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### **CD-ROM: THE FACHRS ALLOTMENTS PROJECT 2010**

Combined Allotments Database 2010
Allotment Tenants Database
Allotment Rules Database
FACHRS Allotment Project County Returns from Researchers
FACHRS Allotments Database 2010
Burchardt 2002 Allotments Database
Allotments Data Analysis Charts
List of local allotment societies up to 1873

## PREFACE

Allotments are a subject of wide ranging historical interest and significance, now boosted by a renewed enthusiasm for their use in current times of economic difficulty and environmental awareness. Historically allotments relate to rural and urban communities, and to debates and questions about poverty and welfare, 19th-century unrest and class relationships, to degrees of independence and self-help, social control or radicalism, to attitudes to the land, to economic strategies in families and households, and to women's and children's work. This relevance has recently been reflected in published studies, notably Jeremy Burchardt's book on *The Allotment Movement in England, 1793-1873* (Royal Historical Society, 2002). Dr Burchardt is joined as editor of the present collection of new research by Jacqueline Cooper, one of our leading local historians. There could be no more suitable editors for a book on 19th-century allotments in their local context.

The connection of allotments with so many aspects of local life and broader historical themes makes their study fertile ground for bringing on fresh understanding through local studies and thematic perspectives. The chapters of this volume, and the statistical data on the associated CD, demonstrate both these approaches and promise to complement earlier publications and take knowledge further. They will encourage comparative perspectives to be developed, have uncovered a previously unappreciated extent of allotment provision, and illustrate how allotments and related themes can be researched using an inter-related array of local sources. The spread of chapters is wide, encompassing rural and urban topics, all linked by the editor's introduction.

The volume arises from the work of the Family and Community Historical Research Society, with its impressive record of offering students of local history opportunities to develop and sustain their interest after earlier studies with the Open University and other bodies. FACHRS has done this by adopting shared themes for investigation. This has fostered a comparative approach, sustained and extended the enthusiasm and expertise of the participants, and resulted in valuable collective contributions to important historical themes. This latest addition to the Society's work is to be welcomed warmly. It will surely encourage more existing and budding historians to continue to grow their own history, with the valuable help and encouragement of scholars like Jeremy Burchardt and Jacqueline Cooper.

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