

BOOK REVIEW

NORTH CURRY - *A Place in History* by Angela Dix

This is a substantial book which sets the history of North Curry in the context of English history. Not content as are many local historians to begin with the Domesday book the author takes us far back into prehistory to provide an understanding of the environment that shaped the settlement. This is a work based on an extraordinary amount of detailed research and a knowledge of the area.

The book is profusely illustrated with maps and drawings as well as many photographs. There are also copious extracts from documents including rentals, deeds and court records.

The book opens with a broad sweep of history with timelines relating North Curry's history to national events. It then continues by examining various themes in the history of North Curry before looking closely at some of the many surviving records.

This is an invaluable book not only to everyone who knows North Curry but for those who might be thinking of embarking on a history of their own community. It covers all aspects of the parish's history using a wealth of sources. There are fascinating accounts of the Reeve's Feast, North Curry's many fine houses, and local families. For those who are not familiar with them there is a detailed examination of North Curry's parish records as well as a discussion of trade directories, censuses and maps.

Several substantial appendices complete the volume with information drawn from the county Historic Environment Record and a large glossary. The work is rounded off with a very valuable bibliography, a comprehensive index, and an index of surnames which will be invaluable to genealogists. It is a book which deserves to be on the bookshelves of every resident of North Curry.

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