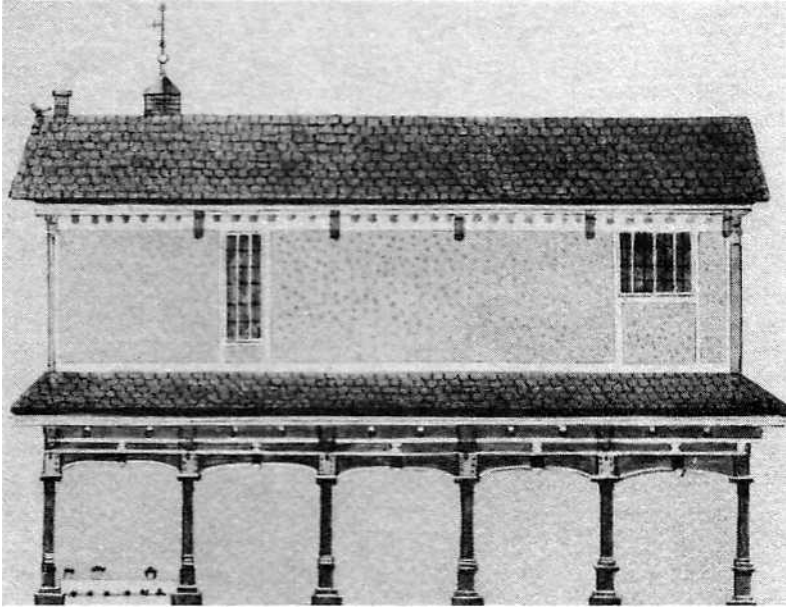


# CAKE AND COCKHORSE



## BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Spring/Summer 2002      £2.50  
The Queen's Golden Jubilee

Volume 15    Number 5

ISSN 6522-0823

# BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

# *Cake and Cockhorse*

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

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A little later than usual, but at least we can call this the Queen's Golden Jubilee issue – and only five more years to our own. It also means that we can look back with pleasure not only on the main events of this wonderful Jubilee, but also our own two summer excursions, to Ditchley and Kingston Bagpuize. The first, in particular, was blessed with glorious weather, and both were very much enjoyed by the select group who regularly attend – thank you, Beryl, for your organisation.

In Banbury itself, we have a brief description of the unveiling of blue plaques to two most distinguished Banburians who were influencing Banbury in the past two centuries, Sir Bernhard Samuelson, bt., and William Potts, Banbury historian and editor of the *Banbury Guardian*. It was good to see our old friend Ted Clark and to meet Sir Michael Samuelson, Sir Bernhard's great-grandson. Our appreciation too to Hugo Brunner, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, for his work in getting the scheme going.

Alas, one event we cannot yet report is the opening of the new Banbury Museum, although from outside it appears built. Our latest information (mid-June) is that it may open late September. In the circumstances it looks as if our annual start-of-season reception will not take place this year – but members will be informed with our next issue and the programme card. Meanwhile for an advance look at the autumn/winter season, see the back cover.

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Cover Banbury's second Town Hall, replaced about 1800

## BLUE PLAQUES IN BANBURY

*Andy Boddington*

Blue plaques are more commonly associated with London, but in the last six months, Oxfordshire has gained three, two in Banbury. These were unveiled in torrential rain on 30 April, the result of a joint initiative between Banbury Civic Society and the Oxfordshire Blue Plaques Board.

Sir Michael Samuelson, bt., unveiled the first plaque. Placed high on the old Mechanics Institute, now the Library, it recognises the contributions his great-grandfather Sir Bernhard Samuelson (1820-1905) made to Banbury, industry and education. Sir Michael, 85, travelled to the ceremony from Pevensey by bus – his first visit to Banbury.

Sir Bernhard was an industrialist, philanthropist and M.P. In 1871, he received the Telford Gold Medal from the Institute of Civil Engineers, and in 1881 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. From 1849, he owned and expanded the Britannia Iron Works, helping turn Banbury from a small rural market town into an industrial centre. Sir Bernhard was a committed educationalist and built the Mechanics Institute and Municipal Schools in Banbury.

Ted Clark is a local man and former editor of the *Banbury Guardian*, which sponsored the plaques. He unveiled the second plaque on Parsons Street (the site of the first newspaper office) in honour of his former employer and colleague, William Potts (1868-1949). Ted, 94, who started work at the *Guardian* as a junior reporter, recalled Potts' idiosyncratic working style. The editor would work long into the night on his histories of Banbury, and arrive for work late in the day with little apparent interest in ensuring the newspaper was published on time. Ted later produced a revised and expanded second edition of Potts' *A History of Banbury*.

Several B.H.S. committee members attended the ceremony, and Brian Little spoke eloquently about the lives of the two men, and their importance to Banbury.

This article is reprinted from *Oxfordshire Local History News*, the newsletter edited by Andy Boddington for the Oxfordshire Local History Association. Full membership (2 journals and 4 newsletters each year) £9, Journal only, £7, apply to Liam Taylor, Treasurer, OLHA, East House, Rokemarsh, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 6JB.

# THE BANBURY TOLL BOOK, 1754-1826, and the HORSE FAIRS

*R.K. Gilkes*

The Town Clerk's 'Book of Forms and Precedents', compiled by William Walford, Senior, in 1797, lists nine 'Banbury Fairs' – two more than Rawlinson listed in the early years of the eighteenth century:<sup>1</sup>

1. January 24 – the 1st Thursday after Old Twelfth Day being 6 January fixed.  
(Twelfth Fair)
2. February 28 – the 1st Thursday in Lent (Movable)  
(Fish Fair)
3. April 4 – the 2nd Thursday before Easter (Movable)  
(Mr Pratt's Fair or great market for Cattle)
4. May 23 – Holy Thursday (Movable – 9 days before Whit Sunday)  
(Holy Thursday Fair)
5. June 13 – Trinity Thursday (Movable – 9 days after Whit Sunday)  
(Corpus Christi Fair)
6. August 13 – Old Lammas Day (fixed)  
(Michaelmas Fair – Mr Judd's Fair and show for fat cattle)
7. October 17 – Thursday after Old Michaelmas (fixed – Michaelmas being 11 October, so if Michaelmas Day happens on 11th it is held Thursday following)  
(2nd Thursday in September [sic])
8. October 30 – Old St. Luke's Day (fixed)  
(Runaway Fair)
9. December 12 – 2nd Thursday before Christmas (fixed)  
(Beef Fair or for fat cattle)

Mr Pratt's Fair and the Beef Fair are the two additions to Rawlinson's list. Although the dates of Lammas and St. Luke's Fairs were fixed, should those days fall on a Sunday the fairs were held on the following day. Twelfth Fair was the principal horse fair. The fair held on the Thursday after Old Michaelmas and St. Luke's Fair were hiring fairs – Mops, or Statute fairs<sup>2</sup>; at the first of these, farm workers and farm

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<sup>1</sup> *Parochial Collections of Wood and Rawlinson*, trans. F.N. Davis, Oxon. R.S., vol. 2, 1920, p.21.

<sup>2</sup> So named from the Statute of Labourers, which had been passed in 1351 to set out terms and conditions of employment in the aftermath of the Black Death. Daniel Defoe described such a fair in Bloxham c.1720 (*C&CH.5.7*, p.136).

domestic servants, seeking to change their employment, would gather to find themselves new masters; offers made and contracts agreed were sealed in the traditional way with the worker's acceptance of the hiring, or fastening penny (more likely sixpence by the eighteenth century). St. Luke's Fair, which was held soon after, at the end of October, was what was called a 'runaway mop', which gave any worker who had had second thoughts about the arrangement he, or she, had so recently made, the opportunity of securing a more favourable settlement with another employer.

Twelfth Fair was the principal horse fair, but horses were also bought and sold at all the fairs, except – or so it would appear from the surviving Toll Book – the Beef Fair in December. The sale of horses was regulated by legislation designed to prevent stealing. 'An Act against the buying of Stolen Horses', passed in 1555/6 in the reign of Mary Tudor,<sup>3</sup> required a book to be kept, in which the names and abodes of the parties to the bargain were to be recorded, together with a description – to include any distinguishing marks – of the horses changing hands. If no toll was due, the buyer was to pay 1d. for the entry in the book to be made.

