. Secretary, when they will be sent them without charge. The Index is 16 pages long and is split into sections on Places and Subjects, and on Personal Names. We are most grateful to Mr. R.C. Couzens for his work on compiling the latter.

SOME NOTES ON BODICOTE

Bodicote has attracted little attention from local historians and the object of the present account is to record some of the more useful and less accessible information for the use of future investigators. Until recently only two people - the late Mr. O.V. Aplin and the late Mr. C.W. Hurst - had provided any records of enquiries into the history of Bodicote, but fortunately both were keen observers and their notes, which have been freely used in the preparation of this article, will be of permanent value. In particular, Mr. Aplin's recollections of late nineteenth century life in the village (reproduced verbatim later in this article) provide an irreplaceable account of vanished customs. The remainder of the information stems from personal observations by the present author and examination of documents in the Parish Chest and various archives including the Bodleian Library. In no sense is this intended to be a history of Bodicote or even a partial account. It is merely a selection of material that is likely to be of most interest to the general reader.

Situation and Archaeology

A settlement has existed at Bodicote since Anglo-Saxon times and possibly since Roman times. No evidence has been found of any earlier occupation, although its situation, at the edge of the Salt Way and near to a major ford of the River Cherwell at Twyford, would favour a pre-historic occupation. In Belgic times, the Cherwell probably marked the eastern boundary of Dobunni territory and Bodicote may well have been a frontier outpost, under cover of the line of hillforts at Tadmarton, Madmarston and Ilbury.

There are no visible remains of early occupation, although there is a mound of a small Norman castle immediately over the parish boundary, in Bloxham Grove.

Late (3rd Century) Roman pottery has been found in fields to the west of the village and a Roman coin of Constantine the Great (330-345 AD) was picked up in the garden of Fleece Cottage in 1959. Sherds of late Anglo-Saxon coarse pottery were observed during the digging of drainage trenches to the west of the "Horse and Jockey" in 1964.

Extensive drainage and foundation work on the Red House and Fairholm estates in 1964/5 did not produce any evidence of occupation earlier than the 18th Century. Similarly there was no sign of previous occupation on the site of Bishop Loveday School during its construction.

Parish Maps and Field Names

The Parish Council have in their possession a Parish Map dated 1833 which provides much valuable information about Bodicote. The map is in four sections showing the village itself, the eastern and western halves of the parish, and the owners of the land. The map of the village is reproduced in Figure 1 and shows very little difference from the present day layout. Among the points of interest are the consecrated buildings, shown in black, namely the present church (before restoration), a small chapel in Fairholm and the old Methodist chapel in Chapel Lane. The Wesleyan Chapel in East Street was not built until 1845. Other interesting features are the farm buildings and cottages to the west of Main Street, most of which have now disappeared. A workhouse is indicated at the rear of what is now Forge Cottage and the village pound is now occupied by the garage of Ivy Cottage. At that time only two inns were in business, the Plough (as at present) and the White Hart, which is now called the Horse and Jockey. The latter had extensive malshouses attached to it.

The two field maps are reproduced in Figures 2 and 3 and on the original both the field numbers and landowners can be identified. The fourth part of the map, not shown here, is a list of field numbers, field names and field areas. Taken together, these maps enable the landowners and the extent of their holdings to be identified, as shown in the following table:

