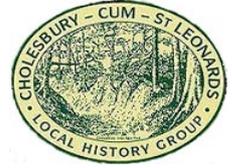


Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Local history Group



NEWSLETTER No. 13

2009 - 2010

Chairman's Introduction

It has been a very busy year for the Local History Group. On top of our monthly meetings and two 'Outings', the Group organised an AONB historical walk around Cholesbury, was invited to talk at nearby Wigginton, and to exhibit at the Bucks Local History Network event. However, undoubtedly the highlight was the well-attended talk and exhibition in April, celebrating the Parish's 75th Anniversary, which I am sure, also succeeded in increasing awareness locally of the many aspects of village life since 1934. Research for the exhibition unlocked much new material for future study. An incidental happening just a short while ago, like a good wine, may take a few years to mature into an interesting story. Two such anecdotes are included on the Parish 75th Anniversary page. Vintage history was laid down for later consumption with the 'Beating of the Bounds' to ensure neighbouring parishes had not been interfering with our boundaries! Accounts of the 'Summer Outings' last year to Westminster Abbey, and recently to Halton House and Trenchard Museum, show how much these were enjoyed, the latter reaffirmed by a wonderful photo! Following the success of our first 'Winter Outing', to Amersham, there are details of an outing in November to Chesham and its newly relocated museum. There is also a quiz I encourage you to attempt ahead of Members Evening.

With the Chiltern DC grant, which enabled us to buy a multimedia projector in March, we have now invested in some display stands to exhibit the archive of History Group's items more frequently at our meetings. As always we have an interesting new programme of talks. You are encouraged to invite your friends along to enjoy them with you and maybe to sign up as members. I hope you enjoy reading the various accounts in this Newsletter and congratulate everyone who has contributed. I would like to record appreciation to the Committee for their hard work over the past year and for putting arrangements in place for the new season. I conclude by thanking, on behalf of the Committee, all Members for their continued support of the Local History Group which, in its 46th year, continues to thrive.

Chris Brown

Evelyn Money

Mrs Evelyn Money was our President from the year 2000 until her death in September 2008. The Local History Group had been an important part of her life for over forty-five years.

Miss Grosstephan, as she then was, appeared for the first time in the minutes of the AGM in February 1965. A refreshment committee was proposed and Evelyn was one of the "various ladies who offered their services". She progressed to the committee proper and in May 1978, it was recorded that the then Chairman, Bert Gomm, announced the marriage of Miss Evelyn Grosstephan to the President, General R C Money, and that "this news was received with great pleasure".

Evelyn Money's most important contribution to the Local History Group was her guardianship of the Group's archives. After General Money's death she moved back to The Old Manor House where the growing collection of photographs, documents and other items of local interest gradually overflowed 'The Black Box'. Working parties were held to establish a simple cataloguing system and a way to make the material more readily accessible. Progress could be slow because Evelyn would often come across a



particular item that she would then talk about at length, adding all sorts of detail and colour to the story. She took great care of the archives and was fascinated by any snippet of information she could find about the villages, and the people who had lived there. Meetings or working sessions at The Old Manor House were usually rather gracious and would end with Evelyn serving tea and biscuits. Needless to say the biscuits were usually homemade.

It was with some reluctance that Evelyn finally agreed to have a proper filing cabinet installed so that the contents in the old tin trunks of the 'Black Box' could change from 'horizontal filing'. She loved to share her knowledge but it was not always easy to persuade her to let items from the archives leave her house. Many of us will remember how, when she did let something go out on loan for research or exhibition, it was recorded very carefully indeed. Mrs Money was also Chairman from 1995 to 1999. She continued as Archivist until 2003 when she handed over to Shirley Blomfield, allowing the precious filing cabinet to move out after her many years of devoted care and interest.

Evelyn continued to come to monthly meetings for as long as she could in spite of growing infirmity. The photograph shows her at the door of The Old Manor House on her 90th birthday. This was a very happy day when she welcomed many friends who were part of the village life she so enjoyed.

Paddy Thomas

2009 – 2010 PROGRAMME

Produced by George Cobby

*Note date – Second Friday in Month

Note venue is Cholesbury rather than St Leonards

FRIDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2009

8.00pm for 8.15pm
Cholesbury Village Hall

HEDGEHOG'S NORTHCHURCH

Bert Hosier will recount his personal memories of this nearby village.

FRIDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2009

8.00pm for 8.15pm
St Leonards Parish Hall

120 YEARS OF THE CHESHAM SHUTTLE

Clive Foxell, an old friend of ours returns to shed more light on a subject for which he is nationally renowned.

FRIDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2009

8.00pm for 8.15pm
St Leonards Parish Hall

BONE, STRAW AND PAPER

Paul Chamberlain is a scientist, historian and author of several works on the Napoleonic Wars.

* **FRIDAY, 8 JANUARY 2010**

8.00pm for 8.15pm
St Leonards Parish Hall

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL AND ITS ENVIRONS

John and Jo Brewster are both guides at Southwark and St Paul's Cathedrals.

FRIDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2010

8.00pm for 8.15pm
St Leonards Parish Hall

THE WORK OF A NATIONAL TRUST WARDEN AT ASHRIDGE

Lawrence Troubridge is the Chief Warden at the Ashridge Estate.

FRIDAY 5 MARCH 2010

8.00pm for 8.15pm
St Leonards Parish Hall

SOME TURNPIKE ROADS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Peter Gulland is an authority on such major roads and how they affected life in villages like ours.

* **FRIDAY 9 APRIL 2010**

8.00pm for 8.15pm
Cholesbury Village Hall

THE INEXHAUSTIBLE MR PAXTON

Russell Bowes returns with another story about one of the great landscaping worthies to complement his very entertaining talk about Capability Brown

FRIDAY 7 MAY 2010

8.00pm sharp
Cholesbury Village Hall

AGM AND MEMBERS' EVENING

A time when we look forward to exchanging local history stories and anecdotes

MEMBERSHIP £8.00 PER ANNUM – VISITORS WELCOME: £3.00 PER MEETING

Coffee, Tea and Biscuits are served and a collection is taken

localhistorygroup@cholesbury.com

If you would like to receive periodic updates and reminders of forthcoming LHG meetings and other events, please contact us on the above email or include your email address on your Membership Renewal Form.

Local History Group Committee

Chairman & Editor:	Mr Chris Brown , Rays Hill Farm, Rays Hill, Braziers End, HP5 2UJ	01494 758890
Deputy Chairman:	Mrs Paddy Thomas , Cherry Orchards, Cholesbury Common, HP23 6ND	01494 758460
Treasurer/Archivist:	Mrs Shirley Blomfield , Chambers Green Farm, St Leonards, HP23 6NP	01494 758314
Secretary:	Mr Barry Warr , 5 Lammas Close, Staines, Middlesex, TW18 4XT	01784 454950
Programme Secretary:	Mr George Cobby , 188 Amersham Way, Little Chalfont, HP6 6SF	01494 762954

Website: *www.cholesbury.com* – for local walks, articles and previous newsletters

Behind the scenes at Local History Group meetings can be fun too!

The Committee would like to thank everyone who assisted 'behind the scenes' before, during and after meetings and events last year which contributed towards the success and enjoyment of our meetings.

We would welcome help from members at the new season's meetings, particularly with the refreshments.

If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch with Paddy Thomas.

Memories of the trip to Westminster Abbey–Summer Outing - 6th September 2008

Rubbing shoulders with the Kings and Queens of England

We had an excellent guide (one of the vergers of the Abbey) who, with his delightful sense of humour, led us expertly through the throngs of visitors that Saturday, waving his Union Jack so that we did not lose him – we felt he was just like a meerkat guarding his troupe! At Poet's Corner we admired our local hero, John Betjeman and then, as our guide joked, he took us to the greatest writer of them all. No, not JK Rowling but William Shakespeare. We felt sorry for Oliver Cromwell whose body was originally buried in Westminster Abbey but then exhumed and left to rot on a stake. All he now has is a very small plaque which people cannot help but walk on as they pay their respects to those RAF pilots who gave their lives in the Battle of Britain. Another highlight was the museum with its Romanesque architecture dating back to the original Abbey and a most interesting collection

including a saddle, specifically designed to reduce the impact of the weight of the rider on the horse's back, beautifully made with silk material from China. There was also a magnificent triptych with lapis lazuli from Afghanistan. Quite appropriately, every hour we were reminded that we were in a place of worship with a one minute silence for prayer. Another memory is when the Verger, at the Shrine of Edward the Confessor, shared with us the story of how he had come to be a Verger. He had lost his job and then sold ice creams outside the Abbey and had often attended Evensong. After a while, the Vergers noticed him and suggested that he might like to become a Verger to join them which is what he did. All in all it was a truly memorable visit with many thanks to Chris for organising it.

