

SOMERSET MILLENNIUM BOOKS

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The arrival of the new millennium was celebrated by communities throughout Somerset in a variety of ways, as described in *Marking the Millennium in Somerset* (Community Council for Somerset, 2001). In a number of cases this took the form of a Millennium Book describing the life of the local community, and the titles reviewed here are those which had been acquired by the Society's library or the Somerset Studies Library at the time this review was undertaken (the writer is grateful for the assistance of David Bromwich). As might be expected of books compiled largely through the efforts of local people, the terms of reference, format, standard of presentation and quality of outcome vary considerably, as therefore does their value for present and future historians. The books are referred to by short titles; full details are listed at the end of this article.

Some communities adopted a 'modern Domesday' approach in producing their books, as exemplified by the title of the *Norton sub Hamdon* book. Conceived by the Norton sub Hamdon Local History Society, the book contains a highly informative and well-produced record of the environment, community, facilities, services, organisations and activities of the parish at the end of the millennium, including the 'experimental community' of Tinkers' Bubble. As with the 1086 survey, that of 2000 included a questionnaire, in this case sent to every household (75% of households replied) and the results have been processed to provide information on the demography, housing and lifestyles of the population. Appendices include this information, together with a complete list of villagers and of children at the village school, an itemised cost-of-living list, a detailed list of flora and fauna, with their locations, and a list of principal field-names linked to a map of farms and other holdings.

Similarly, Jane Walker, in her Introduction to *Lydford on Fosse*, states that 'The purpose of this book is to give a picture of Lydford, its buildings, its social life as it is at the end of the 20th century'. The book consists largely of colour plates of the exteriors of houses, old and modern, usually with their occupants standing in the foreground, with a caption providing brief information about the building (often no more than date or period of build) and its occupants. This record will be of interest to future historians of the locality, who may, however, find the information tantalising in its brevity. The book also contains brief sections on the church, education and local organizations such as the Lydford Community Group which seeks to promote environmental awareness by clearing litter and planting a 'Forest Garden'. *Stowell* is also introduced as 'a record of the community of Stowell in the year 2000', but in this case the villagers 'have been invited to search their memories and to tell, in their own words, stories of life in Stowell'. The contributors appear in photographs, usually in front of their homes or businesses, with an introductory caption, and the contributions create an interesting kaleidoscope of experiences. There are also a few early photographs of village life, and the Introduction includes imaginary

conversations with former parishioners (about whom there is some documentary evidence) from earlier periods.

Bickenhall, Curland and Staple Fitzpaine also adopts a 'modern Domesday' approach. For each of the three parishes there is a very brief introductory history, followed by a short account of each of the buildings (mainly private houses) and their occupants, with a final chapter on local clubs and organisations. The buildings are illustrated by numerous well-reproduced plates, but the architectural analysis in the descriptions is very limited. This is primarily a houses-with-occupants type of survey which will be useful in due course as a systematic photographic record of the buildings of these parishes and a glimpse of the identities, families and lives of the occupants. *Babcary* begins with a very brief historical summary, a map and an aerial photograph, followed by short sections on 'Annual Events' and village facilities, but the main feature of the volume is again a series of well-produced colour photographs of the houses and in many cases their occupants also. Each plate (usually three to an A4 page) is accompanied by a caption with information about the buildings and the occupants, but the rather ornate frame around each photograph might have been omitted to allow space for enlargement of the plate itself. This should once again provide future local historians with an interesting visual snapshot of Babcary at this point in time, although the architectural and personal information may prove tantalisingly brief.

Allerton consists of a series of one-week diaries by 52 local families, collectively chronicling the whole millennium year, each introduced by a family photograph and brief note about the contributors. The vivid detail of everyday life seen from a variety of individual standpoints during 2000 may in due course be regarded as a fascinating insight into the past. Akin to this is *Ashbrittle* which consists principally of a series of short pieces, each usually accompanied by a photograph, in which villagers provide information about themselves, their homes, their experiences and sometimes their very personal feelings. Intermingled with these are descriptions of local activities and brief accounts (varying in their usefulness) of various periods or aspects of the history of Ashbrittle.

