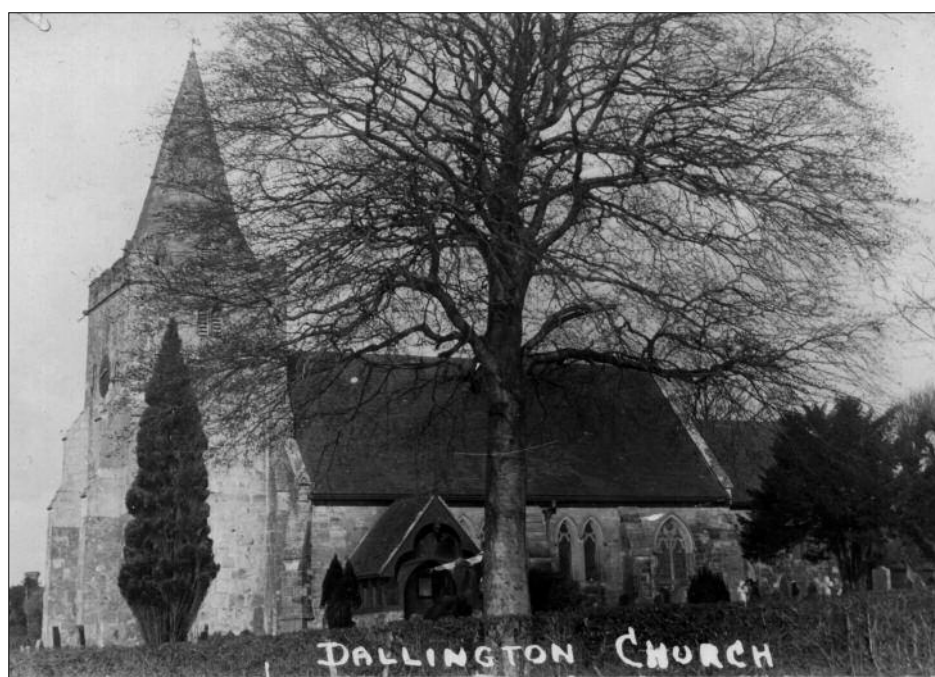


# DALLINGTON

The History of a  
Sussex Village

Cover picture: Aerial view of The Street, 1973 (David Martin)







# DALLINGTON

*“Six miles from everywhere”*

The History of a  
Sussex Village

Karen Bryant-Mole



First published in 1999  
Reprinted in 2015

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Preface to the 2015 reprint:

It is sixteen years since this book was first published. Words such as 'now' and 'today' refer to an era that is already history, and, sadly, many of the wonderful people whose memories are woven into the text are no longer with us. Dallington, like all villages and towns, will no doubt continue to evolve and change over time but hopefully its present will be all the richer for having an understanding of its past.

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# Chapter 1

## DALLINGTON

*'The Count of Eu holds Dalintone. Norman held it before 1066; he could go wherever he would. It answered for 1 hide; now for nothing.*

*The Count has the half of this hide in the Forest. Value 5s. William has the other half. He has 1 plough in lordship with 2 cottagers.'*

This entry in Domesday Book is one of the earliest written records of the village now known as Dallington. Domesday Book was commissioned by King William. It holds information that was collected in 1085, 19 years after the defeat of King Harold at the Battle of Hastings, and acted as an inventory of the land that William had conquered. When he became king, William claimed the whole of England as his own and granted lands to his followers. These lands were not given, but granted as a *feu* or fee in return for his followers' services, giving rise to the term 'feudal system'. William's landholders were in turn able to grant lands on the same terms to their tenants. Robert, Count of Eu held the overlordship of most of the land in the Rape of Hastings, the rape in which Dallington is situated. There were six rapes in Sussex, each with a castle and a harbour. A rape was a unit of local government and was made up of smaller units known as hundreds. Dallington falls within the Netherfield Hundred.

Prior to 1066, Dallington 'answered for 1 hide'. The hide was used both as a unit of land measurement and as a basis for tax assessment. As a measurement, it was rather arbitrary. In earlier centuries it was taken to mean the amount of land that would support one family, and its size was therefore largely dependent on the quality of the land. By 1066 it often meant a particular number of acres, generally about 120 acres. Its meaning with regard to Dallington in Domesday Book, however, must be a reference to Dallington's tax liability. The fact that, by 1085,





A group of children from Dallington School at the unveiling of the Domesday plaque, in 1987. The two adults are Philip Keeley, chairman of the Parish Council and Rosemary Grissell, chairman of the School Governors.

Dallington answered 'for nothing' implies that the land was not very productive, a suggestion supported by the knowledge that at least half the land was forestland.

#### THE MANORIAL LANDS

Half of the hide mentioned in Domesday Book was retained by the Count of Eu. This forestland formed the main part of the Forest of Dallington. It was associated with the Manor of Burwash, which was held by the Counts of Eu until 1244, when it was forfeited to the king. By 1425, it was in the possession of the Pelham family who held it, despite the occasional legal wrangle, until the end of the eighteenth century, when it was sold to the Earl of Ashburnham.

The 'William' mentioned in Domesday Book is William de St Leger (or St Leodegaris) who also held land at Wartling. His half of the hide seems to have been the more important and to have comprised what is generally described as the Manor of Dallington.

There is a tale that in 1105, when Henry I was besieging the



French town of Caen, four of the citizens opened the gates of the city and for their reward they received the gift of the Manor of Dallington. Even if this story were true it does not appear to have been acted upon, as the St Leger family held the manor both before and after that date. In 1265 Geoffrey St Leger was recorded as having been granted free warren in Dallington Forest and Chase. A 'chase' was hunting ground belonging to the king, reserved for the use of a local lord. 'Free warren' was granted by the king and it allowed the holder to raise and hunt game and other animals. In 1301 this freedom was passed on to Geoffrey St Leger's son, John.

The St Leger family's association with the manor came to an end in 1326, with a daughter who married Sir Thomas Hoo. In 1338, Sir Thomas obtained a charter for a fair to be held at his Manor of Dallington on 19, 20 and 21 July, which are the eve, day and morrow of St Margaret's Day. There is, however, no record of a fair ever actually taking place. The Manor of Dallington was held by members of the Hoo family until 1475, when it was passed to Elizabeth, the youngest daughter of Thomas, Lord Hoo and Hastings. Her second marriage was to Sir John Devenish, in whose family the manor remained until 1560. In that year, the manor was conveyed to Anthony Pelham of Bucksteep. The Manor of Dallington was held by the Pelhams until the end of the eighteenth century, when it was acquired by the Earl of Ashburnham.

The Manor of Hazelden also fell within the area known as Dallington. By 1291 this manor had been granted to Hastings Priory. In 1538, following Henry VIII's dissolution of the priory, it was granted to Henry's Attorney General, Sir John Baker. It remained with the same family until 1647 at which point it was sold to Benjamin Scarlett. By 1689 it was in the hands of John, Lord Ashburnham.

## BOUNDARIES

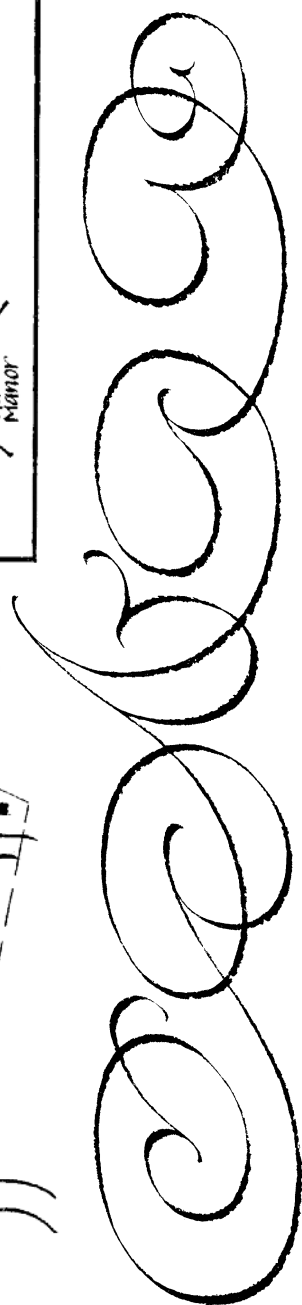
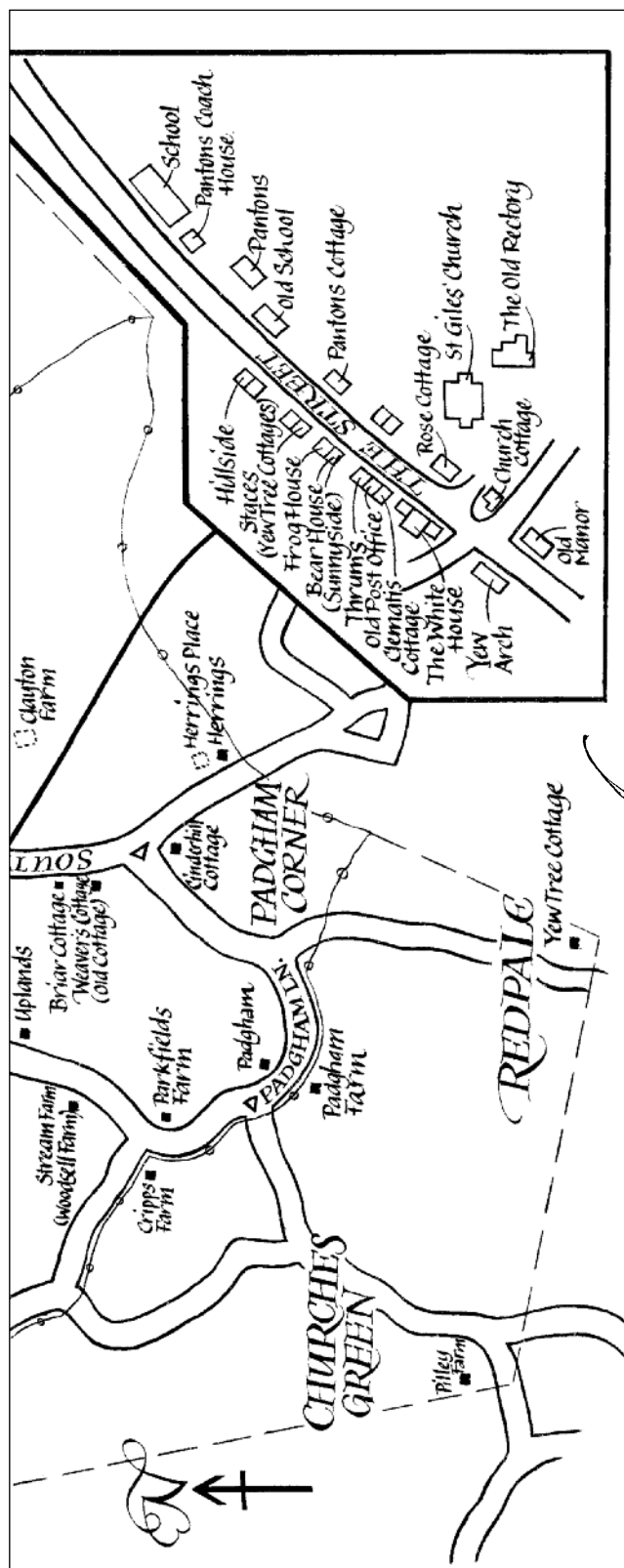
Over the years, Dallington's boundaries have altered. Even today they differ depending upon whether one is talking about the parish boundaries or the postal boundaries. The parish of Dallington is the smaller of the two areas. The postal district of Dallington extends out as far as Glaziers Forge, Giffords Farm, Redpale and Churches Green.

The parish, or ecclesiastical, boundaries have seen many changes. Prior to 1885, there were five 'insulated' portions of the parish. These were areas of land in the middle of other parishes











and were, in effect, Dallington islands. Two Acts of Parliament were passed in 1876 and 1878, called the Divided Parishes Acts, and an insulated portion of land, on which there were no homes, was taken into Ashburnham parish in 1885. In 1887 the four remaining insulated portions were lost. Two went to Ashburnham, one to Brightling and one to Warbleton. The insulated portions were not given up without a fight. In March 1886 a parish meeting was held and it was resolved to draw up a petition opposing the changes. This was signed by two-thirds of the rate-payers but was later withdrawn. The rector, the Rev. Ralph Raisbeck Tatham, also became involved in the dispute. Giving up the land could have meant losing his rent charges. He wrote an angry letter to the Assessment Committee at Battle, in which he said:

‘I hold my Tithe Rent Charge as Rector and Vicar of Dallington. At my Induction I was legally invested with all the Temporalities thereof... Ashburnham, Warbleton and Brightling have no more to do with my ecclesiastical temporalities than I have to do with the several incumbents of those parishes... Mr Wodehouse said at his enquiry that the sending off of these five portions would make no difference!! Then I claim upon that hypothesis that my rent charge rating be retained intact in the Dallington Valuation List as now, and that it be not cut up into four pieces.’

The Rev Ralph Raisbeck Tatham’s argument won the day and the rent charge apportionment of the insulated portions remained with the benefice of Dallington.

## LANDOWNERS

By 1815 most of the land in the south-east and north-west of the parish was held by the Ashburnham Estate. Most of the land in the north-east was in the hands of the Brightling Estate. These two estates continued to own large areas of Dallington right up until the 1950s. During the first half of the 1950s both Percy Tew of the Brightling Estate and Lady Catherine Ashburnham of the Ashburnham Estate died. At this time death duties were notoriously punitive. Death duties on the Ashburnham Estate, for instance, were in the region of half a million pounds. Neither estate had the necessary money at its disposal and it was decided that land and property would have to be sold. All the land and property had to be offered in the first instance to the tenants. A number of tenants took up this offer. Some, however, could not raise the mortgages required. Others, used to being tenants, chose not to take on what they saw as the burden of homeown-



# *The Ashburnham Title*

*Year of Accession*

<i>John Ashburnham</i> (1st Baron Ashburnham) born 1655, created a baron in .....	1689
<i>William Ashburnham</i> (2nd Baron Ashburnham) born 1679, eldest son of 1st Baron	1710
<i>John Ashburnham</i> (3rd Baron and 1st Earl of Ashburnham) born 1687, brother of 2nd Baron, created an earl in 1730	1710
<i>John Ashburnham</i> (2nd Earl of Ashburnham) born 1724, son of 1st Earl from his third marriage	1736
<i>George Ashburnham</i> (3rd Earl of Ashburnham) born 1760, son of 2nd Earl	1812
<i>Bertram Ashburnham</i> (4th Earl of Ashburnham) born 1797, son of 3rd Earl from his second marriage	1830
<i>Bertram Ashburnham</i> (5th Earl of Ashburnham) born 1840, son of 4th Earl	1878
<i>Thomas Ashburnham</i> (6th Earl of Ashburnham) born 1855, brother of 5th Earl, died without issue in .....	1913 1926

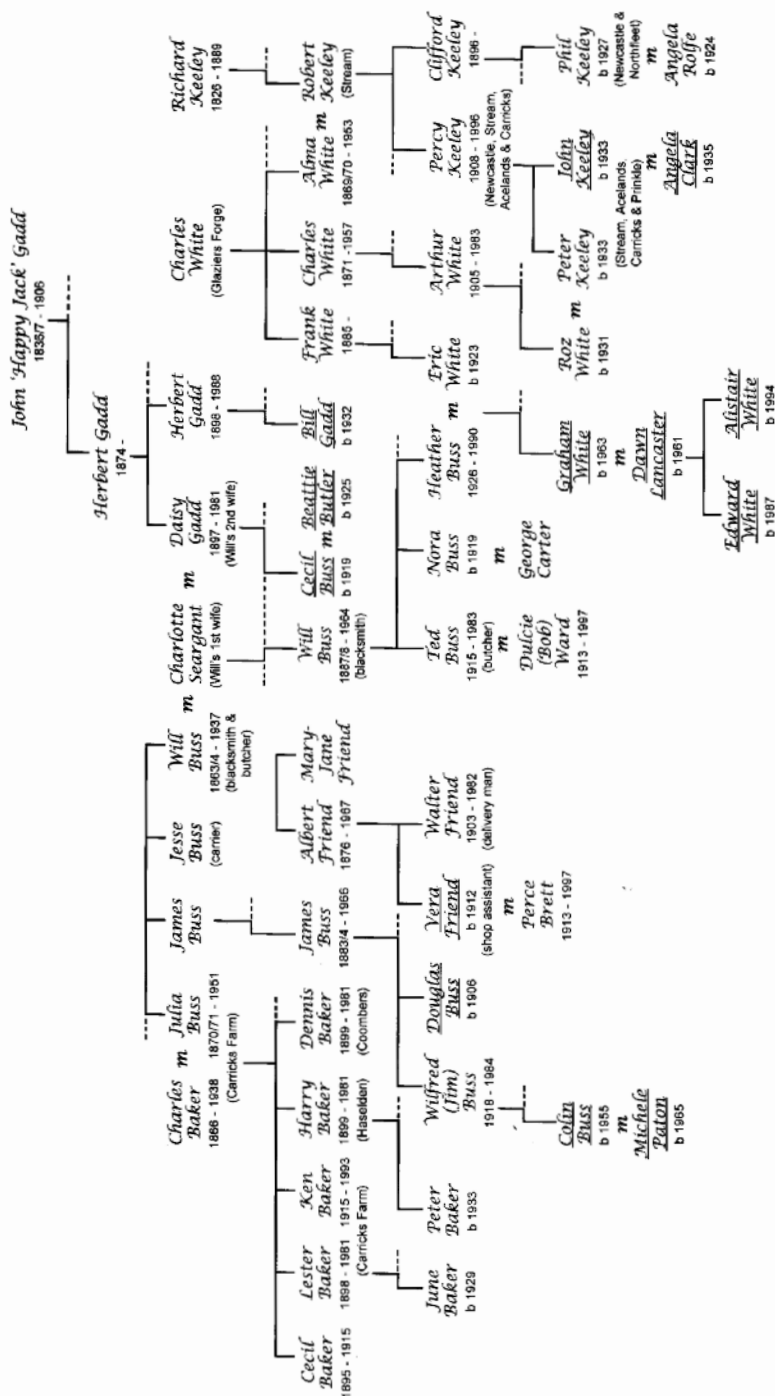
The estate passed to the 6th Earl's niece, *Lady Catherine Ashburnham*, daughter of the 5th Earl. She died, a spinster, in 1953.

ership, particularly as many of the properties required a great deal of money to be spent on them. Few had indoor sanitation and many had fallen into a sad state of disrepair. Most of the Brightling Estate land, together with a number of properties, was sold to Gypsum Mines Ltd, which later sold on the land and properties whilst retaining mining rights.

Villages, however, are much more than boundaries, land and buildings. Villages are communities, made up of people who work together, live together and play together. It is hoped that this book shows something of the intricate web of interwoven lives that lies at the heart of the village of Dallington.

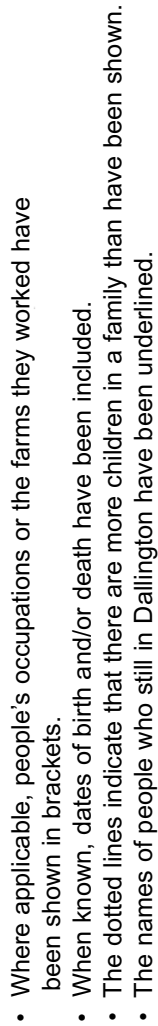


# Baker, Buss, Friend, Gadd, White and Keeley Families





These diagrams show the interwoven lives of several Dallington families.





## Chapter 2

### SHOPS AND TRADES

#### GROCERS

During the latter part of the nineteenth century and for most of the first half of the twentieth century, Dallington supported three grocer's shops.



Caleb Simmons had a grocery and bakery at Graylings, Woods Corner and employed Aaron York as his baker. Mr Simmons took over the business in the late 1870s, having spent the early years of his marriage in Darwin, Australia. He ran the business until

Caleb Simmons and his wife Dorcas, in about 1880.

Scott Burgess's shop at Graylings, in 1954, with the Police House visible beyond.





## *Shops and Trades*

his death in 1922, after which it was sold to Scott Burgess, who ran it with his sister, Eva. Mr Burgess became something of a local institution as he ran the shop for over forty years. The bakery was very successful and employed, at various times, Brett Mewett and Harold Duplock. Mr Burgess's shop was also generally acknowledged as the finest shop for sweets in the area. Like the other grocers in the village at this time, Scott Burgess delivered goods to his customers. He was fond of a chat and it was not unusual for people coming home after an evening out to see Mr Burgess still doing his deliveries at midnight. Scott Burgess died in the mid-1960s. Eva continued to run the business for a few more years, before closing the shop down. In 1972 the premises were sold to Diana and John MacWatt, who for several years ran the shop as an antiques business, called Dido Antiques.

In the 1850s, Samuel Peters ran a drapery and grocery business from a building in The Street that is now called The White House. By 1871, Thomas Peters had taken over his uncle's business. As well as selling groceries and drapery, Thomas Peters' shop also housed the Post Office and had a men's outfitting department



The Street in the 1880s, with the Peters' shop in the foreground.

and a china and glass showroom. Thomas and his wife Mercy produced seven children; three boys and four girls. During the early 1900s their second son, Roland, became involved in the business. He and his wife Mabel and, in time, their two children Mollie and Tom lived in a small house attached to the shop, while



## *Shops and Trades*



Roland Peters, his wife Mabel, and their children Tom and Mollie outside their shop in about 1911.

his parents and four unmarried sisters lived in the bigger house at the opposite end of the shop. Roland took over the business in 1909, following the death of his father. Two of Roland's sisters, Louise and Edith (Edie) took over the Post Office side of the business and ran it from a house further along The Street. This



From left to right: Clematis Cottage, The Old Post Office and Thrums, as they look today.



house, which dates from the fifteenth century, is now known as The Old Post Office.

In 1912, Roland and his family left Dallington to live in New Zealand. The next shopkeeper at The White House was Mr Sweatman, who added newspapers to the range of goods sold. By 1927 the shop had changed hands again and was being run by Alfred Henry Henderson. Vera Brett (*née* Friend) used to work in this shop and remembers that if anyone ordered goods that were not in stock, she would have to cycle all the way to Punnetts Town to get them from the grocer there.

Edie Peters continued to run the Post Office until 1936. A note in a contemporary diary states: '7pm 31st August 1936: last stamp sold in old Post Office by Miss Peters who retires today.' The Post Office transferred to Henderson's for a few years before that shop closed down in about 1940, at which point the Post Office moved to Dallington Stores. The newspaper side of the business was sold to Will Buss junior, the blacksmith at Woods Corner, and was run by his family. In 1956, one of his sons-in-law, George Carter, took over the running of the newsround. When he retired in 1986, another son-in-law, Eric White, took his place. Eric and his son Graham continue to deliver papers in the Dallington area. After Henderson's closed down, The White House lay empty for a while before being bought and converted into a private residence.

The third grocer operating in the late nineteenth century was Luke Daw, who lived at Pardons on Battle Road and ran the business as a grocery, general stores and corn merchants. He was followed by George Cramp, who employed Mr Russell as his shop manager. During the time that Mr Cramp owned the business, he had Beechlands built and when he moved in there, Mr and Mrs Russell moved into Pardons. Goods from Mr Cramp's shop were delivered to his customers by horse and cart. The horse went by the name of Kitty and she was driven by Bert Oliver, who had a predilection for singing hymns on his travels. He was apparently particularly fond of 'Lord, Thy Word Abideth'.

In 1937 Dallington Stores, or The Stores as it was often called, was sold to Charles Clark, who moved in with his wife and their children, Christopher and Angela. Almost anything could be bought in this shop. As the customer entered the shop, he or she would find groceries to the right, and drapery and basic pharmaceuticals such as cough mixture or aspirins to the left. The Post Office area was straight ahead, and beyond that, off a back





William Russell and Vera Friend (now Brett) outside Mr Cramp's shop, in the early 1930s.

room, were a cold room where bacon and cheese were stored, and an office under which was a cellar. Walking upstairs, past the buckets, brooms and workmen's boots that were hanging from the ceiling, the customer would be greeted with an array of china, lamp glasses and ironmongery. Behind the shop was a crushing shed where corn was crushed, and a long storage shed for corn, ground oats, maize and other grains. Mr Clark also sold coal and paraffin. The shop was very busy and it kept several people in employment. In addition to Mr and Mrs Clark, there was also a delivery man, Walter Friend, and three shop assistants, including Vera Friend (now Brett) and Beattie Butler (now Buss). The butter, margarine, lard and cooking fat all came in large blocks weighing about 28lbs (approximately 13kg). Individual portions had to be cut and weighed. There were big, circular cheeses, wrapped in muslin, that had to be skinned, and sides of bacon that had to be boned before being hand-sliced. Very few goods were pre-packed and any spare time was spent weighing and packing various commodities. Biscuits were put into white paper bags, with the corners tucked in to avoid breakages. Rice, dried fruit and sugar were packed in a rectangle of blue paper called Royal Hand.

Many of the farmers bought goods on credit. Several only settled their accounts twice a year and one only paid once a year, on Christmas Eve.



## *Shops and Trades*

Keeping the customer satisfied was important to all shopkeepers in those days. Angela Keeley (*née* Clark) recalls her father and brother pulling a large sleigh around the village one particularly snowy winter, ensuring that customers still got their deliveries.

During the years of the Second World War and for several years thereafter, customers had to use coupons from their ration books to buy many foodstuffs. Each week, the points from the coupons were added up and sent to the Food Office. Mr Clark, in his role as Food Warden, was in charge of emergency food and kept boxes of tinned goods locked up in one of his outbuildings.

In 1948, The Stores was sold to Mr Ashdown but by 1953 it was owned by Mr Butt and Mr Bancroft, who were still there in the early 1960s. They were followed by Mr Lucas and then by Mr Mason before the premises were bought by Mr Westwood in 1967. Throughout these changes of ownership, Walter Friend continued his job as delivery man and eventually worked for this establishment for well over 40 years.

Mr Westwood and his wife ran the shop for 22 years. In 1989 they sold it to Mr Putt, who then sold it later that year to Valerie and Savio De Souza. The advent of large supermarkets has,



Mrs Clark and her daughter Angela (now Keeley), soon after they moved to The Stores in 1937.



unfortunately, brought about the demise of many rural shops in this area. Dallington is lucky still to have a village shop and Post Office, even though its opening hours have had to be cut to four mornings and one full day per week.

### BLACKSMITHS AND WHEELWRIGHTS

Before the advent of the internal combustion engine, when the horse reigned supreme, the blacksmith was essential to the smooth-running of the local community.

In the 1880s and 1890s, this important job was carried out by George Sands, who lived at Forest View on Brightling Road. In the same era, Thomas Dawes was the wheelwright. He lived slightly further along the road at Hooks Farm. His younger brother, who lived with Thomas and his family, was also a wheelwright. In the early 1910s, Bobby Cooke worked as a wheelwright in the building that is now the garage to No. 1 Seaview Cottages at Woods Corner. The sawpits, where the wood for the wheels was cut and shaped, was further along the road in what is now the garden of Prospect House.

By the beginning of the twentieth century Will Buss was the blacksmith. His home was No. 3 Seaview Cottages and his work premises were sited a few yards further up the road, on what is now the green in front of Fullers Cottages. As well as working as a blacksmith, he also used to sweep chimneys, including those



Seaview Cottages in the 1910s, with the wheelwright's workshop just visible on the left. Beyond the cottages are the blacksmith's, a stable belonging to Edward Lovell and, finally, Pound Cottage.





Heather Buss and Peter Funnell in 1934, standing in front of 'the tool shed'.

at Brightling Park and Oldcastle. When Mr Buss moved to Brightling at the end of the First World War, his son, also called Will, took over his home and his business. Will junior had a side-line too. On a Sunday morning, the local boys and young men could go to the smithy and, for sixpence, get a short back and sides. There was no comfortable barber's chair or electric clippers, just a barrel to perch on and some painfully blunt scissors. Will Buss junior, continued to work as a blacksmith until his retirement in 1953.

Next to Will's home there was, and still is, a building that used to be known as the paint shop. It is believed that wagons were painted here. People can remember the colourful interior of the building's doors, where workers had wiped their paintbrushes.

Between the paint shop and the blacksmith's there was another building, made of corrugated iron. This was called the tool shed, for self-explanatory reasons. There was also a lean-to against the blacksmith's where paraffin and the special coal for the blacksmith's fire were stored.

#### BOOT MAKERS AND REPAIRERS

This craft was evidently much in demand in the latter part of the nineteenth century. There were two bootmakers, Samuel Beany and James Huntley, and one shoemaker, John Croft.

