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Banbury guardian court report august 2020

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Newsletters are sent regularly to Members by email. The most recent are stored here with the latest at the top. BHS Notes are collected on another page (latest on top), as are Reports or Summaries of our Lectures. Queries about Banbury people or places can be sent by anyone to the Website and will be posted on our Questions page (possibly edited, and latest on top). ===== (Newsletter of 18th May 2021) Dear all I am sending an newsletter now to remind you that the Banbury Historical Society is still alive, despite the fact that we were unable to do our usual May outing because of current restrictions. However as things seem to be on course for unlocking we are planning to carry on with our outdoor visit in June to the Rollright Stones. This will be on Thursday 10 June, meeting at 6pm. Many of you will already have visited the Rollright Stones, a complex of megalithic monuments located on the boundary between Oxfordshire and Warwickshire, on the edge of the Cotswold Hills, but we are fortunate in that we will have George Lambrick to guide us. He is the person who can talk authoritatively about the stones: he is an archaeologist specialising in prehistory, and has researched and written extensively on the prehistoric archaeology of Oxfordshire, including a major tome about all the research into the Rollright Stones, as well as an illustrated history of the stones for the less professional reader. The stones span nearly 2000 years of Neolithic and Bronze age development and each site dates from a different period. Numbers have to be limited due to Covid restrictions and the nature of the tour. If you would like to attend, please book by emailing Rosemary Leadbeater at rleadbeater@aim.com. The cost is £1 per head, which will be collected on the night. Your committee met last week and someone asked whether we thought anyone ever read the resumes of the lectures which we put on the website? The last lecture fell through the gaps and no-one managed to write a note of it – did anyone notice? As you all know, our last editor of Cake & Cockhorse, Chris Day, is sadly no longer with us, and we are indebted to Helen Forde who took on the task on seeing the next edition of the journal through to publication. We are keen to find a new editor and wondered whether there was anyone out there who would like to act as assistant editor for the next edition, with a view to finding out what is involved and whether it might be doable? Do please get in touch if you think this is something you might do. A society such as ours can only function if volunteers come forward to keep it going. We still have a number of copies of 'Banbury Remembered', the collection of Brian Little's pieces from the Banbury Guardian, edited by Barrie Trinder. This is a must-have volume for any Banburian, or ex-Banburian. It is available at a special reduced price of £15 for members, from Margaret Little (bemelittle@btinternet.com). We also have more copies of Cake & Cockhorse available for purchase at £5. The next stage of the reopening of normal life, yesterday, means that the Museum will be open from this week. The Banbury Historical Society library will open in due course, but its opening depends on a rota of volunteers to man it (or woman it) for an afternoon every week, so we are still working on that. Thanks to Jeremy Gibson and Cliff Webb we will shortly have access to a database, on the BHS website, of apprentices who were indentured to masters in London Livery companies, between about 1600 -1800. Much work has gone into extracting some 800 names from the registers of at least a dozen Livery Companies and the value of the database is that searches can be made by name of the apprentice, place where he lived, his father's name or profession, the name of the master in London and the date on which the indentures were entered into. Additional information is available for some apprentices such as whether they were second sons (and therefore more likely to have been apprenticed away from home), whether the master took in more than one apprentice from the area and, in the case of some of the Merchant Tailors, where the master worked in London. A short introduction explains what can be searched and how the cumulative, information gives an insight into issues such as the popularity of sending apprentices to London (much higher in the early period than later in the eighteenth century) or the dominant occupations of the apprentices' fathers in and around Banbury - not surprisingly there were far more described as yeomen, husbands or farmers than tradesmen, but also a high proportion who called themselves clerks, gentlemen or esquires. Putting this sort of information on line is a new departure for BHS, but one which we hope will enable members and others to access original information quickly and easily: future additions might include digitised versions of some of the early Records Series volumes such as the Banbury parish registers; we would welcome suggestions about what readers might find most useful. We have been alerted to the publication of a historical novel set in Banbury, which members might be interested by. The title of the book is 'Delayed Expectations', by Abigail Shirley, and it is available from Amazon in both Kindle and paperback formats. This is a prequel to her first book, which was also set in Banbury, called 'One Fine Lady', also available from Amazon. We've been told about a new website and magazine, called Aspects of History, dedicated to history and historical fiction, which may be of interest to our members. Aspects of History publishes and promotes established and new authors alike. They plan to arrange writing competitions, book awards, and special offers on books, and have plenty of free content and events. In June, the Aspects of History Virtual Summer Festival is on, with events over four evenings; details can be found on the festival page. In August, a Book Club begins with Simon Sebag Montefiore and his book, Catherine the Great and Potemkin: The Imperial Love Affair. It's possible to ask Simon a question, by emailing history@aspectsofhistory.com. Annual subscriptions to the magazine are £9.99. Some societies have done really well during the pandemic, while others have collapsed completely. The British Association for Local History (BALH) has embraced online activity not only by providing ten-minute talks, podcasts and workshops, but also by setting up a new series of online lectures, entitled Local History Hour, once a month. These are presented on Zoom Webinar and have been very successful. BHS is a corporate member of BALH (largely because it provides us with necessary insurance), which means that all our members can access all this material too, though for some of it there will be a small charge. Have a look at the BALH website. And lastly, the