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MONTHLY A5 LOCAL LIFESTYLE MAGAZINES

BOOK REVIEW - Newark & Sherwood - A Pictorial History

If you are looking for a Christmas present for someone who knows Southwell and its surrounding area, this recently published book would make an ideal gift. Newark & Sherwood, Landscapes and Legends by local author George Wilkinson and artist Penny Vey, combines a perfect blend of beautifully written information and delightful paintings, drawings and illustrations.

Familiar attractions in and around Southwell, such as the Minster and our Bramley apple heritage, are highlighted as are the Saracen's Head and the Workhouse. It is pleasing to find a book which includes other places that are less frequently mentioned – such as Rolleston Mill and The Full Moon pub at Morton, together with its annual Festival of Morris and scarecrow competition. Further afield and recommended for a visit are the Bluebell Wood at Rufford, Tuxford Windmill and the Water Mill at Ollerton.

Several chapters in the book focus on places easily overlooked in Newark itself. For example, we are told that Strays Bookshop on Stodman Street was originally three cottages and still

contains an oak beam dating from the 1500's. Similarly, the Old Bakery Teashop in Queen's Head Court has an equally fascinating history. On the opposite side of the Market Square is the King Charles Coffee House and next door an example of the work of the famous architect Watson Fothergill, some of whose intricately designed buildings still also remain in Central Nottingham.

The book opens with a preface outlining the geographical boundaries author and artist chose before embarking on their project, giving useful historical details to bear in mind as you read. It concludes with reference to the plans started in June this year to convert the Fosse to a dual carriageway. Whatever change this latest move will bring in the development of the Newark & Sherwood area, there is no more charming a book to celebrate and record its current shape and content than this.

Sarah Payne