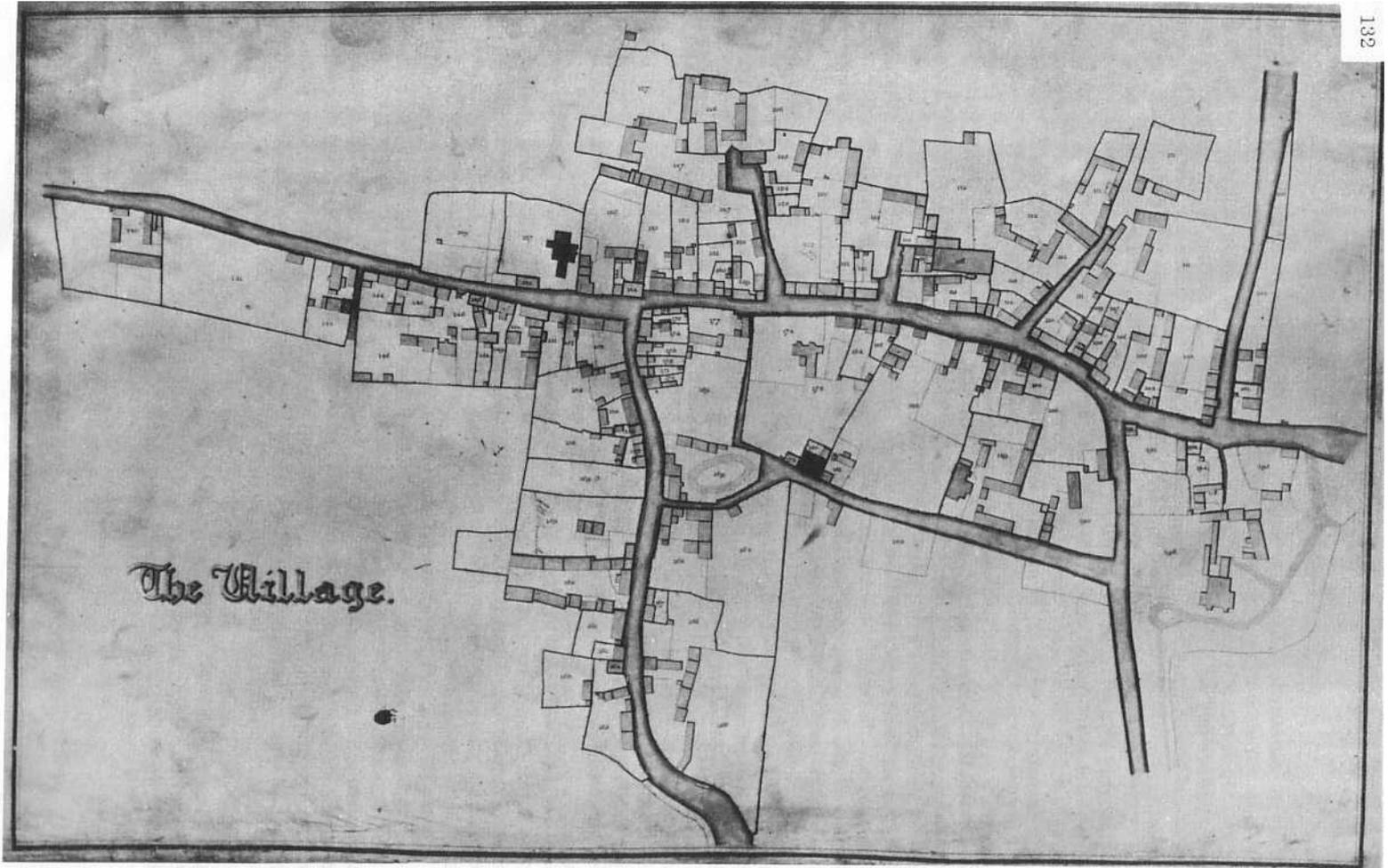


FIGURE 1 Scale Map of the village of Bodicote in 1833, prepared by Richard Davis, Land Surveyor, Banbury.

	<u>Field No.</u>	<u>Field Name</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>P</u>
William & James Gardner	1	Grants Meadow	18	1	10
	2	New Piece (P)	9	-	21
	3	The Lock Ground (P)	18	-	1
	18	Cowpasture	16	3	28
	17	Fulpits (P)	18	3	15
	20	House Ground (P)	13	3	19
	21	First Ploughed Ground	12	1	34
	32	Middle Ground (A)	12	-	38
	33	Bushy Furze Corner (A)	14	1	14
	34	Micklow (A)	14	2	21
	35	The Pike (A)	13	1	7
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			162	0	8
Richard Austin	6	Huckells Meadow	4	2	33
	82	The Moors Meadow	10	-	3
	83	Cowhouse Ground	57	1	1
	84	Ploughed Ground	9	1	34
	85	The Bull Ground (P)	11	1	35
	86	Lower Hop Ground (A)	8	1	24
	78	Clay Close (P)	24	3	8
	88	The Slade (P)	4	2	4
	89	Ploughed Ground	7	3	29
	91	Hop Ground (A)	9	2	8
	87	Lower Slade (P)	3	1	4
	66a	Meadow	5	1	15
				<hr/>	<hr/>
			156	2	38
Devises of John Nicoll	74	Home Close (P)	16	1	3
	204	Odkey Meadow	11	-	4
	206	Navy Bank Meadow	10	1	-
	202	Dairy Ground (P)	41	1	17
	203	The Dry Ground (P)	6	1	-
	201	Bucknell Ground (A)	30	-	30
	200	Great Ground (A)	28	2	3
				<hr/>	<hr/>
			143	3	17
Richard Heydon	208	Gunns Lower Meadow	7	3	10
	209	Lower Broad Meadow	4	1	33
	207	Gunns Hovel Meadow	8	-	36
	210	Upper Broad Meadow	3	3	21
	211	House Ground or Dairy Gd (P)	24	2	5
	212	Hovel Ground (P)	26	1	1
	214	Bean Ground (A)	9	-	39
	215	Seed Ground (A)	6	3	-
	221	Arable	5	3	19
	223	Durden (P)	6	-	19
	225	Durden (A)	8	1	33
	228	Arable	4	-	8

P = Pasture

A = Arable

cont'd

Richard Heydon (continued)	227	The Paddock (P)	-	3	3
	226	House & Garden	-	1	30
	218	Wheat Ground (A)	11	2	12
	220	Barley Ground (A)	8	-	10
	219	The Clump Ground (A)	-	1	34
			<hr/>		
			136	3	33
Warden & Scholars of New College	5	College Meadow	18	3	8
	4	Navy Bank (P)	5	3	18
	16	Great Shrubs (P)	15	2	16
	15	Little Shrubs (P)	8	-	21
	24	Ground behind the Barn (A)	17	-	35
	22	Barn Ground (A)	13	-	27
	31	Middle Ground (A)	17	3	22
	38	Ploughed Ground	15	2	6
	39	Weeping Cross Ground (A)	18	2	6
			<hr/>		
			130	2	39
John Wilson	44	Home Ground (A)	15	-	4
	45	Home Ground (P)	12	1	-
	36	Weeping Cross Ground (A)	23	3	12
	30	Ditchell Way (A)	13	1	-
	40	Middle Ground (A)	17	3	17
	43	Broad Gap Ground (A)	4	3	37
			<hr/>		
			87	0	30
Vicar of Adderbury	94	White Post Ground (A)	21	2	3
	95	Second High Bank or Shugmuster (A)	15	1	31
	96	First High Bank (A)	12	-	23
	97	Ploughed Ground	6	2	1
	14	The Dry Ground (P)	14	2	8
	25	Keck Furlong (A)	10	2	26
			<hr/>		
			80	3	12
Captain Elliott	55	Freemans Close (P)	5	1	4
	76	A Close (P)	1	2	17
	9	Webbs Meadow	7	2	39
	10	The Slinket (P)	1	2	39
	11	Lower Green Sward Ground	10	-	39
	27	Upper Green Sward Ground	9	2	15
	28	Ploughed Ground	28	-	35
			<hr/>		
			64	1	28
John Austin	49	New Close (P)	9	3	1
	50	Pease Porridge Meadow	4	-	18
	52	The Dairy Ground (P)	25	-	13
	46	Sideland or Rookery (P)	7	1	2
	47	Jenkinsons Ground (A)	9	1	10
	53	Home Close (P)	2	2	10
	48	The Park (P)	1	-	23
			<hr/>		
			59	0	37

cont'd..