Lymsham includes some information on the history of the parish, including a list of 'old auster' properties and their locations as recorded in a 1799 Enclosure Act, and there are chapters on the school and the parish church (including the role of the Stephensons, 19th-century rectors and benefactors, who transformed the settlement into an 'estate' village), but most of the book is taken up by a house-by-house survey of the parish in 2000. The houses are identified on a map, and each property has a short account, often written in the first person by the occupant(s), of the property and its residents, although the architectural information is very limited and the accounts are not accompanied by photos (a few buildings are illustrated elsewhere in the book).

Compton Dando also contains a systematic survey of the houses of the parish. These are illustrated with location maps, drawings and early photographs, but there are no plans or sections of the buildings. The approach is both descriptive and historical, including an introductory historical survey, 'Setting the Scene', and there is a wide-ranging list of sources at the end of the book. One of the most interesting sites is Wick Farm, identified as medieval and still, as the name suggests it was originally, an isolated dairy farm. Clearly this has been a serious attempt to research the houses of this parish, although the account of Court Hill House, 'one of the oldest houses in the village', makes no reference to the vernacular architecture report on the house in the Somerset Record Office. In contrast to this emphasis on the built environment, *Ruishton, Thornfalcon & Henlade* is mainly concerned with local institutions and organisations in the late 20th century.

Some of the books consist of a collection of early photographs, as in the case of *Brewham*. This book includes a location map, and the plates are arranged partly to correspond with a tour of the parish and partly to illustrate certain themes such as farming, trade and religion. The photographs include rural activities and human interest scenes as well as the built environment,

and each is accompanied by a caption to identify people and locations and provide background information. This book should prove to be a useful example of a specific type of source-material for local historians, as should *Curry Rivel* which depicts a variety of village and rural scenes, groups and individuals in photographs arranged in a roughly chronological sequence from the Victorian period (the church is shown as it was before restoration) until 2000, with short but informative captions

The photographs in *Mells* are arranged under seven headings including 'Childhood', 'Employment' and 'Wartime', which reveal aspects of the social history, landscape and built environment of Mells during the 20th century, including some interesting 'then and now' visual contrasts. As the compiler writes in her Introduction, several books on Mells have already been published, and her aim has been to assemble previously unpublished material. The book is not, therefore, an attempt at a comprehensive history of Mells, even in the 20th century, but it contains a series of plates, many with informative captions, which should be of use to future historians as well as of interest to present inhabitants. Unfortunately, the quality of the plates (or their reproduction by the printer?) is rather disappointing.

Edithmead, Southwick and Watchfield is also a photographic record of buildings, local scenes and people, including some 'then and now' views. There is a general title for each page of photographs, such as 'Watchfield - People', but curiously the individual plates are uncaptioned. This and additional photographic material is also available on CD ROM and a Web site. *Norton Fitzwarren* also includes some 'then and now' comparisons amongst the photographs of which this slim volume largely consists. One plate shows an archaeological excavation at Norton Camp in 1908, but the book makes no mention of more recent work on the site. Although the introduction to the book includes a few brief pointers to earlier periods, the book is essentially a visual guide to Norton during the 20th century which, inter alia, demonstrates the extent to which the vernacular architecture of the village has been destroyed during that period. .

Images of the Quantocks & their Villages is another visual compilation, but in this case the well-selected period photographs are combined with reproductions of drawings or paintings (including some from the Society's collections), all arranged under village-name headings in alphabetical order (from Aisholt to Williton), plus additional short sections devoted to 'Scenery' and 'People'. The period covered extends from the 18th to the mid-20th century and the subject-matter includes buildings (ranging from squatters' cottages to grand houses such as Quantock Lodge), landscapes, village scenes, occupations, groups (including, inevitably, the occupants of the Agapemone at Spaxton in c. 1895) and individuals such as the first Lord St Audries and Billy Palmer, the last of the Quantock 'broom squires'. The illustrations, many of which have been previously little-known, are accompanied by informative captions, some including observations from the diary of the Revd William Holland of Over Stowey. The uniform sepia tint throughout the book, in the reproductions of paintings as well as the photographs, has presumably been adopted for purposes of consistency and a nostalgic 'feel'.

