# REVIEWS

John Creighton with Robert Fry, *Silchester: Changing Visions of a Roman Town – Integrating Geophysics and Archaeology: The Results of the Silchester Mapping Project 2005–2010* (Britannia Monographs, 28), Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies (London, 2016). Pp. xviii + 486. 195 illustrations, most in colour; 17 tables. Paperback, £55. ISBN 978-0-907764-42-7.

Alexander Smith, Martyn Allen, Tom Brindle, and Michael Fulford, *New Visions of the Countryside of Roman Britain*, vol. 1, *The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain* (Britannia Monographs, 29), Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies (London, 2016). Pp. xxv + 469. 400 illustrations, 35 tables. Paperback, £40. ISBN 978-0-907764-43-4.

The two volumes considered here will be of interest, in different ways, to anyone concerned with the Roman archaeology of Oxfordshire, *Silchester* because it surveys aspects of a major town with a hinterland that covered part of our region, and *Rural Settlement* because it presents important new approaches to the Romano-British countryside. The volumes' complementary approaches to urban and rural settings are instructive in terms of the types of evidence utilised and also the conclusions that can be drawn from them.

The subtitles of *Silchester* indicate the nature of its content, but the scope is wider than they might suggest: it amounts to a complete review of current evidence for the town's morphology, incorporating LiDAR data and the results of geophysical (principally gradiometry) surveys, which encompass significant areas outside the walls (180 ha) as well as most of the walled area (38 ha). A critical part of the 2005–10 'Project' concerned the reconciliation of data from the geophysical surveys with the findings of previous work – study of aerial photographs, fieldwalking of extramural areas, and recovery of the town's plan derived from excavations by the Society of Antiquaries and later workers.

The contents are divided into four main parts, all of which are extensively illustrated. The first reviews previous investigations, starting with early antiquarian writers. The second sets out the bulk of the new, detailed survey evidence, including substantial sections on mapping the intramural and extramural parts of the town. The defences, which were not entirely suitable for geophysical survey, receive separate treatment in a third part. This is followed by a substantial interpretation and discussion which treats major themes. The results range from refinement of the locations and plan details of some of the buildings that were revealed by the Antiquaries' excavations to the addition of completely new evidence for many extramural areas. Insofar as is possible on the basis of non-intrusive surveying, the whole plan of Silchester and its immediate surroundings has effectively been deconstructed and reassembled, producing a refined appreciation of much previous evidence and transforming the understanding of the extramural areas. The geophysical survey evidence has enabled Creighton to discuss subjects such as the nature of possible military activity at Silchester (pp. 357–68). Contributions on extramural subjects include predictable ones, such as the location of several probable cemeteries (pp. 369–87), and other less expected ones, such as the suggestion that a group of large pits adjacent to a brook south-west of the town might have been associated with tanning (pp. 413–19). This speculative interpretation is worth consideration given the extreme rarity of such evidence in Britain (see J. Keily and Q. Mould, 'Leatherworking in South-Eastern Britain in the Roman Period', in D. Bird (ed.), *Agriculture and Industry in South-Eastern Roman Britain* (Oxford, 2017), pp. 236–54).

Overall this volume provides much food for thought on a wider range of aspects of Silchester than might have been anticipated, and serves as an important complement to the

excavation reports produced by Michael Fulford from his extensive examination of different parts of the town.

The Fulford connection serves to introduce *The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain*, the first of three volumes resulting from an important research project. It was initiated under the rather dry title 'Assessing the Research Potential of Grey Literature to the Study of Roman England', but such has been its success that the title chosen for its publications, *New Visions of the Countryside of Roman Britain*, seems perfectly appropriate. By contrast with the *Atlas of Roman Rural Settlement in England* produced by Jeremy Taylor in 2007 – which demonstrated the scale of such settlement but was based largely on Historic Environment Record data, aerial photographs, and other survey evidence – the basis of the present project is an analysis of excavation data amounting to 'some 3600 records of rural sites (accounting for *c.*2500 individual settlements) drawing on over 5000 published and grey literature reports' (p. 4), covering Wales as well as England. The excavation data are supplemented with data from cropmarks, earthwork surveys, and fieldwalking, and, importantly, with records from the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The evidence has been systematically recorded on a database with about 500 specific data fields for each site: this offers huge potential for analysis even though differences in levels of recording in the parent excavation reports inevitably affect the exploitation of the recording. The database was conceived from the outset as a fundamental component of the project, and is fully accessible via the Archaeology Data Service. It is a remarkable resource, although it represents data collection at a particular time and there is no provision for updating. The results of the analyses presented here are supported by numerous maps, site plans, and graphs.

*Rural Settlement* focuses on what can loosely be considered as the 'front end' of the database, dealing primarily with site forms and chronologies. General chapters on morphological classification of settlement and on buildings in the countryside precede an analysis of the data in regional terms. In order to optimise data manipulation the settlement classification is simple. Rural settlements are defined mainly as villas or farmsteads, the latter divided between open, enclosed, and complex subtypes, though many remain 'unclassified'. Larger nucleated sites are also considered, described as roadside settlements, villages and *vici* (civilian settlements associated with forts) – the last are treated as the equivalent of nucleated rural settlements in regions where a military presence was maintained for a long period. The combined larger settlements account for about 11 per cent of the total number of sites in the study.

Regional analysis has also been fundamental to the project. It eschews traditional binary oppositions (such as upland–lowland) and substitutes a set of eight regions, defined on the basis of perceived variation in aspects of the settlement pattern but also related to natural characteristics and linked to 'Natural Areas' as defined by Natural England (and to very broad topographic zones in Wales). The resulting regions – South, Central Belt, East, North-East, Central West, North, South-West, Upland Wales and Marches – are of course not 'homogeneous entities, but . . . convenient units for purposes of inter-regional analysis' (p. 16). This important development enables the analysis to be systematic and advances understanding of regional variation well beyond recent impressionistic picture presentations. The approach reinforces some well-known patterns of evidence (for example, distributions of villas) in a more nuanced way, but also surprises because some of the chronological variation in broad trends of settlement trajectory sometimes defies expectations.

Oxfordshire falls within the regional scheme's Central Belt – the largest region, stretching from south Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire as far as the Vale of Taunton and the lowlands of south-east Wales. As, unsurprisingly, a densely settled region, it also provides the largest dataset. This reveals, for example, a particular importance of complex farmsteads compared with other regions (p. 393), and demonstrates that across the region they occupied different topographical settings from enclosed farmsteads and villas (p. 175). This is the kind of information that can be acquired only from a substantial body of consistently recorded data. But villas are important in this region, though relatively less so than in the South. The analysis of broad settlement trends

also considers subunits of the large regions and reveals significant differences even at this level, for example in the chronological distribution of different farmstead types. Such 'broad brush' characterisations are just the starting point of potential discoveries from the dataset, and while they may seem unremarkable they have already significantly advanced the understanding of rural settlement. The basic findings are supplemented by summaries of structural evidence and artefactual material for each region, considered in relation to site type, and are enhanced by detailed consideration of economic evidence in the second volume. Though the approach sometimes seems slightly mechanistic, this is precisely what is required to move analysis of the Romano-British countryside away from simplistic villa-focused accounts which do no service for the understanding of the period.