FIGURE 3 Similar map for fields to the west of Oxford Road. Note that both these maps show the old (pre-1932) parish boundaries.

Henry Pratt	12	Lower Greensward Ground	9	1	9
	26	Upper " "	9	2	39
	29	Ploughed Ground	16	-	33
	8	Meadow	8	-	19
			<hr/>		
			43	1	20
Adderbury Town	92	The Long Ground (A)	12	-	8
	93	Gold Hill (A)	22	2	22
			<hr/>		
			34	2	30
Elizabeth Gardner	68	Lovells Ground (P)	4	1	27
	79	Ploughed Ground	10	2	33
	80	Middle Ground (P)	5	-	15
	81	Meadow	5	2	39
			<hr/>		
			25	3	34
William Hitchcock	197	Home Ground (P)	8	1	-
	198	South Ground (P)	7	2	-
	199	North Ground (A)	7	2	14
			<hr/>		
			23	1	14
Charles Hadland	51	The Cubs (P)	4	-	8
	60	The Leys (P)	5	1	10
	61	Mill Meadow	7	1	17
	56	Matts Close - Rhubarb	2	2	15
			<hr/>		
			19	1	10
Webb Deer	69	A Close (P)	1	2	7
	72	Close	1	2	4
	54	Home Close (P)	1	3	35
	42	Broad Gap Ground (A)	9	-	25
			<hr/>		
			14	0	31
Ann Grant	57	Mrs. Grants Ploughed Ground	3	3	23
	58	" " Lower Piece (P)	3	1	23
	59	Norths Ground (P)	2	3	20
	73	Mill Close (P)	4	2	32
			<hr/>		
			12	3	18
E. Bloxham	97	Ploughed Ground	6	2	1
			<hr/>		
William King	98	Rhubarb Ground	6	-	19
			<hr/>		
Thos. Wheeler	62	Whealers Meadow	1	1	24
	71	A Close (P)	1	-	14
			<hr/>		
			2	1	38

The "total quantity of the Parish" is shown as 1224a. 1r. 9p., but, in addition to the fields, this includes the areas of the houses, gardens and closes in the village itself.

The maps also enable the 19c field names to be identified and compared with the pre-enclosure field names. The latter are to be found in the 1768 Inclosure Award, in a Terrier of 1685 and also in the churchwardens' Accounts. The four are compared in the following table:

<u>Churchwarden's Accounts</u>	<u>Terrier</u>	<u>Inclosure Award</u>	<u>Parish Map</u>
1702-1740	1685	1768	1833
Durdin-side fallows	Durdain Cousway Starlings Shulsand Hill Between Streets Wickham Way Wickham Yatt	Congway Starlins Shulsand Hill	Durden Cowpasture
Town Land	Towne Furlong Brier Furlong Keck Furlong Weeping Cross Furlong Ditchwell Hill Pathway Furlong Greenway Broad Gap Swetneys Parsons Hamm	Towne Furlong Brier Furlong Keck Furlong Ditchwell Hill Pathway Furlong Greenway Swetneys Parsons Ham	Towne Furlong Keck Furlong Weeping Cross Ground Ditchwell Way Green Sward Broad Gap Ground
High Nadkey Land	Nadkey Chalke Leays Ye Hill	Odkey Meadow	Odkey Meadow Gold Hill
Clay Close			Clay Close
The Moors			The Moors

Of the inclosures above, only Durden, Town Furlong, Keck Furlong, Broad Gap, Weeping Cross Furlong, Ditchwell Hill and Odkey Meadow can be identified with certainty. Until 1932 Bodicote extended well into present day Banbury and one of the boundaries was "Durden", the valley alongside Hightown Road (O.E. "dene" = valley). The position of Brier Furlong can be deduced as S.E. of Odkey Meadow.

Of the post-inclosure names, some relate to the canal cutting: "Navy Bank", "Lock Ground", "New Piece", while "Hop Ground" recalls an unsuccessful attempt by the Austins, the Banbury brewers, to establish a local supply of raw material. "Rhubarb Ground" is associated with Usher's Steam Drug Mills, whose Turkey Rhubarb was a staple commodity for over a century. "Second High Bank or Shugmuster" throws light on the ancient deed quoted by Potts (p 249) of a grant of land in "Sugmister".

The Bodicote Bodysnatchers

The following contemporary account (probably from the Oxford Journal) was reprinted in the Banbury press in 1916 and a cutting is preserved amongst Mr. O.V. Aplin's papers.

"Oct. 22nd, 1831 This morning at about half past seven a countryman took a box to the Red Lion Inn to be conveyed by the Union Coach to London. The people about the inn yard soon found their nasal organs assailed by a most disagreeable stench suspicion at length alighted on the box and on opening it, shocking to relate, the corpse of a young woman was found in it. The man who brought the box was apprehended and is now in custody. He stated that he had brought the box from Boddicott. It seems that the corpse was stolen last night from Broughton and is that of a young woman named Roberts who was at our Fair on Thursday and died suddenly on Sunday.

Oct. 29th, 1831 Joseph Tyrell charged with having feloniously stolen the dead body of Mary Ann Roberts Committed to Oxford Gaol.
Jan. 7th, 1832 Tyrell sentenced to 12 months imprisonment."

The above account can be checked with Banbury Gaol Records 1829 -39 (but note the slight discrepancy in dates).

"20th Oct., 1831 Terrill of Bodicot brought in by D. Claridge charged with bringing a box containing a corpse to go to London. Taken from Broughton churchyard.

22nd Oct., 1831 Terrill taken before D. Stuart Esq., and committed to Oxford if he did not find securities by Monday at 2 o'clock, which he failed in doing.

25th Oct., 1831 Terrill taken to Oxford by D. Claridge at 4 o'clock this morning."

According to C.W. Hurst, Joseph Tyrell died 17th Nov. 1878, aged 85. He also adds that Tyrell was captured by the police while drinking at the "Star" in Wykham Lane, but this statement does not seem to tally with the above account.