Claire and Karola Strong

Magnificat and nunc dimittis

After we had completed our comprehensive and interesting walks around the exterior and interior of Westminster Abbey with our splendid guide and verger named Benjamin, a number of our group stayed on to attend sung evensong. Benjamin had reserved seats for our group in the choir stalls and after a short wait we were shepherded to the head of the queue, which seemed to consist mainly of day visitors to the abbey. Quite soon we were able to take our places. In due course about 50 visitors filed in to sit on rows of chairs set up a short distance away. Evensong began with the priest and his attendants processing into the choir stalls, accompanied by the sound of the choir singing an introit. Since we were visiting the abbey in early September, the choirboys were still away on their summer holiday and the service was sung by the men

choristers, i.e. the vicars choral alto, tenor and bass. The service included the *magnificat* and *nunc dimittis*, a psalm and an anthem, plus hymns, prayers, offices and responses chosen for sung evensong on the day. The sound was of that particular kind made by an English cathedral or large church choir except, of course, for the absence of the boy's treble and alto voices. This service had a particular resonance for me because I grew up in India as a choirboy who sang regularly in local churches and our school chapels. We sang mostly the Anglican choral repertoire for matins, evensong and a variety of other services. Sung evensong at Westminster Abbey brought to a fitting end our splendidly organised, highly informative and most enjoyable day's visit.

Windsor Thomas

After the mean streets of Amersham

February last, a large contingent of the Local History Group descended on Old Amersham for our first 'Winter Outing'; a town walk and museum visit. We were well-rewarded with a guided tour, during which we learnt about Amersham's importance as a coaching stop, a market town and of course seat of religious dissent. We found the Museum full of interesting artefacts chronicling the history of the town and it was well worth the visit.

.... next stop, a guided tour of Chesham Town and Museum visit!

Following on from the success of this first Outing, plans have been made for a similar visit to **Chesham**. The visit has been arranged for **Thursday, 12th November**. We will have a guided tour of the town in the morning and in the afternoon will be visiting the newly reopened **Chesham Museum**, which has relocated to larger premises in the Market Square. The total cost of the guided walk and museum visit is just **£5**.

Bookings for the walk will be taken at the evening meeting in October. **Please ensure you bring with you the £5 needed to confirm your booking. As there is a limit on numbers it will be organised on a 'Members first' basis** with a reserve list if additional places remain available. With the historical connections between town and villages, both the Museum and Local History Group will benefit from the building of these closer links.

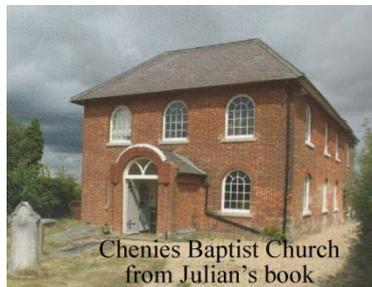
Snippet - Where was she born? What is he famous for?

If you need information about a notable British person one starting point, is *Who's Who* if still alive, or the *Oxford Dictionary for National Biography* if no longer with us. Both can now be accessed for free, online at www.whoswho.com and www.oxforddnb.com All you need is your library card number.

The History Group Library

Additions to the Library are often made following a good talk or an interesting outing. This year is no exception. Julian Hunt came in January to talk, with his usual enthusiasm, on 'Buckinghamshire's Favourite Churches'. He had recently written a book of the same name to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Buckinghamshire's Historic Churches Trust.

