

# CAKE & COCKHORSE



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Details about the Society's activities and  
publications can be found on the inside back cover

# CAKE & COCKHORSE

The Magazine of the Banbury Historical Society. Issued three times a year.

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With this issue we celebrate 25 years of Cake and Cockhorse. All local historians have reason to thank our founding committee for their foresight in producing our magazine and steering it in the direction it has taken. As promised a list of articles is included with this edition.

Society member P. Renold has gleaned some history from the Banbury Guardian. It is hoped that this will be a regular feature - newspapers are a rich source for research and it is a pity we don't have them for earlier periods of our history.

A short report from The Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit on Grimsbury certainly stimulates the imagination. "Prehistoric and Mediaeval Sites", what of the years between?

Another Society member Gillian Beeston has conducted a study of the Broughton estates. We have in this issue the first of several articles on the subject and it illustrates what can be discovered by persistent fieldwork.

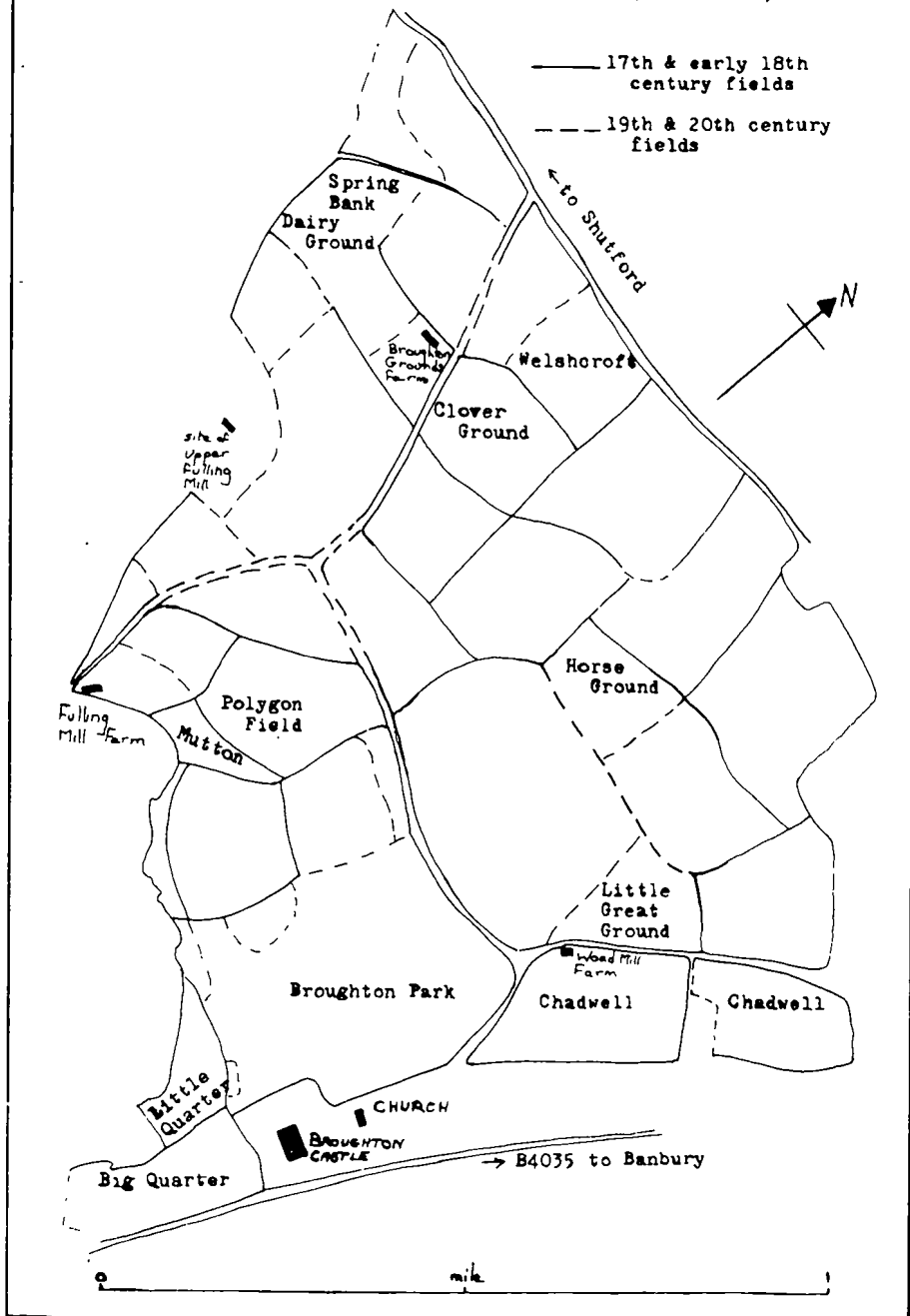
We now look forward with anticipation to the next 25 years of Cake and Cockhorse.

