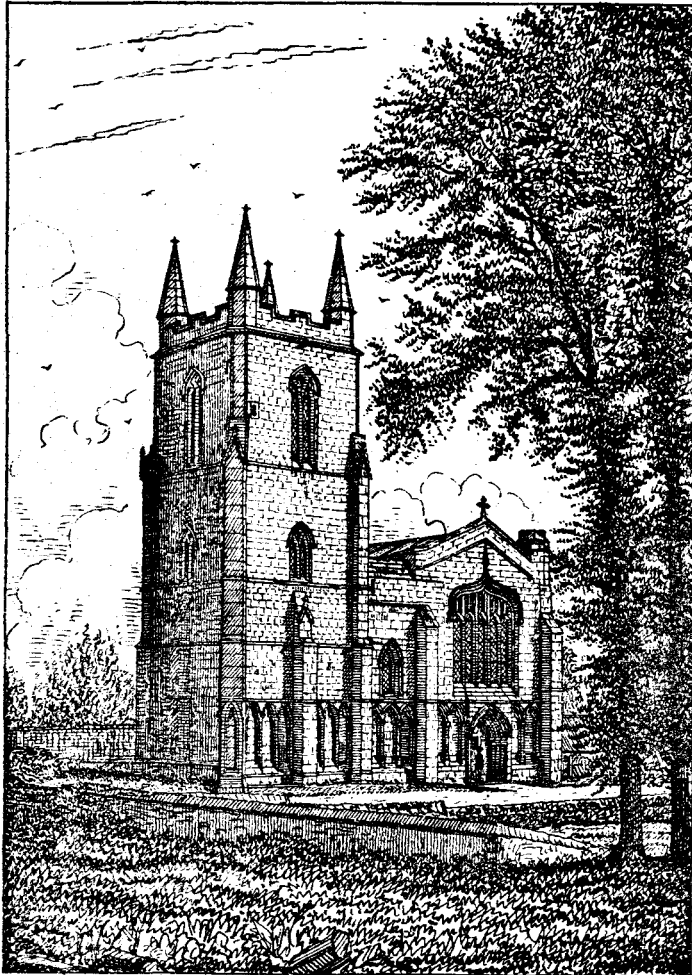


CAKE & COCKHORSE

The Magazine of the Banbury Historical Society



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March, 1964

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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 & 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, has been published and a Christmas card is a popular annual production.

The Society also publishes an annual records volume. Banbury Marriage Register has been published in three parts, a volume on Oxfordshire Clockmakers 1400-1850 has been produced and South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1560-1662 is planned for 1964.

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 are arranged and archaeological excavations are undertaken 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.

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Considerable controversy was aroused by the article in our January issue on the new Oxford City and County Museum, and in particular by our remarks about the large exhibits now stored in the cellars of the Municipal Buildings. Members of the Society may have been left with the impression that these remarks were ill-founded and unjustified.

The observations were based on a visit to the cellar made in the summer of 1963 when the Society was collecting material for its exhibition Banbury 1790-1837. At that time a fungoid growth was clearly visible at one end of the plush loom and woodworm had been active at the other end. The skylight above the loom was broken and letting in rain-water, and the whole cellar was full of old picture frames, papers and miscellaneous rubbish.

Fortunately the effects of the controversy have been thoroughly beneficial. The rubbish has been cleared from the cellar, the skylight repaired and experts have been to advise on the treatment of the loom. As a result of Dr. Beckinsale's talk to the Society on January 28th, a number of local craftsmen have offered to help in repairing the loom. After criticising the local authority for its neglect, it is indeed most pleasing to be able to commend the rapidity with which steps have been taken to remedy the situation.

* * * *

OUR NEXT ISSUES: September will see the publication of our third annual reviews issue, which will be the largest yet as there has been almost a glut of books on the history of the district in recent months. In November we shall devote an entire issue to the Globe Room in which it is hoped to give answers to most of the mysteries about the origins and the recent history of the room. It is to be hoped that by then we shall also be able to record its return to Banbury.

"OUR COVER - shows the historic church of Canons Ashby, subject of Peter Woodard's article on page 125".

SOCIETY NEWS AND ACTIVITIESForthcoming Meetings

Tuesday, 24th March Lady de Villiers. "Unrest in Oxfordshire in the 16th and early 17th centuries".

The 1590's were one of the most turbulent decades in English history. The traditional picture of "merry" England, happy under the rule of "good Queen Bess" is based on the first three decades of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. There were few more unhappy periods than the sixteen years between the outbreak of war with Spain in 1587 and the Queen's death in 1603. In Oxfordshire discontent showed itself chiefly in the so-called "Banbury Rising" of 1597, a planned rising of the rural poor for the purposes of "pulling down enclosures and knocking down gentlemen". This was only one manifestation of the unrest generally prevalent in the county at this period. Lady de Villiers will be dealing with other signs of disorder and with the general causes of social discontent at the time. It is particularly appropriate that this subject should be dealt with in 1964 as the Society's publication of the South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts will add much to our knowledge of the late 16th and early 17th centuries in north Oxfordshire.

This meeting will be held in the upstairs reception room of Banbury Conservative Club, High Street, (next to Martins Bank) at 7.30 p.m. It is not, of course, necessary to belong to the Club to attend, and no political connections are implied.

Wednesday, 27th May Visit to Castle House, Deddington, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. L. Bagratuni.

