



Appledore Archive

Memories and Milestones from Appledore's Past

Womens' Institute 1969 survey of Appledore & Kenardington



Village Hall 1960s on left, Winners of the baby show in 1968 - June and baby Karen Pierce, Pamela and baby Glenn Gillham and Wendy and baby Richard Letford, below left and below right, Heathside in the 1960s.

In 1969, the Women's Institute of Appledore undertook an extraordinary and far-reaching survey of both Appledore and its neighbouring village, Kenardington. What they produced remains an extremely detailed snapshots of village life and an invaluable record of homes, landscapes, wildlife, services and the community that made up the survey.

The survey offers a unique snapshot of the villages' growth, including local authority and private housing, agricultural and industrial sites, and new developments. It highlights the natural environment, with detailed notes on the Royal Military Canal, local wildlife, trees, and plants.

Everyday life is vividly portrayed, covering essential services such as water, sewage, shops, medical facilities, and education. The social fabric is also explored, with descriptions of community spaces, clubs, and activities that shaped village life.



THREE proud mothers with their babies, prize-winners in the three classes in the baby show at Appledore Village Fete on Saturday. From left—Mrs. June Pierce with Karen (1st in 18 months to 2 years class); Mrs. Pamela Gillham with Glenn (winner, 2 to 4 years); Mrs. Wendy Letford with 7-month-old Richard (1st up to 18 months). (c. 7.17.68)



Historical roots are acknowledged through records of ancient sites and properties of interest. Photographs included in the survey provide a valuable visual record of the villages as they were in 1969.

This remarkable document remains a treasure for anyone interested in local history, family research, or the evolution of rural Kent. The original is now very fragile and is held by the Appledore Local History Society in its archive. It is made up of many types of page, from handwritten and typed notes, to scraps of paper glued to others to highlight areas of interest. However, a full translated and re-typed copy of the 1969 survey is available to download on the Appledore Village Website (in footer), for those who wish to explore its findings in greater depth.