



## 10 • Shops

### Early Days

Apart from the single-storey sweet shop at the Farningham end of Russell Terrace, that used to be run by Mrs Thompson, the shops in Horton Kirby have always been in The Street. The oldest shops in South Darenth are at the bottom of East Hill, backing on to the river opposite The Jolly Millers. New Road did not exist until the late 1860s and the only buildings in East Hill were a farmstead and three cottages, on the site between Leeraj's shop and the old VG stores.

The following advertisement appeared in the Dartford and West Kent Advertiser on 21st September 1878: "For sale, a butcher's shop

with dwelling house and convenient premises, in the occupation of Mr L Russell. Also the Grocer's, Baker's and General Shop, for many years conducted by the late Mr W Thompson. Also 3 brick built cottages and a Wooden Tenement, the whole producing £75 11s per annum rental. (Messrs Russell, Son & Scott). Unexpired term 12 years, ground rent £8, at South Darenth."

The "dwelling house" was Willow House and the "3 brick built cottages" were in a row behind the butcher's shop. Between them, on the riverbank, was a slaughterhouse. The "Grocer's, Baker's and General Shop", then known as London House, is today the Post Office and pharmacy.

In 1865, after the opening of the railway, George Muggeridge sold parts of South Darenth farm adjacent to the railway for development. These included the site on which the Homes for Little Boys were built and also the area between East Hill and the railway. As houses were built in East Hill and the New Road, new shops began to open to serve them.



*"The Square", South Darenth showing the butcher's and the grocer's  
Photograph courtesy of Malcolm Scott*

## General Stores



*The main shops in The Street Horton Kirby. The single-storey extension in the centre was John Dolden's shop.  
Postcard courtesy of Malcolm Scott*

At the turn of the century John Dolden ran a general store in The Street, Horton Kirby, in what is now Hollyhock Cottage and 3 Doldens Cottages. His brother George tended greenhouses behind the house. However, the main shop was Fenner's, another view of which appears on the front cover. David Ebenezer Fenner arrived in the village in 1900 to take over from his brother Frederick and continued to run the store until the early 1940s. The shop was a grocery and general stores, selling drapery,



*Harold Chinery at the wheel of Fenner's van c 1930. He earned £2 8s 9d a week  
Photograph courtesy of V Brace*

furniture and carpets as well as food. Doris Huggett's husband Reg worked at Fenner's for many years. Apparently they were also tailors, because Reg had his suits made there. Doris still uses the table and chairs they bought from Fenner's as newlyweds 60 years ago. Reg had to go to work on the morning of their wedding day "to do the orders" but he then had three days off for their honeymoon. Being near the river the cellar storeroom was prone to flooding and, according to Doris, the staff had to "walk on boxes" when that happened and "bits of bacon were floating around on the water".

The shop was later owned by Mr Fielder, then by Mr Foster, followed by Len Adams from the early 1960s. When Len took over he ran the store in the building on the right and used the left-hand part as a storeroom. He later converted the latter to a mini-supermarket because it was a better shape for that purpose, whereupon the right-hand building became a ladies hairdresser's run by Len's daughter-in-law. Len was an institution in the village, very friendly, trusting and willing to get anything for his customers (within reason!). It was he who noticed the fire in 1968 in the butcher's shop opposite. He raised the alarm and dashed

*Len Betteridge's shop and off licence selling Ruffles Champion Gold Medal Ales  
Postcard courtesy of Malcolm Scott*



into the burning building to rescue the inhabitants. His bravery on that occasion was recognised by villagers and reported in the local press.

There were two proprietors after Len Adams, one of whom was Mr Petty of the VG Stores in South Darenth. The premises were later used by mail order companies selling sports wear under the name JAG until 1993, when Kent Sales moved to The Street from Giffords in South Darenth. It is also a dress agency and costume hire shop.

In South Darenth, Alfred Riddle was in business in London House as a grocer and draper in 1895. William Henry Geggie had taken over by 1915, followed in the 1920s by Thomas and Leonard Betteridge, who were also beer retailers. They took over the Post Office in the 1930s. They also sold hardboard, paints and decorating materials. Len ran a taxi service using a Morris 20 saloon and would take families to the station for half a crown. He was well known for driving expectant mothers at high speed to Riseley to give birth. From 1968 to 1987 "H" Wade ran the stores while his mother-in-law Vi Briley took charge of the Post Office. Mr Briley kept pigeons in the pigeon loft (now demolished) above the garage. The shop was then run by Mr and Mrs Hudson until June 1990, when it became the dispensing pharmacy and retail chemist shop of Mr Chopra.