This volume is essential reading for anyone with the slightest interest in its subject. It summarises a remarkable achievement, and with its companions marks a huge progression for Romano-British studies. (Vol. 2, *The Rural Economy of Roman Britain*, was published in 2017; vol. 3 is due to be published soon.) Inevitably parts will soon be outdated as a result of new work, and it would be highly advantageous if a mechanism could be devised for periodic systematic and regulated updating of the database. Even if this is not possible, however, the present publication will form a solid platform for future work for some time to come, and an inspiration for inquiry into rural Roman Britain for much, much longer.

Paul Booth, Oxford Archaeology

Ron Baxter, *The Royal Abbey of Reading* (Boydell Studies in Medieval Art and Architecture ser.), Boydell Press (Woodbridge, 2016). Pp. xx + 354. 168 b&w illustrations, 50 colour plates. £60. ISBN 978-1-78327-084-2.

Those few remains of Reading abbey that have survived in situ present a sorry sight today. Even the engagingly enthusiastic Ron Baxter describes them in guarded or measured terms as 'imposing but not especially informative rubble cores'. In the mid sixteenth century the abbey paid dearly for its location, just to the east side of the town of Reading and close to both the Kennet and the Thames: following its dissolution in 1539, the abbey was despoiled of all of its carved stonework and stone facings. After about a century of use of the remains as a royal palace or hunting lodge, the site passed into private hands. At times it was treated as little more than a quarry. This was of course the fate of many a monastery – a close parallel is Faversham abbey in Kent, also a twelfth-century royal foundation and notionally of the Cluniac order – but it is still a sad story that Baxter has chosen to tell.

Baxter's book in fact really presents three stories, the first being of the abbey's days of glory, as Henry I's foundation, intended as a mausoleum for himself and his family, and having no expense spared in its setting up. He endowed it generously (albeit using the estates of a pre-existing religious house) and in effect had it built in a court style. He doubtless chose it to be Cluniac on the ground that that order rejoiced in the rich decoration of its churches to the glory of God; and shortly after it had formally been established he managed to gain abbatial status for it (1123), so that it ceased to be a subservient priory of Cluny abbey. Henry also ensured that the abbey would be a focus for pilgrimage through his provision of relics. As Baxter observes, the design of the east end, with ambulatory and side chapels (in addition to four transept chapels) shows that it must always have been intended to receive pilgrims. They were drawn by one of the largest collections of relics in England, the most celebrated of which was probably the hand of St James, which Henry I's daughter Matilda had brought back with her to England after the death of her husband, the emperor Henry V; it may be the same hand which now belongs to the Roman Catholic church of St Peter at Marlow (illustrated in colour as plate VIII). This and other relics form the subject matter of chapter 2, which is readable and assured.

Baxter's second story, that of 'Dissolution and Dilapidation', is pursued almost to the present day. It makes for doleful reading, and in effect is continued in the following chapter, on the

architecture of the abbey church. So little of the church survives that the very existence of a crossing tower has to be argued for on the basis that a church with such substantial transepts and pillars must have had one. He makes the point that it 'can only be visualised today with the aid of careful observation and archive work among the surveys and drawings of long-dead antiquarians' (p. 169; cf. also p. 187), but his text here is not always easy to follow. The illustrations (which are numerous – as throughout the volume) are in too many cases murky and too small, and it is a pity that he has not done more research in this area. It is startling, for instance, to find an engraving after William Stukeley, 1721, described as a drawing by Stukeley, and shown here as fig. 97, when a whole group of Stukeley's original drawings of this date in the Bodleian Library have gone unconsulted. (They were listed in Stuart Piggott's biography of the pioneer archaeologist, published in 1950.)

Where Baxter shines is in his third story – that of the gradual rediscovery of the capitals from the four arcades of the cloister. These are works of high quality, and thanks to the efforts of a succession of antiquaries and art historians twenty have now come to rest safely in the Reading Museum and Art Gallery. It is in these sculptures that the court links of the abbey are best displayed today (though one assumes that the abbey once possessed manuscripts of a comparably high quality of decoration). Reading's bird beakhead voussoir carvings were perhaps the earliest in England, rivalled for priority only by those at Old Sarum (Wilts.). This chapter, the eighth and final, is a fascinating tale of identification and excavation; its only weakness is once again the very mixed quality of the plates.

Overall this monograph is a substantial achievement. As an account of Reading abbey's architecture and sculpture it will surely stand for many years. It might have been more successful if its author had not attempted to provide so much more than that. His use of original medieval archival materials seems to have been almost non-existent. It is a shame that he did not use the dozens of charters and account rolls from the abbey that are now in the British Library, as Additional Charters 19571–19659; these include a good many royal charters that would have shed light on one of his central concerns, the relationship between the abbey and the royal court. The appendices exhibit a curious degree of carelessness (as shown in the failure to spot that his computer's auto-correct has turned the Latin *nostri* into 'nostril' and *nostram* into 'nostrum' (p. 320)). In any case, appendices comprising medieval texts should be based upon the original documents and not on other people's editions.

Nigel Ramsay, University College London

Thomas Charles-Edwards and Julian Reid, *Corpus Christi College, Oxford: A History*, Oxford University Press (Oxford, 2017). Pp. xx + 514. 70 b&w, 10 colour illustrations. £80. ISBN 978-0-198792-475.

This book is not just a history of an Oxford college but a microcosm of the intellectual, political and religious history of England. As the publishers justly claim: 'Many of the great changes of English history from the sixteenth century onwards – the Reformation, the Civil War, the Glorious Revolution – have had their repercussions and sometimes their participants within the college.'

Corpus Christi narrowly escaped becoming, as 'St Swithun's', a house of studies intended by Richard Fox, bishop of Winchester, for monks of his cathedral priory. It was Hugh Oldham, bishop of Exeter, who persuaded Fox to make Corpus a college for the education not of 'bussing monks' but of secular priests, 'such as who by their learning shall do good in the church and commonwealth'. For that, as well as for his contribution of 'great masses of monie', Oldham has a right to the title of co-founder.

Fox's adoption of a humanist curriculum represented a determination to raise the standard of higher education to the highest level achieved elsewhere in Europe. His experience as a diplomat had made him painfully aware of the contrast between the 'barbaric' Latinity

of the English and the elegant classical Latin of their European counterparts. Good Latin, therefore, was to pervade collegiate life, in private as well as in public. As Fox put it in his statutes, the college's reader in Latin was 'to strive with all his might to destroy and to throw out any barbarity from our beehive, if it should ever spring up'. Fox also broke new ground by providing in his statutes for a readership in Greek. Corpus was to be a *Collegium Trilingue*.

The college was constructed physically and spiritually around its chapel and library – acting like a hive (to use Fox's favourite metaphor) 'wherein scholars, like industrious bees, are day by day to make wax to the glory of God, and honey to the profit of themselves and all Christians'. Fox's own spirituality is evident in the name he chose for his college, Corpus Christi, and in his personal emblem, the pelican. The image of the loving pelican, wounding itself to feed its chicks, was a popular late medieval symbol of Christ feeding the faithful in the Eucharist with the blood he shed on the cross. Fox's college was essentially a religious house, 'founded in honour of the most precious blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ', whose members were to pray in perpetuity for the souls of the founder and his parents.