D. A. H.

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**Our cover illustration** is a reproduction of the first cover of 1959 showing the original St Mary's Church, Banbury.

FIELD PATTERN, BROUGHTON, N. OXON



## HEDGE DATING ON THE BROUGHTON ESTATE

Visitors to Broughton Castle, the ancestral home of our President, Lord Saye and Sele, often pause before the three manuscript estate maps which hang on the wall of the west staircase, and which are dated 1685, 1774, and 1845 respectively. Last year (1983) the writer made a detailed study of these maps. By comparing the information gleaned from them, particularly from the field names and field patterns, with national trends in agriculture, it was found that it was possible to establish a history of land utilisation of the Broughton estate over the past three hundred years. The landscape itself was a vital source of information because it confirmed the findings from the maps. Most of us who have visited Broughton will be aware that the estate is rich in earthworks and building platforms. The study revealed that not only did these earthworks relate to former domestic dwellings such as those in the field opposite the almshouses on the B4035, but also to old field boundaries. For instance, it was found that most of the linear earthworks in the Park related to former hedge boundaries shown on the 1685 estate map.

A further source of primary information came from the findings of a study of the live boundary hedges on the estate. In 1967, W.G. Hoskins drew attention to the importance of hedge dating because much information could be gained by knowing when the hedges were planted since field shapes were determined by land usage.<sup>1</sup>

The word hedge can have different meanings, and therefore, should be defined. In agricultural terms, it implies a type of linear boundary to contain livestock. Thus the term can be interpreted as a live hedgerow made up of shrubs, plants and trees, but it can also include 'dead' hedges, such as fences, earthenbanks and stone walls. For the purpose of this article, the term hedge will mean a length of field boundary made up of live shrubs and trees.

The most intensive research into hedges has been carried out by Max Hooper and his team at Monks Wood Experimental Station in Huntingdonshire. This unit was set up in 1960 by the Nature Conservancy to look into the effects of pesticides on the flora and fauna of the countryside.<sup>2</sup> Through a study of live hedges, Hooper developed a formula for hedge dating. He found that, as a general theory, in a thirty yard length of live hedge, for every established species of shrub and tree, a hundred years could be added. He also found that there were regional variations, owing to such factors as differences in soil composition, climate and farming practices. Therefore, before using the theory, it would be necessary first to establish a pattern for a particular area. This could be done by recording the number of species in at least twelve dateable hedges of varying dates, and then adjusting the formula accordingly.

Hooper developed his theory from the realisation that there seemed to be a relationship between the affinities of certain shrubs and the type of hedge which they colonised. For instance, he found that it was rare to