Leaving Banbury (Horse Fair) 6.00 p.m.

This is one of the most interesting and unusual of the smaller houses in the area. There are substantial medieval remains, including a chapel, and a three-storey 17th century block.

Saturday, 20th June Annual General Meeting of the Society at Wykham Park (Tudor Hall School), by kind invitation of Miss P. Blunt, at 5.00 p.m. After the annual business has been dealt with Mr. B.S. Trinder will speak on "William Mewburn of Wykham Park".

William Mewburn could be called a typical Victorian. He was a self-made man; his fortune came from railways; in religion he was an evangelical Nonconformist, in politics, a Gladstonian Liberal; he made his money in the industrial smoke of Manchester and Halifax, and having made it, bought his way into the landed gentry of north Oxfordshire. His influence on the political and religious affairs of the Banbury area was considerable and will be the chief subject of Mr. Trinder's talk.

Thursday, 23rd July Visit to Hanwell Castle, by kind invitation of the Revd. and Mrs. C. Browne.

Leaving Banbury (Horse Fair) 6.00 p.m.

This Tudor mansion was for two centuries the seat of the Cope family, who played an important part in Banbury affairs. A brick tower of Perpendicular work remains, flanked by octagonal turrets. The Cope family tombs may be seen in the adjoining church.

Church Architecture Study Group

It is hoped to visit the churches of Great Rollright, Croughton, Burton Dassett and Middleton Cheney during the late spring and early summer. Anyone wishing to take part in the activities of the Group, which have proved so interesting in past seasons, should write to Dr. G.E. Gardam, 116 Bloxham Road, Banbury, who will supply them with full particulars.

January Meeting

The meeting on January 28th at which Dr. R.P. Beckinsale spoke on the Plush Industry of North Oxfordshire was one of the best attended and most enjoyable in the history of the Society, over seventy members being present. The audience was enthralled by Dr. Beckinsale's account of the rise, heyday and fall of the industry, and proceedings were enlivened by the reminiscences of two former plush weavers from Shutford. The content of Dr. Beckinsale's talk will be reviewed in our notice of the next issue of Oxoniensa in which it is to be published.

THE GLOBE ROOM

The historic Globe Room from the Reindeer Inn in Parson's Street was for three centuries one of the chief architectural glories of Banbury. In 1912, in one of those acts of desecration for which Banburians have been notorious, it was removed from the inn and sold to a London dealer. Since then it has been generally believed that the room was exported to the United States, but recent investigations by the Historical Society show that it is still in England, that it is at present for sale and that it could quite easily come back to Banbury.

The room is believed to have been built about 1637. Its panelling and ceiling are far more magnificent than might be expected in the parlour of a market town inn. Rumours suggest that it was removed from some great mansion and that it was the work of the famous seventeenth century architect Inigo Jones, but these stories are not well founded, and for the present the original purpose of the room must remain a mystery.

The panelling of the room, its chief splendour, survives almost completely undamaged after half a century in store. The ceiling is lost, and was probably destroyed in a bombing raid on London during the Second World War. This is no obstacle to the restoration of the room, however, for it would be quite easy to copy the plaster cast of the original ceiling made in 1899, which is now in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Recently, Mr. Michael Laithwaite, who is doing research into the older buildings of Banbury, together with the Editor of Cake and Cockhorse, went with the agent who is selling the room to the furniture factory in a remote part of Islington where the panels are stored. Their condition is truly remarkable; some are still in their original perfect state. Others have been covered with a heavy, dark preservative stain, but this can easily be removed. The mouldings, described by the agent, who is one of the country's foremost architectural dealers, as "of the same high quality as cabinet work", are very well preserved, and the few pieces damaged in transit have been carefully replaced.

Even in the grotesquely inadequate setting of the furniture factory the magnificence of the panelling is quite over-powering. It is architecture of a quality now equalled in Banbury only by the exteriors of the seventeenth century houses in High Street. There are few examples of such precise and delicate workmanship of the period in the whole of England.