The Elizabethan 'Act to avoid horse-stealing'<sup>4</sup> applied additional safeguards, as William Walford summarized them:

'1. No person shall sell or exchange unless the Tollkeeper will take upon him the knowledge of the seller and abode and enter the same.

or

1. The seller brings a credible person to vouch his knowledge of the seller.
2. His name, trade and abode to be entered in the Book as also the voucher's.
3. The price of the horse to be entered.
4. The Tollman must not make entry in the Book without he knoweth either the seller or voucher and must state it in the book.
5. The party buying requiring a Ticket of his entry must pay 2d. and the Tollman must subscribe his name to it.'

An example of how such an entry would read is that which records the only two horse transactions at the Lammas Fair, 12 August, 1767, and is recorded in the Banbury Toll Book, 1754-1826:

Mark Pilkington of Shipston upon Stour in the County of Worcester Dealer and Chapman now present sells to Thomas Bottley of Hayes in the County of Kent Dealer in Earthenware now also present one Flea-bitten Grey Gelding

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<sup>3</sup> 2 & 3 Philip & Mary, Cap. VII.

<sup>4</sup> 31 Elizabeth, Cap. XII.

now produced with Four Black Legs – at the price of Three pounds The knowledge of the seller vouched by Thomas Palmer of Banbury afsd. Victualler.<sup>5</sup> Davy Davys of Llandrindod in the County of Radnor South Wales Dealer and Chapman now present sells to Thomas Bottley of Hayes in the County of Kent Dealer in Earthenware now also present One Sorrel Gelding now produced with Star in his Forehead at the price of Two pounds Twelve shillings and sixpence The Knowledge of the Seller vouched by George Taylor of Banbury afsd. Labourer.’

From January, 1754 (Twelfth Fair) to August, 1767 (Lammas Fair), the Toll Book employs, as standard, a different form and style of entry, illustrated by the composite recording of horse sales at Lammas Fair, 12 August, 1755:

‘Wm. Overton, Mayor, Benj. Aplin, T.Cl.

Toll on sale of 8 horses.

Buyers and Sellers from: Warwk.: Oxon.: Bucks (Chilton): Glos. (Condicott): Leics. (Hinkley): Hereford (Ludbury).

Prices: 8.7.6 (2 yrs. bl. geld.): 5.0.0 (2 yrs. bl. m.): 7.7.0 (bl. m.):

1.10.6 (in addition to horse swopt): 5.11.0 (bl. m.):

8.12.0 (bl. geld. 2 or 3 saddle spots): 4.7.6 (br. h.):

11.10.6 (br. geld.).’

Over this period, according to the Toll Book entries, a total of 237 horses changed hands. However, the accuracy of the Toll Book record has to be questioned: of the 112 fairs which would have been held from January, 1755, to August, 1767, only 85 have actually been reported on, and at only 58 of those were any sales completed; between October, 1763, and January, 1767, the names and dates of 18 fairs have been entered, but, apparently, just two sales were made during that time – one at Luke’s Fair on October, 1764, the other sometime ‘in 1766’.

These Toll Book figures suggest that horse-trading in Banbury was in rapid decline, but, against that, we have to argue the popularity of Banbury’s horse fairs, also the obvious shortcomings of the Borough’s recording procedures.

Potential buyers and sellers were attracted to the Banbury Fairs from a wide area: most came from Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Warwickshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire;

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<sup>5</sup> Licensee of the Blue Boar, Sheep Market/St. John’s Street. Vera Wood, *The Licensees of the Inns, Taverns and Beerhouses of Banbury, Oxfordshire*, Oxon. F.H.S., 1998, p.15.

but others, who considered it worthwhile to visit, travelled from Somerset, Dorset, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Leicestershire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, London ('the parish of pencress'), Kent and Sussex, as well as from the Welsh counties of Radnor, Cardigan and Carnarvon.

After a gap of two years – 1767-1769 – the Toll Book records take an entirely new approach by ignoring any mention of actual horse sales and simply recording regular horse toll receipts, which were then paid over to the Town Clerk by an authorized toll-gatherer. In 1768 that would appear to have been John Grimes: the entry for 1769 reads:

'Mop Fair	1.1.0	rec'd 11 Oct.
St. Luke's	1.1.0	Do. 29 Oct. '69
Twelfth Fair	3.3.0	Do.
Fish Fair	2.2.0	Do.
Holy Thursday )		
Corpus Christi ) Fair	0.0.0	
Lammas )		

To make the above payments one day before each of the Fair Days otherwise the Town Clerk shall and may take the Tolls himself. To keep a regular and fair Toll Book and to return it to the Town Clerk at the end of each Fair. To answer for any illegal Act and to indemnify the Town Clerk and Corporation.

13 September 1768

John Grimes [Sig.]

25 Aug. 1769

I agree to take to ye above Tolls for one year from ye date hereof upon ye above terms.

John Grimes [Sig.]

From 1769 to 1783 those same amounts for those Fairs are recorded as having been paid in to Mr William Walford, Town Clerk. There is no indication of how long John Grimes had responsibility for collecting and submitting these tolls, but the £2.2.0 payment for the Fish Fair of 1778 was 'received by W. Penn and paid to Mr. Walford 22 Febr'y 1779', and the following year the £5.5.0 for the Twelfth and Fish Fairs was paid to the Town Clerk by H. Walford.

These regular toll payments are recorded for the years 1772-1783. There is then a wide gap of 42 years, until the next (and final) entries in the Toll Book were made in 1825 and 1826; and they represent an almost complete reversion to the actual horse trading, their form an echo of the entry for Lammas Fair, 12 August, 1767 (as quoted above):



‘15 December, 1825.

Henry Crook of Sandford in the County of Oxford Farmer sold to Robert Bancott of Northend near Kineton in the County of Warwick Farmer an Iron Grey Mare rising three years old for the sum of 27.10.0.

14 December, 1826.

Richard Price of Shipston on Stour in the County of Worcester Horse dealer sold to Plato Buckland of Speen in the County of Buckingham Dealer a Chestnut Mare aged ? for the sum of £3.0.0.’

Interestingly, the December dates refer to the Beef Fair – the ninth on Mr Walford’s list – which, for some reason, has not been mentioned, in any connection, in the Toll Book, before this.

‘Toll Book’, it has to be said, is a somewhat misleading description of this volume. It is very much a hotchpotch, and the all-too-frequent gaps of time and information, as well as the erratic selection of material and the inconsistent form of presentation of that material considerably reduces its value to us. What we have could be described as a putting together of parts from three separate volumes: (1) a record of horse sales at Banbury Fairs from 1754 to 1767; (2) a detailed record of a very few such transactions – in two parts, 1767 and 1825-6, and in the form prescribed by statute; and (3) a record of the horse tolls collected annually at Banbury Fairs from 1769 to 1783. To add to the confusion, a Corporation clerk’s decision then to use some of the remaining blank pages to enter details of the Admission of Freemen of the borough adds another section, to form a part of a fourth – and wholly unrelated – volume.

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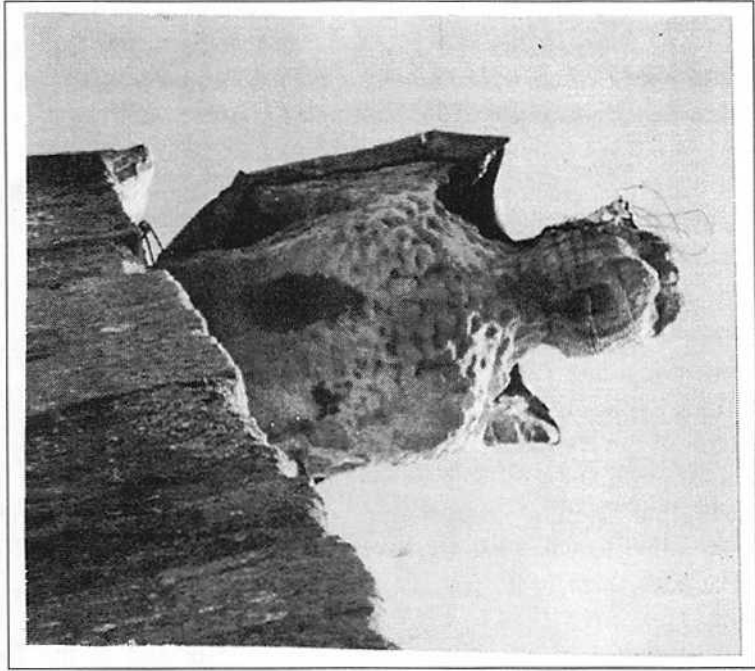
## Joan Bowes

As briefly announced in our last issue, our co-editor, Joan Bowes, died on 16th December 2001.

