



# ALHA BOOKS

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ALHA started publishing a **SERIES OF BOOKS** in 2009. They are A5 in size and contain about 40 pages - a mixture of text and graphics / illustrations / photographs.

Each one covers a topic of local interest based within the area covered by ALHA.

It is the intention that this will be an ongoing project, but will depend on the availability of authors, and the willingness of people to buy the books.

They are printed professionally by a local printing firm.

To date they have been warmly accepted by those who have purchased them and they are normally available from a few local bookshops and other places such as Bristol Record Office, Bristol Central Library and Bristol Museum at Queens Road. However you can also purchase them directly by post from:

Mike Leigh  
Business Manager ALHA Books  
43, Long Eaton Drive,  
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To ensure you do not miss one of the volumes, a database is maintained, and those appearing on that database will automatically be notified of new publications, and offered them at a reduced price, for a limited period.

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### The volumes published to date are:

**No 1 THE MEDIEVAL FRIARIES, HOSPITALS & CHAPELRIES OF BRISTOL** By Joseph Bettey relates how these institutions were founded, built and supported by pious benefactors; how they provided help and relief; and how the physical and spiritual needs of Bristolians suffered under Henry VIII and Edward VI, when so many charities were destroyed. The author, Dr Joe Bettey, formerly Reader in Local History at the University of Bristol, has made a huge contribution to the literature, including seven of the booklets published by the Bristol Branch of the Historical Association.

**No 2 THE BLUE MAIDS ORPHANAGE** by Mary Wright tells the story of Bristol's other orphanage which operated from 1795 until eventual closure in 1927. Drawing on the surviving records (including century-old photographs) and well placed in the context of its times, this book explores the behaviour and expectations of its donors, managers and inmates; and contributes yet another chapter to the rich history of charitable care in Bristol. Mary Wright, a regular local history speaker, is the author of the BBHA booklet on Elizabeth Blackwell, the pioneering woman doctor.

**No 3 ALTERNATIVE ANNALS OF AVON HISTORY** brings together in 29 easy pieces all the truly memorable moments and characters of Avon's history, together with some that didn't actually feature but should have, or perhaps will some day. Many have previously appeared in the pages of the *Avon Local History & Archaeology Newsletter*, while others have been specially, ah, researched for this publication by author William Evans. Illustrator Simon Gurr has been responsible with Eugene Byrne for three, very, graphic histories: *Brunel: A Graphic Biography*, *The Bristol Story* and *Darwin: A Graphic Biography*

**No 4. DR GOODEVE AND COOKS FOLLY** by Michael Whitfield. Dr Goodeve was a distinguished Victorian physician who made his reputation in British India. Cook's Folly was a 17th century building which stood on the Bristol side of the Avon Gorge until it was pulled down in the 1930s. Before they set out to India, Goodeve and his wife had visited the Folly and formed an ambition to make it their home. Goodeve's very successful practice in India enabled them to fulfil this dream and live there for the rest of their lives. Their story links a study of the practice and teaching of medicine in mid 19th century India to the social history of a Victorian professional family.

**No. 5 THE BRISTOL DOCK COMPANY, 1803-1848** by Peter Malpass. The Dock Company was set up in 1803 to finance, carry out and operate the improved harbour which had long been urged. But the company structure and capital reflected the local politics and tensions which had delayed action hitherto, and which continued to handicap its operations over its 45-year life. It was never popular (see the front cover illustration, rejoicing at its demise) and was much criticised in its lifetime and subsequently, but this detailed and fully documented account sets out to show that most if not all its weaknesses arose from the compromises and constraints built into its very foundations.

**No. 6 'FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CHILDREN' THE BATTLE FOR A BOARD SCHOOL IN KEYNSHAM, 1870-1893** by Elizabeth White. Keynsham in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century seemed just the sort of place for a free non-denominational Board School under Forster's 1870 Education Act. But Vicar Gray campaigned successfully against this and at the same time expanded the Parochial Schools which continued to provide all the primary schooling for the children of the poor in Keynsham until 1954. Here is a fascinating account of the clash of personalities, principles, prejudices and propaganda which brought this about.

**No. 7 THE FRIENDS TO LITERATURE: BRISTOL LIBRARY SOCIETY 1772-1894** by Kathleen Hapgood. The Library Society was set up by subscription in 1772 and took over the old free library run by the Council. After over a century, in which it reflected much of the intellectual life of the city, it was superseded by the City's own rate-based Library in 1894.

**No. 8 MORNING STARS OF THE REFORMATION: EARLY RELIGIOUS REFORMERS IN THE BRISTOL REGION** by Joseph Bettey traces radical religious criticism from John Wycliff through the obstinately surviving Lollards to William Tyndale, the Gloucestershire man who can claim much of the credit for the wording of the King James Bible of 1611.

**No. 9 THE BRISTOL MICROSCOPISTS AND THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC OF 1849** by Michael Whitfield. In 1849, Bristol suffered its second outbreak of cholera. Among those who rallied to counter it were members of the recently formed Bristol Microscopical Society. Dr Whitfield profiles the members with particular attention to the three who reckoned to have found micro-organisms uniquely associated with the disease, and recreates an illuminating episode from the pioneer days of scientific medicine in the provinces.

**No. 10 REDLAND: THE MAKING OF A VICTORIAN SUBURB** by Peter Malpass. In 1850 Redland was still largely a rural area outside the city of Bristol. By 1900 it was very much the middle-class suburb that it is today. Peter Malpass shows how this development took place in an era before planning restrictions and big construction firms. Light is cast on the, not always logical, road system and the characteristic varieties of housing. This detailed reconstruction, fully illustrated with maps and photographs, makes a fascinating episode in the history of Bristol and a case study in Victorian urban development.

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