The new greengrocery and general stores that opened in November 1992 behind the pharmacy is run by Marion Attree and is "open all hours". It also provides a delivery service, which was a common feature in earlier days. Eileen Filmer remembered tradesmen calling at the cottages on Franks Farm in the 1920s. There was Fenner's van, Mr Evans the oil man from Sutton-at-Hone, and Mackintosh's



*Penney, Son & Parker's in the centre of South Darenth c 1910  
Photograph courtesy of KAL, Dartford Group*

fizzy drinks, while Mr Turner would call once a week to collect a shilling towards the club for shoes. Kay Maggs, who lived in Mill Cottages before the War, remembered the muffin man coming round on Saturday mornings and the shrimp and winkle man from Gravesend on Sunday mornings. Apart from the milk rounds that have continued throughout the 100 years, door to door delivery of other goods declined as mobility increased, but recently Ted West started a delivery service of fruit and vegetables.

Another grocery and general stores opened in South Darent on the site of the old VG stores. In the 1891 census, Sarah Young appears as a shopkeeper, “opposite Riddle’s”. By 1903 the shop had become a branch of Penney, Son & Parker, from Dartford. Mr Penney was the first mayor of Dartford and Ivan Dunmall, while still a schoolboy in the early years of the century, worked there as a delivery boy. He remembered being so busy at Christmas that it was not unusual for him to push his handcart to make deliveries at Dean Bottom at nearly midnight!



*The People's Stores (above) c 1963 looking past Giffords Cottages  
Photograph courtesy of June Smith*

In 1927 the owners were John William Purdy & Sons and by 1938 it was the People's Stores, run by George Turner. He kept it until the 1960s, when it was enlarged and modernised to become firstly a Spar supermarket and then the VG Stores, run in later years by John and Marie Petty. VG closed in 1992 and at the time of writing is empty, awaiting demolition for redevelopment.

*Below: VG Stores shortly before it closed. For several years there was a dental surgery on the first floor  
Photograph courtesy of Fred Ellis*



The People's Stores was popularly known as “bottom Turner's” to distinguish it from “top Turner's”, just above The Queen in New Road, which was run by George's brother, Tom. In 1903 this had been a general store run by Stephen Mace and later by Roland Howse. Mrs Wickenden took over from Tom Turner in 1946 and ran the shop until it closed in 1977



*The Wickenden's shop in New Road c 1970  
Photograph courtesy of Malcolm Green*

The Co-op existed before 1891 as the South Darent Co-operative Society but later became a branch of the Dartford Industrial Co-operative Society. Its New Road premises originally sold clothes and haberdashery as well as groceries, but latterly was a food store only. Herbert Borton was manager for many years from 1938 and lived in the manager's house at 54, East Hill. The Co-op closed in 1980 and the premises were used for militaria and general auctions by Kent Sales until 1986. They are now Alexander's bathroom showrooms.

Back in 1891, the end house in Viaduct Terrace, just opposite The Sun, was Richard Pankhurst's grocery shop. It later became Crowhurst's fishmonger's shop and by 1938 had been converted to a men's hairdressers.



*The South Darent Co-op in New Road in Edwardian times  
Postcard courtesy of Malcolm Scott*

A late arrival on the scene was Sunnyside Stores, a general stores in Holmesdale Hill that was converted from a cowshed. This opened after the Second World War and was run by the Nortons. It was taken over by Alois and Muriel Majzlik in 1958. Mrs Majzlik remembered the front of the shop being daubed with swastikas on the morning they were due to open, presumably because some locals assumed that all foreign-sounding names must be German. This was particularly upsetting because Mr Majzlik had arrived from Czechoslovakia in 1938 and had fought against Hitler. The business closed in 1960 but Mr and Mrs Majzlik still live there and Mr Majzlik, a member of the Royal Society of Miniature Painters, Sculptors and Gravers, uses the old shop as his studio.

