

# *Cake and Cockhorse*

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Two months' removal from the 'real world' whilst I languished in hospital and then benefited from the TLC of kind friends during convalescence have not delayed the journal unduly – indeed it seems that winter is reluctant to depart. This issue is rather shorter than usual, as a major article intended for inclusion has instead had to be held over to our Summer issue. As the Cherwell District Council IT set-up is undergoing change, our own website, which hangs on its coat-tails, will also be effected, so the promised piece on its use is also delayed.

Simon Townsend's article on the mural which used to adorn the Original Cakeshop in Parsons Street will stir memories for the more elderly of our readers. I well recall joining our co-founder Ted Brinkworth there for coffee on Saturday mornings in the early 1960s, and the sense of betrayal by the County and Borough Councils' failure to prevent its demolition felt by all with Banbury's history and heritage at heart. It is splendid that the mural has survived and is now once again on display in the Castle Quay Shopping Centre. Simon's research shows that its artist was far better known in the field of stained glass.

It is appropriate that John Stanbridge, the grammarian and Founding Head of Banbury's first School, should be one of those shown in the mural, as 2010 marks the five hundredth anniversary of his death. More about his life and achievements appeared in Margaret Martins' article in *Oxoniensia* (2003/4) and by Professor Nicholas Orme in vol. 52 of the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (2004).

My illness has inevitably delayed still further finalising our next records volume, *Turnpike Roads to Banbury*, but it is expected that it will finally go to press soon after Easter.

**J.G.**

Cover: "The Original Cake-shop" (Beesley, p.569).