

The Royal Mail Coach passed through Banbury every morning (Sunday excepted) at four o'clock, and changing horses at the Red Lion Hotel, continued its journey northward ; another returned at eleven o'clock at night. The bugle horn of the mail guard aroused the sleepers as the coach passed through the streets of the town, whilst the brilliancy of the Mail lamp sent bright flashes far and wide through the darkness of night.

The "Old Sovereign" Coach left Banbury every morning at seven o'clock, by Bicester and Aylesbury, where it transferred its passengers to the London Coach, the "Old Sovereign" Coach returning to Banbury at six o'clock, with parcels, the town's fish supply, the daily papers, which were then very limited in numbers, and passengers. About the year 1840 when the London and North Western Railway was opened, a Mail Coach was started every morning from Banbury to Wolverton Station through Brackley, Buckingham and Stony Stratford. This route was the quickest and brought London within seven hours of Banbury, and opened a new route to the north.

The London Waggon from Banbury was drawn by eight strong horses. It had very broad wheels. A large punt, or square-shaped boat, was suspended by chains to the bottom of the waggon between the wheels. In this punt lambs, sheep, pigs, and poultry of various sorts were carried, being fed at intervals on the journey. In the bed of the waggon goods of a heavy character were packed three or four feet in height ; on the top of these were five or six tiers consisting of butter in flats, and carcasses of sheep and pigs. The size of the waggon was eighteen feet in length, seven-and-a-half feet in breadth at the bottom of the waggon and twelve feet to the top of the tilt. Stout iron rods were fixed on the sides of the waggon and ran up perpendiclarly, which assisted to support and strengthen the sides and carry the heavy tilt of the waggon. Good heavy mohair curtains securely closed up the back. Bags containing a large quantity of food for the horses hung in waterproof sheets in front. A light ladder to reach the top of the load was securely placed at the side of the waggon. Two huge horn lanterns were carried, one in front and one behind the team. Two waggoners, with massive whips, always travelled with the team. Such is a picture of the London Waggon as it was to be found on all the English roads, carrying the food and commerce of the country, until the railway invasion, towards the middle of the nineteenth century, created and spread so many improvements and blessings over the land.

The Banbury borough elections up to within fifty years ago were held at the old Town Hall. The hustings was erected in front of the Hall and was twenty feet high, and was capable of