

Book Review

Stephen Barker

'SEVENTY YEARS BACK' BY WILLIAM WEBB

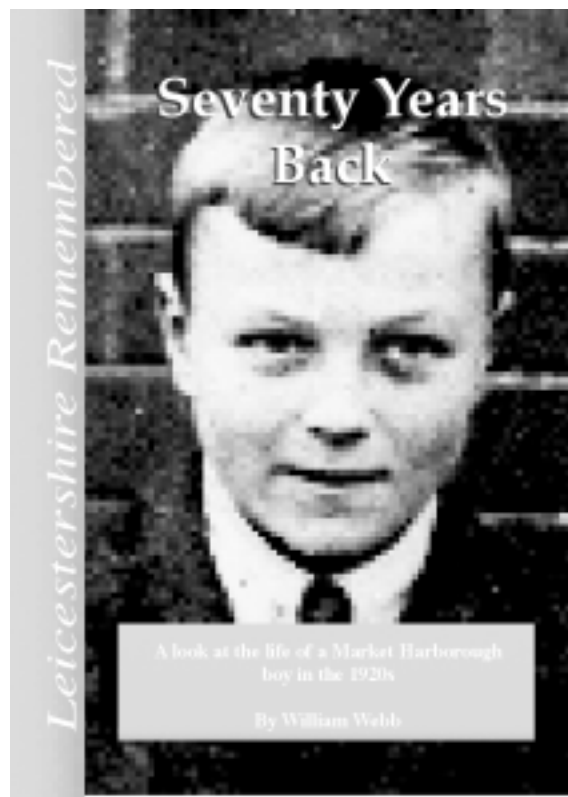
LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS, ARTS & RECORDS SERVICE, 1996. 48PP, £4.75. ISBN 085-022-4012

Mr Webb writes of his childhood in Harborough in the 1920s, and does so with a freshness of vision, and an accuracy of observation, that raise this book above the general run of memoirs. Although it is full of period detail, in many ways it harks back to earlier eras, with descriptions of playing tipcat, and running down the streets with hoops, driving cattle to the market, and sharing baked hedgehog with a Romany couple.

Carefully edited by Steph Mastoris, and pleasingly produced by Design & Co., this book should delight all who read it.



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'NORTHAMPTONSHIRE IN THE EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY - THE DRAWINGS OF PETER TILLEMANS AND OTHERS'. EDITED BY BRUCE A. BAILEY.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY VOLUME XXXIX 1993-4. 221PP, £20.

Northamptonshire is fortunate in having a Record Society with the vision and resources to produce such a fine publication. In doing so they accomplish a project left unfinished in the 18th century, for Peter Tillemans and several other artists were commissioned by John Bridges in 1719 to provide a comprehensive record of the buildings and monuments of the county. Only a few of these were eventually reproduced as engravings when Bridges History was published in 1791, but luckily 269 ink and wash drawings survive in the British Library and they are beautifully reproduced in this volume. The notes on the dust jacket suggest that they form the finest visual record of any county for their period and there seems no reason to, dispute this. Highly enjoyable as works of art, they are also an invaluable source of historical reference