May bulletin from OLHA is available with news of all sorts of Oxfordshire lectures, books and exhibitions. There's some new information about the Roman villa at Tackley, for instance. To read the bulletin, you need to click this url. With best wishes to all, Deborah Hayter ===== (Newsletter of 5th April 2021) Dear all, I am so sorry to be so late in sending this out. The excitement of being able to see some of my family, if only briefly, caused me to lose track of the days. Our last lecture of this season will take place this coming Thursday, the 8th, when we will have Dr. Steve Kershaw talking on the subject of 'The Creation of the Barbarians'. Steve is a very popular Classics Tutor for Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, lectures for the V&A, and is a guest speaker for various cultural travel companies. He was an expert contributor to the History Channel's Barbarians Rising series, and his recent book, Barbarians: Rebellion and Resistance to Rome was published in 2019. Some of you may remember a very engaging lecture he gave us a year or so ago on the Elgin Marbles. On the subject of his talk this time, he writes: 'Barbarity is complex, and Greek and Roman responses to it are equally so. But what made people 'barbaric' to the Greeks and Romans? Was it race, tribe, language, culture, psychology, moral values, symbols of identity, clothing, beards, religion, law, where they lived, where they were born, skin colour, patterns of behaviour, self-identification and the identification by others, or a combination of some or all or none of these?' In this lecture he will be exploring the origins of the ancient concept of the barbarian, and how these ideas came into existence. As before, members will need to sign in with Simon in order to be sent the link to access this lecture (simon.townsend@banburymuseum.org). That will bring our series of lectures to a close, and then we will have our usual Summer Outings. These were of course cancelled last year, and we are planning to run the same ones this year, as they will be outdoors and we expect that all, or almost all, of our members will have been vaccinated by then. However, the village visit to Adderbury, scheduled for 13th May, is postponed till 20th July at 6pm, and will be led by Anthony Wagg. Adderbury has some wonderful houses, a magnificent church with stunning medieval stonework, a Quaker meeting house, a team of Morris dancers and several good pubs. On the 10th June, we shall meet at 6pm at the Rollright Stones. This is a circle of prehistoric standing stones, where the legend is that it is impossible to count them more than once and get the same number. We shall be led by Dr. George Lambrick, a distinguished archaeologist who has written extensively about the stones and their place in the landscape and the prehistory of the area. The AGM will be on 8th July in Middleton Cheney Church. And finally, the April bulletin from OLHA is available, and contains news of all sorts of events, books and talks going on in Oxfordshire. To access it click this url. With best wishes to all, Deborah Hayter ===== (Newsletter of 4th March 2021) Dear all, Next Thursday (11th March) we have another change to our scheduled programme. This year it is 75 years since the making of the documentary film '24 square miles', about the area between Banbury and Chipping Norton, and we are going to show this together with the later film '24 square miles Revisited', which goes back to some of the places featured in the original film. I am sure that many of you will have seen the film already, but it is worth a second or third viewing, as it is now historically significant. I wasn't born when the original film was made, but much of what is portrayed is familiar to me from my childhood - aspects of farming life which have disappeared completely, and the state of village housing. Please sign in with Simon Townsend in the usual way to be sent the link (simon.townsend@banburymuseum.org). We have had to change what we had arranged this spring, as Steve Kershaw was unable to give his lecture remotely either in February or March, but we are delighted that his technology has moved on and he is going to give his lecture, on 'The Creation of the Barbarians', on April 8th. He is a terrific speaker and a very popular tutor at OJDCE and I am certainly looking forward to that. We are still considering how much of our summer 'outings' programme we can carry on with and we will let you know as soon as we have definite information. We have received the very sad news that Chris Day, who was a member of the committee for some years, and had edited Cake & Cockhorse since Jeremy Gibson stood down, has died in hospital (not from Covid). He was a senior tutor at OJDCE for many years (he interviewed me when I started), and was a mine of information about Oxfordshire as he had worked for the Victoria County History for some time. The Deddington & District History society would not have been such a flourishing body without him. We shall miss him very much. Finally, a reminder that the OLHA bulletin is available for all members of our society with lots of information about books, talks, exhibitions and more. (All members of local history societies and groups that are members of OLHA are themselves members of OLHA automatically.) This e-bulletin is for everyone... with best wishes, Deborah Hayter ===== (Newsletter of 2nd Feb 2021) Dear all, I hope everyone is surviving this lockdown and staying well. It is rather harder to stay cheerful, isn't it, when the weather is so bad. But I'm sure that some of you will have had your jobs, and as I write the sun is shining, and so hope in the air. We have had to make a change to our programme this month. We were due to have Steve Kershaw who was going to talk to us about the Barbarians and Rome, but he has had to pull out as his broadband is just not up to broadcasting from home, and he is not happy to come into the Museum - which perhaps might not have been strictly within the rules anyway. But we are fortunate that Dr. Toby Purser, who was due to deliver our lecture in March, has agreed to take his place on Thursday 11th February. He is going to be talking on: Conquered England: the Norman Conquest and the end of the Anglo-Saxon state. The Norman Conquest was a devastating, cataclysmic event which destroyed Anglo-Saxon England and brought the conquered country back to Rome and into Europe, having agreed inextricably for the following five centuries politically, spiritually and culturally. Previous generations of historians either thought this was a 'good thing' or bemoaned the loss of the old world, but both interpretations fundamentally misunderstood the nature of Anglo-Saxon England. This talk will highlight the brutality of the Conquest and discuss what was lost in a way that shows the Anglo-Saxon state to be neither a failure or a victim of events that swept it away. Toby Purser has been a Senior Lecturer at the University