

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

The Banbury Historical Society has three objectives: to arrange for its members programmes of lecture meetings and excursions, to publish in various forms the results of research into local history, and to advocate with the appropriate authorities sympathetic policies towards the conservation of historic artefacts, documents, buildings and landscapes. Significant progress was made on all three objectives during 2011.

Lecture meetings have been well supported and lecturers have included Professor John Blair, Richard Hartree, Deborah Hayter, Dr Stanley Ireland, Steven Mileson, Dr Barrie Trinder and Richard York, with subjects ranging from the Warwickshire hoard of Roman coins to Banbury's twentieth century aluminium factory. The serving of coffee in the Museum café at the conclusion of meetings has proved a popular innovation. The capacity of the Education Studio at the Museum has been strained at the best-attended meetings, and your committee have discussed the possibility of providing a television monitor that could project lectures into the café area. Summer excursions included a village walk at Sibford hosted by members of the local historical society, a tour of medieval Oxford led by Julian Munby and a visit to Kenilworth Castle. The annual general meeting was held in July at Aynhoe Park, by kind invitation of James Perkins.

The most significant event of the year relating to local history in the Banbury area has been the proposed changes at Banbury Museum. Spending cuts in all areas of government are affecting many aspects of local history. Your committee has welcomed the moves taken during the year towards establishing trust status for the Museum.

The strong support for lectures and excursions owes much to Deborah Hayter's distribution by e-mail of news of Society activities, as well as to releases to the local press. Your committee are strongly encouraging guests attending lecture meetings to join the society. Membership has remained stable.

Dr Helen Forde completed her three-year spell as chairman in September 2011 and was succeeded by Dr Barrie Trinder who rejoined the committee in May. Sadly committee member Fiona Thompson died early in 2012. We remember with gratitude the long service she gave to the Society.

We also record with regret the deaths during 2011 of George Fothergill, who was our very active chairman in 1968-71, but moved to Winchester in 1973, and Ross Gilkes, a historian who grew up in Banbury but spent his working life in Bristol. He contributed substantially through articles in *Cake & Cockhorse*, based on research originally carried out for the *Victoria County History*, to our understanding of the workings of Banbury Corporation between 1554 and 1835, and was perhaps our last remaining member to have been taught at Dashwood Road school by Ted Brinkworth, our first Honorary Research Adviser.