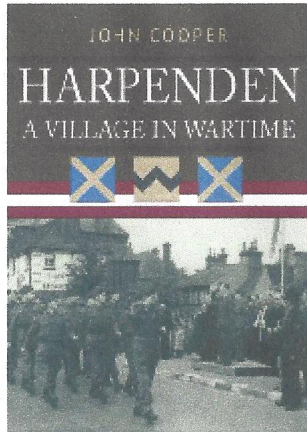




Harpenden: A Village in Wartime is a tribute to the wartime record of the people of the town of Harpenden in the two World Wars.



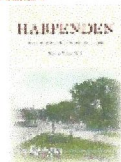
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Press Release

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Harpenden: A Village in Wartime

John Cooper

The Hertfordshire town of Harpenden, experienced the tragedies and hardships of war at first hand during the two world wars. Illustrated by historic picture postcards and photographs, the reader is taken on a journey starting from the early days of the First World War, when 4,000 troops descended on this peaceful country village in Hertfordshire for training prior to departure to the horrors of northern France. The interwar years of the 1920s and '30s, as the country gradually got back onto its feet again after four years of conflict, were a time of great expansion and change in Harpenden where new housing was built and additional roads constructed. With the outbreak of the Second World War, Harpenden was put on a war footing as Anderson shelters were distributed, trenches were dug and evacuee children started to arrive. There were morale boosting marches by the local Home Guard, the nightly air-raid sirens and the forced incarceration spent in an Anderson shelter, relief only coming with the welcome sound of the 'All-Clear'. The euphoria that was felt as first VE and then VJ Day dawned, finally bringing to an end nearly six years of hostilities as Victory bonfires were lit all around the Village, was tempered post-war by the continuation of rationing and austerity before residents could gradually forget the deprivation and shortages with the onset of the 1950s.

Harpenden: A Village in Wartime is the story of the experiences of Harpenden in almost forty years of war and peace as this quiet agricultural village gradually developed into the attractive town that we see today. It pays tribute to the people of this town who served, died and lived through the two world wars, and how they managed to endure in the face of the horrors of war.

PRESS INFORMATION

- Will appeal to those interested in the history of Harpenden.
- Author available for book signings and other events.
- Also available in Kindle, Kobo and iBook formats.
- Contact Philip James Dean, Publicity Assistant, at Amberley Publishing, Tel +44 01453 847823, Email p.dean@amberley-books.com for further details.

THE AUTHOR

John is a retired quantity surveyor and office manager. Following early retirement in 2002, his hobbies have included genealogical research, working at his computer, reading and collecting old photographs and postcards, particularly of Watford and Harpenden. Since taking up writing in 2006, he has had many books published on the Hertfordshire area. He is a Friend of Watford Museum, and also Cassiobury Park, and enjoys collecting old picture postcards, as well as reading books on local history and, of course, writing.



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