By the 1920s Herbert Gadd was working as a shoe repairer from premises behind his home, No. 1 Seaview Cottages. Mr Gadd had been



Herbert Gadd, the shoe repairer, pictured outside his workshop in the 1930s.



invalided out of the army during the First World War, having lost a leg. During his convalescence he was taught the trade of boot repairer. Mr Gadd worked full-time from his workshop until the early 1960s and continued to work part-time until the mid-1970s.

## BUTCHERS

By the 1880s, Thomas Noakes had a thriving butcher's business in The Street. His work premises adjoined Old Manor, which was



Thomas Noakes with his wife Eliza, photographed in the lane outside their home at about the turn of of the century.

home to Thomas, his wife Eliza and their 17 children.

Thomas Noakes died in 1903, aged 67, and his widow moved to Sunnyside (now Bear House). One of Thomas's sons, Henry, took over the house and the business. In the 1920s, 12-year-old Sidney Crouch began working as Henry's butcher boy.

By 1934, Henry seems to have ceased trading as a butcher as his occupation is listed as farmer in a trade directory of that year.

In 1921, Will Buss senior returned to Dallington to live in Downgate Cottages. Having passed the smithy on to his son, he now set up a butcher's shop in what had been the old wheelwright's workshop, next to No. 1 Seaview Cottages.

By the mid-1930s there were two butchers at Woods Corner. One was Ben Thompson, who had bought the business in the old wheelwright's workshop from Will Buss senior. Ben was later to move his business to The Warren (now Old Carpenters)



Will Buss senior, his young son Cecil, and Walter Friend outside Will's butcher's shop in the early 1920s.



Ben Thompson the butcher and his delivery van, outside his shop and home in the late 1930s.



on the opposite side of the main road, from where he continued to trade until the 1960s. The other butcher was George Downs, who had premises adjoining

his home, Pound Cottage, and a small slaughterhouse a few metres away. George Downs sold his home and business to Sid Martin in the late 1930s. Sid sold it on again in the mid-1950s to Ted Buss, who was the son of the blacksmith, Will Buss junior.

Ted Buss was something of an entrepreneur and his various enterprises kept not only himself but also Bill Gadd, son of Herbert Gadd the bootmaker, in employment for many years.

During and after the war years, Ted used to go 'long netting' for rabbits. Long netting took place at night. Hessian netting was put around the edges of fields and dogs drove the rabbits into the nets. The rabbits were then killed and gutted. Ted also worked in the timber industry, making pit props for mines, chopping wood for logs and making 'pimps', which were bundles of kindling wood. Ted's next venture was in the poultry business. He converted the stable that was next to his father's smithy into a chicken-plucking shed. At that time he had a dry plucking machine, which left stubs that had to be plucked by hand. When he bought a wet plucker, which was much more effective, he moved the operation to the adjacent slaughterhouse, as the shed had a wooden floor which was unsuitable for the new machine. The business thrived, with around a hundred birds being plucked each day. However it was all to end very abruptly with an outbreak of fowl pest. The resultant rules and regulations made the poultry business unviable and, in addition, myxomatosis had decimated the rabbit population.

The resourceful Mr Buss, however, was undeterred. He and Harry Baker, who farmed at Haselden, had got together with two members of the Jarvis family and they had started making and selling sausages. Harry and Ted went their separate ways when





Bill Gadd (on the right) and Sid Burgess, outside Ted Buss's chicken-plucking shed in the 1960s.

Ted wanted to diversify into other commodities, such as pies. Both men continued to be successful. Ted later bought larger premises in Hastings and moved from the area. Harry's sausage-making expertise has been passed down to his son, Peter, who makes and sells sausages from premises in Catsfield.

#### GARAGE OWNERS

Before the Second World War, Scott Burgess, who owned the grocery business at Graylings, also owned a small garage. This garage, with its single petrol pump, was situated on the stretch of road between Parkfields Farm, which was his home, and Padgham. Although there is no longer a building on the site, many people recall the garage because it was where they took their accumulators to be charged. Radios in those days ran on batteries with accumulators that had to be charged every week. Most households owned two accumulators, using one while the other was being charged. Scott had an unusual pet; a fox named Michael. Eddie Draper, a Dallington resident, remembers having to walk around the garage with care, as Michael would often hide under Scott's car and nip the heels of unsuspecting visitors.

Another garage owner, Frank Killick, ran a motor coach company. At first his vehicles were garaged at Brooklands but in the 1920s he erected an old First World War aircraft hangar on





A party of Dallington villagers in 1924. The group was driven to the Empire Exhibition at Wembley in one of Frank Killick's charabancs. The man sitting behind the driver's wheel of the charabanc is George Creasey. Frank Killick can be seen in the very back row on the right, with his face partially obscured. He was later to marry Mabel Burgess, who is in the front row, second from right. Mabel is sitting next to her mother Caroline and her two young sisters, Iris and Delsie.



## *Shops and Trades*

land opposite his home, Prospect House, and moved his vehicles there. His company's motto was 'Forget-Me-Not' and his coaches bore a forget-me-not emblem. The coaches were widely used locally. In addition to running scheduled services to Heathfield, they also took Dallington School sports teams to their away fixtures.

Like Scott Burgess, Mr Killick also had one petrol pump. In the 1930s, however, he decided to expand this side of the business and in 1936 he built a petrol station next to his garage. The elliptical piece of land on which the petrol station was, and still is, situated was once the local 'pound', where stray cattle or other livestock could be penned until re-claimed. The name of the house opposite, Pound Cottage, bears testimony to this. The petrol station opened with four petrol pumps, operated by a relative of Mr Killick, Reg Verrall, who had to hand pump the petrol as Dallington had not yet been connected to the electricity supply.

Frank Killick also ran a taxi service for many years. During the 1939-1945 war, petrol was rationed and his taxis were much in demand. Many of his drivers were serving in the forces, so his wife Mabel and, later, his daughter Joyce often drove for him.



Aerial view of Woods Corner, taken in 1973. The map on p10 can be used to identify individual buildings. The blacksmith's and the tool shed have been demolished, making way for Fullers Cottages, which stand on this site today.





This photograph of The Swan Inn is thought to date from the 1880s.

After the war, Perce Vincent joined Frank Killick and the business became known as Killick and Vincent.

The petrol station side of the business was sold to Edwin Young in September 1958, when a gallon (about 4.5 litres) of petrol cost 4s. He wanted to add a building, complete with inspection pit, where cars could be repaired but had no spare money. Mr Axel, the local builder, agreed to build it for him and accept the money when Mr Young could afford it. The money was repaid within twelve months. Today, the pumps are still operated by a pump attendant, usually the proprietor Mr Young, who still owns and runs the business. In these days of self-service petrol stations, personal service like this is something of a rarity.

In 1966, the coach side of the business was taken over by Harry Ruddy. In 1992, Mr Ruddy sold the coaches to Hams Travel and the building to Steve Stirling, who renovated the old hangar and now runs a specialist vehicle repair business from the premises.

## PUBLICANS

The only public house in the parish is to be found on the road junction at Woods Corner. The building is of early sixteenth century origin with late seventeenth century alterations. It used to be called Stilers but by 1681 was known as The Hare and Hounds and now goes by the name of The Swan Inn.





Luther Cornford standing outside The Swan Inn in the mid-1910s.

In 1891 the landlord of The Swan Inn was one Lester Jarvis, who lived at the inn with his wife Margaret and their three children. In 1912 Luther Cornford became landlord, taking over from a Mr Stubberfield, and he remained as licensee until 1928. During this time, The Swan became a popular stopping-off point for charabanc visitors, who had tea at the inn. Luther Cornford's farewell party was attended by the rector, the Rev. John Charles le Pelly Hatten, who said that although some people might wonder what the parson had to do with the public house, he felt that he had a great deal to do with it because the way in which the village inn was conducted often set the tone of the parish.

Mr James Funnell was the next landlord of The Swan Inn. During the 1930s, cycling clubs from Rye and Eastbourne would stop off at The Swan for tea, at a cost of 1/6 (about 7p) per head. The tea room was upstairs, above the present main bar, and could accommodate 70 people. This room was also the venue for cricket club teas at that time.

The layout of the inn at that time was different to its layout today. Customers usually entered through a doorway in between the two large windows of what is now the main bar. There was a room off to the left in which there was a log fire. This bar was where the older generation usually congregated and often played card games. The other bar was off to the right. It was frequented by people of all generations, and games such as darts and Shove Ha'penny were played in here. There was a secondary entrance



to the pub, which was via a doorway to the left of the inn. This opened into a corridor with a bench, leading to the bar. Almost all the customers were men, although Peter Funnell, the landlord's son, does remember one woman, Mrs Porter, who was a regular visitor to the pub. Mrs Porter walked from Three Cups Corner and sold pegs, which she carried in a wicker basket. Peter recalls her sitting on the bench in the corridor, drinking a pint of mild and smoking a clay pipe.

In addition to mild, the inn served two other draught beers, bitter and old, which were gravity-fed from 9 gallon (about 40 litres) wooden barrels that were raised up on trestles. Bottled wines and spirits were also served. During the war, most pubs ran out of stock at times and had to close. As The Swan was a Free House it was able to buy from several breweries and managed to keep its doors open throughout the war. The inn's suppliers included Whitbread, Fremlins, Findlaters, Kelsey and the Star Brewery. Peter Funnell remembers the Star Brewery well, as its deliveries came on a Foden steam engine lorry. After the war it became more common to see women and couples in the pub, especially younger, middle-class couples. The older

generation, however, still felt that the pub was not a proper place for a woman. James Funnell was licensee of the inn for 26 years until his death in 1955 at the age of 77. In addition to running the inn, he also farmed over a hundred acres of land attached to the inn. His son Peter, who married Frank



In the 1930s, customers often arrived at The Swan Inn on horseback. The man in the foreground is an ice-cream seller.

Killick's daughter Joyce, worked the farm with him. The land and the inn both belonged to the Ashburnham Estate. When the freehold of the land and buildings was offered for sale to the tenants, James Funnell agreed to buy them. Sadly he died before contracts were exchanged but his wife Lily bought the pub and Peter bought the land. Lily Funnell continued to run the pub for a further three years, before selling it to the brewery Beards of Lewes. From the late 1950s to the late 1980s the landlords were



all Beards' tenants. Jim and Kath Brown were the first tenants. They were followed in 1960 by Mr Mallum. Three years later, George and Betty Crossley took over. They were a very popular landlord and landlady and remained at the inn until 1970. John and Joan Copass ran the inn for a few years in the early seventies before handing over to David and Mary Melville-Ross. Thanks to Mary's excellent cooking, the pub built up an excellent reputation for food, including an entry in an Egon Ronay food guide. At the end of the 1980s, John Blake bought the inn from Beards. The purchase coincided with a recession and a collapse in property prices. The business eventually went bankrupt and in 1992 the pub was closed for a few months, before being re-opened with Danny Atherton as manager. During the 1990s the inn had several corporate owners. Danny Atherton continued to manage the inn until 1998, when Darrell and Barbara Tomkins took over.

## ROADMEN



A road gang and their steam roller on the stretch of road by Newcastle Farm, in the 1930s.

cutting the verges with a scythe or a swap-hook, edging the verges with a spade, sweeping the roads and keeping the ditches clear. In the 1930s, Mr Pankhurst had responsibility for the Dallington section of the Brightling Road, Nelson King looked after South Lane, and Frederick Lulham worked the stretch from Woods Corner down to Darwell Hole. This stretch had previously been worked by Albert Friend.

Every village in the area used to have its own roadmen. Each roadman was responsible for a particular stretch of road, known as a 'length', which gave rise to the alternative name for this occupation, 'lengthman'.

The roadman's duties included

## MILKMEN

From the 1930s to the 1950s, Stanley White, who farmed at Prinkle, had a milk round in the village. Local people recall that



he used a one pint measure to ladle the milk from a four-gallon churn into his customers' own containers. Villagers could also collect milk from many of the smaller farms. Youngsters often made a bit of pocket money by collecting and delivering milk. Bill Gadd remembers acting as a delivery boy for Will Buss junior. If he was lucky, he was paid by Will for delivering the milk and then tipped a little extra by the grateful customer. During the 1960s, milk was delivered around the Dallington area by Mr Collins, who had a shop at Three Cups Corner. Derrick Abel and his wife Jenny took over the shop and the milk round in the early 1970s. Derrick delivered the milk until his retirement in 1996, when the round was sold to Unigate Dairies who continue to call at Dallington addresses three times a week.



Derrick Abel, setting off on his milk round in 1978. For many years he delivered papers as well as milk.

## AUCTIONEERS

Edward Watson, who lived at Rabbits (now Rabetts) Farm, began making valuations and conducting auctions in 1873. His first recorded valuation was on 24 October at Cinderhill Farm. His business, which is still thriving today, moved to premises in Heathfield in 1903. Watsons has maintained close links with Dallington. Over the years, it has auctioned many Dallington properties, including Haselden Farm in 1909 and Pantons in 1939. In 1998, Watsons conducted the auction of Peter and John Keeley's farm stock and machinery, prior to their retirement.

Advertisements in the Parish Magazine in 1953.

<p><b>F. W. BUSS &amp; SON,</b> DALLINGTON</p> <p>Newsagents — Carriers Wholesale and Retail Poultry Dealers — Daily Collections — Phone Brightling 237</p>	<p>Phone: Brightling 215. <b>B. J. THOMPSON,</b> Family Butcher, DALLINGTON. Parveyour of Meat, Bacon and Groceries PERSONAL ATTENTION Also— Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Rabbits and Poultry</p>
<p><b>E. C. HOBDEN,</b> Cattle Carrier, Haulage &amp; Furniture Removals. PLEASURE HOUSE, ASHBURNHAM. Phone: Rushlake Green 354</p>	<p><b>BUTT &amp; BANCROFT</b> GROCERY PROVISIONS DRAPERY Post Office Stores, DALLINGTON, HEATHFIELD, SUSSEX Telephone Brightling 213</p>
<p>English Meat Purveyor <b>S. H. MARTIN,</b> FAMILY BUTCHER Woods Corner, Dallington. Tel. Brightling 264.</p>	<p><b>GUARANTEED PURE MILK</b> <b>S. W. WHITE,</b> PRINKLE FARM, DALLINGTON, Sussex Telephone Rushlake Green 293</p>
<p><b>CRUTTENDENS</b> <b>HERSTMONEUX</b> Phone 3277</p>	<p>TELEPHONE: BUTTLIN 4258 GRAMS: "VICARYS BUTTLIN." <b>VICARYS LTD.,</b> MOTOR ENGINEERS &amp; COACH BUILDERS MORRIS AGENTS (L.M. and Commercial) 422, High Street, Battle, Sussex. Head Office: 35, High Street. Coach Building Dept.: 24, Mount Street.</p>
<p><b>ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS</b> <b>RADIO and TELEVISION</b> <b>SALES and SERVICE</b> Accumulator Collection and Delivery Van in this area Thursdays Phone Herstmoneux 3277.</p>	<p>Phone: Rushlake Green 331. <b>D. L. BUSS,</b> BUILDING CONTRACTOR ALL BRANCHES ESTIMATES FREE. DALLINGTON - SUSSEX.</p>



## *Chapter 3*

### EVERYDAY LIFE

#### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

By the mid-1930s, there were frequent bus services to and from Heathfield, run by Killicks Omnibus which was based at Woods Corner. There were also regular buses to and from Hastings and Tunbridge Wells, run by Maidstone and District Motor Services.

By the 1940s, buses were running to Hastings and Tunbridge Wells every two hours until well into the evening. At weekends, a popular pastime was going to the cinema in Battle to watch the evening showing of a film. The last bus, which arrived back in Dallington at 10.40p.m., was usually packed with people. There was also a bus known as Sam's bus (because it was driven by a man named Sam Wood), which operated between Heathfield and Woods Corner during the daytime. Its final journey of the day ended at Woods Corner at 5.40p.m. and the bus usually remained at Killicks's overnight. On Saturdays, however, it was garaged in Battle and anyone waiting at

A bus approaches Woods Corner in the 1930s.





### *Everyday Life*

Woods Corner at the appropriate time would be offered a lift into town. This was a popular option, as Sam arrived in Battle just a few minutes before the start of the evening cinema programme.

In the 1950s, the bus service was even more frequent. There was a bus from Hastings through to Heathfield every hour. On the odd hours it continued on to Tunbridge Wells and on the even hours it went to Brighton.

The service between Tunbridge Wells and Hastings continued until the 1970s. Today's bus service, run by Autopoint of Herstmonceux, runs between Heathfield and Battle and is far less frequent, making just four journeys a day in each direction and carrying only a handful of passengers.

### POSTAL SERVICE

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the post was delivered by Edward Lovell, who lived at Woods Corner. He had joined the Postal Service in 1877 at the age of 17, and initially worked in



Edward Lovell in his postman's uniform, in about 1910. His wife is standing in the doorway of their home in Seaview Cottages.

Heathfield. Later, he was transferred to Brightling Post Office and drove his pony and cart to Heathfield station each day to collect and deliver mail. He kept the pony and cart in a stable at Woods Corner, a few yards from his home at No. 2 Seaview Cottages. When Mr Lovell retired in 1918, he was awarded the King's





The diminutive Nancy Simmons (right) with Angela Clark (now Keeley) in Bakers Lane in the 1940s.

Imperial Service medal for over 40 years' exemplary duty. After his retirement, Mr Lovell became a furniture dealer, using his old stable as his business premises. This was the stable that eventually became Ted Buss's chicken-plucking shed.

Parcels and goods were often transported by carrier. Jesse Buss, who lived at Earls Croft, worked as a carrier during the 1920s and 1930s. Every Tuesday and Friday he

delivered items to homes and businesses in Hastings and other towns and villages en route.

In the early 1930s, the mail was delivered by Harry Hallett, who had a bike to transport him around the area. By the late 1930s and during the 1940s, many Dallington addresses had their mail delivered by three 'motor driving' postmen, as they were known. These postmen, who were on a weekly rota, were Mr Mitchell, Mr Mockford and Mr Dinnage. In those days the mail was even delivered on Christmas Day. It is recalled that, one Christmas Day, one of the aforementioned postmen took the phrase 'festive spirit' literally when he overindulged on home-made wine at an unspecified Dallington address. On arriving at Newcastle Farm he could barely walk, let alone drive his van. He was ushered into the sitting room and promptly fell asleep on the sofa, where he remained for the next two hours.

During the 1940s, Nancy Simmons was in charge of sorting the mail, which was delivered to the Post Office at Dallington Stores from Heathfield. She also delivered the local mail on foot to addresses that included The Street and Bakers Lane.

Today, all mail is sorted in Heathfield and delivered and collected by van.

## **WATER**

Adeline Tatham, daughter of the Rev. Ralph Raisbeck Tatham, gives a description of the water supply at the vicarage in the mid-1880s:



'The present draw-well at the west of the house was dug early in the century. Its depth is 100ft. Water stands in it to a depth of 15ft for ten months of the year. Alike in dry and wet summers, it begins to shrink at the end of August or beginning of September and continues nearly dry for about two months. After the autumn gales, the water rapidly comes in. The water has been analysed and been found pure and wholesome. It is very soft and suitable for washing.'

Most households in the nineteenth century had their own well or shared a well with their neighbours. The wells at Pitt House (now Wish House) and The Swan Inn are remembered because, unusually, they were inside rather than outside. Several households in the village relied on ponds, springs or streams for their water supply.

Piped water, or rather the lack of it, was a contentious issue for many years. In 1935, the villagers hoped that their water worries would shortly be at an end. The County Council was informed that the Heathfield and District Water Company wanted to apply to extend the limits of their supply so as to include Dallington. However, no actual works took place. By 1955, wells were regularly running dry between August and October and those villagers without underground rainwater tanks had to buy water that was delivered by tank lorries. In 1956, it looked as though a piped water supply might become a reality but before the work could be started it was cancelled, due to strict

Copy From Dr S. Allison Woodhead F.I.C.  
The Public Analyst's Lab.  
Mountfield House

Sample labelled: Dallington School Sewer S.O.

The water on arrival had the following characteristics:  
Colour - Dirty yellow  
Smell - Earthy  
Sediment - Fine organic debris.

Chemical Analysis afforded the following:-

Total solids (dried at 100°C)	18.6	grams per gallon
Solids (after ignition)	11.2	" "
Chlorine	1.8	" "
Ammonia (free)		0.330
" (albuminoid)		0.130
Oxygen taken from permanganate in 1/2 hr	0.08	
" " " " " 4 hrs	0.16	
Nitrogen as nitrates & nitrites	0.28	
Nitrates	Present	
Hardness (after boiling)	5.0	
" (Total)	11.7	
Phosphates	Nil	
Metals impurity	Iron	

Note This water is still much polluted & is totally unfit for drinking purposes -  
(signed) S. Allison Woodhead

Correspondence dating from 1932, concerning contaminated water in the school well. The problem was dealt with by renovating and cleaning the well and filtering the water.



controls on spending introduced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The water situation was becoming intolerable. Many of the wells were condemned and householders were advised to filter their water. Farmers were forbidden from cleaning their milking utensils using well water and had to rely instead on water pumped from underground rainwater tanks. A deputation travelled



Herbert Gadd's brother-in-law, drawing water from the shared well at Seaview Cottages in the late 1940s.

to London to try to get the ban on the works lifted. They were successful in their mission and the village was finally connected to a piped water supply in 1958. A mains pipe ran along the main road and down The Street and people could pay to have it connected to their homes. For those people who lived some distance from the mains, the cost of piping the water across fields was significant. In 1965, 42 out of 108 Dallington households were still dependent on wells or rainwater tanks for their water supply. Today, almost all homes are connected to the mains. The exceptions include the houses at Glaziers Forge, which began the year 2000 with a spring-fed water supply.

## SANITATION

The struggle for a piped water supply may have been over by 1958 but a mains drainage system eludes the village to this day. Each household is therefore responsible for the disposal of its own waste water and sewage.

In the 1930s and 1940s, a visit to the loo often meant a trip to a small brick building at the bottom of the garden. The toilet itself was usually no more than a wooden seat over a bucket, the contents of which were later buried in the garden. In winter, people remember snow blowing in under the roof tiles, and having to sweep the seat before they could avail themselves of the facilities. Elsan closets became popular after the war. They were little more than an upgraded seat and bucket but they benefited



from the addition of chemicals that, if nothing else, served to reduce the odour somewhat.

By 1965 many people had indoor toilets and their waste water was generally dealt with by a means of a cesspool, which had to be emptied when full. Thirty-nine households still used Elsan closets and 13 had a septic tank.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, the septic tank is the preferred method of waste water disposal and, even with the vast increase in the water used daily in our homes, the general consensus of opinion seems to be that this method works adequately and that there is no real need for a mains drainage system.

## ELECTRICITY

Dallington was not connected to a supply of electricity until 1947. Before this date, most homes were lit by paraffin lamps, although The Swan Inn had acetylene gas lighting. This gas was created by allowing water to drip slowly on to calcium carbide, held in a container. People who lived in the smaller cottages usually cooked on iron ranges, which were also often the only source of heat in their home, while those living in larger houses often had bigger coal- or wood-burning Aga-style ranges and heated their homes with log or coal fires.

### SECOND FLOOR—Good Attic Bedroom.

Cooking and Lighting by petrol-gas (Silverlite plant).

Central Heating. Water supply from 3 wells and rain-water storage.

There are electric points in some of the principal rooms and the house is partially wired for electricity, generated by own plant.

Cesspool drainage.

Outside are Maids' W.C. Garden Cloak-room with W.C. and basin (h. & c.).

Gas-engine House and Boiler Room with O C & F type boilers for central heating and domestic hot-water supply.



Nearby is the  
**OLD WORLD COTTAGE**

suitable for Gardener or Chauffeur.

Constructed of stone, weather-board and part weather-tiled elevation with tiled roof, containing a wealth of old oak beams and timbers.

By the 1930s a few houses, such as the vicarage and Pantons, had their own generators, linked to a rudimentary wiring system which provided a limited number of power and lighting points. The number of homes using generators increased during the 1930s and 1940s. Cox's Mill is known to have had a water-powered generator.

Electricity was eventually supplied by the Hastings

Pantons and Pantons Cottage were auctioned as one lot in 1939. This page from the auction brochure describes the heating, lighting and other domestic arrangements at Pantons.



Electricity Authority, which was later nationalised and became part of the South Eastern Electricity Authority. By 1965, almost all homes were connected to the electricity supply. There were, however, five known exceptions. Today every home has electricity, brought in by overhead cables.

### KEEPING CLEAN

In the 1930s and 1940s, water for washing both people and clothes was often heated in a copper. This was a large copper urn with a wooden lid, which was mounted in a brick structure. A fire made from sticks of wood known as faggots was lit below the copper. Monday was always washday and it did indeed take the whole day. Most people washed their clothes by hand, often using



Herbert Gadd's father-in-law sawing firewood in the 1930s.

a washing dolly to agitate the clothes. The clothes were then put through a hand-worked mangle before being put out to dry. If the weather was fair, the washing could be dried on the line. If not, it was put on a clothes horse in front of the range or the fire. In the absence of electricity, ironing was generally done with flat irons, heated on the range.

Monday was also bath day in many households. The copper had been lit and it made sense to make the best possible use of its heat. Bath time for many people meant

sitting in a tin bath in front of the range.

Bill Gadd recalls that for his mother, as for most housewives, Monday was the busiest day of the week. There was little time to cook a meal and so supper usually consisted of cold meat and fried-up vegetables, left over from the Sunday roast dinner.

### LAW AND ORDER

Dallington had its own Police House, which was the house attached to the grocer's at Graylings, Woods Corner. In the 1880s, the local policeman was E.G. Fuller. By 1891, the house was occupied by P.C. William Barton, his wife and his niece, and



in the late 1910s it was home to P.C. Henderson and his family. From 1922 to 1928, Harry Duplock was stationed at Dallington. Harry and his wife had four sons, William, Herbert, Harold and Ronald. Harry was succeeded by P.C. Philpott, who, as a single policeman, was not entitled to live in the police house and lodged instead at Thrums, in The Street. P.C. Philpott left Dallington in February 1931 for a new post in Battle connected with 'motor traffic duties'.

P.C. Smithers became the next village bobby. There was not a great deal of crime for the local policeman to deal with. His most serious felons were poachers, who regularly went after pheasants and rabbits. Other than that, he spent a fair amount of time chastising people for misdemeanors such as riding their bikes without lights. P.C. Harmer took over from P.C. Smithers for about two years. Then, from 1937 to 1959, the post was held by P.C. Latter, who lodged with Sarah Pont at Four Winds in South Lane. P.C. Latter was one of five brothers, all of whom were police officers. His big love in life was bee-keeping, a subject on which he was an acknowledged expert.

Dallington is now served from Battle Police Station but has an officer with responsibility for this area, Steve Mintram. Steve is a familiar figure and his genuine concern for the well-being of the residents is much appreciated in an age when policing policies seem to lean towards the centralisation of personnel and resources.

## COMMUNICATIONS

A telephone was installed in Henderson's shop at The White House when the Post Office transferred there, following Edie Peters' retirement in 1936. Few people had telephones in those days and urgent messages were sent by telegram. The telegram would be phoned through to the Post Office. The message had to be handwritten on a special form and then delivered. Sometimes the sender paid for the telegram; sometimes it was the



Henderson's shop in the late 1930s. The sign between the two upstairs windows reads 'PUBLIC TELEPHONE'.



recipient. When Henderson's closed in about 1940 and the Post Office moved to The Stores, these premises too were connected to the telephone exchange.

At about this time, a public phone box was installed on the triangle of land at the junction of the main road and The Street. It was the responsibility of the Post Office to keep the telephone box clean. Beattie Buss (*née* Butler), who worked at The Stores, recalls being sent down with a bucket and disinfectant to perform this task.

### LIBRARY SERVICES

Dallington, in common with other villages, had its own local branch of the County Library. During the war, villagers went to Sarah Pont's home, Four Winds, to borrow books. After the war the library was open for business on Wednesdays in the Old School. Twice a year, 400 books from the central library were chosen and brought out to the village. The books were stored in special locked cases and there was also a desk that opened out, containing the tickets, records and other administrative paraphernalia. This arrangement continued until the 1970s when the service was replaced by a mobile one. The Mobile Library still visits the village once a fortnight.

### HEALTH SERVICES

In 1932 a permanent District Nurse, Nurse Fletcher, was employed to serve Dallington and surrounding villages. She was



Sister Sheldon being presented with her retirement gift in 1968.



followed by Nurses Birch and Lucas, before Sister Sheldon took over in 1935. Sister Sheldon was the District Nurse for the next 33 years, until her retirement in 1968. She was a well-loved and respected member of the community; so much so that on her retirement she was presented with a car, bought for her by grateful residents in the area. At this presentation Dame Ruth Buckley said:

‘We can hardly remember what it was like before she was here to look after us. Sister Sheldon has cured our wounds and our ills. She has comforted us in our pains and anxieties but the greatest gift she has given us has been her friendship.’

