

FOREWORD BY STEPHEN BURT

I hope the reader of this delightful publication will come to appreciate the sheer joy and relief an author feels when their article is finally printed! The wonderful thing about local history is that it brings the researcher into contact with literally hundreds of people they may otherwise never have met. They are transformed into the 'time detective' who tries to piece together the past using a range of sources from fieldwork to the careful examination of documentary evidence. To embark on the study of a particular area, person, family or building is to suddenly become immersed in 'history on your doorstep', for those people and buildings had a role to play in the development of a particular community, creating a unique identity that is replicated nowhere else.

A local historian has to 'walk the patch', contact 'experts', visit libraries and archives, make copious notes, attempt to write an interesting article and then find an outlet for the finished script. The beauty of 'Oak Leaves' is that it provides a wonderful vehicle for the amateur historian to share their discoveries with others, leading, hopefully, to a greater appreciation of the rich heritage of the Oakwood district.