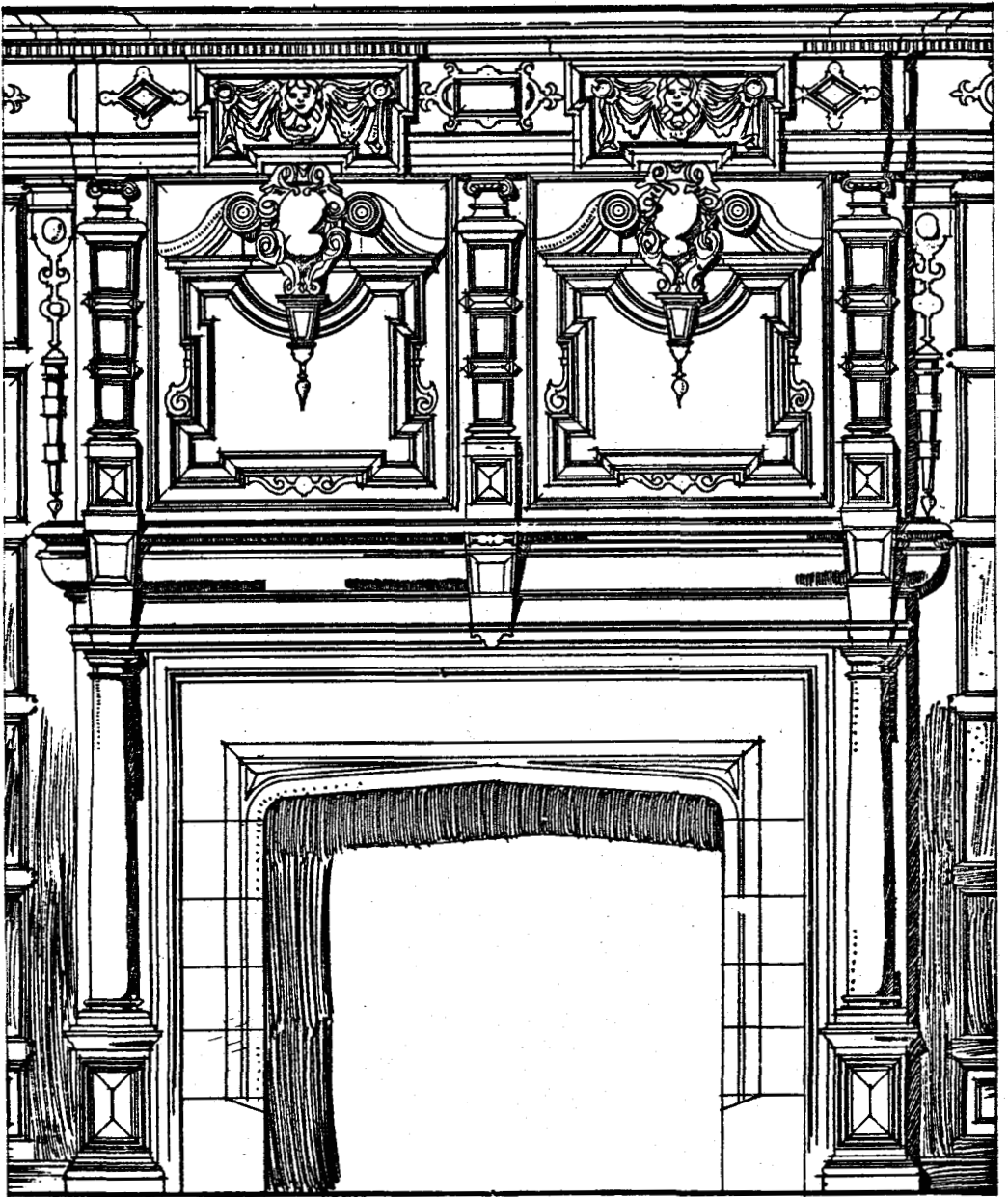
Private buyers in Britain and abroad are eager to buy the Globe Room and the agent is anxious for a quick sale. Action must therefore be swift if the room is to be brought back to Oxfordshire.

An obsessive hatred of religious symbols was responsible for the destruction of the original Banbury Cross about 1600: fear of further war damage to the town brought about the demolition of the Castle in the mid-seventeenth century; more complex and less worthy motives led to the pulling down of the "cathedral of North Oxfordshire" in 1790. This is a record of wanton destruction enough to shame any town. In 1964 we have the chance to reverse it. Shall we have the courage to take it?

B.S.T.

Publications

The Society's Records publication for 1964 will be South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts, 1560-1684, edited by E.R.C. Brinkworth, M.A. Production is well up to schedule and copies should be distributed during the summer. A short illustrated pamphlet on the history of Banbury Cross, price 6d., is to be published at Easter.



ELEVATION TO CHIMNEYPiece

CANONS ASHBY CHURCH

It is twenty-five years or more since regular services were held in Canons Ashby church, and many people passing along the road from Banbury to Northampton have lamented its emptiness and dereliction. Now we intend to restore it to its former glory, and although it will need a new roof and much plastering and re-decorating, we intend to do it ourselves, with the help of local craftsmen and volunteers. We intend to restore it by the same methods as the medieval builders of the church employed. Anyone can lend a hand, and in their spare time help us to complete the task we have set ourselves.

This church is mainly the western portion of the church of the monastery which was founded for the Black Canons of the Order of St. Augustine, and it is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The churches of only two of the sixteen monastic houses in Northamptonshire have wholly or partially survived. One is the Benedictine Abbey of Peterborough appointed by Henry VIII as the cathedral of the newly created see of Peterborough in 1541. The other, over fifty miles away, is this remnant of the priory at Canons Ashby.

