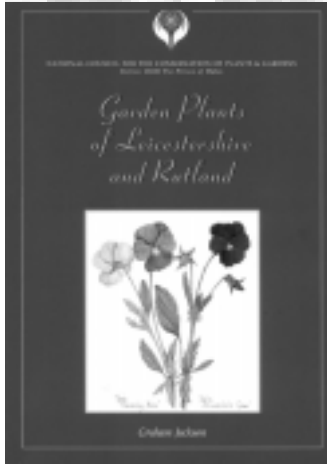


Book Review

Stephen Barker

Garden Plants of Leicestershire and Rutland
by Graham Jackson 1999. 128pp. £7.50. ISBN 0 9533875 1 8
National Council for the Conservation of Plants & Gardens



This is not a book of gardening history but does include a considerable amount of history relating to plantsmen, growers, plant hunters and plant societies that have connections with Leicestershire and Rutland.

In the book are lists of the plants that have associations with the two counties, this includes species being grown and developed by modern growers.

Of particular local interest are entries on the Reverend William Hanbury, who was Rector of Church Langton. Besides planting trees to raise money for charitable purposes, he wrote a book, 'A Complete Body of Planting and Gardening', which gave advice to florists.

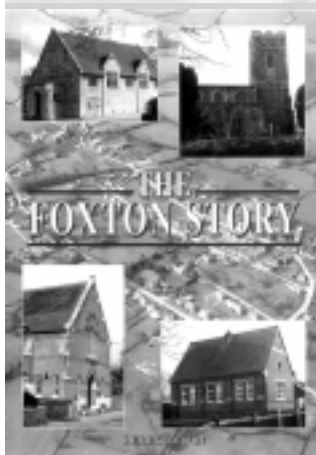
A florist was the name given to those who cultivated specific flowers. The earliest Florist Society in Leicestershire was the Leicester Society of Florists from 1750s. In 1830 a society was formed in Kibworth Harcourt. The societies would hold regular competitions for the auriculas and polyanthuses, which were the plants they specialised in.

The book is handsomely produced, with illustrations from old catalogues and advertisements. There are a number of colour plates comprising botanical illustrations and photographs of modern plants.

At the back of the book are useful addresses for plant societies and of plants and seeds.

I would recommend this to anyone who has an interest in plants and history.

The Foxton Story by Derek Lewin 2000. 148pp. £7.95. ISBN 0 9538389 1 9
Magnolia House, Main Street, Foxton



This new publication covers the history of the village of Foxton. The book is arranged in chronological order, from its origins to present day. Not surprisingly the period from the nineteenth century to the present day is most strongly featured.

One of the strengths of the book is the involvement of the author and his family in the life of the village over the last hundred years. This has enabled Mr Lewin to bring personal reflections to bear and to provide insight into the life of the village that a local historian working from documents cannot bring.

Within the book are chapters on the Canal at Foxton, Parson Dove, the hunting Parson from the nineteenth century, the Stain's Bridge Murder and the airfield, which is now the site of Gartree Prison. The latter I found particularly interesting as it provided an interesting insight to a piece of local history, which is not widely recorded.

Despite one or two flaws, this is a useful and interesting book.