A different and clearly 'populist' approach is evident in *Yeovil*, published by the Western Gazette. This book is evidently part-financed by the advertisements which are interspersed with the text and illustrations, and it includes a series of time-charts, a quiz on 'rooftop features', sections on, for example, official housing schemes (from almshouses to 20th century 'Nissen Petren' houses), Westlands and other local businesses, RNAS Yeovilton, hospitals, sport, schools and theatres, and 'A colourful Christian history' which includes the impact of 'Big Henry' (Henry VIII) and 'New kids on the block' (17th-century Nonconformists)! The presentation of this book is certainly colourful and lively and it may be of interest to future historians seeking an impression of life in Yeovil in the 20th century. *Somerton* and *Wincanton*, by the same publisher, have a similar 'magazine' type of format.

Some communities set themselves the task of producing a comprehensive History of the preceding millennium (or more), although others have concentrated mostly upon more recent

history. *Goathurst*, for instance, is subtitled *1000 years of parish history*, and the subject-matter is broken down into a series of themes, such as the landscape, manors, the parish church, education and welfare. The final chapter, 'Homes', provides a location map and brief descriptions, sometimes illustrated with plates, of houses and their successive owners, some of the information being drawn from surveys by E.H.D. Williams and by the Somerset Vernacular Building Research Group. The book is illustrated with numerous high-quality plates and includes a bibliography which indicates that the contributors of the various chapters have been aware of a range of significant primary and secondary sources.

In the case of *Pitminster*, the services of a professional historian (Dr R.W. Dunning) have been employed: this makes for less local involvement but is at least a means of ensuring sound academic standards. *Chedzoy: Life on the Somerset Levels* is also attributed to a single author, John Weeks, although he acknowledges his indebtedness to an earlier history by Pauline Clapp. The first, 109-page, section is entitled 'Village History – The Early Years', although much of the information relates to the 19th and 20th centuries. Unfortunately, there is no table of contents (although there is an extensive index), and the reader has to search through the sub-headings to identify the subject matter of each part of the section. The text includes many extracts from sources such as newspapers, which provide interesting detail and local colour, although at times the reader may find these transcriptions excessive. The second section of the book consists of a 190-page guide to the village, with background information on the buildings and landscape which again includes numerous documentary extracts: this is not a convenient 'walk-around' guide. The book has evidently been a labour of love, but a more 'digested' approach might have been preferable.

Blackford includes a chapter on 'The Past' which deals briefly with Domesday and the medieval period before discussing the parish church (the emphasis is on fixtures and fittings, including a lengthy discussion of 19th century and modern stained glass), Victorian and later clergy, and community institutions such as the Methodist chapel and the reading room. A chapter on 'The People' includes sections on housing, education, occupations, life expectancy and shops, and the emphasis is again on the 19th and 20th centuries, with much of the information drawn from the tithe apportionment and the 1851 census. Another chapter (of over 100 pages) is devoted to 'Blackford Houses and Their Occupants', in which both the text and the numerous small-scale photographs are mainly concerned with the lives of the occupants of the houses in the 20th century rather than with architectural analysis. The final chapters discuss families which emigrated or settled elsewhere in the UK. The overall emphasis in this detailed and well-written book is very much on the social and 'personal' aspects of the history of Blackford during the last 200 years.

Halse deals with both past and present in an easy-to-read, well-illustrated and well-presented form. The centre-spread consists of a bird's-eye view of the village (painted by Sheila Pearce) bordered by a kaleidoscope of village scenes, and the numerous well-reproduced photographs elsewhere in the book include both black-and-white and colour plates. The book includes the aptly titled 'A brief history of Halse' which runs quickly through Saxon and medieval times, then provides estimates of the ages of some of the older buildings (which are not described, although some are illustrated) before providing a little more information about the New Inn, the Mill, former village schools and demographic trends since Domesday. There is also a short chapter on transport, services, trades and occupations during the 20th century, but future historians of the parish may be more interested in subsequent chapters which include the 'Halse 2000 survey', 'Life in Halse 2000 - A Snapshot for Posterity', 'Halse events 2000' (a detailed calendar of village activities) and a month-by-month account of the farming year.

South Petherton, which has been published by the South Petherton History Group, provides a wide-ranging, well-presented, well-illustrated and informative survey of many aspects of village life and topography during the final century of the millennium, during which the life of

the village apparently changed so much that it now 'bears no resemblance to the one experienced at that time [1900]'.