Local tradition says that Tyrell refused to betray his accomplices in this exploit but that the gang included a Walton and a Chilton.

Chapels

Nonconformist meeting places in Bodicote can be traced by applications for registration certificates, the first of which is dated 1793. No doubt nonconformists met in secret before that date, but no records have survived. In all, four certificates were granted:

8.11.1793 to John Claridge, Mathew Gibbard and James Ward for a house in the possession of John Claridge.

13.3.1818 Evan Herbert, minister of the Gospel for a certain building lately erected in this village. Also signed by Mathew Gibbard, John Bloxham, Thos. Gardner, John Wilson.

12.12.1826 Thos. Gibbs of Boddicott.

29.12.1829 Joseph Ward of Banbury for "a building in my possession at Boddicott".

The 1793 meeting was the forerunner of the Strict Baptist chapel in Chapel Lane erected in 1818 and demolished, according to Mr. William Bratt, in about 1906. He described it as a very beautiful building, built of ashlar stone from a house (the Cobb mansion) in Adderbury. He remembers a stone trough about 6 ft x 6 ft x 18 in deep for baptisms, fed with hot water from a copper. There were seats around it for children.

Although John Claridge was associated with the original meeting place, his name does not appear in the 1818 application. He died in 1828 aged 84. John Bloxham who signed the 1818 application was also one of the witnesses to the registration of a meeting house at Mathew Henderson's, Calthorpe Street, Neithrop, 1810.

No records survive of the other two chapels mentioned above. Thomas Gibbs died in 1831 aged 79. The Wesleyan Chapel ("Blake's chapel") in East Street was built in 1845 by a butcher named Blake.

Usher's Steam Drug Mills

Rhubarb is reputed to have been introduced to Bodicote in 1777 by Dr. William Hayward, an apothecary, and on the 1833 Parish map two fields (one the present recreation ground) are shown as "rhubarb". Modern inhabitants refer to the field on the north corner of White Post Road and Oxford Road as "The Rhubarb Field".

According to Mr. C.W. Hurst, the plants were acquired by Peter Usher on Hayward's death in 1811. He, in turn, left the business to his son Rufus who died in 1885 and it passed in succession to Richard Usher (d 1898) and Richard Bernard Usher (d 1950). The Ushers were prominent non-conformists and Peter Usher was a minister (not ordained) of the "Great Meeting" in Banbury from 1797 - 1811.

Rhubarb was grown for its roots, which were dried and sold to herbalists who used it as a cure for dysentery, etc. Usher's stock list of 1914 offers nine different grades of Radix Rhei Ang.,

in addition to other materials such as belladonna, hyoscyamus, papaveris and valerianae.

The drying sheds were in the premises now occupied by Mr. P. Clarke's motor business, and consisted of lofts with slatted floors on which the roots were laid, and large ovens underneath.

The Usher family at one time lived in "The Homestead" next door to the yard, but moved to Bodicote Cottage in 1946. Mrs. Usher, the widow of R.B. Usher, died in 1962.

Some Notable Bodicote Families

The Parish registers list the names of over 560 families who have lived in Bodicote between 1563 and 1840, but of these only 16 remained in the village for more than 200 years. It is worth recording these 16 families because they include most of the names of those active in village affairs in the 17th and 18th centuries.

<u>Aris</u>	Recorded only as a farming family.
<u>Barnes</u>	Active as churchwardens, fieldsmen, etc. Also millers at Grove Mill. It is doubtful whether this is the same family as James Barnes, Principal Engineer of the Grand Junction Canal (d 1819) who lived in Bodicote and is commemorated by a tablet in the church.
<u>Bradford</u>	Churchwardens, etc. There is no evidence that they were related to the recent Adderbury family of that name.
<u>Burling</u>	Frequently referred to as innkeepers. Ale was provided by them after the annual letting of the Fallows.
<u>Claridge</u>	Mentioned as masons, constables (see "Bodysnatchers") and also in connection with the setting up of the Baptist chapel.
<u>Gard(i)ner</u>	Mainly farmers and latterly landowners. In 1833 William and James Gardner were the biggest landowners in Bodicote (162 acres).
<u>Grant</u>	A well-known name in the village, commemorated in "Grant's Lock" on the canal. However in 1665 William Grant was discharged by poverty from paying Hearth Tax.
<u>Hall</u>	Together with the Bradfords and the Wises, one of the most active families in local affairs. In 1634 Thos. Hall of Bodicote and Thos. Roberts of South Newington were arrested for refusing to pay Ship Money. This was several years before John Hampden.
<u>North</u>	Not much known. Sometimes served as constable. Recorded as landowner, ("North's Ground").
<u>Penn</u>	A landowner in 1685.
<u>Righton</u>	This family (spelt with several variations) seem to have been mainly labourers.
<u>Ward(e)</u>	Not much known.
<u>Webb</u>	(Sometimes Weeb). Also active in village affairs.
<u>Wheeler</u>	Recorded as millers and maltsmen. Owners of "Wheeler's Meadow" (at the bottom of the hill down to Bodicote Mill).
<u>Whing (or Wing)</u>	Active as churchwardens.
<u>Wise</u>	Perhaps the best known Bodicote family. It included John Wise of London, a celebrated clockmaker, who made the Bodicote church clock in 1700.

In the 1852 Directory only the Gardners and Wrightons are mentioned, but this is not a true guide since only gentry, farmers and traders were included. However in 1950, Kelly's Directory which is a complete list, showed only Ayris and a Claridge.

The pattern of families changed drastically in the 19th century, with Wilsons, Austins, Heydons, Hitchcocks and Gardners dominant in the first half, followed by Nelsons, Wyatts, Aplins, Warriners, Guests, Caless's and Deers.

At the turn of the century the important householders were J.F. Starkey, Col. C.C. Molyneux, Ernest Samuelson, E. Abbotts and T. Walford.

Finally, it is of interest to see the names of the principal inhabitants in 1665 as shown by a Hearth Tax return.