Joan joined our committee in Summer 1985. She was joint editor of *Cake & Cockhorse* from Summer 1994 until her retirement earlier last year. In that role she sought out contributors and was responsible for many entertaining articles. For many years she liaised with local societies, firms and individuals and ensured that lectures were widely advertised. The continuing strength of membership and high attendance at meetings is much due to her efforts.

To me she was a valued friend, always with an eye for the humour of the situation. I treasure the memory of her hospitality at Horley and more recently at Chacombe. We will all miss her.

J.G.



*Gargoyles: west tower (above); north window (below)*



# THE MEDIEVAL STONE CARVINGS OF THE CHURCH of ST. MARY'S, ADDERBURY

## Part Two

*Nicholas J. Allen*

### **Carvings on the tower**

It is now appropriate to consider the carvings on the west tower. There are six gargoyles, all of which would have been used to drain away rainwater, and the four friezes, one each side of the west tower. The figures on the tower were carved circa 1315; the gargoyles are in remarkably good condition, but the figures on the friezes have weathered very badly. This is not surprising as they are, of course, the most exposed of all the church's stonework. Originally there were forty-three carvings, of which only fourteen now survive as recognisable; there are a handful that are vaguely discernable.

Six of the fourteen are ball-flowers, three are recognisable animals. There is an interesting pair of figures on the north frieze they appear to be a knight and his lady; they also have an air of being real people. There are two very recognisable medieval grotesques suffering with toothache; one can see such grotesques on buildings in Oxford. One of these grotesques, in the middle of the west face, is remarkably in almost perfect condition, whilst all the other figures have eroded away completely.

### **Carvings on the transepts**

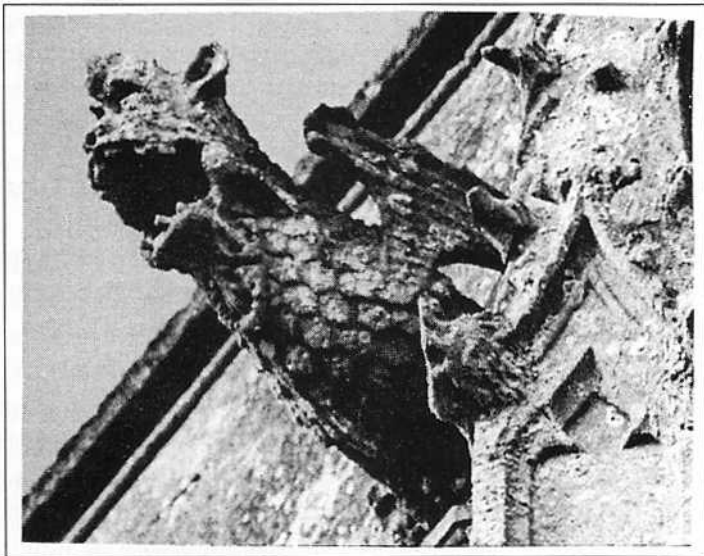
The carvings on the transepts are the oldest of Adderbury's carvings. The north transept is sparsely decorated; I have already touched on the two small gargoyles on the north window mouldings. The south transept has a corbel-table frieze largely of small ball-flowers (a ball surrounded by petals) with two or three stylised heads.

### **The chancel**

The chancel, as one might expect, is very liberally supplied with gargoyles, there are eighteen in all. Not all are intended to drain away water; some are there to make the chancel corbel-table look more aesthetically pleasing. As with all the work on the chancel these gargoyles are excellent quality work. Here the visitor will find carved every fantastic monster in the medieval imager's repertoire; despite the



*Gargoyles: the chancel.*



building being the chancel, religion obviously was not allowed to inhibit the carver's fertile imagination. He just let it soar!

### **Possible origins of the creatures carved**

Whence did all these wonderful strange creatures carved on medieval churches emanate? That the craftsmen had pattern books to work from is known. In the library at Magdalene College, Cambridge, there is a MS sheet of pencil drawn animals extracted from a Bestiary, dated 1380. Such sheets would have been available to both carvers in stone and wood as they both would have used similar subjects for their work. The more imaginative creatures that were most frequently used in medieval carving are the griffin, dragon, wyvern and unicorn; all listed in Bestiaries.

The griffin, which symbolized strength, has origins going back into the very distant history; Herodotus the fifth century Greek historian makes a mention of it. Thus it had been known about for at least eighteen hundred years by the time the Adderbury craftsmen were carving them. Ancient Greek masons also used the griffin as a acroterion, an ornament at the extreme end of a pediment, similar to the Cotswold kneeler which terminates the coping on the gable-end of a roof. Griffins can be seen at the ends of the pediment to the ancient Greek Temple of Aphaia at Aegina, built in the fifth century around the time of Herodotus.

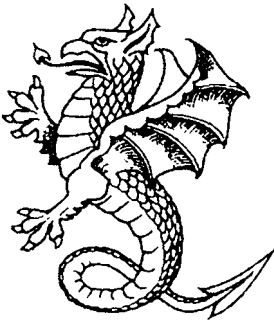


In 1976 there was an exhibition in London of Thracian (now Bulgaria) treasures. On display there was a silver plaque about seven inches in diameter, dated to the first century AD depicting two lion-bodied, eagle-headed griffins, similar to those carved on the north corbel-table frieze. Over fifteen hundred years later Sir Thomas Browne (1605-82) in his famous *Pseudodoxia Epidemica* declared the griffin ... *an emblem of valour and magnanimity, as being compounded of the eagle and lion, the noblest Animals of their kind*'. It was also considered by the ancient Greeks as sacred to the sun. One wonders, after eighteen hundred years, whether the rural medieval carvers had the slightest inkling of the meanings or attributes of the creatures they so lovingly carved.

The dragon's teeth according to the Bestiary are less lethal than its lashing tail. It has an ancestry that even precedes that of the griffin. The present day definition is 'a mythical monster like a reptile, usually with wings and able to breathe fire'. The dragon was an ancient Far Eastern emblem adopted by early Emperors of China. To the oriental the dragon represented fertility and cosmic energy. In western mythology they represented evil and destruction. St George was usually depicted as a dragon slayer.



The dragon also figured in Middle-Eastern mythology. Egyptians, Assyrians and Persians would all have recognized the creature. The dragon appears in the Bible (Revelation 20:2 says, for instance, '*And he laid hold on the dragon that old serpent, which is the Devil and Satan*').

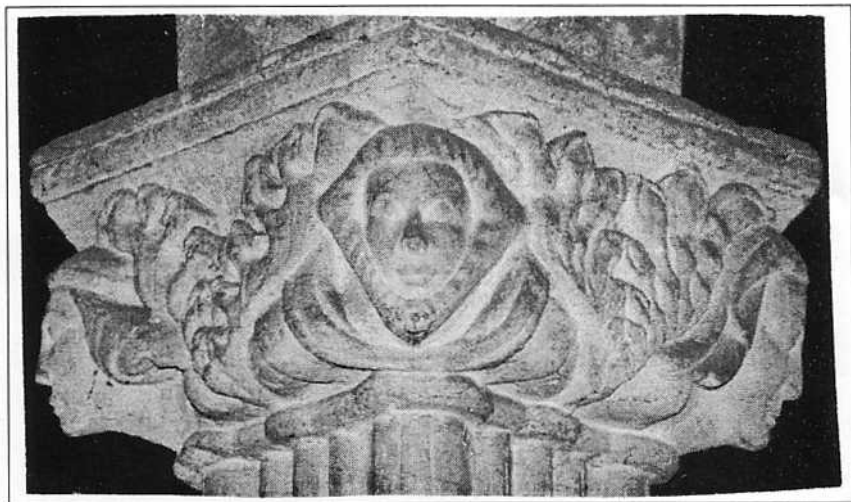


The wyvern represented the same symbolism as the dragon; on the south frieze it is depicted as a winged two-legged dragon-like creature with a crocodile body and a barbed snake-like tail. Wyverns were popular with the carvers of misericords, presumably because its bodyshape lent itself to being twisted to fit into a small area.