The authors guide the reader skilfully through the theologically complex process whereby the college was transformed between the death of its first president, John Claymond, in 1517 and the election of John Rainolds in 1598. Coincidentally, 1517 was the year in which Martin Luther burst upon the European scene. At Corpus, as in Oxford generally, the Reformation made slow progress, but the advent of Rainolds marked the final victory of Protestantism. Though the Calvinist Rainolds is now chiefly remembered as the instigator of what became known as the King James Bible, it was two other Corpus men, John Jewel and – above all – Richard Hooker who left a more lasting mark on the Church of England. Three hundred years later Corpus played only a minor role in the controversy surrounding the Oxford Movement, though in John Keble and Thomas Arnold it produced two of its leading protagonists, one on each side of the dispute. Both men, friends who became adversaries, were part of what the authors call the 'Corpus diaspora', a network composed mainly of country clergymen, inter-related by marriage, who were often the sons and later the fathers of Corpus men.

Corpus was often a fractious hive, never more so than during the mid seventeenth century. Royalist fellows (85 per cent of the body) were expelled in 1648, when 'high-pressure godliness' briefly held sway. The eighteenth century saw an increase in the number of gentlemen commoners, contrary to the founder's intention of giving preference to boys of ability but limited means. The fellows were by no means unproductive: a few travelled to the Levant as chaplains at Aleppo or Smyrna, where they pursued their interests in oriental languages or epigraphy, following a tradition established earlier by Edward Pococke, a Corpus man appointed by Archbishop Laud to be professor of Arabic (1636). Others took advantage of Radcliffe Travelling Fellowships in Medicine to widen their experience (and perhaps to escape the pressure cooker of college life).

The long period between 1855 and 1914 is covered in two admirably concise chapters. The college showed enterprise by supporting new professorial chairs and making available a wider range of subjects for undergraduates. The membership of the senior common room included men of widely differing views, exemplified by Arthur Sidgwick and Thomas Case (president 1904–24). Sidgwick was *inter alia* an advocate of the admission of women to the university, a Liberal and a Home Ruler, while Case was an opponent of change in all forms, whether it was the enactment of a compulsory half-holiday for shop workers, the revision of the Prayer Book, or the abolition of compulsory Greek. In his memoir *Short Journey*, E.L. Woodward (at Corpus 1908–13) took Case to be 'a warning of what may happen to an Oxford don'. The authors of this history are rather more indulgent to 'a man of many talents, sporting, musical and architectural'.

Before and after the First World War Corpus welcomed a series of foreign scholars who brought new stimulus to the university and the college, beginning with the historian Paul Vinogradoff, an exile from Tsarist Russia who introduced the seminar to Oxford as an engine of historical research. Later refugees from Nazi Germany included E.A. Lowe, Rudolf Pfeiffer

and Eduard Fraenkel, scholars whose teaching and influence revivified classical studies in Oxford. Yet some representatives of the old guard survived, such as the don who 'established the principle that he did not teach Jews or Scotsmen'.

In their last chapter the authors cover the eventful years which saw the gradual introduction of women, first as fellows and later as undergraduates. Though the college survived the troubles of the late sixties and early seventies relatively unscathed, tensions took their toll on the health of the then president, Derek Hall, who died in office in 1975. The events which ten years later led to the tragic death of the charismatic tutor and librarian Trevor Aston are treated with candour and sympathy.

MARTIN MURPHY, Oxford

Peter Whitfield, *Oxford in Prints, 1675–1900*, Bodleian Library (Oxford, 2016). Pp. 160. 65 b&w, 18 colour illustrations. £25. ISBN 978-1-85124-246-7. Daniel MacCannell, *Oxford: Mapping the City*, Birlinn Ltd (Edinburgh, 2016). Pp. viii + 254. 169 illustrations, most in colour. £30. ISBN 978-1-78027-400-3.

Both of these books are beautifully presented and contain much of interest, even for readers familiar with Oxford and images of the city. Both treat their subjects broadly chronologically, starting in the sixteenth century; but while *Prints* ends in 1922, *Mapping* continues until 2016, ending with the Oxford 'Flood Network' river levels map, which is updated at ten-minute intervals (https://map.flood.network/).

While one might suppose that there is a clear distinction between maps and prints, it is interesting that *Mapping* starts with Joris Hoefnagel's perspective view of Oxford from Headington, published by Georg Braun and Frans Hogenberg in 1575, while *Prints* begins with the Ralph Agas map of 1578, though in its later re-engraved version of 1728 by Robert Whittlesey. 'Agas', of course, merits a multi-page entry in *Mapping*, where it is shown in its original, dark, version, without digital enhancement. This is the only overlap, apart from Nathaniel Whittock's bird's-eye view of the city in 1848 – which in *Mapping* features in the introduction to illustrate the author's dilemma over the number of perspective architectural views he can include in a book of maps.

The two books are, however, different in depth and scope. *Oxford in Prints* does not pretend to be an academic treatise. It is a picture book with a helpful commentary which will be of particular interest to visitors and newcomers to Oxford. Its illustrations are all from the Bodleian or the Ashmolean. But the title is somewhat misleading; this book is not really about 'Oxford' as a whole – it deals mainly with the university and its colleges. Even images that do not show college or university buildings generally include figures in academic dress. For example, a view of Folly Bridge shows dons about to go punting on the river. But there are a few delightful glimpses of city life, usually where a sombre church is used as the backdrop to a scene of street activity, such as the prints of St Ebbe's church with stilt-walkers and of St Clement's with two elegant anglers in a boat, both from James Ingram's *Memorials of Oxford* (1837). The book's layout is straightforward: a landscape format, which offers the reader an image on the right-hand side and a text on the left- for most topics. The images are, as one would expect from the Bodleian imprint, impeccable. Many will be familiar to readers of this journal, but the use of the Oxford Almanacks allows the author to introduce readers to some lesser-known ones.

The book opens with a broad-ranging essay on the university's history, which gradually brings in illustrations from key collections – from David Loggan's *Oxonia Illustrata* of 1675 to the Oxford Almanack of 1922, showing how different artists recorded the changing architecture of the colleges and university. The author is not only concerned with buildings: he points out figurative details in the illustrations which indicate how viewers of the illustrations were intended to see the buildings. Thus the 1814 print of the Codrington Library at All Souls, from

Rudolph Ackermann's *History of the University of Oxford*, shows two visiting couples (one with a child) looking at the interior as though visiting a country house. Another group of visitors is more puzzling: who are the elegant ladies – and children – in the garden of New College in 1837, as shown in *Memorials of Oxford*? What are they doing there? While their presence clearly humanises the architecture, the group appears unchaperoned while dons walk nearby.

*Oxford: Mapping the City* is a quite different enterprise, the third in a series under the rubric 'Mapping the City' from a publisher more usually associated with Scottish subjects. In his introduction Daniel MacCannell confesses that, in selecting maps for publication, he chose those that reflected the history of cartography over ones that only illustrated Oxford's history. Thus there are omissions – the first edition of the Ordnance Survey, for example; and this reviewer would have included Edward Smith's 1758 map of Merton's Holywell Estate and Benjamin Badcock's 1821 map of the water conduit from North Hinksey to Carfax. But there is compensation galore in the material on offer. As well as the 'usual suspects' of maps by Agas, Loggan, and William Faden (1789), we have some inclosure maps, and maps of the sewage system, of student lodgings in 1878, and of the 319 licensed premises in 1883. Particularly interesting is a plan of *c.*1600 showing the houses, bridges, and other buildings of Waram Banck – the spit of land between the watercourses that later became the three parts of Fisher Row. And there are some interesting oddities, such as a circular foxhunting map of the landscape within a 40-km (25-mile) radius of the city (and thus containing all the post-1974 county) and a panorama of Radcliffe Square as if viewed from the top of the Radcliffe Camera. Also notable are maps from repositories outside Oxford, such as the plan of the Oxford Canal wharf and offices (1838) from the Warwickshire Record Office and a sketch map in the National Archives of St Clement's car park (before the Florey building of 1968) which was drawn to assist police operations against 'importuning' in the area.