Alex Hawtree	v
William Knight	v
Mathew Wise	ij
John Penn	ijj
John Webb	ijj
Jonothan Webb	i
Widdow Ward	ijj
Thomas Hill	i
Rose Burlings	ijj
Margaret Hall	i
Matthew Winge	ij
Henry Aris	ij
Ann Hall	i
Thomas North	ij
John Robbins	i
Matt. Wissett Sen.	ijj
John Bradford	i
Henry Wise	ij
William House	ijj
William Bradford	ijj
Matthew Soleman	ij
	<hr/>
	ijj
William Grant)
Thomas Lakin) discharged by poverty.
William Barlow)

Mr. O.V. Aplin's Recollections

I am indebted to Mr. R. d'O. Aplin of Bloxham for permission to reproduce manuscript notes on Bodicote, made by his father, the late Mr. O.V. Aplin (a well-known ornithologist and author of "Birds of Oxfordshire"). The Aplins first appear in Bodicote in the 1850's when Benjamin William Aplin (a solicitor) became Lord of the Manor; they moved to Bloxham in 1881:

The stocks in my memory stood in the "Tchure", the narrow lane leading out opposite the Plough Inn (or "Mrs. Edinburgh's").

Bells. On Sunday the Tenor Bell rung at 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. irrespective of service.

For morning service bells chimed 15 minutes; then if a sermon, the "sermon bell" (a big one) rang for 10 minutes; then the "ting-tang" or little bell went for 5 minutes. If no sermon, the sermon bell did not ring and the bells chimed for 25 minutes. They were not "rung".

A bell rung when the congregation came out of morning service. This was called the "Pudding bell" and not until then did the bakers open their ovens and the people fetched away their dinners, meat baked over pudding.

Pancake bell rang on Shrove Tuesday at, I think, 10 or 11 a.m.

For 4 or 5 weeks before Christmas the bells rang every evening, or nearly so.

Christmas, after midnight Christmas eve, rang a peal: "rang Christmas in".

Also early the next morning,

On New Year's eve they rang a muffled peal up to midnight and when clock struck 12 they rang out a clear peal.

On Valentine's Day the children came round in the morning and sang:

"The rose is red, the violet's blue
"Carnation's sweet and so be you
"So please to give us a Wolentine. "

A variation of the second line after a churlish refusal was:

"The devil's black and so be you".

On May Day they brought round Garlands and sang:

"Ladies and gentlemen
We wish you a happy day
We've come to show our garlands
Because it is May Day."

A doll sometimes in the garland proper, which was veiled with white cloth until shown. Probably Scandinavian origin, "dukka" = a doll. Boy carried small May Pole. If possible both should be topped by a Crown Imperial blossom.

The "Club Day" or feast of the Benefit Clubs was on the Friday in Whit week and lasted over the next day. The two clubs carried (and were supported by later in day) red and blue staffs crowned with gilt fleur de lys. People used to make "club puddings" on this day, a kind of plum pudding with bread in it, baked in a shallow pudding tin. Eaten cold. On Club day the doorways of the public houses were festooned with branches of trees - flowering if possible - laburnum being much favoured. This is connected with the idea of "booths". This was the greatest day in the village year, many people having their children home, and many visitors coming to see their friends from neighbouring villages. There were stalls for the sale of fairings, china dogs, gingerbread toys, etc., and a swing boat (of a primitive kind) or two. The Clubs had a dinner each at their own public house. "Crack nuts" were sold and eaten all day.

The Wake was held in summer, I think on Sunday after 5th July, St. John Baptist's day, old style. There were a few visitors, relatives and others, and the evening before some stalls and the swing boat (until middle of seventies of last century at least).

Palm Sunday known as "Fig Sunday" and those who could get them ate figs on that day.

The Mummers came round to about the latter part of the seventies of 19th Century. I cannot remember much of the recitations. The actors were (1) King George, (2) The Turk, (3) Doctor, (4) Beelzebub or Great Head, (5) A man who came in first with a besom and began to sweep the floor, making a speech and wishing the people of the house they visited a Merry Christmas, and perhaps one or two more. The Turk after a fight is supposed to be killed: doctor arrives, gives him a pill: draws a tooth; the whole party, taking one another by waist, pull, and when tooth gives they all fall backwards. Tooth, a sheep's or pig's is held up for wonder. Doctor then stooping down exclaims:

He's not dead
He's in a trance
Rise up, "Father Abraham"
And we'll have a dance.

And their dance (of them all) finishes it.

The doctor on coming says:

"Here's the doctor come from Spain
 "As can bring the dyead to life again
 "I cure the hip, the pip, the palsy, etc.

Beelzebub when he comes in says:

"Here come I as never come yet
 "Wi' my gret yed and little wit
 "And tho' me head's so gret
 "And me wit's so smaal
 "I'll do me best to plaze ye all
 "In I come Beelzebub
 "And on my back I carry a club
 "And in my hand a frying pan

 "Good dog, good dog, lay down your bone -

Loo-belling or Rough Music was still used: and later.

I lived at Bodicote down to 1881.

Churchwardens' Accounts

The churchwardens' Account Book for the years 1700 to 1822 has survived and is preserved in the Parish Chest. It has been transcribed and indexed by Mr. C.W. Hurst and his manuscript is in the Bodleian Library, Oxford (MS Top Oxon. C306). A photocopy of the transcription has also been purchased by the Society, and it is hoped to publish an edited version as a Records publication at some future date. Its 120 pages form an invaluable record of 18th Century Bodicote and, in the short space available here, only brief mention of some of the more interesting features is possible.

From 1700 to 1767, the principal matters recorded are the annual appointment of churchwardens, constable, fieldsmen and surveyors; the sums handed over by the retiring officers and the letting of town land. Notes are also made of the sums collected by "briefs" for people in distress. These range all over the country (e.g. "Headington in the Com of Oxon. Loss by fire 5/-" and "Ottery St. Mary in the County Devon Loss by fire 4/7d.") and even abroad "For the relife for the poor prodestants in Bohemie and Prussia £7. 0. 7." Nevertheless there is evidence of some selectivity in this charity, for example: "Oxford Church nothing collected".

