



Fox Corner was given to the borough council by Edmunds Hunt in 1931 when a cattle market was introduced next to the station. In the centre of Bridge Street stands the (new) Town Hall, built in 1854. The most suitable site for a more modern building was sought for several years. In 1850 it was thought this open space in Bridge Street, belonging to the public, would accommodate such an important building. It would greatly add to what was then and would remain the principal entrance to the town.

**Sound point 2. The Cow Fair –**  
Cattle was sold here for centuries. Trading cattle in the street ceased in 1931 when a cattle market was introduced next to the station. In the centre of Bridge Street stands the (new) Town Hall, built in 1854. The most suitable site for a more modern building was sought for several years. In 1850 it was thought this open space in Bridge Street, belonging to the public, would accommodate such an important building. It would greatly add to what was then and would remain the principal entrance to the town.



Entrance to Corporation Yard

**Sound point 3. The Tchure –**  
Or Fox Tchure as it was known, ran from Market Place to High Street behind the Town Hall. Here stood the Town Hall Tavern until 1904. A Tchure was an alley way or passage between 2 rows of houses. Fox Corner at the Market Place end of the Tchure was the site of the Fox Inn.

**Sound point 4. The Hog Market –**

In the north east corner of the market place was the entrance to Castle Street until 1974 when it became the entrance to a shopping centre. The fine looking redbrick building on the opposite side of the market place was in 1937 the Palace Union Cinema Theatre. Next door was Messrs. Rayners' drapers shop where a fire broke out one evening. The Fire Brigade made a smart turn out, accessing the seat of the blaze through the theatre entrance. Mr. Byrne the theatre manager, in order to avoid a panic, continued the performance without a break. While the firemen worked the projector could be heard running and the audience enjoying the programme. They left at the usual hour to discover a fire which had burnt a shop at the entrance to the theatre was now under control.

**Sound point 5. Market Place north side –**

On the opposite side of the market place was old Banbury Gaol which had 3 peculiar shaped gable windows. In 1937 the property occupied by Messrs. Hill & Rowney were

directed by the Borough Surveyor to shore up the front of the building with timber, as ominous cracks had appeared in stonework on the second storey. As a result 2 of the windows had to be removed. This building had previously housed the Blue Coat School in the top storey between 1705 and 1817, with the gaol below.

**Sound point 6. Cornhill –**

This was the site of the Banbury Cross until its destruction in 1601 by the Puritans. The Vine Tavern behind the impressive frontage of the Corn Exchange was closed in 1960.

In January 1888 some workmen were endeavouring to find a leakage of gas from pipes in Cornhill. The ground had been opened up in several places, one of the men took a light to find the leak when the escaping gas ignited with a loud report. The Corn Exchange was violently shaken, as were the nearby houses, and there was a rush of people to ascertain the cause of the explosion. Fortunately no damage was done to life or property.

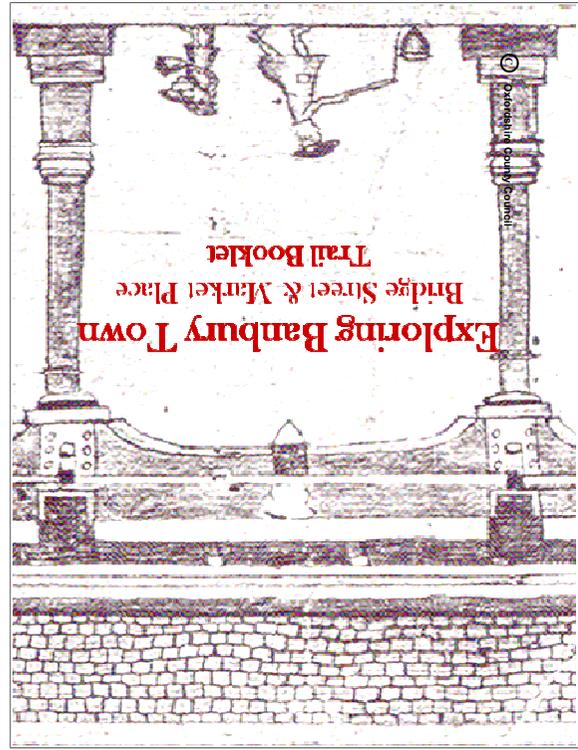


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**Sound point 7. Bottom of Butchers' Row –**

Here is the corner of the Great Tchure leading from the Market Place into High Street. Across the Market Place was a building occupied for many years by Messrs. Broughton and Wilks, agricultural merchants. In September 1939 Mr Broughton, who resided at 39a committed suicide, and his body was recovered from the canal.

**Sound point 1. Bridge Street Corner -**  
Approaching the town from the traffic lights, on the north side still stands what used to be the Waverley 'family & commercial' Temperance Hotel, also known locally as the Bluebird Hotel. Cadbury Hall was located here. In 1922 a fire broke out in the early hours one Sunday morning and raged furiously, at the Station Garage in Bridge Street next to the Corporation Yard. The property was owned by Messrs. Broughton & Wilks. A number of railway men were quickly on the spot and helped to move several cars and 2 motor lorries. Banbury Fire Brigade were called from their station next door in Corporation Yard and arrived in 10 minutes. New hydrants were first used to obtain water, and then the engine started pumping water from the canal. The blaze totally destroyed 7 motor cars including a Morris Cowley, and 2 motor cycles with side cars. The burnt buildings adjoin the stables in the Corporation Yard from which the horses were removed, but the buildings were not damaged. The cause of the fire was unknown.



**Sound point 8. Market Day –**

It was a really nice friendly place, on Thursdays you would meet everybody, not just from the town centre but all the country buses used to come in, and people from villages still come in on Thursdays because it's what they are used to. They would visit the various cafes, many were situated round the market place, for a cup of tea and a sticky bun or lunch if they could afford it. A very social place in the 1960s.



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