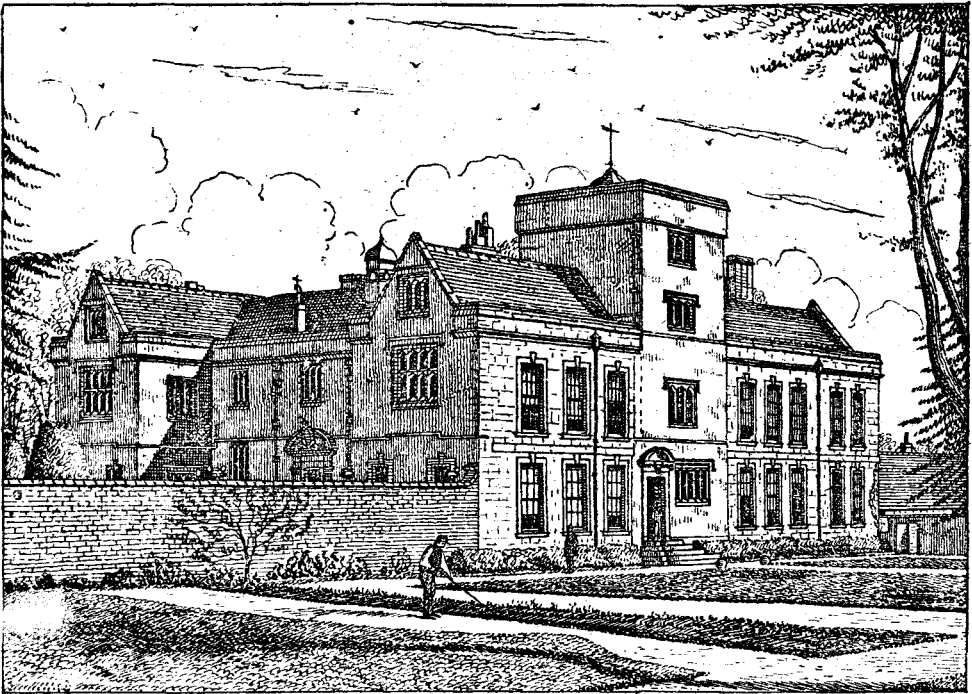
The earliest known benefactor was Stephen de Rey in the reign of Henry II (1154-1189). No part of any earlier church than the present one now remains however. The existing church consists of a nave (part of which is used as a chancel), a north aisle and a tower attached to the north side of the aisle. The earliest parts are the western doorway and the arcade on each side of it, which probably date from about 1250. The tower was built about 1350 and the original west window was removed and the present one inserted about 1450. The tower is said in Bridges's History of Northamptonshire to have formerly contained six bells, but the tower falling into ruin, five of them were seized and sold in the time of the Civil War.

About 1540 Sir John Cope probably took down a large portion of the church and built the present east end of the nave and also that of the aisle. The former east end of the church is shown by a break in the ground in the churchyard, and the total length of the original church was probably about two hundred and seventeen feet. The south wall was rebuilt on the original foundation around 1710, about which time a large portion of the monastic buildings were taken down, and the materials used in the house. The present roofs of the nave and aisle were then made, with a ceiling under the nave roof which was taken down in 1843.

Within the church are several monuments to the Dryden family who lived at Canons Ashby for nearly four hundred years. It also contains eleven funeral hatchments and a funeral achievement, the most elaborate in this county, and perhaps one of the most perfect in England. This achievement was no doubt for Sir Robert Dryden, the third baronet, who died on the 19th August, 1708. It consists of a large banner or bannerol; two pennons or pencils; a pair of gauntlets; a pair of spurs; a sword; a helmet with wreath and crest, and on either side of it, a strip of blue cloth representing the mantling or lambrequin; the tabard; and finally a wooden elliptical shield bearing the Dryden arms: - 'Azure, a lion rampant, and in chief a sphere between two estoiles or, with the Ulster Badge.'

Several remains of the former monastery can still be seen, including the wall, fishponds, garden, canons' walk, the foundations of the western gate and the cloister. Over the years fragments of glass, mouldings, encaustic tiles, stone coffins and a silver chalice and paten have been dug up.

Ancient inventories show that there were in the monastic sacristies, copes, chasubles and much altar furniture of gold and silver cloth, which would have been esteemed priceless works of art in this age. Much must have perished in the wanton destruction that characterised the work of the royal commissioners at the time of the suppression of the monasteries. An altar frontal of "cloth of silver worked with fleur-de-lys and angels" from Canons Asby was saved and sent up to London. Richard Collier, the prior, had ordered them from "Thomas Typlady, citizen and borderer of London" together with a "cope and two tunicles", for which the convent promised to pay £39. They were brought to Stourbridge Fair, near Cambridge, and delivered to the servants of the abbey only a short time before the dissolution. £29 was still due to Typlady when the vestments were taken for the King and handed to Sir Thomas Pope, the Treasurer of the Court of Augmentations. This sum Typlady claimed from the King, and he was



Canons Ashby House

ultimately paid in full. As far as is known, the vestments are now in the Westminster Abbey collection.

During the Civil War, Sir John Dryden was M.P. for the county and took the Parliamentary side; for the Drydens were strict Puritans. When the rupture between King Charles I and Parliament came in 1642, Lord Saye and Sele called up the Oxford Militia and Lord Brook the Warwickshire, and they joined the Parliamentary army at Northampton just before the Battle of Edgehill on October 23rd 1642. In 1644 the tower of the church was the scene of a clash between a party of Parliamentarians from Northampton and a larger body of Royalists approaching from Banbury. The Parliamentarians took refuge in the tower and maintained possession of it for two hours. At length they surrendered on terms and were all conveyed prisoners to Banbury but were soon released by a strong party from Northampton. During the conflict one Royalist was killed by a stone hurled from the tower, and another was left wounded at Canons Ashby. The late Sir Henry Dryden used to tell the story of how, during this time, before the family went to bed, they placed bread, cheese and beer on a wall opposite the house for the Roundheads passing during the night to help themselves. One night a detachment of Royalist cavalry passing spied the food and helped themselves amidst loud laughter, to the great discomfort of all in the house.

It is thus our intention to restore this beautiful church, with all its literary and historical associations, to its former glory. John Dryden, the Poet Laureate whose son is buried in the church; Edmund Spenser; Samuel Richardson and a host of other historical figures loved this place and made frequent visits. It retains a wonderful atmosphere of peace and quiet, and in the restored church we hope to held regular services for all and sundry to come and worship the Healing Christ.