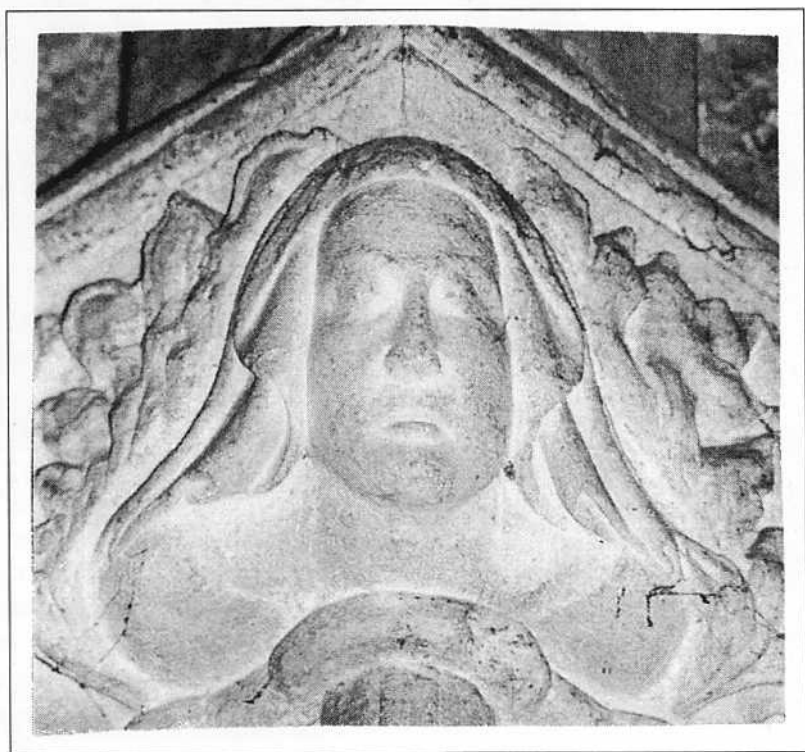
## Interior

It is now time to move inside the church to consider the interior carvings, the vast majority of which are to be found on the corbel stones that support the roof timbers. Most of these carvings are stylised and can be found in many English country churches.

By far the most interesting carvings in the main body of the church are the oldest of all. They are the series of four figures cut deep into the abacus of each of the two slender mid-thirteenth century pillars with clustered shafts in the north and south transepts. The north pillar has the heads of four aristocratic ladies, one in each corner of the abacus; all are



*The ladies of the north transept*





*The knights of the south transept*





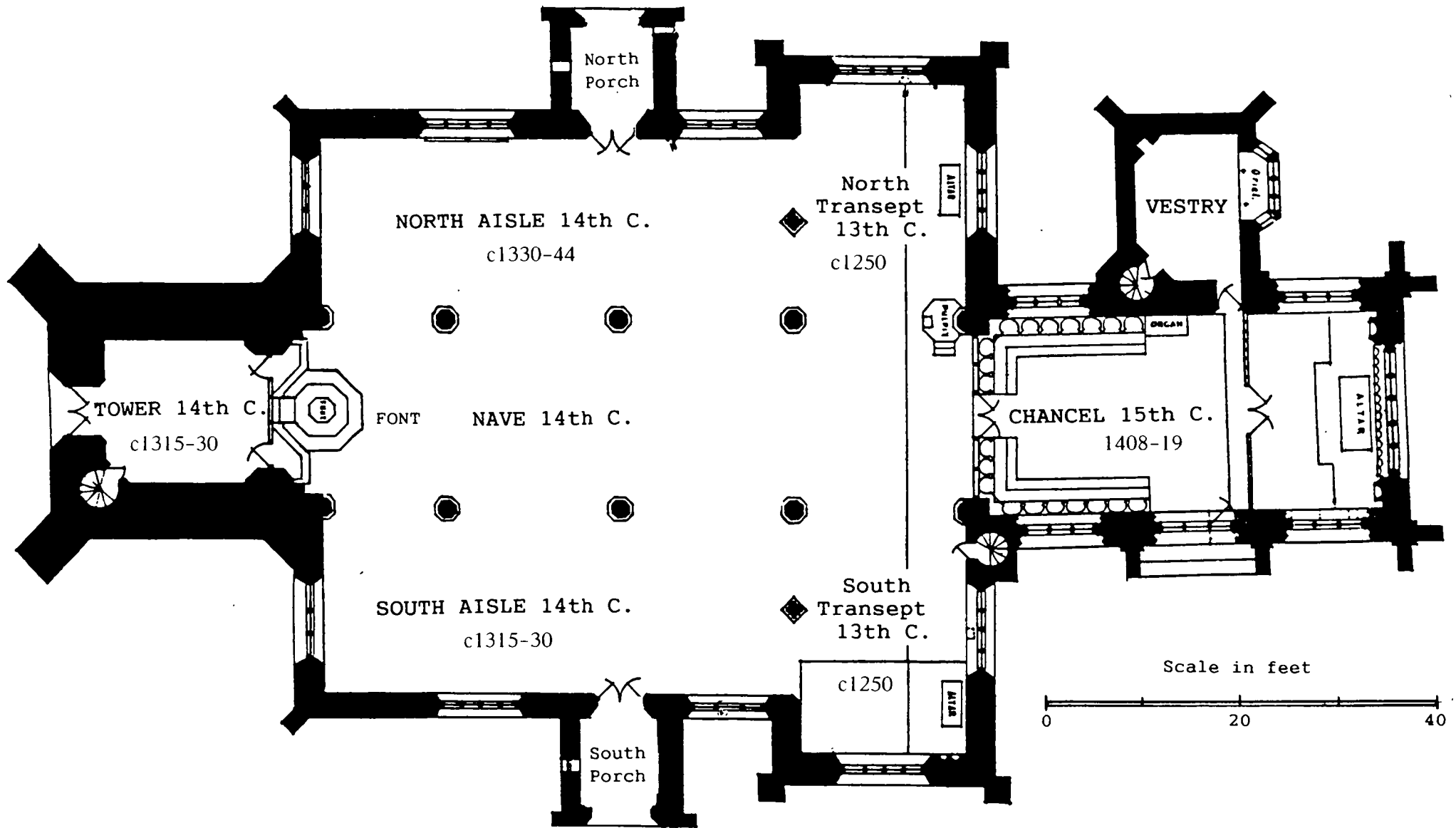
wearing wimples. These carvings are elegant with the feel that they could be real ladies. The four knights on the south pillar are very deeply cut, they have humour, but not quite the quality of workmanship of that of the ladies. There are two corbel carvings, one on the north nave arcade and one on the south, neither in use. The heads, clumsily carved, are of lambs; no doubt they represent the *agnus dei*, probably a remnant of the earlier church, in use before the added clerestorey level in the fifteenth century, supporting a much lower roof.

Finally we come to the chancel. The carvings here are of such quality they would not be out of place in a cathedral. This was to be expected when a master-mason of Richard of Winchcombe's calibre was contracted to do the work. He used for these carvings the best quality freestone from the Taynton quarries near Wychwood; incidentally, very near where the timber came from that was used to construct the roof and misericords. This would have been a most expensive operation as Wychwood Forest is a considerable distance from Adderbury, bearing in mind the state of medieval roads.

The carvings in the chancel are rather special as each of the heads is a recognizable person. They are entirely unlike the carvings in the nave or aisles, which are largely standard faces and animals that can be seen on many churches in north Oxfordshire. Three of the label-stops to two of the windows consist of small groups that each tell a story. It is worth casting an eye around the chancel and noting each piece.

