



The Hundred Parishes

An introductory article about AUTHORS

The Hundred Parishes area has been home to many creative individuals. The People section of www.hundredparishes.org.uk includes introductions to a number of artists, composers - and also authors.

Probably our best-known author was HG Wells (1866-1946) who lived for 18 years in Little Easton at 18th-century Easton Glebe, pictured here. He was a prolific writer, best remembered for his science-fiction novel "*War of the Worlds*" which was written before he came to Little Easton. A later novel, "*Mr Britling Sees it Through*" was set in Little Easton.



A blue plaque on 17th-century Rose Cottage, adjacent to the parish church in Stebbing, identifies the former home of Henry de Vere Stacpoole (1863 -1951).

He qualified as a doctor but practised only occasionally, devoting most of his time to writing novels. He lived in Stebbing for about 10 years in the early 1900s and during that time completed his best-known novel, "*The Blue Lagoon*". It has been made into a feature film several times.



Stacpoole and HG Wells were good friends and would sometimes play cricket in the road outside Rose Cottage.

“The Hundred and One Dalmatians” was written by Dodie Smith (1896-1990). From 1934, she lived in Finchingfield at The Barretts, a 16th-century thatched house in the tiny hamlet of Howe Street. Her children’s novel, written in 1956, was made into a highly successful Disney animated film. An earlier novel *“I captured the Castle”*, written in 1948, was adapted into a film in 2003. Smith’s former home is marked by a blue plaque.



Horham Hall in the parish of Thaxted was the home of novelist Evelyn Anthony (1926 – 2018). She lived there from 1968 to 1976 and then from 1982 until her death. Sixteenth-century Horham Hall is Grade I-listed and the cost of upkeep forced Evelyn and her husband to sell it, but they were able to re-purchase it when her royalties increased. Of her many novels, *“The Tamarind Seed”* was the best known. It was published in 1971 and made into a film in 1974, starring Julie Andrews and Omar Sharif.



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Any comments or suggestions for improvement may be submitted by using the Feedback form on the website. The website has many short articles on various aspects of The Hundred Parishes, as well as introductions to individual parishes and to a number of local celebrities, and an extensive What’s On section. More than a hundred walk route descriptions can be freely downloaded, with each of the hundred parishes featuring in at least one walk.