## Butchers

The Horton Kirby butcher's shop was opposite Fenner's, in Marshall House. In 1894 the butcher was Oliver Bicknell, a farmer and one of the first parish councillors. "Mr Bicknell's field" was often mentioned in early Council Minutes as the venue for outdoor social events. When he left the area in 1904 he was succeeded by Arthur Sage, who also became a parish councillor in 1907. The shop passed through several hands after his departure, being at various times

owned by Messrs King, Hart, Greenfield and Thake and finally Reg Stringer. A major fire in 1968 led to its closure.

In 1894 the South Darent butcher's was run by Mrs Mary Russell of Willow House. By 1909 Walter Gaunt had the business, soon to be followed by Arthur Sage of Horton Kirby. The shop was owned by Richard Mitchell in the 1930s and closed before the Second World War. It was used for a small library for a short time but then remained empty until 1959, when Mary Martin had the premises rebuilt for ladies' hairdressing.



*The butchers shop The Street after the fire in 1968  
Photograph courtesy of KAL, Dartford Group*

There may once have been another butcher's shop opposite, in the VG Stores terrace. John Hall appears as a butcher in the 1891 census and the 1895 directory, and by 1903 he had been succeeded by John Mullane. This second shop seems to have disappeared as an independent business by 1915, but Purdy & Sons still had a meat counter there in the 1920s.

## Post Offices

The Post Office in The Street, Horton Kirby opposite The Fighting Cocks, was run for over thirty years by George Durling, who was also a baker. After his death in 1909 it was taken over by his daughter, Mrs Frances Neeves, who ran it up to the Second World War.

After the War it was run as a Post Office and stationer's by Cedric Best, who participated fully in village life. He was a churchwarden, parish councillor, member of the Holmesdale Players and chairman of the fete committee and will be remembered by many as a real village character. The Post Office changed hands in 1969 and closed in 1975, shortly after two robberies.

In 1891, Alfred Swaffer was running the South Darent Post Office in Lansdowne Place, East Hill (just opposite Paddock Close). The house still has a distinctive shop window. He moved to 49 New Road, where he appears as “sub-postmaster and stationer” in the 1915 directory. He was also a carpenter and undertaker. After the Post Office

*This is believed to be Ada and Frances Durling, later to become Mrs Gentry and Mrs Neeves, outside Horton Kirby Post Office*  
 Postcard courtesy of Stella Gentry



*Old Post Office at 49 New Road  
 c 1908  
 Postcard courtesy of Phyllis Martin*

transferred to Betteridge’s (see under general stores) the Misses Davis ran a ladies’ hairdressing business from 49, New Road. It then became an electrical stores and cycle shop run by Mr Davis and closed in the 1960s. Many people remember taking their accumulators there to be charged.

ESTIMATES GIVEN. *Nov 11th 1914*

*Mr H. Parker*

Dr. to **A. SWAFFER,**

Wheelwright, Carpenter, Undertaker, House Decorator

NEW ROAD, SOUTH DARENTH, KENT.

		£	s	d
<i>Nov 1914</i>	<i>To Polished elm Coffin</i>	<i>15</i>		
	<i>Brass furniture lined &amp; waxed down</i>			
	<i>&amp; Truffle Complete with name plate</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>15</i>	
	<i>Glass car &amp; pair</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>6</i>
	<i>2 Coaches &amp; pair</i>	<i>3</i>		
	<i>Three coachmen @ 5/-</i>		<i>15</i>	
	<i>4 bearers</i>		<i>12</i>	
	<i>Church fees</i>		<i>11</i>	
	<i>Attendance at funeral and</i>			
	<i>assistance at house</i>			<i>6</i>
		<i>17</i>		
		<i>11</i>		<i>12</i>

*Settled Nov 16/14*  
*With Swaffer's*



## Bakers

The original baker’s shop, in what is now Leeraj’s newsagents, was run by George Frederick Dalton. He appears in the 1891 census as “baker and grocer” of 1, East Hill Terrace but it seems that his business was of a more general nature because, in an 1890 Directory, he is styled “baker, grocer, provisions, boot, shoe, china and earthenware dealer”, while in 1903 he also appears as a florist. He was a parish councillor and early council records refer to his shop

as the People's Stores. It is thought that he may have moved to the shop opposite The Jolly Millers before it became Penney, Son and Parker.

The bakery was taken over by Edward Wood, whose shop also sold sweets, dispensed by old Mrs Wood with her toffee hammer. After Edward Wood died in 1936, Ronald Lane converted the shop to a newsagent's, tobacconist's and confectioner's. The old bakery at the rear has only recently been demolished.

