



Price: £19.99

ISBN: 978 1 84114 799 4

Format: Hardback, 297x210mm, 160 pages
profusely illustrated with mono
images plus 16 pages illustrated in
full colour

Imprint: Halsgrove

Published: Oct 2008

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THE BOOK OF WEST COKER

A PICTORIAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF A SOMERSET VILLAGE
AND ITS PEOPLE

David Shorey with Michael & Nadine Dodge

The village of West Coker has straddled what has been, most of the time, the main highway from London to Exeter since the fifteenth century. The village enjoys a lively community spirit that involves both the many long established families and those more recent occupants arriving as the village has progressively expanded.

For a village of its size it has a surprising number of large grand houses including a fine medieval Manor House and numerous original smaller houses and cottages, many built with the lovely mellow hamstone cut from the local Ham Hill quarry.

During its long history the village has had no great claim to fame but a settlement has existed since pre Roman times and through the passing centuries has relied on agriculture, the manufacture of ships canvas, twine and gloving for its survival.

Today many branches of past families and even those of more recent times who have moved on to new pastures, still retain a special fondness for the place of their birth and will no doubt delight in seeing their family names and the many faces they will recognize along with the inevitable memories that this will bring to them.

David Shorey was born in West Coker in 1941 and this book is the realization of an ambition he has had since he was a pupil at Yeovil Boys Grammar School in 1954.

He has been assisted by fellow 'Cokerites' **Michael and Nadine Dodge** who have been collecting West Coker memorabilia to jointly produce this permanent pictorial history of the village and its people.

The book contains over 400 photographs and other related items giving a unique insight how this special village has evolved and what life was like during the last hundred and fifty years.



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