Ceremonial Swords of Britain
State and Civic Swords
Edward Barrett

Summary
The British Isles have long been steeped in a rich heritage of ceremony and tradition, and there are few artefacts that evoke this culture so strongly as the ceremonial sword. Undertaking a monumental task to create a celebration of artistry, craft and tradition, author Edward Barrett travelled to over sixty locations, from Edinburgh to Exeter, Camarthen to Canterbury, on a 3,500-mile-long odyssey to inspect, document and measure the eighty-seven state and civic swords of Great Britain. This was followed by a further 1,000-mile journey around Ireland researching similar swords. The individual story behind each of these magnificent works of art is told in full, and the volume also explores the history of the sword, the scabbard and their manufacture, as well as of other ceremonial trappings of each location. With unique access to the Royal Collections and stunning full-colour images throughout, Edward Barrett more than brings this fascinating work to life.

Contributor Bio
Edward Barrett joined the army in 1960 and trained in the Tower of London and Sandhurst. After 32 years of service he was Clerk to the Charter Trustees in the City of Bath and was national secretary of the Guild of Mace-bearers. He wrote their Manual of the Mace and later authored a section about the swords. He revised and re-wrote the manual for army officer selection and wrote the officer selection manual for the Territorial Army.

Cragside
National Trust Guidebook
Hugh Dixon

Summary
The revolutionary home of Lord Armstrong, Victorian inventor and landscape genius, was a wonder of its age. Built on a rocky crag high above the Debdon Burn, Cragside is crammed with ingenious gadgets and was the first house in the world lit by hydroelectricity. Even the variety and scale of Cragside's gardens are incredible. Surrounding the house on all sides is one of the largest "hand-made" rock gardens in Europe. In the Pinetum below, England’s tallest Douglas Fir soars above other woodland giants. Across the Valley, the Orchard House still produces many varieties of fresh fruit.
Dunham Massey
National Trust Guidebook
Susie Stubbs

Summary
Behind Dunham Massey’s quiet English country house exterior lie tales both personal and political: an earl who fought for the monarchy, rebellious housemaids, even an exiled emperor. Discover the complete story of Dunham Massey, a place that was both a grand, aristocratic house and home to 300 years of family drama. Dunham Massey was built in the 18th century by the 2nd Earl of Warrington on the footprint of a much older building. It played a central role in Cheshire history; its earliest earls becoming embroiled in the politics of the English Civil War and in the downfall of King Charles I. This grand, historic house contains many reminders of its tumultuous past, from a vast collection of Huguenot silver to the portraits of politically minded family members that line the walls. The house at Dunham Massey was restored in the 20th century by the 9th Earl of Stamford, who carefully refurbished its original architecture and interiors. The result is a perfectly preserved country house. This engaging new guide tells the story of the owners and servants who lived at Dunham Massey, while o...

Contributor Bio
Susie Stubbs is a freelance writer and communications consultant. She has written for the Guardian and the Independent, has published several books, and runs an award-winning online art magazine.

Rudyard Kipling at Bateman's
National Trust Guidebook
Oliver Garnett

Summary
Rudyard Kipling loved Bateman’s. It was his personal paradise, where he wrote some of his most famous works and enjoyed quiet family life free from the demands of fame. The atmospheric 17th-century house has changed little since his time and nestles modestly in the wooded landscape of the Sussex Weald. This guidebook uncovers the lives of the Kiplings and their staff at Bateman’s.

Contributor Bio
Oliver Garnett is the National Trust’s Property Publisher. He is the author of Living in Style and Colour: A Social History and has written and edited numerous guidebooks for the Trust.
The Making of Chipping Norton
A Guide to its Buildings and History to 1750
Janice Cliffe, Adrienne Rosen

Summary
This book is the result of a two-year project by the Chipping Norton Buildings Record. It focuses on Chipping Norton before 1750, bringing together what we can learn from the built environment with documentary evidence from printed sources and national and local archives. The first part looks at 'The medieval town, 1000 to 1540', 'The age of Henry Cornish, 1540 to 1660' and 'Rebuilding the town, 1660 to 1750', whilst the second part is a series of walks along each of the medieval streets in turn, to see what remains today of its early fabric.

The Oldest House in London
The Remarkable Story of 41-42 Cloth Fair
Fiona Rule

Summary
The great city of London has many layers of history lying buried beneath its streets. In a few places, remnants of the capital’s ancient past are still visible in the form of important and often royal buildings, such as the Tower of London and Westminster Abbey. However, these magnificent, world-renowned places are not the only survivors of a long lost world. Halfway down a narrow, medieval lane on the outskirts of Smithfield stands 41-42 Cloth Fair – the oldest house in the City of London. This book uncovers the fascinating survival story of this extraordinary property and the people who built it, owned it and lived in it, set against the backdrop of an ever-changing city that endured war, disease, fire and economic crises.

Contributor Bio
FIONA RULE is a London historian, whose previous books include the bestselling The Worst Streets of London (Ian Allan, 2008), London’s Docklands (Ian Allan, 2009) and Streets of Sin (THP, 2015). In 1998, she set up her own marketing and research company, and, after successfully completing a Diploma course in Local History from the University of Oxford, began to specialise in historical writing and research.
The Potter's Tale
A Colonsay Life
Dion Alexander

Summary
The Potter’s Tale is a story of one man’s journey of discovery and self-discovery on one of the most beautiful islands on the Hebrides – Colonsay. Dion Alexander was ‘the Colonsay Potter’ through the 1970s and his own story is interwoven with that of some of the legendary characters of the islands in that period, one of the last in which Gaelic came naturally to the community. It is also the story of beginning to think about how to keep a small remote community dominated by a landed estate alive and viable in the face of modern pressures. The Colonsay of the 1970s had no electricity or affordable housing and an erratic ferry service. The book is an autobiography, a reflection of a world still close in time but in some ways very distant interwoven with much of history, tradition and folklore, and a moving account of the trials, triumphs and tribulations of a small community. Above all it is woven with a deep love of the magical place that is Colonsay.

Contributor Bio
Dion Alexander moved in 1971 to Carasaig on Mull to set up a pottery before moving to Colonsay. He set up a pottery on Colonsay through the 1970s before leaving for South Uist in 1980 to become the first manager of the Co Chomunn at Lochdair. In 1983 he moved to Glengarry and began work for Shelter Scotland where he set up the Lochaber Housing Association. He has continued to specialize in that area and has both written a number of high profile reports and has chaired a large number of committees and action groups on housing and fuel poverty across the Highlands. He now lives near Dornoch.

Richard, Duke of York
King by Right
Matthew Lewis

Summary
The son of a traitor, Richard, 3rd Duke of York, inherited a dukedom at age four, became the wealthiest man in England at 13, and later rebelled against his king. If he is remembered, it is as a man who ignited the Wars of the Roses. Further eclipsed by two of his sons, who would become the mighty warrior Edward IV and the recently rediscovered Richard III, he is an ancestor of the Tudor monarchs and 15th great-grandfather to Queen Elizabeth II, yet the man himself is obscured from view. This book reveals a complex family man with unparalleled power and responsibilities. The first person recorded using the Plantagenet name, he pushed the political establishment to its limits, dared to fight back, and was forced to do the unimaginable.

Contributor Bio
Matthew Lewis is an author and historian. He is the author of Henry III, Medieval Britain in 100 Facts, and The War of the Roses.
Sikunder Burnes (2nd Edition)
Master of the Great Game
Craig Murray

Summary
This is an astonishing true tale of espionage, journeys in disguise, secret messages, double agents, assassinations and sexual intrigue. Alexander Burnes was one of the most accomplished spies Britain ever produced and the main antagonist of the Great Game as Britain strove with Russia for control of Central Asia and the routes to the Raj. There are many lessons for the present day in this tale of the folly of invading Afghanistan and Anglo-Russian tensions in the Caucasus. Murray’s meticulous study has unearthed original manuscripts from Montrose to Mumbai to put together a detailed study of how British secret agents operated in India.

Contributor Bio
Craig Murray is an author (Murder in Samarkand), broadcaster and human rights activist. He was a member of the British Diplomatic Service for 20 years, British Ambassador to Uzbekistan 2002–2004 and Rector of the University of Dundee 2007–2010.

The Real Persuasion
An Intimate Portrait of a Real-Life Austen Heroine
Peter James Bowman

Summary
Her father is a vain, foolish baronet, obsessed with his lineage but forced to quit his ancestral seat as a result of his improvidence. Her sister is an invalid with a kind husband and two unruly sons. She falls in love with a handsome naval officer, and he with her, but his income and prospects are judged inadequate by her proud family. Heartbroken, the lovers part: he goes to sea while she leads a forlorn life at home. Years later he returns, having made his fortune, and after further misunderstandings he claims as his bride the woman he never ceased loving. This is the story of Anne Elliot in Jane Austen’s Persuasion. It is also the story of Katherine Bishopp, the daughter of an old Sussex family. Using the letters and journals between Katherine and her sister Harriet and other family correspondence, Peter James Bowman paints an intimate picture of Regency family life, and looks at the remarkable parallels between the true story of the Bishopps and the fictional narrative of Austen’s final novel.

Contributor Bio
Peter James Bowman is the author of The Fortune Hunter: A German Prince in Regency England.
The Times Great Scottish Lives
Obituaries of Scotland’s Finest
Magnus Linklater

William Blathwayt and Dyrham Park
National Trust Guidebook
Rupert Goulding

**Summary**

2017 marks the 300th anniversary of the death of William Blathwayt, the creator of Dyrham Park. Following a major re-roofing project, this richly illustrated new guidebook tells Blathwayt’s fascinating story and brings his superb collections to life.

**Contributor Bio**

Rupert Goulding is the National Trust’s Curator responsible for the re-presentation and interpretation of Dyrham Park. He has written extensively about the house and its diverse contents.
**Mary Queen of Scots**
Anna Groundwater, Jenny Wormald

**Prince Arthur**
*The Tudor King Who Never Was*
Sean Cunningham

**Summary**
During the early 16th century, England would have been ruled by King Arthur Tudor, not Henry VIII, had the first-born son of Henry VII lived into adulthood. The history of England would have been very different; the massive religious, social, and political changes of Henry VIII's reign might not have been necessary. In naming his eldest son Arthur, Henry VII made an impressive statement about what the Tudors hoped to achieve as rulers. The name gave the young prince a great deal to live up to. Arthur's education, exposure to power and responsibility, and marriage to Spanish princess Catherine of Aragon, all indicate that the young prince was being shaped into a paragon of kingship. This book explores Prince Arthur's life and assesses what type of king he would have been.

**Contributor Bio**
Sean Cunningham has worked for The National Archives for 15 years and is Principal Records Specialist for Medieval, Early Modern, and Legal. His books include *Henry VII* and *Richard III: A Royal Enigma*. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.
**Richard II**  
*A Brittle Glory*  
Laura Ashe

**Summary**

Richard II (1377-99) came to the throne as a child, following the long, domineering reign of his grandfather Edward III. He suffered from the disastrous combination of an exalted sense of his own power and an inability to impress that power on others. Neither trusted nor feared, Richard battled with failures and emergencies before succumbing to a coup, imprisonment, and murder. Laura Ashe's account of his reign emphasizes the strange gap between Richard's personal incapacity and the amazing cultural legacy of his reign—from the *Wilton Diptych* to *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and *The Canterbury Tales*.

**Contributor Bio**

Laura Ashe is Associate Professor of English and a Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford. Her first book was *Fiction and History in England, 1066-1200* and she has edited *Early Fiction in England: From Geoffrey of Monmouth to Chaucer*.

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**The Lucky Queen**  
*The Eight Assassination Attempts on Queen Victoria*  
Barrie Charles

**Summary**

Queen Victoria was our longest-reigning monarch, a symbol of Britain’s great age of power and imperialism. But her life could so easily have been cut short. Just three years after she ascended to the throne, a humble ‘pot-boy’ left his house with two pistols bulging from his trouser pockets and a feeling of determination. He fired the guns at her from just six paces away. She escaped unharmed, but amazingly there were seven further attempts on her life over the next forty-seven years. The perpetrators were a mixture of madmen, attention-seekers, and fiends: the unemployed carpenter who ended up transported to the hell of a labour camp in Van Dieman’s Land, the midget news vendor who eventually took his own life, the army officer who dressed as a dandy, the disaffected artist, and the Fenian terrorists. Through it all there is Victoria; how she coped with the fear and became a symbol of resolve and determination. Each chapter of this book captures the drama of the attack and uncovers the would-be assassin’s motives, describing their lives up to that point, their trial and sentence, and...

**Contributor Bio**

Barrie Charles has a PhD in scientific research, but most of his career was spent in marketing. The last seven years he has worked as a journalist for a trade publication. He has been engaged in historical research for the last ten years. This is his third book, but the first in the ‘true crime’ genre. For the other two see www.bjc.me.uk.
Dragons
Ten Entrepreneurs Who Built Britain
Liam Byrne

Summary
Britain’s rise to global dominance from the 16th century onwards owed as much to the vision and creative energies of traders, merchants, industrialists, and bankers as it did to wars of conquest fought by empire-building military men. Dragons tells the story of British business endeavor through the lives of 10 titans of commerce. Beginning with the Tudor merchants who transformed England’s economy via trade with the New World, Liam Byrne traces a golden line of British entrepreneurial genius through men such as Thomas Pitt, savior of the East India Company; financier Nathan Rothschild, creator of the modern bond market; "ethical capitalist" George Cadbury; and William Lever, brand-builder, philanthropist, and creator of Britain’s first great multinational. At the start of the 21st century, Britain remains a major economic power. Dragons is both a rousing celebration of British business acumen and a fascinatingly informative narrative of a neglected but essential strand of our island’s story.

Contributor Bio
Liam Byrne MP is the Shadow Minister for Universities, Science and Skills. A technology entrepreneur before entering politics, he was a Fulbright Scholar at the Harvard Business School. He is the author of *Turning to Face the East*.

A Time to Keep
George Mackay Brown

Summary
*A Time to Keep* is George Mackay Brown’s second volume of short stories inspired by both ancient and modern life on the island of Orkney. First published in 1969, its 12 stories depict a vast cast of characters drawn from Orkney’s past and present, offering a range of emotions and incidents. They are elemental tales of the fishermen, crofters and farmers of the island and of the harsh, beautiful landscape in which they live.

Contributor Bio
George Mackay Brown is considered to be one of the greatest Scottish poets and authors of the twentieth century. Although never reaching bestseller status, his books were published in more than a dozen countries around the world, drawing hundreds of avid fans to his house in Orkney each year. Following the publication and success of Booker Prize short-listed *Beside the Ocean of Time*, Mackay Brown wrote two collections of short stories, the second of which was published posthumously. When he died on 13 April 1996, he left a legacy for both Scottish literature and the communities of the Orkney Islands.
**Colouring History: The Tudors**
Natalie Grueninger, Kathryn Holeman

**Summary**
This unique and beautifully illustrated coloring book for grown-ups features images and scenes inspired by the ever-fascinating Tudor dynasty. It will provide hours of joy and relaxation, and is a great way to unwind after a hectic day of study or work. Quiet your mind and color your way to peace, while nurturing your creativity and love of Tudor history.

**Contributor Bio**
**Natalie Grueninger** is an author and researcher, and the founder and editor of On the Tudor Trail, a website devoted to 16th-century England that welcomes between 25,000-30,000 visitors per month. She is the author of *In the Footsteps of the Six Wives of Henry VIII*. **Kathryn Holman** is an artist and illustrator, whose work features in *Colour Me Married*.

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**Powis Castle Garden**
National Trust Guidebook
Stephen Anderton

**Summary**
Powis Castle is one of the most significant historic gardens in Britain. This new guidebook celebrates its unique beauty through the seasons, which draws thousands of visitors every year. The garden is the creation of the Herbert family, Earls of Powis, beginning in the 1660s with the construction of monumental, trend-setting Italianate terraces, moving on through the creation of an 18th-century landscape park and concluding with the addition of a formal Edwardian pleasure ground. The miracle of Powis is that every one of these developments was made without harm to its predecessor; each of them remains to this day in fine horticultural order. The entire span of British garden history is alive and well at Powis. But the garden is also developing today, in the care of the National Trust and its expert horticultural staff. Powis has become a shrine to enthusiastic gardeners who come to see the detailed planting that has been achieved over the past 50 years. There are massive double herbaceous borders, colorful as only summer perennials can be. Powis’s ancient, rolling yew hedges an...

**Contributor Bio**
**Stephen Anderton** is a long-standing garden writer for the *Times*, as well as a broadcaster, lecturer, and author. His books include *Discovering Welsh Gardens* and the controversial biography *Christopher Lloyd—His Life at Great Dixter*. Previously, as National Gardens Manager for English Heritage, he was responsible for several major garden restoration projects.
**Trengwainton Garden**

**National Trust Guidebook**

Katherine Lambert

**Summary**

Trengwainton was given to the National Trust because of the significance of its plant collection. The garden contains rare plant specimens from around the world, including some rhododendron hybrids that are unique to this collection. Trengwainton is the creation of two very different families, and of course their skilled and industrious gardeners. The Kitchen Garden, revolutionary in its day, is a truly remarkable piece of design. The garden’s collection of plants from far-flung corners of the world is exceptional and award-winning. The 25-acre garden is bursting with interest, all year round, with exotic trees and shrubs thriving in this sheltered corner of Cornwall. This guidebook will tell you something about the remarkable people responsible for what you see today, and point out some of the garden’s highlights along the way.

**Contributor Bio**

Katherine Lambert has worked on the *Good Gardens Guide* since 1996 and has been joint editor since 2004.

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**?S Ann An Île: Islay Voices**

Jenni Minto, Les Wilson

**Summary**

Many travellers have had their imaginations captured by the beautiful Hebridean island of Islay and have been moved to write about it, among them the renowned Thomas Pennant and Martin Martin. But Ileachs – the natives of Islay – have also been inspired to record their experience. The written records of Islay are varied, rich and rewarding. This anthology distils the essence of Islay through a very personal selection of writing. Some of the writing is profound, some of it quirky, but all reveals a fascinating aspect of Islay that together presents a revealing and moving ‘people’s history’ of Islay.

**Contributor Bio**

Jenni Minto studied accountancy at Aberdeen University and worked for BBC Scotland in a variety of business support roles. She has played a prominent role in setting up of Islay’s community owned wind turbine and currently works at the Museum of Islay Life. Les Wilson is a writer, and award winning documentary maker who specializes in Scottish Historical subjects. Jenni and Les are married and moved to Islay of Islay in 2011, after having a holiday home there for many years.
**A 1950s Childhood**

*From Tin Baths to Bread and Dripping*

Paul Feeney

**Summary**

Do you remember Pathé News? Taking the train to the seaside? The purple stains of iodine on the knees of boys in short trousers? Knitted bathing costumes? Then the chances are you were born in or around 1950. To the young people of today, the 1950s seem like another age. But for those born around then, this era of childhood feels like yesterday. This delightful collection of photographic memories will appeal to all who grew up in this post-war decade; they include pictures of children enjoying life out on the streets and bombsites, at home and at school, on holiday and at events. These wonderful period pictures and descriptive captions will bring back this decade of childhood, and jog memories about all aspects of life as it was in post-war Britain.

**Contributor Bio**

Paul Feeney is the author of bestselling nostalgia books *A 1950s Childhood* and *A 1960s Childhood* (The History Press). He has also written the bestselling *From Ration Book to Ebook* (The History Press), which takes a nostalgic look back over the life and times of the post-war baby boomer generation.

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**A History of Louth**

Richard Gurnham

**Summary**

Anglo-Saxon invaders first settled at the point where the ancient Barton Street trackway forded the river Lud in the late fifth or early sixth century. Today the town is an important home for light industry and the market centre for the surrounding district. This fully illustrated account of the town's history combines a useful overview of the major influences upon Louth's development with a wealth of detail which brings to life the community in times past. It will be enjoyed by all those with an interest in Lincolnshire history as well as those keen to find out more about the place in which they live.

**Contributor Bio**

Richard Gurnham is the author of six local history books. He has lived in Louth since 1977, and until 2011 taught History and Politics at King Edward VI Grammar School. He also worked for many years as a part-time adult education lecturer, taking local history courses in many different towns and publishing numerous local history studies. He is employed by the East Midlands Region of the WEA, giving lectures on the history of Lincoln.
**A Rum Affair (2nd Edition)**

**A True Story of Botanical Fraud**

Karl Sabbagh

**Summary**

In the 1940s, the eminent British botanist John Heslop Harrison proposed a controversial theory: that vegetation on the islands off the west coast of Scotland had survived the last Ice Age. His premise flew in the face of what most botanists believed – that no plants had survived the 10,000-year period of extreme cold. But Heslop Harrison had proof – the plants and grasses found on the isle of Rum. Harrison didn't anticipate, however, an amateur botanist called John Raven, who boldly questioned whether these grasses were truly indigenous to the area, or whether they had been transported there. This is the story of what happened when a tenacious amateur set out to find out the truth, and how he uncovered a most extraordinary fraud.

**Contributor Bio**

**Karl Sabbagh** is a writer, journalist and TV producer. He is the author of a dozen books, including *The Living Body* (with Christian Barnaard), *Power into Art and Palestine: A Personal Journey*.

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**A Short History of Britain in Infographics**

Ray Hamilton

**Summary**

Dive into this visually inspired, fun, and insightful guide to the United Kingdom, past and present, packed full of historical highlights from the dark days of ancient Britain to the lightning-fast Age of Information. Discover the stomach-churning scope of Henry VIII’s voluminous diet, learn about the intricate anatomy of a Spitfire, and improve your understanding of the mind-boggling phenomenon that is the British weather. These and many more fascinating facts are presented in this beautifully designed infographic guide to the best bits of Britain!

**Contributor Bio**

**Ray Hamilton** is a freelance writer and editor whose lifelong passions are travel, languages and history. He has edited books on a wide range of subjects, including politics, history, travel, sport, gangland violence, and bird watching. He previously pursued a varied career in government, the highlights of which included multilateral government negotiations in Paris and forays into sub-Saharan Africa.
A-Z of Conwy
Places-People-History
John Barden Davies

Summary
The popular medieval town of Conwy in North Wales, dominated by its thirteenth-century castle, has a long and often violent history. There are many stories behind the town’s ancient castle and walls, its streets and buildings, and its residents, past and present, famous and infamous. These are told here, by local author John Barden Davies, as he takes the reader on their very own A-Z tour around the town’s history, exploring its nooks and crannies, and along the way relating many a fascinating tale of the most interesting people and places. Fully illustrated with photographs, this new A-Z guide to the town’s history will appeal to residents and visitors alike.

Contributor Bio
John Barden Davies was born and brought up on the North Wales coast. From an early age he has had an interest in local history, and has watched with interest the modern development of Conwy since the middle of the twentieth century. His other interests are public transport, tourism and photography. His first book was on the subject of the development of public transport and tourism in North Wales. John spent his working life in the Church in Wales and now lives in retirement in Deganwy.

Around Tewkesbury
Cliff Burd

Summary
Around Tewkesbury
**Avebury Manor**

National Trust Guidebook  
Siân Evans

**Summary**  
Avebury Manor in Wiltshire has been home to many different families since it was built in the 1550s, including the marmalade magnate Alexander Keiller, who excavated Avebury’s famous stone circle in the 1930s. Avebury Manor is a classic English manor house, but when it was acquired by the National Trust in 1991, it had almost no contents. So in 2011, in a pioneering partnership between the BBC and the Trust, the house was transformed to reflect how it might have looked at five key moments in its history: Tudor, Queen Anne, Georgian, Victorian and Art Deco. A team of historians, craftspeople and volunteers researched the manor house’s history, and redecorated and refurnished the main rooms in an appropriate style. This new guide contains a fascinating account of this unique experiment. It tells the stories of those who have lived here, together with detailed descriptions of the re-created interiors, floor plans of the house, a timeline and numerous illustrations.

**Barry Island Through Time**

David Ings

**Summary**  
The popular South Wales seaside resort of Barry Island has a long and distinctive history. In the eighteenth century it was the private domain of smuggler Thomas Knight, then, in 1856, Francis Crawshay, the Merthyr Iron Master, bought the island for the princely sum of £3,200. The Windsor Estate bought it in 1878 and gifted it to Robert Windsor as a 21st birthday present. With the development of Barry Dock in 1884, a causeway was built which anchored the Island to the mainland and improved transport links led to Barry becoming the biggest exporter of coal in the world. It also grew as a holiday destination and visitors flocked here from South Wales towns and cities as well as from Bristol and South West England. The resort's popularity may have waned since the 1970s with the advent of the cheap package holiday, but people still come to Barry Island, to enjoy the attractions of its Pleasure Park and to pay homage to the location for the hit TV sitcom, *Gavin and Stacey*. All these changes are captured in this unique selection of old and new images, compiled by local author, David Ings. ...