In the 1920s and early 1930s Dr Stanger from Rushlake Green practised in the area. At about the same time Dr Brough, whose main surgery was in Battle, held a surgery in the Old School once a week. Medicines were brought out to the village by bus and left at The Swan Inn, from where they could be collected. Dr Brough was succeeded by Dr Davidson, who held his surgeries in The Old Post Office.

During the war, a Dr Higginton moved out of London to live in a caravan in South Lane. Just after the war, he began holding surgeries twice a week at Snowden (now Thistle Cottage), which was the home of Gilbert Brett. Dr Higginton was appalled that medicines were being left at The Swan, and held his own supplies, which he dispensed from the surgery or from his car when out on home visits. He continued to hold twice-weekly surgeries at Snowden until the late 1960s.

Today’s residents attend surgeries in Heathfield, Battle, Burwash or Robertsbridge, although all doctors make home visits if necessary.

## WEATHER

The weather has always played an important part in everyday Dallington life, not least because it has had a profound effect on what was for many decades its principal industry, farming.

The period from November 1890 to the following November was particularly remarkable. There were sixty consecutive days of frost from 25 November, 1890 to 24 January 1891. The nights of 26 November and 5, 6 and 7 January were so cold that the thermometer fell below zero degrees Fahrenheit (approximately -18°C). Adeline Tatham, a daughter of the vicar, the Rev. Ralph Raisbeck Tatham, noted that many shrubs were killed and ‘there was great distress among the poor’. It was then dry and unsea-





Rowlands Cottage under a blanket of snow in the mid-1960s.

sonably mild throughout the month of February but on 9 March snow fell to a depth of about 15 inches (about 38cm), and drifted so deeply in the lanes that it took 45 men to clear the roads. On Saturday 16 May, snow again fell, this time to a depth of 2 or 3 inches (about 6cm). The late spring was followed by a cold, wet summer and then, in the autumn, by gales. During the worst gale, on 11 November, a stone cross fell from the roof of the church and broke into many pieces. The church was again damaged in 1930, when a block fell from the tower during a gale. Two houses in South Lane suffered damage in the 1930 gale and many trees were blown down.

1987 was the year of the Great Hurricane that swept across Sussex during the night of 16 October. A number of houses suffered damage, including Carricks Farm House where a chimney collapsed. Many trees were uprooted. A pine tree opposite Rabbits Farm fell across the road bringing down power lines. The village was without electricity for several days and without telephones for about six weeks.

Snow has regularly disrupted village life during the winter. In the event of a snowstorm, the Carricks Hill stretch of the main road is one of the first in Sussex to become impassable. In February 1958, a bus travelling from Heathfield ran into a snow drift when attempting to pass a cattle lorry, a car and a van that were already stuck on Carricks Hill. It was 14 hours before a breakdown truck with a crane could reach them. The two



passengers managed to get back to Heathfield but the conductor and driver had to stay with the bus overnight. They did not go hungry, however, for a newspaper article quotes the driver as saying: 'In the morning, about 6.30, a woman from a farm gave us a fine breakfast of bacon and eggs.' The road on the other side of Woods Corner was even more badly affected. Long distance lorries, coaches, another bus, several cars and an oil tanker were all stranded on this section of the road. Fourteen people were put up at The Swan Inn overnight. Snowploughs and bulldozers had to be brought in and it was twenty-four hours before most people could continue their journeys.



A bus stuck in a snow drift in Dallington, in 1967.



## *Chapter 4*

### FARMING AND OTHER INDUSTRIES

#### FARMING

During the second half of the nineteenth century, there were at least 25 farms in the parish of Dallington. In addition there were several, including Coldharbour and Giffords, that fell outside the parish boundary but had Dallington addresses. The 1851 census reveals that although there were a few farms of up to 100 acres, many were made up of 10 or fewer acres. Almost all the farmers were tenant farmers. In those days, farm work was considered a good occupation, as a house invariably went with the job. The farmer would live in the main farm house, whilst many of today's 'desirable residences' were once farm labourers' cottages. Homes



James and Alice Buss outside Flaskets Cottage (now Half Moon Cottage) in the 1940s. This small cottage once housed two families.



that are now lived in by one household would have been occupied by as many as three separate families, often with several children. Carricks Farm in Bakers Lane, for instance, had a main farmhouse which was lived in at times by two families. Further down the lane, the houses that are now called Stacey's House and Half Moon Cottage housed three and two families respectively. The occupants of all these houses were kept in gainful employment on a farm of less than 100 acres.

At the turn of the century, hops were grown in many of Dallington's fields. There were several oast houses in the area, including one at Stream Farm which was demolished in 1914 and another, in Bakers Lane, which was still being used to dry and packet hops in the mid-1950s. Local people remember coming to this oast in the evenings and bringing potatoes to bake in the fires, which were kept alight day and night. The field at the bottom of Bakers Lane was one of the last hop gardens in the area. The hop-picking season was looked forward to by many villagers and is remembered as a time of laughter, chatter and a good deal of teasing and practical joking. Entire families worked in the hop gardens. To take account of the hop-



A group of hop-pickers in the hop gardens at the bottom of Bakers Lane, in the late 1930s.

From left to right: Rosie Gadd, Bernard Gadd, Bill Gadd, their mother Dorothy (Sis) Gadd, Erica Beeney

picking season, Dallington School, like other schools in hop-growing areas, had special summer holidays that did not begin until mid-August and carried on until the end of September. A note in the school log book, dated 28 September 1914, reads: 'Re-opened with a poor attendance. Hop-picking not yet finished.' Hops are no longer grown commercially in the village; however they can still be seen growing wild in the hedgerows that surround what were once hop gardens.

By the 1930s, the number of Dallington farms was still in the mid-twenties. Almost all the farms were mixed farms. Most



farmers hand-milked between 4 and 10 cows. The milk was put into churns and collected by lorry from the end of each farm lane. The milk was then taken to Express Dairies at Horam or to Mayfield Creameries. In the summer, to prevent the milk going sour overnight, farmers suspended the churns in their wells. John Keeley remembers seeing slugs and snails crawling up the churns as they were hauled up in the mornings.

Farmers who kept sheep generally bought store lambs, usually at Horsmonden Sheep Fair at the end of July. They sold them as fat lambs throughout the winter or at Woods Corner Spring Sheep Sale. The Spring Sheep Sales began in about 1930 and were still taking place in the mid-1960s. Local people can remember the lanes being crowded with sheep as they were driven to Woods Corner for the sale, which was held in the field behind what is now the petrol station. In addition to the sheep sale, there were also cattle sales in March, July and October.

Most farmers, indeed most households, kept chickens and it was also usual to keep a pig, which would be bought as a piglet, fattened up on left-overs and then killed and hung, providing meals for many months.

The majority of farms were family farms and as the children grew up they were given jobs to do and expected to play their part in the running of the farm. By the time they reached school age, they would be feeding the hens, collecting the eggs and shutting up the hen houses at night. Children learned to hand-milk the cows and hoe the crops, such as kale, turnip, swede and mangels, which were grown for cattle feed.

Everyone, of course, had to lend a hand with the hay-making. In the 1940s and 1950s, the grass was cut by a finger-mower



Percy Keeley (on the haycart) and Ron Hoad  
haymaking at Newcastle Farm in the late 1940s.

drawn by two horses. A finger-mower worked rather like one of today's electric hedge cutters. As the horses pulled the mower, the revolving wheels worked a blade that slid over some static 'fingers'. After leaving the grass to dry for two or three days,



the whole family helped turn it, so that the other side could dry. After this, it was raked into rows, ready for the men to load it onto the wagons using pitchforks. The younger members of the family had the job of clearing the ground by raking up any remaining hay. The hay was taken down to the stack yard and stacked into hay ricks. Everything was done using pitchforks. It was hard work as the stacks could be as tall as 30ft (9m). The rick was left to settle for about five weeks and was then thatched with straw and left until the winter.

The 1939-45 war led to a change in the way that the land was farmed. Britain was no longer able to rely on imported cereals. The government instructed farmers to put certain fields down to cereals, naming precisely which fields and what acreage. This was the first time that many of the Dallington farmers had ever been involved in arable



Dave Thompson (brother of Ben Thompson, the butcher) and his father Ben, stooking corn at Giffords Farm in the early 1930s.

farming. John Keeley remembers the crops being cut by an old reaper-binder, drawn by a Standard Fordson tractor. The sheaves were then stooked. A stook, or shock, consisted of several sheaves, usually six for wheat and eight for oats, which were propped up against each other. The stooks were left in the fields for two to three weeks so that the grain could finish ripening. They were then carried by horse and cart back to the farmyard and stacked in round stacks, thatched with straw and left till late autumn or early winter when a traction engine and thresher used to do the rounds from farm to farm.

Most of the farms in the area used a thresher and traction engine hired from J. Barnes and Son of Bodle Street. Two men were supplied with the machinery but threshing required a gang of about ten men, so several farms worked together, with each farm supplying one or two men. Threshing was hot, dusty work. The corn was put in at the top of the machine and went down through a drum, which stripped the corn from the stalks. The





The threshing machine that was used on many Dallington farms. This photograph was taken during the Second World War.

stalks of straw were trussed as they went out through the side of the machine. The corn, meanwhile, went through a series of sieves and into a container, from where rotating cups scooped the corn back up to the top of the machine. Here, a blower blew the dust off the corn before it was sent through more sets

of sieves and a 'chogger', which cleaned the corn. It then went down a chute and into bags.

During some of the war years, Land Army girls formed part of the threshing gangs. Like all the other farm labourers, they were given extra rations when they were threshing. Betty Draper (*née* Creasey) was a Land Army girl and recalls that during the time between the stacks being built and the grain being threshed, the stacks became a refuge and food store for rats. The lower the stack became, the fewer the hiding places for the rats. The foot of the stack was netted with wire, so that the rats could be caught and killed but many escaped and ran in all directions around the yard. During the war, prisoners-of-war also helped on the land. There were prisoner-of-war camps at Normanhurst, Horam and Herstmonceux. At first, most of the prisoners-of-war were Italian. Later they were from Germany. They were picked up from their camps by coach in the mornings and dropped off at farms all around the area.



Most farmers continued to milk their cows by hand until the mid-1940s.

Betty Creasey (now Draper) was one of the Land Army girls who worked on Dallington farms in the 1940s.





George Veness (on the right) working with Cyril Thompson on a combine harvester, in 1962.

When machine-milking was introduced, the machines were usually powered by engines, such as the Lister petrol engine. After the war things began to change rapidly in agriculture. Combine harvesters took the place of reaper-binders and threshers. Balers packaged the straw into neat bundles and tedders were used to turn hay. As more machines were used, fewer workers were needed. There was a huge rise in agricultural unemployment and men began leaving the land. In the first half of the 1950s, this national trend combined with a local phenomenon. The two major landowners, Percy Tew of Brightling Estate and Lady Catherine Ashburnham of Ashburnham Estate, died and the exorbitant death duties that became due forced both estates to sell off many of their tied cottages and farms. The prices that were asked, and realised, were beyond the means of most local people. The face of farming in Dallington began to change irrevocably.

Although there were still over twenty farms in Dallington in the mid-1960s, the revenue they generated was usually only enough to support one family. They were mainly mixed farms averaging 100 acres. Most had small dairy herds, made up of a mixture of Friesians, Shorthorns, Ayrshires and Guernseys. The cattle kept for beef were mostly Sussex crossed with Friesian.

In 1965, John Keeley wrote a summary of the farming year: 'After a moderate winter the frost and rain came at just the



right time to break up the soil for the Spring sowing at the end of March. The corn is dressed with Agasan to control disease and after about five weeks is treated with a compound fertilizer. Nitro-shell is a quick-acting fertilizer and is used for grass, which is sown in spring. Cowshed manure is spread from the end of August until the beginning of April.

'Haymaking was a struggle this year because of the weather, although the crop was fairly heavy. Our family, who work several farms, began haymaking on 12 June and finished on 27 July.

'Harvesting was three weeks to a month late owing to poor weather conditions; the yield was about average but the moisture content was high.

'Autumn sowing of winter oats and barley was late owing to the water-logged ground but with a marvellous October, the seed made good headway.

'This has been a successful year for lambing. The first lamb was born in the second week of February. Sheep shearing took place in the second week of June. The fleeces go to a wool company in Kent, which has been taking fleeces from this village for over a hundred years. The sheep we keep are Kent ewes, crossed with Dorset Down and South Down rams.'

By the beginning of the 1990s, many of the farms had been amalgamated, as it had become impossible to earn a living wage from the smaller farms. There were only five full-time, full-scale farmers living and working within the parish of Dallington: Peter



Phil Keeley with his herd of pedigree Sussex cattle, prior to his retirement in 1997.





John (left) and Pete Keeley, shortly before they retired in 1998.

and John Keeley, who worked Stream, Acelands, Prinkle and Carricks Farms; Philip Keeley, who worked Newcastle and Northfleet Farms; Peter Funnell, who worked The Swan and Clayton Farms; and Trevor Stiles, who worked Herrings Farm. Peter, John and Philip Keeley have since retired. Today, only Peter Funnell and Trevor Stiles can be said to live and farm in the parish of Dallington. A few villagers run small-holdings but most of the land within the parish boundaries is now leased to, or owned by, people who live outside the village, with almost all the land being used for pasture.

#### THE IRON INDUSTRY

The Weald of Sussex was an important iron-making area. Thanks to its huge forests, there was plenty of wood for making charcoal, which was essential to the iron-making process.

The inhabitants of pre-Roman Britain were skillful ironworkers and evidence from ancient cinder heaps near Herrings Farm suggests that there was once a bloomery (or ironworks) there. Ironworks in this part of Britain usually consisted of a pit with a clay chimney or shaft at one end. A furnace of charcoal and iron ore was built up in the chimney, fanned by air pumped into the bottom of the chimney with bellows. A soft core of iron was produced, whilst the clay and stone parts of the ore formed a waste product known as cinder or slag.



From the early fourteenth century to the end of the eighteenth century, the Weald of Sussex was one of the greatest iron-smelting and, latterly, cannon-founding districts in Britain. Evidence of local fourteenth century iron-making can be found in the Court Roll of the Manor of Wartling, dated 23 October 1310, which includes the entry:

‘Adam Kenne who raised under villeinage one forge to found the iron of Adam Creppe who has died gives the lord one bloom of iron which he has founded worth 2s. 6d. to be able to work the said forge to Easter, pledge Roger Prinkle.’

Adam Creppe’s tenement was Creppelond in Dallington. It may be what is now Cripps Farm. There is known to be an undated bloomery site at Newcastle Farm, which is very close to Cripps Farm.

Glaziers Forge, also known as Brightling Forge, is thought to date from the first half of the sixteenth century. In 1548, a Thomas Glasier died and left a bequest in his will that ‘every one of the workmen of his forge should receive 6s 8d’. By 1574 the forge was owned by Sir John Pelham. Although the Glasier (or Glazier) family no longer owned the forge, they appear to have owned land in the area, because for many years up to and including 1652 a John Glazier was paid £1 in respect of the



This stone building, photographed in the early years of the twentieth century, dates from the seventeenth century and is thought to have been an office building associated with the ironworks at Glaziers Forge.



stream that ran through his land. It is also known that the delightfully named Mr Thankful Hepden sold wood at this time for conversion to charcoal for the forge.

The iron-making process in the post-medieval period involved two separate stages. The iron ore was converted to pig iron at a furnace. During the seventeenth century, the pig iron used at Glaziers Forge came from the Pelham furnace at Waldron. Once at the forge, the pig iron was re-melted in the finery. This process removed the carbon from the pig iron. The refined iron could then be shaped, using a water-powered hammer. Most of the iron is likely to have been shaped into iron bars. It is also known that cannon shot was cast at Glaziers Forge, as one half of a mould has been found on the site. In 1717, the output of the forge was 40 tons, which was fairly typical for a Wealden forge.

In the 1730s, the Pelhams leased the forge to Thomas Hussey of Rampyndene, Burwash, who was joined by John Legas. Mr Hussey died in 1735 and, six years later, John Legas formed a partnership with William Harrison. By 1752, the forge was being run by Richard Tapsell, together with William Harrison's sons.

1756 saw the start of the Seven Years War, which kept the iron industry busy and profitable. Soon after the war ended, the Harrisons decided that they wanted no more to do with the forge. Tapsell, who was the signatory to the lease, was responsible for a business with a very unpromising and uncertain future. By the mid-1760s, he was bankrupt and work on the site had ceased.

The forge was to have another brief lease of life. By 1768 Thomas Willis was working the forge, buying his pig iron from Fuller's Heathfield furnace and in 1785 the Earl of Ashburnham, who was by then the owner, leased the forge to James Bourne. However, by 1787 the forge had once again been abandoned.

There were also two furnaces that bordered Dallington. Ashburnham Furnace, which also went by the name of Dallington Furnace, was situated in Penhurst. It was built by Lord Ashburnham in about the mid-sixteenth century and was in operation until the early years of the nineteenth century. Panningridge Furnace, in the parish of Ashburnham, was only about half a mile north of Ashburnham Furnace. It was certainly in existence by 1542, when it was leased to Sir Henry Sidney. He had already established a forge and furnace at Robertsbridge and it was to this forge that the Panningridge pig iron was sent. By 1572 Panningridge Furnace was occupied by John Ashburnham but by 1611 it was no longer in existence.



## BRICK-MAKING

Brick-making is worthy of mention as it is likely that this industry gave rise to the name Blue Kiln Lane, which is the local name given to the stretch of road between South Lane and Padgham Corner. The area is rich in clay and there is known to have been a brick kiln prior to 1793 on Padgham Farm.

## MILLING

There have been two mills in the parish of Dallington. One, a windmill, was situated in the field north of the new school. The other, a watermill named Cox's Mill, is situated off the lane that leads to Glaziers Forge.

The first evidence of Cox's Mill seems to be a map of 1780 which shows, but does not name, a building on the site. It is



The mill pond at Cox's Mill can be seen in the foreground of this picture, which is believed to date from the 1930s.

possible that the millpond had been made much earlier, to act as a pen pond for the two ponds that served Glaziers Forge. This building, and Glaziers Forge too, would have been reached not by the present lane but via Bakers Lane, which was an unmade track.

In 1798 William Saunders was named as the owner of a 'house and land, late Cox' and in 1812, when he died, he was named by the Sussex Weekly Advertiser as 'William Saunders of Cox's Mill'.

William Saunders appears to have been succeeded by his son Richard, but by 1839, when the Burwash tithe map was drawn up, the owner was William Brett. The occupiers were William Clark and Albert Geering.

In the 1850s, William Clark and Albert Geering approached the Right Hon. Bertram, 4th Earl of Ashburnham, asking for permission to erect a windmill, because there was insufficient water at Cox's Mill to run the watermill. They leased a plot of land,



bounded by The Street and the main road, from the Ashburnham Estate in 1852. The rent was £6 per year, payable in two equal installments.

The windmill was built by Thomas Upfield and Stephen Neve, millwrights, of Rushlake Green. It was a smock mill, which means that only the cap and sails revolved. It was octagonal in shape and made of wood, painted white, on a two-storey brick base.

Not long after the windmill was built, Clark and Geering dissolved their partnership. They owed George Geering of Ashburnham, a blacksmith, £1500 and transferred the mill to him on 4 March 1854. It appears that a Mr A. Geering was registered at the windmill until 1878, so Albert Geering is likely to have continued to work at the mill, with George Geering as his employer.

A report written in June 1858 shows that the Geering family also continued their link with the watermill, stating that 'the dwelling house, cow lodge and hen house, belonging to Mr Geering, of Cox's Mill, Dallington were destroyed by fire.' The watermill apparently emerged unscathed.

In 1881, a notice in the *Sussex Weekly Advertiser* read: 'To be let from Michaelmas next, in the parish of Dallington, Sussex. A water mill driving two pairs of stones, with about 45 acres of land and two good cottages. Rent very moderate. For particulars apply to Mr R. Hodgson, Ashburnham, Sussex'. The lease was taken up by William Kingsland, who remained at the watermill until at



The windmill is clearly visible in this photograph, which was taken at around the turn of the century. The church spire can just be seen in the background. The elderly gentleman in the foreground is 'Happy Jack' Gadd.



least 1890, after which date no further trade directory entries appear.

In the same year that the watermill was let, the windmill was advertised for sale. It was said to be 'in good condition, driving two pairs of stones, fitted with a grain cracking mill, the usual machinery and had patent sweeps plus brick and tile stables for three horses and a van lodge'.

**PARTICULARS**  
OF  
**ALL THAT VERY FAVOURABLY PLACED**  
**Smock Windmill,**  
WITH  
**Plot of Grass Land, situate adjoining the**  
**Main Road at**  
**DALLINGTON,**

In a position to obtain wind from all quarters, built of the best material and well-fitted, having

Match-boarded Corn Store with boarded floor at Basement of Mill, Round House, Grinding Stone and Bin Floors, driving one pair of French and two pairs of Peak Stones, and fitted with all necessary Machinery and Corn-cracking Mill, also Patent Sweeps, all in good order.

There is a Galvanized Iron Van Shed at side of Mill which will be included in the purchase.

There is a Brick and Tiled Stable for four Horses and part Match-board lined Store.

There is a Well of excellent Water, and a large steined Rain Water Tank by Mill.

The whole of the Running Gear, Machinery and Fittings will be included in the purchase, but the straps and minor movable effects which belong to the late Tenant can be taken by Valuation if desired.

The Property has an area of about **1a. 3r. 25p.** and is Leasehold for 99 years from 29th September, 1852, from the Earl of Ashburnham, the Ground Rent being £6 per annum.

The Land Tax Assessment is £23 4s., and the amount payable for the year ending 5th April, 1907, was 18s. 5d.

The Property was let to the 25th March last to Mr. W. J. RICHARDSON at an annual rent of **£22**, he paying Rates.

*Possession will be given on completion of Purchase.*

Particulars and Conditions of Sale may be obtained of Messrs. WINCH, GREENSTED & WINCH, Solicitors, Sittingbourne, and of the AUCTIONEERS, Heathfield, Sussex, and 80, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

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**CONDITIONS OF SALE.**

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- 1.—The highest bidder for the property to be the Purchaser, the Vendors fixing a reserve price, and reserving the right to bid up to such reserve price, by themselves or their Agents, and re-arrange or withdraw the property.
- 2.—No person is to advance less than the sum to be fixed by the Auctioneer on each bidding, or to retract a bidding; and, if any dispute arise, the property is to be put up again at the last undisputed bidding, or the Auctioneer may determine the dispute.
- 3.—The Purchaser at the close of the Sale to pay down a deposit of £10 per cent. on the amount of his purchase-money, and to sign an Agreement in the form subjoined to these Conditions for the completion of the purchase according to these Conditions, and to pay the remainder of his purchase-money on the 10th day of June next, at the Offices of Messrs. WINCH, GREENSTED, & WINCH, Sittingbourne, the Solicitors of the Vendors, at which time and place the purchase is to be completed; and a Purchaser paying his purchase-money is, as from the day fixed for completion, to be let into possession or receipt of rents and profits, and up to that day all rents, rates, taxes, and outgoings are (if necessary) to be apportioned. And if, from any cause whatever, the completion of any purchase is delayed beyond the day fixed, the remainder of the purchase-money is to bear interest, at the rate of £5 per cent. per annum, from that day to the actual day of completion.
- 4.—The Purchaser is, within seven days after the delivery of the Abstract, to send to the Vendors, or their Solicitors, a statement in writing of all objections and requisitions (if any) as to Title, evidence of Title, or the Abstract, and, subject thereto, the Title is to be deemed accepted; and all objections and requisitions not included in any statement sent within the time aforesaid are to be deemed waived, and time is to be deemed in all respects as of the essence of this contract. If the Purchaser shall take any objection or make any requisition which the Vendors are unable or unwilling to remove or comply with, and shall not withdraw the same after being required so to do, the Vendors may by notice in writing, delivered to such Purchaser or his Solicitors, and notwithstanding any intermediate negotiation, rescind the contract for sale; and the Vendors are to repay to the Purchaser (whose contract is so rescinded) his deposit-money, which is to be accepted by him in satisfaction of all claims on any account whatever.

Details of the windmill, which was auctioned by Watsons in 1907.



The Ashburnham records state that in 1881 the windmill passed to George Geering's son, another George. Whether he bought the windmill or was given it because no buyer could be found is not known. By 1895 George Geering junior had been discharged bankrupt. The premises were put up for auction at the George Hotel, Battle, in the August of that year and were bought by Henry Wood.

During the 1890s, an auxiliary steam engine, a third pair of stones and an oat crusher were added to the windmill. In 1902, the lease was put up for sale. The mill was described as Dallington Wind and Steam Mill, with stables and store. It was let to William Richardson at a rent of £22 per year. Mr Richardson employed Trayton Booth as his grinder.

The windmill was auctioned by Watsons in May 1907 but by 1913 it was no longer working and the structure had become dangerous. Mr Sands, a local builder, was employed to dismantle it. The schoolchildren were allowed out of lessons to watch. It was quite an event and many villagers helped with the task. Jean Farmer recalls that her grandfather, Mr Harmer, brought home a section of one of the sails and that, for many years, her grandmother placed it across two chairs and used it as an ironing board.



The windmill was dismantled in 1913.



## *Chapter 5*

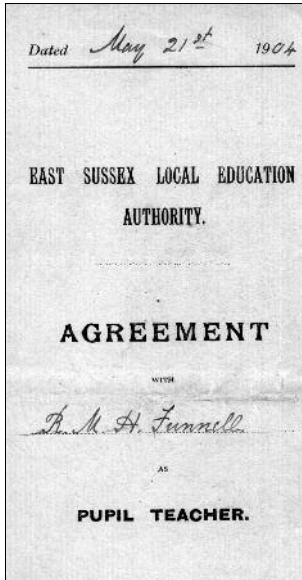
### EDUCATION

For much of the first half of the nineteenth century, the only education available to the children of Dallington was that provided by Dame Schools, which were schools run by women in their own homes, and Sunday Schools. This was to change when in 1842 the Rev. George Wagner opened a boys' school for the use of the poor in a room in what is now Church Cottage. The following year he opened a girls' school in the back parlour of the vicarage.

In 1848, when the Rev. Ralph Raisbeck Tatham became the new vicar, he arrived to find two flourishing schools but no school building. This was to be remedied the next year, when Thomas Dray built a small wooden building on the site of the building now called the Old School and let it to the vicar as a school for the poor. By 1853 the wooden building was considered unsuitable. The vicar and churchwardens bought the freehold site and the building from Mr Dray for the sum of £100 and rebuilding work began. The roof was propped, the wooden walls were taken down, the bank on which the school stood was excavated and a new brick building was erected at a total cost of £244.18s.10d. Much of the cost was met by the Council of Education and the Chichester Diocesan Association. A further £96.6s.10d was raised by private subscription, although one of the Rev. Ralph Raisbeck Tatham's daughters, Adeline, noted that 'Lord Ashburnham, the chief landowner, took no part in this good work'.

The first recorded headmaster of the school is Mr Dymond, who held this post from 1856 to 1864. Mr Roe succeeded him and was head until 1870. Two years later the school building, now under the headship of Mr Tassell, was found to be inadequate for its purpose when inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectors. Rather than build a new school, which would have added to the rates, it was resolved to extend the building. This was rather more difficult than it sounds, as the site on which the school was built was





Maud Funnell's pupil teacher contract, dated 1904.

exceptionally narrow. The difficulty was eventually overcome when the Rev. R.R. Tatham exchanged a small strip of his own freehold land with the executors of Thomas Dray, whose property adjoined the school. The vicar gave the exchanged piece of land, in perpetuity, for the use of the parish, and building work began on 3 September 1872. The extension, which comprised a classroom, cloakroom and offices, was built from bricks donated by Lord Ashburnham and was opened on 1 January 1873.

In 1877, Mr Tassell was replaced by Mr Thorpe, who remained at the school until 1884 when Mr Peploe, who went on to become the longest-serving head in the history of the school, was appointed.

Schools at this time often had 'pupil teachers'. These were boys or girls in their mid- to late-teens, who taught younger children, under the direction of an older teacher. Mr Peploe's first pupil teacher was Clara



Maud Funnell and her class outside the Old School during her time as pupil teacher. Maud Funnell later married Arthur Simmons. One of their two daughters, Eugenie Deeks, still lives in the village.



Taylor, the granddaughter of Albert Geering, who at one time owned Dallington windmill.

Dallington was a 'voluntary' school, which meant that the government inspected the teaching, paid the teachers' salaries and equipped the school. The religious instruction and the appointment of staff were under the direction of a Board of Managers, which also owned and was responsible for the premises. In 1904 the Board of Managers comprised: the Rev. Edgar Fewtrell (the rector), Thomas Peters (who ran the grocer's in The Street), Fanny Gosling (who lived at Yew Arch), John Baumbach (of Brooklands), Caleb Simmons (who ran the grocer's at Woods Corner) and Aaron York (who worked for Caleb Simmons and was also bandmaster of the Dallington Band).

