

# **WARTIME WORK ON THE FARM - CHILDREN OVER 12-13**



Charlie Collins, boy  
farm worker

**8 April 1915 - School managers were authorised to issue licences to boys and girls over 12 years of age releasing them from school from Easter to 11 October.**

14 April 1915 - Crockenhill Council School reported that because of the number of children absent on agricultural licences Fourth Standard had been moved into the 1st classroom.

24 September 1915 - Messrs Cannell and Sons asked Crockenhill Council School permission to employ boys gathering fruit after the re-assembling of school in October– this was refused.

1916 - Only girls or boys over 13 could get licences.  
No child to work between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.  
Medical certificate needed.  
Girls could do home duties to release mothers for work on farms.

30 October 1917 - Farningham Council School Managers granted 23 agricultural licences.

## WARTIME WORK ON THE FARM



The older children at Crockenhill Council School in 1919, just before the headmaster Mr Wilson's retirement in 1919. Alice Peck is tallest girl in back row, here aged 13.

## FARNINGHAM COUNCIL SCHOOL

1917  
Oct 30th

Date	Name	Age	Address	Empl. <sup>r</sup>	Work	Period
1917 Apr 4	Louisa Vaughan	13	22 Highcroft Cott. Swanley	John Lewis Pedham Court Farm.	working on Farm.	Apr 4th to Oct 1st
"	Reginald Smith	13	40 " "	" "	Agri. Wks	" "
"	Harry Hoadley	13	34 " "	" "	" "	" "
"	Harry Atkin	13	6 West View Cottages Swanley	James Lawson	" "	Apr 4th to June 30th
14	Adina Cowth	13	27 Highcroft Cottages Swanley	Exors of the late Thos Wood.	Land work.	Apr 16th to Oct 1st
"	Lily Rose Say	13	16 " "	W Matthews	Beans Tomatoes etc.	" to Oct 1st
21	Albert Playford	12	6 Wested Lane	H Wilson	Dairy Farm	Apr 23 to Oct 1st
"	Walter Mills	13	50 Highcroft Cottages Swanley	Thos Wood	Agri. work	" "
May 16	J Couchman	12	5 Button St.	E Spice	Farm Wks.	May 16 to Oct 1st
"	S Vaughan	12	22 Highcroft Cottages	J Vaughan	work on Land	" "
"	Arthur G Cook	13	18 " "	J M Lewis	Agri. Wks	" July 3
21	Kathleen Saul	13	25 " "	M Ladds	"	May 21 to Oct 1st
June 14	C Puddophat	12	13 Button St.	Thos Wood	Fruit picking	June 14 to Oct 1st
Sep 8	J Sutton	12	2 " "	E Spice	Labourer	Sep 8 to Oct 1st
Oct 30	J Couchman	13	5 Button St.	Exors of J Wood.	Agri. work	Oct 1st to Jan 1st 1918

Herbert P. Maning  
Jan 29 1918

1917  
Licence  
1917  
Apr 4

Date of Licence	Name	Age	Address	Employer	Nature of Work	Period of Licence
Apr 4	Louisa Vaughan	13	22 Highcroft Cottages Swanley	John Lewis Pedham Court Farm.	working on Farm.	Apr 4 to Oct 1st
Apr 4	Reginald Smith	13	40 " "	"	Agri. Wks	" "
"	Harry Hoadley	13	34 " "	"	"	" "
"	Harry Atkin	13	6 West View Cott.	James Lawson	"	Apr 4 to June 30
14	Lily Rose Say	13	16 Highcroft Cott. Swanley	W Matthews	Beans Tomatoes Pudding etc.	Apr 16 to Oct 1st
14	Adina Cowth	13	27 " "	Exors of late J Wood. Pedham Court Farm	Land work.	Apr 16 to Oct 1st
21	Albert Playford	12	6 Wested Lane	H Wilson	Dairy Farming	Apr 23 to Oct 1st
21	Walter Mills	13	50 Highcroft Cott. Swanley	Thomas Wood	Agri. work	Apr 23 to Oct 1st

An application in respect of H. Tyler of 8 Bath Cottages, was refused, owing to the application being for employment outside the district over which the managers exercised jurisdiction, namely at Marden.

Herbert P. Maning  
Oct 30 1917

Charts showing Farningham children given licences to work on farms. (See key sheet)

## **FARNINGHAM COUNCIL SCHOOL CHILDREN WORKING ON FARMS**

**(Left hand photo)**

**30 October 1917**

(All in Swanley part of parish)

Louisa Vaughan	(13)	22 Highcroft Cottages	Pedham Court Farm
Reginald Smith	(13)	40 Highcroft Cottages	Pedham Court Farm
Harry Hoadley	(13)	34 Highcroft Cottages	Pedham Court Farm
Harry Atkin	(13)	6 Westview Cottages	James Lawson
Adria Court	(13)	27 Highcroft Cottages	Executors of Thomas Wood
Lily Rose Say	(13)	16 Highcroft Cottages	W. Matthews
Albert Playfoot	(12)	6 Wested Lane	F. Wilson, Dairy Farm
Walter Mills	(13)	50 Highcroft Cottages	Thomas Wood
T. Couchman	(12)	5 Button Street	E. Spice
S. Vaughan	(12)	22 Highcroft Cottages	T. Vaughan
Arthur G. Crook	(13)	18 Highcroft Cottages	T.M. Lewis
Kathleen Sawl	(12)	25 Highcroft Cottages	M.Ladds
C. Puddephat	(12)	13 Button Street	Thomas wood
T. Sutton	(12)	2 Button Street	E. Spice
T. Couchman	(13)	5 Button Street	Executors of Thomas Wood