We lost no time in buying 'the book of the talk'. It has excellent illustrations of all the churches and gives an opportunity to look more closely at the particular examples Julian used for his talk. They are dealt with chronologically, tracing the development of architectural styles from Saxon to the twentieth century. Rather than the planned fifty favourites, the book ended with fifty-five. There was much debate amongst the great and the good of the book's supervisory committee but they finally agreed to include examples of some favourite Non-Conformist and Catholic churches. After his talk Julian was asked which church was his own favourite. Check it out when you borrow the book. It is the church in perpendicular style at Maids Moreton.



During the recent visit to Halton House and the Trenchard Museum we quickly purchased 'The Story of Halton House' by Squadron Leader Beryl E Escott. So, if you could not go on this splendid outing, you can catch up with what you missed. On the other hand, if you went on the visit, you will be delighted with the extra detail the book gives such as the photographs of the rooms as they used to be. A fascinating chapter called 'The Service Wing' describes 'below stairs' and how this grand Victorian household was run. Look out for the picture of the Halton Fire Brigade.

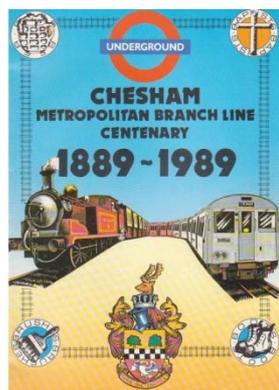
The History Group regularly receives a copy of Records of Buckinghamshire, the Journal of Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society. Volume 49 2009 duly arrived during the year. These sets of very detailed research papers are always full of interesting information but do not always relate to areas really local to us. What a coincidence however to find, this time, a very short article called 'World War 1 Practice Trenches at Halton' with an aerial photograph. This demonstrated clearly something we learned during our visit. Alfred de Rothschild allowed Halton to be a base for a major military presence from 1913. Even nearer to home is the study 'A Glimpse of Life in Early 14th Century Chesham'.

The BAS Journals are kept in the Library and can always be borrowed. The index is usually available at monthly meetings.

Books given to us by members and friends are another valued source of additions to the Library. The first example is 'How to trace your Family Tree' by Kathy Chater, a big paperback absolutely packed with photographs, illustrations and references. This "complete practical handbook for all detectives of Family History, Heritage and Genealogy" is attractive and fun to look at and should certainly inspire you to get started.

'Coins from the Soil, a guide to the buried coinage of Britain' by Michael Cuddeford, might be another book to get you to begin a new hobby. Coins are the most common find by metal-detector users in Britain and this well illustrated book was written as a useful guide for recognition.

The Library now has six books by Wendy Austin. The latest is 'Tring Silk Mill' and it is no surprise to find a Rothschild connection. William Kay, founder of the Silk Mill, purchased Tring Park Estate. He knew Nathan Rothschild who eventually became his tenant at Tring Park Mansion.



Railway lovers will be pleased that we have been given a copy of the booklet 'The First Hundred Years of Chesham's Railway' written in 1989 when the Chesham Metropolitan Branch Line held its centenary celebrations. The trains are beautiful but does anyone remember a 'Chariots of Fire' race in Lowndes Park or the celebrity appearance of Thomas the Tank Engine, some twenty years ago?

We should like to thank Wendy Austin, Jennifer Fisher, Karola Strong and Sylvia Watson who have recently presented books to the History Group Library.

An updated Library List will be available at the October meeting. Members may borrow any book from the list. There will be a small selection at most meetings or you can call me on 01494 758460 if you want to borrow a particular book or have suggestions for new titles. In good time for the new season, the secondhand book box is already quite full. Please continue to bring books and buy some in return. Titles and topics are very varied and do not have to have an historical theme.

Paddy Thomas

Founder's Prize 2009

The Founder's Prize in memory of General Money, one of the Group's Founding Members, is awarded to someone who in the view of Members has contributed to the activities of the LHG over the Season. Sandy Clarke was the deserving recipient of the Founder's Prize, voted on at the last AGM. We look forward to hearing about her choice of book, which will be presented at a meeting during the year.

Archivist's Report

The past year has seen some considerable progress in getting the information about our documents, and other items held in the archives, onto the Catalist database. We have been spurred on by the efforts of Barry Warr, who has been looking at newspaper articles held on microfiche in Chesham Library and also at The Times Online facility. Any reference to news of people and activities in these villages has been noted by Barry and we now have a comprehensive collection of cuttings dating from the 1880s to the 1970s.

