

The Royston History Group was established by the Royston and Carlton Community Partnership and the Workers' Educational Association in 1999.

This book is a collection of memories and reminiscences based on life in Royston during the early part of the 20th Century. The group have not only used their own reminiscences but have collected material from other sources to give a fascinating insight into everyday life in the village in the early part of the twentieth century.

Introduction

As the year 2000 approached, most communities across the globe started to think how to celebrate the Millennium. There was considerable media debate as to whether the Millennium should be celebrated in 2000 or 2001 but by common consent the former was the focus of most communities' activities. Green Hammerton was no exception and in late 1997 following an idea from Chris Turner, a committee was set up under the chairmanship of Dickie Black. There was a lot of debate about how the village could best celebrate and among the ideas that were eventually set in stone was the Village Day on 24th June, the Green Hammerton Millennium Plate given to every child in the village aged 16 and under and all children attending Green Hammerton Primary School and the Village Photograph taken on a calm Sunday morning in June on the new Playing Field. There were undoubtedly other family celebrations which took place in the privacy of villagers' own homes and gardens.



One of the main ideas put forward was to create a chronicle of life in the village during the year; not so much a Domesday Book but more of a celebration and recording of events and institutions in this community. It is an interesting and much maligned word - "community" - particularly at the end of the 20th Century that saw so much change, which at times seemed to rip the hearts out of traditional communities worldwide; most of the change was carried out in the name of progress and development. Green Hammerton has seen as much change as other traditional English villages in

recent times, if not more. Whilst our main criteria and objectives were to record life in 2000, the editors also wanted to look back at the history of this village and to find our roots if possible. From a survey undertaken in 1998, we know that there are a number of people who are the 3rd or 4th generation to live in Green Hammerton. However, the majority of villagers are 1st generation and therefore are unaware of our community's heritage; hence, our opening article which chronicles life and times until the end of the First World War. Similarly, a lot of our articles dip a little bit into the background of organisations and institutions so that people are also aware of their heritage.

