

Cake and Cockhorse

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

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What a 'Fiftieth Anniversary' year it has been: publication of *two* 'records' volumes, and a wonderful day that over sixty members spent at Wroxton Abbey on Saturday 20th October. See Brian's report overleaf, and for the very readable 'Risley Diary', Pamela Horn's review. *Banbury Past through Artists' Eyes*, specially published to mark this anniversary, is a book much more ambitious than any we have attempted before. Simon's initial suggestion of publishing the Museum's picture collection has resulted in a book whose immediate appearance stimulates interest and praise whether or not the viewer has any Banbury connections. The colourful contents well maintain that initial reaction. As we go to press we have hopes of it being *the* Christmas present to give to Banburians past *and* present.

But read the dismal news from 'Clio Loci' on page 148. All is far from well for the study of Oxfordshire's past. How hypocritical of our elected masters to celebrate the county millennium as they appear to be determined to inhibit further research into the county's history. Our Society, by their standards, will be blamed rather than praised: fifty years of publications now take more than two yards (two metres in OCC-speak) of shelving - think what that must cost the taxpayers in library space! To emphasise their priority in 'savings', we understand that OCC support for the *Victoria County History* (the best county series in the country) is likely to be withdrawn, effectively terminating its continued research and publication. What a legacy to inflict on the county!

Cover: Sanderson Miller's great pendant in the hall at Wroxton Abbey (p.133).