find hazel in a single species Parliamentary Enclosure hawthorn hedge, yet it was often found in early enclosure mixed hedges, together with field maple, dogwood, spindle and the wayfaring tree. On the other hand, elder was often found proliferating in single species hedges, but rarely in a rich mixture hedge, except as an odd specimen. It was also rare to find maple and dogwood in a hawthorn hedge. Thus Hooper deduced that the richer in species a hedge, the older it was. Late eighteenth century and nineteenth century enclosure hedges were usually planted as single species hedges, and usually with hawthorn, but it should be remembered that hawthorn was one of the earliest hedge species, and therefore found in early hedges as well. Hooper found that because early hedges were rich in species, it did not necessarily follow that they were planted as mixed hedges, but that they had become rich in time. Further, Hooper found that when a hedge had originally been planted as a mixed species, such as a woodland relic hedge, the number of species would be particularly rich, and therefore suggest an inaccurate date. He also found that there were certain shrubs which were characteristic of old roads. These included berberis, plum, dutch elm, elder, privet and dogwood. This was particularly relevant to the Broughton estate as these species were found on some of the footpaths leading to the disused watermills on the Sor Brook, such as along the hedge dividing Polygon Field and Mutton. There were limitations, though, to the dating theory, because it could not be accurate to a hundred years. Thus although it should be possible to differentiate between, say a Tudor and a Parliamentary Enclosure hedge, it would not be possible to tell the difference between say a sixteenth and a seventeenth century hedge.

Here then was a major disappointment over dating the Broughton hedges, because although most of the existing hedges were shown on the manuscript estate maps, some may well have been older as enclosure had taken place in the previous century. In c. 1550 the land had been described as mostly open fields with the occasional close<sup>3</sup>, but between 1589 and 1603 the lord of the manor, Richard Fiennes, enclosed 1295 acres<sup>4</sup>. By 1592 the enclosed land had been divided into twenty-one closes but as to where the Tudor hedges were planted was difficult to gauge, particularly as only three of the fields had retained their original names and size by 1685 (Chadwell, Bloxham Quarter and Tadmarton Quarter).<sup>5</sup> Another quandary was the reference by Richard Fiennes in 1600 to the demesne land in North Newington "east of the new hedge parting the great pasture".<sup>6</sup> As the landscape archaeologists, M. Aston and T. Rowley, have pointed out, "it is very difficult to plot evidence from documents onto a map without definite guidelines".<sup>7</sup>

There were other problems over dating the Broughton hedges. Firstly, due to the early harvest of 1983, many of the hedges had been trimmed by the time this survey was taking place. All the hedges examined had at one time been laid, but the modern practice of machine cutting

meant that in some boundaries where the hedges had been cut back particularly hard, the species were very difficult to identify. A second problem encountered was that there were many gaps where the hedging had died away and, therefore, where there were obviously the remains of an old hedge, insufficient remained to qualify for counting. A third problem encountered was that many of the gaps in the old hedges had obviously been either replanted with hawthorn of a later date, or colonised by elder, and thus gave a false indication of age. This was particularly evident in the case of the field known as Chadwell, mentioned in the estate survey of 1597. Over a stretch of 150 yards, there was an average of only three species, despite one thirty yard section containing a rich mixture of five different species. Further, this rich mixture was echoed in the internal dividing hedge, shown on the 1685 map, giving a high average of  $5\frac{2}{3}$  species per thirty yard section over 90 yards, and thus indicating a truer age. Fourthly, there were hedges which gave the impression that they had been grubbed up and replanted as mixed hedges at a later date. Hedges falling into these four categories, whilst noted, were omitted from the survey.

Having made the above qualifications, there was still an abundance of hedges that could be examined. An initial study of the estate maps revealed that most of the existing hedges were marked on the 1685 map. The later hedges were subdivisions. In all, 1065 yards of hedging were examined, which represented fourteen dateable hedges. Nine were first shown on the 1685 map, two on the 1774 estate map, two on the 1845 estate map and one on the 1887 O.S. 25 inch map. The content of these hedges were very varied and in all twenty-two different species were found, namely:

Ash	Elder	Purging Buckthorn
Beech	Elm	Rose
Berberis	Field Maple	Snowberry
Blackthorn	Hawthorn	Spindle
Crab Apple	Hazel	Sycamore
Crack Willow	Oak	Wayfaring tree
Dogwood	Privet	Wych Elm
		Wild Plum

As to be expected with enclosure hedges, there were basically two types: one was dense and up to five feet wide, containing a very rich mixture with no dominant species, and the other type was narrower and seemed to indicate a single species hedge, but which had been later colonised by other species. The early hedges shown on the 1685 map contained the rich mixture type, but the degree of richness was surprising. Where possible, the hedges were measured in either 60, 90 or 120 yard lengths, and the average number of species per thirty yard stretch ranged from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 8 species, as follows:

