

THE BOOK OF CALBOURNE

Keir Foss

The rural idyll that is Calbourne gave its name to one of the largest pre-Norman parishes on the Isle of Wight. The village has side-stepped the industrial and technological onslaught of recent centuries and retains much of the richness bestowed by a thousand years of English history. Three medieval manorial estates have left their imprint on a landscape little changed from feudal times. The mill wheel can still drive the machinery that grinds the local corn. The church bell still calls the faithful each Sunday. And the laughter of local personalities still resonates around the Public Bar and the Recreation Centre.

This book looks at lifestyles that lasted a thousand years, when country squire and local parson held sway over the people, and when the land provided most folk with a tied cottage and a living. It explores why the railway and the chapel came late to the village and considers the importance of a little brook to the welfare of the place. And it reflects upon the dramatic recent changes that threaten to damage beyond recall those timeless rural qualities so cherished by native and incomer alike.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Keir Foss was born and bred on the Isle of Wight. His ancestors have worked and worshipped in Calbourne parish since the 1500s. Now, after retirement from careers in education and financial services, Keir has time to pursue his enormous interest in the area. This volume, *The Book of Calbourne*, completes his trilogy about the parish and provides a perfect complement to his warmly received books on Newtown and Porchfield.

Each title has been about the people whose lives have enriched their local community, through patronage or enterprise, paid endeavour or voluntary involvement. Like the others, *The Book of Calbourne* reflects the enthusiasm of many of today's generation who have given the author their time and their expertise so willingly.

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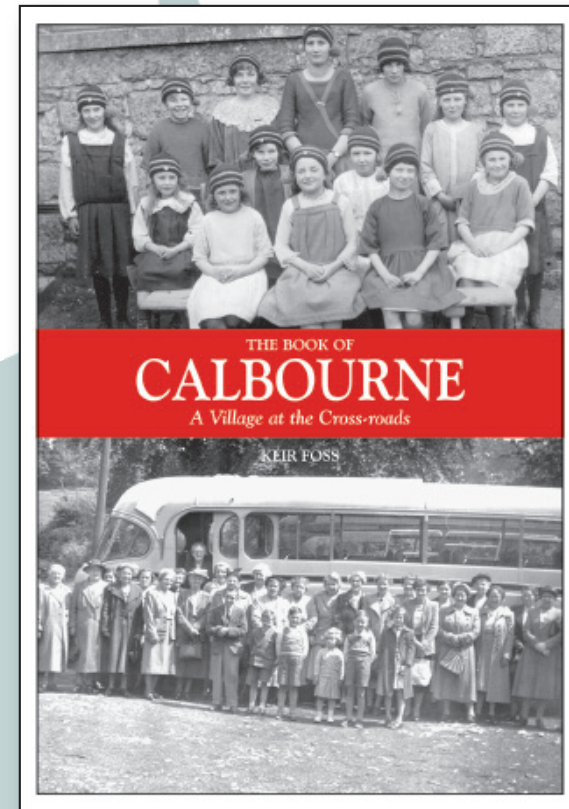
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