

CAKE AND COCKHORSE



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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

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

Volume 15

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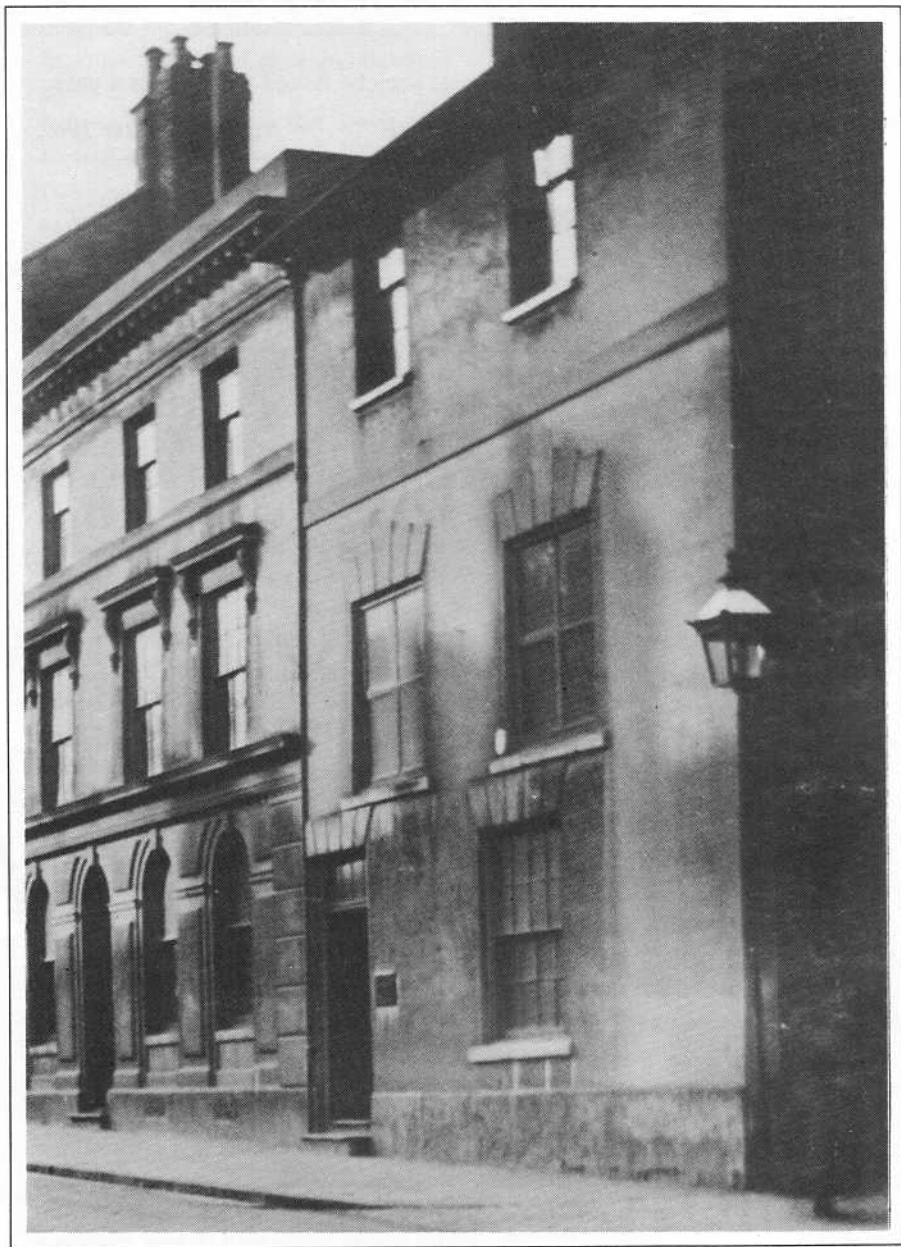
First, our apology to our distinguished correspondent Christopher Hall, editor of the excellent *Oxfordshire Local History* (Oxfordshire Local History Association) whose surname in an aberration we rendered as ‘Hill’; causing confusion with our even better-known former member and neighbour at Sibford who has spoken memorably to our Society on several occasions.

Second, we make no apology for republishing two articles which have already appeared in print, albeit in specialist journals with which few if any of our readers are likely to be familiar. It is important to bring such papers into a local context, and we are grateful to the authors, editors and publishers for their help.

For Oxfordshire historians the new century has been encouraging. The rehoused Oxfordshire Record Office opened in the former St. Luke’s Church at Cowley in east Oxford on 19th March 2001 and our long-heralded new Banbury Museum at last opened this year on 21st September. We have since visited both: the Oxfordshire Record Office when the the Oxfordshire Record Society held their AGM there in August, with a memorable tour conducted by our charismatic County Archivist Carl Boardman; and Banbury Museum, for a private visit, enjoyable but overwhelmed by the number of children on half-term. Surely it is better to be crowded out than to be the sole visitor! It is gratifying to be able to have a detailed description of the Broughton Coin Hoard now on display there.

Our late and much missed co-editor Joan Bowes for many years liaised with nearby local history societies to ensure that publicity posters for our meetings are displayed in Banburyshire. Deborah Hayter has agreed to take on the role, and has already been in touch with anyone known to have helped in this context. We do already have contacts in Adderbury, Bloxham, Brackley, Charlton, Chipping Norton, Cropredy, Deddington, Hook Norton, Hornton, Kings Sutton, Middleton Cheney, Sibford, Southam and Sulgrave. We would be pleased to hear from any others prepared to help with such publicity (Walnut House, Charlton, Banbury).

Cover: Queen Henrietta Maria, consort of Charles I, whose entourage may have been the cause of Spanish Netherlands coins being hidden near Broughton (pp. 238-9).



51 High Street, Banbury, in 1909.

APLINS – THE OLDEST SOLICITORS’ PRACTICE IN BANBURY Part Two: The Twentieth Century

Kenneth R.S. Brooks

Part One, in the previous issue, covered the history of Aplins under five generations of the family. Frederick Charles Aplin, who died on 31 August 1897 at the early age of 43, was the last of the family in the practice. So, the Aplins had lasted from about 1739 until 1897. They were succeeded by members of the Hunt family, and others, from 1897 until 1956.

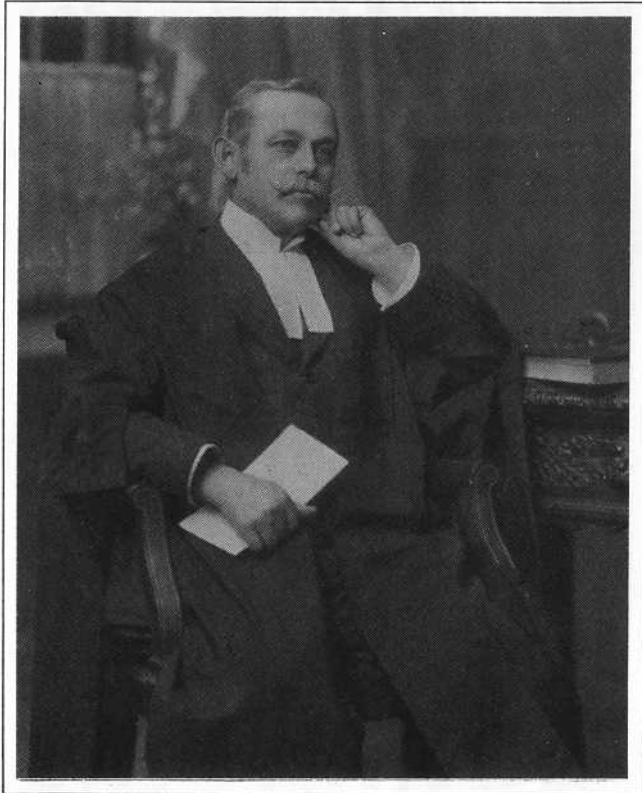
John Hunt (1853-1920; with Aplins pre-1882; solicitor 1898-1920)

John Hunt was born on 15 August 1853, at High Street, Jericho St. Thomas, Oxford, son of George and Ann Hunt. George Hunt was a baker.

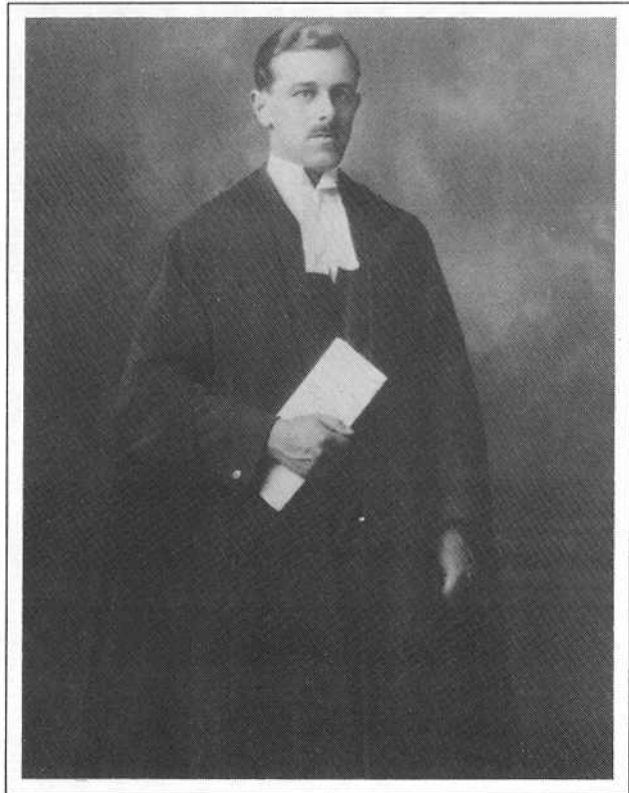
He came to Banbury in his youth, with his parents. He initially worked for William Waters Heming, the Clerk to the Board of Guardians. He next worked for William Strange, a High Street draper, but, being colour blind, he returned to the Law, taking a position with Benjamin William Aplin. He was certainly with him in March, 1882. When Frederick Charles Aplin joined the Firm, John Hunt was Articled to him. After the death of Frederick Charles Aplin, Mr Walter Edward Baskerville Walton (who had been Admitted a Solicitor in May, 1891) entered the Firm and John Hunt continued to serve his Articles under him.

