



Press Information

- The author is available for interviews; email nick_ardley@yahoo.com
- Please contact the Publicity Department at Fonthill Media, tel. 01453 750505 or email j.slater@fonthillmedia.com for further details

Bibliographic Information

Publication: 27 July 2017
Price: £18.99/\$28.95
ISBN: 978-1-78155-620-7
Size: 248 x 172 mm
Binding: Paperback
Extent: 240 pages
Illustrations: 22 mono/74 colour
Rights: World, all languages

Rochester to Richmond

A Thames Estuary Sailor's View

Nick Ardley

**A Thames Estuary sailor's reflections on the ever-changing riverside
from the Nore to London**

- A book for lovers of sailing amongst salt, marsh and mud
- A passage not made within the pages of a book since the 1920s
- Beautifully illustrated with modern images from the water interspersed with old prints
- *Rochester to Richmond* is of love and enthusiasm for an unknown side of the River Thames

People say that Nick Ardley is an eccentric, an anachronism from a simpler age, for the way he sails his clinker sloop around the Thames estuary, wending amongst the tide-riddled marshes to drop anchor where the fancy takes him. In *Rochester to Richmond: A Thames Estuary Sailor's View*, Ardley has a clear plan: a reflective journey between Rochester and London, a path once of commerce, but now pleasure. Rochester was of immense importance to Britain's past trading richness too. The belching chimneys pouring acrid fumes and cement dust have evaporated. Oil refineries have slipped away, but wharves lining the banks remain alive. As a distraction, he wanders a little above Rochester and then again, a little above the Pool of London towards Richmond. Between, he lands amongst the marsh and mud, finding graves and farmsteads enveloped in purslane and lavender. Many towns sailed past were part of this heritage, supplying building materials and food carried by the tan-sailed barge to London. Ardley dips and dabbles into these communities and explores how they have transformed.

Nick Ardley was born in 1955 and brought up on a Thames spritsail barge. One of four children, he and his siblings soon became the crew. His working life was spent as an engineer officer with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary. Upon retiring, Ardley fell into writing, being asked to tell his childhood story. He now writes avidly about his love and enthusiasm of sailing amongst the rivers and creeks around the Thames and its estuary discovering its industrial history. His wife, Christobel, and 'mate' in his yarns, has grown to love the saltings too.