of Northampton for 8 years. Toby read History at Oxford University and has a PhD on the late medieval gentry. He taught History in secondary schools and colleges for 12 years and has published 4 history textbooks, two novels and several articles. His latest book, The Making of England: from Rome to Reformation is due out in 2021. Because of the change of speaker, I am afraid that we are going to have to use yet another means of getting this lecture to you. Toby is going to use the system (called Collaborate) which the University of Northampton has been using, and Toby uses to do his teaching remotely. As before we shall send out a link with the invitation to join, and any other instructions that are needed to be able to see and hear this lecture successfully. As before, please let Simon know if you would like to be sent the link (simon.townsend@banburymuseum.org). Our last speaker, Dr. Wendy Morrison, who gave us a whistle-stop tour of the findings of the LIDAR programme in the Chilterns, mentioned that she would be appearing on BBC 'Countryfile on Sunday evening January 17th, talking about what had been found. If you didn't manage to catch this, it is worth getting it on iPlayer as there were several interesting explorations of actual sites on the ground. We shall soon be getting to grips with next year's programme of lectures - and so much hoping that we shall be able to do these face to face by next September! If anyone has any good ideas for speakers, or for subjects that you would like to hear about, we'd be very grateful to hear about them. Our editor of Cake & Cockhorse, Chris Day, is in hospital (not with Covid) and I'm sure you will all join with the committee in wishing him a speedy recovery. Because of this, and the other problems to do with the lockdown, the publication of C & CH may be somewhat delayed this year. The OLHA monthly bulletin is out and there is a reassuring number of events, exhibitions and lectures taking place, and books being published. This is available for you all, and you just need to click on this url. With best wishes to all, Deborah Hayter ===== (Newsletter of 3rd December 2020) Dear all, Our next lecture will be happening as in the new normal via Microsoft Teams next Thursday 10th December at 7.30pm. We shall have Stephen Wass talking about Voyages to the House of Diversion: Garden Urns and the Destruction of the seventeenth-century Gardens at Hanwell Castle, Oxfordshire. In 1675 a family dispute led to the destruction of the extraordinary garden at Hanwell Castle, a place described by Robert Plot in his 'Natural History of Oxfordshire' as 'the real New Atlantis'. Excavations over the past three years have revealed the remains of an elaborate garden feature known as 'the house of diversion' together with a unique assemblage of complete seventeenth-century pots. Stephen Wass MA MChIA is undertaking a programme of doctoral research at the University of Oxford based on the gardens at Hanwell and their links to the early scientific community in Oxford. He also works as a commercial archaeologist specialising in historic gardens and is currently project archaeologist for the latest round of restoration at Stone Landscape Garden. Some of you may remember the entertaining talk he gave us a few years ago about the waterworks at Farnborough, and he also led a fascinating walk for us around those same works at Farnborough where he showed us aspects of the landscape garden there that we couldn't possibly have seen - or noticed - otherwise. We are a little disappointed that not as many of you as we hoped have availed yourselves of the opportunity to see and hear our lectures in the comfort of your own homes - and even while eating your suppers. It really is very easy - if you are getting this email and are also capable of sending an email you could certainly cope with the tech. Simon is happy to remind anyone of the procedure, and even to do a dummy run at a different time. Just to remind those who haven't joined - you can see both the lecturer and his/her slides on your computers. Members need to book with Simon Townsend (simon.townsend@banburymuseum.org) to receive the link to the online lecture; non-members can receive one lecture free but will then be invited to pay per screening, or to join the society. He will send out the link to join on the day. Chris Day, who edits Cake & Cockhorse, has asked me to put in a plea: he could do with more material so if you have been doing your own research please send it in for publication. He is happy to discuss ideas and suggestions. We'd like both short and longer pieces and it can be about any aspect of the history of Banbury and Banburyshire. In January we shall begin the process of putting together the programme of lectures for 2021/2022 - and we hope that by then we shall be able to have a live audience again. If anyone has heard, or heard of, any particularly good lecturers, especially with new research, please do let us have your suggestions. Or if you think there is a particular topic that we haven't covered at all recently then please suggest that as well. Banbury Remembered, the collection of Brian Little's Banbury Guardian pieces, our most recent publication, edited by Barrie Trinder, is selling well in the Museum shop. Please think of this if you are buying Christmas presents for anyone local. It really is an excellent read. One of our members, Martin Greenwood, has written a new book about emigration out of this area in the 19th century. It's the story of emigration from Oxfordshire and its neighbouring shires from 1815 to 1914. The story begins with the voyages of Captain Cook, which led to the provision of new places for penal colonies in Australia. Free emigration also gathered steam in the 1830s, followed by the Great Exodus from 1850. The story evokes the bustle and confusion of migrants at Liverpool, and the emotions of departure. It looks at their shipping, health problems, costs and shipwrecks, and at their experience on arrival. It also examines the political changes, particularly to the Poor Laws and Corn Laws. This will be for sale in local book shops, but meanwhile is available by emailing Martin (martingreenwood@btinternet.com). Finally, the latest bulletin from OLHA, with information about all sorts of historical events in Oxfordshire is available for all to access - just click on this url. With best wishes, Deborah Hayter ===== (Newsletter of 4th Nov 2020) Dear all Very many apologies to all of you who were bothered last week by a spam/scam email purporting to be from me. This was a bit of a nightmare and took me a long time to sort out and eventually I had to change my email account - so please note my new email address should you wish to contact me. Our next lecture is going to take place on Thursday 12th November, at 7.30 pm, remotely on Microsoft Teams, as we did with the last two. Though the Museum is now closed as from tomorrow, Simon is still allowed to go there and our