



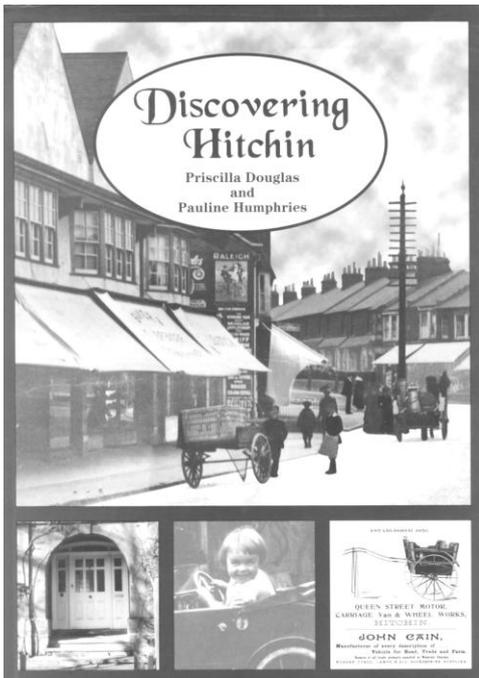
**Hitchin
Historical
Society**

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Newsletter

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Supplement – The Publications Team

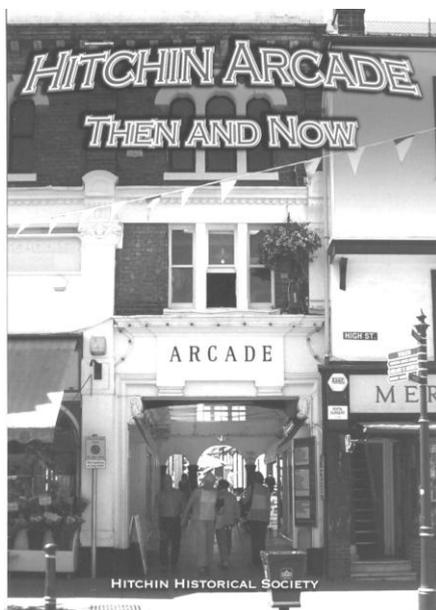


From its beginnings in 1977 Hitchin Historical Society published pamphlets and short guides and, in 1987, the very successful *Market Town: Hitchin in the Nineteenth Century* by our first Chairman, Anthony Foster. In 1995 *Discovering Hitchin* by Scilla Douglas and Pauline Humphries took publications to a new level, setting a standard which has been sustained ever since. During that time Scilla and Pauline, as well as continuing as authors, have been key members of the Publications Team. This year, the twentieth anniversary of the publication of *Discovering Hitchin*, these two HHS ‘grandes dames’ have decided to hand over the reins of this thoroughbred enterprise to new blood. *The Physic Garden in Hitchin* is to be the last Society publication guided, driven, cajoled and expertly brought to life by the present Publications Team.

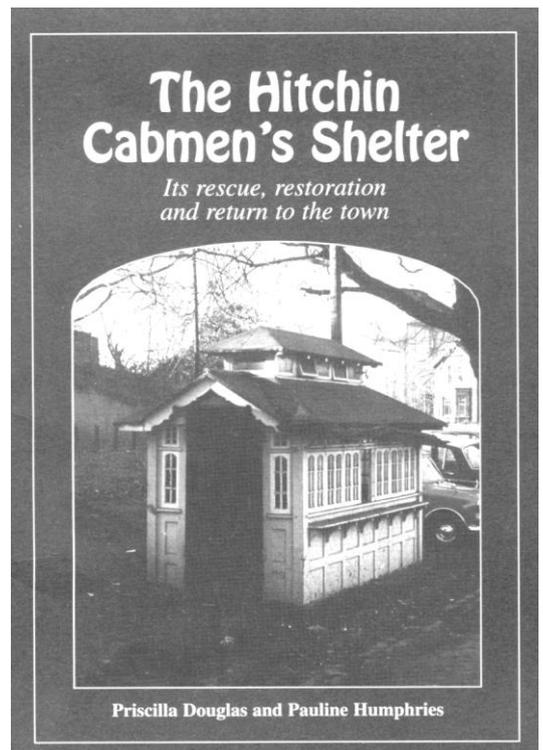
Hitchin Historical Society is perhaps unique among similar organisations, in terms of both the quantity and the quality of its publications. The range of subject matter and the number of different authors is remarkable. We are truly fortunate to have such dedicated and hard-working people prepared to put in many hours of work into each book, guide, leaflet, CD and DVD. Our authors all come to understand and appreciate that their own prodigious labours would come to nothing without the Publications Team directing their efforts in research, finding appropriate sources, helping with

style of both writing and layout, handling all the technical requirements for printing, organising publicity, a launch and finally distribution of the finished product.

This last, crucial piece of the jigsaw was, until some years ago, also something Pauline alone undertook – her shopping trolley full of books destined for retailers or the post office becoming a familiar sight in the town! Since Pauline handed over that task, it has been the responsibility of Vicki Lockyer, who has carried on the tradition with enthusiasm and aplomb (minus shopping trolley) but who will also be retiring from the team after our next AGM in March 2016.



The team could not, even with their consummate skills, provide us with such high quality publications without the backing of a large number of other Society members, from those who proof-read manuscripts, sometimes several times over, to those who blow up balloons and serve canapés and drinks at launches. We must not lose sight of the debt we owe Scilla, Pauline, Vicki, and all the others who have made this aspect of Hitchin Historical Society so successful.



Yours will be a hard act to follow – we thank you all.