

no notice of his conversation with Will: Hudson, and have made no alteration except to admit Mr John Burford who was not in before.

I find in an old List of presents the figures 12 agst. Deacle's name. I suppose, that means guineas, and not a piece of plate that cost £12.

I gave your Lordship's order to Duffell, yr. blessing to Brownlow, and yr. compts. to Mr Lamb. I made likewise your excuses to all our friends at Banbury. I find them in general in good humour, and everything goes on smoothly.

[Final two paragraphs irrelevant].

I am, etc.

NORTH.

*MS North d.3, f.85.* Wroxton. 16 November 1766 [*transcript*]:

List of Persons who came to dinner at the Election at Banbury, Nov. 17, 1766  
(*opposite, left*).

*MS North d.24, f.15.* Wroxton. 18 November 1766 [*transcript*]:

My Lord,

Every thing went perfectly well at the Election yesterday. The Weather was fine, and all the Electors in good humour. Poor Deacle looks sadly. He did not mention anything of the office he wrote to your Lordship about, and I did not think it proper to begin the conversation. We had a very full entertainment. Most of the Country Gentlemen whom we had invited being present. Mr Spencer was there in perfect health and spirits. He had rode that morning from Oxford and by his looks, one should not have guess'd him to be above fifty years old. I stop this morning at Banbury to return thanks and then go on as far as I can on my journey to London. Your Lordship shall hear from me, as soon as I get there.

I am, etc.

NORTH.

[P.S.] Lord Willoughby [North's brother-in-law] and Brownlow present their duty with mine to yr. Lp. and Ly. G.

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What of the actual political affiliations of Council members? The North family were Whigs. The return of Lord North as Member from 1754 until he succeeded his father as the Earl of Guilford in 1790 would lead one to assume that the majority of those that constituted the eighteen-strong franchise would have been of like persuasion. However, the opportunity to judge their politics is given in the famous Oxfordshire election of 1754. Whilst the franchise for Banbury Borough was so restricted, anyone who was a 40s. freeholder, outside or within, could vote in this too, and the published pollbooks reveal how they did.