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Front cover: Kingsland Road brickfields near Balls Pond Road © London Metropolitan Archives (City of London)

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Studies in Regional and Local History

Series Editor: Professor Jane Whittle, Exeter

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"University of Hertfordshire Press is to be congratulated on publishing its series of Studies in Regional and Local History" – Dr Gillian Draper



Bricks of Victorian London

A social and economic history

Peter Hounsell

Many of London's Victorian buildings are built of coarse-textured yellow bricks. These are 'London stocks', produced in very large quantities all through the nineteenth century and notable for their ability to withstand the airborne pollutants of the Victorian city. Whether visible or, as is sometimes the case, hidden behind stonework or underground, they form a major part of the fabric of the capital.

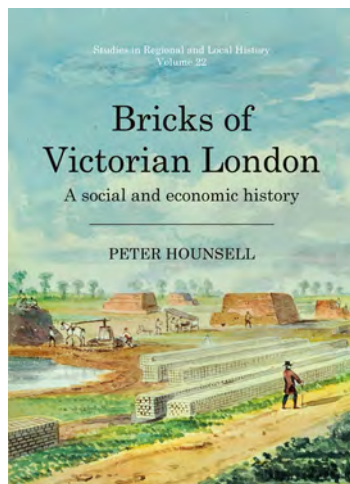
Peter Hounsell has written a detailed history of the industry which supplied these bricks to the London market, offering a fresh perspective on the social and economic history of the city. In it he reveals the workings of a complex network of finance and labour. From landowners who saw an opportunity to profit from the clay on their land, to entrepreneurs who sought to build a business as brick manufacturers, to those who actually made the bricks, the book considers the process in detail, placing it in the context of the supply-and-demand factors that affected the numbers of bricks produced and the costs involved in equipping and running a brickworks.

The companies that made the bricks employed many thousands of men, women and children and their working lives, homes and culture are looked at here, as well as the journey towards better working conditions and wages.

The decline of the handmade yellow stock was eventually brought about by the arrival of the machine-made Fletton brick that competed directly with it on price. Brickmaking in the vicinity of London finally disappeared after the Second World War. Although its demise has left little evidence in the landscape, this industry influenced the development of many parts of London and the home counties, and this book provides a valuable record of it in its heyday.

***"[A] genuinely fascinating read for anyone interested in the social or economic history of the city as well as for architectural, social, and labour historians more generally. And it is a book that will be enjoyed by anyone who wants to understand not only how London was transformed in the nineteenth century, but also the now long-lost people and places that made that change possible."* – The London Journal**

Dr Peter Hounsell is the author of *London's Rubbish: Two centuries of dust, dirt and disease in the metropolis* as well as several books about Ealing. He worked in public library services for nearly forty years and is a Fellow of the Historical Association.



ISBN 978-1-912260-56-0

October 2022, 304pp

Hardback; £35/\$79.95

ISBN 978-1-912260-57-7

April 2023

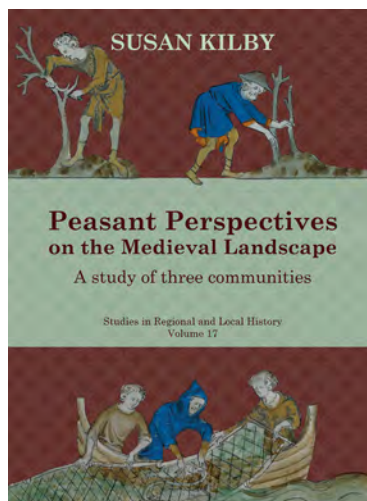
Paperback; £18.99/\$37.95

📖 PDF | ePub | Kindle; Nov 2022

Peasant Perspectives on the Medieval Landscape

A study of three communities

Susan Kilby



ISBN 978-1-912260-20-1

March 2020, 256pp

Hardback; £18.99/\$37.95

ISBN 978-1-912260-21-8

September 2020

Paperback; £18.99/\$37.95

📄 PDF | ePub | Kindle; Apr 2020

This compelling new study forms part of a new wave of scholarship on the medieval rural environment in which the focus moves beyond purely socio-economic concerns to incorporate the lived experience of peasants.

Susan Kilby seeks to reconstruct the physical and socio-cultural environment of three contrasting English villages – Lakenheath in Suffolk, Castor in Northamptonshire and Elton in Huntingdonshire – between c.1086 and c.1348 and to use this as the basis for determining how peasants perceived their natural surroundings.

“Susan Kilby is one of the brightest and the best of the new historians. This book provides an exciting and entirely novel perspective on the medieval countryside.”

– Mark Gardiner, University of Lincoln

“Susan Kilby's first book shines a fresh and original light on medieval peasants, applying insights from maps and place-names. She convinces the reader that with an imaginative and careful application of new evidence we can know something of ordinary people's sense of their surroundings and their meaning.”