- 2 hedges contained  $4\frac{1}{2}$  - 5 species
- 2 hedges contained  $5\frac{3}{4}$  - 6 species

3 hedges contained  $6\frac{1}{4}$  -  $6\frac{3}{4}$  species

2 hedges contained  $7\frac{1}{2}$  - 8 species

Thus it would seem that amongst this group some hedges were older than others. As has been mentioned, the land was enclosed in the late sixteenth century, but the fields then were mostly very much larger than in 1685, and one field called Cophthorn contained 247 acres. Therefore, at some-time in the seventeenth century the fields were subdivided. The nine early hedges had a feature in common in that they all had been planted on a bank which varied in height from one to three feet. Most had remnants of ditching, but with one or two exceptions the ditches had largely silted. Banking and ditching was a common practice in early hedge building, and there is a specific reference as such for Broughton. In a survey dated April 1656 of a newly enclosed field called The Bretch, the area was referred to as "The whole plott enclosed banked and ditched bounding it".<sup>8</sup>

The two hedges that were examined on the 1774 map revealed that they too contained a rich mixture, one averaging five species, and the other  $6\frac{1}{4}$ . They were both banked to a height of two to three feet. It seemed, therefore, that these two hedges had an affinity with the earlier hedges. The explanation might be that as the 1774 map had been taken from a survey of 1724, these hedges in fact belonged to a period between 1685 and 1724. Accordingly, these two hedges were grouped with the earlier ones. Thus it would seem that the hedge dating formula had to be adjusted by two species, which perhaps is not so surprising in an old enclosed area of particularly fertile soil; Arthur Young in 1809 had described it as the best in the county.<sup>9</sup> Of the eleven early hedges, eight contained hazel and most were combined with field maple.

Taking the hedges containing more than six species, it was revealing that they all contained combinations of species denoting old road-ways. In particular, a 90 yard section along the road leading to Lower Fulling Mill Farm contained an average of eight species. Included in this stretch there were no less than twelve different species, namely:

Ash	Field Maple	Spindle
Berberis	Oak	Wayfaring Tree
Blackthorn	Privet	Wild Plum
Hawthorn	Rose	Wych Elm

The nineteenth century hedges, on the other hand, were of very different composition. All three examined had been planted as a single species hedge, although rapid colonisation by elder, blackthorn and dog-rose had taken place. It was noted that these hedges had not been colonised by hazel or maple, and therefore concurred with Hooper's findings. Two hedges shown on the 1845 map had  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 species per thirty yard section, and the post-1845 hedge had three, again indicating the need to subtract the number of species by two. None of these nineteenth century hedges were banked or ditched.

Trees found in hedges as well as shrubs were counted as hedgerow



species. There are two sorts, according to the botanist Oliver Rackham: those grown for timber and usually claimed by the landlord, and those which were pollarded and supplied the wood requirements for the tenant farmer.<sup>10</sup> As yet, not much is known about the origins of trees grown in hedges as to whether they were deliberately planted, or grew from the hedgerow itself. Rackham found that hedgerow trees were either the same age or younger than the hedge, but rarely older. This was found to be so on the Broughton estate by dating the stump of a tree found in the hedge shown on the 1685 map dividing Welshcroft and Clover Ground. By counting the rings, the tree when felled was only 140 years old. Thus it could be deduced that a line of trees or tree stumps found in fields usually denoted the linear site of an old hedge, and there were many such trees or stumps to be found on the Broughton estate. For example, the line of stumps dividing Dairy Ground and Spring Bank was shown as a field boundary on all three manuscript estate maps, yet a ring count of one of the stumps indicated an age of 220 years.

