



## **DISCOVERING REIGATE PRIORY**

*The place and the people*

*Audrey Ward*

Perhaps it all began when she was twelve years old and found a piece of Roman pottery. The magic of the real thing struck her imagination like a flash of lightning.

At Homerton College, Cambridge, she learned to teach using the immediate environment as a starting point. She taught first in Coventry and then became head of a country school in Lincolnshire which she ran on these lines, involving the whole village.

She married in 1949, raised a family of four children in Cheshire and then Reigate, where she returned to teaching part-time. Many of her Reigate pupils remember her original projects and her Blue Peter-style teaching on CCTV.

When the school moved to Reigate Priory, a Grade 1\* listed building, she continued to teach as a part-timer, but also created a unique school museum which is a community enterprise and is open to the public.

In recent years her contribution to local life and to education has been recognized by two important awards.

In her retirement she is a very popular lecturer on various aspects of local history especially Reigate Priory.

In this book, she brings to life nearly 800 years of the Priory's history, taking into account many exciting recent discoveries. Its first fifty years as a school and the beginnings of the museum are chronicled for the first time.

Her enthusiasm is infectious, inviting her readers to share the fun of discovery and to play their part in treasuring this remarkable building for future generations.

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