



Price: £19.99

ISBN: 978 1 84114 626 3

Format: Hardback, 160 pages,
297x210mm, profusely illustrated
with mono images throughout

Imprint: Halsgrove

Published: Oct 2008

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THE BOOK OF TIVERTON

AT THE HEART OF DEVON

Charles Noon

The *Book of Tiverton* celebrates the life of a community at the heart of Devon affairs for centuries. Beginning as a small settlement huddled around the Castle and St Peter's Church, Tiverton's growth exploded in the 1500s when it became one of the great centres of the wool trade and home to a series of wealthy merchants whose names live on in many a town landmark to this day: Greenway, Waldron, Slee and Blundell. In the nineteenth century, Tiverton's cloth-making tradition continued with the foundation of Heathcoat's, which still figures prominently in the life of the town. But through it all Tiverton remained an important centre for the surrounding villages, a true market town.

Charles Noon looks at all the aspects of Tiverton's rich – and sometimes riotous – past. But he focuses especially on the people of the town – their schools, their work and their pastimes – through the twentieth century. Two world wars and economic upheaval caused huge changes both in the daily life of Tiverton's residents and in the town's very appearance, and Charles Noon records this in fine detail with more than 200 evocative and nostalgic photographs

Charles Noon has already written two books for Halsgrove, a biography of Rev. Jack Russell and *The Book of Blundell's*. Both have been sell outs and the former is in its second edition. He taught History at Blundell's for many years and was the last Councillor elected to the former Borough of Tiverton. He has always believed that the past should be taught or told relevantly and interestingly.

Most of the photographs have come from the Tiverton Museum collection, others have been donated by well wishers.



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