The other bakery in South Darenth was just below The Queen at 58 New Road. It was run by a Mr Harter in 1891 and passed down to other members of his family until the 1960s. It was then run by Matt Morley, followed by Mr Tumber, who was an old boy of the Homes. For a short time after the bakery closed down it was run as a wool shop by Mrs Monk, but has now been incorporated into the saloon bar of The Queen.



*The wool shop next to The Queen New Road c 1970  
Photograph courtesy of Malcolm Green*

## Newsagents

Many of the early shops sold newspapers. In the 1920s they were sold by John Knowler, the tailor in New Road, whose brother-in-law brought some papers every evening from his newsagent's shop in Sutton-at-Hone. Lane's in East Hill was the newsagent's from 1938. During the week papers were collected from Farningham Road station but at the weekend they had to be collected from Dartford station. The story goes that there was always a race between Mr Lane and the Sutton-at-Hone newsagent to get the first papers from Dartford station on Saturday evening to the Paper Mill, where they would sell a good number to the workers who wanted to know the football results.



*The paper shop East Hill c 1970  
Photograph courtesy of Malcolm Green*

Colin Lane, who succeeded his father, moved to Dartford in the late 1950s and sold to Mr and Mrs Ted Meldau, who sold to Mr and Mrs Hastings. They and their staff used to serve in the shop at Christmas dressed in Victorian costume. From 1982 to 1989 the shop was run by Mr C Patel and today it is owned by Mr B Patel (no relation) under the name Leeraj. With the closure of the VG stores in 1992, Leeraj has re-organised to make room for groceries and an off-licence.

## Bootmakers and Shoe Repairers

One of the oldest businesses in South Darenth was the bootmaker's run by the Wells family in one of the wooden bungalows that stood next to the river on the site of Riverbank House, where Malcolm and Linda Green have had their architectural and surveying practice since 1987. Malcolm unearthed vast numbers of tacks when he started gardening there. George Wells appears in Kelly's 1882 Directory and was still there in 1903. From about 1915 to 1938, the business was carried on by John Smith. Mr Hayman of East Hill also did repairs, as did Mr Marsh of Danefield Villas (at the top of New Road) in the 1950s and 60s. By that time, the nearest shop was Harry Turner's, near The Ship in Sutton-at-Hone.

John Dolden, who is mentioned under general stores, was involved in bootmaking at Horton Kirby around the turn of the century. His father had been a master shoemaker and his daughter Edith remembered seeing leather hanging in the barn, in front of which was a small workshop for tanning. Another bootmaker was Mr Boucher of Saxon Place. His daughter, Queenie Drew, said that he set out from South London with the tools of his trade in the family pram and walked to Sevenoaks in search of work, before ending up at Horton Kirby.



*Mr Boucher's handcart  
Photograph courtesy of Queenie Drew*

## Hairdressers

Around the turn of the century, Alfred Busbridge provided a men's hairdressing service from his home in the terrace opposite The Queen, as did Len Young in the 1950s. (Len also played the drums in a dance band. In fact, he had many side-lines to his job in the Mill and was known as "Motor" Young - because he was "always on the go".) Back in the 1930s Fred Ward and his brother, Cyril, whose family had a hairdressing business near Dartford station, opened a shop in Viaduct Terrace, opposite The Sun.

Apart from the Misses Davis in 49 New Road, there was no ladies' hairdressing business in South Darenth until Mary Martin started up in 1959. She sold to Eunice Mason in 1969. Since 1979 Caron Lofts has run the Cut Above which is still the place to go to find out what is going on in the village, either from the posters in the window or by exchange of gossip under the drier. Horton Kirby's first ladies' hairdressing business opened in the 1960s in Len Adams' old shop. Sue Adams was the first hairdresser and she was followed by Reena, Carol and finally Caren Barker. The shop closed in 1992.

## Tailors and Dressmakers

Frederick Ernest Johnson was running a tailoring business in South Darenth in 1895. By 1907 he was living and working in Warwick House, at 20 New Road. His apprentice John Knowler, who lived "next to the shop" at 22 New Road, took over in the 1920s and continued up to the 1960s.