The children were grouped into Infants and the 'Mixed Department'. In June 1909, there were 78 children in the Mixed Department and 21 in the Infants. That month, the school was again inspected. The government inspector observed that there were many problems with the school building, including overcrowding, dampness and poor lighting. All 78 Mixed Department children were being taught in a room which was only about 660 sq ft (about 60 sq m) whilst the 21 Infant children were squeezed into a room that was a little over 270 sq ft (about 25 sq m). Eugenie Deeks (*née* Simmons) recalls being taught in the smaller classroom, sitting in a 'gallery', which was a series of benches raised in banked rows. In July 1909, the Board of Education in



The official opening of the new school, in October 1913.



London wrote to the Local Education Authority to say that in the light of the HMI's report it was doubtful whether the school could continue to be recognised. This time, it was decided that a new school had to be built. Mr Peploe declared himself to be the happiest master in Sussex when he heard this news.

Although the school building had been condemned, the children continued to be taught there for the next few years. In 1912 there was a dramatic incident, which was recorded in the school log book. At about 2.50p.m., 'flames were seen issuing from the top of the stove-pipe and the match-boarding in the roof was getting alight. The children were quietly marched out and two men in the vicinity summoned. With a ladder and pails of water the fire was put out and the children returned to their places at 3.30p.m.'

That same year saw the closure of The School Bank. The bank had been opened in 1892 but was no longer considered necessary as the Post Office in the village now offered 'increased facilities for small savings'. The building, meanwhile, was becoming more and more unsuitable. A log entry written in May 1913 notes that mice had 'wrought havoc in the girls' needle-work'. It was definitely time for a new school building.

The new school, with its separate entrances for boys and girls, was built on land donated by Lord Ashburnham. The school was officially opened in October 1913 but the children did not actually move in until the first day of the spring term, 1 January 1914. There were three classrooms in the new school. The three teachers, who had all held these positions in the old school, were Mr Peploe the headmaster, who taught the Seniors; his sister Miss Peploe, who taught the Infants; and Miss Burgess, who taught the Juniors. There was also a school garden which was tended by the older boys. The Gardening Boys, as they were known, grew potatoes, cabbages and other vegetables, all of which were subsequently sold. In September 1918, the log states: 'All potatoes in School Garden lifted and stored. 17 and a half bushels, including those sold in August'. The boys were not always this lucky. An earlier entry records that 'during the night or early morning, a number of



Mr Peploe



Miss Burgess



Miss Peploe



bullocks got into the playground and ate off all the cabbages in the Boys' Garden'. In addition to gardening, sport also featured in the school timetable. The cricket and stoolball teams took part in many inter-school tournaments.

During his time as headmaster, Mr Peploe became a legendary character in the village where he both lived and worked. A newspaper article written in 1922 says of Mr Peploe:

'Not only is the spirit of the village personified in the kindly and ever-obliging principal of the school, but Mr Peploe is a veritable local institution in himself, devoted not only to the educational interests of the children, by whom he is respected and loved, but ever concerned with the welfare of their fathers and mothers, to whom he has ministered in a wonderful variety of ways since he came to the village as long ago as 1884. Scarcely an event or celebration has taken place in that period without the guiding help of Mr



Infants and Juniors at Dallington School in 1917.

Back row, left to right: Grace Stonestreet, Kitty Riglesford, Marjorie Delves, Rosie Pennells, Alice Pearce, Eugenie (Ena) Simmons, Marjorie Simmons, Doris Crouch, Violet Burgess, Else Beeney. Third row, left to right: ---, Fred Honisett, Auberon Marchant, Reginald Cornford, Jim Cornford, Irene Beeney, Geoffrey Simmons, Ronald Harmer, Ross Harmer, Reginald Starling. Second row, left to right: Irene Hoad, George Pennells, ---, Elsie White, Ivy Beeney, Ivy Harmer, Gladys Harmer, Alice Pennells, Ethel Harmer, Louisa Wood, Violet Killick. Front row, left to right: Mabel Honisett, Rose Honisett, Joe Cornford, Vera friend, Leslie Starling, James Fox, Ida Harmer, William Killick, ---, Millicent Buss, ---, Edie Burgess.



Peploe's hand, and it would be difficult to mention a club or society which he has not assisted in some capacity, in not a few cases taking the principal part of the burden upon his shoulders.'

Local people who remember Mr Peploe talk of him as a great man. The level of respect he was accorded is shown by the fact that he was asked to be godfather to several Dallington infants, including Eugenie Deeks (*née* Simmons). Mrs Deeks recalls that if Mr Peploe saw a child with worn-out boots he would send the child to the shop to get a new pair and pay for them himself and remembers that every November, on his birthday, Mr Peploe gave each child in the school a penny.



Charles Baker  
of Carricks  
Farm

When Mr Peploe retired in 1923, the school children presented him with a gold watch-chain. The children were given a day's holiday to mark the occasion and in the afternoon Mr Peploe gave them a school 'treat' in Charles Baker's field, which was the field between Mr Baker's farm, Carricks, and the building that is now the Post Office. School treats are remembered with fondness by villagers. A treat can best be described as any type of fun activity, such as a sports afternoon or an outing. Mr Baker was a well-known provider of school treats. A favourite was a 'scramble', which involved Mr Baker throwing handfuls of sweets into his field and all the children scrambling to find them. The children did not seem to mind that they might have to search amongst thistles, nettles and other even less desirable offerings and, of course, the sweets were all unwrapped. On the occasion of Mr Peploe's retirement, the treat took the form of sports, races and a tea. A tug-of-war took place and the Girl Guides beat the Boy Scouts by two pulls to nil. Further speeches and presentations, including a cheque for £61.7s.6d from the villagers and a gold half-hunter watch from his sporting friends, were made to Mr Peploe. Mr Peploe's reply to all the kind words and gifts was:

'To the children I would say: go to school and continue to do your best for your new teacher. To the parents: if a boy or girl shows promise, encourage them to get on. I will not say I have tried to make Dallington School the best, but I have tried to make it a happy one.'

Mr Peploe had become very attached to the parish but his initial impressions, when he arrived as a young man of 25, were less than favourable. A letter survives detailing his first twenty-



four hours in Dallington, a village he describes as 'six miles from everywhere'. The letter conveys the feelings of utter wretchedness he experienced on his arrival. He and his sister lodged with a Miss Gosling, although he does not say which Miss Gosling. He found both his hostess and her home cold and inhospitable. Miss Gosling was a pious woman, with an unwelcoming demeanour and a fondness for lengthy prayers. When Mr Peploe and his sister came downstairs on their first evening, Miss Gosling pronounced Grace in a sepulchral voice, before showing Mr and Miss Peploe into a sitting room warmed by a fire containing a single stick of wood. At about 9.00p.m., a tray containing two bits of bread and cheese, two glasses and a bottle of water were brought in and the guests were gravely informed that supper was ready. Mr Peploe wrote: 'The thought of it makes me shudder to this day.' Mr and Miss Peploe attended church the next morning. Although they were stared at as if they 'were a pair of menagerie animals', no one came forward to greet them or welcome them. After a dinner of cold beef and cold potatoes, they attended the afternoon service when, again, no one spoke to them. Mr Peploe describes those first twenty-four hours as 'the most miserable I ever spent in my life'.

Happily these initial impressions did not irretrievably sour his attitude towards the village. A newspaper article written upon his death, in October 1931, reads:

'Rarely, if ever, has one who was not a Sussex man by birth become so truly an integral part of Sussex village life, and so readily been met with the confidence and complete respect of the inhabitants... Especially, he was revered by the hundreds of boys and girls who came under his care during their school careers, and right to the time of his death they had for him a reciprocal affection that was something deeper than the usual feeling between master and scholar'.

Miss Strickland succeeded Mr Peploe as headteacher of Dallington School. Miss Strickland seems to have been a stern disciplinarian. In the first month of her tenure, she noted in the school log that 'Tom Simmons was publicly caned (4 strokes) for improper language to a girl'. Other recipients of canings included Leslie Ferrett, for throwing ink on the school wall, and Frank Hyland, for swearing at a girl on the way to school. On 4 May 1925, Lucy Hine became head teacher. She was replaced in January 1927 by Miss Warr, who was to become Mrs Finch. The following January, Miss Haylock took over the post.



In 1933, Mrs James became head teacher and one of the initiatives she instituted, much to the delight of the children, was an annual summer outing. The first such outing took place in mid-July 1933, when a party of thirty children and five parents, accompanied by Mrs James and two other teachers, went by motor coach to London. The day's events were recorded in a newspaper article:

'A visit was paid to the Tower and after lunch the party made the journey across London to the Zoo. Here the children had a great time, having rides on elephants and llamas. They were greatly amused by a chimpanzee tea-party and they also saw the lions being fed. The homeward journey was made via Croydon, where a short stop was made in order that the children might see the aeroplanes. After a further stop at Nutley to visit a fair, Dallington was reached at 10.15p.m.'



This picture dates from 1927 and shows Mrs Finch, the headmistress, holding a pennant that had been presented by Bertha, Lady Wrenbury. The pennant bears the Buckley family motto, 'To My Utmost'. The children in this class were awarded the pennant for their industriousness. Back row, left to right: French Burgess, Ron White. Standing, left to right: Lizzie Lulham, Iris Burgess, Mrs Finch, Edna Mewett, Marjorie Henderson. Seated, left to right: Gladys Skinner, Lily Fox, Kathleen Thompson, Ted Buss, Marjorie Skinner, ---. At the front: Leslie Ferrett.



Philip Lulham recalls another outing with Mrs James. The children caught the train to London and, amongst other activities, took a trip down the Thames to the docks, where he remembers seeing vast quantities of wool, ivory and wine. Mrs James also carried on the spring-time tradition that she had begun in previous schools of sending boxes of primroses, gathered by the children, to the children of Taylor Street Infants' School in Leicester. Following Mrs James' resignation in 1936, Miss Mate, who became Mrs White, was appointed head.

On 3 September 1939 Britain declared war against Germany. Eight days later, the school re-opened after the annual summer holiday, with numbers swollen by the presence of thirteen evacuees. Card tables and chairs had to be borrowed from the village hall so that the children could have somewhere to sit and work. Two assistant masters, in charge of the evacuated children, shared in the teaching at the school.

By the autumn of 1940, air raid warnings had become common occurrences. On 30 September, the school log details that: 'The day has been very broken, the children being taken to the hall and cloakrooms, as raiders repeatedly flew over'. On 28 October: 'Much of today has been spent in the cloakrooms, as numerous aeroplanes have been flying in this area.' If there was an air raid



One of Herbert Gadd's sons, pictured wearing his gas mask. The village children took their gas masks to school each day.

warning while the children were at school, they were not allowed to go home until the 'all clear' had sounded. They kept emergency rations of biscuits and sweets in tins in their desks, in case their stay was a lengthy one.

During 1940, the blackout regulations came into force. Once darkness fell, all visible lighting was prohibited. Many of the children lived long distances from school and had to make the journey on foot. In the autumn term of 1940 the hours of the school day were adjusted, so that children could leave home after the blackout period had ended but reach home before it began again.

The school nurse was a frequent visitor. Her duties included



checking the children's heads for nits, treating them for various ailments, such as impetigo, and if necessary taking them to the doctor. The school dentist and school doctor were also regular visitors.

Two of the classrooms were heated by open fires. The third, the Infants', had a coal-burning stove. All had large fireguards. On rainy days the fireguards would be festooned with gloves and scarves, drying out after the wet walk to school. The weather had a significant affect on attendance. On inclement days numbers were sometimes reduced by as much as half. The children also had to brave the elements whenever 'nature called', as both the girls' and the boys' toilet blocks were outside. The boys' block was where the current school hall is situated. The girls' block, which was situated near the wall of Panton's Coach House, had three toilets of the old-fashioned bucket-and-wooden-seat variety. There were small doors behind each bucket and the caretaker had to empty the contents every evening. These doors were also, it appears, used by practical jokers armed with stinging nettles!

The war years saw the introduction of the school dinner. A canteen building, which took the form of a long wooden hut, was erected on a site near the top of the current driveway. Dinners were served for the first time on 31 May 1944.

That summer the German flying bombs (sometimes called robot planes or V-1s) brought fear to the village. On 27 June, the log notes that, 'several times today the children have had to take cover while areoplanes passing over were machine-gunning the robot German planes' and, a week later, 'work was frequently interrupted by the proximity of flying bombs, when children took cover under desks'. The morning after this entry was logged, the school took delivery of seven Morrison air raid shelters. The Morrison shelters, which were rather like long, strong, metal tables with enclosed sides, were erected in the classrooms. The benches from the canteen were put alongside them. The children sat on the benches and used the top of the shelter as a desk. When an air raid siren sounded, they all took cover inside the shelter. The school desks, meanwhile, were stored in Mr Cramp's garage at Beechlands.

Most of the children remained at Dallington School until the age of 14, although a few were offered Grammar School scholarship places at 11. Peter Funnell recalls Mrs White being particularly pleased when he and June Baker passed the scholarship exam in 1940, as they were her first Grammar School children. Mrs White remained as head of the school until the





This 1945 photograph shows Miss Rignall the headmistress (holding the dog) and Mrs Watts, class teacher, together with the whole school.

summer of 1945, when Miss Rignall took over the position. She broadened the curriculum and brought a very different style of teaching to the school. In her first year, the children did pottery and learnt about spinning and she took them to the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

In 1950 the neighbouring school of Brightling closed and its children transferred to Dallington. Miss Woolgar, who had been head of Brightling, now took on the headship of Dallington. However by 1954 she was in failing health. She died in the spring of 1955, a few weeks before she was due to retire. Her successor was Mr Prangnell. Over the years the number of children on the roll had been steadily declining. In 1909 there had been almost 100 children on the roll: by the mid-1920s there were only about 60 and by 1945, the number was down to about 30. When Mr Prangnell took over the headship in 1955, the number of children stood at only 46, despite the additional children from Brightling School. Some of the decline in numbers was a result of children transferring to secondary school at 11. The rest was simply down to the fact that fewer families with children now lived in the area.

In July 1958 Mr Prangnell left. At the same time Ashburnham School, whose numbers had reduced to about 15, closed. The Ashburnham children and their headteacher, Mrs Nicolson, transferred to Dallington in the September of that year. In the following January, she was joined by Ruth Waghorn, who had



taught at Ashburnham from 1950 to 1957. When Miss Waghorn began teaching at Dallington School, there were 65 children, divided into three classes, all housed in the main building. Miss Waghorn taught a class made up of all the Infant children plus the first-year Juniors. A school uniform, based on the colours green and gold, had been established at Ashburnham back in 1953 and, when the two schools combined, Dallington adopted these same colours.

A cesspool and a new kitchen had been installed at the school, in preparation for the arrival of the extra children from Ashburnham. However by February 1959 the cess pool had ceased to function correctly and the whole school had to move to the old Asburnham School premises for two months. Ted Hobden kindly agreed to move all essential equipment in his cattle truck. Later that same year Bodle Street School closed and parents were given the choice of sending their children to Dallington or Herstmonceux. The following year Rushlake Green School closed. Again, parents were given a choice, this time between Dallington and Punnetts Town. By the early 1960s there were about 85 chil-



Dame Ruth Buckley being presented with a bouquet of flowers at the official opening of the school extension in 1961.

From left to right: Lester Baker, John Beale, Dorothy Akehurst, Jennifer Keeley, David Gasson, --- (face obscured), Deborah Page, Arlene Keeley, Janet Murray, Dame Ruth Buckley, Judith Weston, Mrs Nicolson – headmistress.



dren on the register, many of whom were brought to school from the outlying villages by coach.

Indoor toilets and a hall were built on to the school in 1961 and at the same time central heating was installed. The extension was officially opened by Dame Ruth Buckley on 4 May. By 1964 it was decided that a fourth class was needed. There were no spare classrooms, so Class 1 had to move into the hall until 1969, when the Medway hut was installed. The hut was christened 'Pogles Wood', which was the title of a children's television programme. It is still known by this name today.

Mrs Nicolson was a popular headteacher. She encouraged individual endeavour and was keen to mark old rural customs. One of the highlights of the year was the drama performed by Class 1 to celebrate Hallowe'en. This event also included a turnip lantern competition, judged by the ladies from the school kitchen. Sheila Cozens, who taught at the school from 1958 to 1965 and then from 1968 to 1975, is particularly remembered for being a brilliant musician. She formed a school choir and gave recorder lessons. She also taught French to the older children.

From 1971 to 1991, the school had its own outdoor swimming pool. It was, however, dismantled when repairs became prohibitively expensive. Today the children travel to Hailsham for swimming lessons and the site where the pool was is now a play area with climbing equipment.

In 1973 the first Highland Games, later to become the 'potted sports', were held. The previous year's school leavers, whose term at their new school finished a few days before Dallington's, were all invited to the event. There was already a traditional sports day to which parents were invited. Potted sports differed in that the activities were much more light-hearted. For several years the activities were followed by a sit-down tea but this later became a 'paper bag tea'. All the children were given a paper bag containing sandwiches, cakes and other delicacies prepared by the school cook, Kitty Keeley, and her helpers. Everyone then enjoyed an informal picnic on the playing field. Although the paper bag teas have been abandoned, potted sports continue to this day. Kitty Keeley is still the much-loved school cook and marks her 30th anniversary working in the school in January 2000.

Mrs Nicolson remained at the school until her retirement in 1975 and was succeeded by John Hastwell. In 1977, a pageant involving every child was held to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee. A painting depicting this extravagant production hangs in the library area at the school. All the children received a bowl



made by a local potter, which was presented to them by their ex-headmistress, Mrs Nicolson.

Following Mr Hastwell's departure in December 1978, Ruth Waghorn was acting head for a term. Clive Jarvis took up the headship in April 1979. The four class teachers at this time were Ruth Waghorn, Edith Dando, Ann Stedman and Clive Jarvis. One of the events that Mr Jarvis added to the school calendar was the annual Class 1 residential trip. This alternated between a visit to London one year and a stay in an outdoor activity centre the next.

On the first day of the autumn term 1996, Clive Jarvis was admitted to hospital in London for a kidney transplant, having had a degenerative kidney disorder for several years. Much to the distress of all who knew him, Mr Jarvis never fully recovered from the operation and died a few months later. At a memorial service held in the spring term of 1997, the older children



Staff at Dallington School in 1988.

Back row, left to right: Beattie Buss, ancillary; Julie Smith, secretary; Kitty Keeley, cook; Pauline Dann, cook; ---; Miss Miller, cleaner. Front row, left to right: Gwen Thurstans, class teacher; Ruth Waghorn, class teacher; Clive Jarvis, headmaster; Edith Dando, class teacher; Ann Stedman, class teacher.



performed songs from the musical *Cats*. This had been a great favourite of his and many of his past pupils recall being taken to see the show on the biennial trip to London. Following Clive Jarvis's death Sue Freeman, the deputy head of the school, became acting head before accepting the permanent post of headteacher.

Staff turnover at Dallington School has been remarkably low. Edith Dando retired in 1990 after 26 years as a teacher at Dallington. Ruth Waghorn retired in 1991 after teaching at the school for over 30 years. July 1997 saw the departure of three teachers who between them had notched up 54 years' service. Two of the teachers – Ann Stedman, who had been at the school for 32 years, and Alice Jenkins, who had been there for 7 years – retired. Gwen Thurstans, who had taught at Dallington for 15 years, took up a post at a private school.

At the start of the final term of the twentieth century, there were 112 children on the roll, taught by Ghislaine Lakin-Hall, Gina Sutherland, Liz Avard (the daughter, incidentally, of Edith Dando) and Jo Meeds, under the headship of Sue Freeman. Sarah Dickin is the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, while Ruth Waghorn and Edith Dando are both regular voluntary helpers in the school.



## *Chapter 6*

### CHURCHES

The parish church of Dallington is dedicated to St Giles. Or is it to St Margaret? The ancient church registers have been lost but the registers of 1643 clearly show the church to have been dedicated then, as now, to St Giles. Earlier documents, however, support the claim that the church was at one time dedicated to St Margaret.

There is a reference to a church in Dallington in the Hastings Priory Charter of 1180-1204. This records Emma de Germanvill's gift to the prior, of the church of St Margaret of Dallington, together with the advowson (or patronage of the living). Possessing a church's advowson gave the holder a number of rights and responsibilities, including the right to choose the parish priest, subject to the bishop's approval.

In 1413 a new priory was built at Warbleton on lands given by Sir John Pelham. The living of Dallington, which had been attached to the priory at Hastings, now became attached to the new priory. The monks endowed the vicarage with the Great Tithes. The tithe system was a form of taxation. Traditionally, tithes were a tenth of a family's income. The tithes went towards the living expenses of a parish's incumbent: its vicar or rector. Tithes were divided into Great, or Rectorial, Tithes and Small, or Vicarial, Tithes. The distinction between rector and vicar is important. A rector was entirely responsible for his own church and its upkeep. If a church became attached to a monastery or priory, that establishment became, nominally, the rector. A deputy, called a vicar, was appointed to care for the parish. As Dallington was attached to a priory it was only entitled to the Small Tithes but, unusually, appears to have received the Great Tithes too.

William Taylour, who was instituted as vicar in 1450, is believed to have been among a group of 19 Dallington men who, in that same year, took part in Jack Cade's rebellion against



## *Dallington Vicars, Rectors and Curates-in-Charge*

1240 Dean Elyas	1682 Richard Russoll
1263 Stephen	1700 Robert Bradshall
1368 Andrew Mareschalle	1707 Richard Thornton
1380 Sir Thomas Smith	1732 Francis Brownwright
1397 Adam att Tye	1742 George Widdowson
1397 Thomas Page	1747 William North
1400 Edmund Yonge	1800 William Trivett
1400 William Bacon	1809 Thomas Ferris
1449 Henry Farley	1827 Alfred Barker
1450 William Taylour	1827 Charles Jollanos
1473 Thomas Greene	1830 John Read Munn
1480 Thomas Prestwold	1838 John Wall Buckley
1481 Thomas Walker	1841 JG Rogers
1482 William Chetteryng	1842 George Wagner
1485 Alan Levet	1848 Ralph Raisbeck Tatham
1502-3 William Dyve	1893 Robert Mitchell
1510 Thomas Clebby	1894 Edgar Alford Fewtrell
1527 Richard Horne	1912 John Charles le Pelly Hatten
1530-1 Thomas Cliff	1935 WHB Mainprice
1533 Hugh Byrk	1936 Philip A Kingsford
1535 Hugh Bahrkeys	1943 Raymond G Tremellen
1551 Geoffrey Jay	1946 John HS Kenyon
1551 Robert Bland	1951 Thomas Frederick Charlton
1584 John Stephen	1959 Eric Knowles
1591 George Syot	1969 Victor Hellaby
1592 Tobias Ferral	1983 John Spencer Westmuckett
1622 Zacharias Tuttesham	1988 David Duncan Fricker
1643 John Henry Zachary	1997 Stuart Baker



Henry VI's corrupt government. The Dallington men were subsequently pardoned. Jack Cade, however, was not so fortunate. He was hung, drawn and quartered, and his head was displayed on London Bridge.

Dallington church's relationship with the priory at Warbleton was not always smooth. In 1473 the prior accused the vicar, the Reverend Thomas Greene, of appropriating two gold cups and of using the priory seal on a number of leases. These accusations were refuted by Thomas Greene, who apparently declared that he had been given the cups as security against a loan he had made to the previous prior and suggested that, as the seal was in the prior's possession, it was his responsibility to know where this item was and how it was being used.

In 1538, following Henry VIII's dissolution of the priory, the land owned by the priory and the advowson of the church was granted to Henry's Attorney General, Sir John Baker. The advowson remained with this family until 1625, when it was sold to Sir John Hamner. By 1670, it had been acquired by the Ashburnham family.

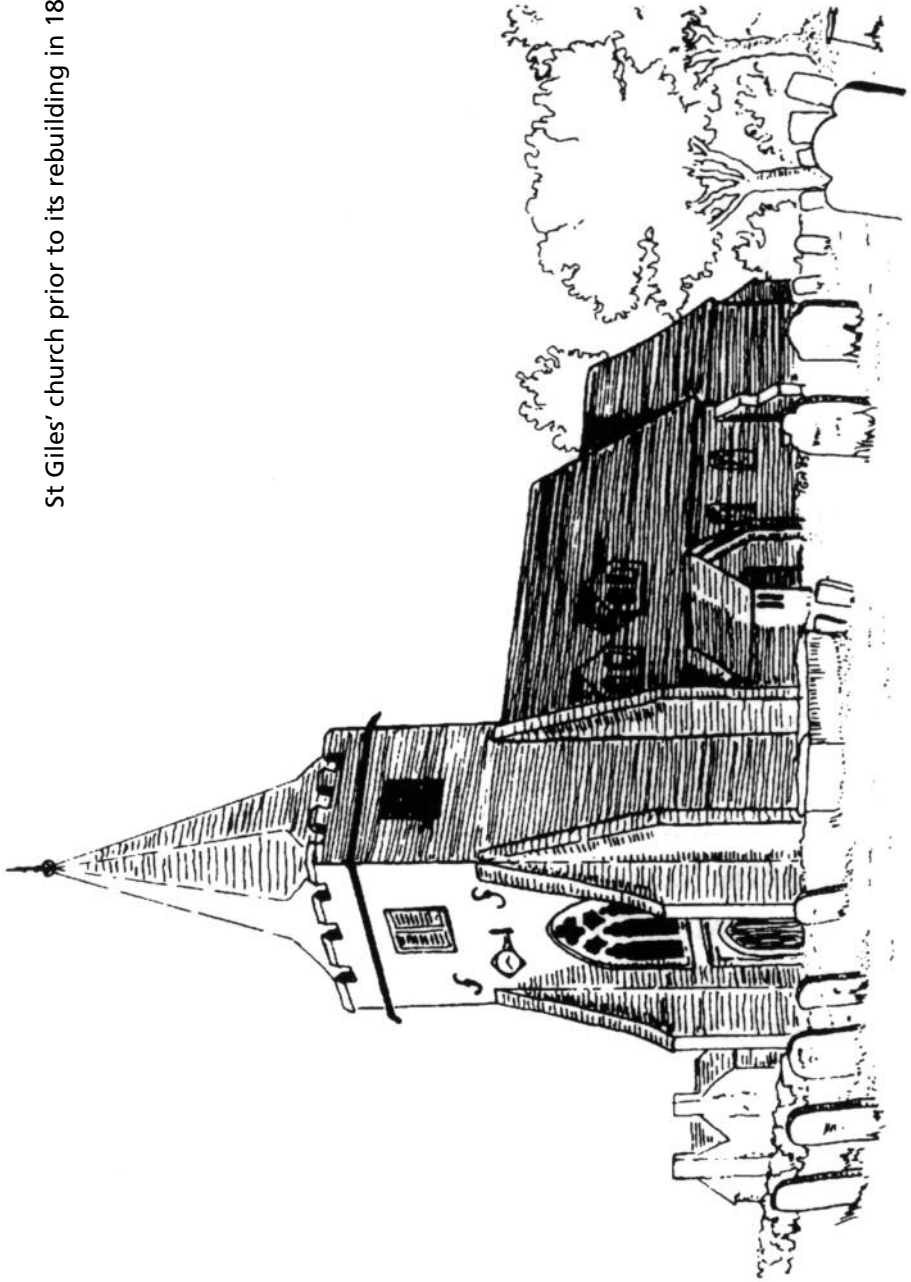
The 1836 Tithe Commutation Act allowed tithes to be commuted to rent charges. In 1842 the Dallington tithe was exchanged for a rent charge of £295 per annum, a figure that was reached by calculating the average of the seven previous years' tithes. These events occurred during the incumbency of the Rev. Thomas Ferris. From 1830 until his death in 1948, Thomas Ferris was non-resident and a succession of curates-in-charge was appointed. One of these curates, the Rev. John Wall Buckley, was the great-grandfather of the present Lord Wrenbury.

The advowson continued to be held by the Ashburnham family for over two hundred years. Adeline Tatham records that her father, the Rev. Ralph Raisbeck Tatham, had been presented to the living by Bertram, 4th Earl of Ashburnham in 1848. When the earl died in June 1878, he was succeeded by his son, who was a Roman Catholic. By 1886 the advowson had been assigned to trustees, with the instruction that they should sell it. In 1929 it was sold to the then incumbent, the Rev. John Charles le Pelly Hatten, who handed it over to the Bishop of Chichester.

