

CLHS Newsletter October 2020



Dear Member

1. November events – presentation via Zoom **Wednesday 11th November** 19:00 'sharp'

Philip will talk on '*From Almshouse to Workhouse*' – the talk was originally scheduled for 10th June but was 'lost' in 'lockdown'

Remember, to access the presentation you will need to have Zoom loaded onto your computer. This can be done without cost and can be accessed at zoom.us/download. When joining the meeting you have the option to 'tick' *Do not connect to audio* and *Turn off my video* and you can participate incognito if you so desire.

To join the meeting, enter Zoom, and on the home page 'click' "Join" and then enter the meeting ID:

594 936 5149 there is no password

If you prefer, email Philip at pedrobinson11@gmail.com and I'll send you the link.

2. Dr. James McInnes "Lavant: the First 6,000 years" 14th October

6,000 years in less than an hour, *a tour de force*, through which James demonstrated the power of local history to put the local into a wider context thus enabling us to develop our understanding of community continuity and change. He began with William Blake's "*And did those feet in ancient time Walk upon England's mountain green*" as seen from Henrietta Poole's house in Lavant (*just south of the Earl of March on the A286*).

Lavant has even greater significance than Blake as shown by a picture of oldest artefacts, discovered near the Lavant Memorial Hall, a flint adze knapped about 6,000 years ago. For me, however, the most startling find was that in 1993 of the Lavant Chalk Drum. It is one of four, the other three unearthed at Folkton in Yorkshire are slightly different sizes. Each is a measuring instrument; a piece of twine, straw, hemp, wrapped seven times around the Lavant drum gives a length equivalent to a linear measurement of 3.22 metres (which appears to be the common unit of measure). This suggests that Neolithic society was more organised than we might suppose. His talk covered the Chichester Entrenchments extending from West Stoke to Halnacker and probably to the River Arun marking the Chichester and Selsey territorial oppidum zone (oppidum in this case is an Iron Age settlement area). More recently the village became a "Goodwood" village. Henrietta Le Clerc, the "natural" daughter of the 3rd Duke of Richmond, lived at Lavant House, and was patron of St. Nicholas Church in what was then mid-Lavant (the others being East and West). Frances Greville, the wife of the 6th Duke, founded the highly successful Lavant Home for Orphan Girls in 1871. James noted that Lavant was also the location of one of the earliest cricket matches, played in 1628, though as at was at the time of divine service, it led to a prosecution by the ecclesiastical court in Chichester for non-attendance at church.

A wide-ranging, informative, amusing and stimulating presentation that can be watched again – should you wish to do so email Philip and he will send you the link, and you need ‘Zoom’ on your computer.

3. Alan Green, “A Mystery Bungalow”



Every week I carry out a trawl of eBay to see what Chichester items might be on offer, and under ‘postcards’ this specimen was recently listed. I thought I recognised the building and so purchased the card, but my cognitive powers have since proved questionable. My first thought (as it was of several to whom I had shewn it) was that it was the doomed bungalow in Basin Road, but no – it is nothing like it.

It is actually a postcard-sized photograph rather than a postcard per se, and shows an early 20C bungalow separated from the road by a shallow walled garden. Its double front is topped by twin gables having mock-Tudor timbering, and the walls have either been rendered and scored to represent ashlar, or are built of unusually-large concrete blocks. The garden wall is blockwork. In front of the bungalow is a typical Chichester electric lamp post so it is unquestionably *our* Chichester.

It is inscribed *in verso* : HOME OF JOANNE & ALBERT - CHICHESTER Not very helpful – a surname would have been useful for carrying out a directory search!

My peregrinations started in the east end of the city in the streets where likely bungalows exist in numbers: Armadale and Bridge Roads and Green Lane, but nothing found. I then went on to Whyke: Whyke Road and Lane, York Road, Cambrai Avenue et al, but again no luck. The shallow front garden would seem to rule out Summersdale but I have not yet explored that possibility.

It is possible, of course, that it has long since been demolished, or hideously disfigured, **but can anybody help by identifying it please?** The only prize will be the satisfaction of knowing that you have contributed to the further understanding of our city(!). Any identification will be published – and duly credited - in a future CLHS Newsletter.

4. **OXFAM want your books.** If you are thinking about a reorganisation of your personal library and especially if you have local history books, OXFAM in East Street would be very pleased to receive them – their stock is running low and the sale of local history books goes well.

5. **Sloe Fair**, so called because there was a sloe tree in the field near the North Gate where the fair has been held since 1107 and, from the 14th century, on the feast day of St. Denis, (9th October, Julian Calendar, 20th October Gregorian [*current*] calendar). Henry I, the youngest son of William I, had returned from Normandy to Portsmouth in April 1107 and gave notification to Richard de Belmeis, the reeve of Chichester, and the barons of Sussex, of the grant to the church of Chichester of an eight days’ fair to be held on the days which shall be fixed by Bishop Ralf Luffe. It could have been a reward – but that’s another story.

Kind regards Philip