

Illustrated below are a number of local history books that are relevant to villages within a six mile radius of Bicester. Most concentrate on the story of individual villages although a number contain studies of more than one settlement in the area.



David Green's book *'In the Wake of Ambrosius'* explores the history of the Upper Ray Valley and includes studies of Ambrosden, Arcott, Blackthorn and Merton and the area bordering on Otmoor.

*'Villages of Banburyshire'* by Martin Greenwood concentrates on settlements to the north west of Bicester with descriptions of Cottisford, Fringford, Fritwell, Juniper Hill and Lower Heyford.

Vanadia Humphries *'Memories of Bletchington'* is a survey of the village from pre-history to the present and describes many of the characters associated with the village.

*'The Bucknell Millennium Book'* was written to celebrate the turn of the millennium and describes aspects of village life at various times in its history.

Michael Nicholson grew up in Bucknell and his book *'The Long Straw'* describes his life and adventures during his lifetime.



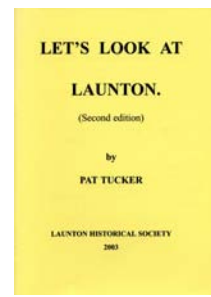
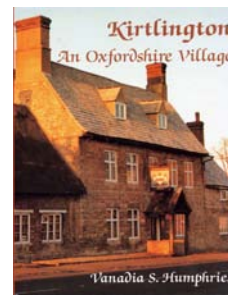
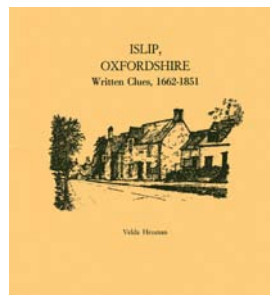
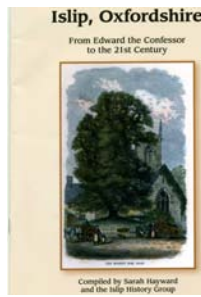
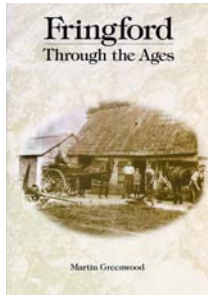
*'Chesterton – An Oxfordshire Village at the Millennium'* reviews village life within living memory and describes the Roman town of Alchester which is located in the parish.

Ted and Joan Flaxman examine many of the vanished aspects of village life in *'Cottisford Revisited'*.

*'The World of Flora Thompson'* written by Christine Bloxham is set within the context of what life was like for the author of 'Lark Rise to Candleford' as she grew up in Juniper Hill, Cottisford and Fringford in the early 1900s.

The authors of *'Aspects of Evenley'* produced a concise history of their village at key moments in its development.

A *'History of Finmere'* was part of the series of local histories penned by Rev. J. C. Blomfield in 1887 and revised by the Finmere and Little Tingewick Historical Society in 1998.



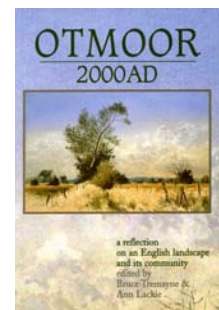
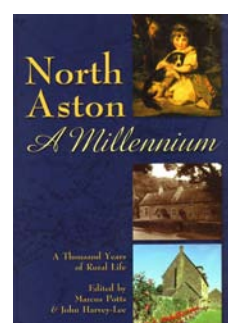
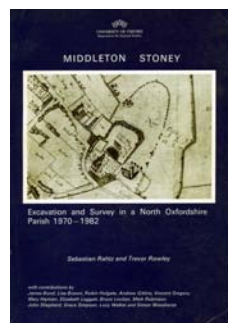
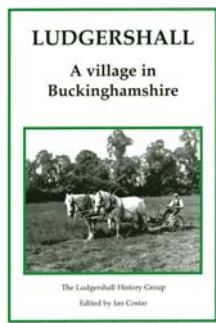
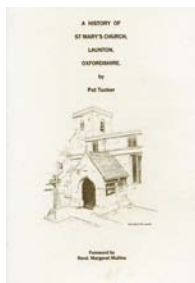
Martin Greenwood tapped into the memories of local villagers to produce *'Fringford Through the Ages'* which studies lifestyle and traditions in the village that was the model for Flora Thompson's *'Candleford Green'*.

*'Islip, Oxfordshire'* was produced as a result of celebrations to mark the death of Edward the Confessor and traces village life from Saxon times to the present.

Velda Henman penned *'Islip, Oxfordshire Written Clues, 1662-1851'* to examine economic and social changes during the two hundred year period of the village's history.

