Available to buy from 10 April 2024



A new book on the early history of Axminster, by David Knapman

'Uneven Steps' covers the period from the founding of the Minster (from which the name 'Axminster' comes) to 1700 (the starting point for his earlier book, 'Unsteady Progress').

Copies will be on sale from Axminster Heritage Centre from 10 April 2024 at a cost of £15.00 (with a 10% discount to AHC members: £13.50).

Uneven Steps A History of Axminster from 750 to 1700 A N T S M R T U T M E A D U O S S O G O A N T E R R W O N S S O A N T E R R W O N S S S S S S S T T I H O N

The 10 chapters cover:

- The Anglo-Saxon origins of Axminster.
- The evidence for and against a 10th century battle in the Axe valley.
- The Norman era, including William Brewer, first Lord of the Manor of Axminster.
- The foundation (in 1247) of Newenham Abbey.
- Almost 300 years of the Abbey's presence just outside the town.

- The dissolution of the monasteries (in 1539), and the associated social and religious upheaval.
- The stresses and progress evident in the mid-16th century.
- From the Spanish Armada to the eve of Civil War.
- How the Civil War affected Axminster.
- Continuing turbulence and change in the second half of the 17th century.