– Chris Dyer, University of Leicester

“[A] compelling book on the nature of medieval peasantry and on the means and mechanisms of being-in-the-world they developed regarding the social construction of landscapes. This study will interest a wide range of specialists on medieval and peasant studies and represents an important historiographical landmark.” – *Historia Agraria*

“[E]ssential reading for anyone seeking to understand how medieval peasants viewed and understood the world in which they lived. Kilby's application of an innovative methodology and her reinterpretation of traditional evidence in exciting new ways will, one hopes, encourage future studies of this nature.” – *Journal of British Studies*

Susan Kilby is a Research Fellow in the Institute for Name-Studies at the University of Nottingham and a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for English Local History at the University of Leicester. She is also the Hon. Secretary for the Medieval Settlement Research Group.

Managing for Posterity

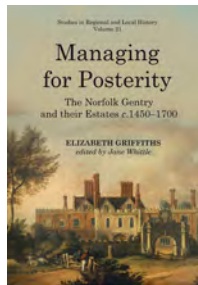
The Norfolk Gentry and their Estates c.1450–1700

Elizabeth Griffiths, edited by Jane Whittle

ISBN 978-1-912260-44-7; Apr 2022; 256pp; Hardback £35/\$37.95

ISBN 978-1-912260-45-4; Sep 2022; 256pp; Paperback £18.99/\$37.95

📄 PDF | ePub | Kindle; Apr 2022



Securing the long-term survival and status of the family has always been the principal concern of the English aristocracy and gentry, chiefly by the successful management of their landed estates. In the sixteenth century, this task became more difficult as inflation reduced the value of rents. Improved management skills were called for.

When Sir Hamon Le Strange inherited his family's ancient estate at Hunstanton in 1604 it was much depleted and heavily encumbered. However, within a generation, he and his remarkable wife Alice had modernised the estate and secured the family's future. The first part of this book presents new research into the secret of their rare success.

The second part of the book republishes four related papers from Elizabeth Griffiths' research about the Le Stranges, Hobarts and Wyndhams. For anyone interested in early modern rural society and agriculture and the history of Norfolk gentry estates, this volume will be essential reading, offering as it does new perspectives on the history of estate management, notably the role of women, the relationship with local communities and sustainability in agriculture.

“A significant contribution to the economic history of East Anglian estates.” – Landscape History

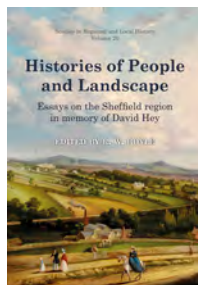
Histories of People and Landscape

Essays on the Sheffield region in memory of David Hey

Edited by Richard W. Hoyle

ISBN 978-1-912260-39-3; Mar 2021; 218pp; Hardback £35/\$37.95

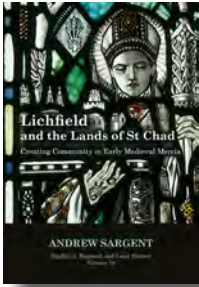
ISBN 978-1-912260-40-9; Sep 2021; 218pp; Paperback £18.99/\$37.95



David Hey (1938–2016) was one of the leading local and regional historians of our age and the author of a number of highly regarded books on the practice of local history.

In this collection of essays in David's memory, friends and colleagues celebrate his commitment to the landscape, economy and society of south Yorkshire. The essays will be of interest to all those concerned with the workings of English local society and economy. Covering a wide range of subjects and periods, they include accounts of the early English steel industry, Sheffield cutlers, Lord William Cavendish's canny use of his stepson's wardship, the lost woodlands of the Peak District, First World War food production in Derbyshire, south Yorkshire deer parks and a brief history of Little Londons.

“This meaty volume succeeds in using the varied territory of his home patch to interrogate wider themes and in doing so to illuminate a broad range of topics. David would have enjoyed it thoroughly.” – Agricultural History Review



Lichfield and the Lands of St Chad Creating Community in Early Medieval Mercia

Andrew Sargent

ISBN 978-1-912260-24-9; Jul 2020; 360pp; Hardback £35/\$37.95

ISBN 978-1-912260-25-6; Feb 2021; 360pp; Paperback £18.99/\$37.95

PDF | ePub | Kindle; Jul 2020

This book focuses on the period from the seventh to eleventh centuries that witnessed the rise and fall of Mercia, the great Midland kingdom. Specifically, it explores the relationship between the bishops of Lichfield and the multiple communities of their diocese.

Andrew Sargent tackles the challenge posed by the evidential ‘hole’ at the heart of Mercia by synthesising different kinds of evidence – archaeological, textual, topographical and toponymical – to reconstruct the landscapes inhabited by these communities. Most were engaged in the construction of hierarchies, and Sargent assigns spiritual lordship a dominant role in this. Saints’ cults offer a particularly effective medium through which to study these developments: St Chad, the Mercian bishop who established the see at Lichfield, became an influential spiritual patron for subsequent bishops of the diocese, but other lesser known saints also focused claims to spiritual authority on behalf of their own communities.