It is not known how many churches have stood on the site of the present church, although there have probably been at least three. The current nave and chancel were constructed in 1864. The previous church is thought to have been built in the fourteenth century, possibly by Sir Thomas Hoo. Given the fact that the church's history begins well before this date, there is likely to



St Giles' church prior to its rebuilding in 1864.





have been at least one earlier building.

There is a description of the church prior to its rebuilding in 1864, from which we learn that it consisted of a nave and chancel and that there was a piece of ancient wall, which was believed to have formed a part of an older structure. There was a timber porch and, on the south side of the chancel, a small priest's door. There was also a gallery, extending almost halfway across the nave, which was lit by two dormer windows. A square, brick pew belonging to the Herrings property was situated on the north side of the nave. It was thought to have been added in the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century and was built over a vault in which 13 members of the Randoll and Craufurd (or Crawford) families were buried.

By the mid-1850s the church building was in a very poor state, and was described thus:

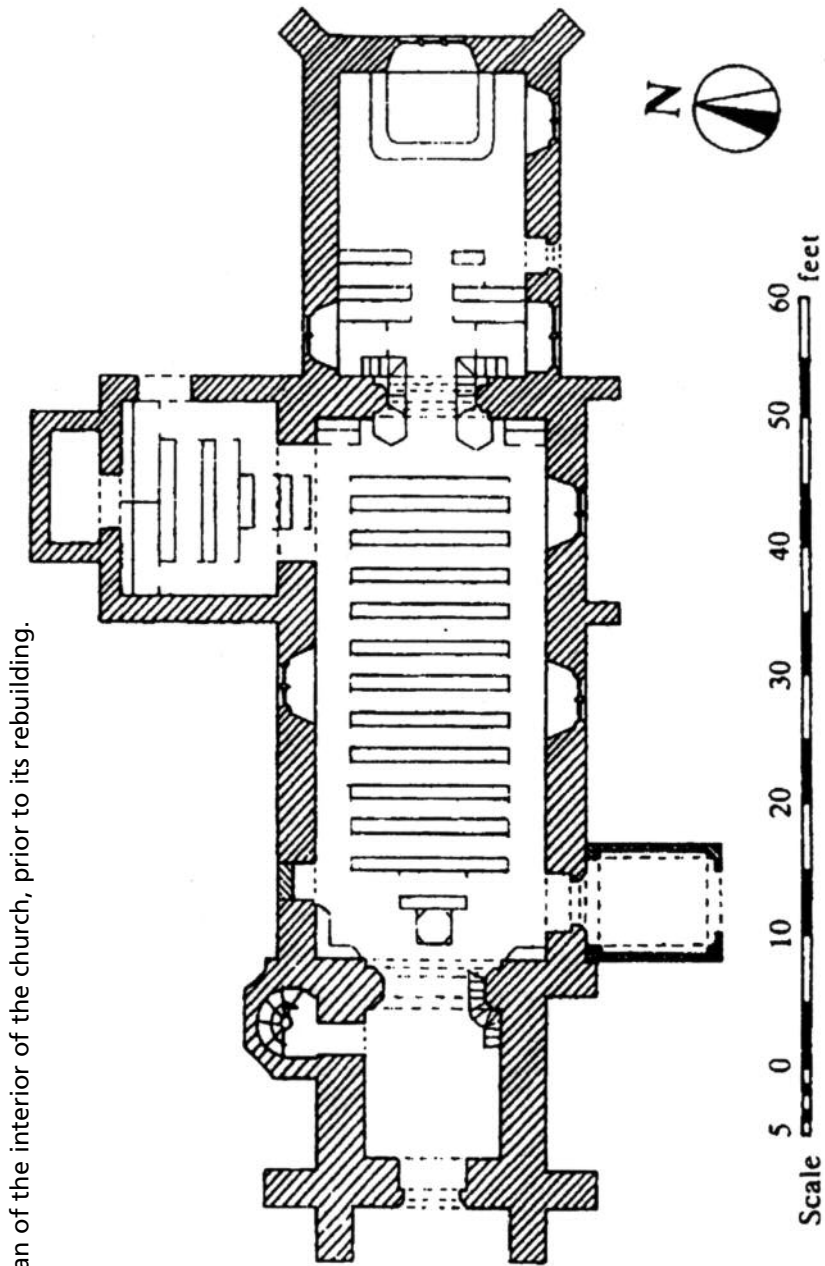
'The church had been much disfigured with whitewash and plaster, underneath, the soil had been honeycombed with vaults and the foundations destroyed. The roof, the paving and the floor were thoroughly ruinous and unsafe. The walls were cracked, there was no vestry, the sittings (some of them oak) were entirely out of repair, there was no means of warming or cooling the church...'

In the July of 1855 a parish meeting was held. The parishioners agreed to raise £200 by rate for the repair of the church. However Lord Ashburnham, the principal landowner, failed to give his consent and the proposal fell through.

By 1862, the condition of the church was causing much anxiety. Lord Ashburnham had visited the church in 1861 and acknowledged the necessity of the work. Adeline Tatham noted that he agreed to contribute 'if the parish were not rated for the purpose'. However in 1862 she wrote in exasperation that 'Lord Ashburnham not only would not contribute but threw every obstacle in the way'.

One such obstacle was the Herrings pew, which was acquired by the Ashburnham family when they bought the property known as Herrings, in 1801. Lord Ashburnham refused to allow the pew to be touched and raised several objections. The matter was due to go before lawyers in December 1863 but, at the last minute Lord Ashburnham withdrew his opposition. The Herrings pew obviously aroused strong feelings within the Tatham family. In a letter written about fifty years later, Mary Tatham, another of the Rev. Ralph Raisbeck Tatham's daughters, recalls the pew and describes it as 'a hideous excrescence'.









This photograph of St Giles' church was taken between 1864, when the church was rebuilt, and 1894, when the clock was added to the tower.

The foundation stone of the new church was laid on 11 May 1864 by Miss Emily Barton of Clarendon Terrace, Brighton. A sealed bottle was placed under the stone. It contained a copy of *The Times*, three coins and a scroll of parchment bearing the following words:

To the Honor and Glory of the Holy Eternal and Undivided Trinity this Foundation Stone of the Parish Church of St Giles, Dallington was laid at the Rebuilding of the Church by Emily Barton

May XI A.D. MDCCCLXIV

Ralph Raisbeck Tatham, Vicar

John Trill       } Churchwardens

Saml Peters     }

Edward Haberton Architect

Samuel Simpson Builder'

A newspaper article described the ceremony:

'The Vicar informed the people what the bottle contained, and then handed it to Miss Barton, who, placing it in the recess prepared for it, spread the mortar for the stone, which being done, the stone was lowered into its place, when Miss Barton applied the level, and struck the stone



three times with the mallet, the vicar saying the words "In the Faith of Jesus Christ we place this Foundation Stone in the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost. Amen."

The total cost of the project was £2204. The stone was given by J.R. Dunn of Stone House, Warbleton. It was quarried from a field one mile away, in the extreme western corner of the parish. The sand was given by W.E.M. Watts. It was noted that the carriage of much of the material was carried out at no charge by the tenant farmers of the parish.

Many people and organisations contributed towards the cost of the new church. A board on the south wall of the church records that 'The Incorporated Society for Building &c Churches granted £100 towards rebuilding this church, upon condition that 331 seats, numbered 1 to 40, be reserved for the use of the poorer inhabitants of this parish.' The original numbers are still visible, although a few of the pews are missing.

The Rev. Ralph Raisbeck Tatham raised most of the money for the new church himself. £1,797.1s.2d of the total cost is recorded as having been raised by subscription from private sources, collected by the vicar and personal friends. He had worked tirelessly to raise the money for the rebuilding. His choice of architect, however, was less than fortunate. Although a newspaper article of the day described the building as being 'very pretty', later comments have been rather less complimentary. Indeed, in 1955 the Rev. Thomas Frederick Charlton is quoted in the *Southern Weekly News* as saying, 'The old church was foolishly, wickedly, pulled down, and this featureless Victorian Gothic building erected in its place.'

There were a number of memorial slabs in the old church that did not reappear in the new church. Some accounts of the church's history describe these as being discovered 'hidden' under the belfry floor. However, in a letter written in the 1910s, Mary Tatham makes it clear that their resting place was no secret and at the same time shows us that her father did not always see eye to eye with the architect:

'I can tell you at once about the monuments, or rather memorial tablets. They are under the concrete floor of the belfry not broken up in any way but laid carefully in straw I think... Dallington was unfortunate in the period at which the re-building was done – the most ruthless period of Victorian restoration. My father too was unfortunate in the choice of architect he selected... With regard to the





This 1973 photograph shows the church, The Old Rectory (behind the church) and several houses in The Street, including the frontages of, from left to right: Rose Cottage, Church Cottage and Old Manor. Yew Arch faces Old Manor.



Crawford tablets... my father wrote repeatedly to the then representative of the family. He would neither subscribe to the rebuilding nor even to the repair and re-erection of the tablets and said, I believe, in so many words that he did not care what became of them. My father was so worried about it and as there was no money to spare for extras of this sort he at last decided when the belfry was being repaired to place them under the new floor. I really hope that you will have them taken up. I know it is what he would have liked. Though I was only ten I heard many discussions and remembered them. There were no rich people to help my father. For the total cost there were over 2000 subscribers. Think of the labour and the correspondence involved – the whole of which was done by my father and mother at a time when they had 8 children, and pupils.'

During the rebuilding work, the ancient font was broken. Adeline Tatham notes that an exact copy of it was made in London and that the old one was cemented together and 'stands in the churchyard at the foot of the grave of the Vicar's two infant boys'. These boys were Henry William, who was born and died in 1851, and John Eustace, who was born in 1859 and died the following year. Their mother, Caroline, died in 1867, aged 39 years, having borne eleven children, eight of whom survived her.

It is thought that the present tower and steeple were added to the church in the early sixteenth century, probably by a member of the Pelham family. The stone spire is one of only three stone spires in East Sussex, the other two being at Chiddingly and Northiam. On the western side of the tower the Pelham buckle is carved on to the northern and southern battlements, while on the southern central battlement there is a shield with three pelicans, which is part of the Pelham coat-of-arms. In 1737, the four bells in the tower were recast and made into five. There is a local tradition that says that Mrs Eleanor Madgwick went to the foundry to see the bells being cast and threw into the furnace a lapful of silver, which accounts for their silvery tone. One of these bells was recast, once again, in 1808 and another in 1853.

In 1889, the Rev. Ralph Raisbeck Tatham became a prebendary in Chichester Cathedral and took on the honorary title of Canon. Four years later, on 1 October 1893, Canon Tatham died, aged 71 years. In the forty-five years during which he had been rector and vicar of Dallington he had achieved much. It was noted that when he arrived the church was almost a ruin, the vicarage was scarcely habitable, there was no Parish



room and no school building. All this had now changed, thanks mainly to his efforts.

On Easter Day 1894, a ceremony was held to dedicate the many gifts made to the church in his memory. A memorial window in the chancel was given by his sisters, nephews and nieces. A new clock, given by his parishioners and many friends, was erected in the tower. A brass altar cross was given by all his children. A red silk altar frontal was given by Adeline Tatham and an oak hymn board was presented by the churchwardens.

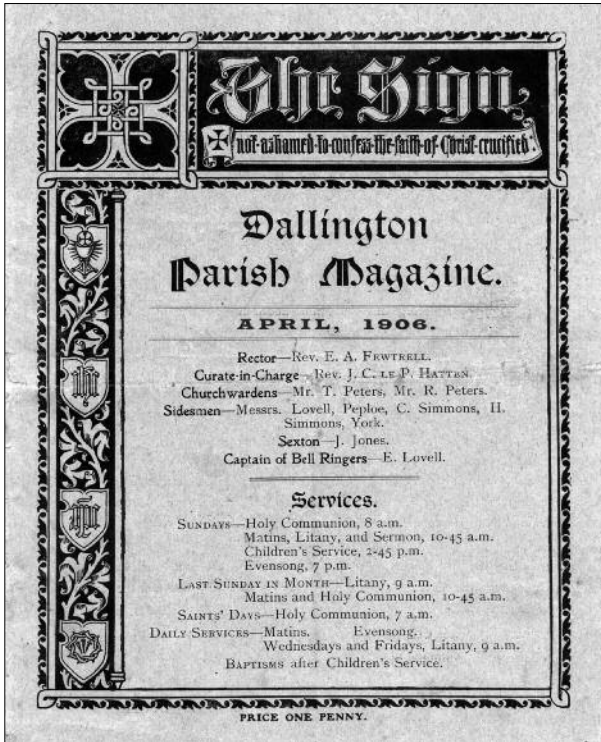
Members of the Tatham family continued to play a part in village life for many years and there are several other memorials to the family in the church.

In 1904, all five bells were recast and a sixth was added. Much of the cost of this was met by a bequest of £100 made by Adeline Tatham, who died in 1900. There is also a window in the south chancel dedicated to Adeline. In 1919 a window was put in the south wall of the nave in memory of Mary Tatham, who had died in 1918. In 1935 an oak table was dedicated in memory of another of Canon Tatham's daughters, Sister Elizabeth Kate Tatham, who died in 1932. In 1950, Mrs Muriel Tatham, granddaughter of Canon Tatham, gave a stained glass window in memory of her parents, her husband and her son Geoffrey, who died aged 3 years. Coincidentally, when Muriel Tatham's gift was dedicated, the Crawford memorial tablets mentioned in Mary Tatham's letter were re-dedicated, after having been



The stained glass window dedicated to Mary Tatham.





The front cover of the parish magazine, dated April 1906.

the afternoon. The village children would spend Saturday evening learning the appropriate Collect, so that they could recite it the next day. John le Pelly Hatten was immensely popular. In November 1906 a public meeting was held to bid him farewell and to present him with a pair of solid silver candlesticks. The villagers were very sorry to see him go.

During the remainder of Edgar Fewtrell's incumbency, the original font was returned to the church and the modern was one was used as the base for the pulpit. In addition, in 1911, Mrs Baumbach (later to become Mrs Fulst) presented a screen and reredos to the church in memory of her husband who had died the previous year.

Following the departure of Edgar Fewtrell, John le Pelly Hatten was offered the living of Dallington at the special request of the parishioners. He accepted it and was installed in 1912. War broke out in 1914 and in 1917 he was called up for duty as Chaplain to the Forces. He left Dallington to take up Chaplain's duty at No. 40 Stationary Hospital in France. The Rev. E.G.W. Foote, the curate of Henfield, was appointed under the National

recovered and replaced on the north wall at the expense of a relative.

The Rev. Edgar Fewtrell succeeded Canon Tatham in 1894. However from 1904 to 1906 he took leave of absence and his place was temporarily taken by a young curate, the Rev. John Charles le Pelly Hatten, who was the eldest son of the late rector of Bodle Street. By 1906 there were four church services every Sunday, including a Children's Service in





The interior of St Giles' as it would have looked in 1910.

War Scheme for Clergy to take temporary charge of the parish. The war ended on 11 November 1918 and the following month John le Pelly Hatten resigned his chaplaincy of the army and returned to Dallington.

Before the war, the Bishop had visited the church and said that the use of the newer font as a base for the pulpit was inappropriate, so in 1923 it was given to the newly rebuilt Bodle Street church, which had earlier been destroyed by fire. In the same year, a new pulpit was given to the church by the Right Hon. Henry Burton, Lord Wrenbury.

Then followed a tragic period in John le Pelly Hatten's life. In November 1926, his wife, Lilian, died after a long and painful illness. In 1928, his only child, Violet, was taken ill at school in Chichester. She was brought home to the rectory on 10 April but, despite the dedicated attention of medical professionals, she died

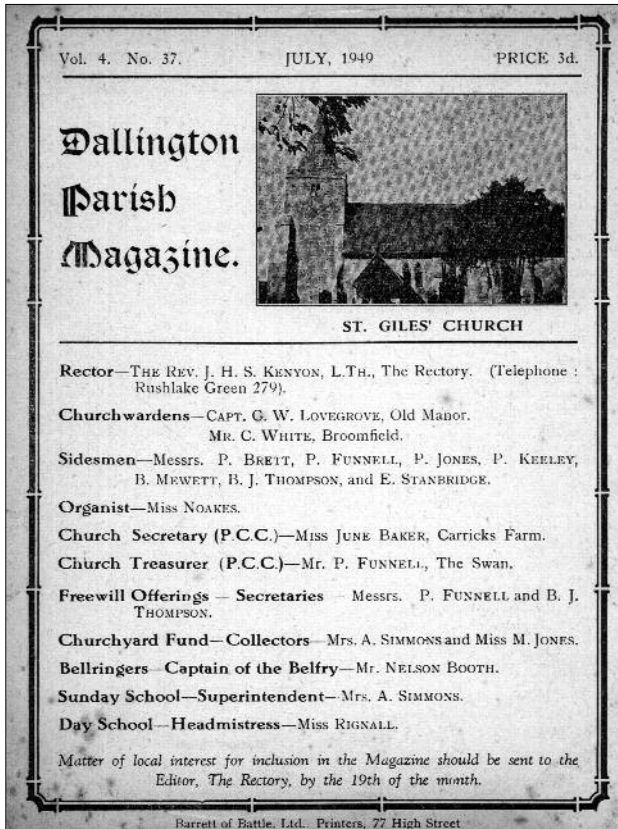


The Rev. John Charles le Pelly Hatten with his wife Lilian and daughter Violet, in 1913.



exactly one month later, aged 16 years. Many of her friends in the Ranger Guides had taken it in turns to sit with her during her illness. They, and the whole village, were deeply saddened by the news of her death. John le Pelly Hatten presented several gifts to the church in memory of his wife and daughter. The choirstalls were given in memory of his wife, a new Bible was dedicated in memory of both his wife and his daughter and a new Office Book in memory of his daughter. In 1934, three years after having been made a prebendary, Canon le Pelly Hatten resigned. The carved oak mural in the church, which bears the name of all the former rectors, was given by the parishioners at his request in recognition of his incumbency. The Rev. William Mainprice was instituted as rector in 1935 but retired for health reasons the following year.

On 13 December 1936, the Rev. Philip Arthur Kingsford, brother of the late Mrs le Pelly Hatten, was installed as the new incumbent of the parish.



The cover of a 1949 Parish Magazine.

In September 1939, war was declared against Germany. The Rev. Philip Kingsford wanted to stay in office until the war was over but increasing age and infirmity led to his resignation in January 1943. The position was taken up by the Rev. Raymond Tremellen, who came from a curacy in Bexhill, where he had been bombed out of his home three times by German raiders.

The Rev. John Kenyon, who followed the Rev.



Raymond Tremellen, re-started the parish magazine, which he also edited. During his incumbency, which lasted from 1946 to 1951, the church and rectory were connected to the electricity supply and an electric organ blower installed. This piece of equipment was considered a boon, saving 'endless trouble and money in the hire of a human blower'. It was also around this time that Mrs Maud Simmons ran the Sunday School from her home, Thrums.

In 1951, the Rev. Thomas Charlton was instituted. It appears it was not until after his institution that the P.C.C. (Parochial Church Council) learned he had been asked by the Bishop of Chichester to take on the additional responsibility of Brightling parish. In 1954, after a long delay and seemingly against the wishes of both parishes, the church authorities completed the act of joining them in plurality by instituting Thomas Charlton as rector of Brightling.

The Rev. Thomas Charlton, or Father Charlton as he liked to be called, was responsible for a major church restoration project and also re-formed the Boy Scouts troop. His High Churchmanship, however, did not find favour with all his parishioners. Thomas Charlton was the last rector to live in Dallington. When the Rev. Eric Knowles became rector of both Dallington and Brightling in 1959, he moved into the new rectory in Brightling. Eric Knowles is remembered for his wonderful singing voice. His love of music resulted in it playing a more prominent role in services. During his incumbency, a Sunday School, run by Jill Cameron and Angela Keeley, was held at Yew Arch.

In 1969, the Rev. Victor Hellaby became rector. His down-to-earth personality made him very popular with villagers, while his wry sense of humour enlivened many a P.C.C. meeting. He mixed well with everyone in the village and was as much at home in The Swan Inn as in the church.

Victor Hellaby retired in 1982 and was succeeded the following year by the Rev. John Westmuckett. In John Westmuckett's second year as rector, Brightling and Dallington parishes were joined with Mountfield and Netherfield parishes. All four parishes were now held in plurality. John Westmuckett's monthly Family Services became very popular. A large box often formed the centrepiece of his sermons and children particularly looked forward to seeing the surprise it contained. On one occasion, it is recalled, there was a lamb inside the box.

John Westmuckett's successor was Canon David Fricker, who was inducted in 1988. Canon Fricker was a quiet, gentle, well-





In 1991 the bells were re-tuned at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. John Day, current captain of the bells, is seen here with the bells prior to their re-hanging.

respected man. Running four parishes was no easy task and his workload was further increased when he was appointed Rural Dean of Dallington Deanery, a deanery that consisted of 19 parishes. In the late 1980s, John, Lord Wrenbury, began to train for the priesthood. He was ordained as a deacon in Chichester Cathedral in 1990 and priested in Eastbourne in 1991. Soon after this Jane Sherwin, who lives in Brightling, also began to train for the priesthood. She was ordained as a deacon in Chichester Cathedral in 1996, but her priesting the following year took place in the neighbouring diocese of Guildford, as Eric, Bishop of Chichester does not allow women to be ordained as priests in his diocese.

Later that year, Canon Fricker retired and the incumbency was accepted by the Rev. Stuart Baker. He is assisted in his ministry by the Rev. John Wrenbury and the Rev. Jane Sherwin, both of whom work as unsalaried clergy. Dallington parish church holds one service each Sunday. The first Sunday in the month is designated as a Family Service. This replaced the Sunday School, which was held in the church during the first half of the 1990s but which eventually closed due to lack of numbers. The parish magazine has gone from strength to strength. Entitled *The Messenger*, it serves all four parishes and, to quote from the publication itself, 'is a means of communication for all matters of local interest connected not only with the churches but with all aspects of village life'.



## METHODIST CHURCH

In the early nineteenth century, Methodist mission groups from the Hastings circuit visited the rural villages and held open-air meetings and meetings in cottages. The first Methodist meeting in Dallington was held in 1812 in the kitchen of one of the village houses. It is told that a local lad named Hilderic Friend went to one of the meetings with the intention of causing a nuisance but was instead converted to Methodism. He went on to lay the foundation beam of the Wesleyan Chapel and later entered the ministry.

The chapel was built on land that used to be part of the garden of Glovers Cottage (now Brook Cottage) at the bottom of Carricks Hill. In the 1850s this house was occupied by George Gosling, who was a glover by trade. In 1856 Mr Gosling mortgaged the



Glovers Cottage (now Brook Cottage) in the 1920s. The Wesleyan Chapel was built in the grounds of this house.

property to Robert Tournay of Ticehurst for £165, to be repaid with interest after six months. He failed to make the repayment and lost both his cottage and his land.

Fourteen years later, in 1870, one of George Gosling's daughters, Martha, bought a corner of the garden at Glovers Cottage for £4, for the express purpose of having a chapel built upon it. Miss Gosling donated the land to the Wesleyan Methodist Church. On 24 June 1872, the first trust was appointed. It consisted of twelve trustees, two of whom, George Gosling and Gaius Winchester, were from Dallington. Preaching services were held twice each



Sunday for many years. Many of the preachers had to walk from Hastings or Bexhill.

The Wesleyan Chapel and the parish church seem to have shared a mutual understanding and respect. The writer of an article entitled *Delightful Dallington*, penned in 1922, says:

'The barrier of denominationalism may exist but it is freely perforated with avenues of intercommunication. The Rector goes down the hill to address the Wesleyans and when the Nonconformists may be disappointed in the non-arrival of their preacher, they go up the hill to worship in the parish church. Christian unity is preached universally; in Dallington it is practised, and a charitable kind of contempt is felt for people who wrangle about the right road to heaven.'

Two of the stalwarts of the Wesleyan Chapel were Mr Isaiah Pankhurst, of Punnetts Town, and his daughter, Mrs Caroline Booth, who lived at Yew Tree Cottages (now Staces). Mrs Booth was the organist for 40 years and also ran a Sunday School for many years. She often worked far into the night preparing special treats and surprises. A newspaper article written in January 1932 records that the Wesleyan Chapel Sunday School's winter treat included 'a bountiful tea plus entertainments of songs, recitations and dialogues'. The Wesleyan Sunday School ran throughout the war years and was attended by many village children. Despite rationing, local people remember being given a sweet as a reward for their attendance.

By 1951 Mrs Booth's health was failing and it looked as though the chapel might close. Happily, Mr Beeching from the St Leonards Circuit agreed to take over responsibility for the chapel and Miss Blackman, also from St Leonard's, took on the role of organist.

At first, services were held once a month. The chapel was redecorated and lighting and new heating were installed. The congregation began to increase and the summer rally was revived. By 1952 there was a service once a fortnight and by 1954 the congregation averaged twenty-four.

In February 1957, an aircraft flying at supersonic speed shook the chapel and it was reduced to a state of near-collapse. The cost of rebuilding it was £700. The Hon. Colin Buckley, who was living at Oldcastle at the time, placed a room in the stable block at the disposal of the church for its Sunday worship while the building work was carried out. The chapel re-opened that September, with well over one hundred people present.

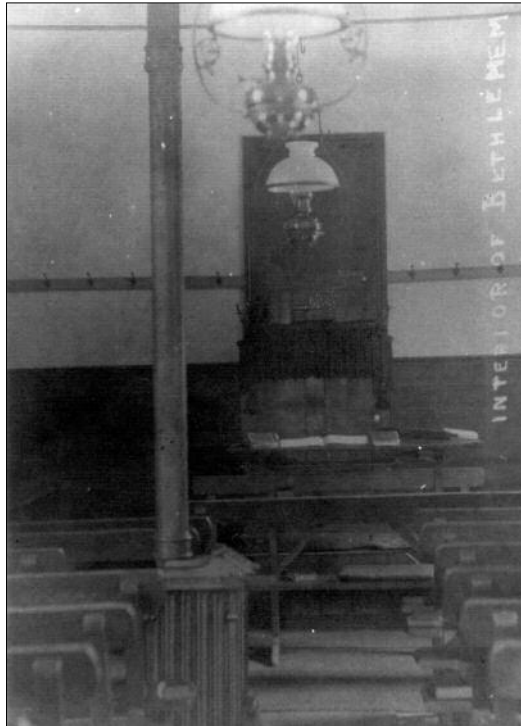


## *Churches*

Services continued to be held once a fortnight. In the 1970s the congregation was strengthened by the support of the Methodists from Rushlake Green. Towards the end of the 1980s, however, the chapel closed down and the property was sold back to the owners of the house, Brook Cottage. By the end of the 1990s the building had been sold again and was used for furniture restoration.

### CALVINIST CHAPEL

This chapel, called the Bethlehem Chapel, is to be found on the Battle Road east of Woods Corner. It is believed to have been in existence by the 1910s and is known to have been used for worship in the 1930s. In 1965 two services were held each Sunday, one at 11.00a.m. and one at 2.00p.m. Local people remember worshippers arriving at the chapel with their picnic lunches, to eat between the two lengthy services. The Calvinist religion was very strict and the chapel was nicknamed Little Hell by some non-attenders. Today, the building is still standing but it is no longer in use as a chapel.



The interior of the Bethlehem Chapel. This picture is thought to date from the 1910s.



## *Chapter 7*

### BUILDINGS OF INTEREST

#### OLD SCHOOL

The early history of the building that is now known as the Old School began back in 1849 and is detailed in Chapter 5. By 1913 the building was no longer needed for educational purposes and in 1915 the Dallington Mutual Improvement and Recreation Society moved into the premises. The society used one room as a billiard room and one as a reading room and club room. The building was also used as a Sunday School.

In 1918, Mary Tatham, a daughter of a previous rector, died leaving £100 to the society. Two years later, four permanent trustees used Miss Tatham's money to purchase the freehold of the property. The original trustees were Bryan Burton Buckley (Lord Wrenbury), George Cramp, Herbert Simmons and Charles White. It was agreed that the trustees were to allow the Dallington Reading Room and Mutual Improvement Society to use the premises as a reading room and club and also to 'permit the premises to be used for entertainments and meetings for the recreation of the inhabitants of Dallington and their friends and for charitable or other public purposes and for private gatherings and entertainments'.

In 1945, after the end of the Second World War, a new set of trustees was appointed and a management committee was formed. This committee comprised the four permanent trustees plus eight others, who were to be elected annually. Two of the elected members were chosen by the Reading Room, two by the Women's Institute, one by the Young Farmers, one by the Youth Club and two by the parishioners at a Parish Meeting.

By 1965, the four permanent trustees were Harry Baker, Percy Keeley, Capt. Lovegrove and Stanley White. The make-up of the remaining members of the management committee had changed a little. Two members were now chosen by the Football Club and two by the Stoolball Club, replacing those chosen by the Youth



Club and the Young Farmers. By this time the committee was elected every five years instead of annually.

