

VILLAGE ECHOES

SPOT THE FOOTBALLERS

The History Society has recently been donated two photographs of Goudhurst United Club 2nd Eleven by a relative of the goal keeper – George Owen. Dating from the 1954-5 season they are shown with a cup won in the Junior Charity League.



Front row, left to right: Den Blunt, David Whitewood, George Owen, Don Blunt. **Back row:** Roy Coleman, Rodney Akehurst, Bernard Brown (Captain) Peter White, Ron Haylor, George Fox, Geoff Foster

The history of the Goudhurst Football Club appears in the Goudhurst & Kilndown Millennium Book (p.310-315), which reports that the earliest known team was in 1899 when they played on a pitch at the bottom of Clay Hill until the following year when they moved to a field near the old Chequers pub. This team was then called Goudhurst United. Another team called Winchet Hill Rovers began in 1929 and were based at the Woolpack.



the team of 1899 from The Goudhurst Jubilee Book (p.244)

Over the years Goudhurst's successes gradually grew playing in the Tunbridge Wells League as they regularly changed headquarters and pitches from the Vine to the Star and Eagle. Understandably World War II led to a pause in activities until they reformed again in 1947. The following year they had raised two teams playing in Divisions I and II of the Tonbridge League. Their peak of success was in 1958 when they became League I champions. Sadly, this wasn't to continue despite being leaders of Division III in the Tonbridge League in 1972. Shortly after the Club ceased.

There may be a revival sometime in the future as there is a vibrant youngsters Club which started in 2019 called the Goudhurst Dynamos.

For many more Village Echoes see our website www.goudhurstlocalhistorysociety.org