

Cake and Cockhorse

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On 28th June 1608 the Borough of Banbury was granted its Second Charter. It is gratifying that our present Town Council is recognising this fourth centenary throughout 2008 with appropriate events. We congratulate the current Mayor, Mr Keiron Mallon, and the Mayor-elect, Ann Bonner, who takes office in May, on their initiative. The "year" opened in February with a reception appropriately held at the Museum, with the original Charter and other relics of the Borough on display. Our Society has already showed its support by presenting to the Town Council office a copy of *Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart* (BHS 15) and two binders with copies of *Cake & Cockhorse* containing over twenty articles about the Borough Council and its activities during those centuries.

Banbury's first Charter was granted in 1554. The 1608 Charter brought about numerous changes in the town's government, but the most noticeable was the change in its chief citizen and royal representative from Bailiff to Mayor. A list of these, compiled by Ted Brinkworth, was published in 1954. Subsequent research has identified or corrected more, and we now know names for all but four of the four hundred years – this revision will appear in our next issue.

April sadly marks the retirement of Dr Malcolm Graham. Over 37 years he has created in Oxfordshire Studies an outstanding resource for Oxfordshire's historians. Thank you, Malcolm, for all you have achieved and which most of us have taken for granted. We wish Carl Boardman well in the enforced amalgamation with the Oxfordshire Record Office.