Dressmaking was another business carried out from home, and from

GOODS: FARNINGHAM ROAD, SOUTHERN RLY.	MEMORANDUM.
from	192
J. Knowler, PRACTICAL Ladies' & Gent's Tailor,	To M
NEW ROAD, SOUTH DARENTH, KENT.	

1915 to 1938 inclusive Catherine Skey (or Mrs Arthur Skey) appears in the local directories.

## Builders and Allied Trades

The building firm of H C Crooks was well known in Horton Kirby from just after the First World War. Henry Charles Crooks lived in Church Cottage, behind which was his builders' yard. The firm was later run by his son-in-law Eric Cannell until the late 1960s. Eric's son, John, continued as a wood merchant and joiner and the business is now run by his son Robin.

The Minutes of the Parish Council contain many references to quotations received from H C Crooks and from F E Stower of South Darenth. Another South Darenth builder was Henry Stallwood,

who before the First World War lived in a house that stood on the green at the bottom of East Hill. He was trained as a ship's carpenter and had a yard in New Road just above Warwick House. He appears in the 1938 directory as a plumber.

Thomas and William Acton were carpenters in 1895 and Thomas remained so in 1915. Alfred Swaffer, the postmaster, also did carpentry and put those skills to good use as an undertaker. By the 1930s that service was provided by Herbert Acton, who lived in the caretaker's house attached to the North School.

## Blacksmiths, Wheelwrights and Coachbuilders

The Hall family were for many years blacksmiths in Forge Lane. Alfred Hall was also a veterinary surgeon well known in the locality. Peter and Barbara Bradley now live in Forge House, which was built at the turn of the century on the site of a much older building. The hay loft at the end of their

garden is original and it was in this building that the vet had his practice. The story goes that when the last vet died, all his books and instruments were thrown down one of the four wells in the garden to dispose of them.

The development of South Darenth provided enough business for

*The Smithy at the bottom of New Road  
Photograph courtesy of KAL, Dartford Group*



*The roofs of Old School Cottage and its barn on the left and, in the distance, the roof of the forge to the right of Forge House  
Photograph courtesy of Ivy Burnett*



another smithy. This stood at the bottom of New Road, on the site of the fire station. It was run by Robert Gentry "blacksmith and wheelwright" around the turn of the century. Edward Elgie took over after the First World War and was succeeded in the mid-twenties by Arthur Booth, before the fire station was built. Rosa Dunmall remembered that the boys would take their iron hoops to the blacksmith for repairs but the girls didn't because they always had wooden hoops. Mr Palmer had a coachbuilder's yard behind the smithy.

## Wireless Repairs

William Major did electrical work for the council at the turn of the century and later ran a wireless business from his house in New Road. In 1928 the Broadcasting Association asked the Parish Council to send "names of those engaged in the sale of wireless

apparatus in the parish”. There were apparently no persons engaged in that activity at the time, but the Council agreed that Mr Booth’s name be sent.

## Coal Merchants

Parker’s coal yard at Farningham Road station opened in 1862. An advertisement in the West Kent Advertiser in 1889 reads “George Parker, Coal, Coke and Salt Merchant. Agent for Jno. Corbett’s Worcestershire Salt. London, Chatham and Dover Railway, Farningham Road Station. Every description of coal in any quantity at current prices. Agent for Shepherd Neame and Co’s noted Faversham Ales. Agent for London Manure Co’s Manure.” George’s son Henry sold the business to the Seaborne Coal and Coke Company in the 1890s but continued as manager. It was a red letter day for the family when Henry’s son Harold bought the business back shortly after the Second World War. Today the business is run by G J and P Hughes Ltd.



*George Everard with Seaborne Coal Company cart c 1898  
Photograph courtesy of Audrey Spink*

## Transport

Horse-drawn vehicles were the only means of local transport until after the First World War. Parker’s had three horses (two working and one resting) for the heavy work and a pony for parcel deliveries for the railway. It is interesting to note that, many years later, Henry Parker’s grand-daughter, Ann English started a business with her husband that specialised in transporting horses. This was originally in the Paper Mills but later moved to Court Lodge.



*The English Horse  
Transport lorries at the  
Paper Mill c 1976.  
The building is the old  
Mill fire station*

*Photograph courtesy of  
Denis English*

Back in the early days, John Howard ran a transport business in New Road. When his stock in trade was sold by auction in 1894 it included 3 vans, 7 carts and a variety of items that illustrate the varied nature of the carman’s business - such as 2 chaff cutting machines, 40 coal bags, timber chains and corn bins.