Among the hedges inspected there were no pollards. According to Rackham, the practice of pollarding had declined by the late eighteenth century and few nineteenth century examples exist. On the other hand, there were some very fine oak timber trees regularly spaced growing in the hedgerow along the south and east lengths of the field known as Horse Ground and also in the roadside hedge east of Little Great Ground. Both these were shown as deliberate plantations on the 1845 estate map. Planting of timber trees in the hedgerow had been encouraged by Parliament in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century owing to the shortage from the mid-eighteenth century, and which had been highlighted by the demand created by the Navy for its ships in 1792.<sup>11</sup>

It is generally known that hedges were a source of fuel, and the fruits were gathered for cooking. Even so, it is worth considering some further uses which might indicate past usage at Broughton. For instance, it was found that the hedge along the Shutford Road contained a large section of purging buckthorn, which could have been used not only for its purgative properties, but also as a green dye. Spindle, a hardwood, found three times on Broughton pathways was often used for making spindles. These two species could well have been used in connection with the mills on the Sor Brook. Hazel and the wayfaring tree were both often used for basket handles, binding faggots and also for making hoops for casks. Ash was used for agricultural tools and hop poles, and elm was used for making troughs and drainage pipes.<sup>12</sup> All these could have been used in such ways on the estate.

To summarise, it was found that much was gained by studying the Broughton hedges as a source for historical information as to land utilisation, particularly as they confirmed the evidence found on the estate maps. The dating theory had its limitations, though, because it was not possible to differentiate between the late sixteenth century

enclosure hedges and those shown on the 1685 and 1774 maps. On the other hand, there was a great deal of difference between these hedges and the nineteenth century hedges. Of particular value, was the consistency of earth banking relating to the early hedges. Thus, where hedges were shown on the early maps, but in their place were now linear earthworks, it seemed reasonable to deduce that these were the remaining earthbanks of hedges which had been removed. Also of value were the details of the species themselves for their possible uses, and, in particular, to indicate old tracks which have since fallen into disuse.

Gillian Beeston

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8. Bodleian Library, Rawlinson, D892 f.168.
9. Young, A., General View of the Agriculture of Oxfordshire, 1809.
10. Rackham, O., Trees and Woodland in the British Landscape, 1976, pp.168-170.
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**BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**WINTER PROGRAMME 1984-85**

Thursday 13th December

JOHN RHODES

"Malting and Brewing in Oxfordshire "

Thursday 10th January

Leo de FREITAS

"The Chap Books of Banbury "

Thursday 14th February

NICK ALLEN

"Stonehenge "

Thursday 14th March

JAMES BOND

"The Parks of Oxfordshire "

All Meetings at the North Oxfordshire Technical College commencing at 7.30 pm.

## A REPORT BY THE OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

Banbury: East-West Link Road (SP455418 - SP467417)

In advance of road construction 3 JCB trenches were cut across the line of the road where it crosses the slight elevation on which sits Grimsbury House. The surrounding fields all show signs of ridge and furrow, but the area in which the trenches were dug was in the landscaped garden of the house. A north-S ditch was found in the central trench, and a small area was opened up to investigate this. Both prehistoric and Medieval ditches were found.

When the roadway was stripped salvage recording was carried out. Further prehistoric ditches were found, including two small penannular enclosures and a pair of parallel ditches, possibly for a trackway. A number of Medieval ditches, apparently enclosure and field boundaries, were also recorded. The area of occupation both in the prehistoric and Medieval periods seems to have been limited on the east to the top of the elevation, as no features were seen towards the east end of the road cut. Features continued both north and S beyond the limits of the site.

On the west several ditches were recorded in construction trenches. These lay beneath ridge and furrow in the field west of Grimsbury Green road. Construction trenches further west beyond the railway line were also watched as occasion arose, but revealed nothing of interest.

The prehistoric occupation produced very few finds, and no diagnostic pottery. The flint assemblage suggests use of the local very poor quality pebble flint, with the exception of a few well-made tools. A Bronze Age date seems likely.

The Medieval pottery was predominantly of 12th century date, though late 12th/early 13th century features were also common, and there were some 14th century and 15th century sherds from Pottersbury and elsewhere. A very small assemblage from the ditches beneath the ridge and furrow west of the Grimsbury Green road included St. Neots ware and a few late Saxon fabrics, suggesting that this may have been part of the late Saxon settlement at Grimberie mentioned in Domesday.

