

Must read!

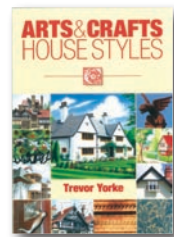
House Histories: the secrets behind your front door

Exploring the history of your own home, or that of your ancestors, can be another fascinating facet to your family's story. Britain has a wonderful array of homes, from stately properties of the aristocracy to the humble workman's cottage and bulldozed slums of Greater Manchester, and here are some of the most fascinating ones laid out in glorious, colourful detail.

Author Melanie Backe-Hansen is the only house historian in the country attached to an estate agency (Chesterton Humberts) and her knowledge, accessible style and obvious passion for old houses has garnered her a huge following on Twitter (the *Family Tree* team are fans – follow her house-dating travels @HouseHistorian) and beyond. She will undoubtedly win new fans with her first book, in which she deftly explains how to start tracing a house history, by poring over maps, plans, tax records, census returns, directories and more to build up a picture of the local area and families that lived in the property – all good solid family history stuff. She swiftly focuses on a wide range of individual buildings, some with links to notables (such as No 200 Oxford Street, the former BBC Overseas Service offices and inspiration for George Orwell's 'Room 101') and others not, but interesting all the same as she uncovers stories of previous residents and tasty tidbits from past times. A practical and pleasurable read, we hope there's more to come from this stable.

● ISBN: 9780752457536. £16.99 (hardback). Available from bookshops and The History Press www.thehistorypress.co.uk.

The house detectives



Arts & Crafts House Styles

The Victorian fascination with the Arts and Crafts movement comes under the spotlight in Trevor Yorke's latest book. Beginning as a counter-reaction to the Industrial Revolution, the movement revolutionised the design of homes and interiors – from wallpaper to door handles – while highlighting workers' plights. The author establishes the background to this simple and elegant style, profiles main players and uses his own illustrations and photos to define what makes these buildings unique. He also looks at workers' estates such as Bournville and garden cities like Letchworth, which tried to create idealistic homes for the masses – and led to the birth of the Ideal Home Exhibition in 1908. An excellent introduction to the Arts and Crafts style.

● ISBN: 9781846742309. £6.95 (paperback). Available from bookshops and www.countrysidebooks.co.uk.



Exploring Britain's Historic Houses

Fling open the doors of some of Britain's grandest houses with this beautiful new title from the Automobile Association. It includes brief but useful details about each property, including where it's near and when it's open, plus a phone number and web address, along with a delightful bite-size history. Divided into regions and counties, it is perfect holiday fodder to take on the road for 'staycations' and days out or to browse through at home, imagining past residents and staff 'upstairs' and 'down'.

● ISBN: 9780749568610. £20 (hardback). Available from bookshops and www.theAA.com.

World at war

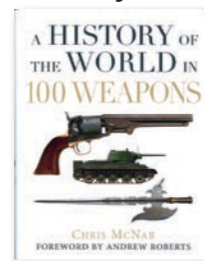


Britain at War: from the Invasion of Poland to the Surrender of Japan

Most of us are interested in World War II, whether through family connections or books and films. Richard Overy's book highlights important battles such as the Battle of Britain, the Battle for Anzio, the Fall of Singapore, plus many others. A major appeal of the book, in addition to the carefully chosen photographs and informative text, is the inclusion of five integral envelopes containing 17 facsimile documents that really bring the history alive. For example, in the chapter about Japan's defeat of Burma in 1942, six documents illuminate the reader's grasp of events: the diary of Bombardier Leslie Coleman of the NZEF describes his experience of the Battle of Alamein; General Montgomery's orders for the third day of Operation Lightfoot; the front page of the *Eighth Army News*, 3 September 1943 headlined 'We invade Italy'; a hand drawn map of a raid on St Nazaire; the final plan of Operation Husky; and an RAF Spitfire pilot's logbook.

● ISBN: 9781847328533. £30 (hardback). Available from bookshops and www.carltonbooks.co.uk.

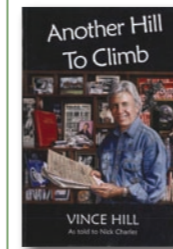
A History of the World in 100 Weapons



War has been a driving force of history from the beginning of time, and crucial to conflict is the weaponry. Chris McNab focuses on items from the flint axe of our Stone Age ancestors to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles currently used in Afganistan.

● ISBN: 9781849085205. £25 (hardback). Available from bookshops and www.ospreypublishing.com.

Life stories



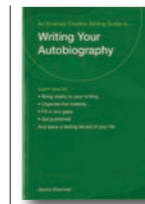
Another Hill to climb

Oldies like me will no doubt remember the 1960s and 1970s heydays of the night clubs and TV and radio variety when we were entertained by really talented musicians and comedians. Among the best of these performers was singer Vince Hill. When we see stars on stage we seldom stop to think of their private lives and how they have to overcome ups and downs like the rest of us. This book tells us the story Vince's health problems, including a cancer scare, and how they affected his daily life. Fortunately, over the years, he has managed to overcome most of these and come out still smiling and singing.

