

WEST SOMERSET IN THE NEWS

Jeff Cox

In July 1860, when a Williton printer, Samuel Cox, launched the *West Somerset Free Press*, the district was about to experience rapid and exciting change. Progress was in the air and since this first edition, the *Free Press* has, decade by decade, faithfully reported the characters and events that have shaped the district. *West Somerset in the News* for the first time brings these stories together, with authentic extracts and illustrations from the pages of the *Free Press*, giving fresh insight and detail to well-known stories, and uncovering fascinating new stories which have long been forgotten.

West Somerset in the News reports on the big developments of the time, the arrival of the railways in Victorian times, the natural disasters at Watchet and Lynmouth, the battles both to develop and to preserve Exmoor, the hopes and fears for the nuclear plants at Hinkley.

It also reveals fresh details about:

- how Mrs Pankhurst and her 'Votes for Women' Suffragettes swept into West Somerset in 1911
- the great hopes for the West Somerset Oilfield in the 1920s
- how the world waited to see how West Somerset would vote on the best way to confront Hitler ...and, of course, the *Free Press* 'exclusive', the Norman Scott case, which led to the former Liberal Party leader Jeremy Thorpe appearing in court in Minehead, charged with conspiracy to murder.

With more than 200 fascinating and evocative illustrations *West Somerset In The News* re-discovers great stories long forgotten, the madcap and the solemn, the intriguing and the frivolous, to paint a vivid portrait of life over a century and a half.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jeff Cox is the great-great grandson of the printer Samuel Cox, who launched the *Free Press* in 1860, and the son of Norman Cox, the last of the family to edit the paper. Jeff has been a journalist all his life, working in Williton on the *Free Press* in the late 1970s, before moving to the BBC in London. He now specialises in the coverage of foreign news for the BBC's television and radio news bulletins.

HALSGROVE CATALOGUE

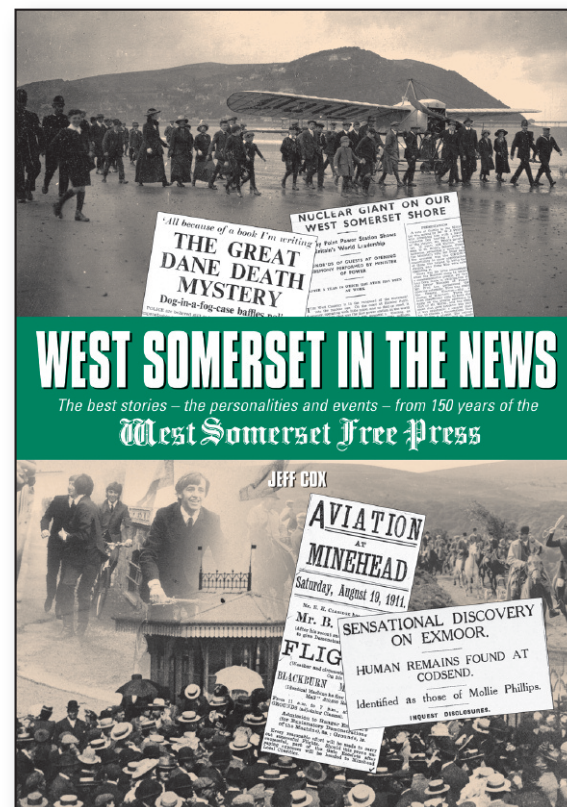
The full Halsgrove catalogue is available free or visit www.halsgrove.com for regional and category listings of available titles.

Trade sales:

Helen Deakin – DDI 01823 653772
helend@halsgrove.com

Halsgrove Publishing
Halsgrove House,
Ryelands Industrial Estate,
Bagley Road, Wellington,
Somerset TA21 9PZ
Tel: 01823 653777
Fax: 01823 216796
www.halsgrove.com
e-mail: sales@halsgrove.com

HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



Format: Hardback, 160 pages, A4, profusely illustrated in black and white throughout.

Price: £19.99

ISBN: 978 1 906551 09 4

Imprint: Ryelands

Published: May 2010



Great Books from your Local Bookseller