THE PARISH GOVERNMENT OF TADMARTON IN THE 18th AND 19th CENTURIES

There is unfortunately no direct record of Tadmarton vestry before 1846, when the minutes are included in the churchwardens' accounts, although some indirect information may be gathered from the overseers' accounts. By 1846 the vestry had become concerned almost entirely with ecclesiastical matters; in 1858 it approved a churchrate of 3d and in 1859 one of 1d which brought in an income of £9. In 1869 there were only nine persons present at the vestry and this had fallen to seven by 1872; in 1902, 1903 and 1906 only the rector and the churchwardens were present. (1) As the general interest in the vestry was decaying and its importance in local government was declining a change came about in its functions and powers. By 1887 it had ceased to be a means of imposing local taxation. In 1869 it was agreed that rather than raise a compulsory churchrate to defray church expenditure there should be a voluntary churchrate and even this last symbol of the vestry's right to impose parochial rates was abandoned in 1887 when the weekly offertory was adopted. At about this date the vestry was given a new function; the first recorded election of sidesmen by the vestry is in 1885 when one was chosen for the parish and one for the rectory. (2) In the early 19th century and presumably in the 18th century the vestry was meeting far more frequently than it was doing in 1846. At the latter date it was meeting only once a year, in April. (3) Before the passing of the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act the financing of the vestry was the responsibility of the overseer who on several occasions paid the bill for beer consumed; in November 1801 for instance he paid 15s, in December in the same year he paid 5s for beer, apparently the normal cost of a vestry. (4) Vestries appear to have been frequent; there were two in January 1802 for instance, one in March and two in April, at the second of which 14s 6d was spent on ale. Another vestry is recorded in October and one in December. There is no record of the business transacted at these vestries but it may be assumed that most details of local government were discussed. There was always a vestry, for instance, before the overseers' book was taken to the justices. (5)

There were two churchwardens and they were both chosen in the vestry although in common with most parishes one was merely the rector's nominee: 'Clergyman's churchwarden'. The other was elected for and by the parish. The churchwardens' accounts were allowed in the vestry and were signed by the rector and one other person. The churchwardens and the overseers worked closely together and on one occasion, in 1729, the same men were both overseers and churchwardens (6). They were chosen at the same vestry, the Easter vestry, and seem to have collaborated to a certain extent in poor relief. It may be assumed that their provinces were carefully demarcated, that the overseers dealt almost entirely with the settled poor and the churchwardens relieved vagrants or those in need of very occasional relief; the churchwardens gave 1s. for instance to a man who had suffered loss by fire and in 1745 to wounded soldiers 1s. There are many references to vagrants and their relief and to 'travelling men'; in 1780 a pregnant woman with a pass was given 1s. Apart from their obligation to maintain the fabric of the church, and to make the presentations at the visitation, the churchwardens had many other duties. They paid the bellringers and for the new instruments of the church singers. In 1796, for instance, they bought 'a new piece to the bassoon'. The churchwardens also shared with the overseers the duty of maintaining the fire engine which Tadmarton appears to have shared with Swalcliffe; from 1771 onwards there are records of payments to Swalcliffe for the cleaning and oiling of the fire-engine. Tadmarton churchwardens made an annual contribution of 10s and so did the overseers. (7) The churchwardens of Tadmarton were also more conscientious than those of many parishes in fulfilling their obligations under the 1598 statute which provided that churchwardens should reward for the destruction of vermin; (8) at Tadmarton from 1737 to 1790 the churchwardens regularly reward for sparrows' heads, snakes, foxes, hedgehogs, etc. So many sparrows were caught that they were finally forced to make a separate account. They seem to have paid about 4d for a dozen sparrows, a hedgehog, or a snake, and 1s for a fox; in 1742 they had to pay out for 92 dozen sparrows and one hedgehog, and in 1774 the churchwarden 'paid a tinker for catching a poll cat 4d.' (9)

There was a town estate in 1725 of £15. 10s. in the hands of six different persons (10) and it remained in their hands until 1735 after which there is no further mention of it, nor of

the use to which it was put. (11)

One constable was chosen each year usually in October or November, although there were occasional changes. The same men served the office again and again, like Richard Hartley, who was also once overseer, or William Austin. Substitutes were allowed; in 1773-4 Robert Shailer served the office for Cresence Carter. He performed all the regular duties of the constables, paid the jury men at the various courts, the charges and chief rent at the hundred court, the Window Tax warrants and the Marshalsea money, bounty money and expenses to the Militia. He was responsible for the imprisonment and punishment of local offenders. In 1758 he paid to have the pound gate mended and in 1790-1 for new forms for the stocks. (12) From about 1790 onwards he took over from the churchwardens the job of rewarding catchers of vermin; in 1792-3 he paid 4d for a snake and 1s for a pole-cat. He was also responsible for the provision of a substitute for the militia. In all these duties the constable was often forced to make considerable journeys; he is mentioned at Adderbury, Banbury, Mollington and North Newington. In some of the duties which he performed the Constable was encroaching on what was really the responsibility of the churchwardens and the overseers; in 1747 for instance he paid for the inquest on and burial of a pauper; in 1752 it was the constable who gave 1s 'to a travelling woman which we had a suspicion of having smallpox' and in 1756 he gave alms to a pregnant woman. His finances seem to have been met originally by a constable's levy; in 1773-4 a levy at 8d a yardland brought in £3. 4s. (12) In 1793 the constable's account was settled by the overseer and this became the regular practice. The constable's debts seem to have been settled by the overseer about once a quarter. Between 1801 and 1802 for instance the overseer paid the constable £5 in October, £3 in two lots in December, £4 in February, £1. 10s in April, £6 in June and £7 the next October. (13)

