

suggests that they were intended for human consumption rather than animal fodder. Finds of bones suggest that beef and mutton formed a substantial part of the diet of those who lived on the property.

This is the first time that archaeologists have investigated medieval deposits within the core of Banbury away from the castle. While the excavation was limited in scope it does appear to provide archaeological evidence for the extension of the town to the west in the twelfth or thirteenth century. The scale of the masonry building suggests that it formed part of the dwelling of one of Banbury's more prosperous medieval citizens. It seems likely that the collapse or demolition of the building may have been associated with the acquisition of the site in the mid-sixteenth century by the Knight family who for more than a century afterwards ranked amongst the town's élite.

While the excavation was in progress a survey was carried out of the surviving buildings of the *Reindeer*, which, it is understood, suggests that they are of rather earlier origin than has generally been supposed, dating from around 1500 rather than from the late sixteenth century. When a full report becomes available we hope to publish a summary in *Cake & Cockhorse*.

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### ***CARRYING IN WINTER, 1881***

One of our members brought to Dr Barrie Trinder's lecture on country carriers on 10 November an account of the severe weather suffered in the Banbury area in January 1881, taken from the *Warwick & Warwickshire Advertiser* of 18 March 1916, and written by A.C. Mills, whose family were carriers from Brailes.

'Sir,

The recent fall of snow appears to have been exceptionally heavy in the district between Brailes and Banbury. March 2<sup>nd</sup> was the first year my father's cart or van has missed Banbury Market since the year 1847. In 1881 (the drift year) the only carrier to attend Banbury Market on 12<sup>th</sup> Fair day was Henry Mills, a good part of the journey being made through fields &c. After the roads were dug out I well remember the snow piled many feet above my head on either side as I occupied the position of postilion. It was at this time that the waggon and team of Messrs Edmunds & Kench (Banbury millers) was lost in the snow, it being several weeks before the body of the unfortunate waggoner was found, by which time all the exposed parts of his hands and face had been eaten by birds.

Yours &c.  
A.C. Mills'.