The settlement presumably shifted east during the earlier Medieval period, and probably moved again during the 13th century away from the area examined, possibly to the area of Manor Farm some 200m south-east.

Tim Allen

## **From the early BANBURY GUARDIAN**

The BANBURY GUARDIAN was founded in 1838 to explain the new poor law, but in 1843 became a stamped, weekly newspaper, its first issue, as such, being on 6 July 1843. It was for long a four page paper issued every Thursday, with a very occasional special extra issue. The printer, proprietor and first editor, William Potts, though himself a liberal in politics, seems from the first to have set out to serve the town as a whole, and there is no doubt that he achieved this end very successfully, and produced a journal without noticeable political bias, which also included reports from a wide circle of neighbouring areas, which figure in the paper's full title. It covered many aspects of local life, had a lively correspondence section, but including also national news items of many kinds, in particular murders in various places, and some international news. A lot of space was given to the most diverse advertisements; above all, perhaps were the excellent reports of criminal cases brought before the Borough Quarter Sessions, Petty Sessions and other Magistrates' hearings, but also reports of assizes and sessions held in Oxfordshire and neighbouring counties. A selection of interesting local items from this newspaper will be quoted in *CAKE & COCKHORSE*, for light they throw on mid-19th century Banbury.

### **An Assault Averted**

B.G. 22 January 1852. Borough Police. Clerk's Office. Friday 16 January 1852. A Magistrates' hearing before R. Goffe and E. Cobb esq.

"A DANGEROUS CUSTOMER. James Burling, labourer, a native of Chacombe, a tall and powerful man, was brought before the Magistrates, charged by Police-constable Tustain with having a large stone tied up in the corner of a handkerchief, with intent to commit some felonious act. The stone, which was a large round pebble, weighed upwards of a pound, and had a most formidable and murderous appearance when swung in the air. Burling pleaded not guilty. Evidence was adduced to prove the charge, from which it appeared that the prisoner and about a dozen of his companions were drinking in the Leathern Bottle on the previous evening. A soldier, who was in the house, attempted, very unfairly, to enlist Burling's brother, which roused the ire of the defendant, and a row was the consequence, in the course of which he was expelled by the landlord, and a window was broken. He went out, but hung about the door for an hour or two. He was observed to lift a stone and tie it up in the corner of his handkerchief, and Mr Scott consequently let the soldier, who was typsy, out by the back way, fearing the results of a collision. The policemen were informed of the fact, and searched him, when they found the murderous weapon in his pocket, with one end of the handkerchief tied round his hand, apparently ready for action. Burling, in defence, said he had no intention of using it, but his passion was up when the soldier endeavoured to enlist his brother, and if he had come out they would have gone quietly home

together. This being his first offence. the Magistrates dismissed the case, upon the accused promising not to offend again. Mr Cobb took occasion to severely reprobate the conduct of soldiers in inveigling young men, and when under the excitement of liquor, enlisting them".

Cases of violence and assault were as common in 19th century courts as at other periods, but the interest of this one lies in the light it throws on one of the methods, as late as 1852, of recruitment for the army. Small squads under the command of junior officers or sergeants, seeking men willing to take the Queen's shilling, are well known from literary and other sources, but similar efforts by individual soldiers, in dubious circumstances, were apparently countenanced and not uncommon. but deeply resented. judging by Mr Cobb's strictures.

### **Two Vagrant Women.**

B.G. 11 March 1852. Borough Police. Town Hall. Monday 8 March. Petty Sessions before the Mayor [ex office J.P.], Messrs. Goffe, Cobb, Potts and Field. [1 case of 2 heard].

"Margaret Moore and Margaret Wooding, each with a child in her arms, were charged with breaking, on Sunday evening, in South Bar Street, a gas-lamp, the property of the paving commissioners. They acknowledged the wilfulness of the act, their object being to obtain shelter where they could get food. They stated they had slept in a barn by the roadside on the previous night. One represented herself as a widow, the other said her husband had gone to America. They were perfect specimens of the "cadging" tribe. Ordered to be imprisoned for a week, and supplied with the lowest rations that the surgeon might think sufficient for them".