Most of the book's fifty-seven four-page chapters start with an enlarged section of the featured map; the complete map is shown later, sometimes with further extracts. The chapter heading is the date of the map, and the text discusses the map in relation to the development of map-making at the time, as well as commenting on the changing city. An important feature is the inclusion of brief biographies of the map-makers themselves. But the book has a significant weakness in the accounts of Oxford's history that accompany the maps. The author's sources are mostly cartographical only, and there are some errors, including the common one of placing the Davenant family at the Crown inn instead of at the tavern across the road. There is also confusion between the brothers John and Joseph Knibb, clockmakers. Moreover the format prevents the comparison of different editions of maps; so, for example, we have the 1695 map of Port Meadow by Benjamin Cole but not the 1721 version which shows the racecourse and the plan of Medley House.

Neither book has footnotes, but (some) references are given in *Mapping*. However, these give only the author's name and some do not, annoyingly, appear in the bibliography. Overall, however, these books will be useful complementary additions to the library of anyone interested in the visual history of Oxford. Having both books open together one can, for example, compare Whittock's bird's-eye view in *Prints* – showing in detail 'almost every significant building' – with Robert Hoggar's map of almost the same date in *Mapping*. And where *Mapping* is unable to show different prints when trying to identify the buildings in the Hoefnagel panorama, *Prints* has the images one needs to understand the argument. Both books remind us that prints and maps may not necessarily show what was actually there. The butchers' stalls in Queen Street, removed between 1762 and 1773 – if the earlier maps are correct – reappear in Faden's 1789 map! And the toilet-brush tree in Broad Street, shown in John Donowell's 'Eight Views of Oxford' in 1755, is clearly shorn of its branches in order that the architecture is not obscured. Indeed, in his view of Balliol and Trinity Colleges in the same set he shows eight trees, almost totally obscuring the Balliol façade. One can follow the removal of these trees in *Mapping*, as the area appears on the 1762 map but has gone by 1773.

David Clark, Oxford

Adrienne Rosen and Janice Cliffe, *The Making of Chipping Norton: A Guide to Its Buildings and History to 1750*, Phillimore (Stroud, 2017). Pp. 256. 128 colour, 64 b&w illustrations; 16 maps. Paperback, £16.99. ISBN 978-0-7509-8116-3.

Oxfordshire has been fortunate in the recent production of excellent studies of some of its small towns. Following the publication of the VCH books on Burford and Henley-on-Thames (reviewed respectively in vol. 73, 2008, pp. 205–6, and vol. 75, 2010, pp. 239–40) there now comes *The Making of Chipping Norton*, the result of a two-year project by the Chipping Norton Buildings Record, funded by Historic England (formerly English Heritage). It has a different focus from the VCH studies: here the physical fabric of the town is the main object of interest (though well amalgamated with the history), and it covers the earlier history of Chipping Norton (down to 1750), on the reasonable ground that most previous publications on the town have concentrated on the period since then. The volume is divided into two parts: the first, by Adrienne Rosen, traces the development and changing fortunes of the pre-industrial town; the second, by Janice Cliffe, is a town trail. Part I very successfully blends new evidence from documents, cartography, archaeology, and architecture, while Part II reinforces the picture by drawing on evidence from a large number of houses and other buildings, both standing and demolished.

Norton was originally a rural parish and manor in which one of its lords, probably William Fitzalan (1160–1210), created a market town on high ground east and south of his castle. As the late Frank Emery noted, the High Street straddles the 650 foot (200 metre) contour, making it 'surely one of the highest settlements of its size in southern England' (*The Oxfordshire Landscape*, 1974, p. 202). In 1204 William was granted an annual fair by royal charter (there was probably already a weekly market), and by 1218 the town was becoming known as Chipping (that is, Market) Norton. William or a later lord laid out a 'cigar'-shaped market place, diverted roads into it, and formed series of long rectangular plots or burgages at right angles to the market place. Burgesses who took up the plots were expected to build on their own land, subject only to a small annual rent, and were free of the manorial services required from tenants outside the town's bounds. It became a thriving wool town and market centre, sufficiently prosperous to enlarge its church in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries into what is still 'the most distinguished building in Chipping Norton' (p. 28). It was not yet a borough with full self-government, but in 1450 the Crown allowed the leading townspeople to found a Guild of the Holy Trinity, which allowed some focus for economic and social life, and its guildhall still survives. Furthermore, stone was the predominant building material for at least the surviving medieval housing, and a remarkably large number of houses (many more than were previously known) still possess some medieval fabric, while a complete fourteenth-century undercroft still exists below 20 High Street. It could clearly hold its own within the local marketing network, and in 1334 the town was assessed to the lay subsidy at £221, more than either Witney or Burford. It is true that, as Adrienne Rosen points out, it had fewer inhabitants assessed to the poll tax of 1377 than Witney or Burford, but does that mean relative decline over those two generations, or simply that Chipping Norton had greater wealth per head than the two other towns?

What is striking about Chipping Norton is that its prosperity does not seem to have declined significantly after 1540, despite the decay of its wool trade and the inevitable loss of local property ownership as the church chantries and the Trinity Guild were suppressed in 1548, and their properties sold by the Crown to outsiders, thereby directing rents out of the town. The losses were partly offset by a growth in leather-working and crafts such as shoemaking and gloving, while the increase of local and regional trade brought more travellers to or through the town, creating a demand for accommodation at inns and use of market buildings. In 1607 the leading inhabitants were successful in obtaining a royal charter of incorporation, and in 1668 they were wealthy enough also to purchase the lordship of the manor. Just before then, the town had been assessed to the 1662 hearth tax on slightly more

households than Burford, and in the century from 1660 to 1750 there was enough wealth in Chipping Norton to rebuild much of the town, although (as in Burford) many of the houses with apparently new fabric were trying to be fashionable on a budget, with 'facelifts' rather than complete rebuilding. The happy result is that many interiors of 1540–1660, and even some of before 1540, survive behind the frontages. The many excellent illustrations in Part II are a striking demonstration of this.

All in all, this book succeeds in revealing an astonishing amount of information about the physical fabric of an unassuming market town, and about its implications for the town's social and economic history. The authors warmly thank their colleagues in the Buildings Record, as well as Antonia Catchpole, who had earlier unravelled the layout of Burford: it is her unpublished analysis of the plan and development which Adrienne Rosen generously acknowledges as the basis for much of Part I. The book is attractive, beautifully produced, and profusely illustrated with prints, photographs, maps, and plans–it was a particularly happy idea to pair the modern plans of each walk with the equivalent extract from the 1840 map showing properties liable to local rates and taxes. The only small correction I can suggest is that Droitwich, the probable source of Chipping Norton's medieval salt supply, was in Worcestershire and not Cheshire. The publishers, however, in adapting the authors' Preface for the back cover, have managed to move the town from the eastern edge of the Cotswolds to the western edge. The authors are right up to date with their sources, making good use of the new Oxfordshire 'Pevsner', which was published in 2017 (reviewed below).