After 1767 (i.e. after the Inclosure) there is a change, in that the disbursements of the churchwardens are itemised and it is possible to obtain much more information about the duties of the churchwardens and the cost of everyday goods and services.

Some entries of interest are extracted below, in approximate date order.

"February the 2: 170⁴/5 The old fieldsmen Hautree Huckell and Thomas North have chose Thomas Whitton and Richard Wise Junor for the yeare inshuing and the Fallowes are let to Mathew Wise for £11.12.6d. whereof 10/- was spent the same day at Thomas Burlings in ale". This entry refers to the letting of town land for the year and the subsequent jollification at the expense of the successful bidder. There is no information on the method of letting, but it was probably in the form of a candle auction of the type still occasionally found. It was almost certainly held in an inn, and these records amplified by other references give us the names of some of the innkeepers:

Thomas Burling (1705, 9, 10, 11, 24, 26)
 John Bradford (1712)
 John Mander (1731)
 Richard Rowsham (1732, 33, 34, 35, 37, 41, 45, 46)
 Thomas Hall (1736, 38)
 E. White (1777)
 Bet White (1783)
 Elizabeth Grove (1783)
 Level (1783)

"Memorandum

That this year of our Lord God 1709 they learned to sing Psalms at Bodicoat. Their names are as ffoloweth which entered. Imprimus John Ward, John Whise, Thomas Peedle, Henry Grant, William Plowman, Henry Bradford, William Bradford, William Barnes, Robert Smith, John Webb Jun., Hawtry Huckel, Joseph Lovell, John Bennett, Elizabeth Ward, William Jame, Thomas Robins, William Whitten, Ann Aris, Ann Rowson, Thomas Grant Jun. which they petitioned to the Church Wardens being John Webb and William Webb Sen. and the inhabitants of the Towne of Bodicoat to have a Gallery builded for that Divine practice, which they granted to be done. And it was builded in the West end of the Church at the Towne charge for singers to stand or kneel in divine service."

"Memorand That in November 1718 their was colected in this Towne by John Wise and Thomas Grant the sume of £5.4.1. for the poore afflicted in Banbury". Hurst quotes Canon A.J. Jones, a former Vicar of Banbury, as saying that this was in connection with an outbreak of smallpox in which over 200 died.

"1720 Sir Edward Cobb left unpaid of the Constables Levy the sum of 10s.11d."

"April 1 1741 Thomas Robins. Constable rec'd of Marshal money 7s.0d. rec'd for the Kings Carriage 10s. 0d."

The significance of these entries has not yet been established, but the "King's Carriage" entry is repeated in 1742.

1766 "Be it remembered that the Galory in the Church was built by John Robins and Hawtry Huckell churchwardens and to Defray the Expenses of Building the ground underneath the Galory was sold to the foloing persons John Wheler bought the North side of the space for £2.7.0. and John Wilson and Thomas Grant bought half the South side underneath the stairs for 14/6d. which the afor said persons ought to Enjoy, they and their ares for Ever. The Galory was built for the use of the singers only and for Evor After no person as no Right to claim no place which is in the said Galory and not to alow any person to sit in the same except a singer.

The Galory was built by John Turner for £5.5.0. was painted by Jos Lovell for 10s. 6d.

"Sept. 22, 1767 Being the crownation paid the ringers*2s. 6d." This entry is repeated most years up to about 1896 and refers to the anniversary of the coronation of George III.

"April 16, 1770 Paid for mending the Ingen 10s. 6d."

The fire-engine referred to here is not the one at present in the R.D.C. yard at Bodicote House. This latter engine (dated 1775) was bought from Adderbury in the late 19th or early 20th century. There are many other references to firefighting, usually in the form of "paid for playing the Ingin" or "beer when the Ingin was plaid".

Nov. 3, 1778 To Randle and Cleridge for putting Fire Hooks up 1s.1d." This is another reference to firefighting and the hazards of thatched roofing. The fire hooks (usually kept in the church) were long wooden poles fitted with metal hooks, and used for pulling down burning thatch. They are still preserved in some country churches.

"Jan. 2, 1784 Paid for a fox 1s.0d."

By an Act of Elizabeth, churchwardens were empowered to pay for the destruction of vermin and there are many entries of this type. Typical prices were: Sparrows, 3d/doz (rising to 4d in 1802), Hedghogs 4d, Weasels 3d, Snake 2d, Fox 1/- . The hedgehogs presented some difficulty to the writers and the following variations in spelling can be seen: Hege Hoge, Hedghog, Hege Hog, Heghog, Heghoge, Headghog, Edgehog, Edghog, Eghog, Edhoge.

Sparrows appear to have been a considerable pest at times, and in 1790 payment is recorded on one occasion for 87 doz.

"June 21, 1787 Payd the Parritor for a procklymashin 1s.0d."

"1789 A botel of sacrament wine that the Clark had the misfortin to Breck and spil 3s.6d."

"March 1797 A prayer and thanksgiving for the Victory gained by Sir John Jervis 1s.0d."

This refers to the battle of Cape St. Vincent. Subsequent entries commemorate the battles of the Nile, Trafalgar and Waterloo.

"July 2, 1796 Paid for the base vile fidle stick 5-6d.

There are many references to church music about this time, particularly purchase of reeds.

"Nov. 23, 1809 Paid Cooper's Incom Tax for the church land 10s.0d."

John Cooper is shown as tenant of the church land, but no other information is available about this entry, which is repeated in 1812.

<u>"April 4 1809</u>	Total expense of roofing (the church)	£129. 8. 7½.
	Rec'd by old materials	59. 9. 4.

"

£69.19. 3½.

These repairs to the church cannot have been very effective, as a complete rebuilding was necessary by the middle of the century.

