

Cake and Cockhorse

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In our last issue we commented on the fourth centenary of the granting in 1608 of the Borough of Banbury's Second Charter, whereby we acquired a Mayor rather than a Bailiff. As our contribution to this anniversary, we print here a full list of the Mayors since 1608, but including the preceding Bailiffs who held the chief office from the creation of the Borough in 1553/4.

An earlier list was published in 1954, but of course since then 54 years have passed so there are many more to record. Also ongoing research has established the names of several more who held the office of Mayor, with the occasional correction. Such lists don't make fascinating reading (except perhaps to the compiler). Nevertheless, it was such men (and, lately, women) who supervised the government of our borough (and now town). To the historian of Banbury, they are as important as the sovereign is to the national historian. Although they may seem to be just names, to any assiduous reader of this journal or user of *Banbury Corporation Records: Tudor and Stuart* and other records volumes, they will be *familiar* names. These books and articles put flesh on the bones.

Another brief list for which we make no apology is on page 216. This is of the names of committee members over the past fifty years. Many served a long time and contributed significantly to the running and success of our Society. We hope the names will bring back happy memories of those no longer with us, as well as the dozen or so who were at the AGM (at least three from our earliest years).

Now, however, for an apology. We promised a report on our March talk by Nick Barrett, on the popular TV show 'Who Do You Think You Are?' This we overlooked until this issue was virtually made up. So, first, apologies to Brian Little who, as always, wrote a report, and also to our speaker. However, the essence of it is in the TV presentation itself. We understand a new series is to be appearing shortly, so we just hope it doesn't happen on Thursdays.

Cover: St Rumbold's Well, Astrop, in July 2008 (photo: Simon Townsend)