

Life in East Bridgford

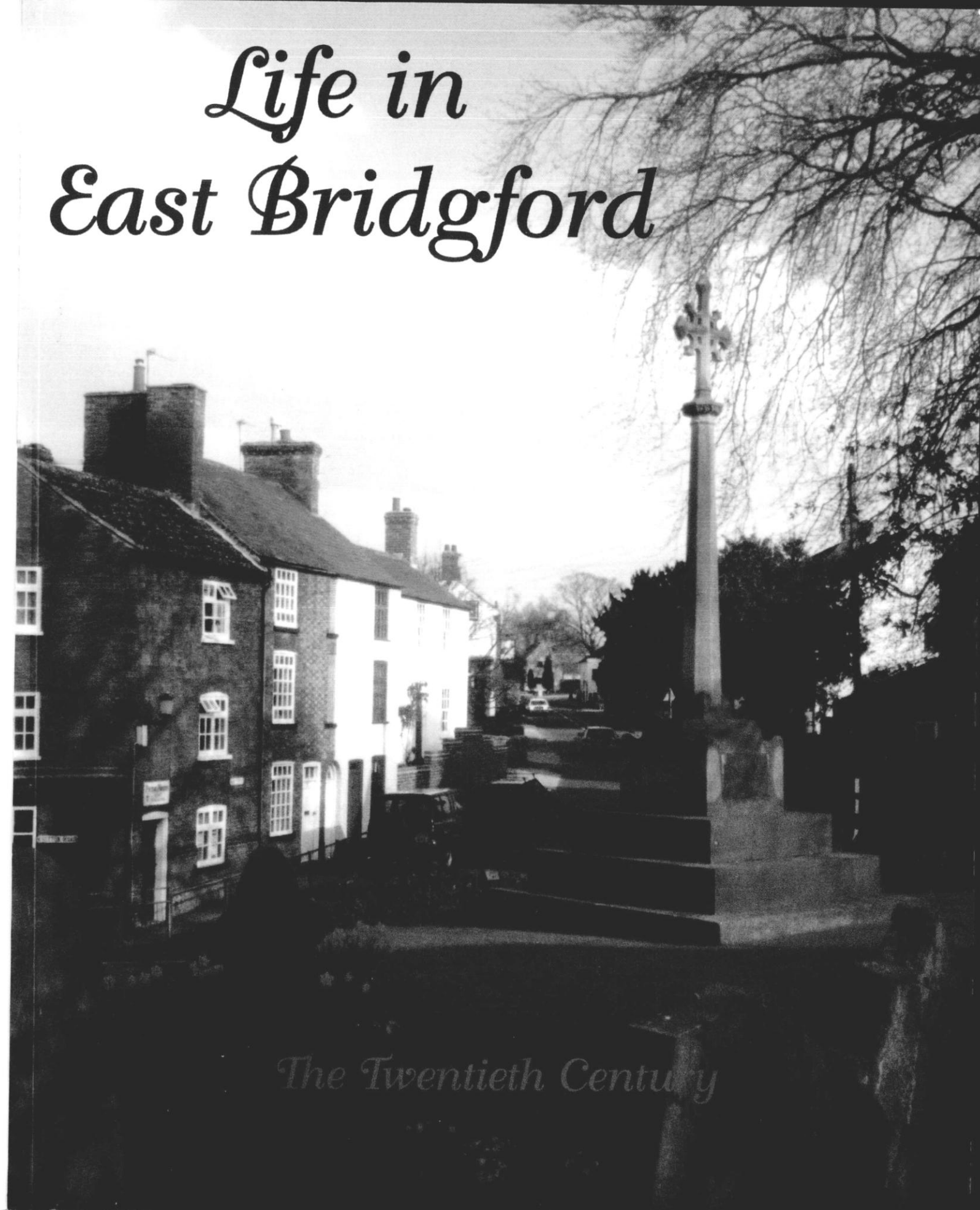
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The Twentieth Century

*Life in
East Bridgford*

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East Bridgford Local History Group

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the memory of
Isabel N Francis
a founder member of the History Group who
wrote one of the chapters of this book prior
to her death in June 2002.

Foreword

In 1932, the Rev. Arthur Du Boulay Hill, Rector from 1898 – 1927, wrote 'East Bridgford. The Story of an English Village'. It is a monumental tome of 220 pages, striking a balance between well researched scholarship and anecdotal reminiscences. It was the author's hope that his readers would find it of interest and advantage to possess this record of East Bridgford in the past.

Since this publication, numerous slimmer volumes have been published related to the Church, the Village Hall, the School, the life and landscape of east Bridgford and, most recently, 'Shared memories of a village community'. Now, once more, we have a major work covering life in the village during the 20th Century. It is a compilation of essays which are the result of painstaking research and, as with Du Boulay Hill, material based upon the reminiscences of eyewitnesses.

We are deeply indebted to the members of the East Bridgford Local History Group for their vision and literary skills. They have provided us with not so much a history, but a sketch map of a journey through the years of the last century. I commend their efforts to you with warmth and enthusiasm.

Canon Alan Haydock

Funding

The cost of printing this book has been covered by a very generous grant from the Millennium Festival Awards for All Scheme and we thank their officers for their support. As a result of the grant a copy of the book has been presented to every household in the village of East Bridgford and other copies supplied to St. Peter's School and to the County Library Service.

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Introduction & Acknowledgements

East Bridgford is a village with its roots steeped in history. Our church has foundations dating from the Saxon period, we have the site of an early, small Roman town in the parish and it is highly likely that our village has been continuously occupied since about 80AD. It is even possible that, with our position overlooking a ford on the River Trent, our history goes back even further.

This book does not attempt to cover such a broad span. Instead we have focussed on the 20th Century, and in particular we have attempted to portray what life in East Bridgford was like during that period. Our aim was to show the physical changes to the village and the development of the community through the century. One advantage of this approach was that we had access to the relatively recent written records. Even more importantly we have been able to draw upon the memories of many villagers who have lived through much of the period.

It is very difficult for those of us living at the start of the new century (and millennium) to imagine what life was like in the early years of the last century. Many of the facilities that we take for granted, for example television, radio, and the motorcar, had not been invented. Mains water, sewers to take waste water away, electricity and gas did not arrive until the second quarter of the century. While you read this book try to put yourself into the position of one of our 'senior citizens' to imagine the changes they have seen and the impact on their lives. As you do so you will note not only the changes, but also hopefully, those aspects of life today that are directly descended from life many years ago.

This book is a group effort by Lynne Black, Dot Crawford, Tony Ford, Isabel Francis, Nigel Lawrence, Graham Lomax, Keith Maywhort, Alison and Garth Powell, Tim Rogers and Bill Whitaker. Each contributed in an area where they have a particular interest or knowledge, but we take collective responsibility. We gratefully acknowledge the work of all the village historians who have preceded us; their work has provided us with irreplaceable sources of reference. We would also like to acknowledge the invaluable material obtained from our Village Magazine. It is to be hoped that villagers will continue to record their activities through its pages. It is truly a "living history" of our village.

We are particularly grateful to all those villagers who have helped us, either by contributing their memories, or specialist expertise, or by the loan of photographs and documents. Finally we would also like to acknowledge the support we have received from our long-suffering spouses and families whilst this book was in preparation.