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# New Titles 2021

with selected backlist





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**with selected backlist**

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*Front cover: Fruit Gardens and Orchard, John Nash (1930). Poster for H.M.S.O. Empire Marketing Board.*

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# Contents

Local and Regional History	<b>4</b>
Studies in Regional and Local History	<b>4</b>
Explorations in Local and Regional History	<b>10</b>
West Midlands Publications	<b>12</b>
Essex Publications	<b>14</b>
History	<b>16</b>
Hertfordshire Publications	<b>18</b>
Information for prospective authors	<b>21</b>

# 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***





# Histories of People and Landscape

## Essays on the Sheffield region in memory of David Hey

Edited by R.W. Hoyle

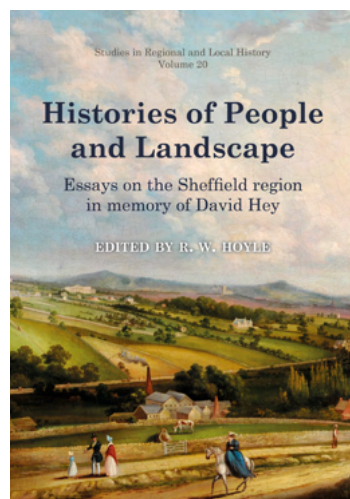
David Hey (1938–2016) was one of the leading local and regional historians of our age and the author of a number of highly regarded books on the practice of local history. His work on surnames was pioneering and he was amongst the first to identify the potential of DNA in historical studies.

In this collection of essays in David's memory, friends and colleagues celebrate his commitment to the landscape, economy and society of south Yorkshire – especially Sheffield – and Derbyshire, which together make up 'Hey country', the area in which he grew up and to which he returned to work.

This lively volume will be of interest to anyone who shares David Hey's curiosity for the people, economies and landscapes of the part of England he made his focus. At the same time the essays will prove to 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. Fresh research into family and placename history contributes fascinating detail to the mix.

The contributors are some of the key researchers in academic local history: Melvyn Jones, Richard Hoyle, Peter Edwards, Dorian Gerhold, Ian D. Rotherham, John Beckett, Alan Crosby, Nicola Verdon, John Broad and George Redmonds. A tribute to David Hey by Charles Phythian-Adams opens the volume.

**Richard Hoyle** is Visiting Professor of Economic History at Reading, having previously been Professor of History at the University of Central Lancashire (1998–2000), Professor of Rural History at the University of Reading (2000–2014), and Professor of Local and Regional History at the University of London (2014–16). He served as editor of the *Agricultural History Review* for twenty-one years, to 2019.



ISBN 978-1-912260-39-3

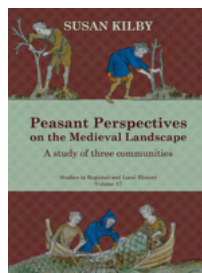
March 2021, 218pp

Hardback; £35/\$79.95

ISBN 978-1-912260-40-9

September 2021

Paperback; £18.99/\$37.95



## Peasant Perspectives on the Medieval Landscape

### A study of three communities

Susan Kilby

ISBN 978-1-912260-20-1; Mar 2020; 256pp; Hardback £35/\$79.95

ISBN 978-1-912260-21-8; Sep 2020; 256pp; Paperback £18.99/\$37.95

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***



## 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

Dr David Dymond is 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, has been 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.” Hillary Walker, The Local Historian***



# Managing for Posterity

## The Norfolk Gentry and their Estates c.1450–1700

Elizabeth Griffiths

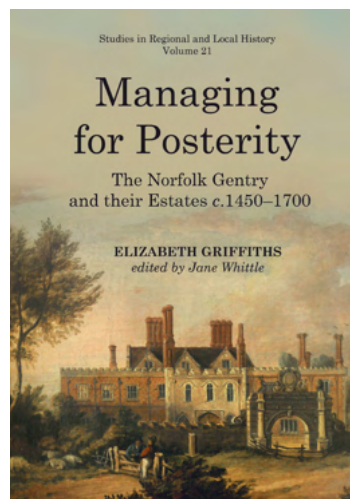
Edited by Jane Whittle

Securing the long-term survival and status of the family has always been the principal concern of the English aristocracy and gentry. Central to that ambition has been the successful management of their landed estates, whilst failure in this regard could spell ruination for an entire family. In the sixteenth century, the task became more difficult as price 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. A key aspect of their strategy was a belief in the power (and economic value) of knowledge: Hamon and Alice wanted to ensure that their improvements would endure for posterity. To this end, they curated their knowledge through meticulous record-keeping and carefully handed it down to their successors. This behaviour, instilled in the family, not only facilitated on-going reforms, but helped future generations overcome the inevitable reversals and challenges they also faced.