**Contributor Bio**  
Cardiff resident, David Ings, has previously written two books for Amberley, *Penarth Through Time* (2016) and *Penarth History Tour* (2016).
Barry Scrapyard
Keith W. Platt

Summary
Keith W. Platt made his first visit to Woodham's scrapyard, Barry, in the late 1960s at a time when steam locomotives could still be seen on the national network, going about the everyday business of working goods and passenger trains. With the final withdrawal of steam operations, he began to make more visits to Barry as it became the very last bastion of British Railway's steam locomotives. Keith sought to record, on slide film, the images of locomotives and the photos taken on those trips inadvertently reveal the gradual blossoming of the preservation movement. The number of locomotives in the yard shrunk – not because they had been cut up, but because they had been sold to individuals and societies. They had been removed to one of the many preservation sites and steam railways. The appearance of the locos began to change over the years. Firstly as the damp and salty sea air took its toll on the paintwork and bare metal and then as different preservation groups set about the task of de-rusting, cleaning and painting. Many locos were adorned with various painted messages proclaimin...

Contributor Bio
Keith Platt is a lifelong railway and transport enthusiast who has been documenting the rail scene with his camera since a young age. Now, fifty years on, many of his photos are finding a new life.

Black and British
A Forgotten History
David Olusoga

Summary
Drawing on new genetic and genealogical research, original records, expert testimony and contemporary interviews, Black and British reaches back to Roman Britain, the medieval imagination and Shakespeare's Othello. It reveals that behind the South Sea Bubble was Britain's global slave-trading empire and that much of the great industrial boom of the 19th century was built on American slavery. It shows that Black Britons fought at Trafalgar and in the trenches of World War I. Black British history can be read in stately homes, street names, statues and memorials across Britain and is woven into the cultural and economic histories of the nation. Unflinching, confronting taboos and revealing hitherto unknown scandals, this book describes how black and white Britons have been intimately entwined for centuries.

Contributor Bio
David Olusoga is a British-Nigerian historian, broadcaster, and a BAFTA award-winning presenter and filmmaker.
Black Gold: Miners in Pub Cards
National Museum Wales

Summary
A pack of ten cards featuring a photograph of Welsh miners in a pub taken during the Welsh Cambrian Coal Strike, 1910. Part of the Black Gold collection from the National Museum Wales, exploring Wales’ coal mining heritage. Each pack contains ten cards and envelopes. Packaged in a clear plastic box, these cards are left blank inside for your own message.

Contributor Bio
The National Museum Wales is a Welsh Government sponsored body that comprises seven museums in Wales, including the National Museum Cardiff, home to one of the greatest collections of Impressionist paintings in the UK.

Black Gold: Pit Pony and Ostler Cards
National Museum Wales

Summary
A pack of ten notecards featuring a photograph of a pit pony and ostler on the supply road in Lady Windsor Colliery, south Wales. Part of the Black Gold collection from the National Museum Wales, exploring Wales’ coal mining heritage. Each pack contains ten cards and envelopes. Packaged in a clear plastic box, these cards are left blank inside for your own message.

Contributor Bio
The National Museum Wales is a Welsh Government sponsored body that comprises seven museums in Wales, including the National Museum Cardiff, home to one of the greatest collections of Impressionist paintings in the UK.
Black Gold: Postcard Collection
National Museum Wales

Summary
A pack of 20 postcards featuring photographs from the coal mines of south Wales during the Industrial era. Featuring life in the pits, the workers, life outside the mines and mining machinery. Part of the Black Gold collection from the National Museum Wales, exploring Wales’ coal mining heritage. Contains two copies each of ten pictures. Packaged in a clear plastic box, these cards are left blank on the back for your own message.

Contributor Bio
The National Museum Wales is a Welsh Government sponsored body that comprises seven museums in Wales, including the National Museum Cardiff, home to one of the greatest collections of Impressionist paintings in the UK.

Blickling Estate
National Trust Guidebook
Anna Groves

Summary
Nobody ever forgets their first sight of Blickling. The breathtaking red-brick gabled mansion and ancient yews sit at the heart of a magnificent garden and historic park in the beautiful Bure meadows. The completeness of the estate is just one of the things that sets Blickling apart. Its story can be traced over a thousand years, during which Blickling has been the scene of many historic events, and yet its landscape has changed little and is quintessentially Norfolk. The mansion was built, modified, and embellished to reflect the status of its owners, the high-ranking and politically heavyweight Hobarts. While the house has been remodeled and added to over the centuries, each owner that wrought significant change kept in view the achievements of those who went before and honored the vision that the first Hobart had for the estate. Outside, the formal garden is the result of three centuries of inspired planting, and the gently undulating parkland is full of history, lost buildings, stunning views, and abundant wildlife. After centuries of change, the last century arguably had the gre...

Contributor Bio
Anna Groves is the author of Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland and Thomas Hardy's Homes, Dorset.
**Bloomsbury**

**Beyond the Establishment**
Matthew Ingleby

**Summary**
Bloomsbury lies at the heart of cultural and intellectual London, famed for its museums, universities and literary heritage. Matthew Ingleby's new history ranges across the neighborhood to explore hidden corners and reveal unexpected connections between Bloomsbury's past and present, its buildings and its people, its austere towers and its garden squares. Ingleby examines the facets of Bloomsbury that have shaped its identity—its long association with youth and beginnings; its proud secularism and scepticism; and its role as London's center of thinking, writing and publishing. He draws on the voices of Bloomsbury's most observant residents, such as Charles Dickens and Virginia Woolf, to explain the character of the place in a fresh and engaging new way.

**Contributor Bio**
Matthew Ingleby is Lecturer in Victorian Literature at Queen Mary University of London.

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**Brighton From Old Photographs**

**Chris Horlock**

**Summary**
The south coast city of Brighton has long been one of Britain’s most famous and influential of places, ever since the Prince Regent, later King George IV, began to visit regularly, constructed the Royal Pavilion and thus encouraged its development as a fashionable seaside resort. Brighton continued to grow as a major tourist center following the arrival of the railways in 1841, becoming a popular destination for day-trippers from London. In this fascinating collection of images from the Victorian and Edwardian eras, author Chris Horlock shows Brighton at the height of its fame as the “Queen of watering places”; a time when many of her major attractions were built, including the Grand Hotel, the West Pier, and the Brighton Palace Pier. *Brighton From Old Photographs* provides something for everyone, be they long-time residents or first-time visitors.

**Contributor Bio**
Chris Horlock is an author and avid collector of old photographs of Brighton. He writes regularly for *Sussex Life* magazine and has previously written history books for a local publisher. This is his first book for Amberley.
Bristol From the Post and Press
Maurice Fells

Summary
Bristol is a city with a colorful and fascinating history - a city that traditionally prospered from the vices of the wine, slave and tobacco trades. In their stead Bristol has become a thriving national centre for the financial and business services, aerospace and advanced engineering, ICT media and creative industries. Author and journalist Maurice Fells tells the story of this great and vibrant city in Bristol from the post and press. He has delved into the archives of the Bristol Evening Post (now Bristol Post) and its sister morning paper, the Western Daily Press. Maurice Fells tells of how Queen Victoria knighted the city’s first Lord Mayor on the pavement in the centre of Bristol. Going through the decades, the dramatic effect of the Bristol Blitz when the centre of the city was wiped out in just one night is recalled. Royal visits are recorded including the day Queen Elizabeth II unexpectedly called at a pub to shelter from a snowstorm. Thousands of Bristolians saw the maiden flight of Concorde 002 which had been built at Filton on the outskirts of the city. A year later they...

Contributor Bio
Maurice Fells has worked as a journalist in both print and broadcast, and has held key editorial and production posts in newspapers, radio, and television. Now freelance, Maurice's local history features frequently appear in the Bristol Post and Western Daily Press. He is also often called on by BBC West TV and BBC Radio Bristol to broadcast on local history. Maurice is a prolific author, having written eight previous books about Bristol's history.

Britain's Final Defence
Arming the Home Guard, 1940-1944
Dale Clarke

Summary
Known affectionately as ‘Dad’s Army’, the Home Guard was Britain’s very serious attempt to protect our shores from invasion by Nazi Germany in the Second World War. In the 'Spitfire summer' of 1940, all that the 16 million unpaid, untrained part-timers of the Local Defence Volunteers (as the organisation was originally called) wanted was a service rifle for each man, but even that was too much for a country threatened by defeat to provide. Britain’s Final Defence is the first book to explore the efforts made to arm the home defence force between 1940 and 1944 and describe the full range of weaponry available for Britain’s last stand against invading Axis forces.
Britain: A Genetic Journey (2nd Edition)
Alistair Moffat

Summary
Based on exciting new research involving the largest sampling of DNA ever made in Britain, Alistair Moffat, author of the bestselling The Scots: A Genetic Journey, shows how all of us who live on these islands are immigrants. The last ice age erased any trace of more ancient inhabitants, and the ancestors of everyone who now lives in Britain came here after the glaciers retreated and the land greened once more. In an epic narrative, sometimes moving, sometimes astonishing, always revealing, Moffat writes an entirely new history of Britain. Instead of the usual parade of the usual suspects – kings, queens, saints, warriors and the notorious – this is a people’s history, a narrative made from stories only DNA can tell which offers insights into who we are and where we come from. Originally published in hardback as The British: A Genetic Journey.

Contributor Bio
Born and raised in Kelso in the Scottish Border country, Alistair Moffat has often left the place in body, but never in spirit. He attended the universities of St Andrews, Edinburgh and London, and also received some tough education on the rugby fields of the Borders. In 1976 Alistair took over the running of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and in five years made it the largest and most dynamic arts festival in the world. A prolific and popular author, Alistair’s books Kelsae, The Borders, The Reviers, The Sea Kingdoms, The Wall and Tuscany are all published by Birlinn.

British Bandstands
Paul Rabbitts

Summary
Bandstands have been a feature of the British way of life for well over a century but after the Second World War an increasing number fell into disuse and were neglected. Sadly, many were demolished as public parks and seaside resorts went into a spiral of decline in the 1980s and 1990s. However, in 1997 the Heritage Lottery Fund started investing in our public parks and gardens and this has seen the rediscovery of bandstands which has continues to this day. Former Director of the Heritage Lottery Fund, Dr Stewart Harding has described them as “wonderfully exotic structures that are at once very familiar and also alien in their strange designs - looking like UFOs, Moorish temples, rustic cottages or Chinese pavilions.” Many have been restored in the last twenty years, over 120 funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, from Aberdeen to Aberystwyth, Nairn to Nottingham, Watford to Worcester. These restorations mark a rebirth of the British Bandstand and this is celebrated in this book with imaginative restorations, designs and new usage for one of our most iconic British landmarks – the Bri...

Contributor Bio
Paul Rabbitts has over twenty years of experience in designing, managing and restoring urban parks across the UK. As a qualified Landscape Architect and current Head of Parks for a SE Local Authority, he is also a published author and regular contributor to journals and periodicals. Currently head of parks for Watford Borough Council, he is also project director for the £6.5 million restoration of Cassiobury Park, as well as an author on books on Regent’s Park, Richmond Park, the royal parks and bandstands, on which he is acknowledged as a UK expert. He lives in Leighton Buzzard.
Brockhampton Estate
National Trust Guidebook
Amy Feldman

Summary
Nestled in the rolling Herefordshire countryside, Brockhampton Estate encapsulates rural life in the county. The moated medieval manor house at the heart of the estate was home to the same family for more than 900 years. This new guidebook tells the stories of the people that once lived here and the ancient history and customs that shaped their lives. Find out how the rich rural economy has changed over the years and how farming, forestry, and fruit growing are still at the center of estate life today.

Contributor Bio
Amy Feldman is Guidebooks and General Trade Books Editor for the National Trust.

Calke Abbey
National Trust Guide
National Trust

Summary
Calke Abbey captured the imagination of the country when its plight was revealed in the 1980s. An almost unknown house and large estate had fallen into such a state of decay that it called for a new, and sometimes controversial, approach to conservation, once the battle to save them for the nation had been won. Calke is unlike any other great house in the way it has been conserved in a state of frozen decay. Its collections contain few outstanding pieces, apart from the extraordinary state bed, but it is the accumulation of books, silver, portraits, clothes, children’s toys, and the tidal waves of taxidermy that engulfed some rooms that make the house so remarkable. Long managed as a wildlife sanctuary, Calke’s venerable parkland and trees are of such importance for the shelter they give to rare insects and fungi that it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a National Nature Reserve.
Camden Town
Dreams of Another London
Tom Bolton

Summary
This book takes five landmarks as the starting point for a series of journeys into the layers of history and culture of Camden Town. The World’s End pub existed in various forms since before Camden began. Today’s crowds flock to the locks and market at Regent’s Canal Bridge, while Arlington House, a block away, belongs to a parallel Camden of immigration and new beginnings, poverty and homelessness. No. 8 Royal College Street represents how the first buildings of 19th-century Camden Town attracted social outsiders to the area. Finally the Roundhouse, an engineering curiosity, became the center of Camden’s cultural scene.

Contributor Bio
Tom Bolton is the author of Vanished City and London’s Lost Rivers: A Walkers Guide.

Castle Douglas Through Time
Mary Smith, Allan Devlin

Summary
The market town of Castle Douglas, beside Carlingwark Loch in the southern Scottish region of Dumfries and Galloway, is relatively new, though the area has been inhabited from prehistoric times and the Romans had a military base close by. In the fourteenth century, Archibald the Grim, the 3rd Earl of Douglas, built Threave Castle nearby. The town came into being thanks to fertiliser found in the loch and wealthy merchant William Douglas, who laid out the present town in 1792. Though his dream of creating a cotton industry failed, Castle Douglas became a flourishing market town. The opening of the rail line to Dumfries in 1859 improved the town’s connections. Though the railway closed in 1965, the A75 trunk road ensured the town’s survival as a major stopping point for travellers. Today, it is a major tourist destination, with many visitors using it as a base for exploring this beautiful part of Scotland. All these changes are recorded in this unique and fascinating series of new and old photographs, making this book essential reading for anyone interested in the history of Castle Dou...

Contributor Bio
Mary Smith is an author, poet and freelance journalist. Her previous publications include fiction and non-fiction titles, such as Drunk Chickens and Burnt Macaroni: Real Stories of Afghan, Thousands Pass Here Everyday (poetry) and No More Mulberries (her debut novel). In the past, she has also written for a number of local and national publications, such as The Galloway News, The Dumfries & Galloway Standard, Dumfries & Galloway Life, The Herald and Guardian Weekly. A prominent member of the Dumfries Writers’ Group, Mary is a familiar face in the area, having also been involved in a number of local community projects. Allan Devlin was born in Glasgow then spent most of his young life travelling around Scotland finally coming to rest in Dumfries and Galloway. He became a freelance photographer in 2000. Originally he started up taking landscape photos for publishing companies as well as supplying images too Stock Photo Libraries. Today his commissioned work includes social event type photography as well as images for local and national press. As well as taking photos he has also written...
**Catherine of Aragon**

An Intimate Life of Henry VIII's True Wife

Amy Licence

**Summary**

Catherine of Aragon continues to fascinate readers 500 years after she became Henry VIII's first queen. Having lost her first husband, Henry's elder brother Prince Arthur, she endured years of ill health and penury, to make a dazzling second match in Henry VIII. There is no doubt that she was Henry's true love, compatible with him in every respect and, for years, she presided over a majestic court as the personification of his ideal woman. When it became clear that she could no longer bear children, however, the king's attention turned elsewhere, and his once chivalric devotion became resentment. Catherine's final years were spent in lonely isolation, but she never gave up her vision: she was devoted to her faith, her husband, and to England, and was prepared to be martyred for them. The fidelity of this remarkable woman never wavered.

**Contributor Bio**

Amy Licence is the author of *The Six Wives & Many Mistresses of Henry VIII*. She has written for the *Guardian*, *TLS*, *Huffington Post*, and *BBC History*, and appeared in Philippa Gregory's BBC documentary *The Real Women of the Wars of the Roses*.

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**Central Cardiff**

Brian Lee

**Summary**

A history of central Cardiff

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Charles II
The Star King
Clare Jackson

Summary
Charles II has always been one of the most instantly recognizable British kings—both in his physical appearance, disseminated through endless portraits, prints, and pub signs, and in his complicated mix of lasciviousness, cynicism, and luxury. His father's execution and his own many years of exile made him a guarded, curious, unusually self-conscious ruler. He lived through some of the most striking events in the UK's national history—from the Civil Wars to the Great Plague, from the Fire of London to the wars with the Dutch. Clare Jackson's marvelous book takes full advantage of its irrepressible subject.

Contributor Bio
Clare Jackson is the Senior Tutor of Trinity Hall, Cambridge University. She has presented a number of highly successful programs on the Stuart dynasty for the BBC and is currently writing a new history of Stuart Britain during the long 17th century.

City on Fire
Kingston upon Hull 1939-45
Nick Cooper

Summary
During the Second World War Hull spent more than 1,000 hours under air raid alerts and was the target of the first daylight raid of the war and the last piloted air raid on Britain. The city was vulnerable because it was a port and industrial centre close to mainland Europe and situated on an estuary, which made it easy to find. The result of this was that Hull was the most severely damaged town or city in the country during the war, 95 percent of its houses being destroyed. In this book, author Nick Cooper examines the air raids on Hull, the industries and infrastructure the raids targeted, how effective they were, the effects on the civilian population, the stories of some of the Civil Defence and rescue workers, how the raids were censored in the media at the time and the use of deception measures to try and protect the city. The book will also look at the aftermath of the war and the reconstruction of Hull.

Contributor Bio
Nick Cooper is an expert on the London Underground and has made a special study of how the Second World War impacted upon its operation, the role the Underground played in the lives of Londoners, and what survives from that era.
**Croydon Past**

John Gent

**Summary**

Croydon was for centuries a small but important market town, set in attractive open countryside and separated from London by poor roads, large commons, the Great North Wood, and, probably, by inclination. As the principal town in East Surrey, it had large markets and fairs, grants for which were obtained by the archbishops of Canterbury who, as lords of the manor, had their near London residence in the town. Frequent visitors from the 13th century, they entertained many important guests at what, by the 17th century, had become Croydon Palace. Enclosure of the common lands in 1801 paved the way for building development and the town began to expand. By 1809 it was served by two horse-drawn freight railways and a canal, but it was the arrival of steam railways from 1839 that made Croydon an ideal residential area for London commuters. The provision of a good water supply and proper drainage in 1851 made the town one of the healthiest in the country. Housing spread over the farmland at an increasing rate, the population reaching 191,375 by 1921. By this time Croydon's suburbs were mergin...

**Contributor Bio**

**John Gent** is the author of *Croydon Old and New* and *Croydon's Tramways*.

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**Darlington Through Time**

Paul Chrystal

**Summary**

Darlington is rightly famous for its involvement in the introduction and subsequent development of the railways in the UK. As such, it carries responsibility for shaping not just regional change on a huge scale in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries but, even more importantly, social, commercial and industrial change in the country as a whole. The railways have left the biggest mark on the town and the impact locally of the Stockton and Darlington railway and of its subsequent developments is covered, from its opening in 1825 to today’s celebration of the town’s railway heritage at ‘Head of Steam’, the former Darlington Railway Centre and Museum. Through a selection of old and new photographs and an incisive and informative text, *Darlington Through Time* traces the development of the town, from its importance as a medieval market centre through to its IT and engineering prowess in the twenty-first century and is essential reading for anybody who knows and loves this historic town.

**Contributor Bio**

**Paul Chrystal** was educated at the Universities of Hull and Southampton where he took degrees in Classics and wrote his MPhil thesis on attitudes to women in Roman love poetry. He appears regularly on BBC local radio the World Service. He is the author of over fifty books on a wide range of subjects, including histories of northern places, social histories of tea and of chocolate, a history of confectionery in Yorkshire and various aspects of classical literature and Roman history.
Edinburgh South Side Through Time
Fraser Parkinson, Jack Gillon

Summary
Edinburgh's South Side has contributed much to the rich story of the city. In 1766, Edinburgh made its first ambitious expansion beyond the city walls with the unique planned development of the George Square. The construction of the North and South Bridge, linking the New Town, Old Town and South Side, was a further boost to development in the area. Nineteenth century industrialisation resulted in tenement housing, workshops and factories filling most available space between elegant Georgian buildings. In the 1950s, the collapse of the Dumbiedykes 'Penny Tenement' focused attention on Edinburgh's slums and the removal of a whole community as part of a major slum-clearance drive followed. In the face of a public outcry, modern tower blocks also replaced the historic Georgian buildings on George Square with the loss of the fondly remembered Parkers' Store building in the Bristo area. In 1975, the South Side was declared a conservation area. This reversed the wave of demolition and resulted in the regeneration of the area and the retention of its historic identity. The mix of communiti...

Contributor Bio
Fraser Parkinson is a local author who runs the hugely popular "Spirit of Leithers" page on Facebook which traces the social and architectural history of Leith through old images. Jack Gillon is a long term resident of Edinburgh and has worked as a Town Planner involved in the conservation of the city's heritage of historic buildings for around thirty years and has an extensive knowledge of the city's history and architecture. He writes extensively on the historical heritage of Scotland and has had several books published by Amberley.

Edward IV
Glorious Son of York
Jeffrey James

Summary
Few English monarchs fought harder for the right to rule than King Edward IV—Shakespeare's glorious son of York. Cast in the true Plantagenet mold, more than six feet tall, he was a charismatic leader. In the 11 years between 1460 and 1471, he fought five major battles in the Wars of the Roses. Three of them rank among the most decisive of the medieval period. This book covers Edward's family background, the Yorkist takeover, and the drift to war. It charts the tensions created by the Woodville marriage and Edward's deposition and exile by the Earl of Warwick. The return of the king brought with it battles anew and Edward's decisive campaigns against Warwick and Margaret of Anjou. This is a history of Edward IV's struggle to gain and retain the kingship of England.

Contributor Bio
Jeffrey James is the author of An Onslaught of Spears and Swordsmen of the King.
**Edward VII**

*The Cosmopolitan King*

Richard Davenport-Hines

**Summary**

Like his mother Queen Victoria, Edward VII defined an era. Both reflected the personalities of their central figures: hers grand, imperial, and stiff; his no less grand, but more relaxed and enjoyable. To the despair of his parents, he rebelled as a young man, conducting many affairs and living a life of pleasure. But as king he made a distinct contribution to European diplomacy and—which is little known—to London, laying out the Mall and Admiralty Arch. This overview is as enjoyable as its subject and the age he made.

**Contributor Bio**

Richard Davenport-Hines is the author of biographies of Dudley Docker, W. H. Auden, Marcel Proust, Lady Desborough, and Maynard Keynes. He has also written histories, as well as editing three volumes of Hugh Trevor-Roper's correspondence and journals.

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**English History**

Richard Smyth

**Summary**

One of Henry VII's most prized possessions was the preserved leg of St. George. In February, 1789, George III pursued a bestselling lady novelist in a high-speed chase through Kew Gardens. When Henry IV’s tomb was opened, his beard was found to be "thick and matted, and of a deep russet colour." This book contains hundreds of "strange but true" facts and anecdotes about English history. Arranged into a miniature history of England, and with bizarre and hilarious true tales for every era, it will surprise and delight readers everywhere.

**Contributor Bio**

Richard Smyth spent several years as an editor before becoming a freelance writer and researcher. He writes regular articles for magazines including *History Today*, as well compiling that publication's monthly crossword. He also sets the questions for the BBC's *Mastermind*.
**Essex Buses**

John Law

**Summary**

Essex has long been full of interest for followers of Britain’s bus industry. The western side of the county has always fallen under the influence of London, even to the extent that places like Romford, Upminster and Ilford were transferred into the newly created Greater London in 1974. The dominant operator in Essex was Eastern National, which started life in London under the auspices of Thomas Clarkson in 1909. The company later became part of the Tilling Group, followed by the British Transport Commission, and then the National Bus Company. Eastern National fell into the hands of First Group after privatisation. There were lots of other operators in Essex. To the west, both London Transport and London Country were to be found. Eastern Counties, from that company’s vast empire in East Anglia, could be found around the border areas. There were also two municipal businesses, in Colchester and Southend-on-Sea. Sell-offs resulted in both becoming part of the Deutsche Bahn-owned Arriva. Perhaps Essex is best known for its independent bus companies. Many have now gone, leaving just memor...

