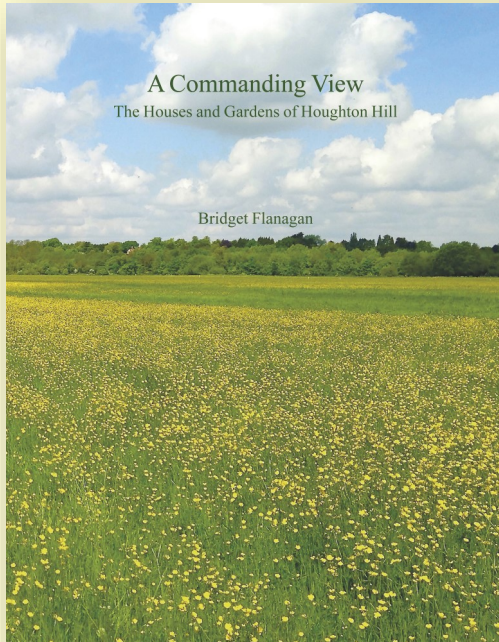


# PRESS RELEASE

## FROM THE GREAT OUSE VALLEY TRUST

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## LOCAL AUTHOR LAUNCHES NEW BOOK



### A COMMANDING VIEW

The houses and gardens of Houghton Hill

BRIDGET FLANAGAN

Local researcher and author Bridget Flanagan has written a new book on the historic houses and gardens of Houghton Hill. From the early 19C wealthy individuals acquired sites on the Houghton hillside because it had the 'finest view in the County'. Here they built splendid houses and distinctive gardens. Bridget's book records the architectural style and details of each of the eight houses and also the design of their gardens. However, these houses were not quiet country retreats but demonstrations of wealth and status by three prominent families – Ansley, Brown and Coote. As well as their own houses, these influential families built churches, chapels and schools.

The book recounts how the original owners of the houses vied intensely with each other in religion, politics and power. Much of the history of the Houghton hillside houses and their owners is a microcosm of the history of 19C and early 20C Huntingdonshire.

