

Articles, etc. by the late R.K. Gilkes, M.A. (Oxon.), F.R.Hist.S.

*Cake and Cockhorse:*

'Banbury Castle'. 1.5 (September 1960).

'Banbury: The Pattern of Local Government, 1554-1835.' Part 1. 5.1 (Aut. '71).

'Banbury', [as above], Part 2: 'Corporation Reform.' 5.5 (Spring 1973).

'The Chamberlain and his rôle in local government in Banbury, 1554-1835', Part 1. 10.2 (Spring 1986).

'The Chamberlain...' etc, Part 2. 10.3 (Summer 1986).

'The Corporation of Banbury and National Affairs, 1783-1835.' 10.4 (Aut. '86).

'The Town Clerks of Banbury: 1554-1835.' 10.7 (Autumn 1987).

'E.R.C. Brinkworth – A Celebration.' 10.9 (Summer 1988).

'The Banbury Toll-Books, 1754-1826 and the Horse Fairs.' 15.5 (Spr/Sum 2002).

'The Banbury Journal (the working of Banbury Town Council), 1722-1761.' 16.3 (Summer 2004).

Records volume 26.

*The 'Bawdy Court' of Banbury: The Act Book of the Peculiar Court of Banbury, 1625-1638*, transcribed and calendared by E.R.C. Brinkworth, 1997.

Reviewed in *Cake & Cockhorse*, 14.2 (Spring 1998).

## BANBURY CASTLE

By the late **R.K. Gilkes**, first published in *Cake & Cockhorse*, vol. 1, no. 5. 1960.

On 27<sup>th</sup> May 1648, the House of Commons, prompted, no doubt, by a petition from the citizens of the town, resolved "that Banbury Castle be forthwith demolished." Its destruction was not complete; William Stukeley in 1712 saw the "remains of four bastions", and two towers at least remained in the latter part of the eighteenth century, but today [1960] virtually nothing remains above ground to remind us of the great castle, standing on the north side of the Market Place, which had dominated the town for over five hundred years.

Banbury Castle, in building in 1136, was one of three great castles (the others were at Newark and Sleaford) built by the princely Norman ecclesiastic, Alexander of Blois, Bishop of Lincoln (in whose diocese his manor of Banbury then lay). Its central mound, over one hundred feet in diameter, was surrounded by a double wall and ditch, the water for the moats being supplied from the Cuttle Brook. Although known at the court of Rome as "The Magnificent", Alexander may have had an eye to economy in his building, for he did not put up an expensive tower keep, but the inner wall of the Castle constituted a shell keep, and within it on the north side and against the wall itself were built the various living