**Contributor Bio**

John Law is a transport enthusiast and photographer based in Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

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**Exploring Glasgow**

An Architectural and Historical Guide

Robin Ward

**Summary**

Glasgow is one of the most architecturally exciting cities in the world, boasting a huge variety of building styles. There are grand Victorian public buildings celebrating civic progress and pride, commercial palazzi glorifying trade and industry, glittering art galleries, a Gothic Revival university as well as tower blocks, tenements, the Art Nouveau of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the quirky classicism of Alexander ‘Greek’ Thomson. This book illustrates and describes almost 500 buildings and structures, featured not only for their architectural excellence but also for their social and historical significance.

**Contributor Bio**

Robin Ward is an architecture critic, writer and graphic designer who was born and raised in Glasgow. He studied at Glasgow School of Art and subsequently worked for the BBC in London, and in Canada, where he was architecture critic for the Vancouver Sun. He has written a number of books, including *Some City Glasgow, The Spirit of Glasgow*, and co-wrote *Exploring Bangkok*. 
Eyam Hall
National Trust Guidebook
Annie Bullen

Summary
Eyam Hall, a small manor house built in the late 17th century in the heart of a village recovering from a terrible outbreak of bubonic plague, is the much-loved home of an ancient Derbyshire family. The Wrights, prosperous merchants and land-owners, constructed their grand new home in Eyam, a village struggling after the tragic events of 1665 and 1666, when the plague took hold. The Hall and its estate brought hope and employment to Eyam, while generations of Wrights made it a comfortable and beautiful family home, always at the center of village life. This beautiful, fully illustrated book tells the story of the Wright family and its home, while also exploring the tragic events surrounding the plague years and the legacy these have had on the village of Eyam.

Contributor Bio
Annie Bullen is a writer and journalist. After working for almost two decades as features editor on a daily newspaper, she became freelance to explore her interest in British history, great houses and gardens, and countryside issues. She has written novels, books on the British royal family, and guides to major cities. Annie is the author of several guides to National Trust properties and contributes articles to leading gardening magazines.

Famous Regiments of the British Army
A Pictorial Guide and Celebration, Volume Three
Dorian Bond

Summary
This book, a continuation of volumes one and two, completes the study of more than a hundred British regiments all of whom played more than important roles in world history. In testing times, on foreign adventures victorious, glorious and sometimes disastrous, they have helped shape the history of the British Isles. In this third volume thirty-four regiments are featured – their battle honors, badges and most famous sons – including the stories of the heroic actions of their Victoria Cross holders. Each regiment’s section includes artworks and photographs illustrating insignia, uniforms and soldiers in action down through the centuries. While the tales of courage and loss are in themselves enthralling, Dorian Bond divulges many interesting facts about these unique bodies of men: how did the 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment get their acorn and oak leaf badge? Which South Staffordshire man became the inspiration for Terence Rattigan’s The Winslow Boy? Did you know that a princess wrote “The Royal Windsor” quick march for the 29th of Foot, later the Worcestershire Regiment? Covering action wher...
Faversham At Work
People and Industries Through the Years
Robert Turcan

Summary
Faversham has always been a hard-working town. Its very name, which was derived from Latin and old English, means 'the metal workers' village' and in Saxon times the area was a centre for the manufacture of jewellery. Its town market has been in continuous use for over 900 years and when King Steven established a huge abbey here it became, for a while, capital of the kingdom. With a navigable creek leading to the Swale seaway, fishermen have always plied their trade. In fact the Faversham Oyster Fisheries Company is recorded in the Guinness Book of Records as being the oldest. Shepherd Neame's Brewery, which was established here, also claims to be Britain's oldest, and many surrounding farms supply the essential raw material; hops. Faversham is best known, though, for its explosives industry, which has been based here since the seventeenth century. Faversham gunpowder blasted through rocks and tunnels to allow faster growth of the railways. They also aided extraction of vital ores and minerals from mines. Consequent expansion in demand led to enlarged works at two different sites unt...

Contributor Bio
Robert Turcan is a retired fund manager who was brought up on a fruit farm in the North Kent horticultural belt. He has a lifelong interest in local history, in the pursuit of which he has amassed a considerable collection of topographical postcards, books and maps. His appreciation of the constantly changing environment is complimented by keen amateur photography, as well as a number of previously published titles on Kent's towns.

For the Love of the Royal Family
A Companion
Roger Bryan

Summary
Did you know that William IV was wont to speak his mind, and could sometimes lack tact, which is said to have inspired the nickname "Silly Billy?" Or that Edward III banned all sports, including soccer, on Sundays, so that his subjects could be free to concentrate solely on their archery? Or that coronation chicken was invented for foreign guests to enjoy at Elizabeth II's coronation? This rich miscellany celebrates the fascinating history of the British Royal Family, from the reign of Egbert, King of Wessex, to the monarchy of the present day. Full of titillating trivia, little-known facts, bite-size biographies and memorable quotations, it paints a colorful picture of how the kings and queens of that noble land have shaped the way we live today.

Contributor Bio
Roger Bryan is a journalist and former chief sub editor at The Mail on Sunday.
Glamorgan Folk Tales for Children
Cath Little

Summary
How do you get rid of a bothersome giant? Have you got a secret like Effie? And what would you do with an invisibility seed? Some of these stories from Glamorgan are strange and sad, some are a bit scary and some are a bit mad. Our ancestors first told them long ago, and people liked them so much they kept passing them on. These stories of magic and adventure belong to everyone. They are meant to be told. Read them, tell them and pass them on yourself! Storyteller Cath Little has gathered together this enchanting collection of tales, illustrated by fellow storyteller and illustrator Peter Stevenson. Told in Cath’s captivating style, these stories will be especially enjoyed by primary school-aged children.

Glasgow
Michael Fry

Summary
Beloved, reviled—and not only by Glaswegians, Glasgow isn’t just the industrial revolution nor the Victorian slums. Founded in the sixth century, its forebears pushed back the Romans. The roof of its cathedral, founded in the 12th century, survived the Reformation. Its 15th-century university welcomed Adam Smith and the Enlightenment. It prospered from sugar, tobacco, cotton, and slavery in the the 18th century, and saw the rise of the Red Clydesiders in the 20th. Its denizens have seen rise and fall, bombs and demolitions, their humor intact. Now these people and this city play a pivotal role in Scotland’s and the UK’s future. It’s time for a book that tells the story in all its complexity.

Contributor Bio
Michael Fry is a highly regarded author and journalist, and regular contributor to the Scotsman, the Herald, and the Sunday Times. He is the author of a dozen books of Scottish history, including How the Scots Made America and The Scottish Empire.
Glasgow: The Autobiography

Alan Taylor

Summary

Glasgow: The Autobiography tells the story of the fabled, former Second City of the British Empire from its origins as a bucolic village on the rivers Kelvin and Clyde, through the Industrial Revolution to the dawning of the second millennium. Arranged chronologically and introduced by journalist and Glasgowphile Alan Taylor, the book includes extracts from an astonishing array of writers.

Contributor Bio

Alan Taylor has been a journalist for over 30 years. He was deputy and managing editor at the Scotsman, and for the last 15 years has been Writer-at-Large for the Sunday Herald. He has contributed to numerous publications, including The TLS, The New Yorker and The Melbourne Age, and edited three acclaimed anthologies – The Assassin’s Cloak (2000), The Secret Annexe (2004) and The Country Dairies (2009).

Hadrian's Wall

Archaeology and History at the Limit of Rome's Empire

Nick Hodgson

Summary

Built around AD 122, Hadrian's Wall was guarded by the Roman army for over three centuries and has left an indelible mark on the landscape of northern Britain. It was a wonder of the ancient world and is a World Heritage Site. Written by a leading archaeologist who has excavated widely on the Wall, this is an authoritative yet accessible treatment of the archaeological evidence. The book explains why the expansion of the Roman empire ground to a halt in remote northern Britain, how the Wall came to be built and the purpose it was intended to serve. It is not a guidebook to the remains, but an introduction to the Wall and the soldiers and civilians, men, women and children, who once peopled the abandoned ruins visited by tourists today.

Contributor Bio

Nick Hodgson has worked for 29 years as an archaeologist for Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums. He has excavated widely on Hadrian's Wall and since 1989 has co-directed long-running programs of excavation at the forts of South Shields and Wallsend on Tyneside.
**Henry III**
The Great King England Never Knew It Had
Darren Baker

**Summary**
Henry III (1207-1272) reigned for 56 years, the longest-serving English monarch until the modern era. Admired for his building projects like Westminster Abbey, he is dismissed by scholars as weak and inept. This biography shows that he was in fact a more than capable ruler. Crowned as a boy, scarred by civil war, he strove to be a good king, but his increasingly insular barons and clergy constantly thwarted his plans to make England a cosmopolitan center. Their resentfulness led to a palace revolution that checked his power. He would have clawed it all back were it not for one man, Simon de Montfort. Yet somehow Henry survived, as he always had, through the remarkable 13th century.

**Contributor Bio**
Darren Baker is the author of *With All for All: The Life of Simon de Montfort*.

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**I Never Knew That About England’s Country Churches**
Christopher Winn

**Summary**
This charming book takes you through the counties of England, exploring Saxon churches, reflective of simple faith; Norman churches with rugged arches and powerful pillars, stamping their authority; gothic churches with their soaring arches; Decorated and Perpendicular churches made glorious with Early English style and craftsmanship; Victorian churches, resplendent with imperial pomp; and eccentric Arts and Crafts churches. Every one of them has a remarkable tale to tell, that will move you to exclaim, again and again: "I never knew that!"

**Contributor Bio**
Christopher Winn's first book was the bestselling *I Never Knew That About England*. Volumes on Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and London followed as well as books on the English, Scottish, and Irish, alongside an illustrated edition of *I Never Knew That About England and London*. A freelance writer and collector of trivia for over 20 years, he has worked with Terry Wogan and Jonathan Ross and sets quiz questions for television as well as for the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Telegraph*. He was also the Associate Producer for a TV series by ITV on Great Britain.
I Never Knew that About the English
Christopher Winn

Summary
Here are the traditions, foibles, quirks, customs, humor and achievements, triumphs and failures, peccadilloes and passions of the English. Travel through the country from coast to coast and learn how every county contributes in unique and different ways to the distinct English personality. Marvel at crooked black and white halls in Cheshire and soft golden stone cottages in Midland villages. Go cheese rolling in Gloucestershire, discover the origins of cricket in Hampshire, savour a hot pot in Lancashire and a pudding in Yorkshire. Gasp at the glories of stately homes and the families that create them, upstairs and down, enjoy a pint. Listen to the memories and tales of ordinary folk from every walk of life and find out from them what it means to be English.

Contributor Bio

Ightham Mote
National Trust Guide
National Trust

Summary
Serene Ightham Mote is a house that belongs to the ages. Set in beautiful Kentish countryside, it is the most complete medieval moated manor house in England, but it is a miracle that it has survived at all. The inspiration behind a classic Henry James ghost tale, and painted by John Singer Sargent and Sir Winston Churchill, this is the story of a place of quirky charm. It is also the story of an American's love affair with the quintessentially English property that he helped to save, and of the National Trust’s 15-year-long conservation project that has safeguarded Ightham Mote for future generations.
**In the Footsteps of the Six Wives of Henry VIII**
The Visitor's Companion to the Palaces, Castles & Houses Associated with Henry VIII's Iconic Queens
Sarah Morris, Natalie Grueninger

**Summary**
Explore a fresh perspective on the lives of Henry VIII's six wives by embarking on a journey through the manors, castles, and palaces in which their lives played out. This journey traces their steps to the Alhambra in Spain, childhood home of Katherine of Aragon; to the room at Acton Court where Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII publicly dined; through the cobbled grounds of Hampton Court Palace, which bore witness to triumph and tragedy for Jane Seymour; into the streets of Düsseldorf in Germany, birthplace of Anne of Cleves; among the ruins and picturesque gardens of St Mary's Abbey in York, where Catherine Howard and Henry VIII rested at the pinnacle of the 1541 progress; and to Gainsborough Old Hall in Lincolnshire, where Katherine Parr lived as daughter-in-law of the irascible Sir Thomas Brough. Each location's narrative unearths the queens' lives in documents and artifacts, as well as providing practical information. This book brings readers closer than ever to the women behind the legends, providing a personal and illuminating journey.

**Contributor Bio**
Sarah Morris runs the website www.anneboleynbook.com, dedicated to her nonfiction and fiction writing about England’s most famous queen consort. Natalie Grueninger is a researcher, writer and educator, and founder of www.onthetudortrail.com, a site about Anne Boleyn and Tudor England.

**Island on the Edge**
Anne Cholawo

**Summary**
Anne Cholawo was a typical 80s career girl working in a busy London advertising agency, when in 1989, holidaying in Skye, she noticed an advert for a property on the Isle of Soay – ‘Access by courtesy of fishing boat’. She had never heard of Soay before, let alone visited it, but something inexplicable drew her there. Within ten minutes of stepping off the said fishing boat, she had fallen under the spell of the island, and after a few months she moved there to live. Anne describes the history of Soay and its unique wildlife, and as well as telling her own personal story.

**Contributor Bio**
Anne Cholawo was born and brought up in Luton. She studied Art and Design at college and later became a graphic artist and studio manager at a number of advertising agencies in London, including Saatchi and Saatchi. She moved to Soay to live in 1990. While on the island she met the man who is now her husband, Robert Cholawo.
Islay

The Land of the Lordship

David Caldwell

Summary

This is the history of Islay up to the present day with a particular focus on the people of the island. Islay was originally part of Dal Riata, the early kingdom of the Scots, but was then colonized by Scandinavian settlers in the ninth century. It was also the home of the MacDonalds, who established the Lordship of the Isles during the Medieval Period and who mounted a challenge to the Stewart dynasty for control of Scotland. It also looks at the lesser folk, especially during the time of the Campbell lairds, from the early 17th century onwards. Archaeology combined with documentary research has helped to build up a picture of how the people of Islay lived, the way the land was farmed and the development of local industries, including the distilling of whisky.

Contributor Bio

Dr David Caldwell is Keeper of Scotland & Europe in the National Museums of Scotland. In the 1990s he directed excavations at Finlaggan on Islay, the centre of the Lordship of the Isles. He is the author of another Birlinn publication, Islay, Jura and Colonsay: A Historical Guide (2001), which provides a gazetteer of sites and monuments to complement this book.

Kingmakers

How Power in England Was Won and Lost on the Welsh Frontier

Timothy Venning

Summary

The Marcher lords first empowered by William I were relied upon by subsequent Norman and Plantagenet kings to protect the dangerous frontiers of the realm. The smaller size and military weakness of divided neighboring states encouraged conquest, with seized lands enhancing the power of the aggressive English lords. They were granted ever greater authority by the monarch, to the point where they believed they ruled like kings. They intermarried, schemed for extra lands and snatched power in a complex and often violent political process. Owing to their resources and unparalleled military effectiveness, they came to overawe kings and dominate national events. The strength of the Marcher lords would come to the fore in the shape of notorious figures such as Simon de Montfort and Roger Mortimer. The civil war of King Stephen’s reign, the baronial resistance to King John, the overthrow of Edward II and Richard II; all of these crises turned upon the involvement of the lords of the Marches. Timothy Venning reveals the dramatic careers both of those who prospered from their loyalty to the ki...

Contributor Bio

Timothy Venning is the author of If Rome Hadn’t Fallen, and has written articles for the Dictionary of National Biography. He also contributes to major biographical publications and his research forms the basis for many other publications.
Knutsford History Tour
Paul Hurley

Summary
*Knutsford History Tour* is a unique insight into the illustrious history of this famous old port. This new book guides us through the streets and alleyways, showing how its famous landmarks used to look and how they’ve changed over the years as well as exploring its lesser-known sights and hidden corners. With the help of a handy location map, readers are invited to follow a timeline of events and discover for themselves the changing face of Knutsford.

Contributor Bio
*Paul Hurley* has been a freelance writer since 2002 and has been writing professionally ever since. He has had magazine, local and national newspaper credits and has written several books for Amberley on the local history of Cheshire. Since retiring from the police in 2002 he has amassed a CV that takes in a three part article in the *Steam World* magazine, one in the *Backtrack* magazine and many other magazine articles not relating to the railway scene. He lives in Winsford with his wife and his hobbies are writing, travel, motorcycling and classic cars.

Lancaster The Postcard Collection
Billy F.K. Howorth

Summary
Lancaster was once a small Roman outpost located on the River Lune, which over the centuries expanded into one of the most important hubs in the North West. It has played host to many important events from the Wars of the Roses to the Pendle Witch Trials of 1612. The town underwent a period of rapid expansion during the Georgian Period, fueled by the North Atlantic Slave Trade and the businesses connected with it. Later in the Victorian era the town developed a reputation for its manufacturing, especially connected with linoleum making and the industrialist Lord Ashton. Lancaster also became well connected to the wider area through its transport links and the railways. *Lancaster The Postcard Collection* takes the reader on an evocative journey into Lancaster’s past through a selection of old postcards which offer a fascinating window into the history of the city.

Contributor Bio
*Billy F.K. Howorth* is Lancashire native, he was born in Blackburn and grew up in Morecambe. Billy studied at the University of Bradford where he gained his degree in Archaeology. He has gone on to teach and lecture around the North West on various archaeological and historical subjects. He can be found giving talks to local groups, societies and museums, as well as teaching courses and undertaking consultancy work. He is also the manager of Carnforth Bookshop, one of the largest independent bookshops in the North West.
Leominster History Tour
Malcolm Mason

Summary
Leominster History Tour is a unique insight into the illustrious history of this Herefordshire market town, its well-known streets and famous faces, and explains what they meant to local people throughout the nineteenth and into the twentieth century. Readers are invited to follow a timeline of events and watch the changing face of Leominster as author Malcolm Mason guides us through the local streets.

Contributor Bio
Malcolm Mason is a local author and historian who lives in Leominster.

London In The Nineteenth Century
'A Human Awful Wonder of God'
Jerry White

Summary
Jerry White's London in the Nineteenth Century is the richest and most absorbing account of the city's greatest century by its leading expert.

London in the nineteenth century was the greatest city mankind had ever seen. Its growth was stupendous. Its wealth was dazzling. Its horrors shocked the world. This was the London of Blake, Thackeray and Mayhew, of Nash, Faraday and Disraeli. Most of all it was the London of Dickens. As William Blake put it, London was "a Human awful wonder of God."

In Jerry White's dazzling history we witness the city's unparalleled metamorphosis over the course of the century through the daily lives of its inhabitants. We see how Londoners worked, played, and adapted to the demands of the metropolis during this century of dizzying change. The result is a panorama teeming with life.

Contributor Bio
Professor Jerry White teaches London history at Birkbeck, University of London, and has been writing about the city for over thirty years. His London in the Twentieth Century won the Wolfson Prize in 2001 and his London in the Eighteenth Century completed the acclaimed trilogy in 2012. His more recent books include Zeppelin Nights, a social history of London during the First World War, and Mansions of Misery: A Biography of the Marshalsea Debtors' Prison. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature by the University of London in 2005 and is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.
London's East End History Tour
Michael Foley

Summary
London's East End History Tour is a unique insight into the illustrious history of this famous old port. This new book guides us through the streets and alleyways, showing how its famous landmarks used to look and how they’ve changed over the years as well as exploring its lesser-known sights and hidden corners. With the help of a handy location map, readers are invited to follow a timeline of events and discover for themselves the changing face of London's East End.

Contributor Bio
Michael Foley is a local author who has had a number of articles published in magazines such as Best of British, This England and The Great War. He has been writing for some time and has had many books published, mainly about the area where he lives and Essex and Military History. He lives in Romford.

Long Live the King
The Mysterious Fate of Edward II
Kathryn Warner

Summary
History tells us that Edward II died at Berkeley Castle in 1327 in agony, with a red-hot poker inserted inside him. This is one of the most famous and lurid tales in all of English history. But is it true? Much evidence suggests that Edward did not die at Berkeley Castle at all, but was still alive years after his supposed death. Medieval historian Kathryn Warner explores in detail Edward’s downfall and forced abdication in 1326-1327, the role played in it by his wife Isabella of France, the wide variation in chronicle accounts of his murder at Berkeley Castle, and the fascinating possibility that Edward was alive in Italy many years after his official funeral was held in Gloucester in 1327.

Contributor Bio
Kathryn Warner is a recognized expert on the reign of Edward II (1307-27). She works part-time as an English teacher and carries out historical research on the 14th century. She gives lectures about Edward, his life and reign and possible survival after 1327, in the UK and in Italy. She is the author of Edward II: The Unconventional King.
Lost Britain
An A-Z of Forgotten Landmarks and Lost Traditions
David Long

Summary
From vanished villages and bygone businesses to abandoned architecture, forgotten pastimes, and projects put on hold, Lost Britain tells the intriguing story of Britain’s buildings, counties, transport, languages, roads, and rivers that have been forgotten over the centuries. The book shines a light on the hidden corners of Britain’s history, exploring medieval ghost villages, former architectural masterpieces, the purported resting place of Anne Boleyn’s heart, England’s Atlantis, God’s Gift, a German war cemetery, the hamlet of Lost in Aberdeenshire, the old Welsh railway run on seven different forms of power, and a missing fort in County Down, not to mention how Britain used to be connected to mainland Europe. Exploring the history of the lost parts of Britain, author David Long both mourns their loss and celebrates the achievements of the engineers and architects of past generations, revealing some extraordinary features of Britain’s history that should not be forgotten.

Contributor Bio
David Long is the author of Bizarre England and Lost Britain.

Manchester The Postcard Collection
Erik Krieger

Summary
Manchester is one of the largest cities in the United Kingdom and has a history that stretches right back to the time of the Romans. The city began life in around AD 79 as a civilian settlement associated with the Roman fort of Mamucium, or Mancunium, based near the confluence of the rivers Medlock and Irwell. However, it was with the onset of the Industrial Revolution that Manchester really began to thrive and developed into the city we know and love today. Join author Erik Krieger as he examines the city’s fascinating past through a careful selection of charming vintage postcards from his personal collection, with each image offering a unique insight into this city and its people.

Contributor Bio
Erik Krieger has a degree in physics and has previously worked for a physics research journal, and also in local government. He currently lives in London and sells collectables, including vintage postcards. He has collected postcards since the 1980s and written several works on postcard matters. His previous publications include two titles on Manchester and one on football, all of which he has illustrated using his vast postcard collection.
Merthyr, The Crucible of Modern Wales
Joe England

More Somerset Tales
Jack William Sweet

Summary
Somerset is a beautiful county – ‘The Land of Summer’ – and it is also one of the oldest English counties. However, beneath the beauty lies a Somerset that is sometimes shocking, often surprising. Once again Jack Sweet tells some of these stories, including the unsolved brutal murder of young Betty Trump at Buckland St Mary, a terrific storm that struck the Somerset coast in 1903, a prison break, violent robbery, tragedies in the air, at sea and in the river, to the strange tale of a young lady chased by an angry stoat, a weird creature rising from the River Yeo near Yeovil, and on the lighter side, the proceedings of the Brighter Cary Club.

Contributor Bio
Jack William Sweet has lived all his life in Yeovil, where he was born. After leaving the RAF in 1958 he worked for thirty four years’ with Yeovil Borough Council and later the South Somerset District Council before taking early retirement. His passion for history has inspired this prolific author to write numerous articles for local publications as well as many books including Shocking Somerset Murders of the Nineteenth Century and Shocking and Surprising Somerset Stories. Although retired Jack undertakes voluntary work for the Museum of South Somerset. He is also a keen photographer and has travelled extensively.
Nantwich History Tour
Paul Hurley

Summary
Nantwich has been a very important town from the earliest days. It is the oldest of the three Cheshire Wiches or Wyches from which salt has been drawn, the other two being Northwich and Middlewich. During Roman times Nantwich was famous for the salt that was recovered here, Welsh Row being so-named as it is the road the Welsh used to enter the town to collect salt. In fact, its ancient name was Helath Wen (‘the town of white salt’); the present name is derived from Nant meaning ‘vale’, and Wich meaning ‘a salt spring’. Other names for the town have been Wich-Malbank after the ancient family of Malbank, whose ancestor was one of Hugh Lupus’s relations, and Namptwyche. Join Paul Hurley as he guides the reader through the town’s charming streets, showing how its most recognisable landmarks and hiddenaway gems have transformed over time. With the help of a handy location map, readers are invited on this tour to discover for themselves the changing face of Nantwich.