Baltonsborough, by Louise F. Clapp with some contributions by others, contains a wealth of historical information on topography, social life, farming, occupations, industry (notably cheese-, leather- and cider-making), education and houses, mainly relating to the 19th and 20th centuries. This material has been drawn from a range of sources, including the tithe map, census returns and oral history, which are carefully acknowledged at the end of each chapter. Nonconformity, especially the history of the Moravian church in Baltonsborough, is rightly allocated a chapter, but there is little information about the parish church: this is stated to be because existing books on this subject and on the early history of the village, by Edith Somers Cocks, are due to be reprinted. There are some useful maps and tables and this well-presented book includes many photographs and reproductions of documents such as early advertisements and invoices. The author has been studying the history of the parish for thirty years, and one chapter is devoted to Gatehouse, her former home which she has recorded with John Dallimore. The book has clearly been a labour of love.

Edington has been compiled by the Edington Village Archive Group which was formed specifically for the task. The subject-matter ranges from the prehistoric periods to the year 2000 and covers a wide range of aspects including prehistoric trackways, the Roman 'Polden Hill Hoard', the role of Glastonbury abbey, pilgrims and holy wells, the manor, the church, the Monmouth Rebellion, and also geology and flora and fauna, farming and a range of institutions and services. Each chapter is contributed by one or more named authors, and there are also several 'Memories' ('An Edington Childhood', 'A Prisoner of War's Story', 'A Refugee's Story', etc.) contributed by various individuals which provide some vivid glimpses of the recent past. This well-produced book is illustrated with photographs, drawings and reproductions of maps, and it concludes with a 'Time Line' of Edington's history and an extensive bibliography which includes *some* primary sources.

Wookey Hole is also the work of a number of contributors, although D. Hudsmith, the editor, has contributed several of the chapters. As is acknowledged in the Preface and indicated in the bibliography at the end of the book, much has already been written about the caves, notably by H.E. Balch, and a parish history by Joan Hasler and Brian Luker has been published recently. The avowed aim of the present book is to concentrate mainly on 'the Hodgkinson era' in the 19th and 20th centuries, although there is some reference to earlier periods. The Hodgkinsons acquired and rebuilt the Wookey Hole paper mill in the 1850s and developed its production, creating employment and increasing the local population, although after a period of decline the family sold the business in 1950. The Hodgkinsons also developed the caves as a tourist attraction, and they built the church, club and school. The book includes a chapter on the demography of Wookey Hole in 2001, and the plates include a group photograph of the inhabitants, with a key to their identities. There are also chapters on the parish council, WI and other organizations and recent events. Within its terms of reference this is a useful account of Wookey Hole in the 19th and 20th centuries.

West Huntspill is a title in the Halsgrove *Book of ...* series, which has ensured a good standard of presentation, but the contents have been compiled by the people of the parish as part of their Millennium Project. The Foreword states that 'The basic historical record has been provided by an authoritative amateur' and the 'Acknowledgements' indicate that Madge Langdon's 'historical research, narrative and material ... has been invaluable'. She is presumably responsible for the well-researched first chapter 'West Huntspill Through the Centuries' which ranges from prehistoric and Roman-period archaeology to the end of the 20th century, although the better survival of evidence means that the later centuries feature more prominently in the text. The chapter on the church is also useful. Other members of the community have provided photographs and documents and contributed sections on local organisations and family histories; and the

chapter on 'Ancient Properties' reproduces two vernacular architecture reports by Ron Gilson. The book is well-illustrated with photographs (old and new) and reproductions of documents. *Watchet* is in the same Halsgrove series and consists of chapters on the town, the harbour, work, organisations, special events, sport and local personalities, each with a short introduction followed by numerous photographs, often with detailed captions. The well-reproduced plates, which include many views of shipping of various kinds, date from the Victorian period onwards.

Woolavington is a third, updated, edition of a History first produced by the WI in 1975. Despite some obvious errors, it includes information which is based on some original research (some of the documents are reproduced as appendices) and on vernacular architecture surveys by E.H.D. Williams and Ron Gilson. It also includes personal recollections by older inhabitants which give some vivid insights into rural life. *West Monkton* includes a very brief account of the earlier history of the parish, but it has a mine of interesting and varied information about village life, personalities and individual reminiscences of the 20th century. The plates include some contrasting 'then and now' scenes.

