



VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

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The Victoria County History has an international reputation as a work of reference for English local history. Begun in 1899, the publication of about three new volumes each year is creating an encyclopedic history of the counties, ranging from earliest times to the present. For each county there is or is planned a set of volumes, containing general chapters on subjects such as prehistory and ecclesiastical and economic history, and topographical chapters giving a comprehensive, fully referenced account of each city, town and village in the county.

NEW AND FORTHCOMING TITLES

A History of the County of York East Riding

Volume IX: Great Driffield and its Townships

Edited by GRAHAM KENT, DAVID NEAVE & SUSAN NEAVE

Great Driffield, a thriving market town serving an extensive agricultural hinterland, stands at the junction of the Yorkshire Wolds and Holderness. The centre of an important Anglo-Saxon manor, in royal hands in the early middle ages, the main settlement was transformed from a large village into a boom town following the opening of a canal in 1770 that linked it to the expanding markets of Hull and the West Riding; its social, religious and political life flourished in the Victorian period particularly. This volume covers its history and that of its adjoining rural townships of Little Driffield, Elmswell and Kelleythorpe, from the Neolithic period to the beginning of the twenty-first century.

304pp, 30.4 x 20.8 cm, 978 1 90435 611 0, £95/\$165, *SWtSck S" #S*

A History of the County of Essex

Volume XI: Clacton, Walton and Frinton. North Essex Seaside Resorts

Edited by CHRISTOPHER THORNTON & HERBERT EIDEN

From the 1820s the Essex seaside towns of Walton, Clacton and Frinton were promoted as high-class residential and holiday resorts. After a slow start, growth was stimulated by steam-ship companies which landed visitors on newly built piers in Walton and Clacton and by the railways. The contemporary emphasis upon the health advantages of the seaside also led to the establishment of many convalescent homes. However, working-class excursionists then irrevocably changed the social tone of the resorts.

By the 1920s and 1930s Clacton was a commercialized holiday destination and nearby Jaywick was established as a cheap and cheerful chalet development. While Walton remained popular with families, Frinton continued as a 'select' resort, with building development and commerce strictly controlled.

This volume presents an authoritative account of the growth and development of these towns on the so-called 'Sunshine Coast'.

514pp, 30.5 x 20.8 cm, 978 1 90435 639 4, £95/\$165, *SWtSck S" #S*

A History of the County of Oxford

Volume XVI: Henley-on-Thames and Environs: Binfield Hundred, Part 1

Edited by SIMON TOWNLEY

Focused on the south-west Chilterns, this volume looks at the riverside market town of Henley-on-Thames, now famous for its annual Royal Regatta, and at the four neighbouring parishes of Bix, Harpsden, Rotherfield Greys and Rotherfield Peppard.

Henley began as a planned town, probably in the late twelfth century, and became a major inland port, funnelling grain, wood and (later) malt into London. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries it developed as a coaching centre, and from the nineteenth flourished as a fashionable resort and commuting area, following the belated arrival of the railway and the self-conscious promotion of the Regatta. The adjoining parishes stretch from the river to the Chilterns uplands, comprising a mixed landscape of wood pasture, small hedged closes, and (in the Middle Ages) small open fields. Settlement is characteristically dispersed, and as elsewhere in the Chilterns the balance between crops, grazing and wood exploitation varied over time. The area contains deserted or shrunken settlements, including Bolney and the newly-discovered site of Bix Gibwyn church; its important buildings include Greys Court, established probably in the eleventh century, while Henley itself contains a richness of eighteenth-century brick-built houses alongside medieval timber-framing, several examples of which have recently been dated by dendrochronology.

400pp, 30.5 x 20.8 cm, 978 1 90435 638 7, £95/\$165, July 2011

A History of the County of Wiltshire

Volume XVIII: Cricklade and Environs

Edited by V.R. BAINBRIDGE

Cricklade, the Anglo-Saxon borough fortified by Alfred against the Danes, is the market town at the heart of this volume. As a notorious rotten borough, its corruption influenced the passing of the 1832 Parliamentary Reform Act. The town and the surrounding parishes described here are bordered by Gloucestershire to the north and Swindon to the East. They extend along the upper Thames valley and over the Wiltshire claylands to the limestone ridge in the south. The royal forest of Braydon covered much of the area in the middle ages and provided extensive grazing for livestock. Although disafforestation took place under Charles I, agricultural exploitation was limited by poor soils and parts were later returned to woodland or nature reserve. The settlements of traditional limestone buildings were remote until canal and rail transport increased trade in dairy products and the expansion of employment opportunities in Swindon resulted in their residential development, and an annexation of a small part of the area by the growing town.

336pp, 30.5 x 20.8 cm, 978 1 90435 618 9, £110/\$190, July 2011

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