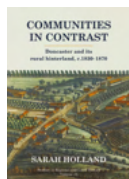
The second part of the book collects together four related papers from Elizabeth Griffiths' research about the Le Stranges, Hobarts and Wyndhams, republished from the *Agricultural History Review* and edited from two Norfolk Record Society volumes. For anyone interested in early modern rural society 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.

**Elizabeth Griffiths** was an honorary research fellow at University of Exeter and co-author, with Jane Whittle, of *Consumption and Gender in the Early Seventeenth Century Household: The World of Alice Le Strange* (OUP, 2012). She passed away in April 2020 while this volume was in preparation. It has been compiled and edited by her friend and research collaborator, **Jane Whittle**, Professor of Economic and Social History at the University of Exeter and Series Editor of *Studies in Regional and Local History*.



Autumn/winter 2021  
 Hardback; £35/\$79.95  
 Spring 2022  
 Paperback; £18.99/\$37.95

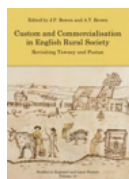
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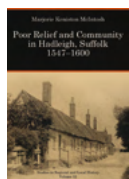


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### **Rethinking Ancient Woodland** **The archaeology and history of woods in Norfolk** Tom Williamson and Gerry Barnes



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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



# Lichfield and the Lands of St Chad

## Creating community in early medieval Mercia

Andrew Sargent

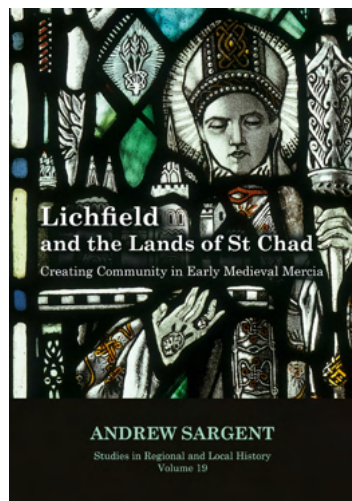
This book focuses on the period from the seventh to eleventh centuries that witnessed the rise and fall of Mercia, the great Midland kingdom, and, later, the formation of England. Specifically, it explores the relationship between the bishops of Lichfield and the multiple communities of their diocese.

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, which intersected at cathedrals and minsters and other less formal meeting-places. Most such communities were engaged in the construction of hierarchies, and Sargent assigns spiritual lordship a dominant role in this.

How the bishops shaped and promoted spiritual discourse to establish their own authority within society is key. This is traced through the meagre textual sources, which hint at the bishops’ involvement in the wider flow of ecclesiastical politics in Britain, and through the archaeological and landscape evidence for churches and minsters held not only by bishops, but also by kings and aristocrats within the diocese. 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.

Ultimately, Sargent takes issue with the dominance of the ‘minster narrative’ in much recent scholarship, proposing that episcopal communities be recognised as far more proactive than is often credited, and that the notion of spiritual lordship offers a more effective way of framing the developments of the period, both ecclesiastical and lay.

**Andrew Sargent** lectures in Medieval History at Keele University and is Editor of the Staffordshire Victoria County History.



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Jul 2020

Hardback; £35/\$79.95

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Feb 2021

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PDF | ePub | Kindle; May 2020

# Explorations in Local and Regional History

Series Editors: Dr Katrina Navickas, Hertfordshire and Dr Angela Muir, Leicester  
Explorations in Local and Regional History is a continuation and development of the 'Occasional Papers' of the University of Leicester's Department of English Local History, a series started by Herbert Finberg in 1952.

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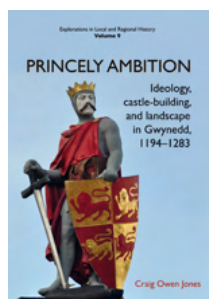
## NEW TITLE

### Princely Ambition

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

Craig Owen Jones

ISBN 978-1-912260-27-0; Autumn/winter 2021; Paperback £16.99/\$33.95



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.

Employing a probing analysis of the topographical settings and defensive dispositions of almost a dozen native Welsh masonry 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, disregard for the castle's relationship to the landscape, and whimsy, in order to arrive at a new understanding of the castles' significance in Welsh society.

*Princely Ambition* also advances a timeline that synthesises various strands of evidence to arrive at a chronology of native Welsh castle-building. This exciting new account fills a crucial gap in scholarship on Wales' built heritage prior to the Edwardian conquest and establishes a nuanced understanding of important military sites in the context of native Welsh politics.