Crowcombe includes quite brief chapters, mixing some hard evidence with speculative generalizations, on the history of the parish in the first millennium and the middle ages. The better availability of sources makes the chapters devoted to the 16–19th centuries more secure historically. Much of the book is devoted to the 20th century, which includes extracts from individual reminiscences (the full transcriptions of which have been deposited in the Somerset Record Office), which are amongst the most interesting and useful contents of the book. A sketch-map of the parish and a handful of archive photographs are also included.

Thorne [Coffin] contains brief sections on origins, manors, Thorne House, the church and the rectory, followed by photographs of other buildings (merely named), followed by a few 'Snippets', extracts from Kelly 1897 and 1927, brief sections on education and population, and a short bibliography. This short account of the parish includes some good-quality colour photographs.

Cannington is a well-presented and illustrated volume (including a number of archive photographs), with contributions by a number of individuals and assistance from the wider community. It includes some useful information about the history of the parish and some of its buildings including Cannington Court, Gurney Manor, Blackmore Farm and the church (the latter is particularly well covered). Only the church is illustrated by a plan, however, and the architectural descriptions are variable. The book is especially informative about the 20th century, with considerable attention devoted to Cannington College and Brymore School and to various local organizations and communal activities. A range of sources has been used, such as parish council minutes (although the information has been extracted in purely chronological rather than thematic sequence) and, unusually, weather records; there are personal reminiscences and thumb-nail portraits of local personalities in the recent past; and there are several described local walks, illustrated with maps.

Freshford is a serious attempt to cover 2000 years of the history of this parish on the Somerset-Wiltshire border, where for several centuries from the late-medieval period the social elite were clothiers such as John Ashe, a prominent Parliamentarian during the Civil War, and the parish combined industry and agriculture in an attractive landscape setting. The author, whose academic background has been scientific rather than historical, has been a prominent member of the Freshford and District Local History Society for many years and his book is based on an immense amount of background reading and historical research, as is revealed in the footnotes to each chapter. His material, which is wide-ranging in scope and detailed in treatment, is well-understood and digested, and he has placed the developments in Freshford over time in their wider historical context without excessive digression. The chapters on the post-medieval period down to the present day are particularly effective. The text is also well-written, although there is a smattering of misprints in an otherwise well-produced (and well-illustrated) volume.

Fitzhead is a dedicated and conscientious effort by its author, although, as he acknowledges, much of his material has been accumulated by earlier researchers. The book gets off, however, to an unfortunate start (there is some confusion in the first chapter) and the structure is at times perplexing: for example, a 'General Village History 1380 – 20th Century' is provided in chapter 8, after, rather than before, an examination of particular aspects of the history of the village in earlier chapters. There are also digressions (such as a lengthy discourse on witchcraft) and, especially in chapter 8, overviews of national history which are not always linked to specific events in Fitzhead. The book contains quite detailed descriptions of some of the houses in the parish, but no plans, apart from the small-scale outline of Fitzhead Court on the tithe map, to clarify these descriptions. There is undoubtedly some useful information about Fitzhead in this volume (including the periods of Somerville and Ashburton landownership), but it needs to be more digested and the focus should be more consistently upon the parish as such. There are also some technical shortcomings in the production of the book.

Rickford is well-written and presented, with reproductions of maps and other documents and a mixture of early and modern photographs, and has been researched by a small committee. It includes a short introduction to the history of this village which straddles the parish boundaries of Blagdon and Burrington, but the bulk of the volume consists of a 'Ramble around Rickford' in which successive buildings and other features are identified. The descriptions include useful information about the occupants and usage of the buildings during the 19th and 20th centuries, but architectural or structural information is very limited. The village includes some picturesque, if rather incongruous, 19th-century timber-framed buildings, including a former Baptist chapel provided by W.H. Wills in 1888.

Brean, mainly written by Joan Jackman but with contributions by others, includes some information on the archaeology and early history of this area on the shore of the Bristol Channel, but it is particularly informative about the 19th and 20th centuries (including the abortive Brean Down Harbour Scheme, the Second World War, and recent controversial proposals, now abandoned, to transform Brean Down fort into a major visitor attraction). The book also includes chapters on flora and fauna and village organisations. It has been effectively written for a popular readership by a local resident who has been actively involved in the local community.

