



## Bookshelf

### LIFE'S BOOK OF THE MONTH

*STAMFORD PAST* by Christopher Davies  
 Phillimore & Co, Shopwyke Manor Barn, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 2BG; £14.99;  
 ISBN 186077 228 5

**S**TAMFORD in 1694 was described by Celia Fiennes 'as fine a built town all of stone as may be seen', and so it remains. One of the five Danish Boroughs, it became an important medieval town, boasting fourteen churches and numerous religious houses. And there was an attempt to establish a university there in the fourteenth century.

Later decline was not reversed until the seventeenth century with the re-opening of the Welland Navigation and growth of the coaching trade on the great North Road, and the next century saw building of many fine Georgian houses. This was also the local heyday of the Cecil family of Burghley House.

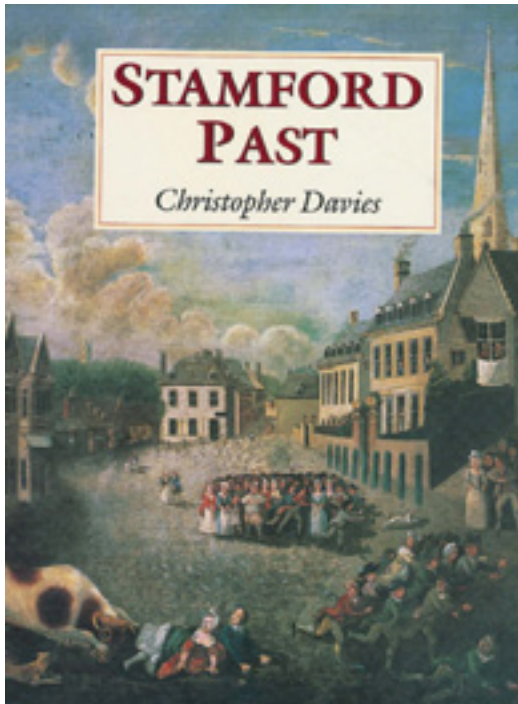
The bypassing of the town by the railway, and delay in enclosing the open fields to the north, may have stunted industrial growth, but it certainly helped to preserve the fabric

of the town. The town centre has not suffered the kind of redevelopment experienced elsewhere, and in 1967 it was the first in the country to be designated a Conservation Area.

There is some industry, including Blackstones agricultural engineering, and the town prospers as a tourist destination. Therein lies the problem of how to preserve its architectural integrity while meeting the needs of the twenty-first century.

There have been more detailed histories of the town but these are now out of print. The author here, with more than thirty years' experience of research and writing on Stamford, has chosen a broad-

brush approach, while also seeking to answer specific questions about its development. Including also a splendid range of 142 illustrations, it is well-written and presented and is to be welcomed. (DNR) □



### Lincolnshire's Top 10 Bestsellers

- 1 **Roman Lincoln – Conquest, Colony and Capital**  
Michael J Jones, £16.99
- 2 **Roman Lincoln**  
Paul West, £2.50
- 3 **The River Trent Navigation**  
Mike Taylor, £10.99
- 4 **Diary of a Bomb Aimer**  
Campbell Muirhead, £8.95
- 5 **Lincolnshire Almshouses**  
Linda Crust, £12.95
- 6 **The Lincolnshire Rising 1536**  
Louth Naturalists', Antiquarian and Literary Society, £6.50
- 7 **Escape to Branston**  
Peter Owen, £3.95
- 8 **Airfield Focus 15: Scampton Revisited**  
Stewart A Scott, £4.95
- 9 **Tales of a Bomber Command WAAF (and her horse)**  
Sylvia Pickering, £9.95
- 10 **The Kinema In The Woods**  
Edward Mayor, £9.95

*Compiled by Ottakar's Lincoln and Ottakar's Grimsby*

## LINCOLNSHIRE BOOKS IN BRIEF

**PHOTOGRAPHS BY A H SINGLETON**, North Lincolnshire Council, North Lincolnshire Museum, Oswald Road, Scunthorpe, DN15 7BD; £2.99; ISBN 0 9539636 2 4

Singleton (1879-1927) was Scunthorpe's leading photographer in the early twentieth century, creating an unrivalled record of life in the growing town. Includes biography.

**GRIMSBY REMEMBERED**, compiled by Brian Leonard; Tempus Publishing, The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Glos, GL5 2QG; £10.99; ISBN 0 7524 2466 1

Collection of memories of local folk and photographs from personal collections. Includes home life and pastimes, education, health and hard times, transport, shops and businesses, churches and parks, and the docks.

**AROUND BRIGG: The Second Selection** compiled by John and Valerie Holland; Tempus Publishing, The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Glos, GL5 2QG; £10.00; ISBN 0 7524 2641 9  
 More than 220 old photographs, largely spanning the twentieth century, Brigg plus Barnetby, Bigby, Broughton, Cadney, Elsham, Hibaldstow, Scawby, Worlaby and Wrawby. Well researched and informative captions.