

Proceedings of the
Sutton Coldfield Local History
Research Group



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This volume begins in the sixteenth century and goes forward to the age of electricity. The spinners and weavers of old Sutton would have been delighted to have electric light to work by, but had to make do with their weaver's windows, as our late President, Albert Fentiman, describes. As his list of references shows, he drew from a wide and unexpected range of sources. There are a number of open spaces in Sutton today, but not one that could be called a village green, so it may come as a surprise to see how many of them can be identified on the 1824 map. 1824 saw the end of our village greens, but Turnpike Roads were then in their prime, so it should have been easy to find out about the toll houses then in existence. Roy Billingham, however, had to spend many long hours of research to prove that the house at Colletts Brook had been owned by the turnpike. Interesting letters turned up during Janet Jordan's Holbeche research (see volume 6), while amateur soldiers are Mike Hinson's subject — once again, surprisingly hard to find illustrations. Having dealt with gas in Volume 4, electricity was a natural progression for Alan Howells, whose article was produced to mark the centenary of the big switch-on. Very little editing has been necessary, but a few editor's comments appear in the first article in square brackets[].

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<p>The Group receives support from Birmingham Library Services. Members meet on Tuesday evenings at Sutton Coldfield Local History Library to pursue their research projects. The Group has a number of other activities, such as field meetings and public lectures. Details of the current programme can be had from the Secretary, Janet Jordan, 29, Tysoe Drive, Sutton Coldfield B76 2UJ, tel. 0121-240 5136, or the Chairman, Roger Lea, 210, Dower Sutton Coldfield B75 6SZ, tel. 0121-308 6697.</p>