*'Kirtlington an Oxfordshire Village'* is a study by Vanadia Humphries of the history of the village throughout a variety of historical periods.

Pat Tucker published *'Let's Look at Launton'* in 1985 as a guide to the locations and events that have figured prominently in the village's history.



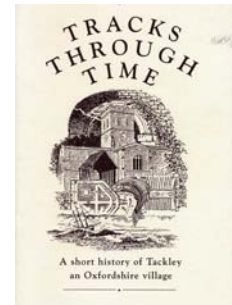
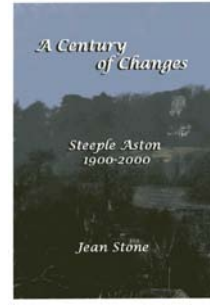
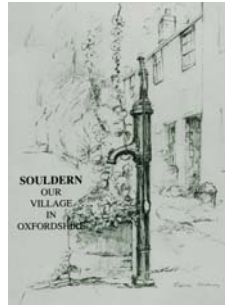
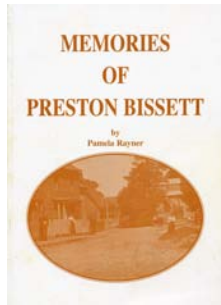
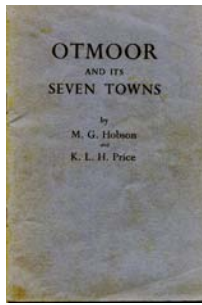
*'A History of St Mary's Church, Launton, Oxfordshire'* by Pat Tucker explores the history of the local parish church and those who have been associated with it over the past centuries.

The Ludgershall History Group produced *'Ludgershall a village in Buckinghamshire'* in 2003 to celebrate the history of the village and to recall memories of many of the characters who lived there.

The excavation of Middleton Stoney Castle and the development of the village is described in *'Middleton Stoney: Excavation and Survey in a North Oxfordshire Parish 1970-1982'*.

*'North Aston A Millennium'* provides a comprehensive survey of the parish nestling above the River Cherwell to the west of Bicester.

The unique topography and historic character of Otmoor is examined in *'Otmoor 2000 AD'* which reveals how social and economic forces have shaped the present landscape.



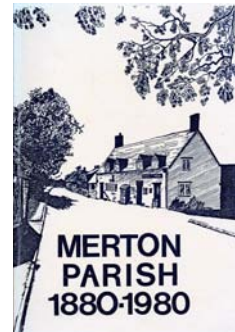
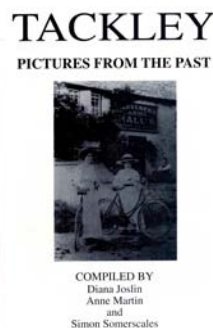
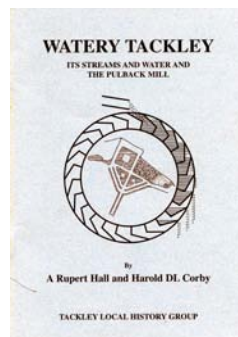
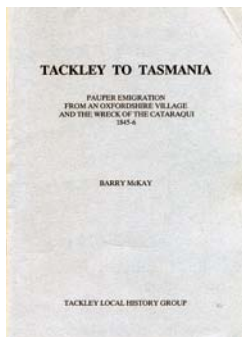
'*Otmoor and its Seven Towns*' paints an historic picture of the landscape and events that shaped its present form as well as describe the villages of Beckley, Noke, Oddington, Charlton-on-Otmoor, Fencott, Murcott and Horton-cum-Studley.

A miscellany of local village memories is recorded in '*Memories of Preston Bissett*' including local institutions and family histories.

'*Souldern Our Village in Oxfordshire*' is a well researched and illustrated book that chronicles the events and people connected with the village over the past century.

The events of the last century are recorded in the concise account '*A Century of Changes – Steeple Aston 1900-2000*'.

Tackley Local History Group published '*Tracks through Time*', a survey of the local history of the village from pre-historic times until the present.



Pauper emigration from the Oxfordshire village is the subject covered in the book '*Tackley to Tasmania*' and the tragic wreck of the *Cataraqui* on her voyage to Australia 1845-1846.

'*Watery Tackley*' explores the streams, water courses, fish ponds and bygone watermills situated within the Parish of Tackley.

The collection of images contained in '*Tackley: Pictures from the Past*' illustrate bygone times in the parish.

Jill Wishart wrote '*Merton Parish 1880-1980*' to highlight the unique nature of village life in a small Oxfordshire settlement through a study of parish records.