

Castle Top Farm, where Alison grew up



# ALISON UTTLEY



*"I always felt that I was a changeling child. A bit of fairy got into me at Castle Top."*

Raised on a farm deep in the Derbyshire countryside, Alison Uttley (christened Alice Taylor) was a bright scholar. In 1906 she was one of the first women to graduate from Manchester University with a degree in physics. At first she seemed destined to become a teacher. But marriage and early widowhood led her to writing. The gentle, magical tales she told of little country creatures sold in their hundreds of thousands, and continue to delight children today.



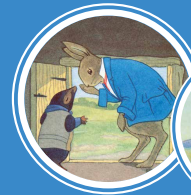
Alison Uttley called her home in Beaconsfield 'Thackers'. It still stands today in Ellwood Road.

*"She had this house, rather like Little Grey Rabbit's little house, at the edge of the wood."*



By the time Alison Uttley moved to Beaconsfield, in 1938, she had already created her most famous characters, Little Grey Rabbit and her friends Hare, Squirrel and Fuzzypeg. But it was here that the Sam Pig stories began and she became an international bestseller. By the end of her life she had written over 100 children's books and many adult books, including A Country Child, her semi-autobiography.

*"I began to make up stories when I was a little child, as soon as I could hold a pencil"*



Alison felt that children loved her characters, because she believed in them.

*"Mine aren't made up. They are real ... I don't sit down to write a story, they come."*

*a hare, a squirrel and a little grey rabbit"*



Margaret Tempest was the artist whose delicate illustrations captured the charm of Alison's stories. The two women worked together for over 40 years.



1892-1982

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