

**Proceedings of the  
Sutton Coldfield Local History  
Research Group**



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Two houses, two wars, two families and a charismatic madman make up this issue which covers over three centuries of our history. Three of the articles relate to events of national importance, so published histories were often referred to; however, Mike Hinson spent long hours seeking out newspaper reports on the Boer War, borough records, parish registers and hearth tax returns gave information about local participants in the Civil War, and Roy Billingham deciphered messages engraved on window panes at New Hall. Janet Jordan's discovery of Sarah Holbeche's *Diary* made her curious about the Gambles, while maps and surveys helped Alan Howells to interpret the building at Birmingham Road. The research collections held in the local history section of Sutton Coldfield Library are an invaluable resource for the town.

**The extra cost of the colour printing in this issue has been met from the Robert Pritchard Bequest**

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The Sutton Coldfield Local History Research Group meets weekly at Sutton Coldfield Library so that members can pursue their research projects, using the extensive collection of primary and secondary source materials. The Group publishes the results of these projects in its occasional journal, *Proceedings* and has a number of other activities, such as field meetings and public lectures. Details are available from the Secretary, Janet Jordan, 29 Tysoe Drive, B76 2UJ, 0121 240 5136, or the Chairman, Roger Lea, 210 Dower Road, B75 6SZ, 0121 308 6697, to whom all enquiries regarding this and other publications of the Group should be addressed.