The eight corbel-heads are all of senior men, bishops and monarchs. Wykeham served three Plantagenet kings during his very full life; the first was Edward III (1327-1377). Wykeham under his patronage, became, next to the King, the most powerful man in England (and greatly resented as a result by many nobles). He was Chancellor and bishop of Winchester, one of the Church's most influential and remunerative bishoprics. He served Richard II (1377-1399) and finally Henry IV until he, Wykeham, died in 1404 (see Appendix, p.169).

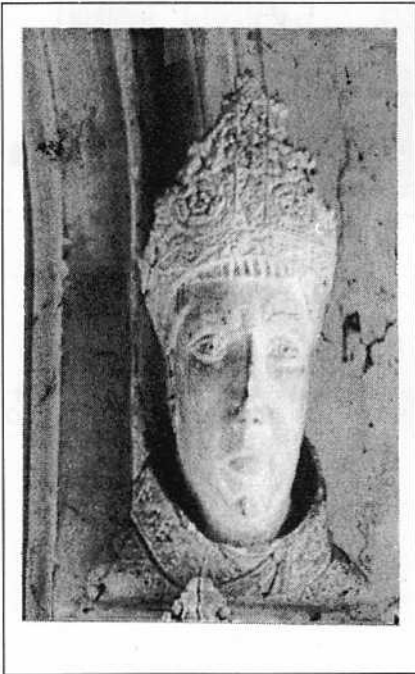
Despite the fact that the chancel was built after his death between 1408 and 1419, Wykeham's influence pervades all the work done. For instance, two of the corbel-heads and one window label-stop are all the same bishop, with a thin haughty looking face with a wart on the chin (this can be quite clearly seen with a good pair of glasses). He was reputed to have had one on his face. The decorative work on the mitre and robes and on all three heads is superbly detailed.



**The Church of St. Mary the Virgin,  
Adderbury**

Starting at the north-west corbel-head this head is of a very handsome, youngish, king. He has a neatly clipped imperial beard and moustache, he is very much like the effigy of Henry IV at Canterbury. The next corbel-head is of a clean-shaven bishop; the folds of his robes are so realistic one almost wishes to touch them. This might well have been Bishop Beaufort, who succeeded William of Wykeham.

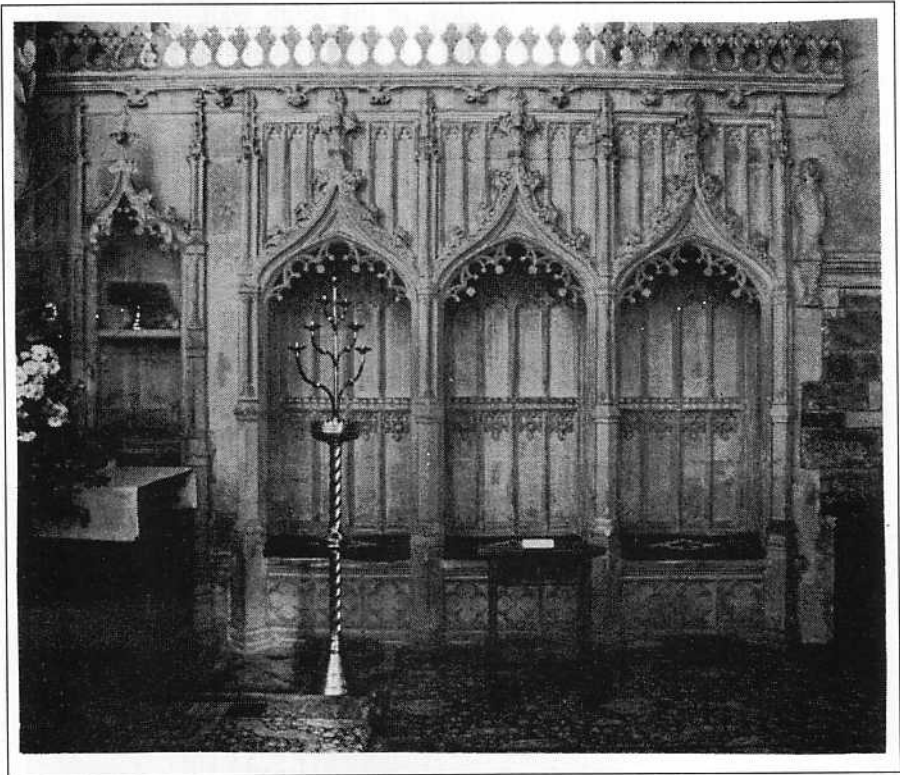
The next corbel-head is also a royal figure, with a mop of curly hair, a beard and moustache. The corbel-head supporting a timber in the north east corner is another of the thin faced bishop with a wart. Opposite him on the south-east corbel-table is another king with a neatly clipped imperial beard and moustache. His face is a repeat of the left-hand window label-stop of the east window. Wykeham's head is on the right hand window label-stop. We have Wykeham and I am quite sure that this royal face is Edward III on all four of the most prominent corbel-heads and label-stops at the East end of the Church. The face of Edward III depicted on the gilt-bronze effigy in Westminster Abbey shows him with a very well groomed beard, as have the two carved faces.



There is a label-stop to the window in the south wall nearest to the sanctuary. This bears an angelic figure also carrying a shield, this time with crossed key and sword the symbol of the bishops of Winchester. Of the remaining three corbel-heads on the south wall, two are bishops and one is a king, with a particularly flowing beard, possibly Edward III in later life.



There are three label-stops consisting of interesting little groups of figures each telling a story. Two are on the north-west window. On the right is a shepherd with his hand on a bale of wool, his crook tucked behind the bale, a lamb at his feet. The one on the left is a very stocky man with a spade carrying a sack on his shoulder. The other group is on the right-hand side of the south-west window opposite. It consists of two figures, one tall and one short, with a pair of bellows in his hand.



The sedilia, to the south of the sanctuary, is a particularly elegant piece of carving that would grace any cathedral church. It is if anything far more elegant than the one in New College chapel on which it is probably modelled. Over the canopy to the sedilia are eight tiny but exquisitely carved figures, little more than about four inches square. The eastern most figure carries the chalice, the next, probably a server, holds a communion plate, the third is holding a bible. It is perfectly possible to see the details of the spine and binding. A figure is holding a harp; the others are all holding their hands in prayer. Five wear copes, and three, a cope of what appears to be feathers. Just to one side of these little figures is a full figure about a foot high. He appears to be a clerk in orders wearing a chain of office and carrying a shield bearing Wykeham's coat of arms, yet again. This group over the sedilia is without a doubt the work of a master-mason at the apogee of his trade.



### **Conclusion**

Many of the images, particularly of the strange creatures carved on Adderbury's Church, have without a doubt an ancient and colourful lineage. They were all, at some time in their history, used to symbolize the whole gamut of human emotion and (mostly) failing. Whether they still did so by the time the fourteenth century mason was carving them must remain a matter of conjecture. I somehow doubt once the average medieval peasant had seen these strange creatures for a couple of Sundays running, that he would ever bother to look at them again – any more than the average unobservant visitor does today!

### **APPENDIX**

William of Wykeham's heraldry is recorded below, the component parts of which are included on the chancel carvings:

His personal coat of arms as bishop of Winchester was Argent, two chevrons Sable between three roses Gules, seeded Or, barbed Vert. Wykeham was also Prelate of the Garter. His badge-ribbon garter blue, gold enamelled with arms of the Order, Argent, a cross of St George. The arms of the See of Winchester are Gules, a sword Argent in bend crossed with two keys in bend Or (the keys are of St Peter and the sword of St Paul).

Of interest, superimposed on the beautiful wrought-iron screen at New College is a cartouche of Wykeham's arms, borne impaled on the sinister side with those of the See of Winchester to the dexter. With his motto 'Manners Maketh Man', the whole surrounded with the Garter and engaged with a mitre.

