



CHILD POVERTY IN 19TH CENTURY OXFORDSHIRE

Liz Woolley

The image commonly evoked by the phrase 'child labour' is one of young children toiling in the grimy factories and mines of the Midlands and North. Yet in rural counties like Oxfordshire, child labour was as much a feature of everyday life in the nineteenth century as in industrialised areas.

This illustrated talk tells the story of our county's child workers, many of whom started work part-time at the age of six or seven and, until the compulsory school legislation of the 1870s, left education for good by the age of ten to become permanently employed.

Oxfordshire children worked in agriculture, in domestic service and in lacemaking, gloving and in a host of other small-scale occupations. The talk highlights the differences between girls' and boys' experiences of work, and the individual fates of pauper apprentices. It also shows that, contrary to popular belief, cottage industry and agricultural work were by no means the 'soft option' in comparison with work in the factories and mines of industrialised areas.

Liz Woolley is a local historian who specializes in the social history of the area and Victorian Oxfordshire in particular.

Hanney History Group

8.00 p.m.

Monday

23rd May

War

Memorial
Hall

East Hanney

OX12 0JL

Visitors are welcome

@ £3 per talk – please

arrive by 7.50 p.m