The above extracts are only a few of the interesting references to be found in the Accounts. The remainder must await publication of the complete text.

J. H. Fearon.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF JOSEPH ARCH

Preface by Frances, Countess of Warwick. Ed. J.G. O'Leary.
MacGibbon and Kee. Fitzroy Edition. 1966. 30s.

The agricultural labourers of the south midlands in the late 19th century have attracted considerable attention in recent years, with the publication of M.K. Ashby's "Joseph Ashby of Tysoe", and the continued popularity of Flora Thompson's "Lark Rise to Candleford". Much older than either of these is the autobiography of the leader of the National Agricultural Labourers' Union, first published in 1898 and now very scarce. This is an abbreviated version, one of the first volumes in what promises to be a most useful series of reprints. Arch's home at Barford lies on the margin of Banbury's hinterland, and his book is essential to an understanding of local agrarian history in the reign of Victoria.

Arch was a fourth generation freeholder, and as such immune from the threats of squire and parson: "They gave me a bad name, but they couldn't hang me. They ... wrote me down a contentious brawler, a dissenting wind bag, and a Radical Revolutionary; but not one of them could say I was an idler who neglected his family The house I lived in was an English working man's castle of the right sort - it was my own, every stick and stone of it. No lean minion of the law had the right to lay so much as the tip of a parchment-finger on it, and I had no horse-leech of a mortgage fastened on to me draining the blood of manliness and independence out of me." Like Edward Cobb of Banbury, another dissenting Radical he regarded Cromwell as a hero, harking back to "those old Roundhead ancestors of mine, who struck many a brave and sturdy blow on the right side". He was proud, as were most Victorian labour aristocrats, of his professional skills, and after becoming "Champion Hedgecutter of England" determined to master everything he took up. He inherited from his mother a strong urge towards self-improvement; his one aim and object in the 1840's being "the bettering of my own position by every honest means in my power". He closely identified himself with Liberalism, having been magnetised by the speeches of Gladstone and Bright found in second hand newspapers.

In 1872 "the call" came. Under the Wellesbourne chestnut tree on February 7th he made the speech which founded the union and which eventually took him to Parliament as M.P. for North West Norfolk. "I mounted an old pig stool, and in the flickering light of the lanterns I saw the earnest upturned faces of these poor brothers of mine - faces gaunt with hunger and pinched with want - all looking towards me and ready to listen to the words that would fall from my lips".

The description of the Wellesbourne meeting is well known. So is Arch's account of his peeping through the keehole of the parish church to watch the Sacrament being taken according to social grade. Yet his handling of much less dramatic themes equally shows him a master of that style of English vernacular, which springs from Bunyan and the Authorised Version: "My father was a sober, industrious, agricultural labourer, steady as old Time, a plodding man, and a good all-round worker, who could turn his hand to anything, like his father before him. He was quiet and peaceable by nature, no fighter; he did not agree with those who were ready to pick a quarrel and stir up strife for a trifle; on the contrary he was too much inclined to let people take advantage of him. But he could be independent and show a stiff back if it came to a question of principle; and he had no mind to bend his neck to squire or parson for the sake of their doles, when they wanted him to do what he thought was wrong".

The editing of this version leaves something to be desired. Arch's contacts with the Primitive Methodists, probably one of the most important influences on his outlook, are excluded, and the statement in the editor's note that the strike of 1872 was the first revolt of Hodge and his mates since 1381 would have surprised the men of 1830. The omission of an index is unfortunate. Nevertheless 147 pages of Joseph Arch himself are well worth thirty shillings. They destroy many romantic myths.

Barrie Trinder.

BANBURY 70,000

Town Development Group, Oxfordshire County Council. August 1966.
(inside: Sept. 1966). 58 pp., 9 plans.

7s. 6d.

Britain's booming regions are the two which look to Birmingham and London. Banbury stands poised between these cities. Though thirty miles nearer to Birmingham, it is with London that Banbury has overspill agreements; and it is the South East Regional Study which proposed that Banbury's population expand from to-day's 25,000 to 70,000 in 1981. This has led to the prompt publication of this report.

The plan's first presupposition is the currently acceptable assumption that future populations will want, and have, considerable personal mobility. High car-ownership is expected, ample parking spaces provided and vehicles separated from pedestrians. There is a gallant attempt to transform a radial-centre town into a circuit-linear town which retains the original Borough centre unaltered. The aim is to allow for swift, safe and easy public and private transport to work, to the centre and to residence in such a way as to eliminate rush-hour surges.

A linear town is one in which dwellings, work places, shopping and other social facilities are arranged on one fast road which allows ready access to them all. Essentially, the proposed Banbury consists of housing units, work, recreation and central zones disposed within and around two irregular arcs of primary roads which curve north-east from the By-pass trunk road. The plan's idea is seriously limited by the Ministry of Transport's refusal to recognise as primary, roads which debouch into car-parks. This means two obvious feeders into the centre do not attract Ministry grants, whilst the trunk road, not to be used as a town road, has to be duplicated, and for over a mile, apparently triplicated ! (1)

The second assumption is that we all want to live in little communities set in England's green and pleasant countryside. This English obsession is pandered to by the provision of "villages", two of 5,000 and seven of 3,000 people. It is not clear whether the 10,000 or so people who arrive before the villages begin in 1971, are to have the benefit of small communities, nor whether the plan proposes adaptations of the existing housing units, at Easington, Neithrop and Grimsbury. Shall these neighbourhoods have as good an opportunity of creating the intimate, face-to-face contacts and relationships in which individuals and the community find their identity and security ?

The report makes the good point of trying to integrate newcomers with the established population, and to keep a defined proportion of local authority to private dwellings, but because the "village" populations are so small, there will be a serious imbalance between social life at the centre and neighbourhood facilities. The need for temporary classrooms for the primary school children of 3,000 young immigrants (how much specialist housing for the elderly ? Why only residential accommodation for 90 persons ? the elderly cohorts of the population are also increasing) and the admitted failure to provide clinics for every centre, suggest Hemel Hempstead's experiences are valid: a population of 5,000 does not support worthwhile social facilities; studies show no active Church with its own building can be supported by communities of less than 5,000. (2) Junior Youth Club, Church and sub-library facilities would be feasible if Villages 8 and 9 for example, were integrated, perhaps with Hanwell, but if these remain three separate communities, such services will be weak and intermittent.