Nynehead includes chapters on local organisations and activities, a footpath map, photographs (including some archive photographs) of groups, local activities and local buildings (briefly captioned, but not always clearly identified or even captioned at all) and wider scenes. There are short chapters on the parish church, the history of the parish during the second millennium (including a time chart), Nynehead Court (the interpretation of the medieval layout of this much-altered house is inevitably rather speculative, and there is no plan of the building) and the Grand Western Canal which passed through the parish during its short-lived history in the mid 19th century.

Stogumber includes a lengthy historical account based on the previously published and rather individualistic *Story of Stogumber* by Charles Brundrett, whose work has also been used in separate chapters on 'Manors, Estates and legends' and 'Farms'. Where there is specific documentary evidence, this historical account is quite informative, but readers should be aware that the parish has also been covered by the *Victoria County History*. There are also chapters by a number of contributors on various aspects of the late 20th-century parish, including organisations and activities within this evidently lively community, and there is also a series of 'then and now' photographs of the built environment. Some interesting early buildings are referred to at various points in the text, but more could perhaps have been made of these, such as the inclusion of plans.

Otterhampton (which includes Combwich and Steart) includes an introduction which acknowledges that the book is not intended as a definitive history and rightly refers the reader

to the *Victoria County History* for more historical information. The book does contain some information on the early history of the area, but the emphasis is on the present and the recent past. There is, for instance, a walk-around guide to Combech in which there is much interesting information about properties during the 19th and 20th centuries, and the book is particularly informative about shipping and brick-making. There are also chapters on the impact of the building of the Hinkley Point power stations, on the Bridgwater Bay National Nature Reserve, and on churches, chapels, the school and local organisations and activities; and there is a list of footpaths which are illustrated by removable maps. The book also has a wide-ranging collection of photographs illustrating many of the themes discussed in the text. Unfortunately the plate numbers do not always tally with references in the text, nor the page numbers of the book with those given in the table of contents, and there are some textual errors.

Meare (which includes Westhay and Godney) begins with a short overall history by the Revd W. Tuckey which refers to the neolithic Sweet Track and the iron age lake villages of Glastonbury and Meare, although the chapter is principally concerned with the period after 1000 AD, which is tackled using a range of sources such as the published records of Glastonbury abbey (the landowner), parish records, census returns and, for more recent developments, the memories of local inhabitants. The writer also places the known events in the parish in their wider historical context. This chapter is a well-written, judicious and soundly-based account, although the forthcoming publication of the history of the parish in the *Victoria County History* will probably draw attention to additional historical sources and information. The remainder of the book consists of a series of chapters by various writers on, for example, the 'Architecture of Meare' (more useful for the historical background to some of the buildings rather than the structures as such), 'Farming and Drainage' (especially informative on the recent history of farming practices), 'The Peat Industry' (including a recollection by Ray Sweet, whose name is immortalised in the Sweet Track), 'The War Years' (including details of some of the 36 men killed in the two World Wars, and of others who served) and 'The Village in Wartime' (a vivid account of how the civilian population was affected by the war in various ways). There are also informative chapters on education, local businesses, organisations and activities. Overall this is a well-written and well-presented book (including numerous photographs, old and new, placed at appropriate points in the text, but no maps) which should be particularly useful to future historians seeking information about 20th century Meare.

Dillington differs from the other titles in that it is the history of a country house. Written by the late Nancy Smith who conducted courses on writing at Dillington, the book traces the ownership of the property from the middle ages onwards (with considerable emphasis on the life of Lord North), down to its wartime uses during the Second World War and its subsequent transformation into an adult education college. There are also sections on the architectural history of the house (regrettably without a plan or specifically related illustrations, although there are some plates elsewhere in the book) and on buildings and other features in the grounds. The account of the functioning of the house during its adult education days includes some detailed minutiae of the domestic arrangements which could perhaps have been condensed. The book is nicely presented, but the binding of the review copy began to disintegrate.

Collectively these millennium books make a useful contribution to the study of local history in Somerset, both by recording aspects of the past and by leaving a record for future historians of life at the end of the second millennium. There are, of course, variations in the objectives of the individual books and in the extent to which those objectives are successfully achieved, but the overall impression is that a great deal of conscientious effort and intelligent thought has gone into these publications. The books are an indication of the current strength of popular interest in local history and of the vitality of community life in Somerset.