lecturer is happy to do so as well, as stringent precautions are in place and all necessary risk assessments have been done. We have Chris Day coming to speak to us on the subject of Oxfordshire's Own Pooh-Bah: Thomas Walker, Man of Everyone's Business. Thomas Walker (d.1804) was man of business to the 4th Duke of Marlborough. He was also Solicitor to Oxford University, Town Clerk of Oxford and Woodstock, founder of an early bank and a key figure on the Oxford Canal Company and various turnpike trusts. He was implicated in the scandalous attempt by the Duke to buy Oxford's two parliamentary seats in 1766. Walker is a fascinating study of how power and influence operated in the 18th century. Chris Day is the editor of Cake & Cockhorse. He is a popular speaker who worked for the Oxfordshire Victoria County History before joining Oxford University Dept for Continuing Education, where he was Director of Studies for Local History and Director of International Academic Programmes. He is an Emeritus Fellow of Kellogg College. We are very pleased that we are able to go on providing our lectures through this autumn, despite Covid restrictions. The lectures are streamed live via Microsoft Teams, and this is enabling our far-flung members to participate. Don't forget that you need to book with Simon to receive the link to the online lecture. (simon.townsend@banburymuseum.org) . It is a help if you sign in and join in plenty of time as each person has to be 'admitted' one at a time - and we can't cope with latecomers. Once you have signed in and have the screen up on your computer you can go away and fetch a drink or whatever - you don't have to sit there glued to your screen until 7.30 pm. Lastly, we realised last time that it takes a few minutes for people to get their questions together and typed in, so if during the lecture you think of a good question you can type it in there and then. All members of BHS are automatically members of OLHA (Oxfordshire Local History Association) and their monthly bulletin contains everything historical that is going on anywhere in the county - meetings, lectures, courses, new books and exhibitions. I have added the link to the November bulletin below , but I will draw your attention to OLHA's autumn study meeting and AGM, which will take place on Saturday 14 November, 11am to 12.30pm, via Zoom. The short AGM - whose agenda can be seen here - will be followed by an illustrated talk on Oxfordshire during the Second World War by historian Stephen Barker. Stephen will explore the impact of the war on Oxfordshire, activities on the home front, and significant events in which Oxfordshire people were involved abroad. Topics will include evacuation, prisoners of war, airfields, refugees, everyday life, rationing, war work, the evacuation of Dunkirk, Arnhem, and the liberation of Bergen-Belsen. There is no charge for attending the AGM and talk, but please register by e-mailing the membership secretary, Liz Woolley, before 5pm on Thursday 12 November. You will then be sent instructions as to how to join the meeting via Zoom. And if you would like to see the whole bulletin, click this url. With best wishes, Deborah Hayter ===== (Newsletter of 28th September 2020) Dear all Our last lecture went well, apart from a minor glitch in getting questions from members at home - and we think we have sorted that now. You will all have realized, of course, that the 'rule of six' now means that we cannot have 15 people in the live audience for our next lecture, so if you were one of those who had signed up to come to the Museum - with apologies - you will now have to watch at home, so remember to email Simon to ask him to add you to the list for the link. (simon.townsend@banburymuseum.org) We shall be five in the lecture room - the bare minimum. The next lecture will be on Thursday October 8th, and, as a complete contrast to last month's lecture about HS2 archaeology, we shall have Liz Woolley talking about the building firm which did much to transform the growing city of Oxford: Kingierlee: the family and the building firm since 1868. This firm was started in Banbury and moved to Oxford in 1883 at a time when the city was expanding rapidly and undergoing enormous social, political and economic upheaval. Kingierlee was soon to become one of the key figures in those changes, rapidly becoming Oxford's largest builder and landlord, and one of its biggest employers, with several hundred workers at any one time. Thomas Henry was a leading Non-Conformist, a Liberal Councillor, and twice Mayor of Oxford. His talk will examine how the family and the firm influenced Oxford's development in the Victorian and Edwardian periods. Liz Woolley is a popular lecturer and has spoken to us in Banbury before. She lives in Oxford and has an MSc in English Local History from the University's Department for Continuing Education, where she is now a tutor, teaching a popular course on the later history and expansion of Oxford. She is particularly interested in the history of Oxford's 'town' - as opposed to 'gown' - and in the lives of ordinary working citizens in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In 2018 she was commissioned by Kingierlee Ltd to write her history as part of their 150th anniversary celebrations. We hope that many of you will by now have received our latest publication, Banbury Remembered. Looking Back 1995 - 2019, a collection of the late Brian Little's columns about local history from the Banbury Guardian, edited by Barrie Trinder. We hope that some of you might want to buy copies as Christmas presents, and it is available for sale in the Museum shop. With best wishes and hoping that everyone stays safe and well, Deborah Hayter ===== (Newsletter of 1st September 2020) Dear all, September is almost upon us so it means it is time to gear up for the beginning of the new season of lectures from the BHS. Unlike many other societies we are planning to put on a full schedule and all our speakers have agreed to be streamed live via Microsoft Teams. We shall not be doing our usual drinks before the first lecture of the season, but there will be a small and socially distanced audience. Members and others will be able to see both the lecturer and his/her slides on their computers at home. The first lecture is at 7.30 pm on Thursday September 10th, and we are fortunate to have Dr. Helen J. Wass, Head of Heritage for HS2, coming to speak to us about all the archaeological riches discovered along the route of HS2. Her title is 'People Time Place: historic environment on HS2'. She writes: 'Before we build the bridges, tunnels, tracks and stations for HS2 an unprecedented amount of archaeological work will take place – the largest ever programme of investigation in the UK. This talk will outline the opportunities and challenges that HS2 offers in terms of knowledge creation, engagement and legacy. With site works now underway there will be recent discoveries to share.' Helen