

## CLHS Newsletter November 2020



*Dear Member*

Thank you to those of you who have renewed your subscription for 2020-21. For those of you yet to renew the cost this year is **£10.00** per individual or household.

Cheques to **Christine Timblick** at **149, Woodlands Lane, Chichester, PO19 5PB**, or through BACS at:

**40-17-16** a/c number **91804448** - use initials and surname as your reference

To be fair to those who have subscribed the *December Newsletter* will **only go to** those who are "paid-up" members.

### 1. AGM by Zoom. This will take place on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 19:00**

The meeting ID is 842 1663 6904 and the Passcode is 991132 (Remember, you must have zoom loaded on your computer: click onto 'join meeting' and when invited to do so enter the meeting ID:

**842 1663 6904** followed, as requested by the Passcode: **991132**.

The joining instructions will be emailed to you again on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December and also on the morning of Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

The AGM itself will last no more than 20 minutes and will provide an opportunity to look at the 2019-20 season of the Society and give an update on 2020-21. This will be followed by a party where various members of your committee will give a local historical 'entertainment' that will give information, tease your understanding, amuse with the intent of giving a lift to our collective spirits, and feel free to raise a glass of actual.

Maybe the top of the Christmas tree will be the screening of 'Did you see our "Jalopy" in Chichester?', by courtesy of Screen Archive South East. A silent film enhanced by the dulcet tones of Alan Green as we follow the "Jalopy" through the streets of Chichester.

### 2. November Zoom presentation

At our November Zoom meeting, 21 members attended. The part that provoked most interest was the suggestion that William Cawley did **not** build the alms-house in Broyle Road.

The evidence is the will of his father John transcribed by James McInnes in which there is no mention of any intent/thought on the part of John to build an alms-house. What is in the will is the following:

**I give and bequeath £5 of good and lawful money of England every year by and during the full terms of 20 years for the relief and comfort of the poorest people inhabitants within the City of Chichester**

**To be distributed every half year at**

**The Feast of St. John the Baptist [24 June]**

**The Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle [21 December]**

**50 poor people should receive 1 shilling every half year for 20 years**

This suggests a capital sum of about £100 (*equivalent to £13,152 in 2017, or enough to pay the wages of a skilled tradesman for over 5 years*) perhaps enough to build an alms-house?

At the time of his father's death, William was 18 and two of his brothers-in law, **Francis Chatfield** and **William Strudwick** were appointed executors during William's minority. He becomes 21 in 1623 having been away from Chichester, first at Hart Hall, Oxford (*now Hertford College*), and then the Inns of Court. William neither gained a degree nor professional qualification. Maybe he was somewhat of a dilettante; remember he was the only son of John Cawley and the only child of his father and his third wife, the widow Catherine Pescod. William had a number of half-sisters and, through his mother step-siblings.

It is possible, even probable, that **Francis Chatfield** and **William Strudwick**, (*who had been mayor of Chichester in 1616 and would be again in 1626*) decided that the construction of an alms-house would reflect properly the intent of John Cawley and his obvious concern with the poor. Did they say to William, "*This is what your father would have wished and this is what we are planning. We'll instruct the builders to put a brick in the wall with your initials on it*". This is no more than speculation and we will never 'know'.

Interestingly even Hay, *History of Chichester* (1804), to whom responsibility for the phrase "*twelve decayed tradesmen of the city*" p. 336/7 belongs, has his doubts. (Dallaway, *A History of the Western Division of the County of Sussex* (1815) has "*a receptacle for ten aged poor of both sexes*" p. 184). Hay attributes the initiative to build an alms-house to "*perhaps an uncle*" p. 374, a speculation pooh poohed by Frederick Arnold in *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, (Vol. 34, 1886, p. 26). To which a response is, "*No not an uncle, but brothers-in-law*". Without doubt it was Cawley money that provided for the alms-house but each time we pass Cawley Road in Chichester we must remember the name, John Cawley, not that of William.

3. **Terry Carlyle recommends:** If I were to be asked for the best non-fiction book of the year, my answer would have to be ***The Great War Memoir of Ralph Ellis, Sussex Artist and Soldier*** edited by Sue Hepburn in a joint publication from the West Sussex Record Office (which holds the Ralph Ellis Collection) and the Sussex Record Society. This large volume has wonderful full colour facsimiles of the pages of Ellis' memoir and is a truly mighty work in terms of physical weight, superb textual commentary and, most important of all in bringing the day to day life of the average soldier in the Great War into clear focus.

