

THE BOOK OF HEMYOCK

DIAMOND JUBILEE EDITION

Brian Clist and Chris Dracott

Hemyock is situated on the River Culm in the heart of the Blackdown Hills. It has a church that dates back to Norman days, a medieval castle, an Elizabethan Chapel at Culm Davy and a pub that dates back to at least 1740.

Until the mid 1970s Hemyock was the terminus of the Culm Valley Light Railway Branch Line. The village was also home for a butter/milk factory which was founded in 1886 by four local men and ended its days as a St Ivel factory in 2000. Hemyock is a thriving village with a number of shops and a garage – and it is still lucky enough to have its own Post Office. At Longmead Field there are excellent sport and games facilities, including two football pitches, three tennis courts (two floodlit), a multi games area and an excellent pavilion. In addition there is a bowling green in the village and cricket is still played on the recreation field in the summer.

First published in 2003 and quickly sold out, this new edition of *The Book of Hemyock*, published to coincide with the Diamond Jubilee, brings the story of the community fully up to date. A new section highlights what has happened since the book was first issued and recent images also capture how the Jubilee was celebrated. In the past decade a number of new homes have been built throughout the village at various locations. One garage has been replaced by housing and the population has considerably increased. But the village remains a vibrant community with numerous activities including the Hemyock History and Archiving Group. This unique publication is a vital record of the history and inhabitants of the ancient parish of Hemyock, presented in a single volume for all to treasure.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

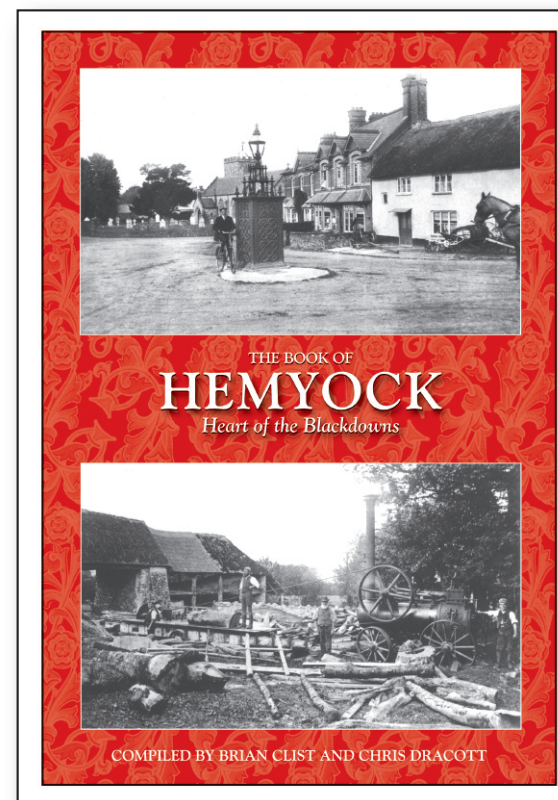
Brian Clist's family have farmed in Hemyock since the mid 1700s. He was educated at Hemyock School, Tiverton Grammar School and Bristol University and was a parish councillor for over forty years and Chairman for much of that time. In 1986 with Chris Dracott, he wrote a booklet commemorating the centenary of the Hemyock Milk Factory and in 2010 he published *Make Hay While the Sun Shines*. Chris Dracott and his wife first came to Hemyock in 1979. He served as a detective in the Metropolitan Police and for much of his career worked at New Scotland Yard. He retired as a Detective Chief Superintendent in 1983. He is co-author of *John Graves Simcoe 1752-1806: A Biography*, published in 1998 which received a Devon Book of the Year Award from the Devon History Society.

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A Scout meeting in the Church Rooms, 1967.



The last passenger train to leave Hemyock, 9 September 1963.



The Coronation Committee, by the newly erected Hemyock Pump on 14 August 1902.

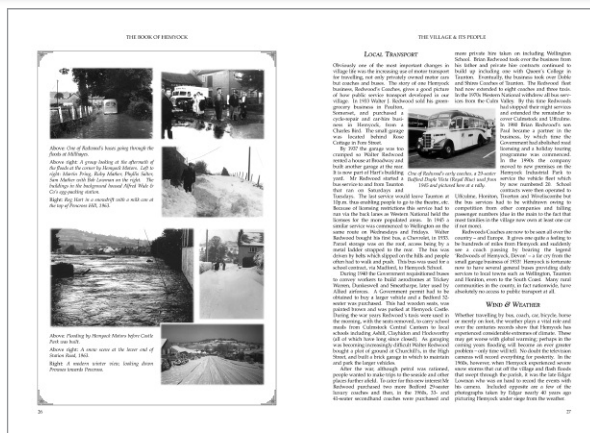
Right: A selection of the shorthorn calves after distribution in Hemyock Market which was behind what is now the Catherine Wheel.



Below: 1st prize in the 1987 carnival.



Example of a double-page spread.



The congregation take cover at the open air service, Diamond Jubilee celebrations, June 2012.