A third assumption in contemporary planning is that future populations will have high leisure demands. It is good to see the report's proposed Marina and Sports Hall, but sad that sections are devoted to Fire and Police when there is no attempt comprehensively to assess the leisure needs of the grown town. These are likely to be increasingly minority and space-demanding - moto-cross, archery, fishing - and not all possible in the in-between green belts. Like so many planning problems, this is practically impossible to predict, but essential to make full allowance for.

So long as Banbury is to be planned for a population of 70,000 it is hard to hope for better compromises than those contained in this report. Were the population 100,000 plus, then it would be possible to allow for socially stronger sub-centres which would not detract from the centre. But if the main centre is retained - and who would want it otherwise ? - the neighbourhoods will be weakened in their social possibilities. It will be interesting to see the County's proposals for the real villages in Banbury's hinterland. Apart from allowing room for the centre to grow northwards, the report gives no indications of the possible lines of future growth of the town (more "villages"; ? build-up the in-between parklands ?). 1981 is not the end. "Indeed, it will be a beginning - the beginning of a bulge of post-war babies' grand-children". (3)

Christopher Nankivell.

Dawley.

- (1) The scale and clarity of the Master Plan (No.4) is deplorable, e.g. The railway seems to change into a primary road. This main plan should be on an unfolding sheet, to obviate page-turning. Three eighths of the report is blank paper. The three drawings add little of value.
- (2) Recommendations for the Development of the Church's Mission in Dawley New Town: 1966 Research Bulletin, Institute for the Study of Worship and Religious Architecture. University of Birmingham, by Rev. Peter Bridges, A.R.I.B.A. p.64.
- (3) The West Midlands' Regional Study. 1965. p.37.

A LATE MEDIEVAL RECKONING COUNTER

A brass reckoning counter was found by Mr. B. Foulkes in the garden of his home at 80, Cromwell Road, Banbury on April 30th, 1966. Although its condition is poor, the inscriptions being almost illegible, it is a most interesting specimen.

Before Arabic numerals came into general use in Europe in the 15th century arithmetical reckonings were made with Roman numerals. Calculations were made with metal disks mounted on a counting board or cloth divided into chequers or squares (hence the modern term "Exchequer"). Disks for these calculations were first made in France in the 13th century. Sometimes they were copies of current coins but often they bore pious mottoes or inscriptions which were quite meaningless. Large numbers of counters of this sort from France and Germany, ranging from the 14th to the 17th centuries have been found all over England.

The obverse of the reckoning counter found in Cromwell Road bears in its centre a 'seriffed' cross on a diamond shaped lozenge of leaves (quatrefoil ?) surrounded by an illegible inscription which is probably "Ave Maria Stella dei Mater" or some similar religious motto. The reverse features three fleur des lys enclosed in a diamond shaped lozenge with an inscription around the outside reading 'Vive la Roi et la Dophin' (Long live the king and the Dauphin - the king's son and heir).

The design suggests that this counter was struck sometime during the reign of either Charles VII or Louis XI, between the years 1380 and 1483. It was probably struck at Tournai, then in northern France in the Burgundian territory, but now just over the border in Belgium.

The counter has been examined at the Ashmolean Museum and will be placed on loan in the collection of Banbury Borough Museum.

V. Bromley.

The activities and publications of some or all of the following bodies should interest readers:

- Arts Council of Banbury (Miss B.G. Rooke, Cornerstones, St. Mary's Road, Adderbury West, Banbury.) Minimum 21/-.
- Banbury and District Civic Society (J. Barnden, Hon. Tr., c/o Barclays Bank Ltd., Bridge Street, Banbury). 10/6d.
- Banbury Art Society (Hon. Sec., 24 Bloxham Road, Banbury). 15/-.
- Banbury Geographical Association (B.E. Little, 2 Burlington Crescent, Banbury). 5/-.
- Bicester Local History Circle (Hon. Sec., Miss G.H. Dannatt, Lammas Cottage, Launton Road, Bicester, Oxon.). 5/-.
- Buckinghamshire Record Society (Hon. Sec., J.G. Jenkins, Twitchells End, Jordans, Bucks.). 42/-.
- Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Oxfordshire Branch (Mrs. J. Scott-Cockburn, North Oxon. Sub-Committee Membership Sec., Hornton Hall, Banbury). Minimum 5/-.
- Dugdale Society (published Warwickshire records) (Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon). 42/-.
- Farthinghoe Historical Society (Hon. Sec., R.E.J. Lewis, Abbey Lodge, Farthinghoe, Nr. Brackley, Northants). 5/-.
- Heraldry Society (59 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.) 30/-; or to include "The Coat of Arms", 50/-.
- Historical Association (59a Kennington Park Road, London, S.E.11) (Oxford Branch: A.J.P. Puddephatt, 93 Old Road, Headington, Oxford). 20/-; or to include "History", 35/-.
- Northamptonshire Record Society (Delapré Abbey, Northampton). 21/-.
- Oxford Architectural and Historical Society (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford). 15/-; or to include "Oxoniensia", 42/-.
- Oxford Preservation Trust (The Painted Room, 3 Cornmarket Street, Oxford). Minimum 5/-.
- Oxfordshire Record Society (Dr. W.O. Hassall, Hon. Sec., Bodleian Library, Oxford). 21/-.
- Shipston-on-Stour and District Local History Society (H.G. Parry, Hon. Sec., 8 Stratford Road, Shipston-on-Stour, Warw.). 7/6d.
- Warwickshire Local History Society (47 Newbold Terrace, Leamington Spa.). 10/-.

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