

## ROUND AND ABOUT IN THE PARISH.....

Last year the Danehill Parish Historical Society put on to their website an article I had written about the Old Radio Station, also known as the King's Standing Transmitter Station at Crowborough. This centred on Harold Robin who was the brilliant technician responsible during the Second World War for the transmission of black propaganda broadcasts to Nazi Germany from Crowborough. More information and photos are shown on the website ([www.danehillhistory.org](http://www.danehillhistory.org)).

After seeing the article on the Society's website I was contacted by an organisation interested in masts, and in particular this site, as these photos had never been seen before. I was told about some of the medium wave antenna and that they consisted of three 350ft guyed lattice masts in an arrow-head formation facing roughly east. The 36 inch faced triangular masts were only lightly stayed with just two levels, the first at 130ft and the second at 260ft; the section above the 260ft stay was a cantilever construction. There was an obstruction light at the top.



The organisation told me that the photos of the masts were taken after WWII. I wondered how they knew this, but apparently the masts were highly coloured and clearly it would not have been a good idea to highlight their presence in the midst of war.

When Chris Drewery was preparing the article for the website he asked me what connection did Harold Robin have to Chelwood Gate? I very quickly replied "Oh, there's absolutely no connection whatsoever." A little while later I thought: "Hang on just a minute Jill, you were a bit quick off the mark there - think about this now." I went back to Harold Robin's obituary and right at the bottom it quotes "Robin discovered a new hobby in astronomy and built an 18 inch telescope and observatory at the bottom of his garden in Tunbridge Wells, ingeniously using bits of salvaged machinery. He eventually donated his telescope to Sussex University, making it available for use by the University.

At this point the old brain kicked into action and I thought "Hmm, the University of Sussex used to have a site at Chelwood Gate, and the site



is now occupied by the Cats Protection League. Just as you are about to enter Cats Protection, there is a small Observatory near to the Bowling Green” I thought “I just wonder...”.

I asked a friend [Valerie] who asked a

friend [Steve] who referred me to the correct department of the University of Sussex [now at Brighton]. Jungle drums work beautifully in a small village, and how lucky I am that they work for me. The answer is Yes, Harold Robin’s telescope is indeed at Chelwood Gate.

The external photo of the Observatory behind the bowlers is from John Harryiott. The internal photos of the observatory are from the University of Sussex. The photos of the masts are from the late Peter Kirby.

My thanks to Valerie King, Steve Ward, and to the University of Sussex for their help and also to John Harryiott and the late Peter Kirby.



**Jill Rolfe 740446**

## AshdownWI



Ashdown WI holds its meetings in Chelwood Gate, but that doesn't mean to say all members come from Chelwood Gate. We have members from Danehill, Forest Row, Lindfield, Newick and Haywards Heath. Why not come and visit us, you will have a very warm welcome.

We learnt more about The Cinnamon Trust at our meeting on Tuesday. The Trust was named after a much loved pet of the founder of the charity. The Trust aims to help elderly and terminally ill owners keep their pets as long as they wish. Owners often find it difficult to give the day to day care that animals need. The charity finds volunteers to help out.

A new craft workshop has been organised for Wednesday 24th November at 2:00pm. The craft is Japanese folded patchwork which involves sewing by hand. If you are interested to find out more contact [susannawaywi@gmail.com](mailto:susannawaywi@gmail.com)

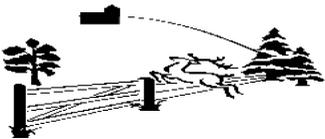
Our speaker on Tuesday 9th November at 7:30pm is Helen Griffiths and she will talk about volcanoes, which is a subject very much in the news at the moment.

Come along and find out more.

Yvonne Smith, [lone.pine@btinternet.com](mailto:lone.pine@btinternet.com)

## Danehill Parish Historical Society

We hope to re-launch the society in March 2022 and the programme is currently in preparation. In the meantime the website continues to grow and features this month the final three Fletching articles from Jill, featuring Baden Powell, Aladdin and the truly amazing Model Village.



[www.danehillhistory.org](http://www.danehillhistory.org)

