

Book reviews

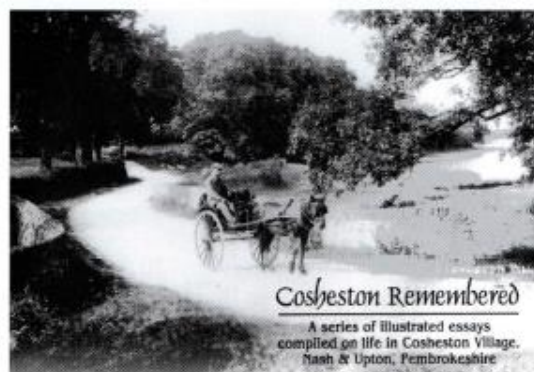
Heather Falvey & Alan Crosby

Cosheston Remembered: A series of illustrated essays compiled on life in Cosheston Village, Nash & Upton, Pembrokeshire, by Cosheston Community History Project (Cosheston Community History Project 2023 186pp no ISBN) £10 plus p&p from www.cosheston.net

This handsome book comprises over 50 essays by various members of the **Cosheston Community History Project Group (CCHPG)**, which was formed in 2012 with the aim of having 'a permanent reminder of earlier times before they were lost forever'. Following a brief history of the parish, an analysis of the censuses from 1841 to 1911 provides an outline of demographics, employment, migration and living conditions there in that period. Primarily a farming area, in the 19th century local industries comprised shipbuilding and a chemical works, and subsequently some locals worked at the Royal Naval Dockyard in Pembroke.

'Places' includes essays on the various churches and chapels, the school, shops, public houses and 'big houses', each different in their own way but similar to those in other communities. There was (and still is), however, one very unusual building: the Cosheston Funeral Car Tenement. Built in 1895 to reduce the cost of funerals for locals, this shelter for a hearse was funded by public subscriptions and its resident hand- or horse-drawn hearse was hand-built in 1897 by the parish council. In January 2023 it was used, for the first time in over 60 years, for the funeral of Basil James, one of the founder members of the CCHPG.

In 'People' the reader is introduced to many former residents, including Nicholas Adamson Roch (1816-1907), who held numerous public offices and provided land and money to build the parish's National School; Kurt Dohrer, a German prisoner of war at a camp in Pembroke Dock, who maintained a lasting friendship with the Selby family; and Captain Edmund Glynn RN, whose letter (which criss-crosses the page) to his brother John in 1856 gives details of the village at that time.



'Events' covers not only those men from the parish who died in the two world wars but also recognised acts of bravery by two local men, and recreational activities in the 20th century. 'Memories' includes the village hall, the Women's Institute, local traditions, cows being milked, potatoes being picked, school days and, in the 1950s, the 'modern facilities' of electricity and flushing toilets.

Sometimes such compilations view the past as a bygone 'golden age', but here in the final section, 'Cosheston Today', it is noted that the residents 'realise how lucky we all are to live in such a lovely place'. The group has also compiled a leaflet of walks around the area that can be downloaded from their website (www.cosheston.net). HF

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