Contributor Bio
Paul Hurley has been a freelance writer since 2002 and has been writing professionally ever since. He has had magazine, local and national newspaper credits and has written several books for Amberley on the local history of Cheshire. Since retiring from the police in 2002 he has amassed a CV that takes in a three part article in the Steam World magazine, one in the Backtrack magazine and many other magazine articles not relating to the railway scene. He lives in Winsford with his wife and his hobbies are writing, travel, motorcycling and classic cars.

Nelson's Lost Jewel
The Extraordinary Story of the Lost Diamond Chelengk
Martyn Downer

Summary
Following Nelson’s triumph at the Battle of the Nile, he was presented with an extraordinary diamond jewel by the Sultan of Turkey. The chelengk was the Ottomans’ highest reward for gallantry and Nelson the first non-Muslim recipient. He adopted it in his coat of arms and theatrically wore the chelengk on his hat. Breathlessly discussed in the gossip press and depicted in portraits and caricatures, it provoked both ridicule and awe in 18th-century England. This is the remarkable story of one of the most famous jewels in British history, and its journey from Constantinople to London. The chelengk's eventful descent in Nelson's family ended with its sale by auction in 1895. Secured for the nation by public appeal, it passed to the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich from where it was stolen in 1951, never to be seen again. The author turns detective in the hope of finally tracking it down.

Contributor Bio
Martyn Downer is former director at Sotheby's, and the leading specialist in the identification of artifacts relating to Nelson and the Royal Navy. He has handled the sales of the most valuable artworks belonging to Nelson. He is the author of Nelson’s Purse.
**Northfield Past & Present**  
Veronica Smith

**Norwich in 100 Dates**  
Kindra Jones

**Summary**  
Experience 100 key dates that shaped Norwich's history, highlighted its people's genius (or silliness) and embraced the unexpected. Featuring an amazing mix of pivotal, social, criminal and sporting events, this book reveals a past that will fascinate, delight and even shock residents and visitors alike.
Norwich in 50 Buildings

Michael Chandler

Summary

From its days as the largest city in England after London and, until the Industrial Revolution, capital of the most populous county in the country, to its current status as a major regional centre and one of the most prosperous and attractive cities in England, Norwich has a proud and distinctive identity. This extraordinary history is embodied in the buildings that have shaped the city. Norwich in 50 Buildings explores the history of this rich and vibrant community through a selection of its greatest architectural treasures. From the Norman cathedral to the 21st-century Forum, this unique study celebrates the city's architectural heritage in a new and accessible way. Author and Historian Michael Chandler guides the reader on a tour of the city's historic buildings and modern architectural marvels.

Contributor Bio

Michael Chandler is a Norwich-based author, tour guide, historian and broadcaster. He has written numerous books on Norwich's history. He is the current resident historian at Future Radio and also contributes to the BBC and ITV, as well as local newspapers and magazines. He has given talks about his love of Norwich to many local history groups.

Old Warden

Tales of Tenants and Squires

Christine A. Hill

Summary

Old Warden: Tales of Tenants & Squires traces the fascinating history of the village of Old Warden, its inhabitants and their relationship with the Ongley and Shuttleworth landowner families from the eighteenth century to the early twentieth century. With many amusing tales, this book shows how community life was inextricably linked to the Old Warden estate and the development of its Regency-style Swiss Garden, which was designed by obsessive visionary Lord Ongley. To visit Old Warden is to step back in time. This book guides readers through the village’s unique and intriguing features and explores its rich history.

Contributor Bio

Born and raised in Old Warden, Christine is proud to be descended from a long line of village 'peasantry'. With a lifelong passion for the past in general and Old Warden in particular early retirement from a career in the Civil Service at last provided the time for her to immerse herself in historical research. Her first venture into writing has been supported by the Heritage Lottery funding of the recent restoration of the Swiss Garden, Old Warden.
Oxford

Mapping the City
Daniel MacCannell

Summary
Over the past four and a half centuries, the magnificent city of Oxford has been mapped for many reasons, few of which have involved the mere finding of one’s way through the streets. For the first time, this lavishly illustrated volume brings together sixty of the most remarkable maps and views of the area that have been made by friend and foe since 1575.

Contributor Bio
Daniel MacCannell, a graduate of Aberdeen University and UCLA’s MFA-Screenwriting program, is a widely published nonfiction writer who has received the Jack Nicholson prize and been nominated for the Fotokem Maverick Award for his fictional work. He edited the highly acclaimed book The Lost City: Old Aberdeen, also published by Birlinn.

Oxford History Tour
Stanley C. Jenkins

Summary
Oxford History Tour is a unique insight into the illustrious history of this venerable old university city. Local author Stanley C. Jenkins guides us around the streets and alleyways, parks and buildings, showing how its famous landmarks used to look and how they’ve changed over the years as well as exploring its lesser-known sights and hidden corners. With the help of a handy location map, readers are invited to follow a timeline of events and discover for themselves the changing face of Oxford.

Contributor Bio
Stanley C. Jenkins, who was educated at Witney Grammar School, the University of Lancaster and the University of Leicester, has written over 20 books and some 750 articles on local, transport and regional history. Having worked as an English Language teacher at Oxford Air Training School for several years, he returned to Leicester University to retrain as a museum curator in 1986, and was subsequently employed by English Heritage as the Regional Curator for South Western England. He is Curatorial Advisor to the Witney & District Museum, and is also working as a curator for the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust, which is at present building a military museum at Woodstock.
Past Times of Macclesfield Volume IV

Dorothy Bentley Smith

**Summary**

This particular volume consists of articles that were wholly or partially published when the author, local history expert Dorothy Bentley Smith, was a columnist for the *Macclesfield Express* from March 2010 to mid-2012. In these articles, Dorothy covers a wide variety of topics on the theme of local history, from Victorian baths, railway outings and celebrations, to scandal, storms, and tragedy – this book dips into a multitude of topics. Each of the articles inside are accompanied by a selection of fascinating images, some of which are very rare and previously unseen. So, join Dorothy as she takes you on an insightful trip into Macclesfield’s past.

**Contributor Bio**

**Dorothy Bentley Smith** is an author, tour guide, lecturer and accredited poet, with a passion for Macclesfield’s local history, the town which she and her late husband adopted in 1967. A former member of the Spode Society, Trustee of Christ Church and area representative for the Churches Conservation Trust (2006-2013), and now Trustee for the Stanley & Brocklehurst Almshouses and Chair of Macclesfield Heritage Forum, she continues her journey through the town’s 1,000 years of fascinating history.

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Perth Through Time

Jack Gillon

**Summary**

"The Fair City" of Perth is aptly named. Situated on the banks of Scotland’s longest river, the Tay, Perth and its surrounding area boast some of the most beautiful scenery in the country. Perth was once the capital of Scotland and there are many interesting historical sights to visit. The jewel in the crown, though, is undoubtedly Scone Palace on the outskirts of town. Scone was the home of the Stone of Destiny for nearly 500 years, and the site where every Scottish king was crowned. Its position on the River Tay ensured that Perth became a busy trading port, exporting salmon and wool and importing claret from Bordeaux. Its bustling harbour remains in use, the only inland harbour in Britain. Today, Perth is a major tourist centre and important staging post on the route north to the Highlands of Scotland. As such, it boasts many shops, bars and restaurants as well as a thriving arts and cultural scene. Join author Jack Gillon as he shows how the city has changed and how much of its proud heritage remains.

**Contributor Bio**

**Jack Gillon** is a long term resident of Edinburgh and has worked as a Town Planner involved in the conservation of the city’s heritage of historic buildings for around thirty years and has an extensive knowledge of the city’s history and architecture. He writes extensively on the historical heritage of Scotland and has had several books published by Amberley.
Portsmouth in 50 Buildings
Garth Groombridge

Summary
Like its near neighbour (and long-time rival) Southampton, the twentieth century has not been kind to Portsmouth. Much of the historic High Street, once said to be one of most attractive in the country, was destroyed during the Second World War and sadly few buildings survived. As elsewhere, the post-war architecture was abysmal and bland. Well into the mid-nineteenth century Portsmouth town was restrained within military fortifications, bastions, gates and arrowhead moats. By the early 1900s, however, Portsmouth had begun to extend from its original urban settlement guarding the Camber: the naval docks and Harbour mouth, north out across Portsea Island, with row upon row of terraced streets swallowing up the farmland and small villages of North End, Kingston, Copnor, Milton, Fratton, Eastney and Hilsea. German bombs and post-war town planning has since transformed much of the heart of nineteenth century Portsmouth Old Town and Landport. As always, many interesting and historic buildings have been lost. Southsea still has an interesting mixture of both late-Regency and Edwardian seas...

Contributor Bio
Garth Groombridge was born to a long-established Teddington family. Over the years his interest in architecture and history has resulted in an extensive number of photographs of streets and buildings in many towns and cities across England and Scotland, and in mainland Europe and parts of the former Soviet Union. Since moving to Southampton, and especially with the advent of digital photography, he has undertaken extensive photographic ‘expeditions’ of Portsmouth, Gosport and Southampton.

QE2: A 50th Anniversary Celebration
Chris Frame, Rachelle Cross

Summary
Fifty years ago, the last British built transatlantic liner was launched. Christened by HM The Queen on September 20, 1967, the 963 foot-long vessel was named Queen Elizabeth 2. By the end of that same day, she was already known by her famous nickname: QE2. Fast, smart, and sleek, QE2 sailed more than 5.6 million miles and carried more than 2.5 million passengers during a magnificent 39 1/2 year career. Put simply, she carried more people further than any ship before her and remains the longest-serving express liner in history. Through words penned by passionate QE2 travelers and with tribute stories from captains, crew, and guests, a wide selection of carefully selected photographs bring this wonderful ship to life.

Contributor Bio
Chris Frame and Rachelle Cross are the authors of the Photographic Journey series, and many books for the Story series, as well as A Photographic History of P&O Cruises and An Evolution of Transatlantic Liners. They work as a marketing executive and bookseller, respectively.
Rye
A History of A Sussex Cinque Port to 1660
Gillian Draper

Summary
This new illustrated history traces Rye's origins from the Norman Conquest until beyond its period of great prosperity under the Tudor monarchs. Many inhabitants were fishermen on small-scale merchants and owned vessels which they supplied for the king's ship-service, transporting members of the royal family across the Channel or, in wartime, carrying horses and provisions for soldiers. In times of truce Rye's mariners turned to piracy and wrecking, disrupting the cross-Channel trade on which the town's economy also depended. During the Hundred Years War, the townsfolk reinforced the defenses and, in response to the huge mortality of the Black Death, they endowed an Augustinian Friary so that the brothers would pray for their health and souls.

But then Rye entered a period of economic stagnation which saw the disappearance of many trades and crafts that had supported the residents and supplied mariners calling at the port. Rye's revival came towards the end of the 15th century, after the harbors of nearby ports such as New Romney and Winchelsea had been damaged by storms and silting.

Contributor Bio
Gillian Draper is the author of The Sea and the Marsh.

Scotland (2nd Edition)
A History from Earliest Times
Alistair Moffat

Summary
From the Ice Age to the recent Scottish Referendum, historian and author Alistair Moffat explores the history of the Scottish nation. As well as focusing on key moments in the nation's history such as the Battle of Bannockburn and the Jacobite Risings, Moffat also features other episodes in history that are perhaps less well documented. From prehistoric timber halls to inventions and literature, Moffat's tale explores the drama of battle, change, loss and invention interspersed with the lives of ordinary Scottish folk, the men and women who defined a nation.

Contributor Bio
Alistair Moffat was born and bred in the Scottish Borders. A former Director of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and Director of Programmes at Scottish Television, he now runs the Borders Book Festival and the DNA testing company, BritainsDNA. He is the author of a number of highly acclaimed books and is currently Rector of St Andrews University.
Secret Abergavenny
Tim Butters

Summary
"Secret Abergavenny" offers a unique insight into the sleepy Welsh market town, proving that there's a lot more to the "Gateway to Wales" than meets the eye. Did you know that Adolph Hitler’s deputy Rudolph Hess was kept in the town under lock and key during the Second World War, or that Abergavenny was declared its own nation in 1404 by Ieuan ab Owain Glyndwr in an arrangement which lasted approximately two weeks? John Lennon once landed there by helicopter to play a gig with the rest of The Beatles at the Town Hall, and Marty Wilde was so infatuated with the place he wrote a top 40 hit called "Taking a Trip up to Abergavenny" to express his love for the “paradise people” who lived there. Local journalist Tim Butters takes the reader on a fascinating journey through the town's past, introducing us to the likes of Potato Creek Johnny, credited with finding the largest gold nugget in the Wild West, as well as more nefarious characters such as 'Abergavenny Alice' who personally beheaded seventy Irishmen in revenge for killing her Norman lover. It’s fair to say that for a little town, Abe...

Contributor Bio
Tim Butters is a journalist who lives and works in Abergavenny. He is the Sports Editor with the Abergavenny Chronicle and writes freelance articles for various websites. Secret Abergavenny is his first book.

Secret Barrow-in-Furness
Gill Jepson

Summary
Barrow-in-Furness has many secrets hidden in plain sight, from its earliest history to the present day. It is known principally for its rich industrial past but on the outskirts of the town a rich and fascinating heritage lies undisturbed. The land where ‘the lakes meet the sea' provides an ancient rural backdrop revealing mysteries and tales wrapped in the mists of time. From mysterious monastic murder to raids by Robert the Bruce, or the arrival of Lambert Simnel pretender to the throne at Piel Castle, the town and surrounding Furness peninsula are full of surprises. It was a place popular with the Romantics; William Wordsworth visiting Furness Abbey and allegedly carving his initials into the sandstone. In the municipal cemetery lies the body of an Italian countess, Mary Pepi, and her husband Rino, a Victorian music hall quick-change artist. In the same graveyard is a memorial in the form of a lighthouse for James Gall, a survivor of the SS Forfarshire, who was rescued by Grace Darling and lived until his eighties. Barrow claims a number of famous sons and daughters, including Liv...

Contributor Bio
Gill Jepson is a well known author from South Cumbria and founder member of 'Furness Abbey Fellowship' a voluntary group who work alongside English Heritage to support the abbey. She likes nothing better than exploring the beautiful Furness peninsula and this is a great inspiration for her stories. She is a keen local historian and teacher and has researched the history of Barrow-in-Furness extensively.
Secret Barry Island
Mark Lambert, Jonathan Lambert

Summary
Secret Barry Island offers a unique insight into this fascinating seaside resort in the Vale of Glamorgan, delving into its lesser-known past. Thoroughly researched, within these pages local authors and lifelong residents of the area Mark and Jonathan Lambert explore Barry Island’s vast history. They cover a wide range of topics – from prehistory to pilgrimage, smugglers, and the advent of tourism – taking the reader beneath the surface to uncover the hidden secrets of this popular location.

Contributor Bio
Mark Lambert, along with his twin brother and co-author Jonathan Lambert, is an archaeology graduate of Cardiff University and lifelong resident of Barry Island. Both have a keen interest and extensive knowledge of Barry Island’s history, and have worked on many archaeological sites in Glamorgan and beyond.

Secret Birmingham
Tony A. J. Hewitt

Summary
England’s second city stands at the very heart of the country, geographically and historically. Birmingham grew from being a modest market town in medieval times to worldwide renown in the 18th century, being hailed as "the first manufacturing town in the world" in 1791. The city was at the very heart of the Industrial Revolution, responsible for many scientific and technological advances that would lay the foundations of the modern industrial society. Indeed, the most important invention in British history, the industrial steam engine, happened in Birmingham. Secret Birmingham offers a unique insight into this Midlands metropolis, highlighting the lesser-known aspects of its history and revealing lesser-known facts that even most Brummies don’t know.

Contributor Bio
Born in Wednesbury in South Staffordshire's Black Country, Tony A. J. Hewitt has long been fascinated with the outdoors and hiking. A retired history and geography secondary school teacher, Tony has walked much of England and has a prolific knowledge of its landscapes and waterways.
Secret Blackpool
Roger Frost, Ian Thompson, Jack Southern

Summary
Famous throughout the country, and beyond, for its Tower, its Illuminations and its Pleasure Beach amusement park, Blackpool is the archetypal British seaside resort. But there's more to this Lancashire town than donkey rides, sticks of rock and 'Kiss Me Quick' hats. Authors Roger Frost, Ian Thompson and Jack Southern take the reader on a fascinating journey through the town's past, from its days as a watering hole for the wealthy to its rather less salubrious reputation as a magnet for Hen and Stag weekends. Along the way, they unearth tales of a 13,000-year-old Elk, early Jaguars, the legendary Bond Bug, an iconic biscuit and one of Britain's most exciting sports cars. Secret Blackpool delves beneath the surface of this enduring old seaside resort, revealing a lesser-known past that even most local people don't know.

Contributor Bio
Burnley resident Roger Frost is a retired teacher and a Burnley Borough Councillor. Once the Mayor of the town he is now Chairman of the Burnley Civic Society, President of the Briercliffe Society and Vice President of the Burnley & District Historical Society. Roger writes the regular history column 'Peek into the Past' for the Burnley Express, he has written over 740 articles, and he also has a number of local history books to his name, many with his co-author Ian Thompson. Ian Thompson has had a long standing interest in all things paranormal from an early age. With family ties to Whitby it was only a matter of time before he became interested in Dracula and the connections with the town. In addition to writing Ian is also a keen tri-athlete and photographer and examples of his work can be seen on his website www.gaslightimagery.co.uk. Ian lives and works in Lancashire. Jack Southern is a social and economic historian who lives in Blackpool.

Secret Chester
John Idris Jones

Summary
Secret Chester offers a unique insight into one of England’s most visited cities through a series of little-known and forgotten stories, facts and anecdotes. Author and historian John Idris Jones takes the reader on a fascinating journey, from Roman times to the present day, blending dark deeds and strange tales from the its long and often grisly past, as well as introducing us to some interesting characters along the way. Fully illustrated in colour throughout, the book delves beneath the surface of this ancient city revealing a lesser-known history that most local people don't know.

Contributor Bio
Born in the remote Welsh-speaking village of Llanrhaiadr-ym-Mochnant in mid-Wales, the author as a child spent many months at his grandparents' house in Borth-y-Gest, near Porthmadog. Here he witnessed the active port, the remains of the slate industry and the Ffestiniog Railway.
**Secret High Wycombe**

Eddie Brazil

**Summary**

High Wycombe, or simply Wycombe, has had a long and remarkable past: the Royal military academy was founded in the town in the late eighteenth century before moving to Sandhurst; Charles I passed through on his way to the scaffold in 1649; and Benjamin Disraeli, MP for the town between 1874 and 1880, made his first political speech from a portico in the high street. Beneath the main high street is a honeycomb network of secret tunnels, originally thought to serve some clandestine purpose but in fact used by the brewer to transport beer to the many pubs throughout Wycombe as it was easier than negotiating the crowded streets. Nearby is the village of Penn, the ancestral home of William Penn, founder of the city of Philadelphia and from whom the state of Pennsylvania takes its name. His sons lie buried in the churchyard. Bizarrely, the same churchyard contains the graves of David Blakeley, murdered by Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be hanged in Britain, and the infamous Soviet spy, Donald Maclean. In *Secret High Wycombe*, local author Eddie Brazil delves beneath the surface of this Buck...

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**Secret Kendal**

Andrew Graham Stables

**Summary**

Secret Kendal offers a unique insight into 'The Gateway to the Lakes' through a series of little-known and forgotten stories, facts and anecdotes from its past. Local author Andrew Graham Stables takes the reader on a fascinating journey from pre-Roman times to the present day. He tells how a mistake in the preparation of peppermint crèmes led to the town's most famous export, as well as introducing the reader to nefarious characters and telling tales of dark deeds from its long and often grisly history. Secret Kendal delves beneath the surface of this ancient market town, revealing a lesser-known and less savoury past that even most local people don't know.

**Contributor Bio**

Andrew Graham Stables lives in York but was brought up in Teesdale near to the Market Town of Barnard Castle. He is a regular visitor of museums, prolific reader of history books and avid watcher of historical documentaries.
Secret Leeds
John Edwards, David Marsh, Christopher Allen

Summary
Leeds is the UK’s third largest city and is home to a community rich in history, ambition and achievement. As the financial, cultural and commercial heart of West Yorkshire, Leeds is a city essential to the global economic system. Although only a small borough for much of its existence, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries Leeds became a key center for the production and trading of wool. As the Industrial Revolution progressed, Leeds developed into a major industrial hub, extending its reach into engineering, printing, commerce, health and education. Iron foundries were among other industries of extreme importance. The city then expanded, absorbing many of the surrounding villages and townships to become the urban centre we see today. Secret Leeds is a historical journey through this rapidly changing city, unearthing nuggets of its early history and spectacular development into the "Capital of the North". The book reveals and unravels scores of fascinating and little-known details about Leeds that will intrigue and inform its many visitors as well as its current inhabitants, m...

Contributor Bio
John Edwards was born in London and has spent much of his life working there until his job at the Department of Health was relocated to Leeds. He spent the last eight years of his working life in Leeds. He has written numerous short stories and three novels and had two short novels published. He currently edits a journal for the American Stamp Club of Great Britain. He belongs to a local writing group based in Pontefract. He has two grown-up daughters – one lives in Leeds the other in Spain. David Marsh works at the University of Leeds library. In his spare time he writes short stories and articles for magazines. David is currently working on his first novel.

Secret Luton
Paul Adams

Summary
Once famous throughout the country for its hat making, the Bedfordshire town of Luton has a long and fascinating history. Local author, Paul Adams, takes the reader on an enlightening and entertaining journey through the town’s past, from its days as a brick-making centre to its current status as the site of one of the UK’s busiest airports. Along the way exploring the town’s long and proud association with hats and its days as the home of the largest car plant in the UK. Secret Luton delves beneath the surface of Luton’s past in this unique approach to the town’s history, blending dark deeds and strange tales with long-forgotten facts and amusing stories, revealing the hidden secrets that even most local people don’t know.

Contributor Bio
Luton resident and author Paul Adams has been interested in psychical research and the paranormal for many years and has had several books published on the subject, including 'Ghosts & Gallows: True Crime & the Paranormal' (2012), 'Written in Blood: A Cultural History of the British Vampire' (2014), 'The Little Book of Ghosts' (2014) and 'Haunted Luton & Dunstable' (2012).
Secret Neath
Robert King

Summary
The South Wales town of Neath has existed since Roman times when a fort was built here, at the crossing point of the River Neath. It was a market town until the arrival of the Industrial Revolution and new manufacturing industries of iron, steel and tinplate in the eighteenth century. Industrial development continued throughout the twentieth century with the construction of BP's petroleum refinery at Llandarcy. Local author and historian Robert King delves into the town's hidden past in this unique approach to its history, blending dark and grisly tales with amusing anecdotes, ancient myths with little-known facts, and seeking out secrets that even most local people don't know.

Contributor Bio
Robert King has worked in a variety of occupations from factory work, the horse racing industry, lorry driving, Royal Mail, a Neath Port Talbot CBC Life Long learning history tutor and a local authority historical/tour guide.

Secret Newport
Andrew Hemmings

Summary
The South Wales town of Newport, on the River Usk, was a powerhouse of Britain's Industrial Revolution; social change, characterised by the Chartist movement, and new technologies built from steel and powered by coal, combined to create a new way of life. Author Andrew Hemmings shows how the city left behind its Roman and medieval past to develop into a modern commercial and industrial centre, proud of its docks and shipping industry. Along the way he tells the story of Tredegar House, a seventeenth-century restoration mansion that was the home of the flamboyant Morgan family, with tales of riotous parties, dark arts, war heroism and various animal menageries. In more recent times, the city has opened up the Newport Wetlands and Wales Coastal Path to visitors, as well as providing locations for Dr Who and The Man From Uncle. Secret Newport delves beneath the surface of this fascinating town, revealing hidden facts that even most local people are unaware of.