“[A]n impressive survey of the religious landscape of early medieval Lichfield. Scholars of Anglo-Saxon England or local history will find no more complete guide to Lichfield and its environs than the one provided here.” – Church History



Shaping the Past

Theme, Time and Place in Local History Essays in Honour of David Dymond

Edited by Evelyn Lord and Nicholas R. Amor

ISBN 978-1-912260-22-5; Jul 2020; 242pp; Hardback £35/\$79.95

ISBN 978-1-912260-23-2; Jan 2021; 242pp; Paperback £18.99/\$37.95

PDF | ePub | Kindle; May 2020

Dr David Dymond was one of Britain’s most highly respected local historians. The author of several valued books about the practice of local history, notably *Researching and Writing History*, his contribution to the study of local history generally, and in his adopted county of Suffolk in particular, was immensely influential.

The essays in this Festschrift are offered as a token of esteem and affection by colleagues, friends and students of David. They consist of new research on aspects of local history from the medieval period to the twentieth century, with a particular focus on Eastern England. They aptly reflect the breadth and depth of David Dymond’s own scholarship whilst offering a rich choice of material to anyone with an interest in local history.

“This book is a fitting way to commemorate the excellent work of David Dymond in many areas of local history and the inspiration that he has given to so many aspiring local historians over the years.” – The Local Historian

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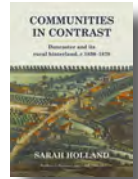
Communities in Contrast

Doncaster and its rural hinterland, c.1830–1870

Sarah Holland

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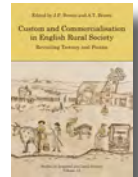


Custom and Commercialisation in English Rural Society Revisiting Tawney and Postan

Edited by James P. Bowen and A.T. Brown

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ISBN 978-1-909291-45-4; Jun 2016; Paperback, £18.99/\$37.95

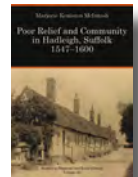


Poor Relief and Community in Hadleigh, Suffolk, 1547–1600

Marjorie Keniston McIntosh

ISBN 978-1-907396-91-5; Apr 2013; Hardback, £35/\$79.95

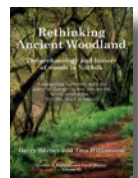
ISBN 978-1-907396-92-2; Sep 2013; Paperback, £18.99/\$37.95



Rethinking Ancient Woodland

The archaeology and history of woods in Norfolk

Tom Williamson and Gerry Barnes



The World of the Small Farmer

Tenure, profit and politics in the early-modern Somerset Levels

Patricia Croot

ISBN 978-1-909291-86-7; May 2017; Hardback, £35/\$79.95

ISBN 978-1-909291-87-4; Nov 2017; Paperback, £18.99/\$37.95



Explorations in Local and Regional History

Series Editors: Dr Katrina Navickas, Hertfordshire and Dr Angela Muir, Leicester
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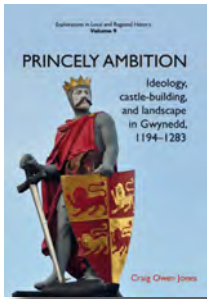
Princely Ambition

Ideology, castle-building and landscape in Gwynedd, 1194–1283

Craig Owen Jones

ISBN 978-1-912260-27-0; Feb 2022; Paperback £16.99/\$33.95

PDF | ePub | Kindle; Mar 2022



While the Edwardian castles of Conwy, Beaumaris, Harlech and Caernarfon are rightly hailed as outstanding examples of castle architecture, the castles of the native Welsh princes are far more enigmatic. Where some dominate their surroundings as completely as any castle of Edward I, others are concealed in the depths of forests, or tucked away in the corners of valleys, their relationship with the landscape of which they are a part far more difficult to discern than their English counterparts.

Analysing the settings and defensive dispositions of almost a dozen native Welsh castles, Craig Owen Jones interrogates the long-held theory that the native princes' approach to castle-building in medieval Wales was characterised by ignorance of basic architectural principles, or disregard for the castle's relationship to the landscape, in order to arrive at a new understanding of the castles' significance.

“Dr Craig Owen Jones’s book is... a major advance, and extremely welcome. Anyone interested in native Welsh castles would benefit from reading it. The book has many strengths. It goes a long way towards integrating historical, architectural, and archaeological knowledge and also employs a relatively new line of analysis, with diagrams illustrating the field of view around a castle.” – Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies

“This is a book that needs to be read and then read again to mine all the information that the author presents. Princely Ambition should be on the shelf of everyone with an interest in medieval Wales, as well as castellologists. The author is to be congratulated on his book, and the publisher has produced a fine volume, up to the high standard of the other volumes in this series.” – The Castle Studies Group Journal

Craig Owen Jones is an Honorary Research Associate at Bangor University, Wales, and currently works as a lecturer at San Jose State University, California.

Saving the People's Forest

Open spaces, enclosure and popular protest in mid-Victorian London

Mark Gorman

The growth of nineteenth-century London was unprecedented, swallowing up once remote villages, commons and open fields around the metropolitan fringe in largely uncontrolled housing development. In the mid-Victorian period widespread opposition to this unbridled growth coalesced into a movement that campaigned to preserve the London commons. The history of this campaign is usually presented as having been fought by members of the metropolitan upper middle class, who played out their battles mainly in parliament and the law courts.