John Hunt was Admitted a Solicitor in July, 1898, and for a time thereafter he practised with Mr Walton under the name of Aplin, Hunt & Walton. By a Conveyance dated 6 April 1899 Mr Walton and John Hunt purchased, and thereafter occupied, the office premises at 51 High Street, Banbury. Mr Walton left the Firm some time prior to March 1906 and returned to Oxford. The Firm’s name was then changed to Aplin, Hunt & Co. and on 21 March 1906 the premises were vested in John Hunt.

John Hunt was married twice, first to Eliza Hemmings formerly of Brailles, but then of Widney, Knowle, on 21 July 1879, at Solihull. After their marriage, they lived at Bath Terrace Road in Banbury. By this marriage, he had two daughters and a son. His first wife died on 14 October 1890 at Banbury, aged 41. Just three days later, on 17 October 1890, the very



John Hunt, Partner 1898-1920.



Henry (Harry) Leslie Hunt, Partner 1924-56.

day of Eliza's funeral, their son John Mansell Hunt died, aged six months; and their second daughter, Alice Lilian Hunt, died three years later on 10 November, 1893, aged nine. However, their eldest daughter, Amy Isabella Hunt, survived to the age of 88, dying in 1968. Eliza and the three children are all buried at Banbury.

John Hunt's second marriage was to Ada Lucy Gibbs, of Kineton House, Horsefair, Banbury, on 24 April 1894 at St. Mary's Church, Banbury, by whom he had two sons, namely, Robert Lancelot Gibbs Hunt, born 1 March 1895; and Henry Holman Leslie Hunt, better known to everyone as Harry Hunt, born 22 May 1900. Both were born at Horse Fair and baptised at St. Mary's.

Robert, the eldest son, was destined for the Law. He was Articled to his father on 4 September 1913, and intended joining his father in the Practice. Sadly Robert was killed in action in World War I, on 7 October 1916, in the Battle of the Somme, aged 21. He was a Captain in the 6th Battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

Harry, on the other hand, had been destined to follow a career in engineering. However, after the death of Robert, Harry entered the Firm and was Articled to his Father on 3 May 1919, aged nearly 19 years. This was a real change of direction for Harry, and quite a courageous step for him to take.

In addition to his legal work, John Hunt was a Member of the Banbury Town Council for three years. With Mr H.R. Webb, he founded the Banbury Rifle Club, and took a leading part in the Miniature Rifle Club Movement. He was a well known County and Local Shot and won several First Prizes at the County Meeting at Oxford. He was also the Secretary of the local branch of the Bible Society.

The death of Robert had been a tremendous blow to John Hunt. In fact he never got over it and his health was badly affected. He died on 19 April 1920, aged 66, and was buried at Banbury on 23 April. John Hunt had been in the Firm from 1898 until his death. His widow, Ada Lucy Hunt, died on 22 February 1927, and was also buried at Banbury.

The death of John Hunt meant there was no Solicitor in the Practice, so arrangements had to be made to cover the period until Harry Hunt had qualified as a Solicitor. Accordingly, on 30 June 1920, an Agreement was entered into between John Hunt's executors and others, and the previously mentioned Walter Edward Baskerville Walton, Solicitor, of Oxford. Mr Walton was a Godfather to Harry Hunt.

This was a most complicated five page Agreement which covered not only the Legal Practice of Aplin, Hunt & Co., but also certain Estate Agency businesses which John Hunt had been operating at the time of his death. The Agreement provided that Mr Walton should carry on both the Legal Practice and the Estate Agency businesses for a period of five years from 19 May 1920, after which the Legal Practice could be acquired by Harry Hunt on the terms therein stated. Also, the Articles of Clerkship of Harry Hunt should be transferred to Mr Walton for the balance of the term of five years, and Mr Walton should be appointed Steward of the Manors of Kings Sutton for the same period of five years (John Hunt had held the post from 1900).

On 10 March 1922 a further Agreement cancelled the earlier one of 30 June 1920, and went on to provide that Mr Walton should supervise the Practice of Aplin, Hunt & Co. upon the terms therein stated. However, Mr Walton himself died on 23 November 1923, just a few days after Harry Hunt had qualified as a Solicitor, but before he had been Admitted. So, a further Agreement was entered into on 28 November 1923, whereby Edward Ralph Marshall, Solicitor, of Rugby, agreed to carry on and supervise the Practice of Aplin, Hunt & Co. in place of Mr Walton until Harry Hunt had been Admitted a Solicitor.

On 7 February 1924, Harry Hunt was Admitted a Solicitor and on 1 March he finally took over the Legal Practice of Aplin, Hunt & Co.

Henry Holman Leslie Hunt - otherwise known as Harry Hunt

(1900-1956; with Aplins from 1919; solicitor 1924-56)

Harry Hunt presumably grew up with his parents at their home on Horse Fair. He later lived at 46 The Green. On 25 July 1928 he married Kathleen Mary Balfour of 69 Broughton Road, at St. Mary's Church, Banbury. They had three daughters, all of whom are alive, as is Kathleen Mary Hunt, now aged 98 years.

He had on his Staff, among others, two men who proved to be loyal members of the Firm for very many years and who were in the Firm before he was Admitted.

William Rogers, known to all as Bill Rogers, I understand joined the Firm from school in about 1900, when John Hunt was in practice and at the time of Harry Hunt's birth. He became something of an authority on Conveyancing Law, especially when that Law underwent a complete transformation in 1925. He was also a local sportsman. He was still working in the Office at the time of Harry Hunt's death. Bill Rogers died on 30 May 1957, aged 71.

Arthur George Hobbs was the Firm's cashier and one of the most meticulous persons one could meet. He was also an accomplished pianist, though he could not read music, and would play anything from Jazz to Classics. He had an unusual hobby of composing pictures on the typewriter, by using the various typewriter symbols. This was long before anyone had heard of computers. Arthur was born on 1 January 1906. He joined the Firm straight from School on 30 December 1919, so, towards the end of 1969, plans were made to celebrate his fifty years with the Firm. This took the form of a buffet party at my home, including a presentation. After checking the position with members of his family, it was decided to present Arthur with a television set.

After the presentation had been made, Arthur came to me and said, 'I have a confession to make.' I expected him to say he had already got a television set, instead of which he said, 'I haven't got electricity in my house.' I suppose this is a good example of not thinking of the obvious, but as he lived in the centre of Banbury it had never occurred to us he had not got electricity connected. Anyway, it spurred Arthur into action and he had electricity installed soon afterwards. He was a bachelor and had lived alone in that house for many years. He continued working for Aplins until he retired in June 1976. He died on 30 April 1978.

I knew both Bill Rogers and Arthur George Hobbs and can testify to their loyalty to the Firm.

Harry Hunt later acquired a small Practice in Chipping Norton, and went over there twice a week either in his motor car, often accompanied by Bill Rogers, or on his motor cycle. After six months, or thereabouts, he sold on that Practice to Sidney George Farrant who later took Tom Sinden into partnership. That Firm became known as Farrant & Sinden.

Another member of the Aplin family was a Mr Weston Aplin who had been Admitted a Solicitor in 1819. He was the Town Clerk of Chipping Norton between about 1819 and 1868 and was practising there in 1872 as Aplin & Saunders. He died on 3 March 1872, aged 80 or 81 years.

Harry Hunt was the Steward of the Manors of Kings Sutton from 1922 until his death in 1956. Thus the Stewardships of the Manors of Kings Sutton had been held by members of Aplins from 1763 until 1956, except for a period between 1780 and 1855.

Also, Harry Hunt with Bill Rogers were 'Lords of the Manor of Kings Sutton' in 1946, their address being 'The Village Green, Kings Sutton'.

Harry was elected a Councillor on the old Banbury Borough Council on which he served for a short time. During World War Two, he was



*Morswyn Trevethin Thomas,
Partner 1951-1966.*



*Kenneth Richard Scott Brooks,
Partner 1954-1987.*

active in the Civil Defence. He and his wife continued to live at 46 The Green. They were both Banburians, well known and highly respected in Banbury and District. He was a member of a number of organisations, including being a Past President of the Banbury Rugby Club, the Chestnuts Bowling Club and the West End Tennis Club. He was an active member of the last, which he was responsible for setting up and whose premises were then in Bath Road. He was a member of the Banbury Rotary Club for many years and became its President in 1947.

