

Ockwells Manor

A history of the house and its occupants

by Ann Darracott



This 365-page full-colour book has now been published by Maidenhead Civic Society. It is the culmination of over thirty years of study of Ockwells Manor house in Cox Green, near Maidenhead, Berkshire, described by the eminent architectural historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner as *“the most refined and the most sophisticated timber framed mansion in England”*.

Ockwells was built in the 15th Century by John Norreys, Esquire to the Body of Henry VI, who put up in its great hall unique domestic armorial glass. The book clarifies the armorial scheme Norreys devised that commemorates those he was close to including his king and queen, lords, bishops and abbots, courtiers and relatives. Evidence indicates he put it up in 1450-1454, shortly after the death of his first wife and the summary execution of his colleague, William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, when England was in uproar due to the loss of Normandy, with Suffolk being blamed.

Later owners of the house and the alterations they made are described as are the tenants who didn't alter but also didn't maintain. The book includes previously unknown photos of the Victorian restoration. The expansion of Maidenhead and the building of roads and motorways has threatened the setting of Ockwells. The book describes attempts to preserve the setting of the house by preventing the lifting of its restrictive covenants held by the National Trust. Ockwells, which is privately owned, was on the market in 2019 and its future is uncertain. The author hopes that this present work will result in a greater appreciation of the historic and aesthetic value of Ockwells Manor House and help ensure its continued survival.

To obtain your copy please contact Maidenhead Civic Society on info@maidenheadcivicsoc.org.uk or by phone on 07796 834542, giving your name and postal address. The book is priced at **£35 per copy** (£30 for Maidenhead Civic Society members). We can offer **free delivery** in the Maidenhead area, but otherwise postage and packing is £4.50 per item. Payment should be made by direct bank transfer to “Maidenhead Civic Society”, Sort Code: 30-95-36, Account No.: 00277876, quoting “Ockwells” as the reference.