

of sociological theory. In attempting to explain Margaret Stacey's influence on Banbury it is pertinent to apply her own methods of fieldwork, and to observe that *Kelly's Directory* for 1950 shows the Stacey's at No.6 The Byeway, Leslie (L.C.A.) Lewis, the area officer for the National Assistance Board, at No.15, and T.W. Muskett, the borough librarian, in the 'gatekeeper's house' at the entrance to the cul-de-sac, No.33 Grimsbury Drive. Lewis and Muskett were leading figures in the local W.E.A., and it is interesting to speculate that the Banbury Social Survey may have originated from neighbourly conversations.

Barrie S. Trinder

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT, 2003

Your Committee have pleasure in submitting the 46th Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, for the year 2003.

At the A.G.M. officers and other members were again re-elected.

Membership of the Society remains close to three hundred, most as records members. Attendance at meetings and new membership remain constant, thanks to posters (fresh for each meeting) distributed by Deborah Hayter for display at an ever-increasing number of key places.

During 2003 and since, we have been saddened by the deaths of several long-term members, including Ted Clark, Nan Clifton, Sarah Markham (née Loveday), Francis Sitwell and Rosemary Wade.

The year's meetings maintained their accustomed entertaining variety. Nick Allen has now been arranging these since 1997, and we have a full line-up for 2004/05. Reports prepared by Brian Little have appeared in *Cake & Cockhorse*. The first talk, by Captain George Prideaux, was a swash-buckling account, in full costume, of the Merchant Adventurers of the seventeenth century. In contrast we came right up to living-memory with Bill King's description of thankfully never-needed resistance groups in this country during the Second World War. Vernon Brook's slide-show of Cotswold buildings reminded us, as if it was necessary, of the beautiful countryside at our doorsteps. This was the last to be held at the North Oxfordshire College after many years of meeting there, and it is appropriate to thank Brian Little for his constant liaison with the authorities which enabled matters always (nearly) to run so smoothly.

For the autumn's meetings we moved to the new Banbury Museum, and concern that the new location would be unpopular was soon dissipated by house-full attendance at the first two. It was also gratifying to be able to welcome disabled members, for whom the College had been daunting. Deborah Hayter gave a fascinating talk on the origins of place names in the Banbury