Wass' interest in the past started early - she grew up in Northumberland so many trips were to Hadrian's Wall. On HS2 she is really excited about sharing the stories revealed about our ancestors who lived along the route. We have had several trial runs with the technology so are (fairly) confident that it will work. Members need to book with Simon Townsend (simon.townsend@banburymuseum.org) either to attend in person (first come, first served, places limited) or to receive the link to the online lecture. You will receive detailed instructions about what to do in return for sending your email to Simon and stating your desire to receive the link. We realized while practising that it is easier if the recipients have already downloaded Microsoft Teams onto their computers at home: this is free software and it is very easy to download. In my last e-newsletter I mentioned that Covid has prevented us from doing a big launch for Banbury Remembered, the volume of Brian Little's Banbury Guardian 'Look Back with Little' pieces, which Barrie Trinder has edited and put together. Members will get their copies for free, and we hope might want to buy a copy or three as Christmas presents. It will be available for collection from the Museum and for sale in the shop in September. More details to follow. With best wishes and hoping all are safe and well, Deborah Hayter ===== (Newsletter of 12th August 2020) Dear all, In my last e-newsletter I described how we are going to present our lecture series for 2020-21. We have now had several trial runs and we think we have got it sorted. So our lecturers will be presenting their lectures via Microsoft Teams, which means that they will be live in the Museum with a small, suitably distanced, audience, and everyone else will be able to access the lecture, with a view of the speaker and his/her slides, from their own computer at home, and ask questions at the end. This will not be recorded, so members would have to sign in at 7 pm on the Thursday evenings and the signing in passwords etc would be sent out in advance. It will not be like a YouTube video, available to anyone, anytime: it will be for members and at a certain time - but it will mean that far-flung members or those who don't want to travel in the dark will be able take advantage. Anyone who wants to attend in person will have to book in in advance with Simon, and anyone who wants to attend from afar will also have to send their email address to Simon, who will be sending out instructions for signing-in nearer the time of the lecture. Our trial runs have caused considerable refining and rewriting of the instructions, but we now think they are pretty comprehensive. For anyone who wants to get ahead, and who hasn't got Microsoft Teams on their computer already, it is worth downloading it (it is free and very easy to do) as it makes the whole process simpler and easier. In presenting a lecture series we are doing better than many societies who have just cancelled everything for the whole year. Oxford's department of Continuing Education has just announced that they are doing no face-to-face weekly classes next term - possibly none for the whole year - and are concentrating on their online offerings. Not the same at all! These times of plague have prevented us from doing a big launch for Banbury Remembered, the volume of Brian Little's Banbury Guardian 'Look Back with Little' pieces, which Barrie Trinder has edited and put together. Members will get their copies free, but we hope they might want to buy a copy or three as Christmas presents. It will be available for collection from the Museum, and for sale, in the shop in September. More details to follow. Finally, the OLHA bulletin for August - some things are still happening: to access it click on this url. With best wishes to all and hoping you are all safe and well, Deborah Hayter ===== (Newsletter of 11th June 2020) Dear all! This very moment we should have been musing on the insights of George Lambrick into the Rollright Stones - and possibly trying to observe them, it is always sad that every time you count them you get a different total. However in this time of coronavirus it is interesting to wonder what the Rollrights were called as you are all aware. You will by now have received the missive informing you are managing the AGM, and I realized that the committee is always keen to receive your thoughts, observations and questions about the way the society is run and what we are doing, so do please send them if you may have been wondering whether we were going to have any sort of lecture season this year. We know that some organizations have cancelled or postponed everything for the foreseeable future, but we hope to be able to present a series of lectures of the same high quality as ever. I have now had agreement from all our lecturers that they will be happy to give their lectures via Microsoft Teams. This means that they will be live in the Education Room in the Museum, and we calculate that we could handle an audience of maximum 20, suitably distanced. In there too (members would have to sign in advance for these places). The speakers would be delivering their lectures as usual, but there would be a small microphone and camera and members at home would see and hear the speaker as well as see their slides on their own computers at home. This will not be recorded, so members would have to sign in at 7.30 pm on the Thursday evenings and the signing in passwords etc would be sent out in advance. It will not be like a YouTube video, available to anyone, anytime: it will be for members and at a certain time - but it will mean that far-flung members or those who don't want to travel in the dark will be able to access the lectures. We think that especially after these lock-down weeks everyone will be able to access the internet - it has been so necessary during this time. I should stress that this is all dependent on the Museum being open and without too many difficult conditions imposed on its operation, but as long as that is the case the lectures will go ahead as described. (Full details are available in the webpages for Lectures and Outings). We were looking forward to this year's summer outings, so we plan to do these next summer. We have asked before, and we have gratefully received one offer, but is there anyone out there (with perhaps a bit of plague time on his/her hands) with some IT skills? We could do with some help to deal with the Cake & Cockhorse archive which needs transferring from the Museum website to the BHS one. Ian West has asked me to put out a plea for a bit of extra help and even know-how. (ian42west@gmail.com). We hope you have all enjoyed the new look Cake & Cockhorse: we are all delighted with how it has come out. Chris Day, our editor, is to be congratulated but he is already anxious about getting enough material for the next issue. Has anyone been pulling away the lockdown hours and days by writing up what you think