

The Thames Valley: Past, Present and Future – A Snapshot of English Life

By Jim Donahue

Written and photographed by an American who moved to the UK as an adult, *The Thames Valley: Past, Present and Future – A Snapshot of English Life*, shines a fresh light on some of the wonderful things about living in the Thames Valley, especially the area's rich and fascinating history, its vibrant community life and the exceptional beauty of its countryside. Not that everything is perfect. The book also provides rare insights into some of the many challenges Thames Valley communities have been facing in recent years.

The book is divided into two parts:

- **Part 1:** The Past - A Timeline of Thames Valley History: The history of the Thames Valley as a region is told for the first time with fascinating stories of some of the most influential men, women, events and places that have made this area such a strategically important part of England for more than 5000 years.
- **Part 2:** The Present and Future - Community Life and Future Challenges: The author takes a 75-mile journey along the meandering river from Windsor to Oxford to give the reader a feel for what it is like to live in the Thames Valley today. The case studies in this section both celebrate the area's active community life and explore key challenges communities are facing. By better understanding some of the most important local issues, the reader will learn about significant trends shaping the area's future.

An award-winning photographer and author of a number of other books on the region, including *A Portrait of Henley-on-Thames*, Jim Donahue's thoughtful research and stunning photography make this book a colourful and engaging review of the area's fascinating past whilst also providing a 'snapshot' of life in England today as exemplified in the Thames Valley.

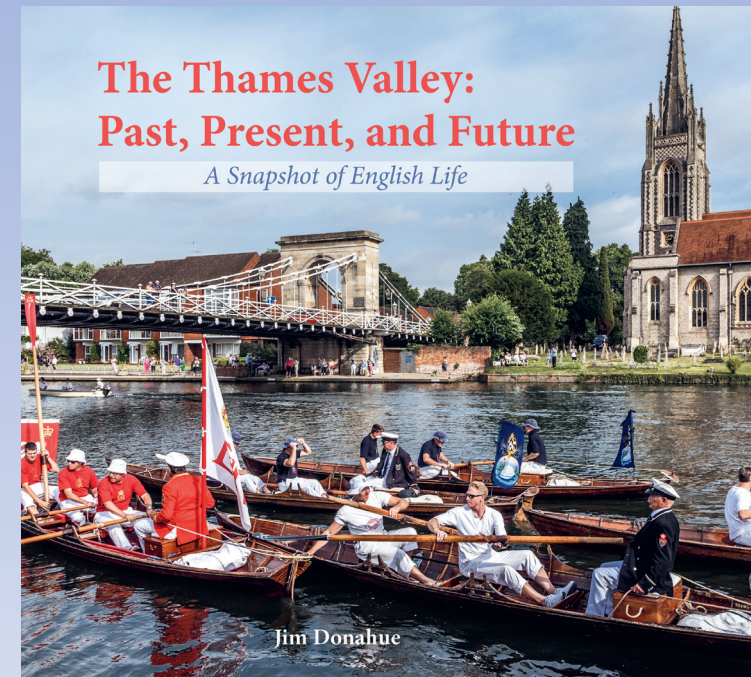
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jim Donahue is an award-winning photographer and author of a number of photography-based books on Thames Valley communities including A Portrait of Henley-on-Thames. He calls his preferred style of photography 'Life and Landscapes', where local residents are captured engaging in vibrant community activities set against the area's stunning landscapes. His keen interest in understanding what makes England tick can also explain why he has served as a local councillor in Oxfordshire for over 10 years giving him further insight that he shares in this book. His research also included delving into countless local and national accounts of England's history and framing them into a new story of the Thames Valley region. You can contact Jim and see more of his photos on www.jimdonahueimages.com.

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