There appear to have been two surveyors a year, whose expenses were met by levies; in 1797 for instance a levy brought in £12. 16s. 6d. The surveyors seem to have practised a system of selling the highways each year. Thus in 1770 the highways were sold for £1. 3s. and next year for 7s. Most of the money spent by the surveyors was on the maintenance of the roads and this was their most important duty. The average amount spent was about £9 but very large amounts could be spent on occasion; the expenses of the surveyors for 1775-8 totalled £64. 19s. 6d. spent principally on labour and digging stones. In 1814 a change in the position of the surveyors was brought about. A note in the accounts records that in future it would be necessary for the surveyors' accounts to be examined in a vestry and signed by the majority of the inhabitants of the parish. However, this system never seems to have been introduced entirely and from 1825 onwards the accounts are verified on oath by one man and allowed by others. (14) A small amount of money was raised by the rent of the stone-pit ground; in 1810 it was being leased for £2. 2s. The accounts give the details of other of the surveyors' responsibilities; the mending of the town wheelbarrow is referred to, and the surveyors repaired the town bridges. In common with most surveyors they were responsible for the town bulls and details are given of their sale and hiring; in 1765 two were sold for £5 and the following year Cresence Carter hired his bull to the town for the season for £1. 10s. (15).

By far the greatest burden of work in local government fell on the Overseers. The amount spent on poor relief rose steadily throughout the 18th century; from £21 in 1725 (16) it had risen to £72 in 1776 (17) and to about £159 in 1784. (18) The Overseers' accounts begin in 1801. They show that there were two overseers a year, one serving from April to October and one from October to the following April. The accounts were approved in the Easter vestry by the churchwardens and others before being taken to the justices. Substitutes were allowed and in 1828 Edward Hawtin was paid £3 for doing the overseer's office for John Colegrove. Perhaps as a result of this the system grew up by which the overseer was paid £2. 10s for one half-years' service; these payments become regular after 1829. The overseer made the regular payments of those officials, regular relief, payment during illness, clothing and housing for the poor, beer and bread. He was responsible for the carriage of the poors' coal and for making up any deficit on that account, for the poors' land tax. The overseers at Tadmarton seem to have rented a number of cottages which they gave to paupers and were responsible for the payment of the rent and the repairs; in 1802 a year's rent of these cottages came to over £15, and in 1806 they were leasing twenty cottages at a rent of £17. The overseers' seem also to have bought some kind of

cottages for the poor themselves; from 1806 onwards there are references to 'interest money as was laid down for the building' and in that year the overseers met a bill for 'thatching the poor houses'. The overseers also paid the window tax, the county rate, and from 1830 onwards they paid 4s a year to the County Fire office. (19) They appear to have been gradually burdened with many more duties than they had had originally. By 1803 almost all the more important financial burdens were borne by them; they paid the Constable's account (20), the vestry, (21) and 10s a year towards Swalcliffe fire engine. By the same date the overseer had become responsible for the militiaman; in 1804 the overseer paid out £5 bounty money, and the same year he paid out £3 to Thomas Edwards of Alkerton for his bounty money for the army of reserve. (22) The burden of the overseer's office was to a large extent dependent on the seasons; in August and October for instance there seems to have been plenty of work, the overseers' labours were reduced and the bill for bread in the first half year was usually double what it was in the second half year.

By 1800 at least the problem of poor relief at Tadmarton was serious. In 1801 about twenty persons were being regularly relieved and in six months £345 was spent by the overseers which was paid for by a series of levies. The roundsman system was already working, although only one or two men were on the rounds each week. Medical charges for the poor were expensive; in 1802 when the overseers spent over £545 there were several payments for nursing the sick and for medicine, one doctor's bill of nearly £8 and one of 11s. It is therefore not surprising that the following year the overseers should have come to an agreement with the doctor to treat all the poor for £7. 7s. a year. There is an interesting example at Tadmarton of the extra cost which one person alone could bring to a parish; in August 1802 the doctor was paid £2. 2s 'for lighting Ann Poolham', a midwife from Swalcliffe for her cost 5s and the expenses at Wiscot for swearing her were 9s. The same month the parish paid 13s for 'marrying Ann Poolham' and in October the overseers paid out £5. 10s for her lodgings. In 1803 about seventeen persons were being regularly relieved, including five children and eight over sixty and occasionally there were many additional payments such as compensation for loss, for bread, for the hiring of a militia man and for doctor's bills, clothes and housing. The round system also continued. (23) In the whole year the overseers spent £351 on poor relief. (24) By February 1804 although the same number of persons was being relieved the round system had acquired a new importance and at least three people seem to have been regularly on the rounds the whole time. Within a year the number of persons permanently relieved had doubled and in June 1805 eight men were on the rounds and thirty-four persons were receiving relief. In the whole year the overseers paid out nearly £425. The number of persons relieved henceforth rarely fell below thirty and there were usually about five men on the rounds. From 1807-8 the overseers paid out £499 in relief of all kinds. At some date between 1808 and 1828 the system of roundsmen became so important that it was thought expedient to keep their account separately, although this was still done by the overseer. The numbers of persons relieved had risen by 1828 to an average of thirty-five and the round system was costing from £3-£4 a month, except in December when it rose to £12. 12s. The numbers of persons relieved continued to rise and in January 1830 there were 40 persons on the overseers' books including nine widows and at least six orphans. In addition the round account for the first half of the year came to almost £58. From April 1830 to April 1831 Tadmarton spent about £740 on poor relief including the sums which now began to be paid to the unemployed. The amount spent had begun to fall naturally even before the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act and the total expenditure for 1833-1834 was under £533. Even after the passing of the Act the old system of relief continued to operate at Tadmarton until May 1835 when the last entry under the old system was made. The first audit under the new act was made by William Walford in October and it shows how great a reduction in the cost of poor relief the new act made in some parishes. Although the overseer still paid a constable's bill of 13s and the County rates had risen to just over £20, and although the overseer continued to pay £9. 9s cottage rents his total payment for the quarter to the board of Guardians was only £57. (25) The total poor relief expenditure in 1836 was only £342. (26)

