

THE TIMES CHISLEHURST

Chislehurst Society Special Edition

Farringtons School remembers 'People from the Past'

Royal Spy lived in Chislehurst

Sir Francis Walsingham is best remembered for being Queen Elizabeth I's 'Spy Master' and, interestingly, he was born in Chislehurst.

Francis Walsingham was, in fact, born in Scadbury Park just around the corner from Farringtons school, Chislehurst in about 1532 to the family of William Walsingham and Joyce Denny. He lived in Chislehurst for most of his childhood until he went on to study at Cambridge.

The fact that he studied at Cambridge University made him quite a smart man and



was made Secretary of State to Elizabeth I (1573–90), as well as being a member of the Privy Council, and knighted.

It is fascinating that such a famous person was born and raised in Chislehurst, thus making an almost direct link between royalty (Knighted secretary) and our

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- William Willett
- Thomas Walsingham
- Queen Mary
- Queen Victoria
- Napoleon III
- George Chubb
- Richmal Crompton
- Malcolm Campbell
- William Willett
- Ted Willis
- And more...

Queen Victoria

Queen Victoria was asked to visit empress Eugenie and her husband Emperor Napoleon III at the Chislehurst golf Course in 1853. Queen Victoria, born in 1819 was close friends with empress Eugenie since they met. They built a train station for Queen Victoria's arrival, so because of Queen Victoria we now have a train station in Chislehurst.

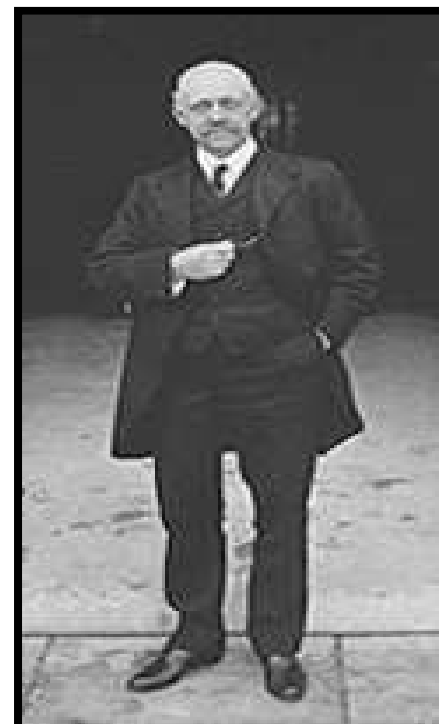


William Willett: The man who changed time

William Willett had the idea of putting the clocks back in the summer time so we could have sunny evenings; he called it 'day light saving'.

William Willett was a builder in Chislehurst and he first proposed this solution to the Britain's problem of depressingly short working days in the winter.

Mr. Willett used to ride around Chislehurst on his bicycle, and one day in 1905 he noticed that the blinds were down on a house and this is when he had the idea of daylight saving.



French Emperor has golf link at Chislehurst

As you may know the famous French emperor Napoleon III spent many of his years in exile living in Chislehurst, he was connected with Camden as well.

It is alleged that Napoleon had a relationship with a lady called Emily Rowles who happened to be the daughter who owned Camden Palace.

As the years grew longer Napoleon became ill and soon died. He was buried in St. Mary's church in Chislehurst in 1873.

Tarzan in Chislehurst

Paul Cavanagh was born in Chislehurst on the 8 December 1888. He died on the 5th March 1964 he was 75 years old when he died. He was an English Actor he became famous from being on stage from that he has been in many different films and programmes such as Grumpy (1930), Tarzan and his mate (1934), The Scarlet Claw (1944), Sherlock Holmes and House Of Fear (1945) and many more. As said above Paul Cavanagh was born in Chislehurst, England which is where the editing of the newspaper is done.

Paul Cavanagh was an actor from the year 1928 and he finished acting in the year 1959. Paul died from a heart attack in London which is near his birth place in Chislehurst.



George Hayter Chubb: locked into Farringtons

Sir George Hayter Chubb was the first chairman of the governors for Farrington's school in Chislehurst. He was the grandson of the founder of Chubb Locks. This remains a very famous company and we still use these locks today.

Before the school was established it was a mansion in the 17th century and they kept the name Farringtons.

The school was opened 21st of September 1911 by the headmistress Alice Davies with only 14 students. Mr. Chubb had connections with the royal family and the queen sent various gifts to the school via George. Farringtons School has a stone engraving dedicated to him.

