



OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION (OLHA)

BANBURY: A TOWN AND ITS PEOPLE

STUDY DAY

Saturday 18 October 2025

Banbury Museum & Gallery, Spiceball Park Road, OX16 2PQ

- 9:30am** **Registration.** Access to the museum is via the entrance to Connie's Café on the canal towpath. The café will be open and refreshments can be purchased.
- 10:00am** **Welcome and introduction** by Christopher Fance, Chair of OLHA.
- 10:05am** **Banbury's people with Verna Wass.**
Bringing the past to life through the eyes of the people who lived there.
- 10:50am** **Refreshments** (included in the ticket price).
- 11:10am** **Banbury: a market town and its manufacturers, 1800-1931** with **Dr Barrie Trinder.**
Always a place of trade, by 1800 Banbury was evolving into 'the metropolis of the carriers' carts'. Its traditional locally-based industries were malting, tanning and milling, while its characteristic 'manufacture' for wider markets was plush. As elsewhere, engineering and large-scale brewing became prominent in the mid-19th century. By 1900 sizeable concerns were making consumer goods, notably clothing and office equipment. This talk examines the town's economy up to 1931, the year when tradition was subject to radical change.
- 12:10pm** **The Canary Girls and their weapons of mass destruction** with **Dale Johnston.**
Banbury's First World War munitions filling factory site is scheduled as a site of national and international significance. This talk explains its importance, explores the role of the 'canary girls' who worked there, and shares some of its dark secrets.
- 1:00pm** **Lunch:** there are a variety of places to eat nearby, including Connie's Café at the museum, or packed lunches can be eaten in the Education Suite.
- 2 - 3:30pm** **Guided walks around Banbury** led by **Steve Kilsby** and **Dr Stephen Wass**, exploring aspects of the history of the town; **OR a tour of the museum** with the Director **Simon Townsend**, and an opportunity to **view archive material** under the guidance of **Verna Wass**.

See over for information about the speakers and guides, and for transport and access advice.



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If possible, please book and pay on-line at <http://www.olha.org.uk/events/study-days>. Otherwise, send this form with a cheque for £18.40 per person made payable to 'OLHA' to: Liz Woolley, 138 Marlborough Road, Oxford OX1 4LS, (01865 242760, membership@olha.org.uk). Thank you.

Name(s)

Local society if applicable

Number of places at £18.40 per person

Do you want place(s) on the afternoon guided tour? ☐ Yes; **OR** on the afternoon museum and archive tour? ☐ Yes
If you would like an acknowledgement by e-mail, please tick this box ☐ and write your e-mail address below:

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OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Verna Wass, in addition to being Chair of Banbury Historical Society, displays a range of other talents from Civil War re-enactor through historical researcher to skilled milliner. She is passionate about engaging people of all ages with their past.

Dr Barrie Trinder, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, is a renowned local historian and author of many books about aspects of the history of Banbury.

Dale Johnston is the Exhibitions Manager at Banbury Museum and leads tours of the site of National Filling Factory No. 9.

Steve Kilsby has lived in Banbury for most of his life. His enthusiasm for local history has gained him a reputation for leading knowledgeable and entertaining guided walks exploring various aspects of the history of the town.

Dr Stephen Wass has a particular interest in historical archaeology and searching out the surviving evidence for Banbury's industrial past.

Simon Townsend has worked in the museum sector for over 30 years in and around the south-east, and is currently Director of Banbury Museum & Gallery.

TRANSPORT

Banbury is well-served by train and bus services. Both bus and train stations are within easy walking distance of the museum. For those travelling by car there are several car parks in the centre of the town.

ACCESS

The museum does not open to the public until 10:00am, so study day attendees should use the entrance on the canal towpath, and come in through Connie's Café, which will be open from 9:30am.

LUNCH

If you would like to eat lunch in Connie's Café at the museum, please place your order at the counter during registration or in the morning refreshment break.