Mark Gorman tells a different story – of the key role played by popular protest in the campaigns to preserve Epping Forest and other open spaces in and near London. Throughout the nineteenth century such places were venues for both radical politics and popular leisure, helping to create a sense of public right of access, even 'ownership'.

***"The recent pandemic has brought a renewed appreciation of the value and importance of open green space to public health and well-being. In this light we would do well to remind ourselves of the sometimes complex and even brutal campaigns of the past that ensured those spaces remain available to us today. We should also note that they often only succeeded because diverse communities pulled together towards a common purpose. Gorman's book provides a meticulously researched and readable example of such a campaign."* – The London Journal**

***"Mark Gorman's book on the campaign to save Epping Forest fills in all sorts of historical gaps and ought to be essential reading for anyone trying to build a cross-class and multicultural environmental movement in this time of climate crisis."* – Luke Turner (writer, editor and curator)**

***"Without the campaigns to preserve urban open spaces in the nineteenth century, London's landscape, and that of many other British cities for that matter, would look very different. Saving the People's Forest tells the story of just one these local campaigns, but highlights how these campaigns link to broader themes of rights, land, urban growth, and political reform."* – Landscape History**

Mark Gorman was born and brought up in north London. He studied history at Cambridge University and in 2018 he received a PhD from London University.

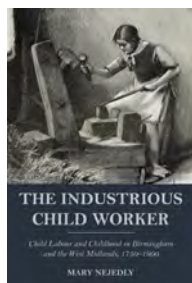


ISBN 978-1-912260-41-6

May 2021

Paperback; £16.99/\$33.95

This series aims to publish scholarly, attractive, well-illustrated and accessible studies on the history of the English West Midlands, a region which broadly encompasses the historic counties of Derbyshire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. The history of the area cannot only be understood within the confines of county boundaries, so placing local and regional studies, where relevant, within the histories of other regions, Great Britain and the wider world is also important.



The Industrious Child Worker

Mary Nejedly

ISBN 978-1-912260-43-0; Sep 2021; 224pp; Paperback £16.99/\$33.95

This book investigates the extent and nature of child labour in Birmingham and the West Midlands, from the mid-eighteenth century to the end of the nineteenth century. It considers the economic contributions of child workers under the age of 14 and the impact of early work on their health and education. In Mary Nejedly's detailed analysis the importance of children's earnings to the family economy becomes clear, as well as the role played by child workers in industrialisation itself.

“Cultural historians endeavour to understand experience, and Nejedly brings some shockingly unpleasant experiences to life” – Family and Community History



The Birmingham Parish Workhouse, 1730–1840

Chris Upton

ISBN 978-1-912260-14-0; May 2019; 272pp; Paperback £16.99/\$33.95

This book is the first history of Birmingham's workhouse and the ancillary welfare provision for the city, frequently referred to as the 'Old Poor Law'. The records of the Overseers and the Poor Law Guardians reveal a complex balancing act between maintaining standards of care and controlling spending. Although there was mismanagement, the picture which emerges will be familiar to our age when welfare services struggle to meet public needs with limited budgets.

“The depth of research is exemplary... Chris will be fondly remembered as the local historian who worked hard to make local history accessible and relevant to everyone” – Library of Birmingham



Gardens and Green Spaces in the West Midlands since 1700

Edited by Malcolm Dick and Elaine Mitchell

ISBN 978-1-909291-55-3; May 2018; 240pp; Paperback £16.99/\$33.95

“Serves as a welcome introduction to the history and development of both private and public gardens and landscapes within the West Midlands” – Landscape History

Moseley 1850–1900

Space, place and people in a middle-class Birmingham suburb

Janet Berry

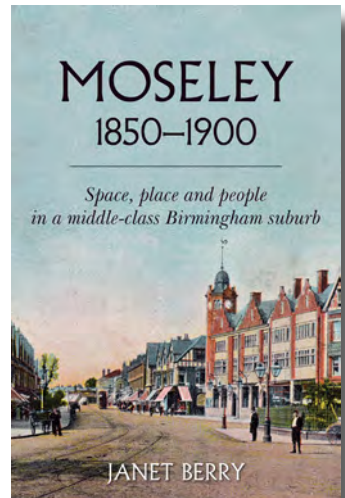
During the second half of the nineteenth century, Moseley, a small hamlet just south of Birmingham, developed into a flourishing middle-class suburb. Drawing on a wealth of primary sources, Janet Berry's ambitious research asks why and how this particular suburb grew and who was instrumental in its development. What influenced the types of houses that were built and the styles of their gardens? How did residents experience life in the new suburb? How did they create a community?

In analysing an extraordinary quantity of records, Dr Berry builds a notably nuanced portrait of a place and its people that goes beyond stereotypical images of the Victorians. The suburb was a physical, social, cultural, and psychological space where people conveyed messages about their identity; relationships, lived experiences, and responses to change are all revealed.

