

Cake and Cockhorse

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Barrie Trinder's article on the Bicester Cut-off will please the railway-buffs and contributes to the *minutiae* of local (this time railway) history, the sort I applauded from Robert Caldicott on the Wroxton Guide Post. I now know why an early 1900s holiday postcard from my mother to my grandfather Henry Stone came from Barmouth (see page 106). I wonder how many other pre-1914 Banburians holidayed on the Welsh coast because of the through line.

The libraries of Oxfordshire Studies and the Record Office are being merged at Cowley with little left at the Central Library. It is hard to imagine how this is being managed in the already confined space: we wish the hard-pressed and reduced staff well. At least we hope the Record Office policy of restricting shelfspace to "specifically Oxfordshire" books will disappear.

In Banbury we are very aware of the proximity of other counties and dioceses and their influence. As shown in the article on the house in Horsefair, its owners passed easily from county to county. These boundaries were no "Berlin Wall". Fortunately our own excellent Centre for Banburyshire Studies welcomes publications relating to neighbouring counties as well as Oxfordshire.

"No man is an island", and that too is certainly the case with midland counties.

J.G.

Cover: A house "on the east side of a certain street in Banbury called the horse faire."