Ted Willis: Black Beauty screenwriter

Edward Henry Willis was famous within his profession as a playwright, novelist and screenwriter. He was best known for his screen play of Black Beauty, as well as Dixon of Dock Green. Although he was born on the 13th of January 1918 and born in Tottenham, Middlesex. He moved to Chislehurst and lived there and then he was awarded a life peerage with the name of Baron Willis on the 23rd of December 1963.

He died of a heart attack on December 22nd 1992.

Royalty visits Farringtons School

Farringtons school was extremely proud when Queen Mary visited to open the new buildings: West House, Queens Court and Ferens hall in June 1911. Queen Mary who was also known as Mary of Teck gave the school permission to name Queen's Court in honour of her visit. Mary's father Francis of Teck married into the royal family by marrying Princess Mary Adelaide who was the daughter of Prince Adolphus, duke of Cambridge.



Queen Mary kept in touch with the school via George Chubb sending gifts to the school. During the year of 1928, the queen agreed to a royal charter and gave permission for her royal cipher to be placed in the schools coat of arms, it is still there today. In 1934, the school chapel was built and in 1936 Queen Mary came for a private visit.

William of Wykeham: Bishop of Winchester

Sir William of Wykeham was a key figure in the era of Edward III (1327-1377), and he owned land in Chislehurst.

William of Wykeham was Bishop of Winchester, Chancellor of England, founder of Winchester College, New College School, Oxford, and builder of a large part of Windsor Castle.

William was born to a peasant family, in Wickham, Hampshire, and went to a school in Winchester. He was appointed Justice in Eyre south of the Trent along with Peter Atte Wode in 1361; he held this position until about 1367. He became secretary to the constable of Winchester Castle and learned a lot about buildings.



Richmal Crompton

Richmal Crompton Lamburn (15 November 1890 – 11 January 1969) was a British writer, most famous for her Just William humorous short stories and books. Richmal Crompton was born in Bury, Lancashire as a second child. Richmal attended St Elphins boarding school for the daughters of the clergy. She later moved to Derbyshire in 1904. In order to fulfill her chosen career as a school teacher, she won a scholarship to the Royal Holloway College in London. She graduated in 1914 with a BA honours degree in classics. She returned to St Elphins as a classics mistress and later at the age of 27 she moved to Bromley high school in south east London. Having contracting poliomyelitis she was left without the use of her right leg in 1923. She chose to give up her teaching career and became a full time writer.

She never married nor did she have children, although she was a great-aunt and aunt to other members of her family. Her Just William stories and her other literary work were extremely successful and, three years after she retired from teaching, Richmal was able to afford to have a house built (The Glebe) in Bromley Common for herself and her mother, Clara. Although she had disabilities, during the Second World War she did voluntary work in the Fire Service. She died in 1969 at her home in Chislehurst, London Borough of Bromley. She is also the great aunt to English actor Jonathan Ashbee.



Sir Malcolm Campbell:

Motoring legend at rest in Chislehurst



Sir Malcolm Campbell was famous for being an English motorist and journalist. He gained the world speed record on land and water at several times during the 1920's and 1930's.

He was born on 11th March 1885 in Chislehurst, Kent. He was educated at Uppingham School in Rutland, England. Once finished his schooling he worked for 2 years at Lloyd's of London for no-pay,

then for another year he worked there again but on 1 pound a week. He later died on 31st December 1948 in Reigate, Surrey.

It appears that Malcolm has a strong link with Chislehurst through not only his birth but his death as well because when he died he was buried at St Nicolas' Church in Chislehurst, Kent.

William Camden: Elizabethan courtier

William Camden was famous for being an English antiquarian, historian, and officer of arms. He wrote the first topographical survey of the islands of Great Britain and Ireland. Also he wrote the first historical account of the reign of Elizabeth I of England. He was born on the 2nd of May 1551 in London.

It appears that he maintained a strong link with Chislehurst. After spending many years being educated at Christ's hospital, St Paul's School and Oxford University he began to work as the usher at Westminster School in 1575. In his later years he moved to Chislehurst and spent the rest of his life there. This is how he has kept a strong link with Chislehurst. He then died on 9 November 1623 in Chislehurst and is buried in Westminster Abbey.

What's on guide...