On display in the chapel at New College is Wykeham's crozier, a quite stunningly beautiful piece of liturgical ornament made of silver gilt and lavishly decorated from top to bottom. Decoration, such as he had done, was fairly unusual prior to the early part of the fourteenth century; it is particularly commented on in Woodward's *Treatise on Ecclesiastical Heraldry* of 1894. The crook has inserted into it ten exquisite little enamelled panels, nine of which are medieval musicians playing their instruments. All the instruments on the crozier are on Adderbury's north corbel-table frieze. Wykeham was consecrated bishop of Winchester in 1367 so these panels must therefore be later than the carvings on the north corbel-table of Adderbury's Church, which were done probably in the second quarter of the fourteenth century.

Wykeham had a connection with Adderbury's church long before he was consecrated – his nephew Thomas de Trilleck (or Trillet) was rector of Adderbury from 1335 to 1371. He was reported to have spent 300 marks (a mark was worth 6s.8d.) on work on Adderbury church. In today's money this would be worth, probably, well in excess of a half a million pounds. The dating would suggest that Trilleck was responsible for the extension and rebuilding of the north aisle and corbel-table. Wickham (as he was before climbing the social ladder) was, prior to 1367, Edward III's Surveyor of Works. One wonders if nephew Trilleck might have consulted uncle William on his project?

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Mrs Caroline Dalton, Archivist, New College, Oxford for pointing me in the direction of Psalm 150, the perfect verses with which to preface my paper; also Michael Brownson who took the superb photographs of the carvings I have used; taken originally for my book *Adderbury: A Thousand Years of History*

Perhaps, above all, I should thank young Vicky Hope of Ashtead, Surrey. She it was who wrote in May 1999 to our vicar asking for help for an 'A' level project she was preparing on Adderbury Church's gargoyles. He passed on her *crie de coeur* to me. Late in the summer we met at St Mary's to hold a mini-tutorial. This required me to do a certain amount of homework; having gathered the information together I felt that I might as well go the 'whole hog' so to speak and research a little more deeply, and then write a paper on the subject.



## Book Review

**Kings Sutton Churchwardens' Accounts, 1636-1700**, transcribed and edited by Paul Hayter (A5, 280pp., map, indexes). Banbury Historical Society Records Volume 27, 2001, £15.00 + £2.00 p&p (free to records members) from B.H.S., c/o Banbury Museum, Spiceball Park Road, Banbury OX16 2PQ.

*Kings Sutton Churchwardens' Accounts, 1636-1700* first appeared in the list of records volumes 'in preparation' in the Autumn/Winter 2000 issue of *Cake & Cockhorse*, so its publication now, little more than a year later, comes as something of a surprise – and what a very pleasant and welcome surprise it is! For Mr Paul Hayter has produced an excellent volume and, in doing so, has served the Society well; it certainly complements Volume 26 (1997), *The 'Bawdy Court' of Banbury* and is a worthy companion volume to Mr Brinkworth's *South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts, 1553-1684*, which appeared in 1964 as Volume 6.

These accounts provide a fascinating picture of life in Kings Sutton during a period of turmoil and change: a community in touch with the outside world and responsive to national events and fluctuating political and religious influences. As a mere novice in palaeography, I have to acknowledge (and envy) Mr Hayter's skill and industry in making his transcript; and his admirable Introduction, wonderfully lucid and comfortably packed with a wealth of background information, is exactly what is needed successfully to guide the reader to a clear understanding of these detailed accounts and appreciation of the importance of the churchwardens who produced them.

The churchwardens were, in fact, the most important lay figures in parochial life: as guardians of the parish church, their first priority was the maintenance of its fabric (although upkeep of the chancel was the minister's responsibility the churchwardens had to see that it was carried out), its furnishings and fittings, its churchyard; they also had to maintain the church's secular property, which, in Kings Sutton, was the church barn, church houses and the church meadows. Doing all this involved both regular and difficult to predict expenditure; damage to the church windows and roof, for example, was a constant problem requiring both minor and major repairs; and the Church Canons required

that those repairs should be carried out ‘diligently ... with lead, tile, lime and glass’, so that ‘neither the minister nor the people, either in holy ministry and worshipping of God or in celebrating the heavenly mysteries or in receiving and hearing the Communion, be troubled with tempestuous weather.’ Every year, the Kings Sutton churchwardens paid for lead, tile, lime, glass, wood and nails, and the services of local craftsmen and labourers to apply them. Then there were the bells and the clock, provided with their own supervisor and absorbing, over the years, innumerable gallons of grease and oil.

Over the years, too, considerable responsibilities of a secular nature were added to the churchwardens’ burden: they became closely involved with the constable, the overseers of the poor and the surveyors of the highways to perform social duties such as the supervision of ale-houses, the correction of vagrancy and pauperism, the maintenance of bridges and highways and even, sometimes, supplying arms and payment to those recruited by the parish to serve in the Trained Bands. All of this added to parish expenditure, as did the statutory bounty paid for the killing of vermin – 4d. for a hedgehog, 2d. a dozen for sparrows – and the mounting demands of authorised charity appeals – ‘briefs’ or ‘Letters of request’, as they were called – 51 of which were responded to in Kings Sutton in 1696.

To be able to meet their commitments, the churchwardens were empowered to impose on the parishioners single, or, more often, double levies; for example, John Haynes and Charles Wheeler, churchwardens for three years (and not the usual one) called for one double levy on 23 October 1696, three double levies on 13 February 1697, three more on 25 November 1697, one on 20 February 1698, and two double levies on 25 April 1698.

Churchwardens certainly had a variety of matters to think about, decisions to make, problems to solve; and, of course, we must remember that these annual accounts tell us little about their further demanding and, for many reasons, intimidating role as guardians of parochial conduct and morality; here they were directly responsible to the church courts, which, as the parish of Kings Sutton lay within its jurisdiction, meant the Court of the Banbury Peculiar. Mr Hayter covers this aspect of the role of the churchwardens in his excellent Introduction (pp.2-4).

Both churchwardens and their assistants, the sidesmen, were usually chosen from middling and substantial householders within the parish; and as this was ‘a virtually random cross-section of the upper half of

parish society' it follows that some of those elected were more active, more judicious, more literate, better able to add up pounds, shillings and pence, and thus more competent than others to deal with the tasks before them; nevertheless, the responsibilities derived from canon, custom and statute, which they accepted (often unwillingly) must have weighed heavily on all of them. The office of churchwarden was never a sinecure and, as Claude Jenkins acknowledged, 'the historical student at any rate will not be slow to recognize the debt of gratitude which the Church owes to those who from generation to generation have filled an office which well justified the medieval quip of being not only honourable but onerous.'

As the first of the surviving Kings Sutton churchwardens' accounts books over the period from 1636 to 1713 I wonder if it would not have been tidier if the transcript could have taken in those last thirteen years, even though, as Mr Hayter tells us, the accounts had, by 1700, 'become more hit and miss.' As would be expected, the churchwardens' spelling is somewhat irregular and, frequently, difficult to understand; Mr Hayter does help with some words, but there are other words and phrases I confess I had to give up on: words like 'brobb's' (p.66, l.15), 'copses' (p.66, l.41), and 'stelch' (p.77, l.30); and phrases like 'from Astrup youth' (p.30, l.3), 'for ye wet ham' (p.48, l.23), 'a Cromp for the Spoute' (p.60, l.10); and what happened to the children who, in the care of the vicar, 'were bushoped at Banbury' doesn't bear thinking about! An explanatory footnote would have pre-empted my anguish! My observations notwithstanding, this is a fascinating addition to the Society's records series. The presentation bears the hallmark of Jeremy Gibson and is immaculate – as always.

**R.K. Gilkes**

Paul Hayter tells us 'I can help with some of these mysterious terms. A "brobb" was a spike along the end of a timber to prevent it slipping. A "copse" was a hasp for fastening a door or gate. The Wet Ham was a meadow near the River Cherwell. A "cromp for the spoute" was probably a cramp for a pipe to take water off the roof. The children who were "bushoped" were no doubt "bishoped", *i.e.* confirmed. But I am as mystified as Mr Gilkes by "stelch". If anyone can suggest what precisely was meant by "straw which was layd upon ye gabell [*gable*] stelch on ffreebodys house, we would both be glad to know. Another word that has resisted all interpretation so far is "bathering", in the context of leather bought for bathering of the church bells. Any ideas?'