The economics of buying or renting accommodation in Moseley are addressed, showing what was involved in setting up a single-family home, the key marker of belonging to the middle class. Aspects of this, such as how the interiors of homes were demarcated, decorated and furnished, have not previously been considered in the context of suburban studies to any extent. Additionally, this book has a particular focus on the suburban middle-class woman, her achievements and opportunities, roles and responsibilities, both inside and outside the home.

By the first decades of the twentieth century Moseley had become part of the metropolis of Birmingham. This engaging account of the process from village to fully integrated suburb will be of particular interest to urban historians.

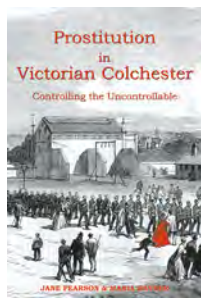
Janet Berry has a doctorate from the University of Birmingham for which her thesis was a study of Moseley's development as a suburb. She has published a number of scholarly journal articles and is active in the Moseley Society. She lives in Moseley.



Autumn/winter 2023

Paperback; £16.99/\$33.95

This series aims to publish important scholarly studies on the historic county of Essex in attractive and well-illustrated volumes. The history of Essex is both long and intricately patterned, and the series will reflect that complexity by addressing both a chronologically long timespan, from the prehistoric to the twentieth century, and a wide variety of themes, social, economic, cultural, environmental, architectural and military.



Prostitution in Victorian Colchester

Controlling the uncontrollable

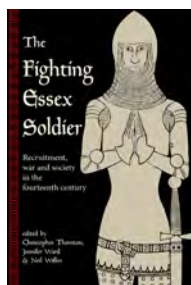
Jane Pearson and Maria Rayner

ISBN 978-1-909291-97-3; Mar 2018; 224pp; Paperback £18.99/\$37.95 €

The decision to build a new army camp in the small market town of Colchester in 1856 was well received and helped to stimulate the local economy after a prolonged period of economic stagnation. Before long the Colchester garrison was one of the largest in the country and the town experienced an economic upturn as well as benefiting from the many social events organised by officers. But there was a downside:

some of the soldiers' behaviour was highly disruptive and, since very few private soldiers were allowed to marry, prostitution flourished. As a result the number of cases of venereal disease soared. As well as providing a vivid portrait of nineteenth-century Colchester, this book will appeal to all those interested in the history of women's work, policing and society more widely.

“This is a highly original local study... Pearson and Rayner are to be commended for opening up the uncharted territory of gender relations in Victorian Colchester” – Urban History



The Fighting Essex Soldier

Recruitment, war and society in the fourteenth century

Edited by Christopher Thornton, Jennifer Ward and Neil Wiffen

ISBN 978-1-909291-88-1; May 2017; 192pp; Paperback £18.99/\$37.95 €

From the raising of forces to serve the king, through a study of aristocratic lawlessness which may have been linked to violent experiences on the battlefield, to new ways of analysing data to give insights into men recruited as archers and mariners, and a consideration of military aspects of the Peasants' Revolt, this is a rewarding examination of medieval fighting men which affords much new insight into Essex history.

“The book overall is a model of a local study set within a national context and should serve as an example for others” – The English Historical Review

Dr Thomas Plume, 1630–1704

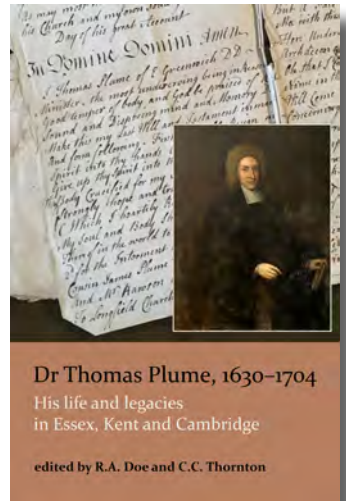
His life and legacies in Essex, Kent and Cambridge

Edited by R.A. Doe and C.C. Thornton

Dr Thomas Plume, born in Maldon in Essex in 1630, is remembered today for the many bequests he left which established important scientific, religious and cultural charities. Still operational today are the Plumian Professorship of Astronomy at Cambridge University, the Plume Library at Maldon and the Plume Trust for poor clergy in the Diocese of Rochester.

This volume provides the first comprehensive account of the life, work and philanthropy of Plume. Educated at Chelmsford Grammar School and Christ's College, Cambridge, Plume was vicar of Greenwich from 1658 and archdeacon of Rochester from 1679, holding both posts until his death in 1704. He died a wealthy man and his will contained 79 bequests.

Plume's famous library at Maldon is still one of the largest private libraries of the period, and an important resource for understanding the Enlightenment, whilst the manuscript collection reveals Plume's intellectual roots in the religious, philosophical and political debates of the mid-seventeenth century.