D.M. Palliser, University of Leeds

Jeremy Sims (ed.), *Newbury and Chilton Pond Turnpike Records, 1766–1791* (Berkshire Record Society, 22), 2017. Pp. xlii + 306. 2 illustrations and map. Paperback, £25 (plus £2.50 p&p in UK). ISBN 978-0-9573937-3-8. Available from: Berkshire Record Society, c/o Berkshire Record Office, 9 Coley Avenue, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 6AF.

Turnpike trusts played a major role in making road transport more efficient, thereby promoting the Industrial Revolution. Their records have often not survived, and little of what survives has been published. The present volume is therefore a welcome addition to the literature, especially as it includes both minutes and accounts, which rarely exist for the same period.

The turnpike road concerned was established in 1766, during the turnpike mania of the 1750s–60s, and ran between Newbury and Chilton Pond to the north (13 km south of Abingdon), with a short branch from Newbury southwards to Newtown. At Chilton Pond it met the turnpike of 1756 from Folly Bridge in Oxford, and it formed part of a longer route from the Midlands to Southampton. The records painstakingly transcribed and published here consist of minutes from 1766 to 1791 and accounts from 1766 to 1787. Although the trust continued until 1864, there are no later records. The published documents in fact relate to one of two divisions of a single trust whose road extended southwards to Hursley near Southampton, though the two divisions were treated as effectively separate trusts. However, the last four years of the minutes cover both divisions, which is somewhat downplayed in this volume.

An introduction sets the Newbury and Chilton Pond turnpike firmly in context, dealing with road maintenance before the turnpikes, the chronology of turnpike trusts, the process of securing an Act of Parliament and periodically renewing it, methods of maintaining turnpike roads, turnpike finances, and the eventual decline of the turnpike system. It also describes the origins of the Hursley to Chilton Pond turnpike, its administration and finances, its route, and its trustees and officers. It does not consider in any detail the impact of the road on its users, and is somewhat out of date in suggesting that before the mid eighteenth century the long-distance transport of goods in England was almost entirely by sea or river.

In the minutes we can see how a new trust set about its task. Essential first steps were raising funds through borrowing, appointing officers, specifying the tolls, and setting up toll

gates. Arrangements had to be made to maintain the road, including the allocation to it of the statute labour from parishes along the route. Local people were allowed to compound for tolls, sometimes, as the editor points out, in ways not authorised by the Act. Administrative effort was minimised by contracting out the maintenance of each stretch of road, and the tolls were also later farmed out for fixed sums.

As is usual with turnpikes, the records are not especially helpful about exactly what the trust did to its road. What, for example, was covered by 'forming the Road northwards from Bradley Down gate', or 'making the Road between Newbury and Newtown'? The minutes and accounts make clear that the materials used were gravel and stones, and that there was no innovation in repair methods, though paving of the road through the built-up area of Speenhamland was considered in 1781. Road improvements were apparently fairly limited: some widening, some realignment, some removal of encroachments (for example sheep pens on the highway in East Ilsley), provision of a new bridge (an aspect of trustees' work which is neglected by historians) replacing two 'horse bridges', and placement of milestones. Most of this work occurred in the trust's earliest years. There are few payments for land for widening, but perhaps some bills were paid directly from the tolls, as some expenses listed in the minutes seem not to appear in the accounts (for example in August 1773). In their limited ambition the trustees seem to have been typical of the period, and yet generally the turnpike trusts' more systematic use of existing repair methods did have a major impact on road users.

The volume includes a map, though it omits some of the places referred to in the minutes, notably Newtown, and disagrees with the text as to whether the southern limit of the northern division was Newbury or Wash. Thorough indexing has been provided, covering separately trustees' attendance, persons, places and subjects (the last especially helpful). The editor and the Berkshire Record Society are to be congratulated on this useful volume.

DORIAN GERHOLD, Putney, London

Angela Cousins, *Bread, Boots and Coal: Four Hundred Years of Charitable Giving in East Hanney, West Hanney and Lyford* (West Hanney, 2016). Pp. ii + 124. 10 b&w illustrations. Paperback, £8 (plus £1.30 p&p in UK). ISBN 987-1-326-79339-5. Available from the author at Carters Close, Main Street, West Hanney, Oxon., OX12 0LH.

Valerie Alasia, *Henley Union Workhouse: The Story of Townlands*, Brewin Books (Studley, Warwickshire, 2016). Pp. 222. 65 b&w illustrations (inc. tables and maps). Paperback, £14.95. ISBN 978-1-85858-540-6.

Poor relief has long been a topic in social history to which local historians can make valuable contributions. This has been reaffirmed by two publications relating to the Oxfordshire area, each of which explores a different aspect, respectively endowed charitable provision by individuals and the workhouse-based system created under the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act.

Angela Cousins has examined the charities of East Hanney, West Hanney and Lyford (formerly in Hanney parish, Berkshire), taking information mainly from charity commissioners' reports of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Her book covers eight local charities which were later incorporated into the Hanney Parochial Charities (HPC). They originated at various times between the early seventeenth and the late nineteenth century. In addition to providing a summary of each charity based on the reports, the author adds local information – from the board of benefactors of 1727 in St James the Great church at West Hanney and from the records of the HPC.

Each charity appears to have been endowed by will, although this cannot be confirmed in all cases because the relevant probate records have not been identified. In *Patterns of Philanthropy* (1999), Martin Gorsky observed that doles of clothing, bread, coal, and money

formed the bulk of parish charities: this is confirmed by the Hanneys. Angela Cousins identifies the motivation for bequests as the beneficent attitudes encouraged by the age of enlightenment (roughly the eighteenth century), even though the series of bequests known as the Ashcombe charities predate this period. The Elizabethan statute of Charitable Uses (1601) and the framework it provided are more likely to have given encouragement for the earliest bequests. Overall, *Bread, Boots and Coal* is a useful addition to the history of the Hanneys and of philanthropy, although as the author acknowledges, more detailed research is needed on the benefactors and their circumstances to understand and interpret their significance. The work could also be usefully enhanced by reviewing the provision for the poor made through local overseers and by clubs and societies that developed from the later eighteenth century.

Although many studies of workhouses have been published, new ones are worthwhile because each workhouse has its own story, involving such matters as local social conditions, circumstances surrounding the selection of a site, and the experiences of those involved. Valerie Alasia's new book fills the gap for the Henley poor law union – a group of parishes in south-east Oxfordshire (with a western boundary roughly from Caversham to Nettlebed and Watlington) plus three adjacent Buckinghamshire and Berkshire parishes. The author has utilised official union and poor law commission records together with local newspaper reports. The publication's title is somewhat misleading because the book deals with so much more than the union workhouse itself, including pre-1834 provision for the poor in Henley. Coverage of Henley's eighteenth-century workhouse is especially relevant to the later union building.

Care has been taken to present the commissioning, funding, building, and layout of Henley's Victorian workhouse in considerable detail, incorporating informative black-and-white images. Information on the segregation of classes of inmates and their reception, and on the work undertaken, provides useful insights. Health and care issues are well covered, with many examples of diet, medical attendance and even medical negligence. Observations on change over time enable the reader to understand the transformation from the old poor law to the new, enhancing appreciation of the pressures on poor rates in the early nineteenth century and of the solutions then identified.

One item, however, seems out of place, namely a chapter entitled 'A Walk around Henley Workhouse', which appears before the introduction. The author attempts to place herself in the nineteenth century and to describe Henley workhouse as a visitor, but intermixes historical content with present perspectives. The exercise does not really work, and because most issues raised in this chapter are covered elsewhere it adds little. But this item and the use of innumerable single- or double-sentence paragraphs, which impedes the building of reasoned observation and argument, are the only significant weaknesses of a publication that has clearly involved a great deal of work, though the illustrations could have been enlivened with colour photographs of the remnant buildings.