the majority has been sitting in note form for years? We'd like short and long pieces, so do please send them in. Stay well everyone, and looking forward to seeing you all again sometime. Best wishes, Deborah Hayter ===== (Newsletter of 7 May 2020) Dear all! It is a little optimistic of me to head this e-newsletter 'news from BHS' as the news is mostly of things that aren't happening. We should have had the Historical Artefacts Quiz in April and I hope you are all saving your interesting objects for another time. Our summer outings are cancelled along with everything else - with any luck we can do these next summer. Our next BHS volume, a collection and selection of Brian Little's pieces in the Banbury Guardian, edited by Barrie Trinder, has arrived from the printer and is awaiting launch and distribution. You may remember we were due to do that later this month. I hope you are all looking forward to getting your copy. The first issue of our new, annual, improved Cake & Cockhorse is going to press this week, but again, we don't know when we will be able to distribute it. You will get it as soon as we are able to send it to you. We now have the programme of lectures fixed for September through to April, and I hope you will all enjoy the variety. We have some archaeology, some local, some further afield, some Roman history, a lecture about the Norman Conquest, the story of an Oxfordshire man of business in the 18th century and an Oxford building firm in the 19th century. We are all hoping, as I am sure you are too, that we shall have some sort of normality by September: if not, it will be doubly annoying, as we have Helen Wass, head of archaeology at HS2, rebokook to come and talk to us for the first lecture of the season. She was booked for last November but had to cancel because HS2, as a publicly-funded body, was covered by the general election rules and she had to go into 'purdah'. If we have to cancel her talk for a second time it will be very disappointing. I had hoped to send full details of the whole lecture season with this newsletter, but realized that there is one speaker who has not given me details of the title of her lecture. As soon as I have that I will send out the full programme. Meanwhile, as we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of VE day tomorrow, Barrie Trinder has sent these memories of his childhood in Banbury during the war. Deborah Hayter 7 May 2020 A wartime childhood in Grimsbury. These recollections were originally prepared for the Banbury Historical Society session on wartime memories in April 2019 which I was prevented from attending at the last minute. The 75th anniversary of VE-Day, when most of our members are in lock-down, seems an appropriate moment to share them. A longer version is expected to appear in a future Cake & Cockhorse. Barrie Trinder. There were always soldiers at the bottom of our garden when I was very young. I grew up at No 75 East Street in Grimsbury, one of a terrace of 8 houses at the south end of the street owned by the Mander family, once builders in Banbury. Our back garden bordered the field in which Hunt Edmunds Ltd built the roadhouse pub, the Blacklocks Arms. It was completed before the outbreak of hostilities but never opened, and at an early stage in the war it was adapted as a military base. Officers' accommodation appears to have been in the pub building, while soldiers lived in Nissen-type huts around the perimeter of the field. I cannot recollect exactly how many, but there can have been no more than eight, one of which was in the corner of the field immediately beyond our garden fence, and close to the ends of gardens in Middleton Road. Nissen huts were modular and could be of any length, but it is likely that those at the Blacklocks base were long enough only to accommodate a platoon of about 30 men. The huts were demolished soon after the war but the concrete pads on which they stood remained for many years afterwards and served as good cricket pitches since the field itself was undulated with ridges and furrows. Margery Lester in These Golden Days (privately published, 1992) remembered soldiers marching down Middleton Road to their mess in the Blue Bird in Bridge Street. The huts at the Blacklocks could certainly not have accommodated a full-strength battalion. By repute the first unit to use the Blacklocks accommodation was the Liverpool Scottish who became popular in the town They were succeeded by other units of the British Army, and then, after the United States entered the war late in 1941, by detachments of the US Army. There were constant changes at the base which suggests that it was used as a transit camp. The Americans gave away chewing gum and blocks of chocolate that I now know to have been Hershey bars, as well as cheese that was more appetising than British wartime Cheddar. I remember that on one occasion I returned from morning Sunday School at the Methodist Chapel in West Street to tell my mother that there were 'hundreds' (obviously an exaggeration) of American soldiers in the congregation. This happened only once and shows that there was a rapid turnover of units at the Blacklocks. I understand that the National Archives no longer holds records of small military bases of this kind. My earliest recollection is of my second birthday in May 1941 when I received a small present from a lodger called Alan, who had been billeted on my parents. He left before my father was conscripted into the army in June 1942. I remember being taken to the station to see him off on what must have been the through train from Wolverhampton to Weymouth. He was travelling to Devizes en route to the Royal Artillery training base at Larkhill, and was pleased to meet a fellow building worker who was going to the same camp. My father was never involved in fighting and went overseas only as far as Northern Ireland, but, as a carpenter, he was drafted to work in the West India Docks in London on the building of a Mulberry Harbour in 1943-44. In July 1944 my brother Roger was born. He was a perfectly healthy baby and toddler but died of leukemia at the age of six. He was born in the night, and my mother was attended by a midwife, a Mrs Rayner who lived in Park Road. I remember going to the birthday party in Park Road of her nephew who was about my age. I was told that my father learned of Roger's birth through a chance encounter at Bicester North station. He was moving to or from the army base at Bicester when he saw my uncle, my mother's elder brother, who was a railway guard and working the morning pick-up goods train to Ardley. I have some recollections of evacuees but suspect that the majority had returned to London by the time that I might have been conscious of their existence. Most prominent were Alan Coombs from Wandsworth, who was about my age, and his sister Carol, who had been billeted, with their mother, with Reg Woollard, our neighbour at No 74. Mrs Coombs ran the household and Reg was rarely