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CAROL ALLART (EDITOR)

As Parish Clerk, Carol had Hobson's Choice about being involved with this project. She surprised herself by supporting a history book as a way to celebrate the Parish Council Centenary since history had always been her most hated subject at school. However, the more she delved into the archives, the more enthusiastic she became about unearthing interesting facts and figures for the book. The best thing about the whole project, however, was getting to know so many interesting and helpful people.

Carol has had the pleasure of living in both South Darenth and Horton Kirby and knows, like so many others, that once you have lived here you are reluctant to move away. (Churches, Weather, Street Names, Buildings, Village Hall)



PETER FLEWIN

Peter was born at Christmas in 1929 at No. 5 Kemps Cottages, School Lane. He was educated at both village schools and Dartford Grammar School and he did his National Service with the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards. Peter is now retired from work after 44 years with the Westminster Bank but is still busily involved with many village activities. He is a founder member of the Horton Kirby Village Society. One of his many interests, and the main reason he became involved with this book, is collecting old photographs of the parish. (Photographs)



HELEN GOODY

Helen Goody has recently completed an MA thesis on the causes of low flows in the Darent and is interested in environmental and nature conservation issues. She has lived in South Darenth for over 10 years and was keen to be involved in this book celebrating the history of the area. She earns her living as a local government officer. (River)



ROGER HOUSE

Roger was born in Erith and has lived in Horton Kirby for 8 years. He was educated at Erith Grammar School, holds a BA in Interior Design, and has spent most of his working life in sales/marketing, having established his own publicity and marketing company over 12 years ago. Roger is happy to be involved in producing the Centenary Book, especially since he now has his own son and daughter to pass it on to. Roger is a member of the Darent Valley Lions Club. (Designer and artwork)



MIKE MEDLEN

Mike Medlen has lived in the area since 1972. He retired after forty years working for British Telecom, a period he describes as the longest holiday in his life. Since then he has led the South Darenth and Horton Kirby Action Group against the Rail Link, helped form a Lions Club in the villages and currently serves upon the Parish Council. His hobbies are golf, cooking, golf, helping the voluntary services, golf, writing, golf, genealogy and golf. (Railways, First Parish Council Meeting)

Subject in brackets indicates the area of contribution to the preparation of the book.



YVONNE MEDLEN

Yvonne Medlen has lived in South Darenth for 22 years and is a former secretary of the Primary School PTA and the WI. She was also a founder member and secretary of the Rail Action Group. She has a keen interest in local affairs and was the village correspondent for the Kentish Times for several years. More recently she has become a member of the Lions with the new mixed Darent Valley Club. (Societies and Leisure, The Homes for Little Boys)



TERRY MOYLE

Terry has lived in the Dartford area since the mid-1960s and in Dartford Road, South Darenth since 1983. Being interested in family history, local history and geography, he could not resist the opportunity to become involved with the publication of the Centenary Book. Although his "roots" are in Cornwall, he found the research into the preparation of the book most enjoyable and was delighted to have been a member of the production team. (Shops, Transport, Maps)



KEITH SAUNDERSON

Keith is a retired Chartered Accountant who was born in Dartford but has lived in Horton Kirby for well over 30 years. He is interested in history and writing. He has been involved in a number of books, including a new guide to St. Margaret's Church, Darenth. He still plays tennis and has been Secretary to his club for 42 years. (Sport, Airfield, Wartime, Pubs, Farming)



MALCOLM SCOTT

Malcolm Scott was born in Riseley and lived in East Hill until 1969. He was organist at St. Mary's from 1960 to 1962 and played cricket for Horton Kirby until 1971. He has lived in St. Albans for over twenty years, but has never lost touch and has recently been researching the history of this parish. (Shops)



MAGGIE STRUDWICK

Maggie lived in South Darenth for several years before moving to Sutton-at-Hone. During that time she often wondered about the history of the village so was very interested when she saw the advert in the local paper asking for volunteers to help research this book. As she was due to start maternity leave, she realised this would be a good opportunity to find out more. (Mills, Fire Brigade)



JOHN WOODHEAD

John, a teacher, has been interested in the history of South Darenth ever since he moved into the area in 1984. He was active in the village's campaign against the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and was particularly keen to become involved in the writing of this book after he discovered that his home was once the local tailor's shop. He has especially enjoyed reading past Minutes of Parish Council meetings and sifting through material from Dartford Library. (Education, Railways, Transport, Early Days - with special thanks to Audrey Gee)

Acknowledgements

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Bert Smith, June Smith, Tom Smith and Kath Smith (nee Thompson), Peter Spencer, John Spink, Charles Stapley, Pat Stevens, Stella Stevens, Pam Stevenson, Malcolm Strudwick, Jessie Summers, Clive Tanner, Frank Tanner, Harry Tester, Raymond Thompson and Rosie Thompson (nee Douglas), Mary Topping, Gill Tripp, Tom Turner and Megan Turner (nee Ludlow), Pete Tyler, Joan Vallance, Brian Wagland, Dolly Wakely, Bob Ward, Sarah Ward, Sam Wells and Winnie Wells (nee Price), Alan and Kitty Wheatley, Tom White, Ian Whittingham, Joan Wilkinson, Ken Williams, Albert Woollard, Jim Woolley.

With special thanks to Malcolm Green for drawing the delightful chapter heading pictures and to Lynda House for typing the manuscript with constant good humour and her expertise at deciphering many unintelligible drafts.

The information in this book has been collected in good faith and we hope is a fair representation of life in this parish during the past 100 years. If there are inaccuracies or accounts which are disputed we apologise. These must be put down to the fact that over the years stories can and very often do become enhanced or altered in the telling and memories can sometimes play tricks. The writing team would like to stress that it is meant as a source of interest, nostalgia and entertainment and readers are asked to accept it as such rather than a definitive work of history.

Whilst concentrating on 100 years only, it has often been inevitable that reference has been made to times before 1894 because of the subject matter involved. Flexibility has therefore been adopted in order to add to the enjoyment of the book.

This book has only been able to scratch the surface of a vast area of study. Readers who have any further written or photographic information which may be of interest are welcome to contact the parish clerk at the Village Hall, Horton Road, South Darent DA4 9AX. In particular, names of people in the photographs would be helpful.