The Old School was used for a wide variety of activities, including snooker, billiards, parties, dances, Women's Institute meetings, committee meetings, jumble sales and as a Public Library.

Towards the end of 1965, a class from the new school moved into the Old School, while building work was carried out on their classroom. The management committee agreed to this arrangement but only on the understanding that the children were not to use the toilets in the Old School, as it was feared that the system would be unable to cope with the additional use. It must have been a great test of self-control.

By the beginning of the 1990s, the Old School was also being used for Harvest Suppers, Dallington Amateur Dramatic Society productions, barn dances and by a Mother and Toddler group.

In 1998 a nursery school, Daisy Chain, moved to the Old School from premises in Stunts Green. The nursery school uses the building every morning and the villagers continue to use it at other times. Miss Tatham would be delighted to know that 80 years after her gift of £100, the Old School was not only being used for the benefit of the villagers but that the building, which was constructed largely thanks to her father, was once again being used for educational purposes.



Villagers at the Old School, applauding members of the Dallington Amateur Dramatic Society in 1997, following their performance of *The White Sheep of the Family*, produced by Judy Jeremy.

From left to right: Alan Archer, Christine Archer, David Jeremy, Joan Fawson, Clyde Young, Fiona Corliss, Mark Brittle, Judy Petty, Clive Mackie



## THE SUGAR LOAF

This unusual building is situated next to the main Heathfield to Battle road, due east of the playing field. It is the only one of Jack Fuller's follies to fall within the parish of Dallington. Jack Fuller was an M.P. in the first decade of the nineteenth century and was also the wealthy owner of Rose Hill (now Brightling Park) and its estate. He has been variously portrayed as eccentric, extravagant, benevolent and outspoken. One thing is for certain and that is that he enjoyed a good party.



The Sugar Loaf in the 1930s.

The traditional tale of the Sugar Loaf is that during one such party he wagered that the spire of Dallington church could be seen from his home, Rose Hill. When he found that this was not so, he ordered the conical building to be constructed, some say overnight, in order to fool his guests and win the bet. The exact date of its construction is not known but it is possibly around 1822. Jack Fuller later had the building converted into a labourer's cottage. It is thought that Simeon Crouch and his family may have lived in the Sugar Loaf in the late 1870s, as family members have been told that one of his daughters, Mabel, was born there in 1879. Relatives of the Lulham family are



believed to have been the last people to live in the Sugar Loaf. The stone building had two storeys, with windows on each floor. There was a ladder between the two floors and there was also a lean-to kitchen.

Local people recall that during the Second World War it was used as an anti-invasion machine gun post. Over the ensuing years, the abandoned building began to fall into disrepair. However a newspaper article of 1955 states that although 'crumbling to a ruin', the Sugar Loaf was 'still a magnet to thousands of tourists every summer'.

The Sugar Loaf is situated on land that used to form part of Christmas Farm. In the 1950s, Dennis Baker bought Christmas Farm from the Brightling Estate and in 1962 he donated the Sugar Loaf to the local council.

## HERRINGS

Herrings Place was a large mansion, situated in the south of the present parish of Dallington. In 1716 it was bought by Robert Burnett, who was an election agent for the influential politician Thomas Pelham-Holles, 1st Duke of Newcastle. Elections during Robert Burnett's time as agent were notorious for their unprincipled nature. The purchase of votes and the manipulation of elections were rife. When Robert Burnett died he left Herrings



Herrings Place by S.H. Grimm, 1785.



Place to his nephew Robert Randoll, for the duration of his life. In the 1740s it passed to another nephew, Patrick Craufurd.

In 1801 Herrings Place, along with six to seven hundred acres of land, was sold to the Ashburnham family but about two years later most of the building was destroyed by fire. The house that is today known as Herrings was originally the coach house and stables to Herrings Place.

#### YEW ARCH

Yew Arch is one of the oldest houses in the village. It was originally a hall house, probably dating from the early fifteenth century. Additions and alterations were made to the house in the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. During the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, it appears to have been called The George and is thought to have been a beer house. There is a record in the rental of the Manor of Dallington, dated 1677, which states that John Ffrench paid for a house and garden called The George. The land tax record of 1707 shows that by this date The George was occupied by John Tutty, who was still there in 1726. In common with many houses and farms, the property became known by the name of its owner and was referred to as Tutty's until the end of the nineteenth century.

By 1881 the house was owned by Samuel Peters, who used to run the grocer's shop at The White House. The house was also home to Fanny Gosling, his nephew's sister-in-law. Fanny lived there until she died in 1927, aged 94 years. The house was then



Yew Arch in the early 1900s.



bought by Henry Noakes, the butcher, who lived at Old Manor. Two years later it was sold to a Captain Jones and then, in 1932, it was sold to Dr and Mrs Tutton. Dr Tutton was a scientist and it was by his methods that the length of the Imperial Yard was officially determined.

The house takes its current name from the two yew trees that form an archway over the entrance gate. It has been suggested that the unusual 'H' shape into which the yews have been clipped dates back to its time as a beer house, with the H standing for Hostelry.

#### OLD MANOR

This building, which is a three-bay hall house, dates from the late fourteenth or fifteenth century. Whilst it is not impossible



This photograph of Old Manor is believed to date from the 1870s.

that this building was once the manor house of Dallington, its size suggests that it is more likely to have been the seat of the local manorial court. During the second half of the nineteenth century this thatched property was home to Thomas and Eliza Noakes and their 17 children. Thomas Noakes was a farmer and master butcher. His shop premises were a wooden building, erected in the front garden. The house was known as Manor House or The Manor, while the farmland, which lay to the south



### *Buildings of Interest*

and east of the property, was known as Acelands Farm or sometimes Manor Farm. The eldest of Thomas's many children, another Thomas, became a showman. He went by the name of the Silver King and it was he who toured with and showed the Elephant Man. One of Thomas's daughters, Nellie, later married Tom Simmons of Rabbits Farm; another, Mabel, married Roland Peters who ran the grocery store at The White House; a third, Harriett, married Percival Peters, Roland's elder brother. Several of Thomas Noakes's sons became butchers. One of the elder sons, Henry, eventually took over his father's business and lived in the house with his wife Annie and their children. In 1936 the house was sold to Capt. and Mrs Lovegrove. Henry Noakes, Annie, and their unmarried daughter, Grace, moved into Sunnyside (now Bear House) which had been the home of Henry's widowed mother.

At some point, probably during the late nineteenth century, a wooden extension was added to the house. This extension was later faced in asbestos cladding. By the late 1940s the wooden building that had served as the butcher's shop had been dismantled and the thatched roof replaced with a tiled roof. The extension was removed in 1954 and a timber-framed extension, in keeping with the existing house, was added.



Old Manor in a photograph thought to date from about 1903. The butcher's shop can be seen behind the fir tree.

The children are believed to be Irene and Grace Noakes.



## OLDCASTLE

Oldcastle (or Old Castle) has been the country home of the Buckley family for most of the twentieth century. It was bought in 1910 by Henry Burton Buckley, who, when created a baron in 1915, took the title Lord Wrenbury of Old Castle in the County of Sussex.

The central part of Oldcastle is late seventeenth century but later additions have been made. There is also a fragment of buttressed wall, described in a newspaper article of 1955 as having 'warlike peepholes', which is said to date from King Stephen's reign (1135-54). From 1763 to 1795 Oldcastle was owned by the vicar, the Rev. William North, who is known to have lived there for at least part of this time. During much of the first half of the following century, it was home to the Randoll family.

The valley in which the house is built seems an unlikely place for a castle. The Hon. Colin Buckley is quoted in the same 1955 newspaper article as saying:

'It is thought that some twelfth century nobleman built a hunting box here. He probably took the usual precaution of fortifying it and the village folk would take to calling it the castle.'

## *The Wrenbury Title*

### *Year of Accession*

#### *Henry Burton Buckley* (1st Baron Wrenbury)

born 1845, created a baron in ..... 1915  
wife: Bertha

#### *Bryan Burton Buckley* (2nd Baron Wrenbury)

born 1890, eldest son of 1st Baron 1935  
wife: Helen  
brothers: Colin, Denys  
sisters: Joyce, Muriel, Olive, Ruth

#### *John Burton Buckley* (3rd Baron Wrenbury)

born 1927, son of 2nd Baron 1940  
wife: Penelope  
sister: Mary



*Buildings of Interest*



Oldcastle as it would have looked in 1910.

During the Second World War, many evacuated children stayed at Oldcastle, and a branch of Addey and Stanhope School from south-east London was also accommodated there. In 1940, when



Oldcastle in the 1930s.



the school moved on to Wales, Bertha, Lady Wrenbury, lent Oldcastle to Shoreham Children's Home.

After the war, Oldcastle housed a finishing school for young ladies. Later, during the 1950s, it was a guest house as well as a home. It was then let for a short time before becoming the permanent home of John, Lord Wrenbury and his family in 1961.

#### STREAM FARM

Stream Farm used to be known as Woodsell Farm. The farm house dates from the fourteenth century and was clad in brick during the eighteenth century. By the mid-1880s, Woodsell was being farmed by James Honeysett. By the late 1890s his place had been taken by Robert and Alma Keeley and their family. During the 1920s and 1930s, the house was home to Major Douglas Simmons, who had a rabbitry that was effusively described in 1924 as, 'probably the most noted stud of Chinchilla rabbits in the whole world'. By the mid-1960s Stream Farm House had become the weekend home of the Hon. Denys Buckley and remained his property until the mid-1990s.

#### THE OLD RECTORY

Although currently called The Old Rectory, up until the early years of the twentieth century it was generally known as the



The Old Rectory and members of the Tatham family, in a photograph thought to date from the 1870s.



vicarage. This reflected the fact that its occupants usually described themselves as vicar, rather than rector. Both titles, it would appear, were correct. The Rev. Ralph Raisbeck Tatham, for instance, clearly states that when he was instituted in 1848 it was as 'Rector and Vicar of Dallington'. From the 1910s onwards, it seems as though the title vicar, and in consequence the description vicarage, were dropped in favour of rector and rectory.

In 1292 a vicarage in Dallington is recorded as being rated at six marks. A mark was not a coin; rather, it had an accountancy value. By 1319, however, the vicarage had been removed from the taxation rolls on account of the poverty of the benefice.

In 1643 the vicarage was sequestered by the House of Commons as Zachariah Tuttonham, vicar of the parish,

'hade greatly neglected his cure sometimes deserting the same for two months without any supply and has spoken very disgracefully of the Earl of Essex and expressed general malignity against the Parliament.'

Parts of the present rectory are thought to date back to the mid-sixteenth century. By 1703, the ground floor of the house consisted of a kitchen, front parlour, brewhouse, laundry and back parlour. Upstairs there were four bedrooms with three attic rooms above them. The house had two staircases. Outside there was a deep draw-well on the south side of the house and a tithe barn, to which a stable had been added in 1701. During the second half of the eighteenth century, the lime avenue that still exists today was planted by the Rev. William North. The house was enlarged and altered during the first decade of the nineteenth century. It is recorded by Adeline Tatham that the 'floors and decorations of all the sitting rooms were brought from Herrings House, which was a large Elizabethan House and was pulled down at that time'. It was noted, too, that the Dutch tiles adorning the pantry walls also came from Herrings and were of great antiquity. In 1855, during the incumbency of the Rev. Ralph Raisbeck Tatham, the vicarage was again enlarged, this time by the addition of a w.c. and three bedrooms. The room that used to be the laundry was converted into a study for the rector's pupils. The tradition of resident rectors ended with the Rev. Thomas Charlton, who is supposed to have made an interesting collection of fossils which he buried somewhere in the garden. Subsequent rectors have lived in the new rectory in Brightling. The Dallington rectory was let for a while before being sold.





Brides Cottage, since demolished, is the light-coloured house with the motor-bike and side-car outside.

#### BUILDINGS THAT NO LONGER EXIST

In The Street, adjoining what is now Frog House, there was a house called Brides Cottage. It was given this name because newly-weds often made their first home there, although in the 1940s it was the home of Grandma (Alma) Keeley. She was followed by another senior citizen, Mrs Beeney, who was the last person to live in the cottage before it was demolished. Another cottage in The Street that has since been demolished stood next to the Old School. This house was bought by Col Cheesewright, who lived at Padgham in the 1920s. After buying it, he had it demolished and took the old oak from the much-boarded house down to Padgham Farm House.

There was also a small house in South Lane called Mouse Trap. There were only four rooms in the entire house but the 1891 census shows it as being occupied by seven members of the Tedham family. South Lane was also the site of Clayton Farm House, which stood empty for many years before being pulled down in the late 1920s. Peter Funnell can remember young Tom Simmons, of Rabbits Farm, telling him of the time he walked past the abandoned building and looked up to see a bullock glaring down at him from an upstairs window.

Opposite the Sugar Loaf was a tiny cottage that had one



*Buildings of Interest*

bedroom downstairs and a ladder into the attic. A Mr Piper is thought to have been the last person to live here, before its demolition was authorised by the Ashburnham Estate.



The weather-boarded house on the left is no longer in existence.



## Chapter 8

### DALLINGTON AT WAR

#### THE FIRST WORLD WAR – 1914 TO 1918

The First World War must have seemed a distant war to the villagers of Dallington. It was fought in countries that few residents had visited and did not have a great deal of impact on everyday life in the village. Nevertheless, the men taking part were at the forefront of the minds of many who lived in the village, especially of those whose sons and husbands were serving in the Forces.

In the middle of the war years, in 1916, a special service was held in the church to remember those Dallington men who had lost their lives. Afterwards a large crowd gathered in front of the lych gate and Mr Peploe, a churchwarden and the school headmaster, announced that the Dallington Band would play in memory of ‘the brave Dallington lads who had given their lives for King and Country’.

On 11 November 1918 news reached Dallington by telegram that the war was over. The villagers celebrated by hanging flags across the street and the church bells were rung for an hour.

In May the following year a service was held at the school and a children’s memorial to the Old Dallington school boys who fell in the war was unveiled and dedicated. The memorial took the



Herbert Simmons, who fought in the First World War.





Albert Friend served in the Gloucester Regiment.

form of a framed picture and a memorial card with illuminated letters. There were Union Jacks at the four corners and it bore the words: 'In proud and honoured memory of the brave boys of Dallington School who in the Great War 1914-1918 gave their lives for King and Country "Their name liveth for evermore"'. Under this were written the names of Henry Adams, Cecil Baker, Alex Bishop, George Bishop, Charles Booth, Tom Budgen, Cyril Buss, James Crouch, Samuel Wood, Douglas Funnell, Percy Harmer, Douglas Lowe, James Pont, Alfred Oliver, James Whiteman, Fred Starling and Marshall Winchester.

Dallington, in common with towns and villages all around the country, held celebrations on 19 July 1919, to mark the signing of the Peace Treaty. A cricket match between ex-soldiers and civilians was held in Charles Baker's field, between Carricks Farm House and what is now the Post Office. In the afternoon, Tom Simmons's field, which was to the east of Rabbits Farm, was the venue for the sports that were held both for children and adults. Commemorative mugs were given to all the children. After tea, everyone adjourned to the Old School, where dancing took place, and at 10.00p.m. a bonfire was lit in Mr Simmons's field.

On 2 April 1920, a war memorial, situated in the churchyard, was unveiled by Privates D. Dallaway, C. Sinden, Tom Bishop and A. Burgess. The memorial was dedicated by the rector, the Rev. John Charles le Pelly Hatten. Lord Wrenbury,



The war memorial in the churchyard.



who gave the address, stressed the common bond linking all parishioners, saying that in this village they were as one community, sharing their sorrows and joys in communion. The names on the church war memorial were the same as those on the school memorial, with the exception of Cecil Baker. His father Charles refused to allow his name to be inscribed, as he felt the war memorial should have been sited on the triangle by the main road and not in the churchyard.

## **THE SECOND WORLD WAR – 1939 TO 1945**

In contrast to the First World War, everyday life was changed beyond all recognition between 1939 and 1945.

The declaration of a state of war with Germany was announced over the radio at 11.00a.m. on 3 September 1939. The announcement, which was delivered by the Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, coincided with the church service of Matins. A wireless set had been brought to the church and just before 11.00a.m. the service was suspended and the wireless was switched on to enable the congregation to listen to the broadcast.

## **AIR RAID PRECAUTION SERVICES**

During the war, many people took on extra responsibilities in addition to carrying out their everyday jobs. The village policeman, P.C. Latter, was joined by special constables Sgts Stanley White, Lester (Kip) Baker and Harry Baker. Initially, the A.R.P. (Air Raid Precaution) services were under the guidance of Major Tristram, of Cox's Mill, but shortly after the start of the war he was appointed to a position at the Military College of Science at Ashford. Mr Pocock of Old Cottage (now Weavers Cottage), who had been Billeting Officer, took over the direction of the A.R.P. services. These services

R.B.1  
15

MINISTRY OF  
FOOD

1952-1953

**RATION BOOK**  
(GENERAL)

Surname WHITE Initials H. I.

Address 2 SEA VIEW  
WOODS CORNER  
DALLINGTON, HEATHFIELD  
SUSSEX

IF FOUND  
RETURN TO  
ANY FOOD OFFICE

FOOD OFFICE  
CODE No. J  
1-1

Heather Buss's ration book.  
Some foodstuffs were rationed until well into the 1950s.



included: the First Aid Group, under Mrs Lovegrove of Old Manor; Wardens under Charles White of Birchwood, Earlsdown; and Food Control, under Charles Clark of The Stores. Mr Clark was also in control of the Fire Watchers and was supplied with appliances from the National Fire Service centre at Battle. People remember Mr Clark loading a stirrup pump and other fire-fighting equipment into his delivery van every evening in case of a night raid and unloading it all every morning, ready for the day's grocery deliveries. Angela Keeley, his daughter, recalls her home being swathed in camouflage netting and A.R.P. meetings being held at the house every Sunday.

### THE MILITARY

Very early on in the war, on 10 September 1939, five British Hurricanes had to make an emergency landing in the area, due to low cloud and poor visibility. One landed in Brightling and the others landed at Clayton Farm, Newcastle Farm, Haselden Farm and Cripps Farm.

Several homes and buildings were requisitioned by the authorities during the war, including the Old School, Pantons and Graylings. In 1940, between 13 May and 22 June, a company of Devonshire Yeomanry was billeted in the village and used



A group of Canadian soldiers outside Seaview Cottages, in 1942.

Pantons as their H.Q. The officers and soldiers stayed at several addresses in the village, including the rectory and The Swan Inn. During this period, improvised road barriers were erected and troops posted on several roads in the area. Concrete emplacements were constructed on the main roads in places that were considered to be particularly vulnerable and the attics of The Swan Inn were used as look-out posts. A company of Royal Irish Fusiliers, which had been evacuated from Dunkirk, was billeted in the village from 25 June to 10 July. Teresa Kay (*née* Hewett) recalls that some of the Irish Fusiliers camped on the farm at Uplands. It had been a very hot summer and water to the house



was in short supply. The men solved this problem by forming a human chain across a 14 acre field and passing buckets of water from a spring on the farm to the house, where it was tipped into large tanks.

During the time of the Battle of Britain, which lasted from the beginning of July to the end of September 1940, there were many dogfights over the village. On 28 September 1940 a dogfight took place between a Hurricane piloted by Flying Officer Peter Guerin Crofts and a German Messerschmitt. The Hurricane was hit and the pilot baled out. He landed between Padgham Corner and Redpale but was badly injured and died from his wounds. Later, a wooden cross was erected by his mother, close to the spot where he fell. This roadside memorial is now looked after by the Royal Air Force Association.

Dallington had fewer service camps than many parishes in the south, mainly due to the fact that there was no piped water in the village. However in May 1942 a company of Canadian soldiers bivouacked in the village for a short time and the following month soldiers from another division of the Canadian Army spent a few days in the area.

## BOMBS

Towards the end of the war, Dallington found itself in what became known as Doodlebug Alley. In June 1944, Germany began its V-1 attack on London and the South-East. The V-1s were pilotless aircraft and were known as flying bombs, doodlebugs or doodles. The R.A.F. used the area between Tonbridge and the coast to shoot down the V-1s, in order to stop them reaching the heavily populated areas further north. There were searchlights stationed in Tom Simmons's field and on land opposite Stream Farm. The area became a more dangerous place to live than at any other time during the war and many of the children were evacuated. The parents had no idea where their children were being sent. The children, accompanied by a teacher, were simply put on a train, bearing name tags, a gas mask and a small bag of clothes. The children's parents felt a little reassured by the fact that some Dallington mothers with young babies were evacuated on the same train. In the event, however, the children were taken to Llanelli, in Wales, while the mothers and babies went on to Fishguard. Many children were homesick. Some found the experience so traumatic that they find it difficult to speak about to this day.

In all, 10 flying bombs landed in the parish of Dallington. One





This house is Prinkle Farm House, which was hit by a flying bomb and later demolished.

demolished Prinkle Farm, killing Ada Smith, who lived in part of the farmhouse. The farmer's wife, Hilda White, was buried in the debris but was successfully rescued. Ada Smith is not forgotten. Her name appears on the war memorial in the churchyard, along with the names of the men of Dallington who gave their lives.

George Veness remembers one flying bomb that exploded in mid-air. The fuselage of this bomb landed, largely intact, in a small, boggy pond just south of Padgham Corner. Over the years the pond became overgrown and the fuselage was forgotten. Many years later it was further entombed when the council unwittingly covered it with earth from a bank that was cut back a short distance away.

In addition to the flying bombs, it is recorded that 31 high explosive bombs, 4 unexploded high explosive bombs, 176 incendiary bombs and 1 oil bomb fell in the parish. Over 70 houses suffered bomb damage and builders, such as Douglas Buss, were kept very busy. The Swan Inn had its windows blown in on more



than one occasion and all the clear glass in the church windows was blown in too. Three homes in Bakers Lane were damaged beyond repair when a bomb fell near Hacks Bank (now Little Pines). The bombings gave the boys of the village a new hobby. After the all-clear had sounded, they would be off on their bikes, scouring the fields for debris from aircraft or bombs and would proudly show off their collections to anyone who showed an interest.

#### THE HOME GUARD

At first, those offering their services in the defence of the area were called the Local Defence Volunteers. The Dallington Local Defence Volunteers met in Carrick's Farm slaughterhouse. In the early summer of 1940, the Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, announced the formation of the Home Guard. Dallington's Home Guard was initially under the command of Major Simmons of Stream Farm. When Major Simmons re-joined the army, Captain Lovegrove of Old Manor, who was already in command of Brightling Home Guard, took over the command of Dallington Home Guard too. The Home Guard became known as No. 6 C. Company, 19th Rother Battalion. Captain Lovegrove had been wounded in the First World War and was unable to take up full active service but he brought the full rigours of army life to bear on the members of the Home Guard. He could not abide slovenliness and was not averse to telling his men so. Parishioners remember him shouting at the men outside the church, in full view and hearing of the congregation, after one church parade that he felt had been particularly sloppy.

The volunteers worked to a rota. If they were on duty they had to report in at 8.00p.m. and then they took it in turns to be on guard for three or four hours at a stretch. This, of course, was in addition to completing a day's work in their full-time occupation. The Dallington Home Guard included many more young men than would have been the case in a town. This was because so many of the villagers worked in reserved occupations such as farming and were exempted from obligatory service. The Home Guard met in part of Graylings at Woods Corner. One night they almost did a more effective job than Hitler. Dave Thompson was boiling a kettle to make some tea when Percy Keeley thought he smelled paraffin. He asked Dave whether he had spilt any but Dave did not think so. They then discovered that he was boiling paraffin not water, having picked up the wrong can.

Dallington's Home Guard also included two female volunteers,





# DALLINGTON HOME GUARD

Back row, left to right: Frank Young, G. Bastin, Eddie Draper, Hubert Rogers, Edward Buss, Walter Rogers, Charlie Baker, Charlie Sinden, Percy Keeley, Reg Starling, Dennis Baker. Middle row, left to right: Tom Marchant, Ken Axel, Tom Simmons, Donald Burgess, S. Crouch, Will Buss, Nelson King, Sid Martin, Dave Thompson. Front row, left to right: Reg White, Perce Venner, Donald Kemp, Major Hanley, C.W. Lovegrove, Harold Duplock, Ron Hoad, Ben Thompson.



Heather Buss, daughter of Will Buss junior, the blacksmith, and Beattie Butler, who was later to marry Will's step-brother, Cecil. The two women formed the Intelligence Section of the Home Guard. During the time that one of the groups of Canadian soldiers was in the village, a week-end of manoeuvres was organised. The idea was that the Home Guard were to defend Woods Corner against the Canadians and it was planned that the manoeuvres should begin at 7.00p.m. on the Friday and continue until 4.00p.m. on the Sunday. However by 1.00a.m. that first night, the Home Guard had been comprehensively captured by the Canadians. In the meantime, the Intelligence Section, who were in charge of manning the telephones at the Post Office, had fallen fast asleep. Eddie Draper recalls taking part in this exercise. Eddie and a colleague were sent out to check that the Canadians were not mounting an attack from the direction of Earlsdown. As they walked across Baker's field, two trees leapt out and captured them! Not only were the Canadian soldiers themselves in full camouflage, complete with branches and leaves, but their armoured vehicles were too. Another colleague, young Tom Simmons, who was checking that the coast around Graylings was clear, was somewhat surprised when a Canadian jumped out of an upstairs window and landed on top of him.

Although many men were exempted from service, some villagers did go to war. Cecil Buss was the first Dallington man to sign up. He became a corporal in the Long Range Desert Patrol. Dallington was represented in the Navy and the Air Force too. Most villagers returned home safely. However, the names that appear on the war memorial – Howard Kinsman, Michael Tutton, Robert Young and Christopher Tristram – serve as a reminder that some were not so fortunate.

#### V.E. DAY

On the day the war ended, 8 May 1945, flags were hung from every window in the village. This day became known as V.E. (Victory in Europe) Day. Many of the celebrations in the village were accompanied by fireworks. Mr Clark had had them in stock since before the outbreak of war but during the years of the blackouts fireworks had been prohibited. With the ending of the war, his fireworks were once again in great demand.

On 15 August, flags were again flown to mark the final defeat of Japan. This day is now known as V.J. Day.

After the war ended, fund-raising activities were held in the village and all contributions went towards a Welcome Home



### *Dallington at War*

Fund, which eventually raised enough money to give £5 to every returning serviceman.

1995 was the 50th Anniversary of V.E. Day and it was decided that in Dallington, as in many other places, the occasion should be marked. The day began with a service held by the War Memorial. In the afternoon there were sports in the Ridleys' field (opposite the new school) and then a tea, which followed the traditional Dallington bring-a-plate-of-food format, at Pantons. The day ended at the Ridleys' field with a bonfire and barbecue.



Tea at Pantons, marking the 50th Anniversary of V.E. Day.



## *Chapter 9*

### FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS

#### FETES

A fete has featured in Dallington's summer diary for much of the twentieth century. From the 1910s to the late 1930s, a church fete was held at Oldcastle. On many occasions a play was included in the festivities. The 1928 fete, for instance, included the play 'Jack O'Dandy' and the next year visitors were entertained by 'The Two Pierrots'. During the Second World War, no fetes took place. Instead, the Home Guard organised an annual Sports Day.



The contestants bowling for a pig at the 1963 church fete are, from left to right: Dr Wimbush, the Rev. Eric Knowles and Joan Venner. Lord and Lady Wrenbury are in the centre of the group behind the bowlers.



### *Festivals and Celebrations*

By the 1950s there was an annual village fete. The 1951 fete took place in Tom Simmons's field on Rabbits Farm and was opened by the singer Donald Peers. Sports competitions were held and there were also cycle races and tug-of-war and stoolball competitions. The sideshows included bowling for a pig, a bran tub and coconut shies. The event was followed by a dance at the Old School from 9.00p.m. until midnight. As well as a stoolball tournament, the fete often included a 6-a-side football tourna-



Katherine, Elizabeth and William Dando, who won the fancy dress competition at the village fete in 1968. Their group entry depicted three sports events (Wimbledon, Ascot and Lords), all of which had been affected by rain that year.

ment but over the years, as support for the stoolball and football clubs dwindled, so did the tournaments, and more stalls and sideshows were introduced. Bowling for a pig continued to be a regular feature of the fete, although by the late 1960s a joint of pork had been substituted for a live pig. The last village fete was held in 1996. Its demise was largely due to a lack of support.

The church fete, which was usually held in June, moved from Oldcastle to Pantons in the mid-1960s. It ran until the mid-1970s but was eventually superseded by Open Gardens Day.



