

## Round and About in the Parish

In January this year the Danehill Parish Historical Society had a talk about Lewes Priory. This article concerns more recent former Chelwood Gate residents who had connections to Lewes.

Rear Admiral Beamish was Conservative MP for Lewes from 1924 until 1931 and then from 1936 until 1945. His son, Tufton Beamish, succeeded him as the Conservative MP for Lewes from 1945 until 1974. Tufton Beamish (later to become Sir Tufton Beamish/Lord Chelwood of Lewes) lived at Chelworth House in Chelwood Gate, which is where his father had also lived.



Tufton frequently opened his garden for fetes to raise funds for Chelwood Gate Village Hall etc and supported the village in many ways. Tufton also attended the New Year's Eve parties at the Village Hall, preferring local events to more sophisticated venues.



In Danehill Church, on one of the walls are two plaques dedicated to the Rear Admiral and to Sir Tufton Beamish.

This photo is of Rear Admiral Beamish next to his son, Tufton, taken at Chelworth House.

Tufton was a prolific author and one of his books published in 1965 was entitled *Battle Royal* which was an account of Simon de Montford's battle in Lewes.

After a Danehill Parish Historical Society talk and Magazine article to mark a significant anniversary of the Battle of Lewes, I was contacted by Miss Gurr who had connections to our Parish but no longer lived here. She told me she had had a pony called Tufton Beamish which was stabled at Chelworth.



She had always wondered why her pony had such an unusual name and did I know anything about this? Alas I knew nothing at all, but I knew someone who did - namely Phil Lucas who gave me all the details which I passed on.

I asked for a photo of her pony, so here is the genuine Tufton Beamish at Chelworth House.

In this photo, to the left is John, then Tufton, Rear Admiral, Vivien Beamish and Gillian (little girl).

Gillian married sculptor Enzo Plazzotta and in Lewes Priory Park there is a wonderful sculpture made by him commemorating the Battle of Lewes. It's well worth a visit to Lewes Priory Park to see the sculptures and ruins and the Enzo Plazzotta sculpture is shown below.



My thanks to Ms Guerr, Laurence Hardy, Jean Wood and to the late Peter Kirby and the late Phil Lucas.

Jill Rolfe

