

THE BOOK OF NEWTOWN WITH PORCHFIELD, LOCKS GREEN AND SHALFLEET

DIAMOND JUBILEE EDITION

Keir Foss

Newtown has always attracted attention, not all of it welcome. Twice it was invaded and plundered, by the Danes and then the French. The Bishops of Winchester established their summer palace nearby, and the Normans built a planned town and made it Wight's capital. With royal support Newtown survived hard times, having been granted a market and fair (the famous Randy) and the franchise to elect two Members to Parliament. Along with its neighbours, the town supported sturdy industries making bricks and salt, and hosted military camps and coastguard stations. *The Book of Newtown with Porchfield, Locks Green and Shalfleet* tells the story of these resilient communities, covering every aspect of local life down through the years, from schooling and farming, through entertainment and sport, to work and worship – in times of hardship and poverty, wealth and prosperity.

First published in 2004 and quickly sold out, this new edition of *The Book of Newtown with Porchfield, Locks Green and Shalfleet*, published to coincide with the Diamond Jubilee, brings the story of the community fully up to date. It shows how the royal heritage is helping those communities deal with fresh incursions that challenge the fabric and values of village living. It also rejoices in the local initiatives that are sustaining the vitality of community spirit in this unique corner of Wight. A new section highlights what has happened since the book was first issued such as the refurbishment of Shalfleet Village Hall and the resurrection of the former Women's Institute Hall in Porchfield into a superb community facility, whilst new images capture how the Jubilee was celebrated. This unique publication is a vital record of the history and inhabitants of the ancient community of Newtown, presented in a single volume for all to treasure.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

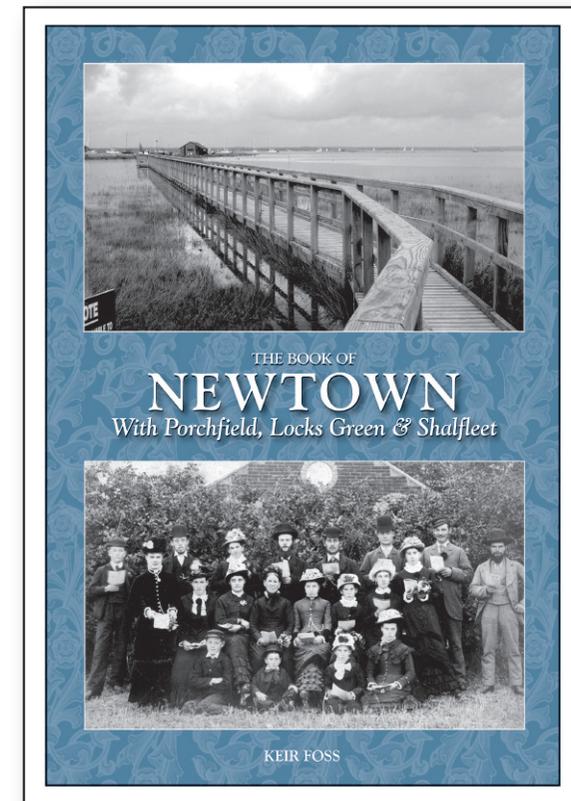
Keir Foss was born at Freshwater on the Isle of Wight. Newtown, birthplace of his father and home to many generations of the Foss family, has always been his spiritual home. Taken there regularly in his early childhood, balanced precariously on the crossbar of his father's bicycle, he developed an empathy with the place and its people that spawned many years of exploration and research. He has written over 20 articles about the area for the island's Family History Society journal and, with enormous help from friends and family, has compiled this remarkable collection of stories and pictures. He is also the author of *The Book of Calbourne* and *The Book of Porchfield and Locks Green*, also published by Halsgrove.

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Halsgrove Publishing
Halsgrove House,
Ryelands Business Park,
Bagley Road, Wellington,
Somerset TA21 9PZ
Tel: 01823 653777
Fax: 01823 216796
www.halsgrove.com
e-mail: sales@halsgrove.com

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