We also learn of the background to Vince's greatest hit 'Edelweiss' and his many other achievements, and along the way we are told of a frightening episode in Malaysia in which he and his wife were lucky to escape with their lives.

With help from Vince, this story is beautifully crafted by Nick Charles and is a book no Vince Hill fan should miss.

● ISBN: 9781904408796. £12 (paperback). Available from bookshops and www.bankhousebooks.com. Review by Michael Armstrong.



Writing your Autobiography

You don't have to be a celebrity to write your life story, as creative writing expert Jackie Sherman explains here. She has penned a handy guide to writing your memoirs for your family and friends. There are practical tips and tricks, advice on retrieving memories and finding your 'voice', how to organise notes and get published. A cajoling and encouraging read for aspiring writers.

● ISBN: 9781847162168. £9.99 (paperback). Available from bookshops and www.emeraldpublishing.co.uk from 1 September. Read Jackie's top 10 tips on page 62.

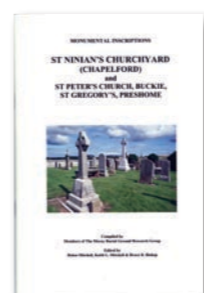


There and Back

This life story of Derbyshire lad Cornelius Turner, known as 'Crash' to wartime pals in the Glider Squadron, was written for his

granddaughter and is a warm reminder of the value of memoirs.

● ISBN: 9780955962806. £9.99 plus £1.95 p&p (paperback). Available from bookshops and 'Strath', 84 Berry Hill Road, Mansfield, Notts NG18 4RR. Cheques payable to WH Stephenson.



Banffshire burials

Further booklets from Bruce B Bishop. Pre-1855 Death and Burial Records: for Boharm and Botriphnie, £5; Keith, £6; and Rathven, £6. Also

St Ninian's Churchyard (Chapelford) and St Peter's Church, Buckie, St Gregory's, Preshome, £5, compiled by The Moray Burial Ground Research Group (see page 29).

● Available from Aberdeen and North-East Scotland FHS, the Scottish Genealogy Society, the Moray and Nairn FHS, from Yeadons Bookshop, Elgin, or direct from J&B Bishop, Rivendell, Miltonduff, Elgin, Moray IV30 8TJ, plus 95p UK p&p/£2 overseas p&p.



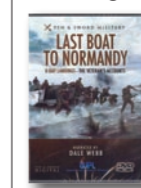
Behind the Colonnade

Take a peek behind the scenes at the British Museum (BM) with Norman Jacobs, who worked at the BM from 1967-2003, a time when far-reaching changes

were being made to the entire UK museum sector. He was involved in the planning of the magnificent Great Court, the separation of the British Library and the controversy over free admission. Norman shares tales of scandal, innovation, union disputes, the upheaval of rebuilding and even a bomb scare! ● ISBN: 978075245279. £9.99 (paperback). Available from bookshops and www.normanjacobs.com.

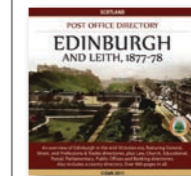
New DVD/CD releases

DVD: Last Boat to Normandy: D-Day Landings, the Veteran's Accounts



Old soldiers take an emotional trip to Normandy and meet fellow veterans. ● £16.99. www.pen-and-sword.co.uk.

Scotland, Edinburgh & Leith Post Office Directory, 1877-78



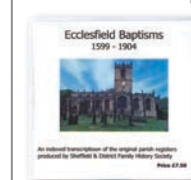
● £16.95 plus p&p. Email sales@genealogysupplies.com. www.genealogy-supplies.com.

Air Force List, October 1933



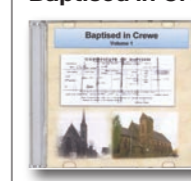
● £17.95 plus p&p. Email sales@genealogysupplies.com. www.genealogysupplies.com.

Ecclesfield Baptisms 1500-1904



● £8.25 (UK), £9.55 overseas airmail) includes p&p. Write to Dr A Giller, 17 Firshell Road, Sheffield S4 7BB.

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● £10 plus £1 p&p. Contact: www.fhsc.org.uk for links to Crewe Group, or write to PO Box 1990, Crewe, Cheshire, CW2 6FF.



Kelly's Directory of Dorsetshire, 1920
Kelly's Directory of Wiltshire, 1920
Kelly's Directory of Cornwall, 1935
Kelly's Directory of Oxfordshire, 1931
Kelly's Directory of Herefordshire, 1937
 ● £12 each including p&p. Email graham@jigrah.co.uk. www.jigrah.co.uk.