A PEEWIT IN WARTIME

A Child's War in Somerset

Gordon Rendell

The village of Hardington Mandeville lies at the very southern edge of Somerset, its boundary forming the county boundary with Dorset. A child named Gordon Rendell was born in Hardington on 19 June 1936. At the age of ten, he won a scholarship to Crewkerne Grammar School where he spent his time, when possible, gazing out of the window, wishing he was on one of his father's tractors.

The village was small, with a population of around 300. It had two pubs, a school, a church, a post office, and a garage. The village characters were friendly and welcoming. Gordon Rendell often found himself involved in their activities.

At the age of seven, he could be asked to cycle over to Farmer Gifford's to sort out his stationary engine. Gordon Rendell was a practical boy and enjoyed working with tools. He was especially good at maintaining the family car and the stationary engine.

The village was not immune to the effects of the war. Bombing raids were common, and the village was经常受到轰炸影响。The village was not immune to the effects of the war. Bombing raids were common, and the village was frequently hit by enemy aircraft. Despite this, the villagers continued to go about their daily lives.

The history of life in Hardington Mandeville in the 1940s might have been lost for ever if its events had not been stamped upon the mind of an enquiring little boy who, eighty years later, has brought the characters back to tell their own eccentric stories in the rhythmic dialect of Somerset. The stories are not only a history – they are great fun!