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| 4. Ibid. | 17. <u>Poor Abstract 400-401</u> |
| 5. Ibid. | 18. <u>Ibid.</u> |
| 6. Ibid. Churchwarden's accts. | 19. Par. Rec. Overseers' accts. |
| 7. Ibid; <u>ibid: Overseers' accts.</u> | 20. See above |
| 8. 39 Eliz. c 18 | 21. See above |
| 9. Par. Rec. Churchwarden's accts. | 22. Par. Rec. Overseers' accts. |
| 10. Ibid | 23. Ibid; <u>Poor Abstract, 400-401</u> |
| 11. Ibid | 24. Ibid. |
| 12. Ibid: Constable's accts. | 25. Ibid. |
| 13. Ibid: Overseers' accts. | 26. <u>2nd Rep. Poor Law Comms 292-3</u> |

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This article was originally written for the Oxfordshire Victoria County History. We are most grateful to the Editor of the History, Mrs. M.D. Lobel, for permission to publish it.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT - 1963

The Committee has pleasure in submitting its Sixth Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for the year 1963.

Membership: This has again risen, from 208 to 239 (with a further 30 new members since 1st January, to date).

Lectures and Meetings: Five general meetings have been held, the first two in the Technical College and the autumn ones in the Conservative Club. The following lectures were given:-

January: "Heraldry, a Living Art" - J.P. Brooke-Little Esq., Bluemantle Pursuivant

March: "Domestic Architecture in the Banbury Region" - Dr. R.B. Wood-Jones

June: (A.G.M. at Broughton Castle) "William, 1st Viscount Saye and Sele, Sir William Compton, and Some Contemporaries" - E.R.C. Brinkworth Esq.

September: "Church and Parson in 18th Century Oxfordshire" - The Revd. E.P. Baker

November: "Twenty-Four Square Miles", a film introduced by L.W. Wood, Esq.

As always we are most grateful to our speakers, all of whom have given their services without charge.

Both at the A.G.M. at Broughton Castle, where we were entertained by the President and Lady Saye and Sele, and on excursions to Canons Ashby, to the home of Dr. and Mrs. Christopher Woodard and Mr. Peter Woodard, and to Adderbury, to the homes of Lord and Lady Elton and of Mr. and Mrs. P.E. Middleton, we were received with the most lavish hospitality. Their welcomes did much to enhance our visits.

"Banbury, 1790-1837": The outstanding event of the year was an Exhibition so entitled, held in the Town Hall on Saturday 24th August to mark the publication of the 1963 records volume, the third part of Banbury Marriage Register, covering this period. This was attended in large numbers, including, at the opening Reception, the President, his Worship the Mayor (Councillor J.E. Ryan), and many members of the Society. The Exhibition was organised by Mr. B.S. Trinder, without whose ideas and hard work it would have been impossible to consider mounting so rewarding an occasion. Our thanks are also due to the Borough Librarian, for his co-operation and permission to use many exhibits from the collection in the Reference Library. (Report. C & CH II, 79-82).

Church Architecture Study Group: Visits were made to the Churches at Bloxham, Alkerton,¹³¹ South Newington and Hornton, with a most successful half-day excursion to Fairford and Cirencester. Mr. Bigwood's organisation and Mr. Forsyth Lawson's expert guidance have combined to make this a most popular part of the Society's activities.

Archaeology: A Romano-British burial was discovered near Fulling Mill Farm, between Broughton and Tadmarton (C&CH II.113). Oxford University Archaeological Society continued work at Rainsborough (II.115); and Mr. Brian Davison, formerly of Queen's University, Belfast, made a welcome return to Sulgrave Castle (II.99).

Cake & Cockhorse: The first full year of Mr. Trinder's editorship, and of the improved method of printing, has seen the magazine live up to all the promise it showed in the last two issues of 1962. Features have included the list of boys at the 16th-17th century Williamscothe School, with a scholarly introduction by Dr. Loveday; Mr. Langley's reminiscences of Banbury in the 1890s; Squadron-Leader Wood's fully illustrated official report on his excavation of the Barrow at Tusmore Round Hill; and two vividly contrasting articles on local 19th century schools by Miss Samuels and Mr. Gibson; besides reviews, reports, and shorter topical articles. All these together have contributed to a year of unprecedented interest in the magazine.

