

# Banbury Historical Society.

## Junctions at Banbury: a town and its railways since 1850.

The Banbury Historical Society is pleased to announce that the 35<sup>th</sup> volume in its series of records publications, Dr Barrie Trinder's *Junctions at Banbury: a town and its railways since 1850*, will be published in September 2017. The book originated with a 20-minute lecture that Dr Trinder gave to the Historical Society's village meeting at Somerton in the spring of 2014 which aroused such interest that he thought it worthwhile to put into book form an accumulation of data made over many decades.

This is a work both of railway history and of local history. It details the growth of the railway network in the South Midlands and analyses the services, both local and long-distance, offered by the railway companies. It makes extensive use of data from nineteenth-century Banbury newspapers, census enumerators' returns, timetables, maps and archive photographs, and from the published memoirs of retired railwaymen such as John Drayton and Sam Grigg. The 276-page book is thoroughly referenced with a comprehensive bibliography, and includes more than 100 illustrations.

Dr Trinder investigates the navvies who built some of the lines in the Banbury region, and the successive generations of railwaymen and railway women who worked in the town. He describes the impact of railways on Banbury's topography and the opportunities they created for travelling to nearby market towns and to London. The role of the railways in delivering coal and goods for shops and in taking away the products of the town's manufacturers is discussed in some detail.

Banbury's railwaymen drove, fired, signalled or shunted many passing trains which had few direct consequences for local people. They made it possible for West Midlanders to participate in King George V's Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1935 and for supporters of Newcastle United FC to see their team play at Fratton Park in 1952. They enabled the growth of the family seaside holiday from the 1930s, and its particular popularity between 1946 and 1964 when Saturdays in July, August and September involved much stress and strain for all who worked on the railway. Banbury's railwaymen were involved for many decades in distributing food; fish from Grimsby and Hull, bananas from Avonmouth, individual pork and fruit pies and tea from J Lyons & Co at Cadby Hall, Guinness from Park Royal, biscuits from Reading, Channel Islands fruit from Weymouth and broccoli from Cornwall. Railways were the principal means of inland transport in both the world wars of the twentieth century. The book describes the painful contraction of the railway system in the 1960s, its slow revival in subsequent decades, and its remarkable rebirth over the past twenty years. The book provides a compellingly readable narrative which will be of interest not just to railway enthusiasts but to all who have an interest in English history over the past two centuries.

Barrie Trinder is an experienced author of works on industrial and urban history, who has been involved for more than half a century with the history of Banbury where he was born and grew up. Most of his professional career was spent in Shropshire where his publications on the Ironbridge Gorge won widespread recognition. He edited the *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Industrial Archaeology*, the first international review of the discipline, and has been responsible for much of the text on the website of the European Route of Industrial Heritage ([www.erih.net](http://www.erih.net)). His major work *Britain's Industrial Revolution: the Making of a Manufacturing People* was published by Carnegie ([www.carnegiepublishing.com](http://www.carnegiepublishing.com)) in 2013. Details of other works can be seen on [www.trinderhistory.co.uk](http://www.trinderhistory.co.uk)

Banbury Historical Society was founded in the autumn of 1957. It is concerned with the history not only of Banbury but also of 'Banburyshire', the town's hinterland in North Oxfordshire, southern Northamptonshire and Warwickshire. Previous volumes in its 'records' series have contributed substantially to our understanding of local history in this part of England, and have shed light on many national themes, including demography, children's literature, turnpike roads and horology. The Society also published a thrice-yearly magazine, *Cake & Cockhorse*, of which 180 issues have now appeared with more than 500 articles on local historical topics. These are available, together with details of the records series, on the Society's website [www.banburyhistory.org](http://www.banburyhistory.org).

Paid-up members of the Banbury Historical Society will be able to collect their copies of *Junctions at Banbury* at the reception which precedes the first lecture of the 2017-18 winter programme (Professor Stephen Parissien on Compton Verney) which begins at 18.30 at Banbury Museum (entrance from Spiceball Park Road) on Thursday 14 September. Copies will also be available for sale at the reception.

Members of the Historical Society will be able to collect their copies from the shop at Banbury Museum until Saturday 30 September. Members unable to collect copies will receive theirs through the post during October.

*Junctions at Banbury* will be on sale at the Museum Shop from Saturday 30 September, when the author will be available to meet readers and sign copies between 10.30 and 12.30.

*Junctions at Banbury* is jointly published by the Banbury Historical Society and Lamplight Publications, an imprint of Robert Boyd Publications of Witney ([www.boydpubs.co.uk](http://www.boydpubs.co.uk)) to whom trade enquiries should be addressed.

Retail sales will be handled by Amazon.

Enquiries about the book itself should be addressed to the author: [Barrie@trinderhistory.co.uk](mailto:Barrie@trinderhistory.co.uk)

A detailed preview of *Junctions at Banbury* appears in *Cake & Cockhorse*, Vol 20, No 5 (Spring 2017), available from the shop at Banbury Museum.

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