**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

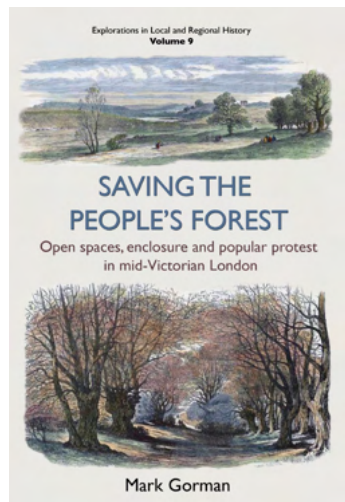
Mark Gorman

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 appointed themselves as spokespeople for all Londoners and played out their battles mainly in parliament and the law courts.

In this fascinating book 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. He shows how 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'. At the same time, London's suburban growth was partly a response to the rising aspirations of an artisan and lower middle class who increasingly wanted direct access to open space. This not only created the conditions for the mid-Victorian commons preservation movement, but also gave impetus to distinctive popular protest by proletarian Londoners.

In comparing the campaign for Epping Forest with other struggles for London's commons, the book highlights influences which ranged from the role of charismatic leaders to widely held beliefs regarding the land, in which the rights of freeborn Englishmen had been plundered by the aristocracy since the Norman conquest.

**Mark Gorman** was born and brought up in north London. He studied history at Cambridge University and spent several years in Africa as a teacher and as a programme coordinator for VSO. In 2018 he received a PhD from London University for his study of popular protest and open space in Victorian London. He speaks and writes regularly on local history, and in recent years has been involved in the organisation of the annual Newham Heritage Month.



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 West Midlands has a rich and varied past from prehistoric and medieval times to the twenty-first century. We are keen to encourage publications which explore, for example, aspects of rural and urban history, agriculture and industry, intellectual and cultural themes and the study of women, children, ethnic communities, politics, social classes, landscapes and buildings.

Books in the series will include individual monographs, collected essays and conference proceedings. They will be written by specialist researchers who are experts in their field. The publications will focus on aspects of regional history which are not only of interest to local people, but also engage with debates, subjects and themes which are relevant to the wider community of historians within and outside universities and heritage organisations.



## 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, most famously in 1818 when George Edmonds exposed embezzlement by

workhouse officials, 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***



# The Industrious Child Worker

## Child labour and childhood in Birmingham and the West Midlands, 1750–1900

Mary Nejedly

Studies of child labour have examined the experiences of child workers in agriculture, mining and textile mills, yet surprisingly little research has focused on child labour in manufacturing towns.

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.

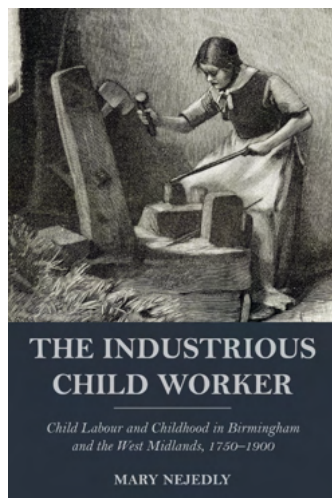
Child labour in the region was not a short-lived stage of the early Industrial Revolution but an integral part of industry throughout the nineteenth century. Parents regarded their children as potentially valuable contributors to the family economy, encouraging families to migrate from rural areas so that their children could work from an early age in the manufacture of pins, nails, buttons, glass, locks and guns as well as tin-plating, carpet-weaving, brass-casting and other industries.

The demand for young workers in Birmingham was greater than that for adults; 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.

In view of the economic benefit of children's labour to families as well as employers, both children's education and health could and did suffer. Attitudes towards childhood changed over the course of the period, however, with a greater emphasis being placed on the role of education for all children as a means of reducing pauperism and dependence on the poor rate. Concerns about health also gradually emerged, together with laws to limit work for children both by age and hours worked.

Mary Nejedly's clear-eyed research sheds fresh light on the life of working children and increases our knowledge of an important aspect of social and economic history.

**Mary Nejedly** is a research associate (honorary) at the Centre for West Midlands History at the University of Birmingham and also has a PhD from the University of Birmingham.

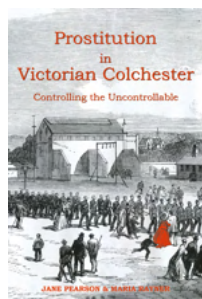


ISBN 978-1-912260-26-3

September 2021

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**

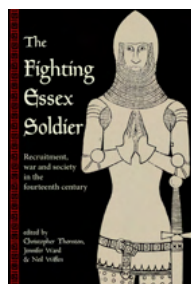
Jane Pearson and Maria Rayner

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. At Greenwich he was noted favourably for his preaching by Samuel Pepys and John Evelyn on more than one occasion. He died a wealthy man and his will contained 79 bequests.