Much of this information has proved extremely useful in the exhibitions and displays that we have put on over the past year. Last October the theme was 'Transport through the Ages' for a display at the Bucks Local History Network Conference held in Milton Keynes. Articles about outings into the country by car, advertisements for motorbikes and bus timetables were among items displayed. Here is the letter that appeared in The Times from General Money about the Beeching cuts in the mid-1960s.

Sir,—I submit "use of manpower" should be the criterion in determining the transportation system needed for the next 25 years.
Does a system largely dependent on road conveyance represent the most economic use of manpower? Can resources to create new road services be mobilized as quickly as the railways can be run down?
Lacking answers to these questions it appears impossible to reach a decision on Dr. Beeching's plan for the railways.
Yours faithfully,
R. C. MONEY.
The Old Vicarage, Cholesbury, near
Tring, Hertfordshire.

Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards Parish celebrates 75 years of existence this year and in April the History Group put on a display covering 1934 - 2009 in St Leonards Parish Hall. Among the items donated to the 'Black Boxes' were many architectural drawings and plans that had belonged to the late Mr Ernie Collier, a Parish Councillor for 39 years. Some of these we selected to display. We were particularly pleased to find a drawing from 1947 of the proposed memorial



bus shelter at Cholesbury Common. This six-sided building to commemorate the Second World War was a familiar landmark until it was demolished in 2000, to

be replaced in 2001 by a Millennium (six-sided) seat. This photograph of the bus shelter is the best record we have.



I am also including a photograph of the Buckland Common Anglican Chapel bell. The chapel (sometimes known as the Mission Church) was located on Cherry Tree Lane and must have been built in the late-1850s. An opening service was held on 22nd March 1860.

The first entries for the chapel, in the parish register of baptisms for Aston Clinton St Leonard, occur on 23rd January 1870 where it is referred to as 'Buckland Common Wooden Chapel'. Seven children were baptised on this day, four of whom were children of Richard (labourer) and Jane Dorrell of Buckland Common. The chapel was finally demolished around 1939 and the bell was retained by Kathleen Brackley, whose nephew donated it to the History Group. With limited storage space for items such as these, the bell has been returned on loan from the group to the owners of the property now standing on the land where the chapel was situated, and will be placed on the outside wall for all to see.

In 2004 the Senior Club, which was formed in 1962, was finally closed and the club records, together with photographs, were donated to the archives and have now been catalogued. Here is a photograph of a Senior



Club outing to Bradwell Abbey, Milton Keynes, on 24th October 1996.

This article has rather focused on closure and demolition, but it does highlight the importance of keeping photographic and other records of buildings, people and their activities from past years!

Shirley Blomfield

Claire Loewenfeld - Can you help?

You may already know of the herbalist and author Claire Loewenfeld who lived in Sandpit Hill, with her husband Gunther, from the 1940s until her death in 1974. Apart from founding the Chiltern Herb Farm, she wrote several books on herb gardening and healthy eating, a subject on which she also advised the Government during the War. I am pulling together what is known about her, including the interesting, though largely unrecorded, period of her life during the War, and before this in Germany and Switzerland. I would be interested to hear from anyone who has further information, anecdotes or even a good photograph. If you have any of her books on your shelves I would welcome the opportunity to borrow them! If you can help, please do get in touch.

Chris Brown

Just Down the Road

Have you ever wondered what was going on around the Hilltop Villages in times past? Well, everyday life was going on, of course, and as far as the twentieth century was concerned, there are plenty of oral and written records to answer the question. But what of earlier times? Not lying astride either side of the two arteries, Roman Akeman Street and the even older Icknield Way, the Villages were indeed remote, but over the centuries important people lived and important events occurred just down the road, and at least from time to time would have made their presence known.

It is said, those born within the sound of Bow Bells can claim to be Cockneys, but with the wind in the right direction the sound carries as far as Croydon, eleven miles distant. So it is fair to suggest that fearful farmers would have heard Duke William's army marching from Wendover, only three miles away, en route to Tring and Berkhamsted, five miles as the crow flies. Villagers might even have been conscripted when work began on the motte and bailey castle.