The new printing process has made it possible to change the cover for each issue, and Mr. W.H. Clark has again been most helpful with his preparation of drawings. The Editor also wishes to thank in particular Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Pain and Miss B.L.G. Wheeler for help with typing and other preparatory work. The excellent and economical production results are in no small way due to the adaptability and co-operation of our printers Express Litho Service, of Headington, Oxford.

As anticipated the cost of printing has again risen, but should now be stable; we gratefully acknowledge the contribution of £10 towards the cost of the September issue from Squadron Leader Wood. Sales have also increased, but the magazine's success is more to be measured by the steadily rising membership, for which it is primarily responsible.

Christmas Card: Another most successful full-colour card, a late 19th century view of North Bar and St. Mary's Church, was produced. Our thanks are due to the Borough Council for permitting its reproduction from the original oil painting, which hangs in the Public Library.

Accounts: The increased membership has been reflected in a most satisfactory rise in subscription income, which has helped towards the small credit balances in both Revenue and Publications Accounts. It must be emphasised however that subscriptions alone still do not meet the running costs of the Society, although the gap this year has been more than covered by other receipts.

Lecture expenses have shown a slight increase, partly due to the use of more expensive accommodation. The cost of the Exhibition was largely offset by the magnificent response to the collection held there, and the Council generously allowed the free use of the Town Hall. The Society's support of the recently formed Banbury Arts Council results in the rise in subscriptions paid.

The Christmas Card again brought in a good profit; reprinting of two earlier cards accounted for the higher than usual initial outlay. Postcards have yet to cover production costs, but should bring in a useful profit in future years. Sales of Old Banbury and other publications have fallen slightly.

There is still a substantial gap between the cost of production of the records volume and the amount available from subscriptions. In spite of rising membership it seems likely that this will continue, and a special reserve is being created to help meet such production costs in years when they exceed revenue. In these circumstances it is particularly valuable to receive the generous grant from the Borough Council.

Revenue Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1963

1962	Payments	£.	s.	d.	1962	Receipts	£.	s.	d.
10	Lecture Expenses (Hire of room and projector, advertising, entertaining)				167	Subscriptions	199	10	0
-	Exhibition Expenses	20	0	1		Less: Proportion attributable to Records			
	Less: Collection	13	1	0			105	0	0
		6	19	1		(This total includes one £5 Life Subscription)			
55	Cake & Cockhorse	69	5	0	2	Sales of Cake & Cockhorse	9	13	0
	Less: Grant	10	0	0	72	Christmas Card Sales	113	16	0
		59	5	0	2	Interest from Deposit Account (less Charges)			
7	Printing & Stationery	3	12	5	1	Donations	1	8	0
12	Postages & Telephone	10	2	2	-	Postcards sales	21	17	4
2	Insurance	1	15	0	10	Balance transferred to Capital Account	-	-	-
2	Subscriptions	5	10	0					
1	Church Architecture Study Group	1	11	6					
4	Photographs, etc.	1	17	0					
2	Archaeological Expenses	-	-	-					
5	Grant - Mr. Laithwaite	-	-	-					
61	Christmas Card printing	98	6	3					
-	Postcard printing	29	6	11					
-	Balance transferred to Capital Account	11	16	3					
<u>161</u>		<u>£242</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>161</u>		<u>£242</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>7</u>

Publications Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 1963

128	Productions Costs	148	11	0	93	Proportion of Subscriptions	105	0	0
5	Postages	3	16	0	29	Sales of Back Volumes & to non-members	23	15	0
45	Transfer to Publications Reserve	30	5	6	36	Sales of Old Banbury	33	17	6
					20	Grant from Borough Council	20	0	0
<u>178</u>		<u>£182</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>178</u>		<u>£182</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1963

		<u>Liabilities</u>			<u>Assets</u>				
2	Sundry Creditors	10	0	0	1	Cash in hand	2	2	0
4	Subscriptions in Advance	16	10	0		Cash at Westminster Bank Ltd.			
	Provision for Repayment of Dr. Beeson for Clock-making stock, as at 1st January 1963: 27 0 0					Deposit a/c	50	5	0
	Less: Repayments 4 1 0					Current a/c	72	0	10
27	Publications Reserve from Capital a/c	45	0	0	74	Sundry Debtors	122	5	10
-	from Pubs. a/c	30	5	6	47	Subscriptions Overdue	62	1	3
		75	5	6	16		10	5	0
105	Capital Account, as at 1.1.63	105	3	4			<u>£196</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1</u>
	Less: Transfer of Publications res.	45	0	0					
		60	3	4					
	Rev. a/c surplus	11	16	3					
		71	19	7					
		<u>£196</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1</u>					

Auditor's Report

I hereby certify that I have inspected and found correct the various accounts the foregoing of which is the Balance Sheet,

81 Courtington Lane, (signed) K. Wren,
Bloxham, Banbury. A.I.M.T.A.

8.3.64.

OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

The Society is concerned with the archaeology, history and architecture of the Oxford region. Its activities include lectures, excursions and the publication of an annual journal, Oxoniensia. The Society also endeavours to preserve and safeguard local buildings and monuments. Full membership (to include Oxoniensia) one guinea. Ordinary membership ten shillings.

Apply Hon. Treasurer, O.A. & H.S., Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

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for the Banbury Historical Society

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