

During this period I also graduated as a Bachelor of Arts in English and Publishing at Oxford Brookes University, gaining a higher second class honours degree. Although I applied for several positions in the publishing industry I feel that my age at that time (50) was against me and so I remained a taxi driver.

I wrote several successful articles for the *British Archer* magazine, the oldest and at one time the only archery magazine in the country, since I knew the publisher through my long time involvement with the sport. Eventually he offered to sell me the magazine and I took it over, becoming owner, publisher and editor. I began to turn the fortunes of the magazine around making it more popular again, but unfortunately lack of funds and very little advertising revenue, plus the launch of a new more colourful competitor and at the same time an increase in printing costs meant that I could not afford to carry on with the publication.

The current state of the printing and publishing industry in the Banbury area is still one of flux. The oldest firm Cheney & Sons closed down several years ago, and Henry Stone & Son, at which my father worked, has moved to a new factory on one of the industrial estates, and is now mainly engaged in print finishing as a subsidiary of the Goodhead Press at Bicester. There are several instant print shops in the town, and some typesetting and design studios, some of which are owned and run by ex-colleagues of mine. As for newspapers, the *Banbury Guardian* is still published once a week, albeit printed a long way from Banbury now. Also there are two free newspapers, the *Banbury Cake* and *Banbury Citizen*, neither of which are owned or printed locally.

Of course with the advent of desktop publishing, for which I have a diploma, and the ever increasing influence and use of the internet, who knows what lies ahead? The only thing that seems certain is that further technological advances will mean more and even greater changes in the future. After all, nobody in the sixties could have foretold the extent of the exciting changes in technology which have taken place since then, which in turn have led to the gradual erosion of the role of typesetters, compositors and proof readers. We must ask ourselves, are these changes all for the better?!