

THE BOOK OF SHERBORNE & CASTLETON

REVISED REPRINT

Rodney Legg

Gold is the colour of Sherborne stone and there is a rich history to match. By AD705 it had the earliest cathedral in the West Country, and it remains Dorset's principal ecclesiastical town. The Anglo-Saxon cathedral became Sherborne Abbey, now the Parish Church, which equals Corfe Castle in status as joint first winner of the accolade for the most important building in the county.

Sherborne School has shared the Abbey complex since the reign of Henry VIII. Snow 'deep and crisp and even' inspired an old Shirburnian to pen the familiar line in the carol 'Good King Wenceslas'. The town has two castles – the first used by Sir Walter Raleigh and the second by William of Orange. The town, its scholars and forces made sacrifices during the Second World War. Bombing, almost all of which occurred one afternoon, caused devastation on an unprecedented scale. This book tells the story of Sherborne through the ages, in times of hardship and poverty, wealth and prosperity.

First published in 2004 and now re-issued for the first time, this classic study evokes brilliantly the colourful tapestry of Sherborne's incomparable history.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

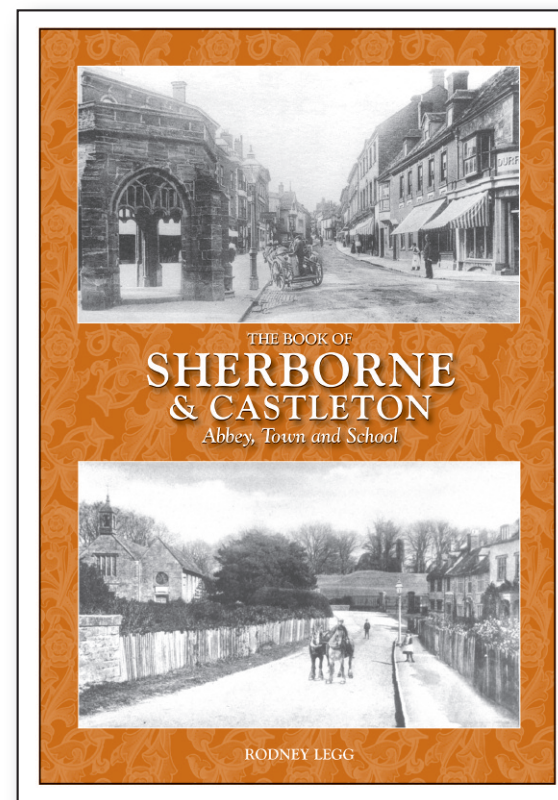
Rodney Legg founded *Dorset County Magazine* and moved from Bournemouth to Milborne Port in 1968. He became a Sherborne addict and his writings soon expanded from journalism into archaeological and countryside books, mostly about the county, which by the late 1990s had made him Dorset's premier living historian. Much of his research, for works such as *Dorset's War Diary*, was achieved through interviews of survivors and witnesses. Living locally, he was a keen photographer and environmentalist. Nationally, he was chairman of the Open Spaces Society, and was a member of the Ruling Council of the National Trust from 1990 until 2009. Rodney Legg died in 2011.

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Fincken's corn and seed merchants, on the east side of Cheap Street, in 1900.



Sherborne Park waterfall – known as the Cascade – in 1905.



Right: Officer cadets at Sherborne School defending the Chapel steps before departing for the First World War.

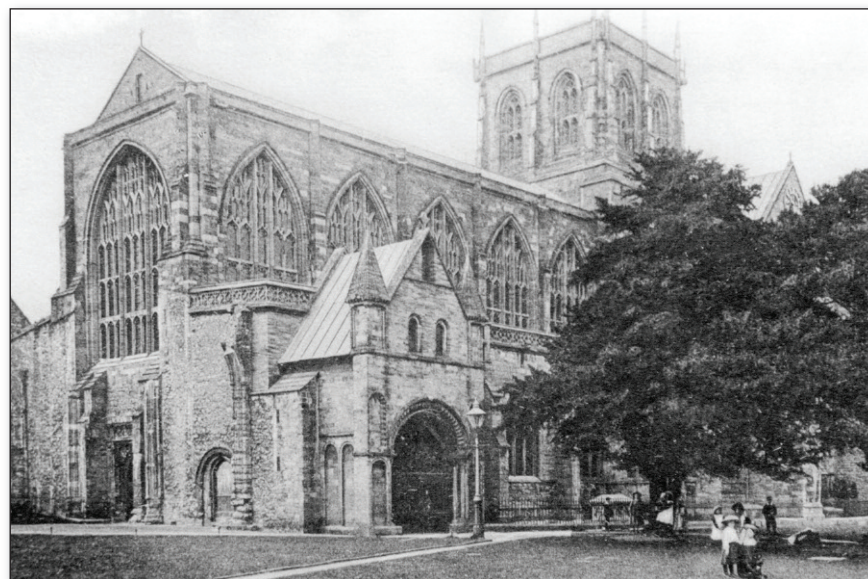
Below: Bandstand in Pageant Gardens.



Example of a double-page spread.



Children at Foster's Infants School in Newland had just gone home when the Luftwaffe visited Sherborne on 30 September 1940.



Edwardian view of Sherborne Abbey, from the south-west.