## OPEN GARDENS

Open Gardens Day is probably Dallington's best-known event. It began in 1976, when four village gardens were opened to the public on the same day. Over the years it has built up an enviable reputation in the area. Today, six gardens open to the public on the Sunday that precedes the Spring Bank Holiday and visitors come from miles around to view them. In addition to the gardens, there are many stalls and sideshows to keep the visitors entertained and to encourage them to spend their money. Brisk business is done in the Old School where teas are served. Exhibitions have been staged on a number of occasions and music is usually provided too. A group of Morris Dancers performed during the early 1980s and a Scottish Pipe Band, based in London, have played on several occasions. The Warbleton and Buxted Silver band traditionally entertain visitors at The Old Rectory. The grounds of this house were also the site of the legendary 'jumble'.

Up until 1995, with the exception of just three years, the event was organised by Donald Cameron. Today's organisers are Peter Green and Alan Archer. Over time, the money raised each year has grown from a few hundred pounds to a few thousand, with the proceeds being divided between the church and the Dallington Charitable Trust.

## FLOWER SHOWS AND FESTIVALS

A Flower Show was a regular summer fixture for many years. In the 1920s the show was held in a marquee at Oldcastle and, as well as the more usual flower and produce classes, included classes for 'the best two-lbs of butter' and 'the best breeding cock or cockerel for table purposes'. In the 1930s, an annual Women's Institute Flower Show was held at Pantons, courtesy of Mrs Tatham, the W.I. president.

Flower festivals, organised by Pam Fuller, have been held in St Giles' church biennially since the



A display from the Flower Festival of 1995.





A display from the Flower Festival of 1997.

mid-1970s. The theme of the last festival of the millennium, held in October 1999, was 'This Sceptre'd Isle'. The festivals run for three days, with a service of readings and hymns held on the evening of the final day, a Sunday.

#### WILD GOOSE CHASE

This event was started by Peter and Roz Keeley and Alan and Christine Archer in 1983. Participants would leave Prinkle Farm in their cars, armed with a sheet of paper containing directions and a set of cryptic questions that had to be answered. The residents of surrounding villages must have wondered what was afoot, as baffled Dallingtonians gazed searchingly at their buildings and other landmarks. Once everyone had returned, a barbecue was held while Peter and Christine marked the answers. A small prize was awarded to the occupants of the winning car but, more importantly, the event raised money for local causes. The last Wild Goose Chase was held in 1998, shortly before Peter retired from farming and he and Roz moved away from the village.

#### HOSPITAL PARADES

The annual Hospital Parade used to take place during the summer, on Hospital Sunday. The first parade was held in 1908.



Its function was to raise money for hospitals, at a time when there was no National Health Service. The first parade raised £10.9s.11d. The 21st parade, held in 1928, raised £57.12s. The parade was led by a marching band and was accompanied by collectors. It was not for the faint-hearted. Its route varied a little over the years but typically began at Brooklands, proceeded to Oldcastle, went up The Street, through Woods Corner, down to Darwell Hole, then via Hollingrove, Manor Farm, Brightling Street and The Mount to The Swan Inn at Woods Corner. There the walkers were joined by Girl Guides and Ranger Guides and the whole company then paraded to the church, where a service was held. Various bands seem to have accompanied the parade over the years, including the Dallington Band, the Burwash British Legion Band and the Wadhurst Prize Band. In 1931, two troops of Scottish Boy Scouts, who were camping in Brightling, joined the parade at Woods Corner. Their number included several kilted pipers, who accompanied the parade as it marched down to the church. The hospital parades continued until at least 1936.



A Hospital Parade in the 1920s. The Guides and Rangers are waiting to accompany the band to the church.

#### HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

In the 1910s, the completion of the year's harvesting was celebrated with a Celery Supper, held at Stream Farm, which was the home of John and Peter Keeley's grandfather, Robert. The supper, which was a men-only affair, consisted of a meal of



celery, cheese, bread and beer. Everyone who attended was obliged to perform an entertainment for the amusement of the rest of the company.

Since the 1970s, it has become traditional to hold a Harvest Supper at the Old School. A cold meal is served and is usually followed by the singing of well-known songs. It is one of the few occasions that brings together villagers of all ages.

## CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES



During the 1930s, a Toy Service was held in mid-December. The children brought gifts, which were then sent to those in need.

In the late 1910s and early 1920s, Bertha, Lady Wrenbury used to give a Christmas party for all the children at the school. As well as playing games and having tea, Vera Brett (*née* Friend) remembers that each child had to hook a 'fish' with a fishing rod. The fish was then exchanged for a Christmas gift.

In the 1930s and 1940s, the Women's Institute held a Christmas Party for the children of the village. There was also a Christmas Party for the children who attended the Methodist Sunday School and, for several years, a Christmas outing for the children who attended the Children's Service in the parish church.

On Christmas Eve many adults headed for The Swan Inn, where it was traditional to hold a raffle, with a goose as the main prize. Christmas Eve seems also to have been the traditional day to drink rather more than was usual. Peter Funnell recalls



that the mistletoe was used to full advantage! The journey home was often eventful. Peter remembers one customer riding his bike into a pond and another driving his motor-cycle and side-car through a hedge.



A game being played at a Parish Party in the 1950s. The Rev. Thomas Charlton is on the far left.

During the early 1950s, at the instigation of the Rev. Thomas Charlton, an annual Parish Christmas Party was held. It was attended by people of all ages, who enjoyed a tea followed by games and competitions.

By the mid-1950s the Parish Parties had come to an end. Although the younger generation looked forward to the Christmas Party organised by the Stoolball Club, there was no



A Not-So-Young party in the late 1960s.

Back row, from left to right: Mrs Dawking, Alice Pierce, Ben Thompson, Daisy Buss, 'Wellington Jim', Daisy Parsons, Tommy Parsons, Sister Sheldon, Capt. Lovegrove. Front, left to right: Wilma Walker, Grace Thompson, Mrs Wright, Mary Jones, Edie Croft, Isla Daugherty, Vera Brett, Sarah Pont.



longer anything that catered for the older generation, so in 1956 Mabel Keeley organised a Christmas party for the older members of the village and for those living on their own. This became known as the Not-So-Young party. After Mabel Keeley's death in 1981, the Not-So-Young parties continued to be run by her daughter-in-law Angela Keeley, together with Vera Brett and Pam Fuller. It was a tradition that continued for decades. In addition to a delicious meal, the guests were treated to entertainment. In 1965 this included a one-act play, 'Win or Lose', performed by the WI, while 1994 saw some rather hirsute Hawaiian dancing 'girls'. Father Christmas was, of course, always in attendance. The 1998 Not-So-Young party may have been the last. The parties were a response to a real need in the village. Without them many people would have spent a lonely Christmas. Today this need is usually met by friends and family.

During the Second World War, the Ranger Guides used to go carol singing around the village. This tradition was revived for several years during the 1950s and the early 1960s and was taken up again in the late 1970s, when the proceedings were accomplished with the aid of a tractor and trailer that transported the 'choir' from house to house.

Carol singing around the village continues to this day, although without the transport as the company that insured the vehicle eventually declined to risk such an unusual load. A welcome break is traditionally taken at The Swan Inn and the evening ends with sherry and mince pies at Oldcastle, courtesy of Lord and Lady Wrenbury.

A carol service is held in the parish church on the Sunday that precedes Christmas Day, while Christmas Day itself is welcomed in with a service that begins at 11.30p.m. on Christmas Eve.

## EASTERTIDE

On Easter Day 1987, Michèle Breen, who had recently moved to Dallington, invited all the children in the village to an Easter Egg Hunt in the gardens of her home, Pantons. She has kindly continued to hold this event annually. The oldest children help the youngest in their search and when all the eggs have been collected they are distributed equally.

The first Palm Sunday procession took place in the early 1990s. From its inception until 1997, it was led by a donkey, lent by Mr Nibb of Rushlake Green. Villagers taking part are treated to home-made *palmier* biscuits, courtesy of Michèle Breen, before processing from the new school to the church.





The Palm Sunday procession in 1997.

### ROYAL CELEBRATIONS

21 June 1887 was the day of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Adeline Tatham, one of the Rev. Ralph Raisbeck Tatham's daughters, recorded the day's events in detail:

'The bells began to ring at 5.00a.m. The ringers were afterwards entertained at breakfast at the Vicarage. The whole village, the Church Tower, the Vicarage grounds and the playing fields were gaily decorated with flags of every description. At 10.00a.m. a Thanksgiving Service was held in the Church, when the sacred edifice was filled from one end to the other. The Form of Prayer used in Westminster Abbey was read, appropriate hymns were sung, the Te Deum was chanted and an anthem, Blessed be Thou, was sung by the choir. The Vicar gave a short address. At 11.00a.m. a cricket match began between eleven gentlemen from Battle and the Dallington Eleven.

'At 1.30p.m. a procession was formed opposite Hook's Farm on the Brightling Road consisting of the Vicar and Church wardens and other parish officials, The Burwash Band, Dallington members of the Ancient Order of Foresters, the school children and their teachers and various other persons. With many gay banners flying and to the inspiring strains of music the procession marched to



Woods Corner, where a slight detour was made, thence to Dallington Street and into Vicarage Lane, where they stopped and formed and, in presence of the assembly, Miss Adeline Tatham and Miss Maria Biggs planted two Spanish Chestnut trees in the old church yard in memory of the Jubilee. Afterwards the procession marched to the new churchyard, where Miss Tatham planted a Turkish oak in memory of the Jubilee. Afterwards, God Save the Queen was most heartily sung.

'At 3.00p.m. dinner was served in a tent erected by Mr Watson just below the new churchyard, in Mr Noakes's meadow. 150 persons sat down. At 4.00p.m. 132 children sat down to tea in the tent. At 5.00p.m. a second dinner was served to 150 more grown persons. The dinner consisted of cold meat and salad, cheese, butter, bread and cake, with tea, beer and other light drinks.

'At 6.00p.m. Sports began for the adults. The cricket match was concluded, ending in a victory for Dallington. Dancing soon began and was kept up at intervals with great enthusiasm until 9.45p.m.

'All then adjourned to the Sugar Loaf field near Woods Corner where a bon-fire was lighted at 10 o'clock. The band marched round the fire when it was well alight, playing God Save the Queen which was heartily taken up by the crowd and followed by ringing cheers for the Queen. The crowd dispersed shortly before mid-night.'

Although the coronations of King Edward VII, in 1902, and King George V, in 1911, were celebrated in the village, there is no known record of exactly how the occasions were marked. Accounts exist showing that £59 was raised to celebrate the earlier coronation and over £65 to celebrate the later. It can be seen from these accounts that a tent was hired for the 1902 coronation and that the Dallington Band must have provided the music. Salad ingredients are on the list of expenses and a sum of £13 was given to Mr Noakes, the butcher, so it is safe to infer that a meal was included in the celebrations. The expenses also show that £5 was spent on prizes for sports. The 1911 coronation seems to have followed a similar pattern, with money allocated for a tent and sports. In addition, a bonfire appears to have formed part of the proceedings.

Empire Day, or Commonwealth Day as it became known, was celebrated every year on the anniversary of Queen Victoria's birthday, 24 May.







celebrated on 6 May 1935. A number of events were held in the village. The day began with the 'breaking' of the Union Flag from the new flagstaff at the school in the morning. Later, the church bells were rung and then villagers listened to the wireless broadcast of the service at St Paul's Cathedral. At 2.00p.m. a service was held in the church. This was followed by sports in Mr Noakes's field, behind Old Manor. The sports, for both children and adults, lasted from 2.30p.m. until just before 8.00p.m. During the afternoon, tea was served at the Old School. One hundred and fifty-five children and parents attended the first sitting at 4.00p.m. and 145 adults attended the second, at 5.00p.m. The evening's events began at 8.00p.m. on Mr Noakes's field, where villagers listened to King George's broadcast message to his people and at its conclusion gave three enthusiastic cheers to the monarch. This was followed by a dance at the Old School, which lasted until the early hours of the next morning.

Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in 1953. An appeal committee, which was set up prior to this date to collect funds for the celebrations, raised £100. Although the day was cold and rainy, most of the planned activities still took place. Services were held in the church, including one held at exactly the same time as the coronation. Immediately afterwards the bells began to ring. The flag of St George flew from the church tower on the new flagpole that had been presented by Capt. Lovegrove. A pageant was held and in the afternoon there were sports and a tea. Each child under the age of 15 years received a Coronation mug. In the evening there was an entertainment entitled 'Coronation Revels', which took place in the Old School and a bonfire in the field opposite the new school. In addition, the Boy Scouts built and lit the official Beacon Fire, one of a chain of fires across England and Scotland. The day was commemorated by the purchase of a commemorative seat which was placed at the top of Carricks Hill.

1977 was the year of Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee. Village celebrations included a fancy dress parade from the Old School to the church. The proceedings were started by Harry H. Corbett, an actor who lived in the area and who was well-known for his role as the son in the television series 'Steptoe and Son'. Every child was given a commemorative Jubilee crown and a pen with 'Queen's Jubilee' inscribed on it. In the afternoon there were sports and in the evening there was a party in the Old School, to which the whole village was invited. The evening was rounded off with a bonfire at The Old Rectory, which began at 11.00p.m.





Harry H. Corbett and some of the children who took part in the Silver Jubilee celebrations in 1977.

### MILLENNIUM CELEBRATIONS

In May 1999, all the villagers were invited to appear in a Millennium Photograph. This photograph can be seen on the following page and is accompanied by a list of all those who took part.

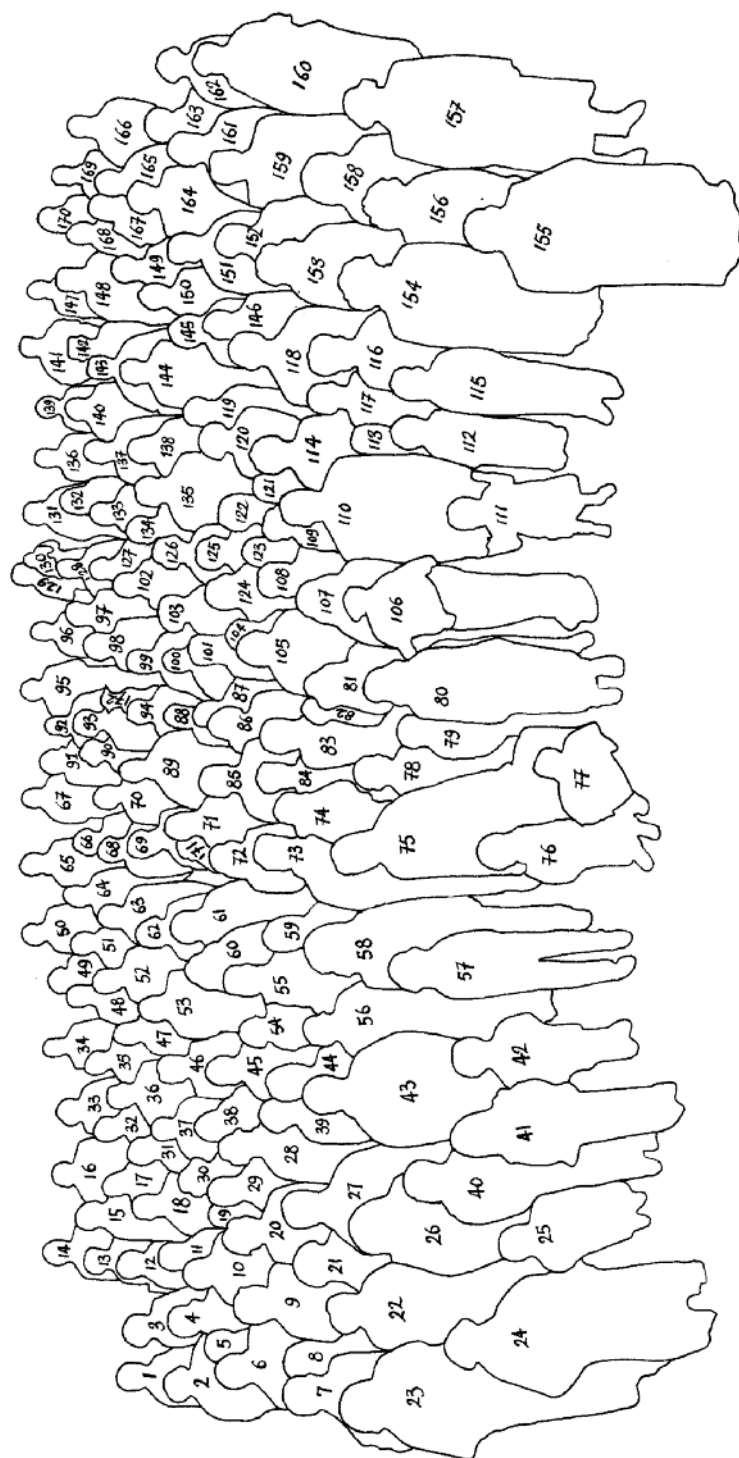
Dallington chose to see in the new millennium with a huge bonfire in the Ridleys' field and planned a Millennium Pageant, involving villagers and schoolchildren, for the summer of the year 2000.



*Festivals and Celebrations*









## ***Dallington Millennium Photograph***

**30th May 1999**

- |                                                   |                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 165 Alan Archer Manager, IT Premises              | 147 John Day Engineer                              |
| 149 Christine Archer Housewife                    | 139 Diana Day Radiographer                         |
| 93 Robin Bell Black and White Printer             | 141 Duncan Day Sales Supervisor                    |
| 98 Lucy Bell Fine Art Student                     | 170 Michelle Day Student                           |
| 35 Jim Berryman Photographer                      | 159 Michael de St Croix Sales Director             |
| 32 Rosemary Berryman                              | 152 Alison de St Croix Secretary                   |
| 22 Michèle-Claude Breen Widow                     | 154 Eugenie Deeks Housewife (retired)              |
| 157 Alice Vera Brett Grocery Assistant (retired)  | 87 Valerie De Souza Shop Proprietor                |
| 21 Barbara Brisker WRNS and Naval Wife (retired)  | 101 Savio De Souza Shop Proprietor                 |
| 166 Philip Brown Chart'd Quantity Surveyor        | 89 Doug Edworthy Consulting Engineer               |
| 167 Sally Brown Legal Secretary                   | 100 Stella Edworthy Local Government Officer       |
| 85 Michael Bryant-Mole Management Consultant      | 71 Dennis Fawson Principal Director, MoD (retired) |
| 86 Karen Bryant-Mole Author                       | 72 Joan Fawson Civil Servant, MAFF (retired)       |
| 84 Edward Bryant-Mole 14 yrs                      | 36 James Ford Forester                             |
| 78 Bartie Bryant-Mole 7 yrs                       | 31 Joyce Ford Hotel Receptionist                   |
| 27 Christopher Buckland Publisher                 | 135 John Fuller Haulage Contractor                 |
| 26 Jo Buckland Mother/Housewife                   | 119 Pamela Fuller Floral Art Tutor                 |
| 40 Holly Buckland 9 yrs                           | 34 Bill Gadd Food Factory Worker (rtd)             |
| 41 Emily Buckland 7 yrs                           | 128 Peter Green Sports Retailer                    |
| 25 Elliot Buckland 2 yrs                          | 97 Barbara Green Teacher                           |
| 37 Donald Cameron Insurance Broker (retired)      | 132 Rachel Green Nursery Nurse                     |
| 30 Jill Cameron Married Woman                     | 10 Brian Hardiman Farmer/Plant Operator            |
| 102 Basil Cantrell Furniture Restorer             | 5 Kathleen Hardiman Housewife                      |
| 134 Judith Cantrell Dispatch Co-ordinator         | 19 Siobhan Hardiman 5 yrs                          |
| 138 Liz Cantrell Printer                          | 38 Mellisa Hobden 14 yrs                           |
| 91 Victoria Carr Personal Assistant               | 108 Ashley Hay Sandblast contractor                |
| 29 Dudley Cheal Journalist (retired)              | 107 Sarah Hay Housewife                            |
| 20 Cherry Cheal Tourist Info. Officer (retired)   | 109 Samuel Hay 2 yrs                               |
| 14 George Claydon Met. Police Officer (retired)   | 106 Daisy Hay 8 mths                               |
| 13 Eileen Claydon Housewife/Secretary             | 105 Miles Helliwell Sand Blasting Contractor       |
| 118 Mark Corliss Publisher                        | 83 Nikki Helliwell Housewife                       |
| 114 Fiona Corliss                                 | 81 Carla Helliwell 13 yrs                          |
| 117 Sam Corliss 12 yrs                            | 80 Amber Helliwell 11 yrs                          |
| 113 Abigail Corliss 9 yrs                         | 79 Chelsie Helliwell 5 yrs                         |
| 112 Archie Corliss 6 yrs                          | 82 Felix Helliwell 2yrs                            |
| 88 Diana Daglish Physiotherapist (rtd)            | 137 Michael Holyoake Chief Flight Engineer         |
| 69 Bruce Daglish Bloodstock Transporter (retired) | 127 Nikki Holyoake Shop Proprietor                 |
| 156 Miss Olive Dare Housekeeper (retired)         | 143 Ben Holyoake 16 yrs                            |
| 125 Michael Davies Architect (retired)            | 133 Emma Holyoake 13 yrs                           |
| 126 Mary Davies School Secretary (retired)        | 16 Phillip Hooker Civil Servant                    |
|                                                   | 33 Sandra Hooker Ex-Adult Education Teacher        |
|                                                   | 6 David Jeremy Architect                           |
|                                                   | 9 Judith Jeremy Photographer                       |
|                                                   | 24 Mrs M. (Nan) Kay                                |



## *Festivals and Celebrations*

23 Teresa (Tiki) Kay Teacher (retired)	163 Violet Rusdell Photographer (retired)
7 John Kay Photographer	70 Douglas Sewell Naval Officer (retired)
2 John Keeley Farmer (retired)	94 Michael Shoesmith Dry Cleaner
4 Angela Keeley Housewife	99 Rosemary Shoesmith Launderer
116 Kim King Housewife	45 Michael Sibbering Stockbroker (retired)
110 Geoffrey King Stockbroker	28 Susan Sibbering Housewife
115 Rory King 6 yrs	151 Roger Simmons Insurance Broker
111 Courtney King 4 yrs	148 Gill Simmons Nurse
63 Graham Kipling Company Director (retired)	50 John Steel Chief Manager – Bank (retired)
68 Betty Kipling Company Director (retired)	49 Roberta (Bobbie) Steel Customer Services Exec (retired)
52 Robert Lane Physicist	153 Jenny Stiles Charity Director
47 Marjorie Lane J.P./Health Visitor	90 Jane Stubbs Dressmaker
39 Sophia Lawson Stockbroker	92 Peter Stubbs Business Development Dir.
36 Winifred Lindfield	67 Anthony Southern Accountant
115 Philip Lulham ESCC Roadman (retired)	164 Michael Sweenie Oriental Carpet Merchant
158 Marjorie Lulham	161 Cllr J. Roger Thomas Public Relations
62 Clare Lyon	160 Mrs Jenny Thomas Senior Negotiator
53 Dick Lyon Antiquarian Bookseller (retired)	103 Mrs Mollie Till Smallholder
150 Wendy McCarthy Housewife	58 Christine Tivey Account Manager
144 Terry McCarthy Fraud Prevention Consultant	57 Yasmin Tivey 8 yrs
65 Frederick Marchant Courier/Printer	1 Darrell Tomkins Landlord
162 Ruth May Ex-Nurse and Osteopath	3 Barbara Tomkins Landlady
12 Wendy Miers Company Director	64 Graham Walker Chartered Surveyor
15 Richard Miers Company Director	66 Thelma Walker Magistrate
17 Samantha Miers Legal Research Assistant	55 Andrew Whiteley Multimedia Designer
60 Colette Parsons Biochemist	59 Mary Whiteley Nurse/Mother
122 Toby Peters Writer	54 Georgina Whiteley 1 yr
124 Becca Peters	73 Timothy Witt Estate Agent
123 Molly Peters 6 yrs	75 Nikki Witt
121 Nell Peters 4 yrs	76 Rebecca Witt 2 yrs
104 Sam Peters 2 yrs	74 Sophie Witt 1 yr
46 Margaret Potter Housewife (retired)	77 Isabella Witt 4 weeks
48 Terry Ray Fire Service Officer (retired)	120 Wendy Wood Radiographer (retired)
51 Sonia Ray Shop Worker	146 Michael Wood Army/Staff Management (retired)
61 Fred Rayment Biochemist	142 Richard Woodhams Personnel Manager
43 Hugh Reilly Builder	140 Eve Woodhams Ex-Secretary/PA
44 Alison Reilly Housewife	148 Angus Woodhams Design Engineer
56 Amy Reilly 15 yrs	95 The Rev Lord Wrenbury Solicitor (retired)
42 Harry Reilly 3 yrs	96 Lady Wrenbury
18 John Rickard British Telecom M'ger (retired)	
11 Rita Rickard Secretary	Dogs
169 David Ridley 17 yrs	172 Ralph (Bell)
168 Kate Ridley Student Welfare Officer	171 Sparky (Daglish)
8 Mrs June Robinson (retired)	
129 Paul Ross Fund Manager	
131 Joanna Ross	
130 Kit Ross 3 mths	



## Chapter 10

### CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

#### DALLINGTON MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT AND RECREATION SOCIETY, ALSO KNOWN AS THE READING ROOM

This society began when the Rev. Ralph Raisbeck Tatham started a reading room for men in 1882. Its honorary secretary was Aaron York and its first superintendent was James Jones. At first, meetings were held in a room in the house that is now



Aaron York, honorary secretary of the Reading Room, photographed in the mid-1910s. Mr York was also a School Manager and bandmaster of the Dallington Band.

called Rose Cottage but by 1915 the society had moved to the Old School and had become one of the most influential societies in the village. A newspaper article written in 1922 describes the society as 'The Men's Institute' and tells us a little of its activities:

'In the winter evenings, the Men's Institute in the old schoolroom is a popular resort, games of various kinds being provided, with a supply of literature, and periodical entertainments which are given for the benefit of the whole community.'

The society opened its doors every night of the week except Sunday. In addition to playing snooker and billiards, members whiled away the evenings playing cards, dominoes and draughts. Dances, known as '3d hops', were frequently organised by the society during the 1930s. These dances provided entertainment for the villagers while at the same time raising funds for the Reading Room.

The Second World War caused a temporary closure of the society. In 1939 all the property belonging to it was insured and put into storage. The society recommenced in 1945, although by 1948 its committee members were warning that it was in danger of closing due to lack of support. The society continued, however, and from it grew the Snooker Club. This club was very active



during the 1970s and early 1980s. In 1971, the club won the Cup in the Crowborough and District League. Dennis White and his sons, who lived at Hillside, in The Street, were all keen players. Today, the Dallington Mutual Improvement and Recreation Society still exists, although essentially in name only. Billiards is still played at the Old School on Wednesday nights and the team currently takes part in the Hurst Green League.

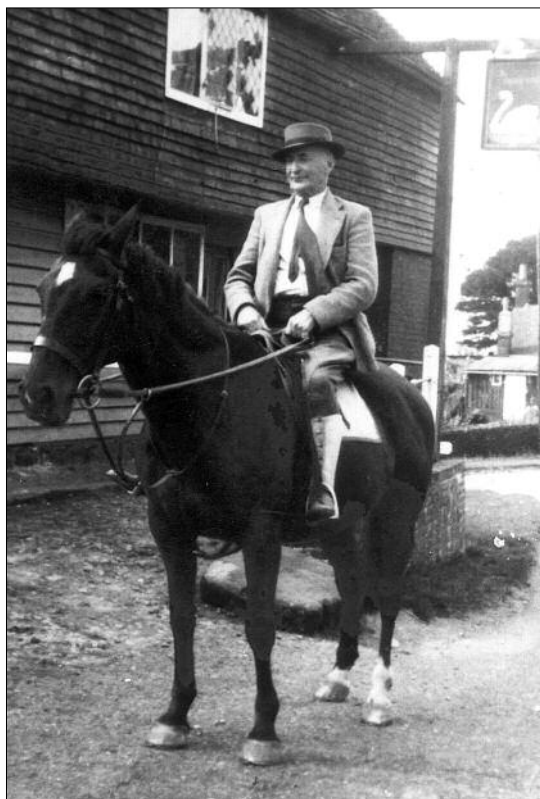
## CRICKET

A cricket club is known to have existed in the 1850s but this must have disbanded because in 1884 a new club was formed by James Burgess. By 1911 the Rev. John Charles le Pelly Hatten was chairman of this club. In 1921 Tom Simmons's field at Woods Corner, which was also known as Rabbit's Field, was leased from Mr Simmons and became the venue for most of Dallington's sporting fixtures for the next two decades. 1928 saw one particularly unusual cricket match. Dallington Cricket Club was playing against a team from London. This team was made up

of workmen and staff from a company of which Col Cheesewright was a director. In the second innings, the visitors were dismissed for two runs, both of which were byes, so they lost the innings without a ball being hit.