Plenty of noise would have carried on the wind one hundred and fifty years later, when the Dauphin of France besieged the castle. You bet that was heard up

in the Villages! But not for long; the castle surrendered after three weeks. The fortress was later modernised and its proximity to the Capital qualified it as one of the most important in the land. They may not have made much noise going about their business, but significant people were near-neighbours over the years: Lord Chancellor Thomas Becket, and King Jean II of France captured at Poitiers by the Black Prince. When not terrorising the French on their home ground, the Black Prince enjoyed relaxing at Berkhamsted, especially at Christmas, and also spent his honeymoon there. The last tenant of importance was Cecily, Dowager Duchess of York, mother of two kings, Edward IV and Richard III. But for her husband Richard Plantagenet's rashness, she might have become Queen of England.

The noise of castle-building, but not necessarily of sieges, undoubtedly would have been equalled by the construction of the London to Birmingham railway. In the other direction, the peace of the Hills was certainly broken by military activities at Halton Camp during World War One, and by Mr Martin and friends racing automobiles up and down Aston Hill, just down the road.

George Cobby

Beating the Bounds in 2009



In 2034 and on the Parish's 100th Anniversary, the 38th Newsletter, produced in an as yet to be invented medium, might recall that in 2009 the parish boundaries were marked by a traditional beating the bounds ceremony. We know it was done in 1974 (50th) and 1984 (60th) but we have no note of any earlier perambulations of the modern-day parish.

Whether this modern re-enactment of an ancient custom will be repeated in another quarter century is uncertain; however here is the intrepid band that set off on 13th June to celebrate the 75th Anniversary, adding another small morsel to our local history.

Halton House and Trenchard Museum - Summer Outing - 18th July 2009

More than 40 History Group members and friends descended *en masse* on Halton on 18th July. Halton House is an example of the Rothschild heritage, styled on the then recently completed Waddesden Manor and as one of our number has since remarked, "It was extraordinary to see the opulence and wealth lavished on just a weekend entertaining house". We were grandly welcomed by John and Trixie Brabner who delighted us with their enthusiasm for the history of the house. We learnt much about Alfred Rothschild's extravagance; installing a gold ceiling valued today in millions and bringing fireplaces and furniture from French Chateaux. Guests included European Royalty and the elite of English society. The estate was given over to the Government in 1914 for combat training and then bought by them in 1918 for £115,000 for the fledgling RAF. It served first as an HQ and now the Officer's Mess. For lunch many of the group availed themselves of the gardens, which we had to ourselves apart from some admittedly



grotesque statues. After lunch Francis Hanford, curator of the Trenchard Museum, picked up on the story of RAF Halton, which soon became the lynchpin for training skilled aircraft engineers. Today Halton is the

RAF's non-technical ground training station for which the original motto 'Teach, Learn, Apply' remains applicable. As described by one of our Group, "The visit to the museum was fascinating, with the wealth of material and records, photographic and others, assembled on RAF Halton. One other remaining memory will be of Karola...sitting in the cockpit of the Gnat Trainer...." The image of 'Ace Pilot Strong' is certainly worthy of sharing with the rest of the History Group and exemplifies the enjoyment we all experienced from our visit. It did not pass us by that our visit to RAF Halton occurred on the same day that Henry Allingham died, aged 113 years - the last known survivor of the Royal Naval Air Service, the forerunner of the RAF, and at the time, the world's oldest man.

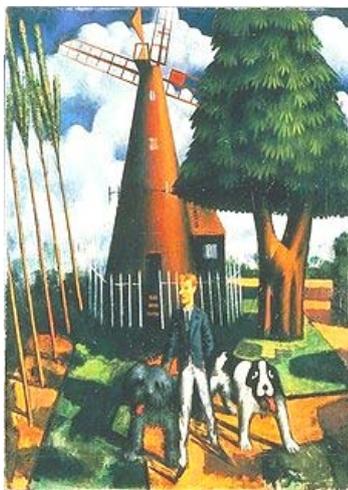
Chris Brown

The Bloomsbury Group Connection - How Cholesbury has left its mark

In previous editions of this newsletter we heard about the connections between Cholesbury and the Bloomsbury Group. Gilbert Cannan and his wife Mary, the former Mrs JM Barrie, had moved into the Mill House in 1913, some sleuthing has revealed further such connections.