there, since he combined his job as senior parcels porter at the GWR station with that of transport officer for the St John's Ambulance brigade. Alan Coombs was the only evacuee I remember at school. I think the family stayed until pretty well the end of the war. Two children from London, Jack and Jill Robinson, were billeted at No 73 with a spinster and her aged father but I suspect that they returned home long before VE-Day, as did a pair of twins called Tilly who stayed at a No 7 South Street nearby. I am too young to remember the air raid on Banbury's gasworks and railway goods yard on 3 October 1940, but I do recall sheltering in my mother's room one night when we could hear gunfire outside. This was probably the raid during which, supposedly, bullets intended for the marshalling yard were left in a first floor room at No 25 West Street. There was a large circular water tank for use in the event of bombing outside No 6 South Street and three or more brick-built air raid shelters along the west side of Centre Street. When the siren sounded one night my mother took me to one of the shelters but the all-clear soon went and we returned home. My grandfather, Thomas Upton, who lived at No 72 East Street, retired from the Post Office engineering department at the start of the war, but continued to work doing odd jobs for R J Goodman, the chemist at No 5 High Street, and for George Carter, the monumental mason who ran the Thomas Cakebread business at No 18 Southam Road. He was an Air Raid Warden, and I remember his 'tin hat' and stirrup pump as desirable playthings in his garden shed long after the war. Going over the bridge with my mother to shop in the town centre was a regular routine. I remember seeing firemen raising money for Spitfires or similar projects at the entrance to the Corporation Yard in Bridge Street. My mother used a variety of shops, chiefly the grocers E & W Dawson at Nos 71-72 Bridge Street, the butcher John E Knott at No 78, and the greengrocer A J Butler at No 49. We purchased our meagre allowance of sweets and chocolate from J H Thornton at No 54. Occasionally we went further to buy knitting wool from Miss Kate Thurstan at No 24 High Street, or to collect coupons for cod liver oil and orange juice at the Municipal Buildings. We bought bread from Fred Warren at 53 Middleton Road, and made occasional purchases at the nearby Co-op at No 43. There were many small shops in the grid of streets that had once been the Freehold Land Society estate in Grimsbury, but the only one we regularly patronised was that in the front room of No 53 kept by Mrs Ellen Hobbly probably because we were registered with her for our tea ration. Some traders called at the house, notably the market gardener, Fred Mold of Neithrop, whose small truck came round on Friday afternoons. Another nurseryman, Charles Carter from The Firs at Overthorpe, regularly brought tomatoes to my grandparents on his bicycle. I was fortunate to be able to start school at the age of three in 1942, and remember being taken to Grimsbury Council School by my cousin from Centre Street, then aged about 13 and in her last year. The reception class in the charge of Mrs Cooper from 14 West Street, and I remember enjoying the sand tray and the camp beds on which we slept in the afternoons. There were four classes in the infants section of the school. The four classrooms were arranged around a small hall from which a short flight of stairs led up to the 'big school' whose headmaster was Norman Croxton. Opposite our house were the two-storey premises of John Grant the builder. His father had a steam joinery works early in the twentieth century, but I suspect that the buildings may originally have been a perambulator factory that had a brief life in the 1890s. The building trade was not especially busy in Banbury during the war, and John Grant then employed only a handful of men, but the upper floor of his premises was used as a store by the furnishes Chapman Bros of No 2 High Street, and many mornings we awoke to the sound of furniture being loaded on or unloaded from the company's vehicles, two pantechionics and a small van. In wartime it was impossible to travel far. When my father was on leave he took me and my mother on the former Stratford & Midland line from Merton Street station to Northampton where he bought me an overcoat, rather like an RAF greatcoat. My aunt Marjorie Upton was teaching at New Bradwell in Buckinghamshire in the early years of the war but was appointed head of the village school at South Newington. She lived in Vine Cottage at nearby Wigginton, which she shared for a time with her younger sister whose husband was in the RAF, and who had given birth to a boy seven weeks before Roger was born. We went to visit them on several occasions, usually travelling by Midland Red bus, sometimes on one propelled by producer gas carried in a trailer at the rear. On one occasion when no bus was available we walked to the station at Hook Norton to catch the autorain from Kingham. I also have vague recollections of an afternoon trip by bus to Chipping Warden to watch take-offs and landings at the RAF base, and of a short journey by train for a Sunday School treat at Cropredy. Any child's understanding of the war was uncertain. I played soldiers with friends, usually directed against German enemies, and remember being thrilled on going home to lunch on 6 June 1944 to hear the one o'clock news account of the D-Day landings. I can still recall the profound shock that went through the school with the news that the father of one of my classmates had been killed. I lived in North Africa. Throughout the war I received messages, usually telegrams, from my father's youngest brother who was born in 1918 and was thus in the first group to be conscripted. He was called up not long after I was born and seemed to regard me as a link with home. In 1940 he was in Kent, ready, with insufficient rifles, to repel invasion, and married a Kentish girl in 1941, but was then posted to the Middle East and spent much of the war in present-day Iraq. He sent me one Christmas telegram from Bagdad. Apart from the soldiers at the Blacklocks the most obvious military activity in Grimsbury was the passage of Queen Mary trailers to and from RAF Chipping Warden. One of them collided on one occasion with the horse-drawn wagon on which Albert Brock, greengrocer of No 11 Edward Street displayed his wares. Not much damage was done but the road in front of Nos 145-49 Middleton Road was covered in fruit and vegetables. And so to VE-Day. I don't recall how the end of the war was handled at school, but the street party in East Street was unforgettable. It was organised by the women of the street who, as I remember it, had no obvious leader. The tables, from the Methodist Chapel, were laid out by the grass verge opposite the junction with North Street. An assortment of chairs was assembled and most households provided cakes or sandwiches. The