In about 1950, he decided the time had come to engage another Solicitor with a view to him becoming a Partner in the Firm. This led to Trevor Thomas joining the Firm. Harry Hunt died suddenly at his home on 15 July 1956. He was only 56, and the high respect in which he was held was exemplified at the funeral when St. Mary's Church was full. He had been in the Firm from 1 March 1924 until his death.

Morswyn Trevethin Thomas (b. 1926; solicitor with Aplins 1951-66)

With a name like that, he was known to most people as Trevor Thomas. He was a native of South Wales, born on 28 February 1926. He spent some years in his uncle's Firm in Birmingham, where he was Articled, and stayed there for a short time after he had been Admitted.

Trevor came to Banbury in 1951 to join the Firm of Aplin, Hunt & Co. as an Assistant Solicitor. Harry Hunt took him into partnership on 1 January 1953, when the Firm's name was changed to Aplin, Hunt & Thomas. He married Kathleen Mobley of Croughton, at Croughton Church, on 11 April 1955. They have a daughter and a son, both long since married.

After I had joined the Firm and after the death of Harry Hunt, Trevor and I set about modernising and expanding the Office. This process occupied the best part of ten years and full details are set out hereafter. Trevor stayed in the Firm until 30 April 1966.

Kenneth Richard Scott Brooks (b. 1921; solicitor with Aplins 1954-87)

I was born in Nottingham on 17 November 1921. I entered the Law shortly before World War II and was Articled to a Nottingham Solicitor. My period of Articles was interrupted for about six years by World War II, during which time I served in the R.A.F. I was Admitted a Solicitor on 6 June 1950.

I married Eileen Eva Stofer Lister in the parish church of Cockfosters, Hertfordshire, on 7 October 1950. We had three sons, the second of whom, David, became a Solicitor and later a Partner in a Firm practising

in the Cotswolds. David was killed in an air accident at Oxford Airport on 12 July 1992. Eileen died recently on 27 November 2001.

I joined the Firm on 1 September 1954. At that time, the Firm had just eight Staff, including the two Partners. On 1 January 1956, I joined Harry Hunt and Trevor Thomas in Partnership and the name of the Firm became Aplin, Hunt, Thomas & Brooks.

The sudden death of Harry Hunt, only six months after I had become a Partner, was a great shock to all of us. Soon afterwards, the health of Bill Rogers began to fail, doubtless due to Harry Hunt's death.

It was apparent to Trevor and me that something had got to be done in order to modernise the Office and we set about doing this. Items such as filing cabinets were non-existent. Current files of papers were stored on the floor, or on any flat surface – yet no files seemed to get lost. So, filing and other storage cabinets were acquired, files and other documents were placed in them, and any unnecessary items were disposed of.

I recall Trevor telling me that when he came to the Office one of the ground floor rooms had been used to store fuel for the solid fuel boiler. This fuel had to be transferred outside and the room decorated to make it into a suitable room for himself. The rendering on the outside of the building was badly stained, so was redecorated. Harry Hunt's large room was divided into two, one half for Trevor and the other half for myself. That large room had been something of a timepiece and it was a pity we had not thought to photograph it before anything in it was touched.

A new front entrance to the Office from High Street was formed, which enabled a strong room to be built in which to store deeds etc. They had previously been stored in a steel-fronted cupboard in one of the General Office walls which was about three feet thick.

I suppose one of the most difficult problems facing us was to sort out the top floor of the building. We needed more accommodation for staff and the obvious thing to do was to subdivide that large space which was really one large room and had been used for many years as something of a depository. Indeed, everything in that space was covered in a thick layer of black dust which had been undisturbed for many years. Clearing that space was going to be a filthy job which we had neither the time nor the inclination to tackle. Every document in there needed to be cleaned and examined, to ensure nothing of historical value was lost. Merely to have thrown everything away could have been a catastrophe. Harry Hunt had told us that some of the deeds of Sulgrave Manor had been found in the Office, so there was no telling what else of value might be there. So,

in 1963, the Oxfordshire Record Office was contacted to see if they could help. The documents on the top floor were put into forty large boxes and were taken to the County Record Office by lorry. They were initially deposited at the Bodleian Library in Oxford. It was said to be one of the largest such deposits made. Each individual document had to be cleaned, carefully examined and catalogued. This task was carried out by archivists at Oxford, assisted by other archivists from Worcestershire and Northamptonshire. The documents related to properties in twelve counties: Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Gloucestershire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Pembrokeshire, Herefordshire, Essex, Somerset and London. Some of them dated back to the sixteenth century. Those which related to certain counties such as Warwickshire and Northamptonshire were, with consent, transferred to the Record Offices in those counties for cataloguing and storage. The process of cataloguing such a large collection took over twelve years and it was only on 6 April 1976 that the documents were ready to be transferred from the Bodleian Library to the County Record Office. I had arranged that I would be provided with a complete catalogue of all the items removed from our Office and this did not reach me until some years later. When it arrived, I discovered that the items removed from the top floor in the Office included the following: –

(1) Deeds of the premises at 51 High Street, from where the Firm had practised, going back to 1708 (*i e.* before the Firm was actually founded);

(2) The original Charter of Stow-on-the-Wold dated 17 August, 1604. I wonder how that managed to reach the top floor of the Office?

(3) Original Inclosure Acts, or Awards, in respect of these villages:-

(a) East and West Adderbury, Milton and Bodicote, dated 1766.

(b) Avon Dassett, dated 1779.

(c) Eydon, dated 1761.

(d) Fenny Compton, dated 1778.

(e) Kings Sutton, dated 1803-4.

(f) Shotteswell, dated 1793.

(g) Tysoe, dated 1796.

(4) Diagrams and Notes of the King William III and Marlborough Campaigns from 1690 to 1712.

(5) The Records of Gillett's Bank, which was taken over by Barclays Bank, as evidenced by the brass plaque which is still affixed to the left hand door of Barclays Bank in Bridge Street, Banbury. These records were handed to Gillett's Bank to assist them in compiling a history of that Bank and on the understanding they would send a copy of the book when it was published. It never arrived, despite the efforts of at least one local Barclays Bank Manager.

- (6) Various documents relating to the Manors of Kings Sutton, including: –
 - (a) Court Rolls from 1664 to 1742.
 - (b) Original Court Files from 1786 to 1799.
 - (c) Many other documents up to 1935.
- (7) Locks of hair of members of the Aplin family.

With the top floor of the Office building now cleared, we constructed five separate rooms in the space then available. The staircase leading to this top floor had just about the steepest gradient of any staircase I had previously seen. A small two-storey extension to the Office was built at the rear, and new toilets and a cloakroom were added. The major difficulty was the limited site, as some years previously, in May 1952, most of the 'back garden' to the property had been sold to the General Post Office, as the site for a new Telephone Exchange. The foundations of the old building, or rather the lack of foundations, were another restricting factor. Of course, before Trevor and I embarked upon all these alterations and additions to the building, we purchased the freehold.

As the Practice expanded, more staff were engaged. We had a chicken-and-egg situation, in that before we could engage those extra staff we had to have somewhere to put them, which led to the building alterations to which I have referred. We wanted to keep all the staff on the same site, rather than have the Practice in different locations.

Specialisation was gradually becoming the order of the day since if a Solicitor tried to handle all branches of the Law himself he ran the risk of being a Jack-of-all-trades-and-Master-of-none. Trevor took up Tax Planning, which in those days was in its infancy, at any rate in a town the size of Banbury.

I concentrated on Litigation. At that time, there was no such thing as a Crown Prosecution Service. Most Prosecutions were conducted by the Police themselves. However, a number were entrusted to local Solicitors. There were at that time only two or three of us who handled that work in Banbury. There was a large billiard table which stretched across almost the full width of the Court Room. It was by no means unusual to find oneself at one end of the table conducting a Prosecution, then moving across to the other end of the table for the next case when one was acting for the Defence.

A County Court sat in the Town Hall and this was attended regularly. Similarly, Banbury Quarter Sessions sat in the larger Court Room upstairs in the Town Hall and the Firm was actively involved in instructing Counsel to appear there. Quarter Sessions had been held in

Banbury since the time of the Charter of King James I. The final Quarter Sessions in Banbury sat on 26 October 1971.

After Trevor left the Firm on 30 April 1966, my wife purchased his half share in the Office premises, so the entirety then belonged to my wife and myself, and we leased it to the Firm, whose name was changed to Aplin, Hunt & Brooks. I was now the sole Proprietor of the Firm, so it was obvious I must engage another Solicitor with a view to taking him into partnership, since if I had died, the Firm would have found itself in the same position which had arisen following the death of John Hunt.