A wide circle of friends visited or stayed with the Cannans at their Mill. Some were well-known society figures, others then as yet undiscovered authors, poets, painters, critics etc. These bohemians partied, argued and occasionally swapped partners and so it is perhaps not surprising that they wove these experiences and the place in which many of them had occurred into their works of art, novels, diaries or letters.

Cannan based the eponymous character *Mendel* on the early life of Mark Gertler, who stayed with the Cannans, using the mill tower as an artist's studio. Those who visited the Ashmolean Museum a few years ago saw Gertler's depiction of Gilbert in his painting '*Gilbert Cannan and his Mill*'. DH Lawrence drew on his meetings in Cholesbury with Katherine Mansfield and John Middleton Murry, for characters in *The Rainbow* and *Women in Love*, both written while DHL was living in Bellingdon.



Another visitor was Compton Mackenzie, best known today for *Whisky Galore* and *Monarch of the Glen*. His most acclaimed work is said to be *The Four Winds of Love*, a six-volume semi-autobiographical epic, in which John (Compton) visits Frederick and Jane Rodney (Gilbert and Mary Cannan) when he 'went down to stay with them in the cottage by the mill on the outskirts of the fictitious Essex village of 'Summertune' (or Cholesbury).

"...John chuckled to himself as he entered the windmill and by a spiral iron flight of stairs corkscrewed his way up to the room at the top, where at a very large bare table Freddie was seated, writing away on his octavo sheets...."

Like most of the artists (Mackenzie aside), Cannan had declared himself a conscientious objector. He reluctantly volunteered to be a reserve policeman, guarding a water-pumping station.

In the book, Freddie says:

"I'm a special constable. I watch the Gasworks in Colchester two nights a week..."

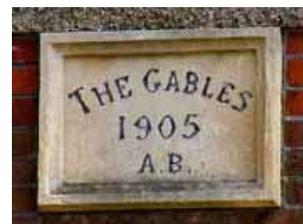
The passage also contains a visit to see Daniel Rayner and his German wife Hildergarde in their 'dilapidated crimson-bricked cottage'. This is a detailed account of Mackenzie's first meeting with the Lawrences in their run-down lodgings in Bellingdon.

A further and somewhat different reference to Cholesbury is found in the second verse of a poem called '*September*' by John Drinkwater, a close friend of Gilbert Cannan, who one presumes must have visited The Mill House on at least one occasion probably in the Autumn of 1915.....

*Not sad my season of the red
And russet orchards gaily spread
From Cholesbury to Cooming,
Nor sad when twilit valley trees
Are ships becalmed on misty seas,
And beetles go abooming.*

Drinkwater had also become increasingly critical of the war and, although clearly influenced by the Chiltern scenery; the woods and the orchards, the poem is as much a reference to the bloody battles across the Channel (for 'beetles' read tanks, for example).

In 1913 Katherine Mansfield rented 'The Gables' beside the Mill, and Middleton Murry, her future husband, visited frequently. There is a mildly amusing anecdote recorded in one of Katherine's letters to Middleton Murry. Interestingly the event had occurred eleven years earlier, during celebrations on the Commons in August 1902 to commemorate King Edward VII's Coronation. (By the way, 'Mrs G' is Mrs Lucy Gomm. Mrs Brown lived close by.)



"...Last night Mrs. G. and I had a glass of dandelion wine, and over it I heard how Mrs. Brown's petticoat had dropped off in the hurdle race 'King Edward's Coronation time.' Such goings on!"

I can happily report that no petticoats were left behind during the recent Fun Day Races at St Leonards!

Chris Brown

Quiz? - Who Were They?

.....Answers from George at Members Evening

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. The Scarlet Pimpernel | 3. The Prince Imperial | 5. The Old Pretender | 7. The Jersey Lily | 9. O de Cologne |
| 2. The Man Of 18th June | 4. The Rose of Raby | 6. Charles The Bold | 8. The Iron Duke | 10. Prinny |