

# ***PRATTS BOTTOM-A JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE***

**BY  
SUE SHORT**

## **CONTINUING THE JOURNEY**

My book, about the history of Pratts Bottom village, was published in 2009. The first 300 books sold very quickly; 200 at the Book Launch in October 2009. Of the remaining copies and a second printing of 250 books, I have only 37 books left to sell (please note that I am not planning to have the book reprinted).

Since publishing I have given illustrated talks to various groups in the Kent area. The first talk was to a large audience at Coolings Garden Centre in aid of charity; I raised £360 for the British Heart Foundation. I have been interviewed on BBC Radio Kent, and articles about my 'journey' have appeared in newspapers and magazines.

Recently I have received new information about the history of the village plus photographs and these I have added to the Pratts Bottom archives. It is my intention to update the history section of this website at regular intervals.



**THE CLOCK GARAGE, PRATTS BOTTOM**

This photograph of the Clock Garage, Pratts Bottom, was found in a house in Elm Grove, Orpington. The owner was a friend of Nita Jennings née Culver who moved to 10, Turnpike Drive in the 1970s after the death of her husband Arthur Lewis Jennings.

Jenifer Bensted née Jennings donated the photograph to the Pratts Bottom archives. She moved to Westmount, Orchard Drive aged four (1954) to be with her grandparents; Mr Culver had bought the land /house for £400.





**In memory of Sidney (Sid) and Ethel (Hett) Short, of Avondale, Rushmore Hill, Pratts Bottom**

**This photograph was taken in the back garden of Avondale, Rushmore Hill.**

Sid and Hett Short moved into their new house, on Rushmore Hill, with their sons, James and John, in 1967. Avondale, as their house was known, was to be their family home for many years. Sid was a very keen gardener and carpenter; Hett was an excellent cook.

In 2002 Sid and Hett moved to Dorset to be with their son James and his family. Unfortunately, Sid's health began to fail soon after the move and sadly he passed away; Hett, aged 94 years, died in 2012. Both will be missed by their family, friends and Pratts Bottom neighbours.



**Avondale, Rushmore Hill circa 1967**

**In this photograph, taken by Gwen Coppin, Watley farm is being demolished. Sidney and Ethel's house, known as Avondale, can be seen behind the farm.**

## **'PRATTS BOTTOM-A JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE'**

### **Updated information post printing 2009**

Page 3-The *Acknowledgements* should include Deborah Spencer

Page 8- '*Stonehouse Estate 1925 by Deborah Spencer*' not Dorothy Spencer

Page 342- '*Stonehouse Estate 1925 by Deborah Spencer*'

Page 259-In the caption under the photograph of the VHMC the name Chris Spence should be Chris Spencer.

Pages 362,363,364, 365, 366, 367 and 368-the heading at the top of each page should read '*Where did all the Shops go? By Helen Coomber*'

In the chapter '*The History of Norsted Manor*'

Page 167-Henry VI not IV

Page 167-Richard III not Richard II

Page 176-George V not Edward V

### **Updated information up to 2013**

Page 155- Under the heading '*Norman-Stahli by Sue Short*' replace the statement with '*I understand Mr Norman's child attended the Village School.*'

Page 231- '*Tigger*' not '*Trigger*' in the caption under the school photograph.

Page 240- Second paragraph should read '*Team members were Joey Johnson (a relation of Jacqui Johnson) .....*'

Page 107- '*Tom Collis 1874-1943 by Jean Hammond*'

The caption under the first photograph should read:-

*'From left to right:-George Mercer (metal and woodworker,) second man unknown, the third person is Tom Collis (my grandfather) and the fourth person is Jack Simpson (coach painter and Geoffrey Simpson's father).*

Page 290-The second line should read '*In a Pratt's Bottom Dramatic Production, he played Mr Worthing...*'

Page 307- Last paragraph should read '*.....Leslie and Peggy Keeble lived at Whitethorn with their daughters, Joanna and Dinah....*'

Page 308- the caption '*JOANNA COMES TO TEA*' should read '*....neighbours who were Leslie and Peggy Keeble*'

Page 424 Note that Mr R Lambert and his family, Victoria, Natasha and Alexander did not live at 13, Downs View Close in 1973. Mr Brian Mason and his family lived there. Correct information was given by Jackie Mallpress née Mason in 2013.

Page 127 In the section entitled *Ernie Bowen's memories of Businesses that served Pratts Bottom*, the following sentence should read as follows "*Mr Puxty, of Knockholt, delivered coal to Pratts Bottom.*"