

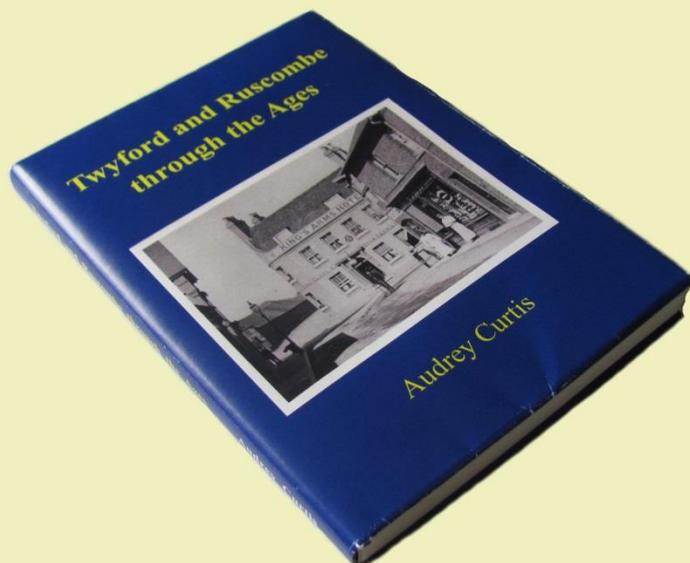
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**Twyford and Ruscombe
through the Ages**

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Written by

Audrey Curtis

and Published by

Twyford & Ruscombe

Local History Society

Launched

Sept. 2016

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Copy of a review by Tony Roberts of Berkshire Family History Society

Twyford and Ruscombe through the Ages

Audrey Curtis (Twyford and Ruscombe Local History Society, 2016) 218 pp, perfect bound A5 size, £9.95.

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This liberally illustrated book provides a comprehensive history of the neighbourhood, its families, occupations, buildings and activities. The author presents this history in ten chapters of which the first seven take the reader from prehistoric times through to the beginning of the 21st century. The last three chapters deal with specific aspects of life in the villages: Houses past and present, Education through the Centuries, and finally Leisure activities.

The first two chapters deal with the periods prior to the Tudor age, and understandably rely much more on the general circumstances of the ages and recounts the occasional mentions of the area in ancient histories, in property and in ecclesiastical documents.

From the Tudor period onwards, the presence of buildings still extant, better records of everyday life and people in addition to those of the great and good in the community mean that these chapters provide a more detailed account of the villages. The impact of the railway on the life of Twyford and Ruscombe was considerable, and merited a separate chapter placed between those dealing with the 19th and 20th centuries in general.

The appendices contain much useful information. In addition to the usual lists of references, sources and illustrations there is a list of historic public houses, a tabulated chronology of local Twyford events laid alongside those of national importance (54 BC to 2012 AD), a timeline of religion in Twyford (1185-2010) and a listing of chapter sub-sections. This listing replaces the conventional detailed index of names, places and events, and provides a rapid guide to the topics covered in each chapter.

This book is well constructed and provides an informative and accessible guide to the history of Twyford and Ruscombe. It is an excellent local history book and is recommended to those of our members with an interest in the area. However, whilst providing a vivid backcloth for those with family connections to the villages, it is not primarily aimed at the family historian and information on individuals is mainly (with some notable exceptions) incidental to the narrative.

Tony Roberts