

# Reginald Hine

Reginald Hine was born in 1883, near Baldock, and lived in Hitchin from 1917.

He was a prolific writer and avid historian and researcher, He published many books, including "Dreams and the Way of Dreams", "Hitchin Worthies", a "Confessions of A Common Attorney".

Hine was a lawyer by trade and worked for Hawkins and Co. His employer and friend, Onslow Times, let him spend half his time doing the work of the law firm and the other half researching the firm's huge archive of documents.

He gathered these into legal files, by category, which included two on Hitchin Folklore, many of Hitchin and also many on the villages and towns of Herts. These were the source material for many of his books and in turn for this exhibition.

Hine was a complex character who suffered from terrible depressions. One of his favourite places was Minsden Chapel, just outside Hitchin – where he found solace and the sense of mystery that he loved. Indeed it is famous for a famous ghostly photograph, almost certainly a hoax, carried out by his friend the photographer Thomas Latchmore and probably Hine himself.

By the late 1940s it is suggested that he was on the edge of a nervous breakdown. Tragically he ended his own life in by throwing himself under a train at Hitchin Station. His ashes were scattered in his beloved Minsden Chapel.