# Lecture Reports

*Brian Little*

**Thursday 13th December 2001.**

***Banbury's Quakers – Tony Yelloly.***

When, earlier in 2001, a tent appeared in the garden of No. 4 West Bar Street, expectation of one of the sales of the century was sufficient to send prospective buyers scurrying towards the auctioneer's hammer. Amongst the gems which had been in the ownership of Charles and Marjorie Lester were several Quaker-related items, some of which have thankfully found a way to their true home.

This fine property had been part of what is now termed Banbury's Quaker trail. It was associated with both the Braithwaites and Gilletts but became of ever greater significance because of key deeds and papers especially relating to the Shutford Meeting.

The history of the Quaker Movement in our town is a constant story of belief versus authority. Starting with George Fox (founder) and embracing such fine men as Edward Vivers, the almost inevitable threat of a gaol sentence loomed over their movements and activities. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, sobriety was a watchword and the other insistence was on a Quaker education for their children. Hence in 1742 the name of Sibford School appears in the record books.

In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Quakers were prominent in the business of cake making: the renowned Banbury Cakes. Samuel Beesley was amongst these but so too were those teetotallers Lizzie and Lottie Brown. Other walks of life saw Quakers involved in banking (Gillett) and the grocery business (Cadbury). The latter led a crusade in abstinence and set up 'Fortress Temperance' in Bridge Street. Closely allied to this was the Gillett enterprise for a soup kitchen.

Down the years there have been many Quaker publications. One of the most recent is all about good business ethics in the workplace. I suspect we could all benefit from reading this.

Apart from Tony Yelloly's fascinating talk, the evening was also illuminated by Jeremy Gibson who displayed several precious volumes relating to his Quaker ancestors, members of the Stone family.

**Thursday 10th January 2002.**

***Farming and Enclosure – David Eddershaw***

This was everything we have come to expect from David, erudite and well presented. Although pitched within the national framework, the lecture contained sufficient local references to reveal how farming fared in Oxfordshire.

The first section dealt with the Open Field System and its emphasis on a diversity of strips. As each farmer had a scattering of these, there was variety within farming especially as land was not uniformly good. It should be emphasised that it was only the farmers, landowners in their own right or tenants of landowning nobility, gentry, colleges etc. who were allocated strips. The ordinary landless labourer had no right to farm strips for himself.

Some well chosen slides revealed how present landscapes bear signs of this system. Reverse 'S' patterns were the outcome of ploughing methods involving the use of oxen which piled soil in the centre of strips. In this way, ridge and furrow became distinctive even if, at a later date, overlaid by hedgerows.

There were large areas of common land as at Lower Heyford in Oxfordshire reserved for grazing purposes. As well as farmers whose grazing rights were related to their over-all land holding, in some parishes other householders also enjoyed limited rights of grazing.

Greatly treasured also were rights governing firewood gathering, access to stone for repair work and grazing on verges. One outcome of this last activity was a supply of dung, but parishioners in Chipping Norton had to carry this away on their heads!

With the arrival of the eighteenth century, there was inevitable resistance to change despite an awareness of just how difficult it was to achieve innovative schemes under the Open Field System. However, pressures mounted. The effect of war, town expansion, new style machinery such as Tull's seed drill, and livestock initiatives like those of Bakewell in Leicestershire meant a growing need for enclosure by Act of Parliament.

Gradually landscapes changed and farming became more efficient. This meant the enclosure of much land. This was a severe loss to smaller farmers, who might be allocated poorer land or be unable to afford their proportion of the costs of the Private Act of Parliament necessary and the subsequent physical costs of enclosure, fencing and hedges. Perhaps inevitably it was the biggest landowners who fared best, especially after 1815. There were social issues as well, especially the loss of independence by squatters and small subsistence farmers who often ended up as mere labourers. The church was careful to obtain compensation in the form of large land allocations for any negotiated end to tithes payments.

Settlement patterns changed also. No longer did farm buildings have to be in the centre of villages. More distant and very fine farmhouses were constructed. Above all, farmers aspired to be the new gentry – the way was paved for the high farming era of mid-Victorian England.

**Thursday 14th February 2002.**

***Steam through the Banbury Area* – Michael Clemens, Cotswold Line Promotion Group**

A very large audience of over seventy members and guests were privileged to see part of a collection of railway films which is probably the largest in private ownership

The men behind the cameras were Michael Clemens, our speaker, and his late father Jim. Their enthusiasm combined with remarkable precision and co-ordination meant that there was a a veritable flood of memories of engines, rolling stock and track. Kings, castles and panniers followed in swift succession sometimes silhouetted against the surrounding country.

Whole lines were represented, notably the Hereford to Paddington. On route to the capital, the camera picked out how expresses were put together and how locomotives replenished their water supplies from the long troughs. Michael's commentary also highlighted the different problems posed by gradient negotiation. Honeybourne Bank was made remarkable by a 1939 speed record.

Our speaker put much stress on the transition from service to preservation (a signal box at Shrewsbury) and the ultimate memorabilia. Auctions are now occasions to part with serious money: £30,000 for the name plate from 'Ludlow Castle'.

More locally there were moments to savour as shots of Banbury station revealed the York to Bournemouth service and several views of the old engine sheds.

The programme ended in light-hearted fashion with a fast-moving sketch 'Helen leaps from the water tower'!

Warm and generous applause were richly earned by Michael Clemens as he added anecdotal touches to the kodachrome kaleidoscopes.

**Thursday 14th March 2002.**

***The Civil War in the Midlands* – Brigadier J.F. Rickett**

This was a broad brush account of several of the Civil War battles together with an analysis of some particular issues including pre-war politics, uniforms and equipment and the role of women.

In his graphic description of battle scenes, Brigadier Rickett was able to reveal the full horror of seventeenth century warfare. With so many minor skirmishes it is not surprising to learn that there was a greater loss of life than between 1939 and 1945. With 'plunder' a key watchword, it was small wonder that everyday living conditions were extremely difficult. Long Compton was pillaged three times.

Long before Charles I raised his standard at Nottingham high inflation and the spectre of ship money made conflict inevitable. Once the battle lines were drawn Royalist hopes were pinned on quality leadership. Prince Rupert performed

heroics on many occasions. This was just as well as battles developed into strategic affairs and both sides claimed regional and local support. A key centre for Charles was always Oxford and so Banbury and especially its castle were crucial to the process of victualling that seat of learning.

The Civil War, which was really a succession of wars, had several key turning points. An early one was Edgehill. If only the King had gone straight to London at the conclusion of hostilities how different events could have been.

In 1644 Cropredy Bridge was a Royalist success and shifted the balance of power following the previous year's Parliamentary triumphs. Sadly for Charles the early blowing down of his standard by a wind frolic at Nottingham was soon to haunt him. Marston Moor witnessed the waning power of Rupert. This battle was a precursor to Naseby where the King's military might was destroyed and where Cromwell's New Model Army provided an early sighting of modern forces.

With so much activity going on across the country it is easy to lose sight of the female role. Brigadier Rickett concluded with some strong images and revealed that behind the long running stories of male bravery there were heroines caught in sieges, putting out fires and reloading muskets.

As members filed out at the conclusion of our last winter lecture, many must have sensed the cries of battle or seen in their mind's eye a headless rider on a heavy horse. If so Brigadier Rickett must surely have fulfilled Nick Allen's hopes.

## **BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

### **ANNUAL REPORT, 2001**

Your Committee have pleasure in submitting the 44th Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for the year 2001.

At the A.G.M. officers and other members were again re-elected, with the welcome addition of Mrs Deborah Hayter. The death of Joan Bowes in December is a great loss to the Society. She was for many years co-editor of *Cake & Cockhorse* as well as arranging publicity for meetings.

Membership of the Society has risen gratifyingly and is now close to three hundred, most as records members. We record with sadness the deaths in 2001 or early 2002 of Mrs Ken Brooks, Mrs John Rivers, Miss Mary Stanley-Smith and Miss Mary Stanton, all members for many years. Attendance at meetings and new membership remain constant, thanks to posters (fresh for each meeting) distributed for display at an ever-increasing number of key places. Joan Bowes' work on this is sorely missed, and we would welcome a replacement volunteer to liaise with local societies (contact Jeremy Gibson).

