

Appledore Parish Magazine, August 1961

"OUR VILLAGE" by Janet B. Shapland

This Village is most friendly, the nicest and the best
That borders marsh and upland, near sea, in Kent, so blessed.

Our windmills are forgotten, their hills alone remain,
The Oasts, though sad and silent, their beauty is the same.
"Saint Peter and Saint Paul, is by the village street
Where sometimes, at the gateway, the hounds are known to meet.
This ancient church, within, without, does need great love and care
The beamed roof our main delight and many an antique rare.

The charming Street is famous for houses old and new
With gardens mostly beautiful - delinquents being but few!
We have the shops, we have the Pubs and Station, far away,
Does seem sufficient for our needs for work, and school and play.

In middle Street the Chapel is quite central for us all
And we are asked that everyone shall use the Village Hall.
Alas, the Church of England School, where wisdom sheds her pearls,
Is quite far distant down the roads for junior boys and girls.

We have our Blacksmith craftsman, Farm Workers, young and old,
The Builders and the Odd Job Men who lighten many a load.
The Guides, the Legion, W. I., the Welfare and 'the Clubs
Fetes, Stalls and Whist Drives all are here to form our village hub.

We live amongst the fruit trees, asparagus good to eat,
And row on row of runner beans and gaze on fields of sheep.
The bulbs are Spring time's harvest, their colour such a joy,
The tulips and the daffodils do many of us employ.

We cannot boast a river though Canal is surely ours,
A broad and varied waterway well fringed with trees and flowers.
Defence against Napoleon, its bank safe walk for dogs,
A tranquil place for fish and swans, a playground for all frogs.

For all the news be sure to read the Parish Magazine,
It is the link between us all for items heard and seen.
We are a great variety who often come and go,
And few there are who stay o'er long and quite a few "go slow".
But all the time we see and hear of kindness and help
Twixt friend and neighbour who, with care, do make true friendship felt.

This Village is a lovely place, a Home for You and Me,
Let us enjoy it, every one, in happy unity.