John Sydney Bell (b.1930; with Aplins 1967-1997)

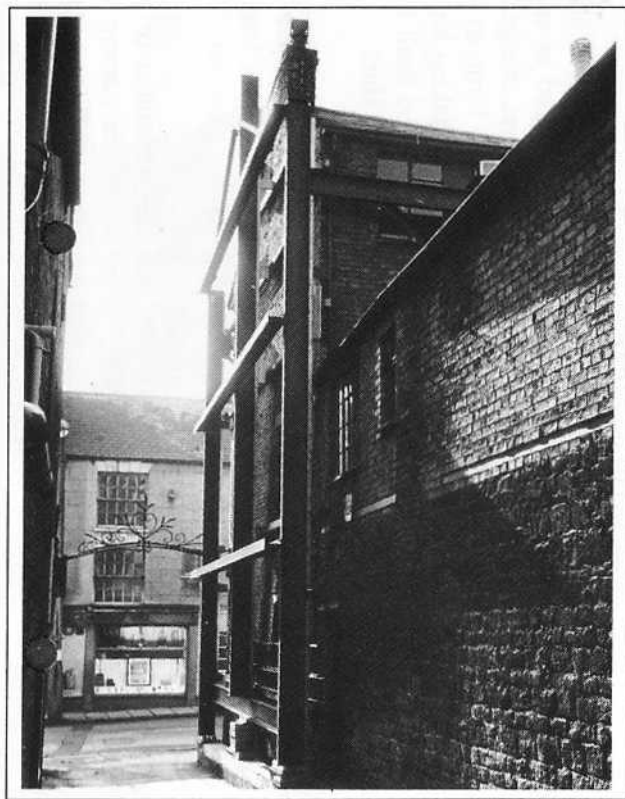
John Bell was born on 5 October 1930 and came from Northampton. He married Margot Diana Wright from Weston-super-Mare. They have three children, two sons and a daughter. He joined the Firm on 24 October 1967 and became a Partner on 1 August 1968.

John became active in the life of Banbury and was a member of a number of organisations. He was one of the prime movers in starting a Town Twinning Scheme which culminated in Banbury becoming twinned with Hennef in Germany and Ermont in France. He was for a time the Chairman of the Banbury Twinning Association. He later became the Chairman of the Banbury Civic Society.

The Firm encountered a major problem in 1970 and 1971. During 1969, I had watched contractors digging a deep trench down High Street from near the Cross. Wondering just where the trench was leading to, I made enquiries. I ascertained that the whole operation was a cable laying scheme by the Telephone Authorities. A new telephone cable was being laid under High Street in a deep trench from the vicinity of the Cross to a point by the junction of High Street with Tink-a-Tank, then along Tink-a-Tank itself to the Telephone Exchange behind the Firm's premises. So this trench would be dug along the front of the office building, then along the side of it. Realising that our very old building could thus be imperilled, bearing in mind its absence of proper foundations, I wrote to the Head Postmaster of Banbury on 3 July 1969, for onward transmission to the proper quarter, pointing out the potential dangers both to the office building and to the Practice being carried on therein, and making it clear that the Post Office and its contractors would be held responsible for any damage caused to either. At a later date, this letter proved to be one of the most fortunate letters I had ever written. The Post Office were so concerned that they amended their plans and abandoned the whole idea of continuing the deep trench up Tink-a-Tank.



March 1971: 51 High Street, Banbury.



51 High Street, Banbury, Tink-a-Tank side.

Instead, they decided to tunnel under Tink-a-Tank, and this work was carried out between 12 January and 7 February 1970. On 6 February, just as the tunnelling work was being completed, a crack was noticed on the top floor of the building in the wall fronting High Street.

This wall was about three feet thick and the crack extended right through the wall. Within three days, the width of the crack had increased to about a quarter of an inch. A structural engineer was instructed to carry out a thorough survey of the entire building and to monitor it afterwards. The cracks gradually increased and he eventually wrote a letter, the gist of which was, 'I cannot guarantee the safety of your building for very much longer. You must take immediate steps to evacuate the building and shore it up.'

It was all very well to tell us to evacuate the building, but where to? By then we had a staff of between twenty and thirty. We scoured Banbury for alternative premises. Eventually, we found an empty and rather dilapidated property which had been acquired by the Local Authority pending redevelopment of the area. It was No. 38 Bridge Street. The Local Authority was most helpful and allowed us to move in there on a temporary basis until we had found more permanent accommodation. We were told we could stay there from 10 February 1971, until 31 December 1971, so we lost no time in moving in. We had an enormous number of old files which had to be stored somewhere. The outbuildings to the property were too damp for this purpose. The only place was on the top floor of the building but, as the files were in some four hundred large tea chests, the question arose whether the building could support such a heavy weight. It was decided it could – and it did. Not long after moving in, the premises were found to be overrun with mice. We would occasionally hear a lady scream, as a mouse ran over the feet of one of the secretaries, but it kept them on their toes. John and I co-operated by allowing the ladies to wear slacks.

Many years later, when Marks & Spencer came to Banbury, and the area was redeveloped, the whole of No. 38 Bridge Street was demolished with the exception of its front wall. The site is now occupied by a restaurant, formerly known as Muswells and now as the Priory.

Clearing out No. 51 High Street had been a major task, especially the older parts of the property. There was no telling what documents had been placed in unlikely places. So it was minutely checked and rechecked, including up in the rafters and under the floorboards, until we were satisfied the entire building was indeed empty. The safe storage of



38 Bridge Street, Banbury. Aplins' office from February 1971 to October 1972



Elford House, 36 West Bar, Banbury, Aplins' office since 1972.

deeds and similar documents was another practical problem, which was solved when we accepted the generous offer by a bank to utilise a fixed part of its large strong room for our exclusive and confidential use. When you are ordered out of your premises within days, you have to act quickly.

The building comprising No. 51 High Street then had to be shored up. In order to carry out this task, part of High Street was closed for an entire Sunday, 28 February 1971. Large quantities of Friswell steel girders were used and the building was encased in a steel corset.

The side entrance to the premises in Tink-a-Tank had an ancient brass plaque attached to it. Successive generations of office cleaners had regularly polished this plaque, probably over a period of two hundred years, but one could just decipher the word 'Aplins' on it. The plaque was removed when the building was evacuated, with a view to it being installed in the Firm's new permanent Office.

Court Proceedings were brought against the Post Office and its contractors. These Proceedings moved forward at a tortuous pace, but they ended satisfactorily from the point of view of the owners of the building and the proprietors of the Firm.

A search for permanent accommodation for the Firm was put in hand immediately after we had moved into 38 Bridge Street. None was available in a suitable location, so the decision was taken to erect an office block on a site in West Bar. That site first had to be cleared by demolishing the existing house. The work of demolition, followed by the erection of the new office block, was carried out by the well known local firm, B. Gilkes & Son (Builders) Ltd. of Broughton Road, Banbury.

In due time, the new building, 'Elford House', 36 West Bar, Banbury, was finished and the Firm moved into occupation of it on 24 October, 1972. The Local Authority had helpfully allowed us to remain at 38 Bridge Street until then. 'Elford House' had a large car park attached to it, a facility lacking at both 51 High Street and 38 Bridge Street.

The site of 51 High Street was disposed of. The purchasers demolished the shored-up office building. High Street again had to be closed all day on a Sunday while the steel girders were removed. The building itself was dismantled slowly over a period of weeks as High Street had to remain open. A shop with offices over was erected on the cleared site. The shop is currently occupied by 'The Mill Outlet'.

The date 1 May 1978 was the next significant one for the Firm. From that date, Aplin, Hunt & Brooks amalgamated with another old Banbury



*Ken Brooks' retirement party, 30 April 1987, at John Bell's home, Overthorpe Manor House.
L. to R: Nigel John Yeadon, David Stuart Millard, Ken B., Eileen B., John Sydney Bell, Anthony Scott-Andrews.*

Solicitors' Practice, Stockton, Sons & Fortescue, whose Banbury Office had been at 38 High Street. The staff of both Firms were accommodated at 36 West Bar. The name of the two amalgamated Firms became Aplin Stockton & Co. The Partners in Stockton, Sons & Fortescue were Richard Charles Huntriss and John Marcus Neal. With effect from the same date, Anthony Scott-Andrews, who had earlier joined Aplin, Hunt & Brooks, became a Partner in the amalgamated Firms.

The main events in the Firm's history since 1 May 1978 have been: –

Charles Huntriss retired on 30 April 1981 and John Neal on 30 April 1983 (John died on 18 March 1992).

David Stuart Millard and Nigel John Yeadon, Solicitors from Norwich, respectively joined the Firm and became Partners on 1 May 1982 and 1 May 1983. In the Summer of 1993, David Stuart Millard left the Firm on his Appointment to be a District Judge.

I retired from the Firm on 30 April 1987.

The Firm amalgamated with another firm of Banbury Solicitors, Fairfax, Barfield & Blincowe, on 14 August 1989, and its Principal, Christopher Reginald Reynolds, became a Partner in the Firm. The name of the Firm was changed from Aplin Stockton & Co. to Aplin Stockton Fairfax trading as Aplins.

Matthew Howard Tasker was a Partner in the Firm from 1 May 1991 until 25 December 1995. John Bell retired on 30 April 1997 and Philip James Waters, Solicitor, became a Partner in the Firm on 1 May 1997.