The year's meetings, arranged by Nick Allen, maintained their accustomed entertaining variety. Reports, generally prepared by Brian Little, have appeared

in *Cake & Cockhorse*. In the summer we visited 'Roman' Alcester and Stoneleigh Abbey, both in Warwickshire. At Alcester we were greeted by torrential weather, which worked to our advantage, as the local library provided dry accommodation and Alan Godfrey was able to explain Alcester's Roman past much more comfortably than on the windy suburban roads we subsequently toured, where the only villas were definitely twentieth century. The excursion to Stoneleigh was a real coup, as it appeared we were effectively the first group to visit the house since it had been restored and refurbished. Our guide admitted that it was her first tour, but it all made for delightful informality. Fiona Thompson and Beryl Hudson organised these with their usual initiative and efficiency. For the A.G.M., we returned to our favourite location, when our President and Lady Saye and Sele once again welcomed us to Broughton Castle. On a day beset with storms we caught a window of sunshine, unlike the later event at Blenheim Palace which was totally washed out! In the autumn our popular start-of-season reception at Banbury Museum, hosted by Simon and his staff, was much enjoyed. Sadly this was to be the last at the Horsefair location, but we look forward to canal-side jollies in future. To all those mentioned we are most grateful.

The normal three issues of *Cake & Cockhorse* appeared, with contributions from Nick Allen, Margaret Condon, Pamela Horn, Pamela Keegan, Sally Stradling, Kate Tiller and Barrie Trinder, as well as from regulars Jeremy Gibson and Brian Little.

There has been a turn-around in records publication, with two 'distant prospects' forging ahead. *Kings Sutton Churchwardens' Accounts*, transcribed and edited by Paul Hayter, has already been distributed to subscribers, and Dr Leo de Freitas' *Banbury and the Chapbook* is imminent, with support from the grant initially made available for *Turnpike Roads to Banbury*. The delay with this volume is entirely due to your series editor's inability to find the energy to devote the time it requires for its presentation, but it *will* be completed in due course. Geoffrey Smedley-Stevenson's long-term work on the diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington 1836-1848, is on the verge of completion.

The increase in membership we enjoyed in 2000 was largely maintained in 2001. This meant that our income from subscriptions comfortably covered our day-to-day running expenses. Members' response to the Gift Aid scheme was excellent. We were able to claim an Income Tax refund of £329 as compared with a refund of £93 in 2000 under the old covenant scheme. The Publications Account met the cost of the publication and despatch of Records Volume No. 27. The balance on this Account, together with a promised grant from the Greening Lamborn Trust, will be sufficient to pay for the issue of a further Records volume in 2002. We used the Brinkworth Fund to pay for binding some of Banbury Museum's volumes of *Cake & Cockhorse*; the Fund is meeting the cost of binding the remainder of their volumes in the current year.



## BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2001

	2001 £	2 000 £
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions	2613	2,661
Less transfer to Publications Account	<u>(584)</u>	<u>(578)</u>
	2029	2 083
Income Tax refund on covenants	330	93
Building Society interest	640	695
Other	<u>25</u>	<u>47</u>
Total Income	<u>3024</u>	<u>2,918</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Cake & Cockhorse - costs less sales	1559	1 787
Secretarial & Administration	16	48
Meetings	356	326
Reception & AGM	148	149
Sundries inc. publicity	<u>268</u>	<u>79</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>2347</u>	<u>2,389</u>
SURPLUS for the year to Accumulated Fund	<u>677</u>	<u>529</u>

## PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2001

<b>INCOME</b>		
Share of subscriptions	584	578
Sale of records volumes	<u>210</u>	<u>248</u>
Total Income	794	826
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Publication & despatch costs	3734	18
DEFICIT (SURPLUS) for the year from/to Publications Reserve	<u>(2940)</u>	<u>808</u>

## BRINKWORTH FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2001

<b>INCOME</b>		
Building Society interest	125	145
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Grant to Banbury Museum	160	0
DEFICIT (SURPLUS) for the year from/to the Fund	<u>(35)</u>	<u>145</u>

## BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2001

	2001 £	2000 £
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>		
Balance at 1 January	8447	7918
Add Surplus for the year	<u>677</u>	<u>529</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u>9124</u>	<u>8447</u>
<b>PUBLICATIONS RESERVE</b>		
Balance at 1 January	5979	5171
Less Deficit (Add Surplus) for the year	<u>(2940)</u>	<u>808</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u>3039</u>	<u>5979</u>
<b>BRINKWORTH FUND</b>		
Balance at 1 January	3166	3021
Less Deficit (Add Surplus) for the year	<u>(35)</u>	<u>145</u>
Balance at 31 December	<u>3131</u>	<u>3166</u>
<b>TOTAL BALANCE at 31 December</b>	<u>15294</u>	<u>17592</u>
<b>Represented by</b>		
<b>ASSETS</b>		
NatWest Bank Banbury - Current Account	(285)	688
Leeds & Holbeck Bldg Soc - Main Account	13414	14974
Leeds & Holbeck Bldg Soc - Brinkworth Account	3131	3166
Cash	<u>12</u>	<u>20</u>
	16272	18848
Sundry Debtors	<u>44</u>	<u>110</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>16316</u>	<u>18958</u>
<b>Less LIABILITIES</b>		
Subscriptions in advance	297	736
Sundry Creditors	<u>725</u>	<u>630</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>1022</u>	<u>1366</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>15294</u>	<u>17592</u>

G F Griffiths Hon Treasurer

I have reviewed and examined the books and records of the Banbury Historical Society and confirm that the accounts prepared by the Hon Treasurer represent a fair and accurate summary of the financial transactions completed in the year ended 31 December 2001

R J Mayne FCA FCMA

# BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

The magazine *Cake and Cockhorse* is issued to members three times a year. This includes illustrated articles based on original local historical research, as well as recording the Society's activities. Well over a hundred issues and some three hundred articles have been published. Most back issues are still available and out-of-print issues can if required be photocopied.

## Records series:

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

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

*Victorian Banbury*, by Barrie Trinder (vol. 19, with Phillimore).

*Aynho: A Northamptonshire Village*, by Nicholas Cooper (vol. 20).

*Banbury Gaol Records*, ed Penelope Renold (vol. 21).

*Banbury Baptism and Burial Registers, 1813-1838* (vol. 22).

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

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

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

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

## In preparation:

*Banbury Chapbooks*, by Dr Leo John de Freitas.

*Turnpike Roads to Banbury*, by Alan Rosevear.

Selections from the *Diaries of William Cotton Risley, Vicar of Deddington 1836-1848*, ed. G.W. Smedley-Stevenson.

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

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

Membership of the Society is open to all, no proposer being needed. The annual subscription is **£10.00** including any records volumes published, or **£7.50** if these are not required; overseas membership, **£12.00**.

# BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Thursday 4th July 2002*

**Annual General Meeting, 5.00 p.m. for 5.30, at Newbottle Manor, by kind invitation of Lady Juliet Townsend, Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire.**

Autumn 2002/Winter 2003 Programme

*Thursday 12th September 2002*

**The Last Invasion of Britain (the French in Wales in 1797).**  
Rod Thomas

*Thursday 10th October 2002*

**The Changing Environment of the Thames Valley in One Thousand Years**  
Mark Robinson, Oxford University Museum of Natural History

*Thursday 14th November 2002*

**Commercial Camera: The Victorian Portrait Parlour.** Audrey Linkman  
Members are invited to bring any early photos for dating

*Thursday 12th December 2002*

**The History of Oxford University Press.** Dr Martin Maw, Archivist, O.U.P.

*Thursday 9th January 2003*

**The Merchant Adventurers of the 17th Century.** Captain George Prideaux  
(In costume and language of the time with plenty of audience participation)

*Thursday 13th February 2003*

**Dad's other Army.** W.P. (Bill) King,  
(The secretly-formed resistance groups in this country during the last War)

*Thursday 13th March 2003*

**The Magic of the Cotswolds.** Vernon Brook  
(Stones and churches)

Apart from the A.G.M., all meetings are held at the  
**North Oxfordshire College, Broughton Road, Banbury, at 7.30 p.m.**