1929 was a very successful year for the team. They won fourteen matches and lost only three. The final match of the season was cause for much celebration: for the first time in living memory, Dallington beat Brightling on Brightling ground.

A newspaper article mentions that Reginald Cornford (son of the ex-landlord of The Swan Inn) was cricket captain



Tom Simmons of Rabbits Farm.





Members of Dallington Cricket Club (to the right of this group) pictured with the Sussex Club and Ground side at Dallington in September 1936.

in 1930. In 1931 Mr Peploe resigned his position as honorary secretary and treasurer, having given many years service to the club. It was noted that he had held exactly the same two posts back in 1884. During the early 1930s several dances were held to raise funds for the club. In 1936 Dallington Cricket Club was mentioned in a newspaper report but there are few, if any, later references to a cricket club.

In 1965, there was talk of the possibility of reforming the club but, aside from some village 'friendlies', this plan does not seem to have come to fruition.

### STOOLBALL

Again, there is little information about the early days of this club but it is known to have been in existence in 1922. In the late 1940s matches were played in Baker's field, the field between Dallington Stores and Carricks Farm House. Later, matches were played on the field to the east of Rabbits Farm, known as Tom Simmons's field. The team had to share this field with some of the village's livestock and local people recall having to clear cow pats or sheep droppings out of the way before a game could commence. The club flourished in the 1950s and 1960s and, in addition to regular matches, always took part in the tournament





The 1927-28 football team. Back row, left to right: Bert Duplock, ---, Fred Pearce, Dennis Baker, William Duplock, Douglas Buss, Joe Cornford, Harold Duplock, Luther Cornford. Front row, left to right: George French, Arthur White, Charles Russell, Ronald Harmer, ---.

for the Lester Baker Cup, which was held at the annual village fete. By the late 1960s, the all-female club was having difficulty recruiting enough members to continue playing this traditional Sussex game and so a mixed team was fielded. In 1969 it was decided to form a junior team as the number of adult players was declining. The last stoolball match was played in 1971 and the club was finally wound up in 1980.

## FOOTBALL

No information has been found regarding the formation of this club but it was certainly in existence in 1922, when the Hon. Bryan Buckley was president and Mr Peploe was vice-president and chairman of the committee. The football club's team colours were black and gold, giving rise to their nickname, the Wasps. By 1928 the club was having difficulty raising a full team for its matches and it was suggested that the club should be wound up. It was not wound up for long though, as in 1930 it was decided to re-start the club, retaining the old club colours of black and gold. Mr Peploe was again chairman and the Rev. John Charles le Pelly Hatten was president. The team played in both the Ashburnham and Hailsham Leagues and also competed for the Robertsbridge Charity Cup and the Gwynne Cup. By the start of





The team that won the Phipps Cup in 1947. Back row, left to right: Harry Baker (chairman), Charles Baker, Percy Keeley, Hubert Hawes, Roy Carter, Ted Buss, George French, Mr Phipps (sponsor). Front row, left to right: Peter Funnell, Jack Buss, Cecil Buss, Ray Dale, Gordon Dale.

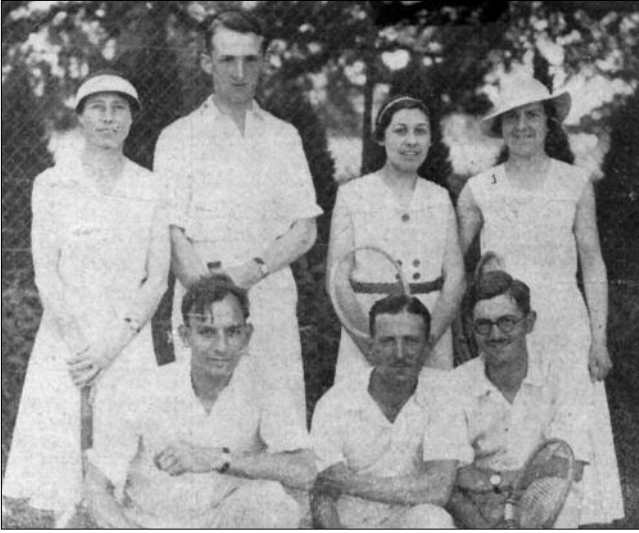
the 1931 season they were playing in the Sedlescombe League and won it in May 1932. It was the club's first trophy, and the players celebrated with a dinner in The Swan Inn. The following season was another memorable one, with the club topping the Sedlescombe League yet again and also securing the Gwynne Cup. The 1936 season was, sadly, marred by the untimely death of Leslie Burgess following an accidental kick to the stomach during a match at Brightling.

After the war, the club went from strength to strength, notching up a string of impressive victories, including winning the Phipps Cup in 1947. The club was so popular that there were enough players to form an A team and a B team. In 1949 the club won both the Ashburnham League and the Robertsbridge Charity Cup; in 1959 it finished joint 3rd in the Hailsham League, reached the semi-finals of the Robertsbridge Charity Cup and won the Ashburnham League and the Phipps Cup. The club, which by the mid-1960s was holding its matches on the playing field at Woods Corner, eventually closed in 1967.

## TENNIS

Tennis clubs seem to have thrived at different times and at a number of different venues. There was certainly a tennis club in





The Dallington team that competed in the 1937 Sussex Express tennis tournament. Back row, left to right: Mrs Tatham, French Burgess, Lena Bishop, Vera Friend – now Brett. Front row, right to left: Harold Duplock, young Tom Simmons, Geoffrey Simmons.

existence in 1922 and it is known that in 1929 a tennis club was playing at Brooklands. It was noted that the expenditure of this club was low, thanks to the generosity of Mrs Fulst, who allowed the use of her lawn free of charge. A newspaper article of 1935 records that the A.G.M. of the Tennis Club was held at Pantons, the home of Mrs

Tatham, who was the captain and chairman of the club. A team from Dallington played in the Sussex Express tournament in 1937. They were in action again in 1938 but there do not appear to be any later references to a tennis club.

#### BOY SCOUTS AND WOLF CUBS

A troop of Boy Scouts, overseen by Major Ford, who lived at Pantons Cottage, is mentioned in the newspaper article of 1922. The troop met in a circular tin building, known as the Scout Hut, which was situated in the field opposite the Old School. However, by 1927 this troop of Scouts had been disbanded. In the April of 1952 the troop was re-formed under the leadership of the Rev. Thomas Charlton. A public meeting was held at the new school to inaugurate the troop. The district commissioner was present and a display was given by the 1st Heathfield troop. The old parish room at the rectory was re-floored and used as a scout room. Later that year a pack of Wolf Cubs was founded under the leadership of Teresa Hewett (now Kay). It served the boys of both Dallington and Brightling parishes and was called the 1st Brightling Down. In 1953 the leadership of the pack was taken over by Grace Noakes. Neither the Boy Scout troop nor the Wolf Cub pack remain in existence today.



### GIRL GUIDES, RANGER GUIDES AND BROWNIES

In the early 1920s a volunteer was sought to run a Girl Guide troop in the village. The Hon. Ruth Buckley heard about this and agreed to act as captain. It was arranged that the Girl Guides could use a room at Oldcastle. A few years later, as this initial group of Girl Guides grew older, a Ranger Guide troop was formed, again under the captaincy of the Hon. Ruth Buckley. The Rangers went on many expeditions. In 1928 a group of about half a dozen teenagers went on a ten-day trip to Bruges, staying in a convent. Vera Brett (*née* Friend) went on this exciting trip but remembers finding the journey from Dover to Ostende very frightening as she had never travelled by boat before. In addition to their regular meetings, the Rangers also held entertainments evenings in the Old School for the villagers.

By the late 1940s the Ranger troop had folded but the Guides were still going strong. They held their meetings in the Gun Room at Oldcastle but later moved to the new school. There were two patrols, the Canaries and the Robins. The guides joined in with all the church parades and were required to be impeccably turned out. They had to wear white ankle socks with polished black shoes. Their badges were expected to be as clean on the back as they were on the front. By the mid-1950s, Mrs Mary Compton was the guide captain. She was followed by Barbara Pont but when Barbara left to study for a teaching qualification, there was no one to take over the troop and it closed in the late 1950s.

A Brownie pack, called the 1st Dallington pack, was formed in 1967. Ann Stedman, a teacher at the school, was Brown Owl and Angela Keeley assisted. Meetings were held after school on the school premises. Three



A group of Guides at Woods Corner in the early 1920s.





The Ranger Guides camping in Scotland in the mid-1920s.

years later Mrs Keeley took over as leader and her sister-in-law, Roz Keeley, acted as assistant leader. When the Keeleys wished to stand down, no other volunteers came forward and the Dallington pack closed in 1981.

### BELL RINGERS

A framed certificate hanging in the bell tower testifies that on 11 March 1889 Joseph Booth, Edward Lovell, James Jones, Percy Peters and John Gadd, conducted by Percy Peters, 'rang a six-score of grandsire doubles (3 bobs and 6 singles) in 6 minutes, being the first on the bells and by the society'. By 1928 Edward Lovell had become captain of the bells.

It appears that from the mid-1930s to the mid-1950s the bells were seldom rung. In 1951 an attempt was made to form a regular band of bell ringers. Albion Mewett, who was captain of the bells at Brightling, agreed to act as instructor to a team that included Percy Keeley, his sons Peter and John, Arthur Hobden, David Parcell, Barbara Pont and Raymond Pilbeam. However it soon became difficult to muster the six required and until 1956 the bells could only be rung on special occasions and only then with the help of two or three ringers from Brightling. In 1956 Gilbert Brett, who had first rung bells before the First World War, was appointed captain of the bells and began to teach an enthusiastic band of ringers. By the end of the year the bells were being rung every Sunday.

Mr Brett was still ringing in 1965, by which time his son, Percy





The bellringers, pictured in 1964.

Left to right: Peter Keeley, Percy Brett, Gilbert Brett, Barbara Pont, Albion Mewett and John Keeley.

Brett, was captain. Percy Keeley, Peter and John Keeley, and Barbara Pont were still regulars on the team and they had been joined by Lord and Lady Wrenbury. This diverse group also included several new bell-ringing students: Faith Dilnot, a secretary; Rosemary Gibbs, a stable groom; Pearl Young, a schoolgirl; and Donald Cameron, an insurance broker. John Day is the current captain of the bells and John and Peter Keeley are both still regular ringers.

#### CHOIR

When the Rev. John Charles le Pelly Hatten was rector, his wife Lilian ran the choir for many years. In 1922 Grace Simmons (the wife of Major Douglas Simmons of Stream Farm) agreed to take over the training of the choir. Nine new members joined and it was decided, in consultation with the organists Grace Noakes and Edie Peters, that choir practice would be held on Fridays at 8.00p.m. During the 1940s the choir consisted of approximately eight 10 to 13 year olds, who were supported in their singing by Mrs Simmons and Tom Simmons of Rabbits Farm. Mrs Simmons had by this time passed on the role of choirmistress to Grace Noakes.

Grace Noakes was an organist at the church for sixty-five





The choir, photographed in the chancel of the church in 1988.

Left to right: Angela Keeley, John Keeley, Andrew Leach (choirmaster and organist), Vera Brett, Alan Archer, Christine Archer, Percy Brett and Percy Keeley.

years. She began playing at the age of fifteen, having been taught by Edie Peters. Miss Noakes continued as organist until the late 1970s when, by then in her eighties, she had to retire due to ill-health. She died in 1981, aged 84 years. When Grace Noakes retired, a number of people stepped in to help with the music in the church, before Andrew Leach was appointed as choirmaster and organist. In 1989 he was succeeded by Barbara Green, who remains choirmistress and organist to this day.

#### WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (W.I.)

The Dallington branch of the Women's Institute was founded in the spring of 1918 under the presidency of Bertha, Lady Wrenbury. The branch enjoyed many and varied lectures and went on regular excursions. In June 1922, for instance, the group went on an outing to Brighton, conveyed by charabanc. On several occasions the members were invited to Oldcastle as guests of Lord and Lady Wrenbury.

During the Second World War, under the presidency of the Hon. Ruth Buckley, the W.I. continued to play an important role in village life. Whenever possible it arranged lectures, children's treats and entertainment.



### *Clubs and Organisations*

In 1965 the group had 39 members. By this time it had become traditional to hold an annual children's party at Yew Arch for the village's pre-school children. In 1978 the W.I. celebrated its diamond jubilee with a party at Herrings Farm. A special cake was cut by Vera Brett, the longest-serving member.

The W.I. continues to this day. It has 25 members, including Mrs Brett, and ended the twentieth century with Mrs Teresa Kay (*née* Hewett) as its president.



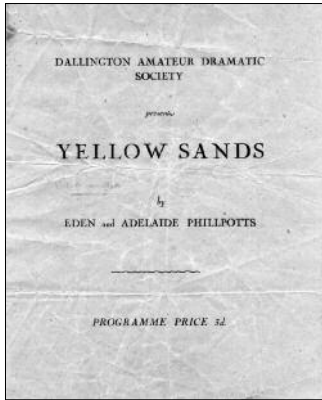
Members of the Women's Institute in 1926.

(back row, left to right) Wilhelmina Brown, Dame Ruth Buckley, Mrs Russell, Mary Jones, Marjorie Simmons, Mrs Ford - wife of Col Ford of Pantons, Ena Simmons, Hilda Glennister, Grace Thompson, Mrs Ford – wife of Major Ford of Pantons Cottage, (front row, left to right) Mrs Mewett, Mrs Stevenson, Caroline Booth, Bertha Lady Wrenbury, Rhoda Simmons, Miss Hine, Miss Peploe and Rozzie Russell.

### DALLINGTON AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY (D.A.D.S.)

Dallington Amateur Dramatic Society's first production was a play entitled *Yellow Sands*. It was performed in 1946 and was produced by Miss Rignall, who was the school headmistress at that time. All did not quite go according to plan however, as one member of the cast pulled out of the production a week before it was due to be staged. Major Hewett of Uplands had to take over the role at short notice. He endowed his character with a strange mannerism, a lengthy 'mmmmm', which was a signal to the





Above left: The programme of the first D.A.D.S. play, *Yellow Sands*, performed in 1946. Above right: The 1947 review, entitled *Ducks and Drakes*.

prompt, Miss Rignall, that he needed to be reminded of his lines. The following two productions took the form of reviews, which went by the name of *Ducks and Drakes*. D.A.D.S. then reverted to more traditional dramas. The D.A.D.S. productions continued well into the 1950s before the curtain came down at the start of a rather long 'interval'. Performances began again in 1989 with a comedy entitled '*Full Steam Ahead*', produced by Alan Archer. Over the years very many villagers have been involved in D.A.D.S. productions, both on- and back-stage. The village has been entertained by numerous whodunits, farces and comedies, each more polished than the last. The expertly constructed sets are now shown to even greater advantage thanks to the recent acquisition of staging, which gives the audience in the Old School a much clearer view of the proceedings. The last production of the twentieth century was *And Then There Were None*, a thriller by Agatha Christie, which was performed in mid-November 1999.

### THE SLATE CLUB

This club was more financial than social. The Slate Club, formally known as The Swan Inn Slate Club, was started in 1905. Its members, most of whom were tenant farmers and labourers, paid in a certain amount of money each week. If a member was unable to work due to illness, he could claim an allowance from the Slate Club. It was a form of community sickness benefit. All the money that was received was spent on the members. Every December, the money that remained was shared out, leaving 1s per member in the funds. In 1929, total sick pay amounted to £18.18s.9d and that December each member received 17s.6d.



### *Clubs and Organisations*

In February 1931 a special meeting had to be called. Mr Peploe, who had been honorary secretary for twenty-five years, presided. There had been a great amount of sickness during 1930 and the annual share-out had been low. In addition five members had left. The purpose of the meeting was to talk about ways in which the club's fortunes could be revived. It was suggested that women should be allowed to join the club. This suggestion was adopted and several names were given in. However, there does not seem to be any further mention of the club beyond this date.

#### BATTLE AND DISTRICT COMBINED SOCIETY

This was another financial club and, although not strictly speaking a Dallington club, it benefited Dallington organisations. Members paid in 1s a week and a weekly draw took place in Battle. A percentage of the money was paid out to prizewinners and the rest was distributed, twice a year, to organisations in need in participating villages. There were 160 members in Dallington and several local organisations, such as the Football Club and the Playing Field Committee, were helped by grants from the society.



Members of the Keeley family, pictured at Stream Farm in 1913. Robert Keeley is seated on the far left, with Percy Keeley (Peter and John's father) on his knee. Cliff Keeley (Philip's father) is standing behind his father, Robert.



## PARISH COUNCIL

Dallington Parish Council dates back to 1894. The council was elected at a parish meeting held in the Old School. Those elected were John Burgess, George Gosling, William Peploe and Aaron York. The Keeley family has played a major role in the life of the council. Peter and John Keeley's grandfather, Robert, was elected to the parish council in 1899. Their father, Percy, was a member from 1948 to 1989 and a cousin, Philip, was a member from 1978 to 1997, serving as chairman for 10 years. By 1965, Peter Keeley was Clerk to the Parish Council, a position he held until his retirement and departure from the village in 1998. His twin brother, John, is still a member of the council. For two decades there were no fewer than 3 Keeleys on a council of 5 members. The new millennium began with Diana Day as chairman of the council.

## THE ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS

The Dallington Court of the Ancient Order of Foresters was formed in the late nineteenth century. The Ancient Order of Foresters was one of many 'friendly societies' set up at a time when there were no welfare benefits. Members could purchase policies from various 'tables', such as dental or medical tables, which provided them with insurance in these areas. Most popular were the policies covering sickness. These clubs were not only financial. Once the weekly payments had been made, the men stayed on to play cards and socialise. Many prominent villagers were members, including Mr Peploe and Mr York. The final meeting of the Dallington Court was held in December 1997, after which it was amalgamated with Lamberhurst. Philip Lulham of Stable Cottage was the last Chief Ranger and his wife Marjorie was Secretary for the final eleven years of its existence.

## OTHER CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Over the years, many clubs and organisations have been formed and have since been disbanded or subsumed into larger regional groups. They include: local branches of the Conservative Association, founded in 1886, and the League of Nations Union; Dallington Band, which was known to have played in the 1910s and 1920s under the leadership of Aaron York; the Girls' Friendly Society, which was operating in 1922; the 'physical culture club', run by Mr Piggott, which held meetings at the Old School in the early 1930s and which involved such activities as 'ball punching, boxing and physical jerks'; the Folk Dance Club that was held at



about the same time; the Youth Club and the Young Farmers, both of which were certainly in existence between the years 1943 and 1945, with the former having been founded by the Rev. Raymond Tremellen and the latter being under the guidance of Harry Baker of Haselden Farm; the Mothers' Union, which was founded at the rectory in December 1951 and a branch of Riding for the Disabled, which was based at Beechlands in the 1960s and 1970s.

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## *Epilogue*

### PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

For many centuries, Dallington was predominantly a farming community. However over the past one hundred years the population profile of the village has changed dramatically. At the end of the nineteenth century, almost all the villagers lived and worked within the parish. The 1891 census shows that most residents were involved in farming or in trades that directly supported the village community. By the end of the twentieth century, very few residents earned their living from the land. The number of people of retirement age had increased, while those in employment often travelled long distances to their places of work.

In 1891, Dallington functioned as one big family. Everyone knew everyone else, village events were eagerly anticipated, clubs abounded and local shops flourished. All that was needed in life was here. Dallington at the beginning of the twenty-first century is a very different place. Village life has been changed and shaped by many external influences, such as television, cars, supermarkets, the mechanisation of the farming industry and the price of rural properties. Despite all these changes, a strong sense of community still exists. The preservation of this sense of community is likely to be one of the greatest challenges facing Dallington in the new millennium.



## Appendix

### ***Dallington residents in 1891***

(Taken from the census of that year.)

Anyone under the age of 18, living at home, has been classed as a child.

Name            Age in years    Occupation

Apps Rose 15                            servant  
 Barton William 36      police constable  
 Barton Ruth 37 + 1 niece  
 Beal William 55                    farm labourer  
 Beal Elizabeth 48  
 Blott Thomas 68                    retired farmer  
 Blott Maryan 61  
 Booth George 58 agricultural  
                                                  labourer  
 Booth Rhoda 31 + 8 children  
 Booth Trayton 45 agricultural  
                                                  labourer  
 Booth Ellen 42 + 6 children  
 Booth Joseph 22 agricultural  
                                                  labourer  
 Booth Elizabeth 21  
 Booth Nelson 21 agricultural  
                                                  labourer  
 Booth Trayton 71                    farm labourer  
 Booth Lucy 71  
 Braban William 22 agricultural  
                                                  labourer  
 Brown Annie 20                    governess  
 Budgen Isaac 33                    hoopmaker  
 Budgen Mary 29 + 3 children  
 Budgen Samuel 56                    hoopmaker  
 Budgen Harriet 59 + 3 grandchildren  
 Budgen John 24 agricultural  
                                                  labourer  
 Budgen Joseph 31                    hoopmaker  
 Burfield Horace 25    grocer's assistant  
 Burgess John 38                    farmer  
 Burgess Emma 31 + 3 children  
 Burgess James 28    grocer's assistant  
 Burgess Elizabeth 29 + 5 children  
 Burney Rhoda 21                    charwoman  
 Buss James 55                    farmer  
 Buss Elizabeth 53 + 5 children  
 Buss Charlotte 18

Butcher Horace 46 agricultural  
                                                  labourer  
 Collins Rose 18                    servant  
 Cramp Moses 47 agricultural  
                                                  labourer  
 Cramp Charlotte 43 + 7 children  
 Croft John 86                    bricklayer  
 Croft William 58                    bricklayer  
 Croft Henry 27    agricultural labourer  
 Croft Thomas 65                    general labourer  
 Croft Harriet 71  
 Croft Frank 52                    road labourer  
 Croft Mary 42 + 2 children  
 Croft John 19    agricultural labourer  
 Croft Thomas 18 agricultural  
                                                  labourer  
 Cronk Thomas 68    retired publican  
 Crouch James 26                    labourer  
 Crouch Elizabeth 26 + 2 children  
 Crouch Susanna 56                    dressmaker  
 Crouch Alice 30  
 Crouch Elizabeth 70                    baker  
 Crouch Mary 76                    baker  
 Crouch Eliza 64 + 1 grandchild  
 Crouch Albert 21    chicken fattener  
 Crouch John 34 agricultural  
                                                  labourer  
 Crouch Margaret 30 + 7 children  
 Crouch James 73 agricultural  
                                                  labourer  
 Crouch James 66                    farmer  
 Crouch Mary 69  
 Daw Luke 36                    grocer and draper  
 Daw Agnes 34  
 Dawes Thomas 35                    wheelwright  
 Dawes Mary 34 + 4 children  
 Dawes Ernest 19                    wheelwright  
 Dawes Robert 31                    general labourer  
 Dawes Harriet 22 + 2 children



## Appendix

Douch Thomas 76	agricultural labourer	Honeysett James 28	farmer's son
Douch Mary 73		Honeysett Ruth 20	
Drury Charles 42	wood cleaver	Honeysett John 78	carpenter
Drury Sophia 41	+ 6 children	Honeysett Harriet 23	housekeeper
Errey Joseph 54	blacksmith	Honeysett William 78	retired carpenter
Errey Frances 50		Honeysett Jane 74	
Errey William 26	agricultural labourer	Honeysett Emily 38	
Errey Susannah 37		Huntley John 23	postal letter carrier
Ferguson Hugh 22	farmer	Huntley Elizabeth 23	
Fulbrook Judith 67	farmer	Jarvis Lester 35	licensed victualler
Fulbrook George 29	farmer's son	Jarvis Margaret 36	+ 3 children
Funnell Rhoda 27	+ 1 child	Jenner Martha 52	
Gadd John 54	agricultural labourer	Jenner Harry 22	agricultural labourer
Gadd Mary 53	+ 2 children	Jones James 25	carpenter
Gadd David 18	agricultural labourer	Jones Mary 35	+ 3 children
Gadd John 28	agricultural labourer	Jones George 57	agricultural labourer
Gadd Louise 28	+ 1 child	Jones Ellen 66	
Geering George 39	carpenter	Jones Annie 32	nurse
Geering Naomi 37	+ 3 children	Jones Isaac 49	general labourer
Geering Albert 43	miller	Jonson Charles 6	
Geering Ellen 39		Keely John 27	gardener
Geering Albert 70	miller	Keely Sarah 35	+ 2 children
Geering Sarah 62		Kemp B. 21	+ child servant
Golden Willam 39	farmer	Kent John 52	agricultural labourer
Golden Annie 44	+ 6 children	Lovell Edward 30	rural postman
Gosling George 40	agricultural labourer	Lovell Mary 25	
Gosling Harriet 42	+ 1 grandchild	Lulham James 33	hoopshaver
Gosling Anne 20		Lulham Frances 28	+ 7 children
Gosling Fanny 58		Mercer William 65	agricultural labourer
Grant Mahala 42	servant	Mewett Jesse 32	general labourer
Grant William 54	travelling engine fitter	Mewett Marion 32	+ 6 children
Gusson Kate 19	servant	Mewett Joseph 65	farmer
Harman James 29	agricultural labourer	Mewett Oprah 57	
Harman Loraine 28	+ 3 children	Mewett Charles 59	farmer
Harmer Eliza 18	servant	Mewett Sarah 42	
Haselden William 27	millers' cartman	Miller Benjamin 61	gardener & sexton
Hobden John 37	farmer	Miller Mary 70	+ 1 grandchild
Hobden Jane 35	+ 9 children	Mitchell Henry 42	general labourer
Honeysett Albert 30	farmer	Mitchell Emily 39	+ 4 children
Honeysett Fanny 30	+ 3 children	Mitchell John 20	general labourer
Honeysett James 68	farmer	Mitchell George 57	road foreman
Honeysett Mary 65		Mitchell Mary 54	laundress
		Mitchell James 23	porter on railways
		Morris Walter 43	farmer



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Morris Mary 46 + 3 children	Simmons Elizabeth 43
Noakes Thomas 54 butcher and farmer	Simmons Stephen 86
Noakes Eliza 50 + 5 children	Simmons Harriet 59 servant
Offen Jane 75	Simmons Hannah 65 + 1 grandchild
Oliver Eliza 17 servant	Simmons Thomas 58 retired farmer
Parkhurst Julia 32	Simmons Caleb 40 grocer
Parkhurst Sylvan 22 chicken fattener	Simmons Dorcas 37 + 3 children
Payden William 82 retired farmer	Slapley Mary 47 farmer + 1 child
Payden Hannah 72	Stanbridge George 75 agricultural labourer
Peplow William 32 schoolmaster	Stanbridge Lydia 72
Peplow Marianne 27 schoolmistress	Stanbridge F. 50 poultry dealer
Peplow James 66	Stanbridge Edward 26 agricultural labourer
Peplow Jane 66	Tatham Rev. R. R. rector and vicar
Peters Thomas 55 grocer and draper	Tatham Caroline 37
Peters Mercy 49 + 2 children	Tatham Adeline 35
Peters Edith 26 dressmaker and milliner	Tatham Janet 25
Peters Louise 21 dressmaker's assistant	Tatham Caroline 72
Pilbeam George 80	Taylor Harriet 44 + child seamstress
Pilbeam Mary 75	Tedham Luke 47 agricultural labourer
Porter Elizabeth 21 housekeeper	Tedham Caroline 37 + 5 children
Relf Joseph 75 farmer	Vincent Mary 18 servant
Relf Job 50 agricultural labourer	Watson Edward 56 auctioneer
Relf Mary 52 + 2 children charwoman	Watson Mary 47 + 4 children
Rich William 42 farmer	Watson Bertram 18 auctioneer's clerk
Rich Lena 28	White Edgar 50 farmer
Russell Ann 66 shopkeeper	White Dorcas 40 + 2 children
Russell James 28 shoemaker	White Jane 21 servant
Ryan Mary 25 servant	White James 62 farmer
Sands John 32 agricultural labourer	White Elizabeth 69
Sands Mary 26 + 2 children	White Sophia 81 + 1 grandchild
Sands James 66 agricultural labourer	White Jesse 28 agricultural labourer
Sands Mary 65	White Agnes 27 + 1 child
Sands John 73	White Charles 44 farmer
Sands Mary 57 + 1 grandchild	White Mary 45 + 4 children
Sands George 52 blacksmith	White Robert 20 agricultural labourer
Sands Amelia 55 + 2 children	White Charles 19 agricultural labourer
Sands Emma 25	White Mary 17 servant
Sands Kitty 22 servant	Winchester Mildred 14 servant
Saunders Edward 16 grocer's assistant	Winchester Gaius 38 farmer & carrier
Saxby Richard 34 agricultural labourer	Winchester Naomi 40 + 7 children
Saxby Harriet 38	York Aaron 35 grocer's assistant
Simmons James 52 farmer	



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