ISBN 978-1-912260-16-4
December 2020
Paperback; £16.99/\$33.95

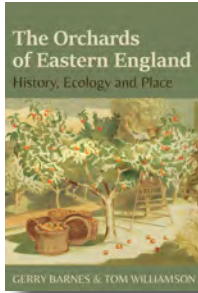
“The contributors are foremost experts in their field and have covered all matters Plumian. It is an outstanding collection and literally covers the good doctor’s life from cradle to grave, as well as all the things that have come down to us today” – Stephen Nunn, Maldon and Burnham Standard

“[A] model for a conscientious, collaborative bibliographical work. Though it might focus on the life, character, and legacy of one particularly charitable and educated seventeenth-century book enthusiast, this collection also offers deep historical and cultural context for the development of knowledge and education during a time of political, religious, and social turmoil” – The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America

“The editors are to be congratulated on successfully bringing together a range of disparate authors, subjects and historiographical approaches into a single coherent volume” – The Local Historian

Dr Christopher Thornton is the County Editor of the Victoria County History of Essex, and an Associate Fellow of the Institute of Historical Research, University of London.

Tony Doe is a Trustee of the Plume Library with a particular interest in the churchmanship of Thomas Plume.



The Orchards of Eastern England History, ecology and place

Gerry Barnes and Tom Williamson

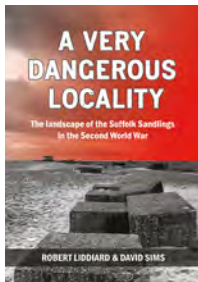
ISBN 978-1-912260-42-3; Jul 2021; 270pp; Paperback £16.99

This book presents results from a three-year project, 'Orchards East', investigating the history and ecology of orchards in the east of England.

Drawing on far-reaching archival research, an extensive survey of surviving orchards and biodiversity surveys, the authors tell the fascinating story of orchards in the east since the late Middle Ages.

Orchards were ubiquitous features of the medieval and early modern landscape. Planted for the most part for practical reasons, they were also appreciated for their aesthetic qualities. For well over a century now, orchards have been romanticised as nostalgic elements of a timeless yet disappearing rural world. Even before that, they were embedded in myths of lost Edens, or golden ages of effortless plenty. A key aim of this book is to challenge some of these myths by grounding orchards within a wider range of historical and environmental contexts. What do our attitudes to this aspect of our heritage tell us about our wider engagement with the past, with nature, and with place?

***"This book is a significant and important contribution to the landscape history of Eastern England."* – Landscape History**



A Very Dangerous Locality The landscape of the Suffolk Sandlings in the Second World War

Robert Liddiard and David Sims

ISBN 978-1-912260-08-9; Nov 2018; Paperback £20

This book examines the landscape archaeology of the Second World War on the section of the east coast of England known as the Suffolk Sandlings (the coastal strip from Lowestoft to Felixstowe), an area unusually rich in military archaeology. It was in the front line of Britain's defences against invasion throughout the war and as a training ground it was the setting for nationally important exercises in the lead-up to the D-Day landings.

Richly illustrated with plans, maps and wartime photographs – many published for the first time – the book presents a vivid picture of a landscape in a crucial period in its history and will be of great interest to military historians, landscape archaeologists and all those with an interest in the area.

Richly illustrated with plans, maps and wartime photographs – many published for the first time – the book presents a vivid picture of a landscape in a crucial period in its history and will be of great interest to military historians, landscape archaeologists and all those with an interest in the area.

"Dangerous Locality offers a sophisticated yet accessible analysis – better than anything else I've read – of the frantic scramble as Britain faced invasion in 1940–41" – British Archaeology

Sevenoaks 1790–1914

Risk and choice in West Kent

Iain Taylor and David Killingray

This book offers a fresh perspective on British history in the long nineteenth century through the lens of a study of Sevenoaks and the surrounding area of West Kent. It considers, in particular, how the risks faced by the people of this region, and the choices they made to try to mitigate them, shaped their lives and relationships.

During a period of often dramatic change, the economic, social, political, religious and cultural interests of individuals were subject to different risk factors; the responses they made (and the reasons for those choices) provide valuable insights and enable the writing of highly nuanced local history.

The authors pinpoint the fundamental risk factors affecting the lives of West Kent's inhabitants (especially the poor): the struggle to obtain the four bare necessities of shelter, food, fuel and clothing, without which their survival was threatened.

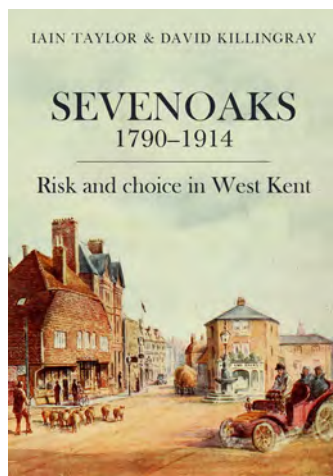
Other risks abounded too, from abysmal sanitary conditions and the dangers of giving birth, to industrial injuries and being a victim of crime. Secure work and strong family networks were essential to limiting risks – often forming part of the 'makeshift economy' – as well as charity, education, health insurance and access to medical care. For many, not all these options were available – or not until much later in the period.

Choice was central to religious and political struggles. The examination of beliefs and values reveals the immense impact such issues had across West Kent society, and how and why it divided as a direct result. Finally, the authors consider the advent of motor vehicles, which combined both risk and choice in exciting but potentially dangerous ways.

This innovative approach provides a fruitful new way of writing history and offers a model for future local history studies.