Contributor Bio
Andrew Hemmings lives in Newport.
Secret Peak District
Mike Smith

Summary
The Peak District is a land of high moors, narrow gorges, dark gritstone edges, white limestone cliffs, bleak plateau, lush valleys, fine churches, grand country houses, stone-built villages and spa towns. In 1951, much of the region was designated as Britain’s first national park and it is now one of the most visited national parks in the world. Given that its features, both natural and man-made, are well known to millions, it might be thought that there are very few secrets to be found in the region, but this is far from true. As this book will demonstrate, there are fascinating villages that are rarely visited by tourists, secret rivers that flow underground, either permanently or seasonally, architectural features that cannot be seen without the help of binoculars, buildings that have a split personality, tracks that are the fossilised remains of long-lost railways, and mysterious places that were known to prehistoric tribes. There are three substantial towns in the Peak District, with much that is hidden. Bakewell has many secret ingredients other than those which make up its fa...

Contributor Bio
Mike Smith is a local author who lives in Derbyshire.

Secret Southport
Jack Smith

Summary
The large seaside town of Southport lies on the coast of the Irish Sea in the North West of England. Located just 16 miles north to the City of Liverpool, this wonderful town has a fascinating history of its own. Join Jack Smith as he delves into the town’s past, letting readers in on all of the quirky and lesser-known tales from Southport’s history.

Contributor Bio
Jack Smith has lived in Lancashire most of his life, his family roots being in the railway town of Horwich near Bolton, where he served an engineering apprenticeship at the famous Horwich Locomotive Works. His interest in archaeology and history saw him as one of three founders of the Chorley and District Historical and Archaeological Society in 1953. He is also a U3A committee member, and programme organiser for the BAE Warton, ‘Industrial Archaeology and Railway Society’. He is an established author who has written a number of local history titles for Amberley.
Secret Woking
Marion Field

Summary
Woking is a rather strange place. The Saxon village of "Old Woking" appears in the Domesday Book but 'new' Woking is a nineteenth-century town. Over the years, the town has continually reinvented itself. Demolished buildings have been rebuilt and new roads streak across the countryside. However, the names of roads are often a reminder of Woking’s past inhabitants. Woking has become a popular place to work, and nowadays many people travel from London to work while others reverse the journey to work in the city. Secret Woking contains a collection of lesser-known facts about the town and 'secrets' that will be brought into the open – from owing its existence to a cemetery, something few towns can claim, to a Nazi spy, gruesome murders, royal visitors, a horse’s cremation, and a look at a number of colourful eccentrics. Join Marion Field as she delves into all of these stories and others, and learn more about Woking’s hidden past.

Contributor Bio
Marion Field trained as a teacher and and finished her teaching early to concentrate on writing. She has authored previous books on the history of Woking and other areas of Surrey, as well as writing magazine articles, biographies and books on the English language. She also gives creative writing workshops. She is an active member of her local Anglican Church and in her spare time she enjoys acting, playing tennis and travelling.

Selkirk and Melrose Through Time
Jack Gillon

Summary
Selkirk is one of the oldest burghs in Scotland: William Wallace was declared guardian of Scotland in the town, and Selkirk Abbey and Selkirk Castle, the frequent abode of Scottish kings, date back to the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The town's development was based around the woollen industry. Statues in the town celebrate its association with with Mungo Park, the explorer, James Hogg ("The Ettrick Shepherd"), a local poet and writer; and Sir Walter Scott, was appointed Sheriff Deputy of the County of Selkirk in 1799 and was based Selkirk’s courthouse in the town square. The Flodden Memorial in the town and the annual Common Riding commemorate Selkirk's link with the bloody Battle of Flodden. The picturesque town of Melrose is the location of Melrose Abbey, one of the most beautiful monastic ruins in Britain. It is also the site of the burial of the heart of Scottish king Robert the Bruce. Sir Walter Scott also has close associations with the Melrose area and Abbotsford, his home, is a much visited tourist attraction.

Contributor Bio
Jack Gillon is a long term resident of Edinburgh and has worked as a Town Planner involved in the conservation of the city’s heritage of historic buildings for around thirty years and has an extensive knowledge of the city's history and architecture. He writes extensively on the historical heritage of Scotland and has had several books published by Amberley.
Set Adrift Upon the World
The Sutherland Clearances
James Hunter

Summary
They would be better dead, they said, than set adrift upon the world. But set adrift they were – thousands of them, their communities destroyed, their homes demolished and burned. Such were the Sutherland Clearances, an extraordinary episode, involving the deliberate depopulation of much of a Scottish county. In this book James Hunter tells the story of the Sutherland Clearances.

Contributor Bio
James Hunter is Emeritus Professor of History at the University of the Highlands and Islands and was its first Director of the Centre for History. The author of eleven books about the Highlands and Islands, he has also been active in the public life of the area.

Sheffield
History & Guide
David Fine

Summary
This volume traces the history of Sheffield from a Medieval town that Chaucer knew through the great Victorian age of industry to the late twentieth-century and a new era of post-industrial revolution. This account of Sheffield’s past considers the impact of the vast steel-rolling mills, compares the lives of mill owner and mill worker and looks at life in the countless back-to-backs once strewn across this richly varied city. Using a wealth of photographs, maps and prints the author brings the story up to date and considers what the future may hold for this great city. An important feature of this book is a guided walking tour of the city centre that takes the reader through the modern city and points out features of the past that are still there to see.
**Shrewsbury**
David Trumper

**Summary**
Features a collection of photographs, some of them from the earliest years of photography.

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**Soho**
*The Heart of Bohemian London*
Peter Speiser

**Summary**
From humble beginnings, Soho developed into a fashionable center for London’s nobility in the 18th century. Yet this same area was to become a poverty-stricken and decaying Victorian hub of cheap lodging houses. This was the Soho of the devastating cholera outbreak of 1854. However, a new focus on business and manufacturing transformed Soho in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Alongside this, bars and restaurants flourished, encouraging artists and artisans to the area. In the 1960s, Carnaby Street briefly became the fashion and retail center of the world. The nightclubs of Soho played host to the Teddies, Mods, Rockers, Punks and New Romantics of post-war British youth culture.

**Contributor Bio**
*Peter Speiser* is Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Westminster.
St Neots Past
Rosa Young

Stamford in 50 Buildings
Celebrating 50 years of a Conservation Town
Christopher Davies

Summary
Stamford has a reputation for being one of England's finest stone towns. It is a happy mix of medieval and Georgian architecture that was untouched by the Industrial Revolution or later large scale developments, so its central core has survived remarkably intact. Its architecture is outstanding and for this reason, in 1967, it became the country's first conservation area. In recent years the town has become a popular tourist destination for both home and overseas visitors. Stamford in 50 Buildings explores the history of this Lincolnshire town through a selection of its greatest architectural treasures, from medieval churches to the magnificent sixteenth-century Burghley House. Follow local author, Christopher Davies as he guides us on a tour of the town’s most notable buildings.

Contributor Bio
Christopher Davies has lived in Stamford for almost forty years, and for much of that time has been involved in research projects connected with the town's history. Professionally he has spent many years in vocational education and training; he has also taught local history in adult education and for the WEA in both Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire. He is current chairman of the Stamford Survey Group. Previous publications include Stamford Past and Stamford and the Civil War. He has also contributed articles to the Stamford Historian.
Sudbury History & Guide
Barry Wall

Summary
A history of Sudbury

Surbiton Through Time
Tim Everson

Summary
The south-west London suburb of Surbiton, part of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, came into being after a plan to build a London–Southampton rail line took a route somewhat to the south of Kingston. Surbiton Station, originally called Kingston-on-Railway, was opened in 1838 and the suburb grew from there. Formerly within the county of Surrey, Surbiton became part of Greater London in 1965, together with neighbouring Kingston and Richmond. Surbiton has always been a desirable place to live and has attracted some very famous residents, among them writers Thomas Hardy and Enid Blyton; the Pre-Raphaelite painters, John Everett Millais and William Holman Hunt; and Rupert the Bear artist, Alfred Bestall. Perhaps its greatest claim to fame was as the fictional home of Tom and Barbara Good and their neighbors, the Leadbetters, in the much-loved sitcom *The Good Life*. The fascinating history of this most suburban of neighborhoods is captured in this unique selection of old and new images and informative captions, compiled by London author and historian Tim Everson, and is essential ...

Contributor Bio
Tim Everson is a semi-professional author and researcher and has an unrivalled knowledge of the local area, having been Local History Officer for the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames from 1990 to 2001. His previous titles include *A Century of Kingston upon Thames, Kingston and the Boer War and Kingston, Surbiton and Maldon in Old Photographs*. He is also an acknowledged expert on English copper coinage of the 17th century. Tim and his wife live in New Malden, Surrey.
Swansea History Tour
David Gwynn

Summary
Swansea History Tour is a unique insight into the illustrious history of this South Wales city, its well-known streets and famous faces, and explains what they meant to local people throughout the nineteenth and into the twentieth century. Readers are invited to follow a timeline of events and watch the changing face of Swansea as author David Gwynn guides us through the local streets.

Contributor Bio
David Gwynn is a well known and prolific writer. He has written a wide variety of local books on Wales.

Tales From The Tower of London
Daniel Diehl

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**Terror in the Tunnels**

*Britain's Dangerous Railway History*

Rosa Matheson

**Summary**

The exciting early days of the railways were tempered with danger, as the Victorian concept of health and safety was rather different to ours. Going "into the dark" was a frightening experience and tunneling under the ground and under water was a death-defying activity in nineteenth-century Britain – many workers and travellers paid the ultimate price. Flooding, collapses and explosions, as well as malodorous air and illness, were just some of the challenges workers faced in order to make tunnels passable. Even once the tunnels had been completed, accidents were still frequent, whether collisions, derailments or fires. In this fascinating history, Rosa Matheson explores the grim past of Britain’s well-known and lesser-known railway tunnel disasters, and how their "terror" led to a safer future.

**The A-Z of Curious Shropshire**

John Shipley

**Summary**

John Shipley takes the reader on a grand tour of the curious and bizarre, the strange and the unusual from Shropshire’s past. Here you will find out where an African Prince is interred; which pub is reputedly haunted by the ghost of John (Mad Jack) Mytton of Halston Hall; and which village lays claim to the oldest cottage in Europe. Along the way you will read about earthquakes and floods, giants and witches, highwaymen and bandits, scandalous residents and inventors. Richly illustrated, The A-Z of Curious Shropshire is great for dipping into, but can equally be enjoyed from cover to cover.
**The Broken Journey**

Kenneth Roy

**Summary**

This is the second volume of Kenneth Roy’s trilogy on the history of Scotland since the Second World War. This new volume brings the story much closer to the present day and traces the social and political threads which lead directly to the Scotland of the twenty-first century. There are wonderful highs and devastating lows. *The Broken Journey* culminates in a referendum and the inauguration of the new Scottish parliament. The stage is set for the future that we now live in...

**Contributor Bio**

Kenneth Roy was born and brought up in Falkirk, Scotland. After ten years working as an anchorman in BBC TV News and Current Affairs he became a critic and columnist in the print media, notably *Scotland on Sunday* and the *Observer*. He founded The Institute of Contemporary Scotland in 2000 and is now editor of online campaigning journal the *Scottish Review* and chair of the Young Scotland program.

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**The Fall of the Tay Bridge**

David Swinfen

**Summary**

It took 600 men six years to build and was one of the longest bridges in the world. On its completion in 1878, famous visitors, including the Emperor of Brazil, Prince Leopold of the Belgians and Queen Victoria herself, came to pay homage to this marvel of Victorian engineering. Then, on the night of 28 December 1879, the unthinkable happened. Battered by an apocalyptic storm, the thirteen 'high girders' of the rail bridge over the Tay estuary fell headlong into the river below, carrying with them a train and all its passengers and crew. There were no survivors. What caused the fall of the Tay Bridge, and who was really to blame? Returning to the subject since the first edition of *The Fall of the Tay Bridge* in 1994, David Swinfen has meticulously analysed new evidence and now presents a solution to the riddle which has perplexed historians and engineers for generations: what really brought the bridge down?

**Contributor Bio**

David Swinfen was born in Kirkcaldy, Fife, and has lived in Scotland most of his life. He has written many books and articles on Commonwealth, American and Scottish history. Currently chairman of the Tay Bridge Disaster Memorial Trust, he lives in Broughty Ferry with his wife Ann, the historical novelist.
The Family of Richard III  
Michael Hicks

Summary
The Wars of the Roses were quarrels within the Plantagenet family, of which Richard's dynasty, the House of York, was one branch. They were about family trees—the capacity of family relationships both to unite and to divide—and notoriously about the slaughter of cousins, in-laws, brothers, and nephews. The House of York won the first war, with Richard's elder brother becoming king as Edward IV. The 1460s began with an explosion of King Edward IV's family and ended in a trial of strength between them. The 1470s are about a second explosion of the House of York, its division into separate nuclear families competing against each other, about the kings' preferences, and in 1483 a sudden violent resolution following Edward IV's death. Richard III claimed to be his brother's heir. The Yorkist establishment refused and shared in Richard's destruction. With the recent discovery of Richard III's skeleton, this book reassesses the family ties and entails of his wayward and violent family. The book concludes with an analysis of Richard's DNA and his "family" as it exists today.

Contributor Bio
Michael Hicks is Professor of History at King Alfred's College, Winchester. He is regarded as the lead expert on the Yorkist dynasty. He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

The Huguenots in Later Stuart Britain  
Volume II ? Settlement, Churches, and the Role of London
Robin Gwynn

Summary
The Huguenots in Later Stuart Britain is planned as one work to be published in three interlinking volumes. It examines the history of the French communities in Britain from the Civil War, which plunged them into turmoil, to the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, after which there was no realistic possibility that the Huguenots would be readmitted to France. There is a particular focus on the decades of the 1680s and 1690s, at once the most complex, the most crucial, and the most challenging alike for the refugees themselves and for subsequent historians. This volume explains when refugees fled France, and what drove them to settle in some regions of Britain but not others. Recent scholarship has lowered former estimates of refugee numbers across Europe, but careful analysis of the available evidence suggests that for Britain, previous estimates remain robust. European historians have accepted Pierre Bayle's assertion that the Netherlands were the great ark of the refugees too uncritically. While Bayle's remark was true enough when the Edict of Nantes was revoked in 1685, by 1700 England had...

Contributor Bio
Robin Gwynn is a historian of Early Modern England, formerly Reader in History at Massey University, New Zealand. His speciality has long been the study of Huguenot refugees and the French communities in Britain, and in 1985 he was Director of the "Huguenot Heritage" tercentenary commemoration under the patronage of H.M. The Queen. His books include the widely acclaimed Huguenot Heritage (2nd edn, Sussex Academic Press, 2001), and editions of later seventeenth century letters and consistory minutes of the largest of the many French churches in England.
The Little Book of Bath
Mike Dean

Summary
Bath is one of the most visited cities in the world, and countless books have told the history of its beautiful buildings and parks. Yet the chances are that that this fact-packed compendium will enhance your knowledge further. Find out all manner of things, from which planet was discovered in a back garden to which pub was visited by Charles Dickens. Full of surprises, this great little book is perfect for dipping into as well as reading cover to cover. Here is the Bath few people get to know!

The Little Book of Leicestershire
Natasha Sheldon

Summary
The Little Book of Leicestershire is a compendium full of information which will make you say, "I never knew that!" Contained within is a plethora of entertaining facts about Leicestershire's famous and occasionally infamous men and women, its literary, artistic and sporting achievements, customs ancient and modern, transport, battles and ghostly appearances. A reliable reference book and a quirky guide, this can be dipped in to time and time again to reveal something new about the people, the heritage, the secrets and the enduring fascination of the county. A remarkably engaging little book, this is essential reading for visitors and locals alike.
The Little Book of Staffordshire
Kate Gomez

Summary
DID YOU KNOW? A gravestone in the churchyard of St Edwards at Leek suggests that the deceased died at the ripe old age of 438! The ashes of Hanley-born Sir Stanley Matthews are buried beneath the centre circle at Stoke’s Britannia Stadium. The sun sets twice in Leek each summer solstice Sarah Westwood from Lichfield was the last woman to be executed at Stafford Gaol, in 1844

*The Little Book of Staffordshire* is a compendium of fascinating information about the county, past and present. Contained within is a plethora of entertaining facts about Staffordshire’s famous and occasionally infamous men and women, its towns and countryside, history, natural history, literary, artistic and sporting achievements, customs ancient and modern, transport, battles and ghostly appearances. A reliable reference book and a quirky guide, this can be dipped into time and time again to reveal something new about the people, the heritage, the secrets and the enduring fascination of the county. A remarkably engaging little book, this is essential reading for visitors and locals alike.

The Little Book of Stonehenge
Meredith MacArdle

Summary
With a history spanning 4,500 years, the mystery that surrounds Stonehenge is still as forceful as ever. Many different theories have been put forward about who built it, when, and why. The Neolithic stones attract over a million visitors a year, and whatever their meaning for people today, Stonehenge is undoubtedly a spiritual and uplifting ancient landscape. In this small book of wonders devoted to the enigmatic stones, you'll find all the facts and figures you need to know: when the henge was built and why, who built it, and why it was built where it was. You'll learn about life in Neolithic times, the magic of the stone circle, what the Romans did for Stonehenge, famous visitors over the centuries—both real and fictional, along with tales of the stones in popular culture—from psychedelic rock music to feature films.

Contributor Bio
Meredith MacArdle is author of *The Timeline History of China*. 
The Little Book of Waterford

Tom Hunt

Summary

The Little Book of Waterford is a compendium of fascinating, obscure, strange and entertaining facts about County Waterford. Here you will find out about Waterford’s industrial past, its proud sporting heritage, its arts and culture and its famous (and occasionally infamous) men and women. Through quaint villages and bustling towns, this book takes the reader on a journey through County Waterford and its vibrant past. A reliable reference book and a quirky guide, this can be dipped into time and time again to reveal something new about the people, the heritage and the secrets of this varied county.

The Lost Kings

Lancaster, York & Tudor

Amy Licence

Summary

The century spanning the wars of the roses and the reigns of the Tudor kings was a volatile time of battle and bloodshed, execution and unexpected illness. Life could be nasty, brutish, and short. Some met their end in battle, others were dragged to the block, losing everything for daring to aspire to the throne. Some were lost in mysterious circumstances, like Edward V, the elder of the Princes in the Tower. But the majority of these young men died in their teens, on the brink of manhood. They represent the lost paths of history, the fascinating "what-ifs" of the houses of York and Tudor. They also diverted the route of dynastic inheritance, with all the complicated implications that brings, passing power into unlikely hands. This book examines 10 such figures, using their lives to build a narrative of this savage century.

Contributor Bio

Amy Licence is a historian and the author of eight books, including Red Rose. She has written for the Guardian, TLS, Huffington Post, and BBC History. She also appeared in Philippa Gregory’s BBC2 documentary The Real Women of the Wars of the Roses.
The Nevills of Middleham
England's Most Powerful Family in the War of the Roses
K.L. Clark

Summary
In 1465, the Nevills must have thought they’d reached the pinnacle of power and influence in England. Richard Nevill was the king’s right-hand man and married to the richest woman in the kingdom; John Nevill was an accomplished soldier who’d done much to stabilize the new dynasty; and George Nevill was not only chancellor but newly enthroned as Archbishop of York. The Nevill women were as active as their male counterparts. As sisters and wives, daughters and daughters-in-laws, they had the ears of the elite in England and were not afraid of wielding their influence. But it was not long before cracks in the most powerful family in England began to show.

Contributor Bio
K.L. Clark’s research of the Nevill family and the Wars of the Roses spans more than a decade. She has presented two papers on the Wars of the Roses to the Richard III Society and writes the popular blog A Nevill Feast.

The New History of Orkney
William P.L. Thomson

Summary
For much of its history, Orkney had its own language, culture and institutions. The prehistoric inhabitants created monuments which are unmatched anywhere in Europe, and the medieval period saw the magnificent earldom that expressed itself through the Orkneyinga Saga and the building of St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall. Like Shetland, Orkney was heavily influenced by Viking traders and raiders from Scandinavia, and for a long period it formed an outlying part of the kingdom of Norway. Over 500 years ago, however, the islands lost their Scandinavian links and since then have had a sometimes difficult association with mainland Scotland. More recent times have seen the use of Orkney as a strategic stronghold during two world wars, and the far-reaching impact of oil and gas exploitation in the North Sea. This classic book covers the whole fascinating story and will be of interest to readers far beyond the rocky shores of Orkney itself.

Contributor Bio
William P. L. Thomson is the author of a number of books on Scottish history. He was Rector of Kirkwall Grammar School, in Orkney, from 1971 to 1991, previously having been Principal Teacher of History and Geography at the Anderson High School, Shetland.
The Prisoner King
Charles I in Captivity
John Matusiak

Summary
After more than half a century of comparative neglect, the crucial period encompassing Charles I’s captivity after his surrender to the Scots at Newark in 1646 is ripe for re-examination—with new perspectives and insights based on up-to-date research. The months before his trial were a critical watershed when the entire nation stood at a fateful crossroads. For Charles himself, as subterfuge, espionage, and assassination rumors escalated on all fronts, escape attempts foundered, and tensions with his absent wife mounted, the test was supreme. Yet, in a painful passage involving both stubborn impenitence and uncommon fortitude in the face of "barbarous usage" by his captors, the "Man of Blood" came to merit his unique place in history as England’s "martyr king."

Contributor Bio
John Matusiak is the author of Henry VIII, Wolsey, and The Tudors in 100 Objects.

The Private Life of Edward IV
John Ashdown-Hill

Summary
From the moment it became public news, the validity of Edward’s marriage to Elizabeth Widville, the beautiful widow of a Lancastrian knight, was called into question. This alarmed Elizabeth and led her into political killings. She was terrified that she would lose her crown and that her children would never succeed to the throne. After Edward’s death, a bishop publicly announced that he had previously married the king to Lady Eleanor Talbot. As a result, Edward’s children by Elizabeth, including his heir to the throne, Edward, were declared illegitimate, making Edward’s brother Richard the heir to the throne. Later, claims were put forward that Edward had many illegitimate children. This book unravels the complex web of stories around Edward’s private life.

Contributor Bio
John Ashdown-Hill was Leader of Genealogical Research and Historical Advisor for the Looking for Richard Project and is the author of The Dublin King, The Last Days of Richard III, and The Third Plantagenet.
### The Reivers (2nd Edition)

**The Story of the Border Reivers**

Alistair Moffat

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**Summary**

From the early fourteenth century to the end of the sixteenth, the Anglo-Scottish borderlands witnessed one of the most intense periods of warfare and disorder ever seen in modern Europe. As a consequence of near-constant conflict between England and Scotland, Borderers suffered at the hands of marauding armies, who ravaged the land, destroying crops, slaughtering cattle, burning settlements and killing indiscriminately. Forced by extreme circumstances, many Borderers took to reiving to ensure the survival of their families and communities, and for the best part of 300 years, countless raiding parties made their way over the border. The story of the Reivers is one of survival, stealth, treachery, ingenuity and deceit, expertly brought to life in Alistair Moffat's acclaimed book.

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**Contributor Bio**

**Alistair Moffat** was born and raised in Kelso. He took degrees at the universities of St Andrews, Edinburgh and London and played rugby for Kelso and his universities. In 1976 he took charge of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe as it grew into the largest arts festival in the world. He now lives in Selkirk.

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### The Rise of the Elliots of Minto

**A Scottish Family’s Life in the Eighteenth Century**

John P. Evans

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**Summary**

An account of the Elliot family through three baronetcies and one earldom, spanning six generations and a cast in the hundreds. As the Scottish Enlightenment dawns, the second baronet inherits the Minto estate in Roxburghshire. His descendants include a politician, a literary patron, an admiral, an army captain, a governor of New York and a poetess. The story of this family takes the reader across the eighteenth-century world: from Britain to India to the fledgling United States. This book also provides a warm and perceptive glimpse of an aristocratic but far from family. The account also lets the reader understand a time when adventure and death were partners at all levels of society.

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**Contributor Bio**

Born in Beckenham in 1931, **John P. Evans** was educated at Dulwich College and Bristol University. In addition to a degree in Economics and Business Administration, he gained a post-graduate diploma in Social Studies. Towards the end of a twenty-year career in senior management with BICC/Balfour Beatty, he was seconded to the National Economic Development Office working on the development of Prime Minister Harold Wilson’s ‘Industrial Strategy’. Since taking early retirement in 1992, he and his wife have lived in the Scottish Highlands where he has been increasingly immobile, without losing his enthusiasm for social history.
**The Scots (2nd Edition)**

*The Scots: A Genetic Journey*

Alistair Moffat

**Summary**

History has always mattered to Scots, and rarely more so than now at the outset of a new century, after more than ten years of a new parliament and the new census of 2011. An almost limitless archive of our history lies hidden inside our bodies and we carry the ancient story of Scotland around with us. The mushrooming of genetic studies, of DNA analysis, is rewriting our history in spectacular fashion. In this new edition of *The Scots: A Genetic Journey*, Alistair Moffat explores the history that is printed on our genes, and in a remarkable new approach, uncovers the detail of where we are from, who we are and, in so doing, vividly paints a DNA map of Scotland.