The book includes a particularly informative section on the provision of out-relief to the poor. This was promoted by the Henley union in earliest years, by contrast with the nearby Bradfield union which operated a far harsher regime. Here as in other sections, many illustrative examples are given. The variety of personnel and roles involved in the union are also explored, from guardian and master to staff and inmates. There are also several useful appendices, including details of employees and wages, tender prices and invoices for food and clothing, and an inquiry of the 1870s into the schoolmaster and mistress concerning their treatment of the children. In sum, *Henley Union Workhouse* adds considerably to knowledge about individual workhouses and their local contexts, and will prove valuable for people interested in the Henley area and for students of the poor law more generally, especially ones who wish to undertake comparative study of the development and use of workhouses.

Shaun Morley, Finstock, Oxon.

Mark Spurrell (ed.), *Wood's Radley College Diary (1855–1861)* (Oxfordshire Record Society, 70, 2016). Pp. l + 328. £25 (plus £3.15 p&p in UK). ISBN 978-0-902509-83-2. Available from: The Hon. General Secretary, Oxfordshire Record Society, 28 Bulan Road, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7HT; or by online ordering via the Society's website.

The Revd William Wood was sub-warden of St Peter's College, Radley (6 km south of Oxford, formerly in Berkshire), from 1853 to 1861, and this diary covers most of the period. The warden, William Sewell, who had founded the college in 1847, dominates the diary. Sewell had earlier been professor of moral philosophy at Oxford University, and founder of St Columba's College, Rathfarnham, in Ireland. He regarded his foundation at Radley as his property, and its 'fellows' (as the teachers were called) were fellows in name only; they were subordinate to an autocratic warden who was answerable to no-one but himself. Wood's diary is a record of the writer's long struggle to reconcile his initial admiration for Sewell's charisma with an increasing disenchantment which ended with his resignation in January 1861.

Eloquent, emotional, impetuous, extravagant, Sewell imposed himself on others, and parents found him impressive. A high churchman but not a ritualist, he had a clear idea of what he wanted his school to be: it was to fulfil a civilising mission in its country-house setting. Physical exercise, sport, music, and drama were to be just as important as the education of the mind. Its aim was to produce Christian gentlemen – with the correct bearing and deportment of gentlemen – and even within the school there was to be proper respect for rank. In a notorious 'Blood Sermon', which deeply embarrassed Wood, Sewell declared that providence intended nobility to be the salt of the earth, and where aristocracy was pre-eminent, Christian virtues were more likely to prevail. Just as inferiors should honour their betters, so boys of 'rank' were enjoined to be kind to their inferiors. Sewell delivered countless sermons, sometimes on surprising subjects. On Advent Sunday 1858, for example, Wood noted: 'The Warden preached *such* a sermon! The same we had once before, on little boys getting their feet wet and not changing their shoes. I was so miserable that I was on the point of leaving the chapel' (p. 211).

Wood emerges as a conscientious, dedicated, deeply religious teacher who by staying at his post was able to moderate some of Sewell's more outrageous ideas. He was keen to promote Radley's academic reputation by winning Oxford scholarships – something that Sewell did not regard as a priority. Though he remained a fellow of Trinity College throughout his time at Radley he declined the offer of a tutorship there, believing that his vocation was to be a schoolmaster. As a clergyman he believed that High and Low should unite in opposition to the liberal Broad Church personified by Benjamin Jowett, whose 'Germanising' tendencies he regarded with deep suspicion.

Sewell's reign ended in scandal when it was discovered that the college bursar, Sewell's brother Robert, had been misappropriating funds for the benefit of the Sewell family. In December 1860 the college was found to be in debt by £50,000. It would have collapsed but for the intervention of John Gellibrand Hubbard, a director of the Bank of England. As the college's rescuer and effectively 'second founder' he turned what had been Sewell's private college into the public school it remains today.

It will be seen that this diary – meticulously edited by Mark Spurrell (himself a Radleian), and equipped with an exemplary index – is of primary interest to historians of nineteenth-century public-school education. Though Wood was a frequent visitor to his Oxford college, he does not reveal his opinions on contemporary issues such as university reform. But there are unexpected plums to be found in the pudding, including a colourful description of Commemoration Day in Oxford in 1856, when Prince Albert and Lord Derby attended the award in the Sheldonian Theatre of honorary degrees to the princes of Prussia and Baden. The illuminations that evening 'were like some scene in the Arabian nights' (p. 61). The reader will also be introduced to the 'Beard Movement' which swept clerical Oxford in the early 1850s. Wood himself followed the fashion, as his hirsute image on the cover reveals.

Martin Murphy, Oxford

Michael Heaney (ed.), *Percy Manning: The Man Who Collected Oxfordshire*, Archaeopress Publishing (Oxford, 2017). Pp. xxii + 336. 94 illustrations (many in colour). Paperback, £30. ISBN 978-1-78491-528-5.

The publication of *Percy Manning* represents something deeply humane: recognition for the achievements of a largely forgotten man on the centenary of his death. They resulted from an unusual if undramatic life. Born in 1870 in Leeds, a son of a self-made, wealthy railway engineer, Percy Manning probably seemed destined for a conventional professional path. Though he and his siblings were disadvantaged by the early death of their father (they were then raised by their mother in Leeds and Watford), one of Percy's brothers became a barrister, and the other was later classified as a 'gentleman'. Percy Manning was duly educated in the manner of the Victorian prosperous middle class – at Clifton College and New College, Oxford. But his life was additionally troubled. He was afflicted by a bad stammer, and probably as a consequence he could be shy. Moreover, his university career was dismal, in that he failed final examinations three times. Although he eventually obtained a degree, he was an academic failure by the standards of conventional Oxford dons.

As the book's title indicates, Percy Manning devoted much of his adult life to collecting. Thanks to a private income, he could live independently and purchase items on a grand scale. His collecting was undertaken from Oxford, and mostly concerned Oxford and Oxfordshire, even though he lacked roots in the county. The breadth of Manning's interests was remarkable. Starting probably in 1891, he accumulated common archaeological artefacts (including prehistoric flints, Roman pottery, medieval tiles); prints, drawings, books; physical objects derived from rural life (such as lights, horns and tabors); and records of folk-cultural activities (songs, stories, mummers' plays, dances). Much material was obtained through the assistance of Thomas James Carter, a brickmaker interested in antiquities. Manning also participated in various societies, mainly in Oxford, such as the Oxford Architectural and Historical Society and the Oxford University Brass-rubbing Society which he founded in 1893 (renamed the O.U. Antiquarian Society in 1901). He made an indirect impact on national life through organising a revival of authentic morris dancing in 1899: soon afterwards it inspired the more famous Cecil Sharp, who became a leading revivalist of folk dance and song. Percy Manning, sadly, became a casualty of the Great War. He died from illness in 1917, while on military service in Southampton, and was buried in Oxford, at Wolvercote Cemetery. He was only forty-seven. Through gifts, bequest and sale, most of his collections went to Oxford University institutions (the Ashmolean, Bodleian, Pitt Rivers Museum), where for a century they have contributed to research in numerous fields. Manning's collections can now be explored electronically from anywhere in the world thanks to modern technology and new detailed listings.

