

Of a very different kind has been Simon Townsend's and Jeremy Gibson's *Banbury Past through Artists' Eyes*. It aims to print nearly all known non-photographic pictures of Banbury, with precise location of the originals and details of artist, size etc. George Herbert's *Shoemaker's Window* (2nd edition, B.H.S. vol. 10) provides much of the text. Work continues on the second part of Risley's diary, to 1869, and has restarted on *Turnpike Roads to Banbury*.

The high level of activity in our fiftieth anniversary year is reflected in our accounts. The funds we have been building up over the past few years, together with generous grants of £5,000 from the Greening Lamborn Trust, enabled us to pay for the two records volumes we published this year. *Banbury Past*, with its many illustrations, was particularly expensive, costing nearly £12,000 to produce, but it is selling so well that there is every prospect of much of this cost being recovered in due course. Our balance at the end of the year should be sufficient to cover the cost of the two records volumes in the pipeline.

The Anniversary Event at Wroxton Abbey was largely paid for by admission charges supplemented by generous donations from many of our members and a valuable contribution from the Exchequer by way of Gift Aid. In order that the admission charge should be affordable for all our members, the Committee decided to make a grant of £500 towards the cost of the event.

When the new Banbury Museum was being planned, a charitable fund was set up to raise money for the project. Last year we were asked whether we would be prepared to take over the charity's residual funds. We were happy to agree. £500 was immediately offset against the cost of producing *Banbury Past*, and the remaining £1656 was paid into the Brinkworth Fund, which we have renamed the Brinkworth Museum Fund. The Brinkworth Fund has supported projects of a broadly educational nature, including grants to the Museum. We made a small grant from the Fund, to be repeated in 2008, to one of the Museum's holiday projects for children.

Fifty years of activity including thirty books and a long-running journal denote a successful society, and we have seen full attendances for lectures during this season. However, some of the committee are feeling their age, and we would welcome new members with perhaps new enthusiasms and ideas. In particular, we need someone to take on the post of programme secretary, which is not too arduous or very time-consuming.

We would also welcome more contributions for publication in *Cake and Cockhorse* or more substantial projects suitable for records volumes. We know there is much activity and research being undertaken in the many flourishing local history groups which have come into being in the last twenty-five years: historians are not in competition with each other, and *Cake & Cockhorse* can provide a wider audience and a means of publication for valuable local research.