No professional practice such as Aplans can succeed without the loyalty and expertise of its employees and I pay tribute to their most valuable contributions. A few of them have already been mentioned, but there are many others including Cliff Wightman and Ken Bolton.

The present Partners in Aplans continue to practise under that Name at 36 West Bar, Banbury.

A number of artefacts from the Firm have been included in the exhibits at the Bygoness Museum at Claydon.

During the twentieth century, and since, the Partners in Aplans have played their part in other activities outside the Office. These include: –

President of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Incorporated Law Society:

Charles Huntriss in 1962/63. Ken Brooks in 1971/72.

President of the Banbury & District Chamber of Commerce:

Ken Brooks in 1967/68, 1968/69 and 1969/70. John Bell in 1986/87.

Clerk to the General Commissioners of Tax (Banbury Division):

Charles Huntriss for many years prior to his retirement from the Firm. John Bell from after Charles Huntriss's retirement to 30 April 1997. Nigel Yeadon since 1 May 1997.

Notary Public:

Charles Huntriss for many years prior to his retirement from the Firm. John Bell for many years prior to his retirement from the Firm. Tony Scott Andrews since October 1979.

Clerk to the Trustees of Banbury Charities:

Harry Hunt from 1951 until his death on 15 July 1956. Trevor Thomas from 21 August 1956 until 30 April 1966. Ken Brooks from 11 May 1966 until 30 April 1987. Tony Scott-Andrews since 1987.

Magistrates' Clerk:

Charles Huntriss was Clerk to the Justices at Banbury & Bloxham Magistrates Court; Brackley (also sitting at Middleton Cheney) Magistrates Court; Chipping Norton (and Chadlington) Magistrates Court.

John Neal was Clerk to the Justices at the Banbury Borough Magistrates Court in a temporary capacity, pending the appointment of a full time Clerk. This temporary appointment came about following the retirement of Claude Fortescue who had been Clerk of that Court for very many years.

Coroner:

Charles Huntriss acted as Deputy Coroner for North Oxfordshire for some years. The Coroner was Claude Fortescue who at that time was Senior Partner at Stockton, Sons & Fortescue.

President of Banbury Rotary Club:

Harry Hunt in 1947/48. John Neal in 1963/64. Ken Brooks in 1987/88.

Chairman of Banbury Round Table No. 379:

Ken Brooks in 1961/62. Nigel Yeadon in 1988/89. Chris Reynolds in 1989/90.

Chairman of Banbury Cross Round Table:

David Millard in 1987/88.

In April 1998 on two occasions in Bloxham Parish Church, Nigel Yeadon recited from memory the whole of the St. Mark's Gospel, each performance taking (including a short break) two hours. This feat had been accomplished twenty years earlier by the actor, Alec McCowen, who gave his permission for Nigel's performances.

I am informed by Ian E. Aplin that Somerset continues to be the ancestral home of all branches of the medieval 'Appelyn' family. He adds that this is an unusual name, one of the rarest in the Kingdom, and believed by Dr John Bannister in his *A Glossary of Cornish Names* to have developed as a surname from the Celtic 'ap or ab belyn', meaning 'son of the chief or head of the household' at a time when it was important within a family group to recognise the eldest son and heir.

Acknowledgments:

I would like to thank Mrs. K.M. Hunt and her family for information concerning certain members of the Hunt family.

THE 1996 BROUGHTON COIN HOARD

N.J. Mayhew and E.M. Besly

Note. This article first appeared in *The British Numismatic Journal* 1998, Vol. 68 (1999), 154-7, and is published here by kind permission of the authors, the editors and publishers of the *Journal*. The photograph of the coins accompanying this is reproduced by permission of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. The coins are at present on loan from the Ashmolean to the newly-opened Banbury Museum.

In December 1996 Mr Keith Westcott, a metal-detector user searching with the permission of the land owner, Lord Saye and Sele, discovered a small hoard of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century coins near Broughton Castle, north Oxfordshire (O.S. grid ref. SP 419381). Sixteen coins were found over a number of days, though all were located within an area about 1.5 metres square; there was no trace of any container. Mr Westcott informed Lord Saye, who promptly contacted the Ashmolean Museum. The find was declared Treasure Trove at a coroner's inquest in Oxford in December 1997: the last such to be held in Oxfordshire under the old common law. The coins were acquired by the Ashmolean Museum through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport early the following year. The hoard, illustrated on page 236, constitutes a fairly typical group ranging from Mary to Charles I, with the addition of three large coins of Philip IV of Spain, struck in the Spanish Netherlands. The coins may be listed as follows:

1. Mary I, groat, extremely worn. North 1960.¹ 1.14g.
2. Elizabeth I, sixpence, privy mark (p.m.) Plain Cross; dated 1578. N. 1997. 2.74g.
3. Elizabeth I, sixpence, p.m. Tun; dated 1593. N. 2014. 2.84g.
4. Elizabeth I, threepence, extremely worn, p.m. unknown; dated 156[-]. N. 1998. 0.80g.
5. Elizabeth I, threepence, extremely worn, p.m. Castle; dated [157]1. N. 1998. 0.84g.
6. James I, shilling, Second coinage, p.m. Grapes? (1607). N. 2100. 5.64g.
7. James I, sixpence, First coinage, p.m. thistle; dated 1604. N. 2075. 2.70g.

¹ J.J. North, *English Hammered Coinage* Vol. 2, 3rd Edition (1991). Hereafter N.

8. Charles I, shilling, p.m. Crown (1635-6/7). *SCBI* 33, 498-502.² 5.28g.
9. Charles I, shilling, p.m. Tun (1636/7-8), *SCBI* 33, 506-12, 6.08g.
10. Charles I, shilling, p.m. Anchor (1638-9), obv. flukes left, *SCBI* 33, 517-521. 5.84g.
11. Charles I, shilling, p.m. Triangle-in-circle (1641-3), *SCBI* 33, 549-50 (but HI). 5.80g.
12. Charles I, shilling, p.m. unknown, but probably Rose or Feathers, 1630-2. Double struck. *SCBI* 33, 447-52 or 549-63. 4.88g.
13. Charles I, shilling, p.m. unknown, but on the reverse a suggestion of an anchor, which would accord with the cross ends. *SCBI* 33, 517-21, 523-9. 6.03g.
14. Philip IV of Spain, for the Spanish Netherlands, patagon, Arras mint; dated 1629. Delmonte 298.³ Enno van Gelder & Hoc 329-7.⁴ 27.98g.
15. Philip IV, half-patagon, Tournai mint; dated 1623. Delmonte 308. Enno van Gelder & Hoc 330-9. 12.90g.
16. Philip IV, half-ducaton, Antwerp mint; dated 1633. Delmonte 279. Enno van Gelder & Hoc 328-1a. 16.24g.

Numbers 3 and 12 were discovered after the rest and brought to the Ashmolean by Mr Westcott early in January 1997, and number 9 was brought to the Museum separately by Lord Saye.

The latest firmly datable coin is no. 11, struck sometime between 1641 and 1643. The triangle-in-circle issue was of course struck in very large quantities, and the presence of only a single example may indicate that the hoard was concealed earlier rather than later in its period of issue, but there are various other factors which should also be taken into account. Most obviously, the location of the find, within sight of Broughton Castle, which was surrendered to the royalists very shortly after the battle of Edgehill in October 1642, strongly argues for a date of deposit connected with these early military manoeuvres. However, the presence of three large denomination coins from the Spanish Netherlands (page 236) in a British hoard is also worthy of comment, and may be of some relevance to the question of the hoard's date. English kings have always attempted to exclude foreign coins from circulation in their territory. A small proportion of intruders have sometimes penetrated the English money supply and won informal acceptance, but for the most part it was English (and Scots and Irish) money which circulated in

² J.J. North and P.J. Preston-Morley, *Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles 33: The John G. Brooker Collection: Coins of Charles I (1625-1649)* (1984).

³ A. Delmonte, *Le Benelux d'Argent* (Amsterdam, 1967).

⁴ H. Enno van Gelder and M. Hoc, *Les Monnaies des Pays-Bas Bourguignons et Espagnols 1434-1713* (Amsterdam, 1960).

England and Wales. Certainly, when compared with the currency of mainland Europe, England was far more completely served by its own money than other countries. For this reason, the fact that the three most valuable coins in this hoard were foreign, comprising just over half its total face value, is of special interest.

In March 1644 the royalist government in Oxford issued a proclamation making various foreign coins legal tender in England and Wales at specific values.⁵ This proclamation enables us to set a sterling face value on the foreign coins in the Broughton hoard. The patagon, known as a cross dollar, was rated at 4s.6d, and the ducaton at 5s.6d. Valuing the halves *pro rata* gives a total value of 9s.6d. for the foreign element, and for the whole hoard of 18s.10d. The need to make such a proclamation also suggests that foreign coins may have been playing a greater role in England than normal, as a result of the disruption caused by the war. A consideration of the other hoards known from this period will help to put this question in context.