Plume's famous library at Maldon still houses some 8000 books and pamphlets as well as his pictures and manuscripts. The book collection, forming one of the largest private libraries of the period, is 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.

Having lived through significant political, religious and intellectual tumult and debate, Plume's life and bequests provide valuable insights into the concerns and actions of an Anglican clergyman during a period of rapid change. His enduring legacies have continued to support the church, the poor and education for over three centuries.

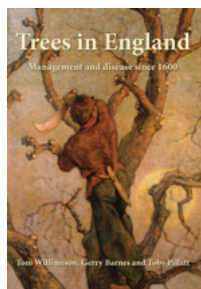
***"The contributors are foremost experts in their field and have covered all matters Plumian. It is an outstanding collection and literally covers the good doctor's life from cradle to grave, as well as all the things that have come down to us today."*** Stephen Nunn, Maldon and Burnham Standard

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

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



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



## Trees in England

### Management and disease since 1600

Tom Williamson, Gerry Barnes and Toby Pillatt

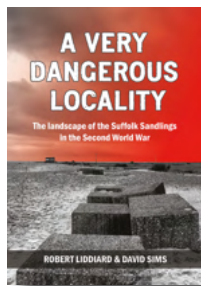
ISBN 978-1-909291-96-6; Nov 2017; 240pp; Paperback £16.99

There is currently much concern about our trees and woodlands. The terrible toll taken by Dutch elm disease has been followed by a string of further epidemics, most worryingly ash chalara – and there are more threats on the horizon. But the present state of our trees needs to be examined critically, and from an historical as much as from a scientific perspective.

Research leaves no doubt that arboreal ill health is nothing new. Levels of disease are certainly increasing but this is as much a consequence of changes in the way we treat trees – especially the decline in intensive management which has occurred over the last century and a half – as it is of the arrival of new diseases.

Trees in England is essential reading not only for landscape historians but also for natural scientists, foresters and all those interested in the future of the countryside.

***“The authors make a compelling and highly engaging case for factoring the lessons of history into our future activities.” – Chartered Forester***



## 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.

***“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***

# The Orchards of Eastern England

## History, ecology and place

Gerry Barnes and Tom Williamson

Although the history of orchards and fruit varieties is of great popular interest, there have been few academic treatments of the subject. This book presents results from a three-year project, 'Orchards East', investigating the history and ecology of orchards in the east of England.

Together, the eastern counties of Hertfordshire, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, Bedfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk have a tradition of fruit cultivation comparable in scale to that of the better-known west of England.

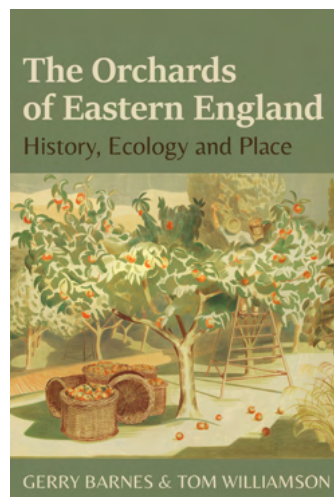
Drawing on far-reaching archival research, an extensive survey of surviving orchards and biodiversity surveys, the authors tell the fascinating story of orchards in the east since the late Middle Ages.

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. By the seventeenth century some districts had begun to specialise in fruit production – most notably west Hertfordshire and the Fens around Wisbech. But it was only in the 'orchard century', beginning in the 1850s, that commercial production really took off, fuelled by the growth of large urban markets and new transport systems that could take the fruit to them with relative ease.

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?

**Tom Williamson** is Professor of landscape history at the University of East Anglia (UEA).

**Gerry Barnes** was formerly Head of Environment at Norfolk County Council and is now an Honorary Fellow of the School of History at UEA.



ISBN 978-1-912260-16-4

July 2021

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 long-running 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.



## 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***



## 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.



# Industrial Letchworth

The first garden city, 1903–1920

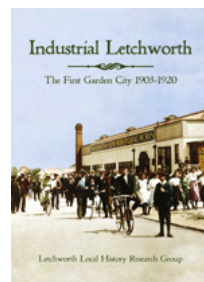
Letchworth Local History Research Group

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. Based on new research into a wealth of source material, the book puts to rest some of the enduring myths about the garden city, revealing a nuanced picture of the founding of a working community. The collaborative efforts of First Garden City Ltd (FGC), the development company for the new town, are a key focus. Naturally there were challenges and the need for capital to maintain momentum posed considerable difficulties. 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.



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

Fabian Hiscock

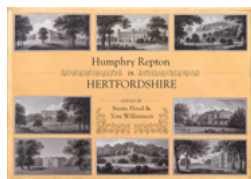
ISBN 978-1-912260-15-7; Sep 2019; 256pp; Paperback £16.99/\$33.95

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***

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