Iain Taylor has a PhD from the University of London and is a Trustee of the British Association for Local History (BALH).

David Killingray is Emeritus Professor of Modern History at Goldsmiths, and Senior Research Fellow at the School of Advanced Study, University of London.



ISBN 978-1-912260-61-4
 December 2022
 Paperback; £16.99/\$33.95

Hertfordshire Publications

At University of Hertfordshire Press we are proud of our relationship with historians, societies and communities within our own county's borders. We have a partnership with the Hertfordshire Association for Local History to produce monographs and essay collections with a focus on Hertfordshire. This long-running series is called Hertfordshire Publications and it continues to produce attractive books, crafted out of high-quality research into the county, its landscape, archaeology, community and culture, but which also resonate and connect with research across the UK.

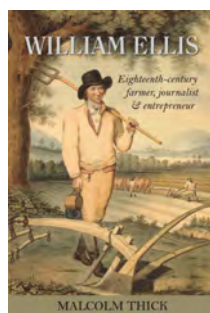
William Ellis

Eighteenth-century farmer, journalist and entrepreneur

Malcolm Thick

ISBN 978-1-912260-49-2; Jun 2022; Paperback £16.99/\$33.95

PDF | ePub | Kindle; Jul 2022



William Ellis, who lived and farmed at Little Gaddesden in Hertfordshire in the first half of the eighteenth century (d. 1759), is an important figure in English agricultural history. In his time the most prolific writer on agriculture in England, his many works were read not only at home but also in the American colonies and continental Europe.

Ellis's style was discursive, particularly so in *The Country Housewife's Family Companion* (1750). As well as providing a compendium of household management, cookery and medicine, Ellis delighted in relaying gossip. He included the activities of farmers, wives and maids, labourers, travellers and beggars, as well as the gentry and aristocracy, rich pickings for social historians.

The book provides a fascinating picture of rural life in the period and sheds light on the evolution of English farming. This is the first book about Ellis for over sixty years and the first to consider him fully in the round – as a farmer, an active member of his community, an innovative salesman and a wonderfully curious mind.

“This is a grand book and [UH Press] is to be congratulated on putting it out and for not charging the usual academic arm and a leg” – Petits Propos Culinaires

“Malcolm Thick’s summaries are a very useful starting point for anyone wishing to delve into Ellis’s writings” – Historia Agraria

“[A] fascinating volume...” – Oxfordshire Family Historian

Malcolm Thick is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and a winner of the Sophie Coe prize for food history writing. He has published books and papers on early modern gardening, food and agriculture, including a critically acclaimed biography of the early scientist Sir Hugh Plat and a history of market gardening around London.

St Albans

A history

Mark Freeman

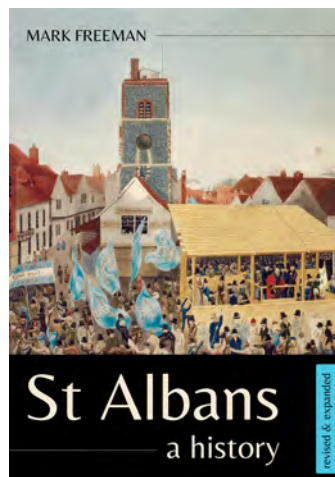
Mark Freeman's classic history of St Albans, first published in 2008, has been substantially rewritten by the author and brought fully up to date, making it an invaluable guide to more than two thousand years of St Albans's history.

From the late Iron Age, when the new *oppidum* of Verlamion emerged at the site of modern St Albans, to plans to develop the city's unique 'brand' in the 2010s, this is a scholarly yet highly readable account of St Albans from pre-Roman times to the present day.

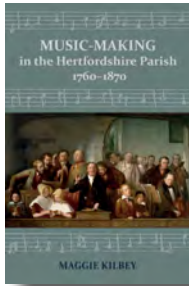
The Roman settlement of Verulamium grew out of Verlamion soon after the Roman invasion; in 60 CE it was attacked during Boudica's great uprising against Roman rule, along with Colchester and London. Becoming one of the most important towns in Roman Britain and the site of Britain's first Christian martyrdom, Verulamium later took the martyr's name as its own, the abbey dedicated to the saint among the most significant religious houses of medieval England. For many in St Albans, the long period of conflict between the abbey and the civic authorities would have cast a shadow over their lives, but the history of St Albans is also the story of political upheavals that beset all England through the centuries, as experienced by the citizens of a rapidly evolving town.

The emergence of urban self-government in early modern St Albans provides a case study of a process that happened throughout the country. The same is true for the account of St Albans's suburbanisation and the emergence of a commuter population fostered by the railways in the nineteenth century, the growth and decline of the local manufacturing economy, and its participation in the growth of mass education, consumerism and democratic politics. At every point in St Albans's history, two key themes play out: the proximity of London, and an awareness of the significance of its own history. The past is a powerful resource, helping a community to understand the events that have made it what it is. That process is exemplified in this masterful volume.

Mark Freeman is Professor of Social History and Education at University College London. He was born in St Albans and lives in the city. He has written several books on modern British history, including *Social Investigation and Rural England 1870-1914* (2003) and *The Pageants of St Albans: An Illustrated History* (2020).