**Contributor Bio**

Born and raised in Kelso in the Scottish Border country, **Alistair Moffat** has often left the place in body, but never in spirit. He attended the universities of St Andrews, Edinburgh and London, and also received some tough education on the rugby fields of the Borders. In 1976 Alistair took over the running of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and in five years made it the largest and most dynamic arts festival in the world. A prolific and popular author, Alistair’s books *Kelsae, The Borders, The Reviers, The Sea Kingdoms, The Wall* and *Tuscany* are all published by Birlinn.

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**The Story of Kent**

*The Story of Kent*

Anne Petrie

**Summary**

This book tells the amazing story of Kent from earliest times to the modern day. Some of the pivotal moments in the Garden of England’s history are recalled, including invasions from Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, and Normans. It has seen the Black Death, the Peasants’ Revolt, the Swing Riots, and, more recently, audacious escapades by Suffragettes in the battle for Votes for Women. The story is brought right up to date with the challenges faced by traditional industries and the transformation of cross-Channel travel. The resilient people of Kent have taken it all in their stride and this story encompasses how they lived, worked, and played through hundreds of years of colorful history.

**Contributor Bio**

**Anne Petrie** is a local author who combines a lively tone and authoritative research.
The Story of Manchester
Deborah Woodman

Summary
Manchester is noted for the "Industrial Revolution"—its factories, working-class people, and urban development all based around its production of cotton textiles. But this is not the complete story. Manchester has always been a more vibrant place which dates back to Roman times. This book traces the development of this important city and its people from the earliest times to the present, where each period in its progress links to the next. The history of Manchester is very much based around its people, who were often pioneers, whether this be the first railway line, the first public library, fighting for greater political rights, or key wealth creators for the nation. As time advances through the 21st century, Manchester’s role in the United Kingdom remains undiminished as it becomes ever more cosmopolitan and a northern powerhouse of economic, social, and political progress.

Contributor Bio
Dr. Deborah Woodman is an experienced historian who has taught history at the Universities of Huddersfield, Salford, and MMU, and has had several books and articles published on the role of drink in society; commerce and trade; and popular politics of the 19th century. She is currently Research Development Officer at the University of Salford.

The Stuarts
A Very British Dynasty
Dr. Andrew Lacey

Summary
The Stuarts are best known to us today for their court scandals, Civil War, and religious turmoil. We all know about the Gunpowder Plot, Charles I's quarrel with Parliament that led to his execution, and Charles II's restoration and lively, hedonistic court. Yet we know little of the Stuart family history, the family that became the first dynasty to rule both Scotland and England. Andrew Lacey examines the Stuart kings and queens from their early days as rulers of Scotland, to their accession to the English throne, the Civil War and their fall from grace, Charles II's restoration, and finally their exile. He examines the heads of the House of Stuart, bringing both the kings and queens we think we know well and the rulers that have mostly been forgotten to life in vivid detail.

Contributor Bio
Dr. Andrew Lacey earned a degree in history, followed by a Masters in Library and Information Studies. He has been a history tutor at the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Andrew has gained a PhD from the University of Leicester and lectures on a variety of Tudor and Stuart subjects.
The Swordfish and the Star
Life on Cornwall’s Most Treacherous Stretch of Coast
Gavin Knight

Summary
The Penwith Peninsula in Cornwall is where the land ends. In The Swordfish and the Star Gavin Knight takes us into this huddle of grey roofs at the edge of the sea at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

He catches the stories of a whole community, but especially those still working this last frontier: the Cornish fishermen. These are the dreamers and fighters who every day prepare for battle with the vast grey Atlantic. Cornwall and its seas are brought to life, mixing drinking and drugs and sea spray, moonlit beaches and shattering storms, myth and urban myth. The result is an arresting tapestry of a place we thought we knew; the precarious reality of life in Cornwall today emerges from behind our idyllic holiday snaps and picture postcards. Even the quaint fishermen’s pubs on the quay at Newlyn, including the Swordfish and its neighbour the Star, turn out to be places where squalls can blow up, and down again, in an instant.

Based on immersive research and rich with the voices of a cast of remarkable characters, this is an eye-opening, dramatic, poignant account of life on Bri...

Contributor Bio
Gavin Knight’s first book, Hood Rat, about gun and gang crime in the UK’s cities, was shortlisted for the Orwell Prize and the Crime Writer’s Association Non-fiction Dagger in 2012. To research it, he spent two years with criminals, frontline police units and gang members from the inner cities of Britain. His work has appeared in publications including The Times, Guardian, Daily Telegraph, Prospect, Newsweek, New Statesman and Esquire; and he has appeared on BBC, CNN, ITN, Channel Four News and Sky News. This is his second book.
The Union Jack
The Story of the British Flag
Nick Groom

Summary
Known the world over as a symbol of the United Kingdom, the Union Jack is an intricate construction based on the crosses of St. George, St. Andrew and St. Patrick. Nick Groom traces its long and fascinating past, from the development of the Royal Standard and 17th-century clashes over the precise balance of the English and Scottish elements of the first Union Jack to the modern controversies over the flag as a symbol of empire and its exploitation by ultra-rightwing political groups.

Contributor Bio
Nick Groom is an academic and writer. His books include The Gothic and The Seasons.
**The Wall (2nd Edition)**
*Rome's Greatest Frontier*
Alistair Moffat

**Summary**
Hadrian's Wall is the largest, most spectacular and one of the most enigmatic historical monument in Britain. Nothing else approaches its vast scale: a land wall running 73 miles from east to west and a sea wall stretching at least 26 miles down the Cumbrian coast. In this book, based on literary and historical sources as well as the latest archaeological research, Alistair Moffat considers who built the Wall, how it was built, why it was built and how it affected the native peoples who lived in its mighty shadow. The result is a unique and fascinating insight into one of the Wonders of the Ancient World.

**Contributor Bio**
*Alistair Moffat* was born and bred in the Scottish Borders. A former Director of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and Director of Programmes at Scottish Television, he now runs the burgeoning Borders Book Festival as well as a production company based near Selkirk. He has written twelve books, including *Kelsae*, *The Sea Kingdoms*, and *The Borders*, all of which are published by Birlinn.

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**The Wirral Through Time**
Daniel K. Longman

**Summary**
Bounded by the river Dee in the West and by the River Mersey in the East, the Wirral peninsula is a remarkable place. *Wirral Through Time* is a rare insight into the amazingly diverse history of this part of the country, a mish-mash of both ancient and modern artefacts and locations that are often overlooked by the casual observer. Reproduced in full colour, this is an exciting examination of the Wirral, its towns and villages, and what they meant to its residents throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Readers are invited to follow a timeline of events and watch the changing face of the peninsula as Daniel K Longman guides us through the local streets. There is something for everyone here, whether they have lived in the area all their lives or whether they are just visiting for the first time.

**Contributor Bio**
*Daniel K. Longman* is a longstanding author having published numerous books on local history. He also produces a weekly column for the *Liverpool Echo* newspaper on the theme of nostalgia, owns his own tour company, See Liverpool Tours, and has a strong interest in criminal history. He is a graduate of English from Liverpool John Moores University and has recently completed a Diploma in Law. He has a passion for history and is always on the look-out to promote the heritage of his home town.
The World of the Small Farmer
Tenure, Profit and Politics in the Early-Modern Somerset Levels
Patricia Croot

Summary
This detailed and original study of early-modern agrarian society in the Somerset Levels examines the small landholders in a group of sixteen contiguous parishes in the area known as Brent Marsh. These were farmers with lifehold tenures and a mixed agricultural production whose activities and outlook are shown to be very different from that of the small 'peasant' farmers of so many general histories. Patricia Croot challenges the idea that small farmers failed to contribute to the productivity and commercialization of the early-modern economy.

Contributor Bio
Patricia Croot is a Senior Research Fellow of the IHR with a PhD from Leeds University. She has also worked for the Victoria County History of Middlesex, as both County and Consultant Editor.
This Is London
Life and Death in the World City
Ben Judah

Summary
This is the new London: an immigrant city. Over one-third of Londoners were born abroad, with half arriving since the millennium. This has utterly transformed the capital, for better and for worse. Ben Judah is an acclaimed foreign correspondent, but here he turns his reporter's gaze on home, immersing himself in the hidden world of London's immigrants to reveal the city in the eyes of its beggars, bankers, coppers, gangsters, carers and witch-doctors. From the backrooms of its mosques, Tube tunnels and nightclubs to the frontlines of its streets, Judah has supped with oligarchs and spent nights sleeping rough, worked on building sites and talked business with prostitutes; he's heard stories of heartbreaking failure, but also witnessed extraordinary acts of compassion. This book explodes fossilized myths and offers a fresh, exciting portrait of what it's like to live, work, fall in love, raise children, grow old and die in London now. Simultaneously intimate and epic, here is a compulsive and deeply sympathetic book on this dizzying world city from one of our brightest new writers.

Contributor Bio
Ben Judah is the author of Fragile Empire: How Russia Fell In and Out of Love with Vladimir Putin, and his writing has been featured in the New York Times, the Evening Standard, the Financial Times and Standpoint. In 2016, he was chosen as one of Forbes magazine's 30 under 30 in European media.

Through the Keyhole
Sex, Scandal and the Secret Life of the Country House
Susan C. Law

Summary
Scandal existed long before celebrity gossip columns, often hidden behind the closed doors of the Georgian aristocracy. But secrets were impossible to keep in a household of servants who listened at walls and spied through keyholes. The early mass media pounced on these juicy tales of adultery, eager to cash in on the public appetite for sensation and expose the shocking moral corruption of the establishment. Drawing on a rich collection of original and often outrageous sources, this book brings vividly to life stories of infidelity in high places—passionate, scandalous, poignant, and tragic. It reveals how the flood of print detailing sordid sexual intrigues created a national outcry and made people question whether the nobility was fit to rule.

Contributor Bio
Susan C. Law is a journalist. She has written for the Financial Times, London Evening Standard, and the Times Higher Education Supplement.
**Tudors**

**The Illustrated History**

Richard Rex, Suzannah Lipscomb

**Summary**

The Tudor Period is regarded by many as England’s golden age, and still casts a spell over the public imagination. Whether it is the glittering rule of Elizabeth, the ruthless power of her father Henry VIII, or the bloody and radical reign of Mary, the Tudors remain the most fascinating English dynasty. Richard Rex looks at how the public and private lives of the Tudors were inextricably linked, and how each Tudor monarch exuded charisma and danger in equal measure. The visual culture of the period was equally spectacular, from Holbein’s brooding portraiture to the architectural magnificence of the chapels of St George at Windsor and King’s College. Alongside the authoritative and approachable story of the Tudor monarchs, beautifully reproduced, are the iconic – and the lesser known – images of Tudor England.

**Contributor Bio**

**Richard Rex** is Director of Studies in History at Queens’ College, Cambridge. He has written and researched extensively on Tudor England. He lives in Cambridge with his wife and six sons. **Dr Suzannah Lipscomb** is one of Britain’s leading popular historians and an expert on the Tudors. Among her TV credits is *Henry & Anne: The Lovers Who Changed History* and she is the author of *A Visitor’s Companion to Tudor England*. She was awarded a double first in History from Lincoln College, Oxford, and D.Phil from Balliol College, Oxford, and worked as research curator at Hampton Court Palace, creating a new visitor experience in the Tudor palace to mark the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII’s accession in 2009. Suzannah is currently Convenor of History at the New College of the Humanities, London.

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**Uxbridge At Work**

**People and Industries Through the Years**

Ken Pearce

**Summary**

Uxbridge emerged as a market town towards the end of the twelfth century and remained so for over 700 years. Corn was the principal commodity, much of it grown in flat and fertile land a few miles to the south, and agricultural occupations dominated. In the late eighteenth century stage-coach traffic flourished, and the opening of the Grand Junction Canal also brought more trade and employment. Corn-growing gave way to market-gardening during Victorian times before the early years of the twentieth century saw the town become swallowed by London’s sprawl; by 1910 Uxbridge had three railway stations. The introduction of electricity led to the appearance of light engineering in the growing suburb and this expansion continued between the wars, so much so that depression and unemployment made little impact on the area. Uxbridge At Work explores the life of this London suburb and its people, from pre-industrial beginnings through to the present day. In a fascinating series of contemporary photographs and illustrations it takes us from the days of corn milling o the technologically advanced...

**Contributor Bio**

**Ken Pearce** is a well-known author. He has lived in Uxbridge since the 1930s and taught for 32 years at Bishopshalt School. Since 1970 he has been chairman of the Uxbridge Local History and Archives Society.
**Voices of Scottish Librarians**
The Evolution of a Profession and its Response to Changing Times
Ian MacDougall

**Summary**
This collection, based on interviews with 14 librarians and other library staff working in Scotland in the twentieth century, tells the stories of their working lives, explaining how libraries developed from the difficulties of the inter-war period and the austerity following the Second World War to become a well-used and important feature of local communities, committed to delivering an expanding range of public services.

**Contributor Bio**
Ian MacDougall is the author of several works of social history including *Voices from War, Voice of Work & Home* and *Voices from the Spanish Civil War.*

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**Walking With Cattle**
In Search of the Last Drovers of Uist
Terry Williams

**Summary**
Droving was once the lifeblood of Scotland’s rural economy, and for centuries Scotland’s glens and mountain passes were alive with thousands of cattle making their way to the market trysts of Crieff and Falkirk. With the Industrial Revolution, ships, railways and eventually lorries took over the drovers’ trade. Except, however, in the Western Isles, where droving on foot continued until the mid-1960s. In this book Terry J. Williams follows the route of the drovers and their cattle from the remote Atlantic coast of Uist to the Highland marts.

**Contributor Bio**
Terry J. Williams is a farmer’s daughter who was brought up in Cumbria and has lived in Scotland for many years. She was a crofter on Skye for 10 years, and has also worked as a freelance photographer and writer. Her book *Ten Out Of Ten* was published in 2010 to celebrate the first ten years of Sgoil Chùil na Gàidhealtachd in Plockton.
**Welsh History**

Geoff Brookes

**Summary**

Sir John Pryce of Newtown Hall died in 1761. He kept the embalmed bodies of his first two wives on either side of his bed—until his third wife insisted that they were removed. America is named after a Welshman, and the Holy Grail is kept in a bank vault in West Wales . . . This book contains hundreds of "strange but true" facts and anecdotes about Welsh history. Arranged into a miniature history of Wales, and with true tales for every era, it will fascinate readers everywhere.

**Contributor Bio**

**Geoff Brookes** is a writer with a long-standing interest in Welsh history. His previous books include *Bloody Welsh History: Swansea, Swansea Then & Now, and Swansea Murders*. He has appeared in the *Times Educational Supplement* and *Welsh Country Magazine*, as well as the *Independent*.

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**Who Do the English Think They Are?**

From the Anglo-Saxons to Brexit

Derek J. Taylor

**Summary**

What makes the English so . . . English? Where does English national identity come from? Historian and journalist Derek Taylor goes in search of answers on a journey through space and time. He visits battlefields, churches, remote islands, a slum, and many more places which, over 1600 years, have shaped the English sense of themselves. Along the way, he finds the Vikings were more family men than sex-mad thugs. He tells how the DNA of the English is mainly German and French. He explains too how the English nearly ended up speaking French. And how the origins of parliamentary democracy, the steam engine, and the internet helped form the identity of the English people. Bringing together a journalist's eye and a historian's incisive mind, the result is vivid, informative, and often surprising.

**Contributor Bio**

**Derek J. Taylor** studied law and history at Oxford, before joining ITN as an on-screen reporter. In his later career, he worked for the BBC, then the Associated Press of America as Chief Executive of their TV division. He is the author of *Magna Carta in 20 Places*.
Witney History Tour
Stanley C. Jenkins

Summary
Witney History Tour is a unique insight into the illustrious history of this Oxfordshire town, its well-known streets and famous faces, and explains what they meant to local people throughout the nineteenth and into the twentieth century. Readers are invited to follow a timeline of events and watch the changing face of Witney as author Stanley Jenkins guides us through the local streets.

Contributor Bio
Stanley C. Jenkins, who was educated at Witney Grammar School, the University of Lancaster and the University of Leicester, has written over 20 books and some 750 articles on local, transport and regional history. Having worked as an English Language teacher at Oxford Air Training School for several years, he returned to Leicester University to retrain as a museum curator in 1986, and was subsequently employed by English Heritage as the Regional Curator for South Western England. He is Curatorial Advisor to the Witney & District Museum, and is also working as a curator for the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust, which is at present building a military museum at Woodstock.

Wymondham & District Through Time
Elizabeth Walne

Summary
Wymondham Through Time is a unique insight into the illustrious history of this Norfolk town. Reproduced in full color, this is an exciting examination of Wymondham, the famous streets and the famous faces, and what they meant to the people who lived there throughout the nineteenth and into the twentieth centuries. Looking beyond the exquisite exterior of these well-kept photos, readers can see the historical context in which they are set. Through the author's factual captions for every picture and carefully-selected choice of images, the reader can achieve a reliable view of the town's history. Readers are invited to follow a timeline of events and watch the changing face of the town, as Michael Chandler guides us through the local streets. There is something for everyone here, whether they have lived in the area all their lives, or whether they are just visiting. It also shows how photography has continually evolved to keep up with an ever changing society.

Contributor Bio
Michael Chandler is a Norwich-based author, tour guide, historian and broadcaster. He has written numerous books on Norwich's history. He is the current resident historian at Future Radio and also contributes to the BBC and ITV, as well as local newspapers and magazines. He has given talks about his love of Norwich to many local history groups.
York The Postcard Collection
Paul Chrystal

Summary
The historic walled city of York, is home to a community rich in history, ambition and achievement, and has seen countless visitors, pilgrims and merchants walk its medieval winding streets over the centuries. Having been a cultural hub and centre of trade and commerce since before the Roman occupation of Britain, today York is considered one of the nation’s most notable sites of architectural and historic interest. With the emergence of tourism in the late nineteenth century, the historic core of York became one of the city's major assets, and in 1968 it was designated a conservation area. Today York is noted, among other things, for its numerous churches and pubs. The city offers a wealth of historic attractions, of which York minster is the most prominent, and a variety of cultural and sporting activities making it a popular tourist destination for millions. York the Postcard Collection is a fascinating collection of postcards that charts the city's evolution over the decades.

Contributor Bio
Paul Chrystal was educated at the Universities of Hull and Southampton where he took degrees in Classics and wrote his MPhil thesis on attitudes to women in Roman love poetry. He appears regularly on BBC local radio the World Service. He is the author of over fifty books on a wide range of subjects, including histories of northern places, social histories of tea and of chocolate, a history of confectionery in Yorkshire and various aspects of classical literature and Roman history.

A Companion to the Falklands War
Gregory Fremont-Barnes

Summary
The Falklands War is a story of occupation, fierce air battles, heavy naval losses and bitter encounters between ground forces amidst an inhospitable terrain and unforgiving climate. With complex political machinations and nationalist sentiment at the centre of the conflict, even today the sovereignty of the islands is hotly contested in political circles. For the first time, renowned military historian Gregory Fremont-Barnes has compiled a definitive A–Z guide to the British involvement in the Falklands conflict, including personalities, weapons, battles, ships, places and much more. This accessible yet comprehensive companion to the Falklands War will be a welcome addition to any enthusiast’s shelves.
A Passing Fury
Searching for Justice at the End of World War II
A. T. Williams

Summary
Any trial is an act of theater. After the horror of World War II, the Nuremberg Tribunal became a symbol of the "free world’s" choice of justice in the face of tyranny, aggression and atrocity. But it was only a fragment of retribution as, with their Allies, the British embarked on the largest program of war crimes investigations and trials in history. This book exposes the deeper truth of this controlled scheme of vengeance. Moving from the scripted trial of Göring, Hess and von Ribbentrop, to the makeshift courtrooms where "minor" war criminals (the psychotic SS officers, the brutal guards, the executioners) were prosecuted, A Passing Fury tells the story of the extraordinary enterprise, the investigators, the lawyers and the perpetrators and asks the question: was justice done? This book reassesses the value and flaws of the attempt to do justice in clear, engaging prose, bringing it to life for a new generation and demonstrating its contemporary relevance in responding to "evil."

Contributor Bio
A. T. Williams won the George Orwell Prize for Political Writing in 2013 for his book A Very British Killing: the Death of Baha Mousa. A Passing Fury was chosen as a Daily Telegraph Book of the Year.

Culloden Tales
Stories from Scotland's Most Famous Battlefield
Hugh G. Allison

Summary
Culloden marked the end of clan culture and was the harbinger of the Highland Clearances. It ensured the inevitability of the American Revolution and increased the outpouring of Scots across the globe. It is the only battle that British Army regiments are not permitted to include in their battle honors; the only battle that Bonnie Prince Charlie ever lost; and the only battle that the Duke of Cumberland ever won. Culloden is a battlefield, a graveyard, and an iconic site that draws people from all parts of the world. They bring with them their stories and their father's father's stories—stories of civil war, of love, and even of the supernatural. They are peopled by the second-sighted, by clan chiefs and by others who have kept family secrets for centuries. The battlefield is resonant with past deeds and emotive memories. These tales are offered as a unique record to the power of the place.

Contributor Bio
Hugh Allison is employed by the National Trust for Scotland.
Rats Alley
Trench Names of the Western Front
Peter Chasseaud

Summary
This book makes it possible to comprehend, via the trench naming, the daily life in the trenches, the vast range of weaponry and the lethal nature of the titanic battles. Names such as Lovers Lane, Doleful Post, Cyanide Trench and Gangrene Alley are as revealing as any history. While based upon the British trenches, there is a comparison with French and German practice. While a poignant concordance of suffering and an intriguing study of language itself, this book is also a vital research tool for military and family historians.

Contributor Bio
Dr Peter Chasseaud is the acknowledged expert on First World War survey and mapping. He was a commissioner on the A19 (Ypres battlefield) project, and is involved in battlefield archaeology and research. He has worked for TV and on the Naval & Military Press/Imperial War Museum 1914-18 Maps CD project. He has also published several books and is an acclaimed military historian. He is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a member of the Royal United Services Institute.

The Royal Air Force Day by Day
1918 - 2018
Air Commodore Graham Pitchfork, Air Chief Marshal ...

Summary
The Royal Air Force Day by Day is a diary of significant daily events providing a fascinating record of the RAF’s 100-year history, illustrated with more than 500 photographs. It describes not only the great air battles and major events, but also the tapestry of activities, traditions and culture that have created the rich history of the world’s oldest Air Force. Central to this history are the experiences of RAF officers, airmen and women, ground trades and aircrew during war and peacetime. Created in April 1918, the RAF has made a major contribution to peacekeeping and offensive actions worldwide since the First World War and has maintained its position at the forefront of aviation and weapons technology.

Contributor Bio
AIR COMMODORE GRAHAM PITCHFORK MBE, BA, FRAES is the aviation obituaries writer for the Daily Telegraph and Chairman of the Buccaneer Association. He served in the RAF for 36 years as a navigator and was awarded the MBE for his part in introducing the Buccaneer to RAF service in the maritime strike role. He has written widely on aviation history and lives in Gloucestershire.
The West Country's Last Line of Defence
Taunton Stop Line
Andrew Powell-Thomas

Summary
As Hitler’s Germany spread her wings across Europe in the late 1930’s, nations across the continent began preparing their own defences. The threat of invasion on home soil seemed unlikely at first, but as the relentless Nazi war machine steamrollered country after country, by June 1940 a series of ‘stop-lines’ were created across Britain in an effort to delay any Nazi invasion. This book looks at the role and locations of the Taunton stop line, a fifty-mile defensive ‘wall’ spanning Somerset, Devon and Dorset, and its lasting legacy that can still be seen today across the idyllic rolling countryside of the South-West.

Contributor Bio
Somerset-based primary school teacher and author, Andrew Powell-Thomas has always had a keen interest in Second World War history. This is his first book for Amberley Publishing.