Foreign coins have been found in only a small minority of the coin hoards from Charles I's reign. Mostly, these comprise issues from Spain or the Spanish Netherlands. Ignoring hoards containing small numbers of worn reals and half-reals, long since assimilated into the currency, the current evidence is summarised in Table 1.⁶ There are two gold coins, of which the half-rijder is of interest both as a fraction of a type validated by the 1644 proclamation and for its find spot, Newark. Eight hoards, five of them found since 1980, contained patagons and/or ducatons. Three are from Yorkshire, two from the Newark area and one each from Devon, Lancashire and Oxfordshire. To these may be added one each from Devon and Lancashire and two Yorkshire finds containing unspecified 'dollars' or similar. Is a pattern beginning to emerge?

* • • • •

⁵ British Library 1851. b3 (37); E. Besly, *Coins and Medals of the English Civil War* (1990), pp. 70-3.

⁶ References in the first column are to the Inventory in E. Besly, *English Civil War Hoards* (1987), pp. 76ff. Caunton; B.J. Cook, 'Four Seventeenth Century Treasure Troves'. *BNJ* 60 (1990), at pp. 91-6; Middleham: C. Barclay, 'A Civil War hoard from Middleham, North Yorkshire', *BNJ* 64 (1994), 84-98. One further hoard, unprovenanced (perhaps Kent) and buried 1645 or later, included two eight-reales (Mexico and Potosi) of Philip IV, three patagons and a half-rijksdaalder (H5: 'Mr Binney's').



The Broughton coin hoard.

The three Spanish Netherlands coins are those on the right.

Reproduced by kind permission of the Ashmolean Museum,
Oxford.

The original article in *The British Numismatic Journal 1998*
has a different illustration, showing just the three
Spanish Netherlands coins.

Because Civil War hoards are so numerous compared with those from the decades either side, it is hard to say whether the appearance of these continental coins in hoards is specific to the war years, though no certainly pre-war hoard from Charles I's reign contains them. Spanish and Portuguese coins were, for instance, a familiar sight in the Exeter of the 1630s: the city had strong trading links with the Iberian countries.⁷ Continental silver was no doubt similarly familiar in east coast ports. However, there are very few records of single finds of Spanish Netherlands silver coins from England and Wales, which might be expected were they part of the regular currency.⁸ We know, too, that the royalists acquired consignments of foreign silver, probably through their continental fund-raising: Thomas Bushell is recorded exchanging 'dollers' at Shrewsbury – presumably at the outset, while the Earl of Newcastle was sent 'a little barrel of ducatoons', amounting to £500 sterling, probably late in 1642.⁹

On 22 February 1643 Queen Henrietta Maria landed at Bridlington in Yorkshire, bringing substantial supplies garnered during her year-long stay on the Continent. She proceeded to York (6 March), staying there until late May, before heading south to a reunion with the King on the field of Edgehill on 13 July. The meeting and the coincident victory at Roundway Down, near Devizes, were commemorated on the 'Kineton' medal by Rawlins, of which the apparently unique survivor is in the British Museum. Her itinerary took in Doncaster, Newark (16 June - 3 July), Ashby, King's Norton, Walsall and Stratford-on-Avon;¹⁰ and on 13 July the royal couple spent the night at Wroxtton,¹¹ a couple of miles or so north of Broughton, before moving on to Oxford.¹²

⁷ J.N. Brushfield, 'The financial diary of a citizen of Exeter, 1631-41', *Transactions of the Devonshire Association* 33 (1901), 187-269, at p. 198.

⁸ A quarter-patagon was found in Norfolk in 1997 (*BNJ* 67, Coin Register 1997, no. 243); a ducaton of Philip IV reported to E.B. in 1998 from the 'Yorkshire Dales' may be of 1639 to 1659: its date is unclear on the scanned image seen.

⁹ G.C. Boon, *Cardiganshire Silver and the Aberystwyth Mint in Peace and War* (Cardiff, 1981), pp. 84, 272; Margaret, Duchess of Newcastle, *The Life of William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle* . . ., edited by C.H. Firth (1886), p. 22.

¹⁰ S.R. Gardiner, *History of the Great Civil War 1642-1649* (1894 edition), Vol. 1, pp. 94-5, 160-5; A. Strickland, *Lives of the Queens of England*, 4th Edition, Vol. V (1851), pp. 301-3; E. Hamilton, *Henrietta Maria* (1976), p. 196.

¹¹ A. Beesley, *The History of Banbury* (1842), p. 348, has a description of the event and of the Kineton medal. Wroxtton Abbey was the home of the royalist Sir Thomas Pope (p. 333).

¹² R. Marshall, *Henrietta Maria: the Intrepid Queen* (1990), p. 109.

How much money the Queen was bringing is not known, though the Venetian ambassador believed her to have large sums; but there is, *prima facie*, a remarkable coincidence between her route, the time spent at York and Newark, and the distribution and broad dates of the hoards containing coins from the Spanish Netherlands.¹³ Future finds may, of course, modify the picture, but it appears to us that disbursements *en route* by the Queen's entourage might have provided the mechanism whereby some at least of these foreign coins went into local circulation

TABLE 1. *English Civil War hoards*

				Gold	Silver	Value
B2	Newark, Balderton Gate	Notts	1961	97+		£61-0-0d+
D-	Broughton	Oxon.	1996		15	£0-18-10d
D19	Newark, Crankley Point	Notts.	1957	17	466	£31-19-4d
D21	Painswick	Gloucs.	1941	34	8	£22-15-10d
E2	Breckenbrough	N. Yorks.	1985	30	1552	£93-5-0d
E3	Barton	Lancs.	1967		5	£0-10-3d
E-	Caunton	Notts.	1988		1571	£62-14-9d
E13	Pocklington	Yorks ER	1849		161+	£17-6-6d+
E17	Sowerby	W. Yorks.	1818	22		£11-18-6d
F5	Buckfastleigh	Devon	1932		36	£2-2-9d
H/J-	Middleham A	N. Yorks	1993		1263	£74-17-8½d
	Middleham B	N. Yorks	1993		2220	£146-7-9½d
	Middleham C	N. Yorks	1993		1616	£91-8-11d
J2	East Worlington	Devon	1895		5188	£242-18-10d
J6	Whittingham	Lancs.	1853		301	£15?
J7	Wyke, Bradford	Yorks	1982		1048	£38-13-8d+
K22	Preston (Fulwood)	Lancs.	1812		+	?
K45	Newby Wiske	N. Yorks	1858		270	?

Finds with worn half- and 1-reals are omitted. P: patagons D: ducaton

¹³ The two apparently exceptional areas are Devon and Lancashire; but only two of the five hoards in question are securely dated (Buckfastleigh, 1644+; East Worlington, 1647+; both therefore 'late' in this context) and only one (Buckfastleigh) certainly contains ducaton/patagons [information on this find from John Allan].

in royalist-held areas. This observation does not in itself date the Broughton hoard for us, but it allows for a third possibility: that the coins may have been deposited in or after July 1643, nine months or more after Edgehill and the capture of Broughton Castle. In spite of its small size, this find raises interesting questions regarding the interpretation of coin hoards, and underlines the need for caution in associating them with specific historical events.

containing European Coins

<i>Latest coins</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>½P</i>	<i>¼P</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>½D</i>	<i>Other</i>
Triangle?/Eye?						<i>Zeeland: 1/2-rijder, 1</i>
T.-in-C.	1	1			1	
T.-in-C.	2	1	2			
T.-in-C.						<i>Philip II, Filipsdaalder 1586, 1</i>
(P)/York 2	1		1	7	3	<i>Liège: teston, 1</i>
'1643-4'			2			
(P)/1643	8	2	16	2	1	<i>Zeeland: rijksdaalder, 1</i>
(P)/York 3						<i>Philip IV 'dollars', 9</i>
(P)						<i>Brabant: double Albertin, 1</i>
Exeter 1644				1	1	
Sun	2			45	6	<i>Philip IV, 8-reales, 2</i>
Sun	1			141	8	
Sceptre				37	5	
Sceptre						<i>'Spanish dollar c. 1630'</i>
Sceptre						<i>'Spanish coins'</i>
Sceptre				1		<i>Campan: Arends-shelling, 1</i>
'Charles I'						<i>Philip IV 'a crown piece'</i>
'Charles I'						<i>Philip IV 'dollars'</i>

Note. We are especially grateful to Mrs Roslyn Britton-Strong at the Heberden Coin Room in the Ashmolean for her enthusiastic help and selection of the group picture of the Broughton hoard.

BELLS, BELLRINGING AND BELLHANGERS AT AND FROM KINGS SUTTON

Chris Pickford

Note. This first appeared in *Ringling World (The Weekly Journal for Bell Ringers*, 9 August 2002) as a review of Paul Hayter's B.H.S. records volume *Kings Sutton Churchwardens' Accounts 1636-1700*. Quite apart from its different viewpoint to Ross Gilkes' review in *C&CH.15.5*, significant additional information on the Kings Sutton Williams and Waters families of bellhangers is provided. We are grateful to the author, editor and publisher of *Ringling World* for permission to reprint this article.

Contemporary archive sources like Churchwardens' Accounts are the raw material of history. Not surprisingly, therefore, much of what we know about the historical development of bells, bellfounding, bellhanging and even about ringing comes from documents such as this. Many volumes of early accounts have now been published, but this edition of the Kings Sutton accounts is especially welcome as the parish has unique and important associations with the bellhanging industry.

