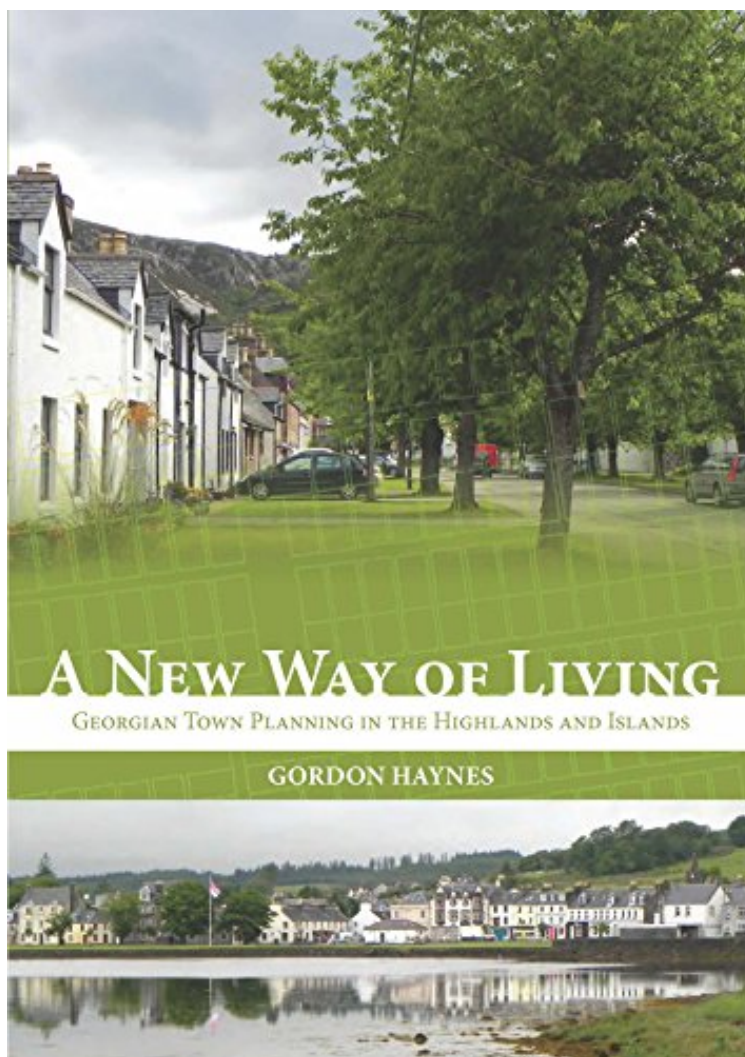


A New Way of Living: Georgian Town Planning in the Highlands and Islands

Gordon Haynes

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Gordon Haynes : A New Way of Living: Georgian Town Planning in the Highlands and Islands before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A New Way of Living: Georgian Town Planning in the Highlands and Islands:

A New Way of Living tells the broad story of the development of new towns in the Scottish Highlands and Islands post-1750. It pulls together the various strands that influenced the development of the North West Highlands after the disastrous risings and charts the government-backed attempts at establishing fishing villages from Argyll to

Sutherland, as well as private initiatives to do likewise along the shores of the Moray Firth. Old harbours were improved and new ones created in an attempt to capitalise on the rich but fickle fishery resource of the continental shelf, many engineers making their reputations in the process. Roads and later railways were built to connect these new settlements to their markets which were tens or hundreds of miles away across mountain ranges, presenting monumental challenges for the designers and workforce. In the farming country of Morayshire, north Aberdeenshire and the old counties of Banffshire and Buchan, landowners led these improvements, often bestowing their names on their villages and towns such as Archiestown and Macduff. The entire programme, which came to a faltering close in the 1830s, was designed to increase the profitability of estates and improve the wealth and health of the population by bringing law, order and civilisation to what was previously a scattered population with very limited access to modern services and amenities. In many cases the plan succeeded although there were some notable failures and many misguided enterprises, the consequences of which left fledgling communities high and dry without any viable industry. This was a period when a new way of living was imposed upon a population that had no alternative but to accept it or leave for the colonies. The book demonstrates how the planners borrowed concepts from history and how the more successful layouts were developed with some degree of building regulation applied to a sensibly zoned plan. Many of the places studied, particularly those on the coast, are now sought-after as holiday home locations, thus proving the enduring appeal of picturesque settings of terraced cottages clustered around a harbour or bay. The rationale for their existence may have changed but the constant appeal of the plan and building fabric of many of the new towns illustrates the enduring worth of this Georgian legacy.

'...a richly detailed and sometimes idiosyncratic account of the growth of planned towns in the late 18th- and 19th-century Highlands. ...is concerned not only with the origins, purpose and development of these Georgian planned settlements, but it also addresses their subsequent fortunes and legacy. ...should also prove attractive to the general reader, as well as students and academics alike. Each settlement is well-researched and written up... ...a wonderful addition to our knowledge and understanding of the built aspects of Islay... ...is well designed and well presented. ...represents good value for money. ...contains much original research and is full of Gordon Haynes' own refreshing views and opinions... ...a good reference book, offering something of use for each of the individual settlements included in it'. History Scotland ----- 'The author has industriously assembled a great deal of information, both of the general background to the Highlands and of the history of each settlement up to the present day'. Am Bratach ----- '...an important part of the story of Scotland, and fascinating background for any visitor... Gordon Haynes is to be congratulated... has produced a book of lasting value. ...a book we know will be referring to time and again in the future... This is a book that should be read by anyone living in or visiting the large swathe of Scotland it covers'. Undiscovered Scotland About the Author Gordon Haynes is the author of the acclaimed Landscape and Garden Design.