Resolution
Two Brothers. A Nation in Crisis. A World at War
David Manners, Emma Ellis

Summary
John Manners, Marquis of Granby, famously led a cavalry charge during the Seven Years War in 1760, losing both hat and wig. He was lauded as an authentic military hero. Granby predeceased his father, the 3rd Duke of Rutland, and never inherited his title, but left two sons whose contrasting fortunes and tragically short lives are the subject of this meticulously researched book. Charles became 4th Duke in 1779, sought reconciliation with the American colonies and was Viceroy of Ireland; Robert embarked on a naval career, became flag captain of the Resolution and died of injuries sustained at the Battle of the Saintes. Based upon Belvoir Castle's detailed archives, Resolution is an enthralling saga of the Manners family and a finely delineated portrait of mid-Georgian England aristocratic, political and naval life.

Contributor Bio
David Manners is 11th Duke of Rutland. He lives at Belvoir Castle. Emma Ellis is a naval historian.
The Worst Jobs in History
Sir Tony Robinson

Summary
Whether it's swilling out the crock of a knight's soiled armor after the battle of Agincourt, risking his neck in the rigging of HMS Victory, or as "Groom of the Stool" going to places where none of Henry VIII's six wives would venture, Tony endures the worst jobs imaginable to get to the bottom (sometimes literally) of the story. From the Roman invasion to the reign of Queen Victoria, Tony has met the challenge of seeking out the worst jobs of each era. The Gunpowder Plot drew Tony to the role of the Saltpetre Man who collected human waste because its nitrate content could be turned into gunpowder. In the same vein, he has revealed some of the worst jobs behind the building of the great medieval cathedrals. With Tony we discover the dire conditions of Nelson's Victory, where the most common form of retirement was being sewn into a hammock with a couple of cannon balls and dropped over the side. Then there's the impact of the Industrial Revolution, a source of wealth and power for the few, but a cornucopia of lousy jobs for the many. Packed with disgusting yet fascinating profession...

Contributor Bio
Sir Tony Robinson is most famous for playing the role of Baldrick in Blackadder. He has authored many children's books including the history series Tony Robinson's Weird World of Wonders.

Red Roses
Blanche of Gaunt to Margaret Beaufort
Amy Licence

Summary
The Wars of the Roses were not just fought by men on the battlefield. There were daughters, wives, mistresses, mothers, and queens who helped shape the most dramatic of English conflicts. This book traces the story of women on the Lancastrian side, from the children borne by Blanche, wife of John of Gaunt, through the turbulent 15th century to Margaret Beaufort's son in 1485 and the establishment of the Tudor dynasty. From the secret liaisons of Katherine Swynford and Catherine of Valois to the love lives of Mary de Bohun and Jacquetta of Luxembourg, to the queenship of Joan of Navarre and Margaret of Anjou, this book explores their experiences as women. Faced with the dangers of treason and capture, defamation and childbirth, these extraordinary women survived in extraordinary times.

Contributor Bio
Amy Licence is a historian and an award-winning author of seven books. She has written for the Guardian, TLS, Huffington Post, and BBC History. She also appeared in Philippa Gregory's BBC2 documentary, The Real Women of the Wars of the Roses, in 2013.
Ballad Tales
An Anthology of British Ballads Retold
Kevan Manwaring, Candia McKormack

Summary
A ballad is a song that tells a story and many traditional British ballads contain fascinating stories—tales of love and jealousy, murder and mystery, the supernatural and the historical. This anthology brings together 19 original retellings in short story form, written by some of the country’s most accomplished storytellers, singers, and wordsmiths. Here you will find tales of cross-dressing heroines, lusty pirates, vengeful fairy queens, mobsters and monsters, mermaids and starmen—stories that dance with the form and flavor of these narrative folksongs in daring and delightful ways. Richly illustrated, these enchanting tales will appeal to lovers of folk music, storytelling, and rattling yarns.

Contributor Bio
Kevan Manwaring is a writer, teacher, and storyteller. He teaches creative writing for the Open University and the Skyros Writers’ Lab. He also runs freelance courses in storytelling and has appeared in numerous shows both solo and with Fire Springs in Britain and abroad. His work includes two collections of folk tales. Candia McKormack is the deputy editor at Cotswold Life.

Tin Coast
National Trust Guidebook
Clare Gogerty

Summary
The Tin Coast stretches from Cape Cornwall to Pendeen Watch, the end of mainland Britain. It began with nature’s creation of abundant riches. Mining from the medieval to the modern era left a lengthy industrial legacy, scars scraped into the ground and towers built to house powerful engines. These monuments to toil teach us much about human determination and delight us with their romantic dereliction. On the Tin Coast you can find solitude or adventure, and reflect on a landscape that drove such determination and innovation. With breath-taking photography throughout, original bird’s-eye artwork, and a fascinating narrative that encompasses thousands of years of history, this guidebook uncovers the attractions that drew and continue to draw people to this spectacular stretch of coast. From the treasure trove of minerals that drove human ingenuity literally to the earth’s end, to the wealth of natural beauty to be found today above ground, Clare Gogerty’s guide to the Tin Coast is itself a mine of information.

Contributor Bio
Clare Gogerty is an award-winning editor and writer. She is a former editor of Coast magazine for six years, interim editor of the National Trust’s own magazine, and the author of The National Trust Book of the Coast. She has also written about British travel, interiors, and crafts for a variety of publications including the Guardian, Homes & Antiques, Condé Nast Traveller, and Enterprise Magazine. Also to her name are the National Trust’s guidebooks to Brownsea Island and the Gower Peninsula.
Central Glasgow Through Time
Etta Dunn

Summary
Once a relatively small rural settlement on the River Clyde, Glasgow expanded dramatically over the centuries to become the largest city in Scotland. From the early eighteenth century, Glasgow prospered as it emerged as one of Britain's principal transatlantic trade hubs with North America and the West Indies, as well as one of the world's largest seaports. As the Industrial Revolution took hold, Glasgow continued to thrive, becoming world famous for its shipbuilding and marine industries. In Victorian times Glasgow was recognised as the 'Second City of the British Empire', while today it is one of the top ten financial centres in Europe. In 2014, Glasgow will be brought to the world's attention once more when it plays host to the Commonwealth Games. Central Glasgow Through Time explores the heart of this vibrant, modern and stylish city through a series of old and new images, and celebrates the rich history and heritage of this part of Glasgow.

Contributor Bio
Etta Dunn currently lives in Glasgow and is the chairperson of the Federation of Writers (Scotland). She is also an editor, publisher, actor poet and writer of short stories and scripts.

Colwyn Bay History Tour
Graham Roberts

Summary
A new town established in the 1800s, Colwyn Bay thrived with the coming of the railway, growing over the last century into one of the largest communities in North Wales. Colwyn Bay History Tour is a unique insight into the illustrious history of this part of the country. From Rhos-on-Sea to Old Colwyn, Graham Roberts takes us on an exciting guided tour of Colwyn Bay through the years, explaining the history behind its well-known landmarks. Some features have been lost forever, but many more have survived, and will be instantly recognisable today.

Contributor Bio
Graham Roberts, a native of Colwyn Bay, has previously published several titles on the town and the surrounding area and regularly gives illustrated talks. He is a magistrate and is also president of Colwyn Bay Civic Society. He is still a resident of Colwyn Bay, where he lives with his wife and family.
Conwy Through Time
John Barden Davies

Summary
Conwy, a small North Wales town, is dominated by the thirteenth-century castle of Edward I, built together with the town and walls. The town has had an interesting and often violent history. By Elizabethan times, Conwy settled into a more peaceful existence, but by the seventeenth century, violence returned at the time of the Civil War. In the nineteenth century, the river was bridged by road and by rail and expansion began, which led to the dawn of modern times. By the mid-twentieth century, increasing traffic congestion was threatening to strangle the town. Although a new bridge was built in 1958, this problem was not solved until a tunnel was built in 1991. Many old buildings remain, including St Mary's church (parts of which are older than the castle), Plas Mawr and Aberconwy House. Author John Barden Davies invites the reader on a tour of Conwy through the past and present, illustrated with a selection of beautiful photographs.

Contributor Bio
John was born and brought up on the North Wales coast. From an early age he has had an interest in local history, and has watched with interest the modern development of Conwy since the middle of the twentieth century. His other interests are public transport, tourism and photography. His first book was on the subject of the development of public transport and tourism in North Wales. John spent his working life in the Church in Wales and now lives in retirement in Deganwy.

Glasgow The Postcard Collection
Adam Smith

Summary
Once a relatively small rural settlement on the River Clyde, Glasgow expanded dramatically over the centuries to become the largest city in Scotland. From the early eighteenth century, Glasgow prospered as it emerged as one of Britain’s principal transatlantic trade hubs with North America and the West Indies, as well as one of the world’s largest seaports. As the Industrial Revolution took hold, Glasgow continued to thrive, becoming world famous for its shipbuilding and marine industries. In Victorian times Glasgow was recognised as the 'Second City of the British Empire', while today it is one of the top ten financial centres in Europe. Glasgow The Postcard Collection takes the reader on a nostalgic journey back through Glasgow's past in a vibrant selection of old picture postcards offering an illuminating pictorial history of this great city.

Contributor Bio
Adam Smith is a life-long resident of Cumbernauld and is extensively involved in the Cumbernauld community. Adam’s family have resided in the Cumbernauld area for 120 years and helped to form the New Town of Cumbernauld, designated in December 1955. Adam is a Board Member or Committee Member of a wide range of organizations operating in the Cumbernauld area and works with the community to positively promote Cumbernauld and to instigate improvements throughout the town.
Secret Newcastle
Ken Hutchinson

Summary
Situated on the north bank of the River Tyne, at the lowest bridging point, Newcastle is generally regarded as the capital of the north-eastern region of the United Kingdom. Initially a Roman settlement, Pons Aelius, the city grew to become an important site during the expansion of the wool trade in the fourteenth century and later played an integral role in the nation’s booming coal industry. Today the city hosts the Great North Run and boasts numerous icons, among which are its famous Newcastle Brown Ale and successful Premier League team, Newcastle United FC. Evidence of Newcastle’s past can be seen in its streets. The city’s Roman origins are represented by remaining sections of Hadrian’s Wall, and its industrial heritage is evident in its quayside and warehouses. In addition to these more visually obvious fragments of the past exist little-known passages, buildings, tunnels and other secret places that reveal more of Newcastle than meets the eye. Join author Ken Hutchinson in exploring the more clandestine aspects of the city’s long and varied history.

Contributor Bio
Ken Hutchinson has lived and worked at the coast for over twenty years. During his career as a Town Planner he has developed a great interest in local history, historic buildings and especially how an area changes over time. He is a tour guide for Newcastle City Guides, Tyne & Wear Museums, the National Trust and English Heritage. In his leisure time he has become an active member of Wallsend Local History Society.

Unseen Isle of Wight
Britain in Old Photographs
Jan Toms

Summary
The Isle of Wight has a fiercely proud history with monarchs, merchants, militiamen, smugglers, soldiers and sons of the plough all leaving their indelible mark. Found in boxes in attics and rescued from skips, these pictures bring the Isle of Wight to life in a special way. With the majority of them never having been published before, these archive photographs with informative captions will be of great interest to all who know this fascinating island.

Contributor Bio
Jan Toms is a writer, researcher and local historian. She was born and lived for most of her life on the Isle of Wight, which features largely in her writing. Jan writes articles for the Best of British magazine and has had four local history titles published by The History Press.
Scotland: Mapping the Islands
Chris Fleet, Margaret Wilkes, Charles Withers

Summary
As miniature worlds, beautiful locations and homes to communities seemingly distant from the stresses of modern life, Scotland’s many islands have an extraordinary fascination on countless people, not least on the hundreds of thousands of visitors who visit them each year. Arranged thematically and covering topics such as population, place-names, defence, civic improvement, natural resources, navigation, and leisure and tourism, Scotland: Mapping the Islands presents the rich and diverse story of Scottish islands from the earliest maps to the most up-to-date techniques of digital mapping in a unique and imaginative way.

Contributor Bio
Chris Fleet studied Geography at the University of Durham. Since 1994 he has worked at the Map Library at the National Library of Scotland, with particular responsibilities relating to digital mapping. Margaret Wilkes is Convener of the Collections Committee of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and one of its Board of Directors. Charles W.J. Withers is Professor of Historical Geography at the University of Edinburgh.

Cairngorms
Landscapes in Stone
Alan McKirdy

Summary
The geology of the Cairngorms was created on a timeline that stretches back hundreds of millions of years. Much of the land is underlain by granite that formed deep within the Earth’s crust and ‘surfaced’ as the overlying layers of rock were stripped away by ice, wind and water. The bedrock is hard and, although the area has been heavily glaciated, still boasts 18 Munros, the highest of Scotland’s peaks. The attracts climbers, walkers and assorted adventurers who want to pit themselves against some of the most challenging conditions to found anywhere in the UK. The plants and animals of the Cairngorms need to be hardy to survive the severe winter conditions. The reaches of the mountains are rich in montane vegetation such as lichen-rich heath and other habitats support many rare species.

Contributor Bio
Alan McKirdy has written many popular books and book chapters on geology and related topics and has helped to promote the study of environmental geology in schools. Before his recent retirement he was Head of Information Management at Scottish Natural Heritage.
Edinburgh
Landscapes in Stone
Alan McKirdy

**Summary**
An ancient and long-extinct volcano lies at the heart of Scotland’s capital. It roared into life some 350 million years ago and has been a source of fascination since it was first studied in earnest during the Enlightenment by James Hutton, one of the most significant geologists of all time. Many of Hutton’s groundbreaking ideas of how the world works were predicated on the rocks and landscapes of his home city and surrounding area. This book is a fascinating exploration into Edinburgh’s geological history over millions of years - including the passage of ice during a great freeze that has left an indelible stamp on Edinburgh’s cityscape, the use rocks quarried locally from ancient, now long disappeared seas to create the stunning elegance of Edinburgh’s New Town, and the coal deposits and oil shale which were exploited from the Industrial Revolution to the present day.

**Contributor Bio**
Alan McKirdy has written many popular books and book chapters on geology and related topics and has helped to promote the study of environmental geology in schools. Before his recent retirement he was Head of Information Management at Scottish Natural Heritage. He is the author of *Land of Mountain and Flood.*

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Royal Vengeance
The Assassination of Princess Diana and the Ancient Royal Cult of Human Sacrifice
Sarah Whalen

**Summary**
Was Princess Diana murdered? Yes, she was. That part is easily seen—even the means are known. She was gravely injured in a deliberate car wreck that immediately killed two other people, and she was then allowed to slowly bleed to death from internal injuries. But why? And to what end? She stirs up our passions even today—but she will never die. Not really. She has joined the Pantheon. Diana began life as we all do—but then, she revealed herself in her goddess form, and the world responded. And we still respond, even though she has returned to the place where there is no time, and even though we no longer see her moving amongst us. She was a bridge figure, both human and divine. We have met such figures before, through all the ages—gods and goddesses, saints and saviors—and their fate has always been the same. They have always been killed. But by whom? And to what purpose? *Royal Vengeance* answers all these questions and more.

**Contributor Bio**
Sarah Whalen is a journalist and attorney. She has taught Law as the Abraham Freedman Teaching Fellow at Temple University and won the New Orleans Press Club’s Writer's Prize in 2006.
The Jane Austen Marriage Manual

Helen Amy

Summary

A strict code of conduct governed courtship and marriage in Regency England during the period in which Jane Austen's novels were set, broadly 1796 to 1816. At a time when women's only real ambition appeared to be achieving a successful match, young women of the gentry class had to learn and adhere to these rules. Many turned to the etiquette manuals and "conduct books" made available by a burgeoning publishing industry to advise young women in search of a husband. This book draws from this pool of early "how to" popular literature, including many extensive facsimile extracts from the books read by Jane and her contemporaries (and actually referred to in her novels), as well as Jane's own experiences. It traces the stages of courtship (and its potential pitfalls) from a girl's first entry into society through to her wedding day and beyond.

Contributor Bio

Helen Amy worked for a number of years in the Court Service. Her interest in the life and works of Jane Austen developed from the research she did for her MA dissertation.

The Little Book of Antrim

Barry Flynn

Summary

The Little Book of Antrim is a compendium of fascinating, obscure, strange and entertaining facts about County Antrim. Here you will find out about Antrim's people and places, its business and industry, its spectacular coasts and glens and its proud sporting heritage. Through quaint villages and bustling towns, this book takes the reader on a journey through County Antrim and its vibrant past. A reliable reference book and a quirky guide, this can be dipped into time and time again to reveal something new about the people, the heritage and the secrets of this ancient county.
The Little Book of Sandymount

Kurt Kullmann

Summary

The Little Book of Sandymount is a compendium of fascinating, obscure, strange and entertaining facts about one of Dublin's most important suburbs. Here you will find out about Sandymount's streets and buildings, its schools and industries, its proud sporting heritage, and its famous (and occasionally infamous) men and women. Through main thoroughfares and twisting back streets, this book takes the reader on a journey through Sandymount and its vibrant past. A reliable reference book and a quirky guide, this can be dipped into time and time again to reveal something new about the people, the heritage and the secrets of this south Dublin suburb.

The Little Book of Westmeath

Ruth Illingworth

Summary

The Little Book of Westmeath is a compendium of fascinating, obscure, strange and entertaining facts about County Westmeath. Here you will find out about Westmeath's history and archaeology, its buildings and architecture, its culture and sport and its famous (and occasionally infamous) men and women. Through quaint villages and bustling towns, this book takes the reader on a journey through County Westmeath and its vibrant past. A reliable reference book and a quirky guide, this can be dipped into time and time again to reveal something new about the people, the heritage and the secrets of this fascinating county.
The Little Book of Youghal
Kieran Groeger

Summary
The Little Book of Youghal is a compendium of fascinating, obscure, strange and entertaining facts about the historic seaside resort of Youghal. Here you will find out about the town’s history through the ages, its people and industries. Through main thoroughfares and twisting back streets, this book takes the reader on a journey through Youghal and its vibrant past. A reliable reference book and a quirky guide, this can be dipped into time and time again to reveal something new about the people, the heritage and the secrets of this historic town.

No Borders
Tom English

Summary
From Jack Kyle’s immortals to Brian O’Driscoll’s golden generation, this is the story of Irish rugby told in the players’ words. Celebrated rugby writer Tom English embarks on a pilgrimage through the four provinces to reveal the fascinating and illuminating story of playing Test rugby in the green of Ireland – all the glory of victory, all the pain of defeat, and all the camaraderie behind the scenes. But more than a nostalgic look back through the years, this is a searing portrait of the effects of politics and religion on Irish sport, a story of great schisms and volatile divisions, but also a story of the profound unity, passionate friendships and bonds of a brotherhood. With exclusive new material garnered from 115 interviews with players and coaches from across the decades, No Borders unveils the compelling truth of what it means to play for Ireland at Lansdowne Road, Croke Park, the Aviva Stadium and around the world. This is the ultimate history of Irish rugby – told, definitively, by the men who have been there and done it.

Contributor Bio
Tom English is an award-winning BBC sport writer and broadcaster. A former chief sport writer for the Scotland on Sunday he was voted Scottish Sport’s Feature Writer of the Year by the Scottish Press Association for three years running. He has held posts with The Sunday Times, Sunday Express and the Scotsman. He won Rugby Book of the Year at the 2010 British Sports Book Awards for his account of the 1990 Grand Slam showdown, The Grudge, and is a co-author of the bestselling Behind the Lions: Playing Rugby for the British & Irish Lions.
The Mersey Road Tunnels
The First Eighty Years in Pictures
Peter Jackson-Lee

Summary
The story of the Queensway and Kingsway road tunnels, together known as the Mersey Road Tunnels, is a story of progress and growth as the area around them developed and changed. No tunnel of comparable diameter had been built before, and nothing matched its length or its complexity. Once completed, despite fierce opposition from the powerful and persuasive rail industry, this incredible feat of engineering was dubbed ‘the eighth wonder of the world’ in some corners. Work started on the tunnels when, on December 16, 1925, Princess Mary set the pneumatic drills in motion to enable the first shaft to be dug on the surviving portion of the Old Georges Dock. Similar excavations were happening on the Birkenhead side at Morpeth Dock. Excavation was made using a combination of drilling and explosives and up to 1,700 men worked on the tunnel simultaneously. With a range of rare and historic photographs, Peter Jackson-Lee tells the fascinating story of these iconic and important tunnels that remain one of the finest achievements in engineering to come out of Liverpool and Merseyside.

Contributor Bio
Peter Jackson-Lee was born in Wirral and joined the Royal Marines at eighteen, serving in the Falklands followed by Northern Ireland. After leaving the services, he gained his construction qualifications that have seen him progress in the construction industry in both the public and private sector.

The Severn Estuary Crossings
Chris Witts

Summary
With its powerful tides and one of the highest tidal ranges in the world, the Severn Estuary was a barrier between two nations – until the Severn Bridge was opened in 1966, the only way to cross the Severn Estuary was by ferry or railway tunnel. In the nineteenth century Thomas Telford spoke of bridging the estuary, which at that time was too expensive and dangerous thus the railway tunnel was built instead. The Old Passage Severn Ferry Co. Ltd operated from Aust to Beachley from 1926 until the Severn Bridge opened. Motorists faced either waiting while queuing to join the ferry or a 60 mile arduous road journey via Gloucester. In 1958 a decision was taken to commence work to build a bridge between Aust and Beachley. Construction began on the Severn Bridge, the design of which has proved so reliable it has been copied around the world. As traffic increased, it became apparent that a new bridge was needed. In 1996 the Second Severn Crossing was opened, with the distinction of being the longest river crossing in Britain. Today we have two magnificent bridges crossing this wide estuary: ...

Contributor Bio
Chris Witts is a historian who spent many years working on the River Severn. He is currently based in Gloucester.
Scottish Buses During Deregulation
Kenny Barclay

Summary
On October 26, 1986 Britain’s bus services were deregulated. This applied to all services operated in England, Scotland and Wales, but did not apply in Northern Ireland or London. In the run up to deregulation the Scottish Bus Group was restructured from seven companies (Central, Eastern, Fife, Midland, Northern, Highland and Western Scottish) into eleven companies along with Scottish Citylink Coaches. The new companies (Clydeside, Kelvin, Strathtay and Lowland Scottish) all developed bright new liveries to set them apart from their former owners. Competition for passengers was fierce with existing operators suddenly facing new rival operators; congestion and bitter battles took place across the country. In order to survive companies had to work hard to win new passengers as well as keep their existing passengers. New liveries, marketing campaigns and new vehicles both big and small arrived. Most companies dabbled with minibuses – some even went back to crew operation, and large fleets of London Routemaster buses took to the streets of Glasgow. In this book Kenny Barclay, a lifelong ...

Contributor Bio
Kenny Barclay is a lifelong transport enthusiast who begun to amass a significant collection of transport photographs during the 1980s and 1990s. Kenny now lives with his partner in the Highlands of Scotland and still employed within the railway industry as an operations manager. Outside of work Kenny has a collection of four vintage buses which have been restored as they would have looked in the 1980s.

Great Western Railway Stations
Allen Jackson

Summary
Perhaps more has been written about the Great Western Railway than any other, and the company is regarded with the most affection. The combination of an unbroken history, engineering icons of the Victorian era, holiday destinations and a visual appeal in their design work went a long way in keeping the GWR in pole position. The stations and other structures have long enjoyed the admiration of many and are a quintessential ingredient of the GWR recipe for remembrance. Change has always been with us on the railways and none more so than in the twenty-first century, where much of the GWR scene is to be swept away under the wires of electrification. The GWR proposed electrification of the Taunton to Penzance route in the 1930s and would have carried it out if they’d had the cash so, eighty years later, this change has an air of inevitability about it. Great Western Railway Stations is a last look at much of the GWR architecture, some of which is listed, and aims to present a lavishly illustrated overview of what remains of the old company.

Contributor Bio
Allen Jackson has worked for the RAF, as a teacher and now owns his business. He is a lifelong railway enthusiast who has published several books with Amberley.
Loadhaul, Mainline and Transrail Livery
Andrew Cole

Summary
Loadhaul, Mainline and Transrail were formed in 1994, when British Rail decided to concentrate its freight operations in the three companies. BR decided to split the country into three regions, with Loadhaul in the North East, Transrail to the West, and Mainline to the South and East. The three companies would only have a short life span, as they were all brought together by Wisconsin Central, who renamed them all as EWS. The liveries of the three companies were very different, with Loadhaul being all-over black with orange cabsides. Transrail never adopted a new livery; rather they just rebranded their locomotives, which still carried their previous liveries, the most common being the former Trainload freight triple grey. Mainline also rebranded most of their locomotives similar to Transrail, but they did also have a very striking aircraft blue and silver livery that started to grace the fleet. The three companies inherited most of the former Trainload freight locomotives, but also included were the Civil Engineers liveried locomotives. Here, Andrew Cole shows the different classes ...

