

# Journal of the Tilton and District History Group

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*Shire horses at Tilton Grange (see Article page 12)*

## Introduction

We published the first edition of this Journal in 2004. In the intervening ten years we have published five more. Our early issues focussed on the history of Tilton and Halstead alone, covering stories of the institutions and the people of the two villages over the years. We have looked at the ironstone industry, and the railways – both long forgotten, or at least half remembered. We included local landmarks, particularly the church, and windmills both large and small. From the first we set out to record the people of the villages and their memories, through our oral history group, and this has been a continuing theme in all our publications. In later issues we looked beyond that immediate area of Tilton and Halstead, and covered a wider scope, including articles on Withcote Chapel, Sauvey Castle, and several articles on Lowesby and its Church.

This year, in our seventh Journal, our focus is on two themes. First we have looked at the stories behind two landmarks – Whatborough Deserted Medieval Village and Skeffington Wood. Whatborough is unusual in that we have a fairly complete history of the village from monastic records, and even more unusually, we have a very high quality Tudor map of the area (See our centre spread). We are indebted to Alistair Gilks who allowed us to arrange a summer visit, and to Peter Liddle who agreed to lead it. Skeffington Wood also has a traceable history – going back only two centuries this time – and including a number of unresolved mysteries!

Our second theme is, as always, people. In two previous journals, we encountered that irascible priest, Reverend William Chippendall. Vicar of this parish for more than thirty years, his life was punctuated by arguments with nearly everyone he encountered it seems. His story is concluded in a final article.

In addition our Oral History Group have been able to include three records of interviews. Two, Betty Finnemore and Ivor Moss, both recall life in our village in the thirties and forties. Norma George, a long time member of the Group also agreed to participate, and gives an interesting tale of her life prior to her residence in the village.

Finally, in this centenary year, we have included a short history of the thirteen men of Tilton commemorated on our War Memorial. Their service took them to faraway places from France to the Middle East, and most did not return.

We are always grateful for suggestions from our readers (some of this issues articles started that way. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with the T&DHG – you never know what might turn up! Thanks are due to all those who have helped us in this way. And finally, thanks are due, as always, to our contributors for their hard work in preparing the articles published below.