

**'Recollections of Dial Post by Alfred Warnett', an extract reproduced by
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'When my old dad and mum were first married, they lived in the Toll Gate Cottage (everyone called it the Pay Gate), which was built of weather-boarding, and had a slate roof. It was really a square, wooden box, quite small and had an old range in one room. Mum always hated that range, said it was contrary and some days she never could get the fire going. The old house - I dunno how old - needed frequent painting inside and out; Dad said he never stopped working. He put in long hours as a builder's labourer, had a large garden where he grew all the vegetables and fruit we needed - he had to, Mum couldn't afford to buy stuff for all us kids. The cottage roof leaked, and Dad had to keep patching that too. My elder brothers and sisters were born at the Pay Gate. I was the youngest of six and the only one to be born after we moved to one of a pair of old (about 400 year) semi-detached cottages which stood on the site of the present guest house. The Pay Gate was on the opposite side of the road, where the bus shelter is now, so tolls could be paid by people entering Dial Post from Shipley, as well as along the busier road from Horsham and London. I don't know exactly when toll paying stopped, before my time anyhow.'