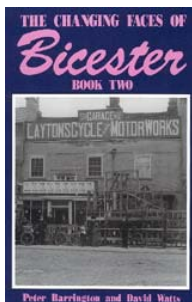
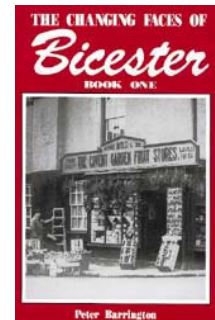


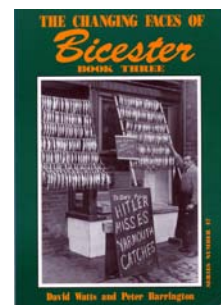
The classic Bicester history text by local author Sid Hedges first published in 1968 and much loved by those born in the town. The book paints a vivid picture of the old town and the memorable characters that lived there from the turn of the twentieth century. A must for those wishing to experience the atmosphere of the small market town before modern developments began. The book identifies different areas of the town and the changes that took place during the author's lifetime.

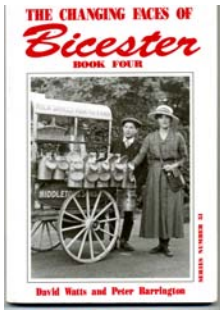
Bicester has changed considerably since the 1939-45 war. From a population of 3,000 in 1931 it has grown to around 24,000 residents. Between the two world wars a town joke was that you could fire a rifle down Sheep Street and not hit anyone. Nowadays most of the street is pedestrianised and is regularly thronged with shoppers. This first book on *The Changing Faces of Bicester* recalls the shopkeepers in the town and the people who ran the shops and also some of the tradesmen and women. Other aspects of local life depicted are the Ordnance Depot, farming and entertainment. Peter Barrington was chief reporter for the *Bicester Advertiser* for 20 years and now works on a freelance basis for the newspaper.



Bicester continues to change. The town's roots go back to the time the Romans left their settlement at Alchester, just south of the town, to move to the slightly higher ground of what is now Bicester. The Augustinian Priory was a major factor in the town's growth and importance. Bicester today is a thriving and expanding community. This second book on *The Changing Faces of Bicester* explains much of the background to the town and explains why it looks the way it does now. Peter Barrington has been joined by local historian David Watts as co-author. David has worked for the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, and is now with the Bucks Museums, Libraries and Archives service.

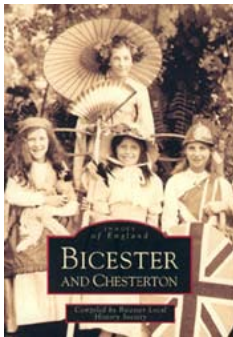
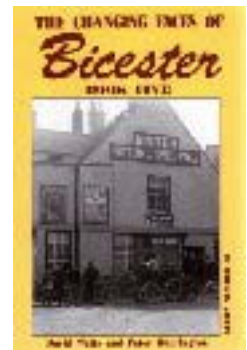
Recent archaeological excavations to the south of Bicester have thrown new light on the importance of Alchester, the Roman town that eventually led to the establishment of Bicester. Crockwell may be a little known area of Bicester to many people in an expanding town today, but played an important part in town life in years gone by. The third book on *The Changing Faces of Bicester* also features the Bicester and Walden Hill Hunt, the coming of the railways and a host of local people.





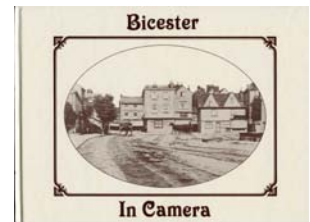
The Blackberry King of Covent Garden is one of the characters featured in the fourth book in *The Changing Faces of Bicester* series. George Dew, the relieving officer for the Bicester Union Work House and the workhouse itself are recalled along with poet John Drinkwater. Bicester town centre is revisited and there is also a section on North Street and a further report on the archaeological excavations at the Roman settlement of Alchester.

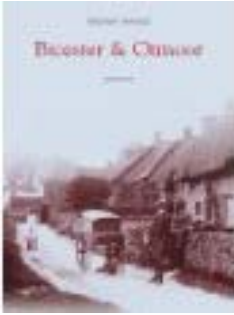
Book Five of *The Changing Faces of Bicester* returns to Bicester town centre with fresh material and also takes a look at the Highfield area of the town and Slade Farm which has become the Bure Park housing estate. There is also the remarkable story of Bicester's first historian, the Reverend White Kennett. He survived an accidental and serious gunshot wound and went on to become the Bishop of Peterborough.