Vagrancy was a continual problem for all justices at this period, but it was no new one. Legislation, of various kinds, since the early 16th century had sought, largely unsuccessfully, to deal with it. Their view in this case cannot just be dismissed as too harsh: they were well aware of the real problems of poverty and migration in search of work, and their response to such pleas in other cases was not so unsympathetic. As well as the unfortunate, there were many idlers and professional beggars, whom the law did not regard kindly. Their view seems to have been backed up by the behaviour of one of these women in the following court report.

B.G. 18 March 1852. Borough Police. Town Hall, Monday 15 March. Petty Sessions before the Mayor, Messrs. Goffe, Cobb and Potts. [1 case of 2 heard].

"Margaret Goolding [sic: the reporter got the name wrong one of

of these times, but it is obviously the same woman) was charged by the gaoler, Mr Walker, with breaking the windows of his dwelling-house attached to the gaol. The prisoner was committed on Monday last, with another woman, Margaret Moore, for seven days, for breaking a gas-lamp. The conduct of this woman, while in prison, has been that of a desperate virago. On Tuesday night, Mrs Walker gave the women, who were confined with their two children in the same apartment, their suppers, and locked them in. There were then but a few dying embers of fire left in the grate. The prisoner shortly afterwards got out of bed, and gathering the little fire that remained placed it on the boarded floor, and proceeded to burn her clothes, all of which were reduced to ashes. The smoke awoke the other woman, who sprang out of bed, and making use of the contents of the slop pails managed to extinguish the flames. The boards for about two feet square were charred by the fire; and had not Margaret Moore awoke and acted as she did, it is probable, that whatever might have been the fate of the other inmates of the prison, the women and their children would have been burned to death. The next day the prisoner refused to leave her bed, and remained there until Saturday, when Mrs Walker and a woman in attendance, with the aid of Mr Walker and a policeman, managed to get her up, and put upon her some clothing belonging to the prison. This she ripped, and refused to leave the gaol, unless fresh clothing was supplied to her. On being put into the street, she took off one of her shoes, and committed the damage now complained of. She did not deny the charge, and was further committed for 21 days. The other woman, who was a well-behaved person, went away quietly".

Further points of interest in this case are; 1) the glimpse it gives of prison practice at the time: neither the gaoler, Walker, nor his wife lived on the premises, so no one was on hand to deal with trouble among prisoners during the night. The gaoler's house was next door: it was probably the only way, albeit far from satisfactory, of running a small gaol where the total staff comprised the gaoler and his wife; 2) in spite of the fact that negotiations to close Banbury Gaol (which took place with the transfer of the prisoners to Oxford within weeks of this event) were well advanced, there were apparently quite a number of prisoners there in mid-March 1852.

P. Renold

## CAKE AND COCKHORSE "THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY"

The following lists and notes have been compiled to commemorate 25 years of Cake and Cockhorse. First published in 1959, it has been one of the most important means of disseminating and preserving Research into Banburyshire History.

Its many editions, 88 in total, also form a reference work which is invaluable to local history researchers. The breadth and scope of its many articles can only be grasped by those who have read them from cover to cover. During this time there have been at least 230 articles, in addition to which there are Book Reviews and many other snippets of information.

The contributors are of course the life blood of our magazine. Over the years there have been many, some of whom appear on a regular basis and are the backbone and example to others with a wish to research and write for Cake and Cockhorse.

Most of the back copies of Cake and Cockhorse are still available and anyone wishing to purchase any, may contact the Editor or Banbury Museum. It is hoped the list of articles will stimulate interest in the magazine as a source of local history.

### **The Editors**

The first editor was Dr. C.F.C. Beeson who began Volume 1 No. 1 in September 1959 and continued until March 1961 when he was joined by J.S.W. Gibson. Together they edited Cake and Cockhorse until March 1962 which was the end of Volume 1 and consisted of 12 editions.

