

Introduction

This booklet describes the progress of Yeadon from ancient British times to the present day. It is neither a comprehensive nor an academic history of the township because space does not permit a full account of all the political and religious beliefs and developments. Nor are trade and business matters fully recorded. For these we must await the efforts of the more specialised historian. Rather, this is the story of the growth of a community and the factors that led to the increase in population and prosperity.

The booklet traces the major patterns of land ownership; how the map of Yeadon today reflects the uses to which land was put by its early "fathers" and why Yeadon is built the way it is.

Even today, despite tarmac' and cement, we tread roads and paths whose course is decreed by a rugged, post ice-age landscape. The face of modern Yeadon reflects the ancient fields; medieval fords; manorial mills and quarries created by early settlers. The veneer of civilisation provides a fragile blanket to warm and soften the grit that Yeadon is built and farmed upon. Road and field names preserve elements of a past that nurtured a community capable of retaining its individuality through a thousand years of change.

It is hoped that the reader will view Yeadon from a new angle stripped of its chimneys and new roads, and obtain some pleasure from the concept of Yeadon as a rural community.

For those whose interest is kindled by this history of the township there is a useful guide to sources and a comprehensive appendix containing rentals and lists of taxpayers, many reproduced for the first time.

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