Contributor Bio
Andrew Cole has been interested in railways for over thirty years, sharing the hobby with his brother and late father, who ignited his interest. He has been lucky enough to see many different classes of loco. He lives Birmingham with his wife and daughter, and has been employed by the railways for the last fourteen years.

Looking Back At Peaks
Kevin Derrick

Summary
This wonderful volume deals with Classes 44, 45 and 46 from their earliest days with the introduction of D1 Scafell Pike in 1959 through to the last few Peaks to survive in everyday service. As usual the book has not been filled up with lots of preserved pictures; instead a selection of archive photographs has been used to illustrate our subjects. Chapters take a look at all of the names including so many of those wonderful regiment names and badges in detail. We examine the myriad of nose end variations and livery details. Double-heading, night time views and some delightful shots of Peaks in their steam heat days are to be found inside these 96 pages, all in full color.
Scottish Steam's Final Fling
Extracts from a Teenager's Notebooks
Keith Widdowson

Summary
In May 1967, Scotland became the third of the six BR regions to dispense with the steam locomotive. Residing over 300 miles away Keith Widdowson’s pilgrimages north of the border were by necessity of marathon undertakings. Abysmal overnight time keeping, missed connections, trains allegedly booked steam but turning up diesel... but these setbacks were eclipsed by successes such as catching runs with LNER classes of A2, A4, V2 and B1’s and BR Clans. Accompanied with brief historical data of routes and stations visited, many of which have long disappeared, this book is a collection of reminiscences from those final two years - which anyone with a penchant for railways will enjoy.

Steam Gold
A New Age for Preserved Steam
Geoff Swaine

Summary
The heritage railways of Britain have taken preserved steam into a new golden age. All over the country enthusiasts flock to lavish love and attention onto the preserved railways and relive bygone eras, especially the ever-popular 1940s re-enactments. But the appeal doesn't only lie in recreating the past; this movement is also forging a new present. The Flying Scotsman ran again on the main line in 2016 to great acclaim across the country, with crowds lining up to witness the spectacle. With written pieces reflecting on the work involved in keeping the preserved railways going, as well as the history of the Big Four, and insights into many of the heritage sites, this photographic book is a delight for all steam enthusiasts.

Contributor Bio
GEOFF SWAINE embarked upon a career as a leading heritage photographer and photographic archivist after retiring from his work as an architect. So far he has had over 500 photographs published and has written a number of books and articles on railways, football and architecture. He lives in Chelmsford.
The Woodhead Route
Anthony Dawson

Summary
The Woodhead Route, from Manchester to Sheffield has achieved almost mythical status, not only thanks to the Woodhead Tunnels, but the unique EM1 and EM2 electric locomotives. Inspired by the first 'Railway Mania' of the 1830s, the Woodhead Route was the first railway built to link Manchester with Sheffield. After many false starts, it was finally opened in 1845, and here Anthony Dawson explores the history behind one of the most iconic and beloved railway lines in the world. Drawing on a range of topics including the various attempts to get the line built, how it was built, running the line and accidents; the three tunnels, memories of the Woodhead and life after closure. With more than a hundred illustrations throughout, this illuminating volume offers a fascinating overview of the line that will appeal to enthusiasts young and old.

Contributor Bio
Anthony Dawson has a lifetime's interest in railways; he is a graduate both of the University of Bradford (B.Sc honours, archaeology) and the University of Leeds (M.Res, history). Anthony is a member of staff at the Museum of Science & Industry, Manchester, where he puts his enthusiasm for early railways into practice as a Railway Volunteer on the replica 'Planet' locomotive.
West Midlands Traction
Andrew Cole

Summary
Being situated in the centre of the UK, the West Midlands has always been the hub of the network. From InterCity workings from London Euston through the West Midlands, to Cross Country workings from the North East to the South West, there has always been plenty of variety on these passenger workings, and most points of the compass can be reached from Birmingham New Street. The West Midlands has also been a main centre for freight workings. From the once busy Washwood Heath yard, to Bescot, there has always been a strong freight presence in the region. Unfortunately there are not as many freight workings as in the past, but most types of freight flows have been seen in the West Midlands. There has also been a large variety of traction passing through the West Midlands, with locos visiting from all the different regions, with most descending on Saltley shed just on the outskirts of Birmingham city centre. There have also been large varieties of multiple units used in the West Midlands, both diesel and electric.

Contributor Bio
Andrew Cole has been interested in railways for over thirty years, sharing the hobby with his brother and late father, who ignited his interest. He has been lucky enough to see many different classes of loco. He lives Birmingham with his wife and daughter, and has been employed by the railways for the last fourteen years.

A-Z of Leicester
Places-People-History
Stephen Butt

Summary
The city of Leicester can boast a long and distinguished history and has been at the very heart of the country's political and economic development for over two millennia. Evidence of Roman occupation remains at the Jewry Wall and Cardinal Wolsey lies buried in Leicester Abbey, but the jewel in the city's proud historical crown was the discovery, in 2012, of the skeleton of King Richard III, lying beneath a car park. The city’s stories can be found everywhere: from the decaying Victorian mills and textile factories to the bustle of shopping centres and markets, in buildings, churches, parks, streets and alleyways, and in the people themselves. Local author, Stephen Butt, takes the reader on their very own A-Z tour around the city's history, exploring its nooks and crannies, and along the way relating many a fascinating tale of the most interesting people and places. Fully illustrated with photographs from the past and present, this new A-Z guide to Leicester's history will appeal to residents and visitors alike.

Contributor Bio
Stephen Butt is a well known local historian, who presents a weekly local history program on BBC Radio Leicester. He works in the broadcasting industry as a Senior Broadcast Journalist and holds degrees in Psychology and English Local History. Stephen is also an honorary press officer for the Leicestershire Victoria County History Trust, and the editor of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society newsletter. He has written many local interest titles for Amberley. He lives in Leicester.
A-Z of Liverpool

Places-People-History

Ken Pye

Summary

The city of Liverpool is famous throughout the world. This once-small fishing village was transformed into a mighty commercial powerhouse, seen by many as the second city of the British Empire. In 1715 Liverpool created the world’s first enclosed, commercial wet dock; eventually there would be docks along 71/2 miles of the River Mersey. It rapidly grew into the greatest port and city in the entire British Empire outside London. Nevertheless, by 1980, Liverpool’s population had reduced by over half; its infrastructure and economy were decaying, and its political leaders were leading the city towards complete collapse. Today, Liverpool has the fastest-growing economy in Britain and has been a European Capital of Culture and is a UNESCO World Heritage City. Well-known local author, Keith Pye, takes the reader on a fascinating A-Z tour of the city’s history, exploring its nooks and crannies, and along the way relating many a tale of the most interesting people and places. Fully illustrated with photographs from the past and present, the A-Z of Liverpool will appeal to residents and visit...

Contributor Bio

Ken Pye is the author of a number of books, and produced the Discover Liverpool series of DVD documentaries. He is a regular contributor to magazines, journals, newspapers, and television, and is the official local historian for Radio City in Liverpool (420,000 listeners per week = 2,500 per hour). He broadcasts on BBC Radio Merseyside (317,000 listeners per week = 1,886 per hour) on a weekly basis, and gives around ten local history lectures every month, as well as operating four tours per week for tourists. He is an Honorary Fellow of Liverpool Hope University and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. A Scouser born and bred, Ken still lives in his home town, Liverpool.

A-Z of Northampton

Places-People-History

Anthony Meredith

Summary

Northampton was nationally important in medieval times but most traces of the period were destroyed by the Great Fire of 1675. The rebuilt town center, the development of the shoe trade in the nineteenth century, and the era of transport and work in the community was later engulfed by the spreading boundaries of the town, as were the industry and commerce which graced the River Nene. Today the shoe factories have all but gone; motor cars and buses have replaced the trams and many impressive buildings reflecting civic pride have disappeared at the hands of developers. Local author Anthony Meredith takes the reader on their very own A-Z tour around the town’s history, exploring the nooks and crannies, and along the way relating many a fascinating tale of the most interesting people and places. Fully illustrated with photographs from the past and present, this new A-Z guide to Northampton will appeal to residents and visitors alike.

Contributor Bio

Anthony Meredith has written widely on music, the theatre, the arts, Silverstone and cricket. A long-time member of M.C.C., he was for several years a regular contributor to The Cricketer. Other interests include music (major biographies on composers Malcolm Arnold, Malcolm Williamson and Richard Rodney Bennett) and dance - he was involved in creating scores for Northern Ballet’s The Three Musketeers and The Great Gatsby. He lives in Buckingham.
A-Z of Reading
Places-People-History
Stuart Hylton

Summary
Reading has a rich history going back well over a thousand years. It has seen kings and queens making extended stays in the town (one king of England is buried there), meetings of parliament and pitched battles fought for the control of the nation in its streets. In its time it has been a nationally important centre of religious pilgrimage, a key part of every new mode of transport – from canals and stagecoaches to the railways and motorways - a manufacturing town whose products were famous worldwide, to a leading centre for the high-tech industries of tomorrow. Well-known local author Stuart Hylton takes the reader on an alphabetical tour of this Berkshire town, looking in particular for the amusing, the offbeat and the unexpected stories hidden within. Fully illustrated with pictures from the past and present, A-Z of Reading is sure to appeal to anyone who lives or works in the town.

Contributor Bio
Stuart Hylton grew up in Windsor, studied at Manchester University and has written over twenty books on historical subjects, local and national, including From Rationing to Rock, Their Darkest Hour, an alternative view of the Home Front during the Second World War, A History of Manchester, The Grand Experiment and The Horseless Carriage. He is a member of the Education Team at the Great Western Society’s Didcot Railway Centre.

Brean Down
National Trust Guidebook
Nick Hanks

Summary
A walk on Brean Down will take you on a journey through hundreds of thousands of years of history. Evidence of mammoths and wooly rhinos has been uncovered here, and people have been living, farming, and fighting on the down since the Stone Age. A Roman temple and an Iron Age hillfort once commanded views over the sea, and more recently the down has been a crucial lookout, as well as a base for testing secret weapons. With tales as dramatic as the scenery, Brean Down is truly outstanding. With breathtaking photography throughout, original artwork, and a fascinating narrative that encompasses thousands of years of history, this guidebook uncovers the attractions that drew and continues to draw people to Brean Down.

Contributor Bio
Nick Hanks has done detailed research on various National Trust properties including Dyrham Park, Dunster Castle, and Tyntesfield. He works for Historic England on the National Heritage List, lectures part-time at Winchester University, and is half of Time and Tide TaleTellers.
Bronte Country
Lives & Landscapes
Peggy Hewitt

Summary
Haworth and its moors are for ever linked with the name of Bronte, but they also have a fascination in their own right. Peggy Hewitt tells the story of the moors and of the people who have lived and worked there—people who are as much a product of their environment as the drystone walls and heather.

Brownsea Island
National Trust Guidebook
National Trust

Summary
What happened on the first Scout camp in 1907? How do you spot a rare red squirrel? And why did one person, the reclusive Mrs. Bonham-Christie, turn Brownsea Island into the haven for nature it is today? This guidebook traverses the island’s past and present to reveal the answers to all this and much more. Find out about the characters who once called the castle their home, where to spot a spoonbill (and around 70 other species) and even the best places for a picnic. You will also discover how local communities have helped saved the island from a number of potentially devastating threats over the years, and how they, along with the National Trust and its partners, continue to ensure Brownsea remains a wild and magical place for everyone to enjoy.

Contributor Bio
Clare Gogerty is the author of The National Trust Book of the Coast, and is the former editor of Coast magazine.
Cliveden

National Trust Guidebook

Annie Bullen

Summary

A country retreat on a grand scale, Cliveden's magnificent gardens and breathtaking views have been admired for centuries. Since it was built high above the Thames in the second half of the 17th century, Cliveden has been a powerhouse—a place visited by royalty and the politically influential. Its first owner, the Duke of Buckingham, was brought up with the children of Charles I, and was instrumental in the restoration of Charles II. Lord Orkney, the next owner, and his wife, Elizabeth Villiers, a one-time mistress of William III, hosted both George I and George II at Cliveden, while their successors, the Sutherland family, among the wealthiest in the land, were often at home to Queen Victoria. However, it was during the tenure of Nancy and Waldorf Astor that Cliveden became the glamorous center of political, literary, and artistic society. Guest from David Lloyd George, Herbert Asquith, Anthony Eden, Winston Churchill, and Neville Chamberlain to Sylvia Pankhurst, George Bernard Shaw, Henry Ford, Mahatma Gandhi, Amy Johnson, and Charlie Chaplin were invited to enjoy the lavish hospit...

Contributor Bio

Annie Bullen is the author of Oxford City Guide and The Little Book of the Tudors.

Corfe Castle

National Trust Guidebook

National Trust

Summary

The first stone of Corfe Castle was laid more than 1,000 years ago. Since then it's seen its fair share of battles, mysteries, and plots. It's been a treasury, military garrison, royal residence, and family home. Now it stands as one of Britain's most iconic and evocative survivors of the English Civil War, partially demolished in 1646 by the Parliamentarians. With fallen walls and secret places, there are tales of treachery and treason around every corner, and looking out from the castle's vantage point, you can't fail to be captivated by the breathtaking views across Purbeck. After the Parliamentarians had done their worst, the castle was handed back to the Bankes family and remained in their ownership for three and a half centuries. In 1982, Ralph Bankes gave it to the National Trust along with the family's extensive holdings in Purbeck, their mansion at Kingston Lacy near Wimborne, and its adjoining land—one of the most generous gifts in the Trust's history. Though in ruins, Corfe Castle remains a treasure and truly a gift that keeps giving, the study of its long history yielding...
**Discovering Tudor London**

*A Journey Back in Time*

Natalie Grueninger

**Summary**

This engaging and practical travel guide takes you on a journey through the best of Tudor London, to sites built and associated with this fascinating dynasty, and to the museums and galleries that house tantalizing treasures from this rich period of history. Explore evocative historical sites, including the magnificent great hall of Eltham Palace, the most substantial surviving remnant of the medieval palace where Henry VIII spent time as a child, and the lesser-known delights of St. Helen’s Church, dubbed the "Westminster Abbey of the City" for its impressive collection of Tudor monuments. Photographs, maps, and visitor information, together with an informative narrative, bring the most intriguing personalities and stories of the 30-plus sites across Greater London vividly to life. This a must-have companion for both those planning their own "Tudor pilgrimage" and for the armchair traveler alike.

**Contributor Bio**

Natalie Grueninger is an author and researcher, and the founder and editor of On the Tudor Trail, a website devoted to 16th-century England that welcomes between 25,000-30,000 visitors per month. She is the author of *In the Footsteps of the Six Wives of Henry VIII*.

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**Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal**

*National Trust Guidebook*

Tessa Goldsmith

**Summary**

Yorkshire's first World Heritage Site is a huge estate of beauty, contrasts, and surprises, including the largest abbey ruins in the UK and one of England's most spectacular Georgian water gardens. The perfect place to escape from it all and enjoy a great, full day out, there's so much to see and do at Fountains. Set your own pace to explore more than 800 acres of naturally beautiful countryside, with 10 historic buildings to discover, spanning 800 years of history and acre after acre of open space.

**Contributor Bio**

Tessa Goldsmith is an author.
Giant's Causeway
National Trust Guidebook
Anna Groves

Summary
Giant’s Causeway is truly deserving of its titanic title. As Northern Ireland’s only World Heritage Site, it strikes wonder into the hundreds of thousands of people who visit each year. However, as you would expect of a geological phenomenon millions of years old (if you go for the scientists’ explanation over the one about giants meeting to battle on a specially constructed causeway), it has been inspiring visitors and locals for hundreds of years. This guidebook explores both the science and the myth, and introduces many fascinating characters, some fancied, others real, some world-famous, others local legends. As well as the Causeway’s long history and the tall stories that abound, this guidebook will show you some of the other natural delights of this place. For a coastline so exposed to wind and sea, as well as countless human footsteps, the Causeway is home to a great variety of flora and fauna. Featuring stunning photography throughout, this guidebook aims to convey some of the wonder of the Giant’s Causeway, to explain why it is so unusual and so important as a natural pheno...

Contributor Bio
Anna Groves is the author of Thomas Hardy’s Homes, Dorset.
**Giant's Causeway**
**National Trust Guidebook**
Anna Groves

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**Giant's Causeway**

National Trust Guidebook

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**Contributor Bio**

Anna Groves is the author of *Thomas Hardy's Homes, Dorset*. 
Gibside
National Trust Guidebook
Gemma Hall

Summary
Nowadays many of Gibside’s buildings lie in ruins. But this was once a grand Georgian estate, home to one of the most powerful families in England, the Bowes. This guidebook reveals how they built their fortune—and Gibside—and the scandalous tale of how one, the "Unhappy Countess" Mary Eleanor, was held captive here by her deceitful husband, Stoney Bowes. These pages also offer an insight into Gibside today: the wildlife that now calls it home; a handy "Spotter’s Guide" to some of the estate’s lesser-spotted features that can be ticked off during your visit; and the initiatives the National Trust is taking to create a peaceful retreat for visitors and nature.

Contributor Bio
Gemma Hall is a freelance writer. She writes about travel, heritage, and natural history and previously worked at the National Trust. She is the author of the Bradt Travel Guide to Northumberland.

Greyfriars House and Garden
National Trust Guidebook
Julie MacLusky

Summary
This timber-framed medieval manor has been lived in by Royalists and entrepreneurial refugees. It has been the site of a pub and grocery shops and 10 "blind-back" houses known as George’s Yard. But despite its long and varied history, Greyfriars almost didn’t make it to today. In the mid-20th century, many of Worcester’s historical buildings were demolished. If it wasn’t for a determined group of locals, Greyfriars and the surrounding Friar Street shops may have been among them. Instead, thanks to that group, this 600-year-old manor survives to offer an insight into Worcester’s medieval past. But most of all, it paints a picture of the two siblings who saved, conserved, and lived here, Elsie and Matley Moore. Remaining as they left it, Greyfriars is, above all, a welcoming family home and peaceful retreat from the hubbub of the city.

Contributor Bio
Julie MacLusky is a writer whose work has encompassed screenwriting, short fiction, nonfiction, and broadcast journalism with the BBC. Her publications include Is there life after film school? and Teaching Creative Writing in the Primary School: Delight, Entice, Inspire! She founded the degree in Creative & Professional Writing at the University of Worcester, where her educational consultancy provides support for those interested in using writing as a tool to engage students and drive up standards.
Hornchurch History Tour
Michael Foley

Summary
Hornchurch History Tour is a unique insight into the illustrious history of this famous old port. This new book guides us through the streets and alleyways, showing how its famous landmarks used to look and how they've changed over the years as well as exploring its lesser-known sights and hidden corners. With the help of a handy location map, readers are invited to follow a timeline of events and discover for themselves the changing face of Hornchurch.

Contributor Bio
Michael Foley is a local author who has had a number of articles published in magazines such as Best of British, This England and The Great War. He has been writing for some time and has had many books published, mainly about the area where he lives and Essex and Military History. He lives in Romford.

Knaresborough History Tour
Paul Chrystal

Summary
Knaresborough History Tour is a unique insight into the illustrious history of this North Yorkshire market town. Local author and historian Paul Chrystal guides us around the streets and alleyways, parks and buildings, showing how its famous landmarks used to look and how they've changed over the years as well as exploring its lesser-known sights and hidden corners. With the help of a handy location map, readers are invited to follow a timeline of events and discover for themselves the changing face of Knaresborough.

Contributor Bio
Paul Chrystal was educated at the Universities of Hull and Southampton where he took degrees in Classics and wrote his MPhil thesis on attitudes to women in Roman love poetry. He appears regularly on BBC local radio the World Service. He is the author of over fifty books on a wide range of subjects, including histories of northern places, social histories of tea and of chocolate, a history of confectionery in Yorkshire and various aspects of classical literature and Roman history.
Scotney is not one but two houses. At the top of the hill is the new house, designed by Anthony Salvin in Elizabethan style and built in 1837 for Edward Hussey III, who took the "Picturesque" style as his inspiration. At the bottom of the valley are the romantic ruins of a medieval castle and moat. This is the focal point of the celebrated gardens featuring spectacular displays of rhododendrons, azaleas, and kalmia in May to June, with trees and shrubs providing autumnal color. The estate is open all year, offering a variety of walks through beautiful parkland, woodland, and farmland.

**Contributor Bio**

Helene Gammack is a garden researcher and designer with a Master’s Degree in garden history, following a career as a professional gardener. She has previously worked for the National Trust on a variety of garden research projects and is the author of *Kitchen Garden Estate*, about self-sufficiency.

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There are several books about the Royal Mile, so why buy this particular one? It’s simple really. It has all the information anyone could possibly want. For a start, it’s a comprehensive illustrated guide. It starts at the Castle on top of the Mile and takes you right down to the Palace at the bottom. All you have to do is follow. On the way, it covers every wynd and close, as well as the surrounding side streets, key buildings and modern visitor attractions, including their websites. It even has the famous haunted sites, in case you decide to venture there at night. It’s also a history book, with fascinating facts and stories about a street with an astonishingly turbulent past. And it’s written in a light-hearted and fun way by an award-winning author, who happens to have been a tour guide on the Mile for over 20 years. That would be me. So... get ready to discover the sights and secrets of one of the most amazing locations in the world. You’re not likely to forget the experience. But if you do need reminding, you’ll have the book.

**Contributor Bio**

Jan-Andrew Henderson lives in Edinburgh with his partner and two children and runs ‘City of the Dead’ ghost tours, which requires him to look moody and wear black a lot. After living in the USA for several years, he returned to Scotland and began writing non-fiction books, children’s novels and young adult thrillers. His last three books were shortlisted for thirteen literary awards and he is the winner of The Royal Mail Award and the Doncaster Book Prize.
Scottish Maps Calendar 2018
National Library of Scotland

Summary
Following the success of the 2017 Scottish Maps Calendar, Birlinn is once again proud to collaborate with the National Library of Scotland. This new calendar features more of the most beautiful maps of Scotland ever made. From the very earliest representations of Scotland in the second century AD, through the first printed maps of the 16th century and the achievement of the Ordnance Survey in the 1920s and 1930s to the most recent satellite imagery, these images tell the story of a nation.

Contributor Bio
The National Library of Scotland is the world’s leading centre for the study of Scotland and the Scots. We are a major European research library, with collections of world-class importance.

Newcastle History Tour
Ken Hutchinson

Summary
*Newcastle History Tour* is a unique insight into the illustrious history of this famous city. This new book guides us through the streets and alleyways, showing how its famous landmarks used to look and how they’ve changed over the years as well as exploring its lesser-known sights and hidden corners. With the help of a handy location map, readers are invited to follow a timeline of events and discover for themselves the changing face of Newcastle.

Contributor Bio
Ken Hutchinson has lived and worked at the coast for over twenty years. During his career as a Town Planner he has developed a great interest in local history, historic buildings and especially how an area changes over time. He is a tour guide for Newcastle City Guides, Tyne & Wear Museums, the National Trust and English Heritage. In his leisure time he has become an active member of Wallsend Local History Society.
Beccles Through Time
Michael Chandler

Summary
*Beccles Through Time* is a unique insight into the illustrious history of this Suffolk town. Reproduced in full color, this is an exciting examination of Beccles, the famous streets and the famous faces, and what they meant to the people who lived there throughout the nineteenth and into the twentieth centuries. Looking beyond the exquisite exterior of these well-kept photos, readers can see the historical context in which they are set. Through the author’s factual captions for every picture and carefully-selected choice of images, the reader can achieve a reliable view of the town’s history. Readers are invited to follow a timeline of events and watch the changing face of the town, as Michael Chandler guides us through the local streets. There is something for everyone here, whether they have lived in the area all their lives, or whether they are just visiting. It also shows how photography has continually evolved to keep up with an ever changing society.

Contributor Bio
*Michael Chandler* is a Norwich-based author, tour guide, historian and broadcaster. He has written numerous books on Norwich’s history. He is the current resident historian at Future Radio and also contributes to the BBC and ITV, as well as local newspapers and magazines. He has given talks about his love of Norwich to many local history groups.