

THE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY OF OXFORDSHIRE

Peter Hawley reports (in 2022):

The *South Oxfordshire Chilterns, Caversham, Goring and Area* volume of this monumental work has now been published. It is one of the last in the county and indeed in the country as a whole. The same red cover and bulky format has been maintained to match the oldest volumes which appeared a century ago and those published at intervals ever since.

It is a massively learned tome, edited overall by Simon Townley. The Whitchurch, Goring and Checkendon chapters have been edited by the equally meticulous Simon Draper. A generous acknowledgment is given on the first page "to Vicky Jordan, Sue Matthews, Peter Hawley and other members of the Whitchurch and Goring Heath History Society". The book is illustrated by an excellent selection of photographs.

Whitchurch has long been furnished with an extensive collection of local histories and such learned works as "Footprints and Cyphers" by Robert Noble are also quoted, along with my own collection "Relics and Monuments".

After an initial discounted period, the volume is likely to be priced at over £100 but the History Society has purchased a copy which will be available for members to leaf through at future meetings. Much of the content already appears in our other publications and some of the more speculative material is omitted. The treatment of the subject of the Royal Manor at Whitchurch up to 1604 is informative and will be new to many of us.

Although long overdue and not an easy read, this is a volume of which we can be truly proud.