

# *Cake and Cockhorse*

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## **Banbury Historical Society Local History Prize**

We are aware that there are lots of keen local historians in the area who are busily investigating aspects of their own history, so the Society held a competition earlier in the year for the best piece of local historical research, offering a prize of £100 and the opportunity to publish an article in *Cake and Cockhorse*.

The terms of the competition were deliberately wide to encourage one and all to enter by 30 April 2009. You rose to the challenge! We had sixteen entries varying enormously in size, format and complexity. The wide remit ensured that those who are in the middle of research were just as enthusiastic about entering as those who have completed and/or published their studies. And it was not only local history societies who entered; individuals did too, ensuring that we were aware of the wide spread of talent available.

Some of the subjects were fairly predictable – useful documentation of the history of local schools, businesses or churchyards, all of which is enormously helpful to the local historian. Others were described more as research projects and varied between investigating the alleged tunnels in Aynho to an immensely thorough investigation of the landscape history of Weedon Pinkney in 1593. Yet more were the results of the pursuit of details about individuals who had lived in or around Banbury, such as violin makers, printers or even Sir Winston Churchill.

We reviewed them all and considered them both as pieces of original research and as potential for publication.

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Cover: From the Programme of the Fete al Fresco, 1898, “Banbury Fire Brigade (under Captain Fortescue) will give a Display illustrating A Call to Fire.” (p.301)