## **FARNINGHAM COUNCIL SCHOOL CHILDREN WORKING ON FARMS**

**(Right hand photo)**

**24 September 1917**

(All in Swanley part of parish)

Louisa Vaughan	(13)	22 Highcroft Cottages	Pedham Court Farm
Reginald Smith	(13)	40 Highcroft Cottages	Pedham Court Farm
Harry Hoadley	(13)	34 Highcroft Cottages	Pedham Court Farm
Harry Atkin	(13)	6 Westview Cottages	James Lawson
Lily Rose Say	(13)	16 Highcroft Cottages	W. Matthews
Adria Court	(13)	27 Highcroft Cottages	Executors of Thomas Wood
Albert Playfoot	(12)	6 Wested Lane	F. Wilson, Dairy Farm
Walter Mills	(13)	50 Highcroft Cottages	Thomas Wood

An application in respect of H. Tyler of 8 Bath Cottages was refused, owing to the application being for employment outside the district over which the Managers exercised jurisdiction, namely at Marden.

Signed Herbert T. Waring Oct 30th 1917

## **CHILDREN WORKING ON FARMS**

Head teachers found pupils progress suffered after months of absence on the fields.

It was hard to get the older children to attend again, and attendance, which was never good, grew worse. In Crockenhill in 1917 only 1 of 13 returned to school, and in 1918 4 out of 14.

February 1918 - Conference of Managers and Head Teachers of Elementary schools in Swanley district resolved that those on agricultural licences should attend evening school at least 3 nights a week.

12 October 1917 – Managers of Crockenhill Council School sent Kent Education Committee a protest against employment of children for agriculture during winter months – serious detriment to their health and education and not really needed for the production of food in this district and it is unfair to the teachers.

December 1918 all agricultural licences were cancelled.

Putting apples into woven baskets after apple picking, September 1923, lads Les Everest and Tom Pert, of Crockenhill



# CHILDREN WORKING ON FARMS

BOARD OF EDUCATION.  
Form 146 (b).

## SCHEDULE III.

School District of \_\_\_\_\_

### LABOUR CERTIFICATE, No. 2 (for partial exemption only).

#### AGE AND EMPLOYMENT.

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_,  
residing at \_\_\_\_\_,  
was, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 190\_\_\_\_, not  
less than **twelve** years of age, having been born on the \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_, as appears by the  
Registrar's Certificate [or the Statutory Declaration] now produced to  
me, and has been shown to the satisfaction of the local authority for  
this district to be beneficially employed.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

(<sup>1</sup>) Clerk to the (<sup>2</sup>) \_\_\_\_\_

for the above district.

(<sup>1</sup>) or other officer.  
(<sup>2</sup>) School Board or  
School Attendance  
Committee.

W B & L (282cs) - 43333-20000-5-01  
52685-20000-1-02

#### PREVIOUS ATTENDANCE.

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_,  
residing at \_\_\_\_\_,  
has made 300 attendances in not more than two schools during each  
year for five preceding years, whether consecutive or not, as shown  
by the (<sup>3</sup>) certificate furnished by the Principal Teacher of the (<sup>4</sup>)  
\_\_\_\_\_ School.

(<sup>3</sup>) For this certificate  
see Schedule VI.  
(<sup>4</sup>) Here name School  
or Schools in which the  
attendances have been  
made.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

(<sup>1</sup>) Clerk to the (<sup>2</sup>) \_\_\_\_\_

for the above district.

(<sup>1</sup>) or other officer.  
(<sup>2</sup>) School Board or  
School Attendance  
Committee.

Dated the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 190\_\_\_\_

Form for Agricultural Licence for school children

## **SOME OF THE CHILDREN GIVEN AGRICULTURAL LICENCES**

**(Records have names for Crockenhill and Farningham Council Schools)**

### **CROCKENHILL**

Ivy Booker  
Mary Bowers  
Kate Charles  
Thomas Etheridge  
Frank Field  
Dorothy Gates  
Bert Glover  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Rose Little  
John Page  
Mabel Peck  
Stanley Pierce  
Victor Pierce  
George Pontin  
Herbert Pontin  
Ronald Pontin  
May Smith  
William Smith  
John Spice

William Taylor  
William Wise

### **FARNINGHAM**

Harry Atkin  
Katie Boulter  
Emelia E. Chapple  
T. Couchman  
Dorothy Count  
Adrian Court  
Arthur G. Crook  
Harry Hoadly  
Walter Mills  
Albert Playfoot  
Rose Playfoot  
C. Puddephat  
Kathleen Sawl  
Nellie Sawl  
Lily Rose Say  
Reginald Smith  
T. Sutton  
Louisa Vaughan  
William Vaughan  
Vera Wood

## LABOUR FROM CHILDREN'S HOMES



One of 6 camps for 30 boys was at Lullingstone. Hay making, perhaps at Lullingstone, c. 1910-1914

1917, 1918 - School-boy camps from Farningham Home for Little Boys and Dr Barnado's were arranged at harvest time in August and September.

The camps were very successful under supervision of masters or persons of authority.

In the early war years school boys volunteered for 2 or 3 weeks in August or September for the hay and corn harvests.

Farmers found it difficult to find board and lodging for the youngsters, who were mostly inexperienced

The farmer provided the site with fresh water supply for tents, or nearby schools were used for accommodation where possible.