

One of the last acts of Watkin's career was his advocacy, as chairman of the Manchester, Sheffield & Lincoln Railway of the London Extension, the railway from Annesley near Nottingham to Quainton Road north of Aylesbury. By the time the extension opened in 1899 the MSLR had been renamed the Great Central Railway, and Watkin had retired as chairman, although he was present at Marylebone to see the arrival of the first express from Manchester. He died in 1901. The London Extension influenced the eastern fringes of Banburyshire through its stations at Culworth, Helmdon and Finmere, and its branch from Woodford made Banbury an important railway junction for more than six decades. This is a book that of which local historians should be aware.

Barrie Trinder

A classic in paperback

Victorian Banbury by Barrie Trinder was published jointly by this Society and Phillimore in 1982, and was widely welcomed as one of the most scholarly studies of a nineteenth century town. It sold well, and for many years has been absent from the Phillimore list, but the publishers have chosen it as one of the first of a series of paperback reprints of these most popular works to be called 'Phillimore Classics'. The paperback [ISBN 1 86077 369 9] retails at £16.99. Full details from www.phillimore.co.uk

BANBURY: A Century of Change, Brian Little, Breedon Books, 2005, £16.99.

By the time this belated issue of *Cake & Cockhorse* reaches members, Brian's new book will be available at Banbury bookshops and the Tourist Information Centre at Castle Quay Shopping Centre, where it is to be officially launched on Thursday 24th November. We have yet to see it, but we are sure that it will maintain the high standard of his earlier publications.

It is good that we have an historian who has been living and deeply involved with Banbury for much of the past half-century to record from personal knowledge the dramatic changes to our town for at least the second half of the period.

It will of course be reviewed in our next issue.