

***Leckhampton Yesteryear*, by Eric Miller (Leckhampton Local History Society, revised edition 2021). 92 pp including b/w illustrations. Paperback, £3.00. Available via the Society's website (leckhamptonlhs.weebly.com) or from the Suffolk Anthology bookshop, Cheltenham.**

The author, Eric Miller, has written several books focused on Leckhampton's history and this is a revised edition of a book first published in 1996. As in the original edition, the main source is the Parish Magazine from 1888 to the start of the Second World War. According to the author, this edition has also taken account of recent developments within Leckhampton.

There are seven chapters, which are further divided into various topics. Included are illustrations and photographs, mainly from the Leckhampton Local History Society's collection. Using the Parish Magazine information has provided the reader with an insight into the local and social history of Leckhampton.

It begins with a description of the Parish Magazine including layout, types of articles and local history. Throughout the book, the author gives snippets of information that often includes names which would interest the family historian. Meanwhile the social historian would enjoy the illustrations of the advertisements throughout the years. There is something for all interests, even if your residence or family is not within the Leckhampton boundaries.

The church provided clubs and societies to keep the people of Leckhampton involved and entertained, all with a purpose to 'improve their spiritual well-being'. From 'The Lads Club' to 'The Girls Drill Club' and sports clubs. These involved excursions, outings and concerts for all age groups.

With such a long time period covered by the Parish Magazine, it includes not only peacetime but wartime. From the Boer War to the Second World War, the men who participated, their return to the village and how the local people helped with the war effort is documented.

Not to be left out, there is a brief history of the clergymen and officials who led the Church and the parishioners. It was interesting to read about the burial rights at St Peter's for those who worshipped at the mother church and how it had been an issue for the parish.

The author has given an insight into the parish life of Leckhampton during this time period and views it as an achievement if the book is a prompt for others to 'seek out hidden treasures of their own'. Without a Leckhampton-focused local newspaper for this time, the Parish Magazine and this book are a wonderful source for the local historian.

Michelle Rees