**Recent Publications**

A still-challenging 2021 brought two new volumes in the revised *Buildings of England* series and a new way to celebrate publication day.

**County Durham.** One of England’s least-known but most rewarding counties, County Durham has been re-surveyed by Martin Roberts. Flanked by the rivers Tyne and Tees, the county boasts Durham Cathedral, located unforgottably alongside Durham Castle on the cliff tops above the River Wear. Exceptionally rich in Anglo-Saxon churches and sculpture, the county features the legacy of the brilliant culture of the age of Bede. Many of Durham’s extraordinary castles remain inhabited, with palatial interiors from the Georgian and Victorian periods. In addition to fine gentry houses and stone-built market towns, wild Pennine landscapes and a coastline now largely restored to its natural beauty, the county also reveals the legacy of historic industries, including early railway buildings, collieries, and lead mines; plus a new generation of innovative buildings for culture and education at Gateshead and Sunderland.

**Wiltshire.** Julian Orbach, revising author of *Somerset: South and West*, has now updated and expanded the volume on the adjacent county, last revised in 1975. From prehistoric Stonehenge and thirteenth-century Salisbury Cathedral and Close to Elizabethan Longleat, Palladian Wilton and the landscape gardens of Stourhead, Wiltshire presents the best of every period of English architecture. Towns and villages range from Marlborough with its sweeping high street to the exceptionally well-preserved streets of Lacock, and Avebury, where famously the houses sit within the prehistoric stone circle. The new guide surveys buildings ranging from great clothiers’ houses at Bradford-on-Avon to high-tech car plants at Swindon, and will also remind readers of the riches in the churches of the many smaller villages across the rolling landscape – including Clyffe Pypard, where Pevsner had his country cottage.

**Pevsners and the pandemic: new online book launches**

After the disruption to our publication schedules caused by the pandemic in 2020 we were delighted to be able to launch two titles in 2021: *County Durham* and *Wiltshire*. The first was marked by our first-ever virtual launch, in the form of a discussion between the author, Martin Roberts, and his editor, Simon Bradley. Each were speaking from home during lockdown. By the time Wiltshire was published, restrictions had eased a little, allowing an ‘in conversation’ online event between Julian Orbach and Charles O’Brien, delivered together from the office at Bedford Square. This concluded with a contribution from James O. Davies, photographer for many of the recent volumes, explaining the techniques he uses to achieve his memorable pictures. Both events were very well attended, reaching an audience far beyond these shores, and we are grateful to Martin Postle and Mark Hallett of the Paul Mellon Centre for chairing each event and fielding their questions. We look forward to repeating them for the forthcoming titles.

Both events were recorded, and can be found here if you missed them: www.paul-mellon-centre.ac.uk/whats-on/pevsner-events

As restrictions lifted further, we were also able to launch Wiltshire in the traditional way, with drinks in the gardens of Marlborough College taking advantage of some of the rare fine weather this summer.

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**Pevsner on social media**

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Birmingham and the Black Country. Andy Foster, author of the acclaimed City Guide to Birmingham, presents an updated and expanded survey of the entire urban region, covering parts of the historic counties of Warwickshire, Staffordshire and Worcestershire. Birmingham’s diverse suburbs are explored in full, as are the more rural areas around Solihull. Separate sections cover the four Black Country boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. The area is especially rich in Victorian and Edwardian architecture; even small Black Country towns supported local architects with their own distinctive styles, and the Arts and Crafts tradition established deep local roots. Older buildings of national significance include the Jacobean mansion of Aston Hall, Thomas Archer’s Birmingham Cathedral, and Soane’s unique neoclassical barn in Solihull.

Surrey, originally published in 1962, was the first Buildings of England volume that Pevsner shared with another author, and Ian Nairn’s brilliant, provocative descriptions have been treasured by many ever since. For centuries Surrey has been the playground for London, and home to thousands of its commuters. Yet much of the county is still deep, wooded and remote. This revised edition brings new information on its major historic buildings – Waverley Abbey, Farnham Castle and Loseley among others – and fresh appreciation of the twentieth century, including its principal monument, Guildford’s Cathedral. To the fore is Surrey’s domestic architecture, from medieval farmhouses to Edwardian businessmen’s houses across the Surrey Hills, designed most famously by Norman Shaw, Lutyens and the disciples of the Arts and Crafts movement, and high-class private estates in the commuter towns. Much more is covered along the way, from Georgian designed landscapes to military cemeteries, and from lime kilns to lunatic asylums.

2022 will see publication of the first Buildings volume for the Isle of Man. The island has had many incarnations: as a land of Celtic monks, the realm of the Norse sea-kings, the petty kingdom of the Earls of Derby, a nest of Georgian smugglers, the retreat of genteel Regency debtors, a destination for North Country holidaymakers, and more recently a ‘financial centre’. All have left their mark on its architecture, from early crosses and medieval castles to the domestic architecture of M.H. Baillie Scott via thatched cottages and promenades of stuccoed hotels. Drawing on much original research, the new volume will give this unique inheritance its due for the first time.

A reminder that the cover prices of new Buildings volumes are £45 and will be kept at this price for at least one year from the date of publication. Backlist volumes are priced at £60.