This book represents Bicester Local History Society's first publication. It contains over 200 old photographs providing a glimpse of life in Bicester and Chesterton over the last 100 years. The quieter pace of village life in the last years of the 19th century is also documented. Included within this compilation are images of lively street scenes, sports teams, dramatic productions and special events in the lives of local individuals. The scenes of Bicester have been assembled from small private collections held by local people with a family history in the town; the photographs of Chesterton were rescued from a bonfire several years ago.

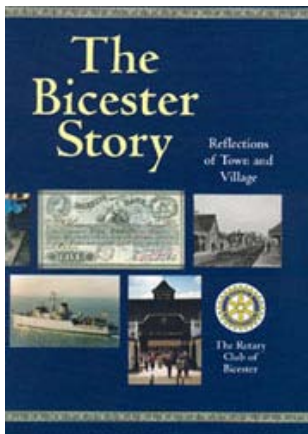
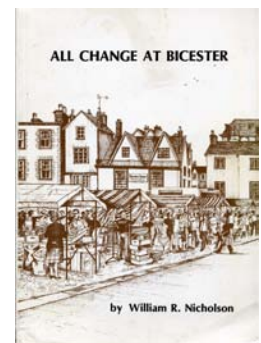
Local photographer Michael Morgan followed his father's footsteps in recording many aspects of the history of the town through a series of unique photographs that capture scenes from Victorian times to the post World War II period. The photographs record people, events and places that were important in the town's development and capture the spirit of times long past.





This book, by author Sian Ellis, illustrates the changes that took place in the town from the late twentieth century through a series of pictures that capture the people and events of the time. A large part of the book is devoted to life in the surrounding villages and the rural landscape of the time. This includes a survey of the unique area covered by Otmoor to the south east of the town.

William Nicholson's book covers the post World War II period of Bicester's development over a thirty year timescale until the 1960s. The transformation of the urban landscape is noted as are the changes to the cultural and social fabric of the town. Many of the local clubs and societies are listed in the book and how the membership related to them. This historical account offers an interesting study of the town before the advent of recent development projects.



The Rotary Club of Bicester took some time to decide on this book as a worthy edition to celebrate the Millennium. As a group, none profess to be writers but it soon became clear that chronicling events that have affected Bicester and the surrounding area necessitated looking back to early times. So, included here are some articles of an historical nature as well as those more personal stories from local characters and personalities. From the time the Romans settled in the area there has been constant change - never more so than in the late 20th century. This book seeks to bring together these changes in an easily readable style.

Peter Barrington and Michael Morgan bring elements of local history up to date with this volume charting the story of Bicester people who made news headlines from 1985 to 1991. The collection of articles featured reflect the rapidly changing times the area was going through and the people and events that helped to shape the town as we know it today.





Bicester Local History Society's major publication for 2009, 'Bicester Then & Now' uses a number of previously unpublished photographs and their modern counterparts to illustrate how locations in the town have changed over the years. The book can be used in conjunction with a local history walk as the illustrations follow a route around the town and describe the various stopping points. This book will prove invaluable to both long term residents and relative newcomers to the town as it sets the history and the heritage of Bicester in to context.

Miss Dannatt's study of wills and inventories, relating to Bicester up to 1857, form a fascinating study of the lives of ordinary residents of the town at the time. The trades and occupations listed shed light on the economic structure of Bicester and the social fabric of the times. '*Bicester in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*' reveals that many of the residents were the ancestors of families still living in the town today.



CONTINUITY AND CHANGE IN AN OXFORDSHIRE MARKET TOWN:
BICESTER 1801-1861



ROBERT PARKINSON
KILLOGG COLLEGE, OXFORD

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENGLISH LOCAL HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 2007

Continuity and Change in an Oxfordshire Market Town; Bicester 1801-1861' is as yet an unpublished study written by a former Chairman of Bicester Local History Society, Robert Parkinson. The paper considers the conditions that threatened administrative and economic systems in the area during a period of dramatic change. The reform of the political system at a national and local level and the development of technological innovation impacted on the community and brought about changes in public health provision, fashion, architecture and established institutions of the period.

