

Wessex Tales: Vols 1 & 2 by Robert Fripp  
Eight Thousand Years in the Life of an English Village

5 stars

Wessex: The Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of South West England

When I started reading these two volumes of Robert Fripp's Tales of Wessex. I realised that I had no idea where Wessex was so did a bit of digging and discovered this - **"Wessex**, one of the kingdoms of Anglo-Saxon England, whose ruling dynasty eventually became kings of the whole country. In its permanent nucleus, its land approximated that of the modern counties of Hampshire, Dorset, Wiltshire, and Somerset. At times its land extended north of the River Thames, and it eventually expanded westward to cover Devon and Cornwall. The name Wessex is an elision of the Old English form of "West Saxon.""

You would have thought that after living here for the past twenty-five years that I would have been curious enough to query the name "Wessex" especially as one of the water suppliers in the area is called Wessex Water and the highway coming into Bournemouth; Wessex Way but No! I have been too busy exploring the magnificent countryside that I live in known as Dorset. Thanks to Robert Fripp and the magical tales he's woven around a little village known as Okeford. I now find myself walking through the ancient sites with my eyes wide open thinking about the people who settled here, well over eight thousand years ago.

I cannot pick out any story as being my favourite as each tale is as beautiful as the last, however. I think we owe a debt to Robert Fripp's parents for buying him a canoe/kayak for his twelfth birthday. This canoe was his companion for the next "ten years and six months" as he explored the river Stour and became fascinated with the abundance of wildlife that lived in the area. This "messing about on the river" gave him these two volumes of stories that will hopefully inspire readers to put on their walking boots and take to the countryside in what was Wessex to create their very own Wessex Tales.

Treebeard

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.