



Ralph Allison

BORSTAL

A History of Rochester Prison

150 Years of a Prison's History – The Original Borstal

Blurb:

The word *Borstal* is synonymous with the treatment of young criminals, but do you know where the word originates? A prison, built at the top of a hill above the River Medway, which took its name from the nearby village.

Originally built as a convict prison to house the labour being used to construct a series of fortifications to defend Chatham Dockyard against a landward attack by the French, it moved to become the experiment for a new system of youth justice which spread across the country and the Empire.

HMP Rochester celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2024.

Key Points:

- A valuable insight into how British prisons work – these closed institutions behind high walls.
- Illustrated throughout with 87 greyscale photographs, plans, and records.
- Fully researched and referenced from the public record – sources include historic newspapers, the National Archives at Kew, and the Medway Archives Centre – as well as interviews with residents.

Contents:

- Borstal Convict Prison (1874-1908)
- Borstal Institution (1909-1983)
- Beyond the Borstal (1983 onward)
- The Forts and the Railway
- The Governors
- Notable Events and Facts
- Borstal Memories
- Sir Evelyn Ruggles-Brise

Categories:

- Local history (WQH)
- Kent (1DBKESK)
- Prisons (JKVP1)
- Criminal justice law (LNFB)

Readership:

Anyone aged over 18 with an interest in local history and the history of prisons, or the construction of military fortresses, or small gauge or industrial railways.

Details:

ISBN:	978-1-3999-5154-8
Binding:	Paperback
Length:	157 pages
Size:	21.6 x 16 x 0.9cm
Illustrations:	Greyscale
Genre:	Non-fiction – History
Publisher:	Little Borstal Press
Pub. Date:	1 February 2024
RRP:	£9.99

Orders:

Electronic ordering via Pubeasy (MVB UK Ltd) preferred, alternatively via direct email: mail@littleborstalpress.co.uk

About the Author:

Borstal is Ralph Allison's first book, and first foray into archival research.

By day, he works as a Chartered Health, Safety & Fire Professional in the Civil Service. He lives in Kent and plants trees in his spare time.

Publisher:



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mail@littleborstalpress.co.uk | www.littleborstalpress.co.uk