SOMERSET MILLENNIUM BOOKS

- Millennium in Allerton** [Chapel Allerton]. Allerton Millennium Committee/Allerton News, 2001. 215pp; illus; £7.50.
- Ashbrittle: Who, What, Where, When at the Millennium.** Ashbrittle Arts, n.d.. 170pp; illus; price not stated. ISBN 0-9540993-0-3.
- Babcary 2000: A Portrait of Babcary in 2000 AD.** Published locally, 2000. Pp unnumbered; illus; price not stated.
- Baltonsborough: The Past behind the Present.** by Louise F. Clapp. Village of Baltonsborough, 2000. 160pp; illus; price not stated. ISBN 0 9539280-0-4.
- Year 2000: A Millennium Record of Bickenhall, Curland and Staple Fitzpaine.** Neroche Parish Hall Committee, 2000. 168pp; illus; price not stated.
- Blackford: The story of a village and its people,** by Susan Hartnell-Beavis. Beaufort Press, 2001. 186pp; illus; price not stated. ISBN 0-9520483-1-0.
- Brean - The Millennium Years,** by Joan Jackman. Square One Publications, 1999. 136pp; illus; £5.00. ISBN 1 8999 55 40 2.
- Bygone Brewham: A pictorial reminiscence from the photo albums of Brewham families.** Brewham Parish Council, 2000. 41pp; illus; £4.95.
- Cannington Reflections.** Cannington Millennium Book Working Party, Cannington Parish Council, 1999. 91pp; illus; £5.00.
- Chedzoy: Life on the Somerset Levels,** by John Weeks. Chedzoy 2000, 1999. 240pp; illus; price not stated. ISBN 0 9537036 0 6.
- The Houses of Compton Dando,** by Katharine Bunyan, Sue Caola and Pamela Cole. Pub. by the authors, 1999. 108pp; illus; price not stated. ISBN 0 9537243 0 1.
- A Short History of Crowcombe.** Crowcombe Parish Council, 1999. 60pp; illus; £3.00.
- Curry Rivel: A Century in Photographs.** The Curry Rivel News Association, 2000. 55pp; illus; £3.95.
- The Story of Dillington: A Thousand Years,** by Nancy Smith. Somerset County Council, 2000. 148pp; illus; price not stated. ISBN 0 86183 341 4.
- Edington: A Somerset Village.** Edington Parish Council and Edington Village Archive Group, 2000. 128pp; illus; price not stated.
- taking photos, leaving memories: local people and their homes in edithmead, southwick and watchfield, somerset.** Watchfield Hall Committee, 2000. Pp unnumbered; illus; price not stated. Also available, with additional photographs, on CD ROM.
- Ten Hides. A Millennial History of Fitzhead, Somerset,** by Adrian Cross. Adrian Cross and the Fitzhead Community Group, 2000. 192pp; illus; £6.95.
- Freshford: The History of a Somerset Village,** by Alan Dodge. Freshford Publications, 2000. 280pp; illus; £10.00. ISBN 0-9539664 0 2.
- The Goathurst Millennium Book: 1000 years of parish history.** The Goathurst Millennium Book Publication Group, 2000. 94pp; illus; price not stated.
- Halse 2000: a village chronicle.** Halse 2000 Book Steering Committee, 2001. Pp unnumbered; illus; price not stated.
- Lydford on Fosse 2000.** Lydford on Fosse Parish Council, 2000. 96pp; illus; price not stated.
- Lymsham's Millennium Memories: A Domesday Book.** Lymsham W.L., 2000. 163pp; illus; £5.00.
- Meare: Its place in history from its earliest days.** Gloria McClurg (rep. Meare Parish Council Millennium Committee), 2001. 148pp; illus; £7.00. ISBN 0-9541856-0-9.
- Mells Millennium Book. The last 100 years,** by Jan Seewooruttun. The Mells Millennium Committee, 2000. 66pp; illus; £4.95.
- 100 Years of Norton Fitzwarren,** by Ruth Johnson. AB Publishing, London, 2000. 48pp; illus; £5.99.
- Norton sub Hamdon: Domesday 2000. A portrait of the village at the Millennium.** Norton sub Hamdon Parish Council, 2000. 152pp; illus; price not stated. ISBN 0 9539095.
- Otterhampton Parish 2000: A Guide to the Parish.** Otterhampton Parish Council, 1999. 104pp; illus; £6.50.
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