

Cake and Cockhorse

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<i>Joyce Hoad,</i> ed. <i>Barrie Trinder</i>	Swing in Banburyshire: New light on the riots of 1830	286
<i>John Dunleavy</i>	Maffiking at Banbury: Official and Unofficial	301
<i>Deborah Hayter</i>	Snippets from the Archives: 5. Newbottle and Charlton in the Lay Subsidy of 1301	310
<hr/>		
Book Reviews-		
	<i>Service, Sun and Settlement: Tales of Old Eydon</i>	311
Barrie Trinder	<i>Oxfordshire Friendly Societies, 1750-1918</i> ed. Shaun Morley	312
Shaun Morley	<i>Mid-Victorian Squarson: The Diaries of</i> <i>William Cotton Risley, former Vicar of</i> <i>of Deddington, Part 2: 1849-1869</i> ed. Geoffrey Smedley-Stevenson	313
	The Tours of John Loveday, 1728-1765	315
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	Personal and Place Name Indexes to Volume 18	316

At long last we have been delighted to publish the second and concluding part of the *Diaries* of William Cotton Risley, sometime vicar of Deddington. Their forthcoming publication was first mentioned 23 years ago, and Part One was sent out in 2007. We thank members for their patience, but even more so the editor, Geoffrey Smedley-Stevenson, for whom they have been in preparation for many more years. The original diaries comprise 39 volumes. The five hundred pages of extracts represent a mere fifteen per cent of the whole, but we can be sure that they represent the real meat of the diaries. For any who feel they must investigate just what he ate for breakfast and the daily weather, the originals are available at the Oxfordshire History Centre at Cowley. Indexes to each volume, together totalling well over a hundred pages, demonstrate the enormous range of subjects Risley touched upon, as well as his considerable acquaintance, official and personal, and how widely his interests extended beyond his home at Deddington. They will provide a quarry for all future historians of our locality.

With sorrow we record the death of Alan Donaldson earlier this year. He served on our committee from 1971 to 1979, the last three as Chairman. Railway buffs will have appreciated his regular contributions on the subject.

Cover: A threshing machine (see page 287)