## Laundry

At the turn of the century there was a hand laundry in an old railway carriage that stood behind where Victory Terrace in Holmesdale Hill stands today. It had fallen into disuse by the 1920s but the remains of the carriage were still there in the 1950s.

## Horticulture

Before supermarkets, growing and selling fruit and vegetables was a much more local affair. The 1906 Ordnance Survey Map shows two nurseries in South Darenth, one just below Leeraj’s shop and the other behind the Co-op, where the garages now stand.

William Sams and Freddy Wilding were nurserymen there at different times. George Turner’s father cultivated the site just above Lansdowne Place in East Hill (where two bungalows were built in the 1950s).

The Dancer family from Sutton-at-Hone ran the nursery in Horton Kirby from about 1912 until it was demolished to make way for Churchill Road.



The greenhouses behind the Co-op in New Road in the 1920s  
Postcard courtesy of Malcolm Scott

## Ivory Merchant

During the early part of this century Austin Keith, who was a parish councillor from 1906 to 1914, carried on business as an ivory merchant in Ivy House (now Croft House) in The Street. He made piano keys and other items in ivory. During this time Victor Parker was taken on as a lad to learn the trade.

## Potters

Apart from Frank Smith in the White House, Homesdale Hill, there was a potter at 32 East Hill. Lionel Ousdine built a wood-burning kiln in his back garden there and used it throughout the 1980s.



Ivy House, The Street, home of Austin Keith  
Photograph courtesy of KAL, Dartford Group

Above right: Extracts from 1951 Parish Magazine

## FOSTER'S OF HORTON KIRBY

In the following departments—  
Confectionery  
Grocery - Provisions  
Patent Medicines  
Stationery - Fancy Goods  
Hardware  
Brooms and Brushes  
Linoleum and Carpets  
China and Glass  
New and Second Hand Furniture  
Boots and Shoes  
Drapery and Outfits  
Corns - Seeds, etc.  
Suits and Overcoats  
made to Measure (London Styles)

## THE UNIVERSAL STORES

Proprietor:—W. W. J. FOSTER Telephone:—Farningham 2157.

## S. E. HARTER

High Class Baker and Confectioner

FANCY CAKES MADE  
AND  
DELIVERED DAILY

WEDDING, BIRTHDAY AND  
CHRISTENING CAKES  
MADE TO ORDER

Also makers of **DAREN** and **PROCEA** Bread

Phone: Farningham 3114

## F. R. HART

Marshall House,

Horton Kirby

Purveyor of

Best Quality Meat

Phone: FARNINGHAM 2155

## J. T. DAVIS

Radio & Television Engineer

Electrical Installations

Public Address Work

Marconi, Baird, Invicta,

Alba, Masteradio



49, New Road,

South Darenth,

Nr. Dartford, Kent.

Aerials fitted free

Service free

## H. E. PARKER Fuel Service

Depots: Farningham Rd. Station and Eynsford Station  
Telephone: Farningham 2161

Carriage Agent British Railways (S. Ry.) Farningham Rd. Station.  
Agent Royal Insurance Company Ltd.

THE POST OFFICE, Horton Kirby

Telephone:  
FARNINGHAM 317

## The "Best" Shop

**Tobacco**—A full range of Tobaccos, Cigarettes and Smokers' Accessories.  
**Confectionery**—Delicious Chocolates and Sweets of proved quality and variety.  
**Stationery**—All kinds for Home, School and Office use.  
**Books**—New and Attractive for Children and Adults.  
**Coffee**—Of good quality. Games and Constructional outfits for boys and girls. New Toys and Seasonal Gifts.  
**Miscellaneous**—Toilet Requisites and Patent Medicines of all kinds.  
**Lending Library**—Comprising a wide range of Books to suit all tastes.

## Art gallery

But perhaps the thing which has most changed the character of Court Lodge since it was built is the recent art gallery, which is rapidly building up a reputation among artists and art lovers.

Housed in a large room set apart from the rest of the building, the gallery is in a perfect setting. For nine months in the year one-man exhibitions are held by painters of country-wide repute.

Although Court Lodge and its gallery are so tucked away in the back streets of rural Kent, hundreds of visitors come to each exhibition.

KT extract 1974