*Percy Manning* comprises chapters by ten contributors which collectively survey Manning's life, collecting and collections, while also shedding light on late Victorian and Edwardian Oxford and the folk culture of Victorian rural Oxfordshire – the last illustrated with vivid photographs. The Editor, Michael Heaney, launches the collection with the most thorough narration yet of Manning's life, based on patient accumulation of fragmentary information. He also adds the first bibliography of Manning's publications, extending to fifty-one items, even if many were short notes. The biographical sections are elaborated with detailed treatments of discrete areas: Alison Roberts examines Manning's research for an archaeological survey of Oxfordshire (completed posthumously by E.T. Leeds); Michael Heaney explores Manning's role in the revival of morris dancing; Peter Millington similarly studies Manning's collection of mummers' plays; Alice Little considers the origins of Manning's song collection; and Faye Belsey and Madeleine Ding analyse Manning's 1911 donation to the Pitt Rivers Museum. Other chapters study material within Manning's collections, thereby demonstrating some of its potential: David Clark uses drawings and tiles to reconstruct the history of a former medieval tavern undercroft in Oxford within the broader context of such structures; Maureen Mellor

investigates Manning's interest in medieval tiles; and Julian Munby provides a conspectus of Manning's picture collection and assesses its importance. The sequence is rounded off with an idiosyncratic contribution by Brian Durham, in which he draws inspiration from Percy Manning to re-examine the landscapes of two Oxfordshire Roman sites and Oxford itself using data from modern surveying (for example by LiDAR).

Michael Heaney observes in respect of Percy Manning that 'there are still many aspects of his activity that would repay fuller attention' (p. xvii). Three are immediately suggested by the book. The first is the origins of Manning's early motivation. Heaney's biographical chapter suggests that Manning's collecting arose from an obsessional character element (p. 18). Though likely, this may be only a partial explanation because Manning's collecting was probably not just an end in itself but represented wider concerns springing from personal experiences. The book mentions that Manning's interest in folklore and custom was stimulated by his encounter with children's May customs in Watford in 1893 (p. 9); he was also aware that indigenous rural culture was dying out (p. 273), and sought to create a comprehensive record before it was too late, even though his attitude to rural society was ambivalent. These snapshots suggest that Manning's early experiences in Hertfordshire (or elsewhere), and other possible rural connections, merit more detailed examination. A second matter is encouragement, that is the source of Manning's confidence, particularly as a writer, given his poor academic performance. The book testifies to the importance of Manning's friendship with his New College contemporary J.L. Myres, who later became a distinguished archaeologist and historian (pp. 5–6); but perhaps Arthur Evans, keeper of the Ashmolean and eventually a world-famous archaeologist, was also influential. According to his *ODNB* entry, Evans had 'a genius for friendship'. If correct, then Manning's experience possibly illustrates how in Oxford some seemingly less academic undergraduates could be encouraged by sympathetic and more outward-looking figures. (Manning's situation is reminiscent of John Betjeman's experience in the 1920s, when he suffered a frosty relationship with his tutor C.S. Lewis and left without a degree, but was valued by Maurice Bowra and 'Colonel' Kolkhorst.)

The third consideration is the outlook and aims represented by Manning's collecting and writing. The book's contributors observe Manning largely through the lenses of modern intellectual disciplines, whereas Manning seems to have viewed himself mainly as an antiquary (a collector and student of remains of the past) and to have acted as such. He also belonged to a distinctive phase in the history of antiquarianism (a term absent from the book's index), namely its twilight. According to Philippa Levine, antiquarianism was becoming 'an adjunct to the mainstream academic disciplines' by the 1890s and 'the marginalisation of the antiquarian community was complete before the end of the century' (*The Amateur and the Professional: Antiquarians, Historians and Archaeologists in Victorian England, 1838–1886* (1986), p. 72). Unfortunately the book does not focus on this important matter, and so does not relate Manning adequately to the intellectual context of his activities. It is unclear how Manning's antiquarian pursuits were constituted as a totality (for example, it is hard to gauge the extent of his interest in churches and manuscripts, usually two main interests of antiquaries), and also why he valued antiquarian pursuits and how they were interconnected with his attitudes towards the past (unlike some others, he seems not to have been motivated by strong nostalgia and disparagement of contemporary change). Also, Manning's ultimate aims (if any) are unclear. He was capable of large-scale synthetic writing, and had he lived longer he might well have become far more than primarily a collector. In short, further consideration of Manning's life, stimulated by this substantial and valuable volume, has the potential to provide deeper understanding yet of Manning's roles and times, especially the attraction and nature of antiquarianism in an era when it was being eclipsed by the emergence of new intellectual and academic categories.

R.B. Peberdy, Oxford

Alan Brooks and Jennifer Sherwood, *Oxfordshire: North and West* (Pevsner Architectural Guides: Buildings of England), Yale University Press (London, 2017). Pp. xviii + 638. 124 colour, 49 b&w illustrations; 10 maps, 17 plans. £35. ISBN 978-0-300-20930-3.

The 'Buildings of England' series is unrivalled in its extent and in its usefulness as a *vade mecum* for both locals and visitors – I bought my copy of *Oxfordshire* on publication day in 1974, and it has been in my pocket or on my desk ever since. The thirty-two volumes written solely by Nikolaus Pevsner documented the built environment using a standard format: a gazetteer of settlements identifying places of worship, public buildings, and other secular structures 'worthy of note'. This was topped off for larger places by a 'perambulation'. The format was also adhered to in volumes written by Pevsner with collaborators, including *Oxfordshire*, the forty-fifth and penultimate volume, for which Jennifer Sherwood was co-author (reviewed in *Oxoniensia*, vol. 41 (1976), pp. 362–4). It is hard to overestimate the importance of the 'Buildings of England' in documenting the survival of historic buildings as well as the effects of post-war developments. The series has had a profound impact on the growth of understanding of the historic environment and has informed much legislation on planning and conservation.

The appearance of a revised volume covering part of Oxfordshire presents an opportunity, through comparison with the 1974 edition, to consider how the county has changed in almost fifty years (particularly the effect of Oxford on its area), though the geographical coverage is regrettable. The publication of the 1974 *Oxfordshire* coincided with local government reorganisation which enlarged the county by annexing part of Berkshire. The 1974 edition ignored the change, and so do the first revised volume and its forthcoming companion, *Oxfordshire: Oxford and the South-East*. By contrast, the recent *Cumbria* (2010) sets a better example, combining material from *Cumberland and Westmorland* (1967) with Furness from the old *North Lancashire* volume (1969) to provide a complete guide. It is unfortunate that the publisher did not take this approach for Oxfordshire for the new edition.

The revision of *Oxfordshire* also divides the pre-1974 county in a way which may further confuse readers. *Oxfordshire: North and West* includes, as expected, Cherwell and West Oxfordshire Districts, but also an odd slice of South Oxfordshire District including Stanton St John, Forest Hill, Horspath, Wheatley, Holton, and Waterperry. The opening map (pp. ii–iii) refers to the rump of South Oxfordshire District as 'Oxfordshire South East' and to Vale of White Horse as 'South Oxfordshire since 1974'. Further confusion awaits the reader with the geology map on p. 3 which labels the Vale as 'Berkshire'. This is, at the very least, inconsistent cartography. The invention of a division within the county which is neither political nor historical, nor based on vernacular character, may suit the publisher in making volumes of equal size, but the user is not well served.

