Cake and Cockhorse

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

Volume 16	Number Two	Spring 2004
Thomas Ward Boss	Reminiscences of Old Banbury (in	
Book Reviews		
Nicholas Cooper	The Lost Architectural Landscapes of Warwickshire:	
-	Vol. 1 – The South, Peter Bolton	78
Nicholas J. Allen	Village Chapels: Some Aspects of rural Methodism in the East Cotswolds and South Midlands, 1800-2000,	
	Pauline Ashridge	79
Brian Little	Lecture Reports	80
Peter Gaunt	The Cromwell Association at Bank	oury, 24 April 2004 83
Obituaries		
Brian Little	Ted Clark	84
Barrie Trinder	Professor Margaret Stacey	85
Banbury Historical S	<i>lociety</i> Annual Report and A	ccounts, 2003 86

In our Summer 2003 issue (15.9) Barrie Trinder wrote about the various memoirs of Banbury in the last two centuries. With sixteen subjects he could only devote a paragraph to each.

One that caught my eye was Thomas Ward Boss (born 1825), long-time librarian at the Mechanics' Institute. Then I realised I had a copy of the published version of his talk delivered one hundred and one years ago, in March 1903. Re-reading it, I found it quite absorbing, a wonderful complement to George Herbert's famous *Shoemaker's Window*, a reminiscence of Banbury in the 1830s and later.

On the assumption that few are likely to track down copies in local libraries, it seems well worthwhile to reprint it here, from the original Cheney's version. There are a few insignificant misprints, but, especially in view of the sad demise of our oldest Banbury business, it is good to reprint a typical piece of their work.

It was tempting to reset it and add copious footnotes and illustrations – but it is already 27 pages long. Time and energy did not allow – it's up to others! J.G.

Cover: The new Banbury Town Hall, opened in October 1854 (page 73).