Travellers along the M40 will be familiar with Kings Sutton's fine church whose spire dominates the landscape from its hilltop position above the Cherwell valley just south of Banbury. Ringers may be aware that the tower contains a ring of eight with the unusual distinction of having a restriction limiting ringing sessions to five minutes at a time. For most of the period covered by the accounts printed here, there were six bells at King Sutton – certainly after 1655 when Michael Darbie cast the treble of the present back six.

Paul Hayter's edition is a model of its kind, and he and the Banbury Historical Society are to be congratulated on producing an excellent volume. Beginning with a well-written and concise introduction – including sections on the church fabric, the bells, the clock and the importance of beer! – the volume consists chiefly of a full transcription of the annual accounts and levies (rate assessments) for the parish. It ends with comprehensive and meticulous indexes of names, subjects and places.

The introduction gives a helpful summary of what the accounts tell us about bells. The editor mentions the rehunging of the five bells in 1653, the construction of a new ringing floor in 1654 and extensive repairs in

1675. Minor repairs and the regular purchase of ropes are also mentioned. The clock was renewed in 1696. Major repairs to the steeple are recorded in 1687 and roof repairs to the church in 1697. From 1675 onwards the ringers were paid for ringing for 'Gunpowder plot' on 5th November.

A glance at the accounts reveals that the story they tell is much more interesting and detailed than the necessarily brief introduction can cover. The mention of the 'first treble' in 1654/5 seems to imply that (rather like in Italy today) people were unsure how to number new bells added to the ring. A reference to 'the foure lower frames' in 1653-4 indicates that the bells were then hung on two tiers – although by 1936, when Taylors inspected the bells prior to rehunging, all eight bells were hung on one level. There is also the puzzling entry regarding the great bell in 1666 – puzzling since the present tenor is dated 1602. One wonders whether the later accounts might resolve this matter – my guess is that the present bell was obtained second-hand and substituted for the 1666 tenor in the eighteenth century – and also show when the seventeenth century frame was replaced.

The accounts also document the activities of the Williams family who were to become noted bellhangers in the early eighteenth century. Thomas Williams is first mentioned in 1664 and his name appears regularly in the accounts for work on the bells until 1699 [the edition ends in 1700]. His sons John (baptised in 1670) and Richard (baptised in 1677) appear in the accounts from 1695 and 1697 respectively. There is a beam in the porch at Kings Sutton inscribed 'Thomas Williams Fecit 1686' and Paul Hayter draws attention to the entry in the accounts for this work.

There are a few quibbles. Mr Paris, the maker of the new clock in 1696, was almost certainly not from Banbury but Nicholas Paris of Warwick. A reference to the 'fore bell' in 1657 is indexed under fourth bell while it clearly relates to the treble. These, however, are minor defects in an otherwise exemplary and useful edition.

So, the Kings Sutton accounts not only shed light on the history of the bells of that church but also add to our knowledge of the origin of the Williams's bellhanging business.

With Paul Hayter's agreement, I would like to extend this review beyond the period covered by the published accounts (ending in 1700) to add a little information on the later activities of the Kings Sutton bellhangers, beginning with Thomas Williams.

The first mention I have found of the Williams family as bell-hangers occurs in the churchwardens' accounts for Salford Priors, Warwickshire, in 1687. In that year the bellframe was renewed, and the accounts record payments to 'Mr Williams the Bellhanger' for the work. This was almost certainly 'Thomas Williams of Kings Sutton in the County of Northampton, Carpenter', who on 20 January 1694/5 contracted with the parish officers of St Nicholas, Warwick, to hang the bells there. The five old bells had been recast into six by Richard Keene of Woodstock, and Williams undertook to make 'one good and Sufficient Frame of Tymber' and hang the six new bells therein. The contract survives in the parish records. A Mr Williams also rehung the heavy ring of five at St Helen's, Worcester, in 1705.

Thomas Williams – possibly the carpenter and bellhanger – was buried at Kings Sutton on 16 April 1708. At all events, it was Thomas's sons John and Richard who carried on the trade. Several of their bellframes survive, often placed diagonally in the tower and usually signed and dated with carved inscriptions as at Chicheley, Bucks. (1718) and Pangbourne, Berks. (1720). A number of diagonal frames have been attributed to the Williams brothers on this basis (e.g. the former frames at Gedney and Holbeach in Lincolnshire), but caution is needed since they were clearly not the only makers of frames built on this plan.

However, even if some of the attributed works should be discounted, it is clear that John and Richard Williams were held in high regard and cornered the market for bellhanging work in southern England in the opening decades of the eighteenth century. In an advertisement in the *Ipswich Journal* of 7 May 1743 John Williams claimed to have '... hung most of the peals in and about London'. Even though relatively few jobs are securely documented, there seems to be no reason to doubt this claim.

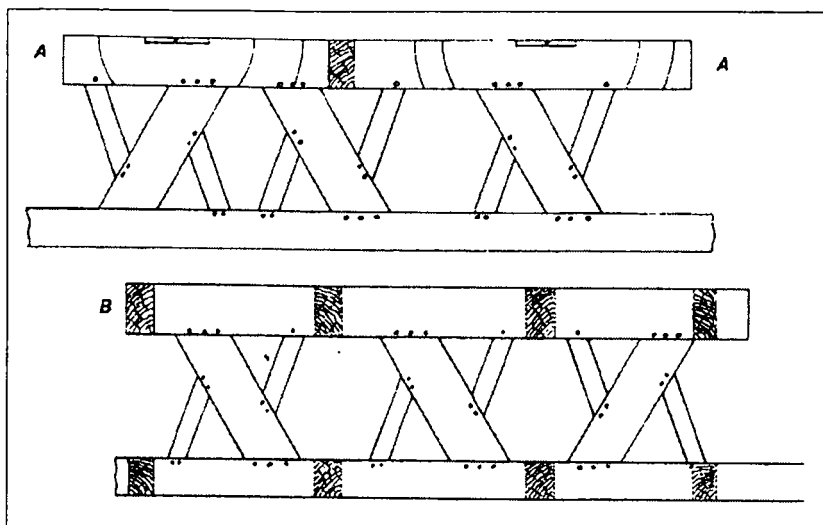
A full list of the known works of the Williams family is opposite:

It seems that John and Richard worked in partnership until about 1730, after which John Williams continued on his own. He seems to have ended his days in Suffolk under the patronage of Theodore Eccleston. At Coddendam in 1740 he signed the frame as 'John Williams of London', but the *Ipswich Journal* advertisement already mentioned refers to '... his house in Stonham Aspal street' in 1743. At Bradwell and Long Melford in 1744 he appears as 'John Williams of Stonham'.

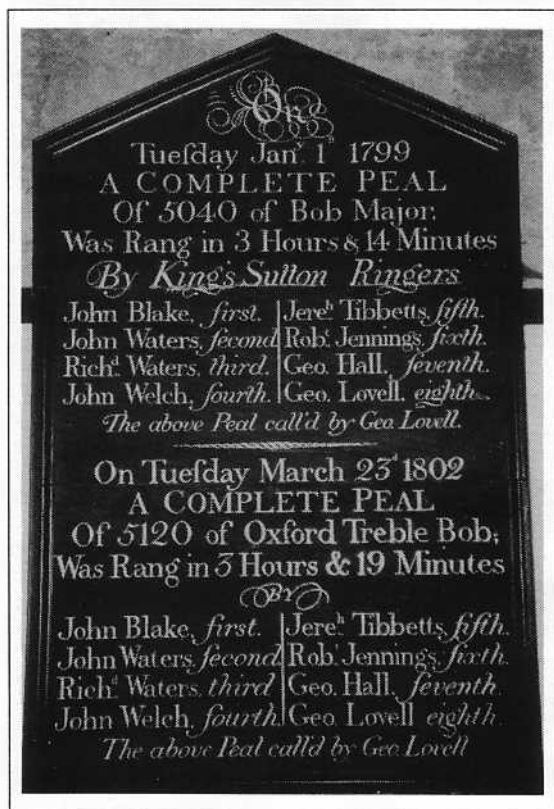
Date	Place	Work	Who by	Bellfounder
1687	Salford Priors, Warwicks	Frame and fittings for 5 bells	Mr. Williams	No bell work
1695	Warwick, St Nicholas	Frame and fittings for 6 bells	Thomas Williams	Richard Keene
1705	Worcester, St Helen	Bells (5) rehung	Mr. Williams	No bell work
1710	London, St Bride	Frame and fittings for 10 bells	John and Richard Williams	Abraham Rudhall I
1712	Bletchley, Bucks	Frame (diagonal) and fittings for 8 bells	John and Richard Williams	Abraham Rudhall I
1717	Helmdon, Northants	Hanging bell(s)	"ye Williams" [i.e. brothers?]	Henry Bagley
1718	Chicheley, Bucks	Frame (diagonal) and fittings for 6 bells	John and Richard Williams	Abraham Rudhall I or II
1718	Enstone, Oxon	Frame and fittings for 6 bells	John and Richard Williams	No bell work
1720	Pangbourne, Berks	Frame (diagonal) and fittings for 6 bells	John and Richard Williams	Abraham Rudhall II
1720	Marlow, Bucks	Work on the bells	Williams brothers	No bell work
1726	Westminster, St.Martin in the Fields	Frame and fittings for 10 bells	John and Richard Williams	Abraham Rudhall II
1727	Hull, Yorks	Frame (diagonal) and fittings for 8 bells	John and Richard Williams	Henry Penn
1734	Winchester Cathedral	Frame (diagonal) etc for 8 bells	John Williams	Richard Phelps
1740	Coddenham, Suffolk	Frame and fittings for 8 bells	John Williams	Thomas Lester
1743	Stonham Aspal, Suffolk	Frame and fittings for 10 bells	John Williams	Thomas Lester
1744	Bradwell, Essex	Frame and fittings for 8 bells	John Williams of Stonham	Robert Catlin
1744	Long Melford, Suffolk	Frame and fittings for 8 bells	John Williams of Stonham	Thomas Lester

However, a branch of the family remained in Kings Sutton. The church clock at Aston-le-Walls, Northants., was made by Thomas Williams of Kings Sutton in 1747. This Thomas also repaired the chimes at Adderbury in 1723 and undertook the maintenance from 1738-1744. He died in 1759.