Arundel man Ralph Ellis (1885-1963) was a member of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment from August 1914 until he was sent for training for a commission in December 1916 following which he was to serve as a Temporary 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment with whom he was to be injured on 27<sup>th</sup> August near Ypres whilst on reconnaissance. He had joined up even though he was married and nearly thirty and, after his injury, believed he should return even though his memoir makes it clear he was all too aware of the horrors that could await him.

Days after reading the book it is hard not to keep pondering his words which reveal day to day life in or near the trenches more vividly than any text book description. Ralph's description of men in a bombing post provides an eloquent example. *Here they lived, for many hours at a time; ... eating their food with hands dirty from touching everything polluted with mud, unclean mud too, men have been buried here and the bursting bombs, disturbs the soil... and on one side it reveals, its feet still held by the mud, a shrunken rotting body, hanging downwards, a ghastly ridicule of the physique of a man.*

Whilst he was well aware of the pressure this life brought to bear on those with whom he served he could also record the joy of the arrival of Spring seen when marching away from the front line for a rest. *But spring is a radiant glory, made up of thousands of mating birds, thousands of flowers a pulsating host of minute things, gently but surely being brought into life: ... a hundred thousand voices... chanting, praising the God who gave them life.*

There is so much to find in the text alone but this book, of course, has wonderful drawings and paintings that add so much. Perhaps this is because they do not show big dramatic scenes but rather Frenchwomen working in their gardens at night within a few thousands yards of the German lines, a bivouac camp or a silent British cemetery at 18<sup>th</sup> CCS Lapugnay – a cemetery he tells us that is visited each Sunday in fine weather by the women and children of the village to leave flowers at each cross.

*Read this book! Available from [sussexrecordsociety.org](http://sussexrecordsociety.org)*

#### 4. Alan Green The Mystery Bungalow



The mystery bungalow featured in the last Newsletters is a mystery no longer. It is **20 Melbourne Road** and still in existence as my photograph demonstrates. It is at the Spitalfield Lane end and the first house on the south side of the road, just past the twitten to St Pancras. It has been extended, lost the timbering to its gables, reroofed with concrete tiles and defiled by plastic windows - but is still recognisable. The walls have been coated with masonry paint but it can be clearly seen that it is built of unusually-large concrete blocks. The blockwork garden wall is still there but a new PFI lamppost has replaced the elegant cast iron Chichester one.

I have to make a confession though, namely that I actually took this photograph just a few days before the said Newsletter was issued but decided to leave the competition in place as a useful local history exercise. Anne Scicluna had previously suggested it might be No 20 and it was positively identified by my computer man, Chris Spink, after which I shot round to take the photograph. Anyway, the first person to respond to the Newsletter article was **Liz Walsh**, so congratulations Liz on winning the non-prize!

Knowing the address meant that research could be done into the building and its owners, but in view of the current restricted access to WSRO this has been limited to the resources available at the Grumpium. The 1896 OS features no Melbourne Road, just fields and allotments, but the twitten to St Pancras is shewn. By the 1906 directory development of Melbourne Road was well underway and the numbering of the first houses ran consecutively from 1 to 15 on the north side before jumping to a previous No 20 (which was Pink & Son the soft drink manufacturers) on the south. By 1914 more houses had been added and the numbering then ran from 1 to 18 on the north side, and on the south from 20 to 45 but with some large gaps still undeveloped.

My rather sparse directory collection then leaps to 1926 by which time *our* bungalow had appeared, but as it was outside the existing numbering system it had only been allocated a name - *St Margarets* - and was lived in by R S Campbell. Another unnumbered bungalow, *The Limes*, had been built next door. Pink's main factory building was now between Nos 15 and 16 on the north side but they still had the original no 20 on the south. Things were the same in 1933, but by 1937 St Margarets had been renamed *Fairhaven* and was lived in by Miss D L Symonds, who was still listed there in 1954.



Who, then, were the Albert and Joanne inscribed on the back of the photograph? Well, the 1964 Kelly's lists Albert E Kilvington as the householder of Fairhaven so he must be Albert, but he had gone by the 1968 issue.

After Pinks ceased trading their premises were demolished and the two Melbourne Road sites redeveloped in the 1980s as flats. Bizarrely the new flats were numbered way out of sequence by inserting numbers in the fifties for the northern site and in the sixties on the other side of the road. It must have been at this time that the number 20 was reallocated to Fairhaven, which today carries both that number and its second name.

*Next Newsletter: 18<sup>th</sup> December.*