chairs were mostly occupied by the children of the street while adults stood around and watched. The tables had been cleared bare by the time the photograph of the party was taken. Under rationing a more copious spread was impossible, but any reflection on how children fared elsewhere in the Second World War, in the East End, in Warsaw, in Leningrad (St Petersburg) or in the bombed cities of Germany, shows that my generation was fortunate to grow up in Banbury. Barrie Trinder. ===== (Newsletter of 2 April 2020) Dear all hope that all our members, near and far, are all in good health and cheerful despite these times of plague. I'm sure you will all have realized that along with everything else, our historical artefacts quiz has had to be cancelled, along with the summer outings that we had planned, and the Museum has closed so there is no access to the BHS library. We are organizing next season's programme of lectures as usual, and we do hope that there will be a return to some sort of normality by then, as we have Helen Wass, of HS2 archaeology, booked to open the season on 10th September and it would be very annoying to have to cancel her for the second time. Meanwhile, and to provide something of an historical nature to look forward to, the first of the new revamped, larger annual issues of Cake & Cockhorse was due to be produced and sent out to members some time soon, but you will understand that in the current circumstances that is proving difficult, so as soon as we can we are going to mount it onto the website for everyone to read, and it will be sent out as physical copies in due course when we can. Also the next Banbury Historical Society publication will be ready soon: Banbury Remembered: looking back 1995-2019 is an anthology of about a hundred of more than 1200 articles written by the late Brian Little for the Banbury Guardian which were a hub for local history in the town and its neighbourhood for more than a quarter of a century. The book, edited by Dr Barrie Trinder, is now with the printers. It runs to more than 250 pages, and is well-illustrated and thoroughly indexed. We had hoped to launch the book in May, but the current emergency makes that impossible, and we look forward to its public appearance in the autumn. We have another plan for the website which we hope might provide some interest for members. We wondered whether BHS members would like to contribute memories of previous disasters/events/happenings locally or elsewhere. Or if they were your parents' memories of coping with the Spanish flu or other epidemics. We think we will mount these on the website for everyone to share - and we might give spark other people's memories. Nothing too long - half a page or a page of A4 will be plenty. To give a flavour of possibilities: I remember a burst of two happenings while I was in my teens, in the 1960s: the first was the campaign to save Brown's Cake Shop in Parsons Street, with which my mother was heavily involved, as the then Chairman of the Oxfordshire branch of the CPRE, and the second was the proposal to increase the size of Banbury to either 45,000 or 70,000. I have a vivid memory of a very rowdy and angry meeting in the Town Hall held to protest at these proposals. What can you all come up with? I look forward to getting some interesting snippets. We thought of asking members to send in interesting photos, either old photos, or new photos of old/interesting places or events but we have realized that there is a Facebook group called 'Banbury's Bygone Pies & Vids Share Site' which has a huge number of interesting images and videos on it and a lot of members - perhaps some of you belong to it too? So accumulating a lot of photos on the BHS website seemed too much like the same sort of thing. If you don't already belong, you might like to join to have a look. Don't forget - they can't cancel spring and it is very cheering! With best wishes, and I hope you all stay well, Deborah Hayter ===== (Newsletter of 4th Feb 2020) Dear allNext week we have our next lecture, on Thursday 13th February. Claire Millington's title will be "I shall expect you sister" the lives and letters of frontier households in the Imperial Roman Army, Claire has been researching the extraordinary survivals of personal letters between the people at the furthest reaches of the Roman Empire. Successful men from Rome's provinces could command military units on the frontiers. With them went their households, their wives, children, freed and enslaved men and women. These people wrote to each other, using ink pens on thin slips of wood. Extraordinarily, some of these letters survive and offer a glimpse of household life at Roman forts. Some of you who attended Keith Westcott's talk about the Roman villa and 17th-century hoard at Broughton might remember that someone asked a very intelligent question, which revealed her to be doing a Ph.D. on aspects of the Roman Empire. It was Claire Millington, and she is local. I booked her to come and give us a talk on her research. We like to be the first to hear about new work. Claire had a roundabout route to her current research: she came from the Midlands, became a diplomat and was posted to Rome. This sparked her interest in Rome's empire, and once she was in the UK she embarked on an MA with the Open University, and is now finishing a Classics Ph.D. at King's College, London. Looking ahead, on April 23rd we are holding another Historical Artefacts Quiz. I am sure that lots of you will have interesting old tools/bits of this and that/artefacts of various kinds which others would like to guess at. This is largely for entertainment and for members to have a bit of interaction. The idea is that members will bring their artefacts/relics, which will be laid out on long tables on the Museum bridge and there'll be wine to help and when all is assembled what you will try to guess what they are. When everyone has guessed as many as they can, owners will say what each is and answers papers will be checked. There'll be a small prize for the most interesting object and one for the most correct answers. It won't work unless we have enough interesting objects so please all have a think about what you could bring. We are planning to invite businesses in the town and environs to join us as 'Corporate Sponsors', in return for being listed as supporters in Cake & Cockhorse. If you run a local business, or know of one that might be a likely sponsor, could you please let Helen Forde know? (helenforde1@googlemail.com) . Our treasurer and membership secretary have asked me to remind all those who do not pay their subscriptions by banker's order that subs became due on January 1st and they would be grateful to receive them. We have to assume that those who do not renew their subscriptions no longer wish to remain a member and do not want to receive the next BHS volume. We are still looking for a member who would like to help with the editing of the new, larger, revamped