The departure of John Williams first for London and then for Suffolk ended Kings Sutton's links with bellhanging for a while. Later in the eighteenth century, however, John Waters – doubtless a descendant of the John Waters mentioned in the earlier accounts – re-established bellhanging in the village. The son of William and Ann Waters, John was baptised at Kings Sutton on 13 November 1763. He married Ann



Above:
 Coddenham, Suffolk:
 Trusses from the former
 bellframe, made by
 John Williams of
 London (originally
 from Kings Sutton)
 in 1740.



Left:
 Kings Sutton:
 Board recording peals
 rung by the local band
 in 1799 and 1802, with
 John Waters –
 the Kings Sutton
 bellhanger – taking
 part on the second bell.

Satchwell of the neighbouring village of Aynho by licence on 18 July 1796. John died at the age of 72 in January 1836.

His known bell-hanging work is listed in the table below.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Work</i>	<i>Current state</i>
1804	Ettington, Warwicks	Frame and fittings for four bells. Tenor (dated 1803) recast by John Briant	Transferred to new church in 1909, but still extant
1808	Drayton St.Peter, Oxon	New frame and fittings for three bells	All extant
1808	Shotteswell, Warwicks	New frame and fittings for five bells (and new treble by John Briant)	Bells completely rehung by Taylors in 1995, but the old installation was fully recorded before removal
1809	Warmington, Warwicks	Frame and fittings for three bells	Frame extant. Fittings renewed by Whites in 1903
1825	Greatworth, Northants	Replacement of treble in ring of three – recast by Taylor & Son for Waters, Kings Sutton, Bellhanger	No work by Waters remains
1831	Fringford, Oxon	Frame for five bells, and fittings for ring of three	All as left by Waters

Waters was also a bellringer, and his name appears on a board in the belfry at Kings Sutton recording peals of Bob Major in 1799 and 1802 respectively. John Waters rang second in both peals, and a Richard Waters rang the third. In concluding this brief account of the Kings Sutton bellhangers, it remains only to emphasise again that Paul Hayter's excellent edition of the parish accounts provides the evidence to show how Thomas Williams and his sons developed a specialist trade from their involvement with repairs in the belfry there. A careful analysis of the accounts for other parishes in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries would almost certainly lead to the discovery of further documented instances of bellhanging work by John and Richard Williams. Similarly, further jobs by John Waters doubtless lie undiscovered in accounts for the later period. Churchwardens' Accounts – like those published in this volume – are a veritable quarry for fresh information on bells and belfries.

Lecture Reports

Brian Little

Thursday 12th September 2002.

***The Last Invasion of Britain* – Rod Thomas.**

This was a highly entertaining account of the late eighteenth century attempt by the French to organise an invasion of Britain. The talk was remarkable for the wealth of local detail and for the references to many colourful personalities, both French and British.

Long before the incursions into the Celtic fringes, there was a story of incredible difficulties experienced by the French leaders such as Lazare Hoche who endeavoured to retain the allegiance of those who had rallied to the French cause. Plans were laid for landings in Ireland, Wales and England, yet each of these was accompanied by uncertainties and moments when specific manoeuvres had to be abandoned.

The original plan was to reach Britain during the summer when the weather was likely to be favourable to the enterprise. However, endless delays meant that it was not until February 1797 that French frigates were seen in British waters. They had envisaged support from the local 'oppressed peasantry' and a march across mid-Wales (in mid-winter!) to connect with other (illusory) invading forces from the north and east.

Records of what actually happened are enlivened by accounts of the involvement of Welsh ladies. Their black hats and red shawls singled them out as they formed chains of look-outs on natural vantage points.

The French invasion was not helped by their decision to land at a cliff-lined inlet rather than nearby wide sandy bays (this may have been because a Welsh renegade on board had once lived in the vicinity). Surmounting the initial hazards, invading soldiers encountered more rugged terrain, a haphazard succession of mainly 'dad's armies' and an increasing desire to plunder and resort to drink.

When the French position became untenable and the invasion took on the character of a drunken farce, the people of the Welsh countryside gathered strength in opposition. Such was the scale of captures that at one stage it was thought the prisoners would have to be returned to their homeland at British expense. Though this was not the case, recrimination became the order of the day and local leaders like Knox suffered court martial for their shortcomings.

In an overall situation which closely resembled pantomime farce, it is small wonder that unexpected triumphs should be remembered. Jemima Nicholas is said to have captured twelve French of her own accord. That she lived a further 35 years speaks reams for her courage, which led to her being a local heroine in the annals of Welsh history.

Thursday 10th October 2002.

The Changing Environment of the Thames Valley over Ten Thousand Years – Mark Robinson.

Due to a misprint in our programme the audience received nine thousand years' more history than they expected, resulting in beetles playing a more significant role than mere later-coming humans. It was in fact history derived from the bio-diversity of past climates and periods of sedimentation throughout the Thames Valley. The alternation of warm and cold phases associated with the Ice Ages as well as the deposition of alluvium and glacial drift had consequences for plants and the smaller animal organisms.

Opportunities to examine fluvial features and especially terrace formations depended on major engineering projects such as the M25 bridge construction at Runnymede. Amongst the findings at such sites has been the evidence of beetles now extinct in Britain.

Mark Robinson went on to examine the contribution of archaeologists. He quoted from the work at Drayton near Abingdon and noted the significance of Neolithic finds, especially artifacts.

The next stage in his talk was to stress changes in agricultural response during Pre-Neolithic times. In particular the Bronze Age was viewed as agriculturally significant in the Thames Valley. Flax for oil and fibre was a major crop. At Abingdon the Iron Age ushered in a period of importance for domestic animals as well as some intensive arable agriculture.

There was also room in this review for river courses and flood plains. Compared with recent inundations, certain geological periods like the late Bronze Age were associated with dry conditions. Flood plains owed much to alterations in rainfall response. In particular, channel fluctuations provided fruitful areas for the study of arable orientated economies.

Used as we are to hearing about multitudinous aspects of history over the past half-millennium, this was a useful reminder of how recently in the life of our planet has mankind had any relevance. Beetles for ever!

Thursday 14th November 2002.

Commercial Camera: The Victorian Portrait Parlour – Audrey Linkman.

This was a delightful if unusual meeting with lots of opportunity for audience participation. Several members brought in personal family treasures, but on a wider front and during the talk our speaker invited comment on various of her illustrations.

The evening was all about understanding the motivating factors behind the roles of photographers and the hopes and aspirations of those caught on camera. Set against the background work of the portrait painters going back to the Age of Renaissance, Victorian camera exploits were seen to be about capturing the innermost feelings of their human subjects as well as the outer appearances. This

search for balance sometimes resulted in the ideal expression and a happy outcome for the family as well as the individual. In most cases and unlike today this meant an air of calm and tranquility. Smiles were rare except on the faces of children though men had greater freedom over the pose position than did the ladies. This was not just about how you looked but what was your setting. Rooms and their décor were important to those seeking the best photographic results.

Victorians wanted pictures to commemorate all occasions, not the least births, marriages and deaths as well as milestone anniversaries. They were great collectors of pictures, which is probably why today antiques stalls and postcard fairs abound in unknown portraits. At least members of our Society can view them in a new light.



A typical Victorian family group. This shows (right) Eleanor wife of Henry Stone of Banbury, her daughter Sarah Eleanor (always known as Nellie), who was born 2 September 1863, and (left) her mother Sarah Cash (nee Southam) of Coventry. W.H. Dodds, 'Artist and Photographer' is listed in Rusher's "Banbury List" of 1871 under 'Miscellaneous', as 'photographic artist'. From 1872 a section is devoted to 'Photographers', with Dodds in South Bar, T. Hartwell at 2 South Bar, and G. Herbert & Son at 4 Horsefair.

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

Autumn 2002/Winter 2003 Programme

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)

Meetings are held at the
North Oxfordshire College, Broughton Road, Banbury, at 7.30 p.m.