Rock 'n' Roll Legends gig in Chislehurst Caves

The musical history of Chislehurst Caves

Chislehurst Caves are a maze of dark mysterious passageways which have been made by hand from the chalk, deep beneath the glorious town of Chislehurst. There are over 20 miles of caverns and passageways, dug over a period of a staggering 8000 years. The huge complex of caves is a maze of ancient mines originally carved out in the search for flint and chalk. They are divided into three main sections, Saxon, Druid and Roman. Each interesting section is connected by long passages. Often in the caves, the leader of the tour shout or bangs a huge drum which can be heard from all over the caves as the echoes carries on for miles on end. The Chislehurst Caves are also a popular tourist attraction as well as being a memorable experience for the locals. Personally I have visited the caves over 5 times and it has been a different experience ever since.



Furthermore, all who I know that have visited the caves have produced positive feedback and said if they had the chance to visit the caves again they would definitely go back and visit again.

Now you may be wondering why 'The Rolling Stone', 'The Who' and Jimi Hendrix have a direct link to Chislehurst and the caves. Well please allow me to explain further. During the 1960s and 1970s the caves were used for music and entertainment for both residents at that time and even just visitors. The genres of music that were played at the caves included: skiffle, jazz and later rock and roll. Bands and artists such as the Rolling Stones, The Who, David Bowie and Jimi Hendrix used the

F. Tennyson Jesse's Connection to Chislehurst



To most of the world she was known as F. Tennyson Jesse, but to her friends in Chislehurst she went by 'Fryn'.

She was born in Holly Bowers (in Chislehurst) on 1st of March 1888. Fryn was the second of three daughters and was christened Winifred Margaret Jesse.

At the age of 19 Fryn was able to leave home and enrolled at art school in Newlyn, Cornwall, where she was very popular with her fellow students. While she did undertake some book illustrating, it was to writing that she was drawn.

Her first job was writing for The Times, but at the same time she was writing short stories. Her first Playwright was called "The Mask"; she received lots of good reviews when it was published in The English Review. They produced it as a play at Shaftesbury Avenue Theatre and The Royalty Theatre, when Fryn was only 24 years of age.

Thomas Walsingham IV

Thomas Walsingham came to Chislehurst and visited Scadbury Park twice and was visited by the queen Elizabeth I. The second time he was visited in 1597.

Scadbury is a nature park in Chislehurst. This was commemorated on the Chislehurst village sign. In 1611 Thomas also bought the Royal Manor of Dartford but then soon ended up selling most of it apart for the Chislehurst Manor.

Thomas Walsingham was born in 1355 and was a monk at St Albans.



Chilling Chislehurst: Tales from the past...

The Creepy Caves

‘The challenge’ has been banned for a long time as the *challenge* seemed too dangerous, but with persuasion we were allowed to stay down there, but none of the public were allowed’.

On the 2nd of November 1985 two guides were chosen for a competition called the ‘The Challenge at the Chislehurst caves’. They started a couple of hours late and ended up getting there at 8 o’clock instead of 6 o’clock. The two guides walked into the caves and locked the door. Guide A gave the key to guide B for safe keeping. Part of the challenge was to sleep fifty feet apart. Guide A settled around at the pool, while guide B settled near the passage. They lit a lot of candles for light. Both of the guides sat away from each other & set up the tape recorder. Guide B said he started getting cold from the waist down.

So Guide ‘A’ stayed watch while he settled down and a few minutes later *Guide A* could hear footsteps. He took no notice of them, then suddenly Guide A heard a massive scream coming from the passageway.

Guide A called to his friend, but he did not answer and when he ran to him he was flailing about, he looked like he was having an epileptic fit and trying to fight someone.



Suddenly his friend stopped and stared straight at *Guide A*, but didn’t look himself. His eyes were red & glowing, and his face was contorted. He started frothing from the mouth & started getting aggressive scaring *Guide A*. He started growling and making animal noises. *Guide A* could not get out because his companion had the keys. *Guide B* looked possessed, and *Guide A* confessed to feeling close to death. *Guide A* eventually left his friend and tried to call for help by pressing the emergency button, he hoped it was working, again no answer. A few minutes later suddenly someone responded.

The owners of the cave came rushing through the doors with worry, *Guide A* showed the owners what had happened & *Guide B* was still acting like an aggressive animal. They called an ambulance to get him to safety. Fortunately, *Guide B* has since returned to his old self, but has no recollection of the events.

Are the caves haunted, haunted by ghosts? Is this what caused *Guide B* to act this way?

With special thanks to...

- Ayseniz Dormoush – reporter Francis Walsingham
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- Abigail Crawley – reporter of William Willett
- Daisy Coughlin – reporter of Ted Willis
- Scarlett Maguire – reporter of Paul Cavanagh
- Melissa Templeman-Jonas – reporter of F. Tennyson Jesse

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