

began to become a suburb. The town had adopted the Board of Health Act, and a Burial Board was created. The members of the Board of Health met regularly at the Institute Committee Room. The passing of plans for the many new houses at Grimsbury gave them abundant occupation.

The Banbury Horticultural Society was established in 1843, and held its first show on the Bowling Green at the Flying Horse Inn, Parson's Street. A few years later Dr. Stanton Wise allowed the society to use his spacious pleasure grounds, at the back of his residence in High Street, for holding its annual exhibitions on the very spot where these schools now stand, before Marlborough Road was made or the Wesleyan Chapel built.

The first passenger train ran out of Banbury on the London and North-Western Railway on the 1st of May, 1850, and the traffic on the Great Western Railway by Banbury in 1852.

Shortly before the marriage of the Crown Prince of Prussia to the Princess Royal of England, questions as to how the occasion should be celebrated were much discussed, and many propositions made. On a Sunday, at noon, two or three weeks before the wedding, Mr. Thomas Clarke, of the Banbury Mills, called upon me on the subject of the royal wedding. He told me there was a suggestion to re-build the Banbury Cross, and another that a ball and dinner be given in the newly-erected Central Corn Exchange. He asked me to go to a meeting at the Red Lion on Monday evening, which I did, and by a large majority the scheme to re-build the Banbury Cross was adopted. Committees were appointed to canvass different parts of the town, and on the day of the wedding we began our canvass. Mr. John Lee Merry, another gentleman and myself collected over £90 on one side of High Street. Other canvassers were equally successful, and within a month the Committees felt they were justified in asking for designs to be sent in, and that of Mr. Bruton, of Oxford, was accepted. From some old plans it was soon found where the old Cross had stood, and the foundations were discovered without much difficulty. There was considerable opposition against re-building the Cross, so the Committee had some uphill work to contend with. There was not a great demonstration at the laying of the foundation stone. In the absence of the Mayor, Edward Bennett, Esq., our worthy Sergeant-at-Mace, Mr. D. Dixon, laid the stone after a pithy speech. The National Anthem was sung, and the Committee and others adjourned to the Swan Inn, where the hostess, Mrs. Randle, had provided a most enjoyable repast and a very pleasant evening was spent. On the day the Cross was finished (by arrangement previously made) I found myself on the scaffold at the top of the Cross, under the care and protection of the builder, the gilt cross