December 2023
Paperback; Price TBC



Music-making in the Hertfordshire Parish, 1760–1870

Maggie Kilbey

ISBN 978-1-912260-26-3; Oct 2020; 304pp; Paperback £16.99

The standard of congregational singing in mid-eighteenth-century parish churches was often in a parlous state, a situation viewed with alarm by many influential clergy and social commentators. Maggie Kilbey explores attempts to improve parochial music-making over the following century and the factors that played a part in their success or failure.

Using Hertfordshire as a basis, original research by this respected author and historian uses a wide range of documentary evidence to reveal a complicated picture of influence and interaction between the gentry, clergymen and their parishioners.

“Though focussing on one small geographical area, it is no mere case study, for its comprehensive approach means that the author can draw conclusions that are valid for England as a whole. It should be a standard text on later 18th and earlier 19th century music making for many years to come” – Organists' Review

“Through her accessible and engaging written style and the rigor and depth of research presented, readers will gain a vivid picture of Hertfordshire's musical and social history during more than a century. Fostered by Kilbey's zest and enthusiasm, they may also be encouraged to investigate music-making in their own parishes” – Journal of the American Musical Instrument Society



Letchworth Settlement, 1920–2020 A century of creative learning

Kate Thompson

ISBN 978-1-912260-29-4; Oct 2020; Paperback £9.99

Letchworth Settlement, an independent adult education centre, is one of the treasures of the world's first garden city. Starting life as Letchworth Adult Education Settlement, it soon became part of the wider Educational Settlement Association, following the example of Toynbee Hall in London, and is now one of few such institutions still up and running.

In this lively history, former Hertfordshire County Archivist Kate Thompson looks at the wider context in which the organisation flourished, as well as notable members of staff and key events in its century of sharing knowledge.

“This book is a fascinating read for anyone interested in the history of lifelong learning, often just seen as a modern phenomenon. It shows the value of keeping archives and the minutiae which can be found in them. It also illustrates what can be achieved when individuals share their knowledge. Finally, it is a credit to the Settlement that so many people (over 100) have supported the publication of this centenary volume, and a testament to its relevance. May it be an inspiration to others to document their own organizations' past and ensure that it is preserved for the future.” – Archives and Records Journal

Industrial Letchworth

The first garden city, 1903–1920

Letchworth Local History Research Group

ISBN 978-1-912260-28-7; Mar 2021; 144pp; Paperback £14.99/\$29.95

In spite of being named the first ‘Garden City’, Letchworth was conceived as a model industrial town built on enterprise. Never intended to be merely a pleasant place to live, it needed to be large enough to encourage the mass movement of manufacturers and their employees from overcrowded cities and to function as a self-supporting new town.

In this richly illustrated account, Letchworth Local History Research Group look in detail at the town’s foundation in the early 1900s and the energetic organisation and administration that enabled it to get off the ground quickly and successfully. The collaborative efforts of First Garden City Ltd (FGC), the development company for the new town, are a key focus. Naturally there were challenges but strong leadership saw the fledgling town through some tough periods, including the first world war.

The second part of the book comprises a detailed gazetteer of the industries that established themselves in Letchworth in its early years, with rare archive photographs showing both premises and workers. From printing and publishing, to motor manufacture, foundries, clothing and pioneering cinematic companies, the story of Letchworth’s early industry is lively and unique.

“This is a very well-produced and attractive book written by five members of the Letchworth Local History Research Group, with contributions from another six, and edited by Janet Capstick and Philippa Parker, who should all be congratulated on an excellent production” – Industrial Archaeology Review

Passing Through: The Grand Junction Canal in West Hertfordshire, 1791–1841

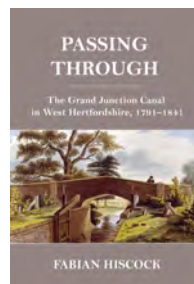
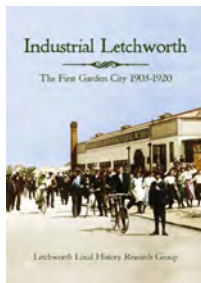
Fabian Hiscock

ISBN 978-1-912260-15-7; Sep 2019; 256pp; Paperback £16.99/\$33.95

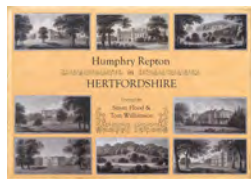
Fabian Hiscock considers the dramatic technological and economic changes of the last decade of the eighteenth century as it played out in western Hertfordshire, focusing in particular on just one of the many innovations of the time: the Grand Junction Canal, created to connect the Midlands with London.

RCHS 2020 Canal and Waterways Book of the Year

“A pioneering study, it has a relevance to rural areas well beyond Hertfordshire as it deepens the understanding of rural transport needs and problems in the first half of the nineteenth century, and prompts the reader to make comparisons with his or her own area” – The Local Historian



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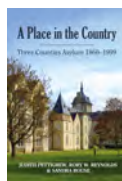
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