Volume 2 commenced in September 1962 under the editorship of B.S. Trinder who worked on the 12 editions of this Volume which was completed in March 1965.

Volume 3 was again edited by Barrie Trinder and the 12 editions were completed by the summer of 1968.

Volume 4 consisted of 12 editions and Barrie Trinder edited these. This volume was completed in the Summer of 1971.

Volume 5 again commenced under the editorship of Barrie Trinder and until edition No. 6 the next 3 editions of this volume were edited by Mr. F. Willy and completed with 9 editions in Summer 1974.

Volume 6 was edited by J.B. Barbour and consisted of 6 editions completed in Summer 1976.

Volume 7 commenced with Dr. J.B. Barbour as Editor until edition No. 3 when the post was taken over by D.E.M. Fiennes who completed the 9 editions of this volume by Summer 1979.

Volume 8. The 9 editions of this volume were edited by David Fiennes and were completed in Summer 1982.

Volume 9. Nos. 1 to 5 were again edited by David Fiennes and the 2 editions to date Nos. 6 and 7 were edited by your present editor.

The complete list of articles from September 1959 to 1984 now follows.

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SEPTEMBER 1959 - MARCH 1962

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Interim Report
- No. 3 Page 25  
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"Religious conflict in Banbury in 1855" B.S. Trinder
- No. 4 Page 45  
THE WARWICKSHIRE HEARTH TAX RETURNS FOR 1663  
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and Shotteswell.
- No. 5 Page 52  
BANBURY CASTLE  
A Short History R.K. Gilkes M.A. (Oxon)  
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### EXHIBITIONS AT THE BANBURY MUSEUM, HORSEFAIR, BANBURY

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| <p>Oct 17 - Jan 12 "Toys &amp; Games"<br/>         How Oxfordshire children<br/>         played before the<br/>         computer age.</p> | <p>Jan 18 - Apr 9 "Beautiful Oxford-<br/>         shire". Entries in the<br/>         photographic competition<br/>         organised by Oxfordshire<br/>         County Council in associa-<br/>         tion with Hall's Brewery.</p> |
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The newly inaugurated Oxfordshire Museums Advisory Service has produced an excellent broadsheet describing all the Museums in Oxfordshire (I was surprised how many there are). It describes their content and lists special displays, lectures, art exhibitions and demonstrations being held until March 1985. The broadsheet is obtainable from Banbury Museum.

The Society was founded in 1957 to encourage interest in the history of the town of Banbury and neighbouring parts of Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

The Magazine **Cake & Cockhorse** is issued to members three times a year. This includes illustrated articles based on original local historical research, as well as recording the Society's activities. Publications include **Old Banbury - a short popular history** by E.R.C. Brinkworth (2nd edition), **New Light on Banbury's Crosses, Roman Banburyshire, Banbury's Poor in 1850, Banbury Castle - a summary of excavations in 1972, The Building and Furnishing of St Mary's Church, Banbury, and Sanderson Miller of Radway and his work at Wroxton**, and a pamphlet **History of Banbury Cross**.

The Society has also published many volumes in the record series. These have included **Banbury Parish Registers** (in six parts: Marriages 1558-1837, Baptisms 1558-1812, Burials 1558-1723); **Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart; Banbury Wills and Inventories 1621-1650; A Victorian M.P. and his Constituents: The Correspondence of H.W. Tancred 1841-1860; South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1553-1684; Wigginton Constables' Books 1691-1836; Bodicote Parish Accounts 1700-1822; and Victorian Banbury** by Barrie Trinder. Volumes in preparation include **Banbury Wills and Inventories 1591-1620 and 1661-1723; Banbury Burial Register 1723-1812 and Baptisms and Burials 1812-1837; and an edition of letters to the 1st Earl of Guilford (of Wroxton, father of Lord North the Prime Minister).**

Meetings are held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 pm. 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 £8.00 including any records volumes published, or £5.00 if these are excluded.

Applications forms can be obtained from the Hon. Membership Secretary.

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