

## Book Reviews

**BANBURY: A Century of Change**, Brian Little, in association with the *Banbury Guardian* (hardback, A4, 208 pp.), Breedon Books Publishing, 2005. £16.99.

Brian Little as an author of books on various aspects of the history of Banbury has long been a familiar name to those of similar interests. His long-running page in the *Banbury Guardian* must be one of the most eagerly-awaited every week by all but the most sport-obsessed readers, certainly by members of our Society.

As our members know, Brian has been deeply involved with our Society, so it is totally inappropriate for myself to pretend I can write an unbiased review. This will I hope appear in our next issue. Meanwhile, it would still be inappropriate not to comment on this splendid book (and, of course, it means I can be as rude and personal as I like about it!).

First, I was going to say, why was there no reference in the index under 'Stone', the firm my great-grandfather Henry Stone in theory founded (in fact it was his wife who did it all until my grandfather Lewis took over) until I realized it was indexed under 'H' as 'Henry Stone & Son'.

But he does redeem himself with the index entry for 'Banbury Historical Society'. I couldn't have written the text better myself. The second photograph (p.161), showing my beloved Ted Brinkworth talking to Gwen Bustin, is so worthwhile, as we have so few photographs of the man who was the inspiration for our Society. The caption does not reveal that the lady on his right was Gwladys, who was then, or was to become, his wife and eventually chair of our Society.

The earlier photograph (p.160) shows members of our Society at an exhibition we staged as early as 1958. It is good to be reminded of our first president, Lord Saye and Sele (father of our now long-serving President), and of the support given to us by the Mayor of the time, and his Mayoress, when Banbury was still a Borough with all that that implied (I write as a descendant of seventeenth century and nineteenth century mayors of Banbury). Unidentified in the caption are the young man with a moustache, Valentine Bromley, who in our early days was an inspirational archaeological activist, and, behind Lord Saye, our borough librarian, Tom (pick up tha' musket) Muskett. The photograph is sadly marred by a cadaverous chap on the right who is, unfortunately, identified as myself.

So, this is not a review, just a personal quasi-grumble.

J.S.W.G.

**Brailes History: Episodes from a forgotten past: 6**, Alan and Philip Tennant (A5, 52pp). Published by A.J. Tennant, 49 Hawthorn Way, Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire CV3 4FD. Spring 2006. £1.80 (incl. p&p).

'In the name of God, Amen...' (analysis of mid-16th century Brailes wills). 'A Medieval Rebellion: The Turmoil of 1321-22' (says it all, but rare to get medieval local history).