On a happier note, architectural *flaneurs* will be pleased to find that the tradition of perambulations goes from strength to strength. There are new or expanded walks in Adderbury, Bampton, Banbury, Bicester, Bloxham, Burford, Charlbury, Chipping Norton, Deddington, Eynsham, Witney, and Woodstock. Recent work on individual buildings is well documented, including designs sensitive to context by local architects including Acanthus Clews, Berman Guedes Stretton, Robert Franklin, Johnston Cave Associates, Thomas Rayson, and Scott & Tollady.

As the economic importance of agriculture has declined, landed estates have been compelled to transform their economies. Blenheim has expanded its economic base with large-scale performances and other events at the Palace and Park as well as with new housing and commercial development in the neighbouring villages. At Great Tew the Marlstone quarry has been reopened, the village has been conserved and reimagined as an *urbs in rus* 'hip hotspot' with the Soho House 'resort', and farms have been sold to celebrities. At Glympton, Prince Bandar has rebuilt the mansion, created a model farm and 'brushed up' the village. Heythrop Park has become a Crown Plaza Hotel and a golf course. Striking changes have sometimes

been made to country houses. At Tusmore, Wafic Saïd demolished Lord Bicester's house and rebuilt in pastiche Neo-Georgian. At Little Rollright, a large Robert Adam-style extension has transformed Manor Farm into 'Manor House', with emparked grounds, for its new proprietor.

Brooks identifies the positive design influences of the Duchy of Cornwall on developments at Bletchingdon and at Shilton Park, Carterton, where Poundbury-inspired housing is adjacent to RAF Brize Norton, now the largest military airbase in the country. He also remarks on the design opportunities presented by the conversion of redundant military and commercial sites. Bliss Tweed Mill at Chipping Norton was successfully converted into apartments and at RAF Bicester a coherent conversion to housing and light industrial use has been achieved. Changes at Upper Heyford have been less successful.

Oxfordshire has always been overshadowed by Oxford, and Brooks accordingly describes the impacts of the contradictory and fractured relationship between the city and the surrounding countryside. Constrained by its boundary and sacrosanct green belt, Oxford has grown in population since 1974 by only about 40,000. However, development pressures were exported to the 'country towns', principally Banbury, Bicester, and Witney, which have grown almost beyond recognition. Brooks appears unsympathetic to the social and economic imperatives behind this process, and to the role played by the county in absorbing growth pressure from the city. He is highly critical of the changes to the expanded market towns, but his observations are framed in aesthetic rather than social terms. Of development in Witney, a town which successfully remade itself as local service centre, Brooks snootily opines: 'little of this . . . qualifies for mention here' (p. 545). In this he follows Sherwood, who in 1974, characterised the quality of modern housing design as 'poor and planning almost non-existent' (p. 406).

Is Brooks right? Has the quality of design and planning remained unchanged in the last forty years? Pejorative remarks about 'tentacles of Oxford suburbia' (p. 2) are misleading. The pattern is not one of linear 'tentacles' but of high-density development allocations, often forming concentric rings around expanded towns. The high densities required by national policy sit uneasily with multiple car ownership and rigid road standards. As planning authorities struggle to allocate the land demanded of them, and lose design and conservation staff, and as aesthetic considerations are left to developers, is it surprising that civic and urban design standards can fall? Brooks has missed an opportunity to contribute to the debate on these matters, which cannot simply be overlooked as unworthy of note.

Robert Parkinson, Historic England

*Other Publications Received:*

Stewart J. Brown, Peter B. Knockles and James Pereiro, *The Oxford Handbook of The Oxford Movement*, Oxford University Press (Oxford, 2017). Pp. xx + 646. £95. ISBN 978-0-19-958018-7.

*Building the Church* (Chapels Society Journal, vol. 2, 2016), The Chapels Society. Pp. iv + 92. 53 b&w illustrations. Paperback, £15. ISBN 978-0-9545061-5-5. Available from C. Skidmore, 46 Princes Drive, Skipton, North Yorks., BD23 1HL. Includes 'The Building of Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford' by M. Wellings.

Anni Byard, *Fifty Finds from Oxfordshire: Objects from the Portable Antiquities Scheme*, Amberley Publishing (Stroud, 2017). Pp. 96. 140 illustrations (most in colour). Paperback, £14.99. ISBN 978-1-4456-7074-4.

Sean Callery, *The Story of Hook Norton for Readers of All Ages*, Hook Norton Local History Group (Hook Norton, 2017). Pp. 48. About 120 illustrations (many in colour). Paperback,

£8.99 (plus £2.50 p&p in UK). ISBN 978-1-9998256-0-7. Available from D. McGill, Sunnybank Farmhouse, Scotland End, Hook Norton, Oxon., OX15 5NR.

Judith Curthoys, *The Cardinal's College: Christ Church, Chapter and Verse*, Profile Books (London, 2012). Pp. xvi + 416. 65 b&w illustrations, 24 colour plates. £40. ISBN 978-1-84668-617-7.

Judith Curthoys, *The Stones of Christ Church: The Story of the Buildings of Christ Church, Oxford*, Profile Books (London, 2017). Pp. xvi + 286. 90 b&w illustrations, 26 colour plates. £35. ISBN 978-1-78125-812-5.

Gill Hey, Christopher Bell, Caroline Dennis and Mark Robinson, *Yarnton: Neolithic and Bronze Age Settlement and Landscape* (Thames Valley Landscapes Monograph, 39), Oxford University School of Archaeology for Oxford Archaeology (Oxford, 2016). Pp. xxxvi + 776. Approx. 450 illustrations (many in colour). £29.95. ISBN 978-1-905905-37-9.

Mark McKerracher, *Farming Transformed in Anglo-Saxon England: Agriculture in the Long Eighth Century*, Oxbow Books/Windgather Press (Oxford, 2018). Pp. x + 154. 83 maps, plans and charts. Paperback, £34.99. ISBN 978-1-911188-31-5.

Iain Soden, *Excavation of the Late Saxon and Medieval Churchyard of St Martin's, Wallingford, Oxfordshire*, Archaeopress Publishing (Oxford, 2018). Pp. xii + 84. 62 maps, plans, photographs and drawings (many in colour). Paperback, £25. ISBN 978-1-78491-766-1.

Barrie Trinder, *Junctions at Banbury: A Town and its Railways since 1850* (Banbury Historical Society, 35, 2017). Pp. x + 266. 118 b&w illustrations. £19.95. ISBN 978-0-900129-34-6.

Margaret Yates (ed.), *Berkshire Feet of Fines, 1307–1509*, two vols. (Berkshire Record Society, 23, 24, 2017). Pt I, *Fines, 1307–1399*, pp. xxxiv + 246, ISBN 978-0-9573937-4-5. Pt II, *Fines, 1400–1509 and Index*, pp. vi + 250, ISBN 978-0-9573937-5-2. Paperback, £25 per vol. (plus £2.50 per vol. p&p in UK). Available from: Berkshire Record Society, c/o Berkshire Record Office, 9 Coley Avenue, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 6AF.

Marilyn Yurdan (ed.), *Records of Holton Park Girls' Grammar School (1948–1972)* (Oxfordshire Record Society, 71, 2017). Pp. ii + 270. 41 b&w illustrations. £25 (plus £3.15 p&p in UK). ISBN 978-0-902509-87-0. Available from: The Hon. General Secretary, Oxfordshire Record Society, 28 Bulan Road, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7HT; or by online ordering via the Society's website.