



# *'Yes, the Nevill Estate does have a History!'*

*Even though the Nevill Estate did not exist in 1911.*

**Ann Holmes & Sarah Hitchings  
(including the Nevill memories of  
Brian Beck)**  
**Lewes History Group 12/11/2012**  
**[leweshistory.org.uk](http://leweshistory.org.uk)**

## **Description of intended site (From Sussex Express Friday September 3 1920)**

Site...is generally acclaimed as an excellent one

- Commands view from its highest point of Newhaven, Firle Beacon, Mount Caburn and the Weald
- The contour is such that roads can be made with simple and easy gradients
- It will be possible to connect up with a high level sewer....none of the sewage will require pumping
- Water and gas mains and the electric light cable are easily accessible
- The station is only about a mile and a quarter distant
- Three elementary schools in the neighbourhood
- Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches nearby
- Main bus route between Lewes and Brighton passes the end of Nevill road

“Altogether, therefore, it is felt that no serious disadvantage attaches to the site as regards its position”

## **1890 Housing of the Working Classes Act**

Strengthened the Artisans' Dwellings Act of 1875 which gave powers to local councils to clear slums within their boundaries and to re-house at least half the people displaced by slum clearance. This was the start of councils providing people with houses for rent although few were built before WW1.

## **1919 Addison Housing and Town Planning Act**

Made housing a national responsibility. Local authorities were promised government subsidies to help finance new housing (Homes Fit for Heroes) and rented accommodation where it was needed by working people. As the economy rapidly weakened in the early 1920s, however, funding was cut, and only 213,000 homes were completed under the Act's provisions.

## **1923 Chamberlain Housing Act**

Reduced the housing subsidy to local authorities. Provided subsidies for private companies building affordable housing.. Introduced the Rent Restriction Act, which limited evictions and required rents to be linked to the property's state of repair.

## **1924 Wheatley Financial Provisions Housing Act**

MacDonald dubbed 'our most important legislative item'. Provided public housing to council tenants, as against the previous government's commitment to privatisation. This landmark Act subsidised the construction of 521,700 rented homes at controlled rents by 1933, when the subsidy for encouraging local authority housing construction was abolished

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House. 14. D.  
R. 827  
110 Nov 1920.

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ulars delivered  
14.10.20.

P.D.S.

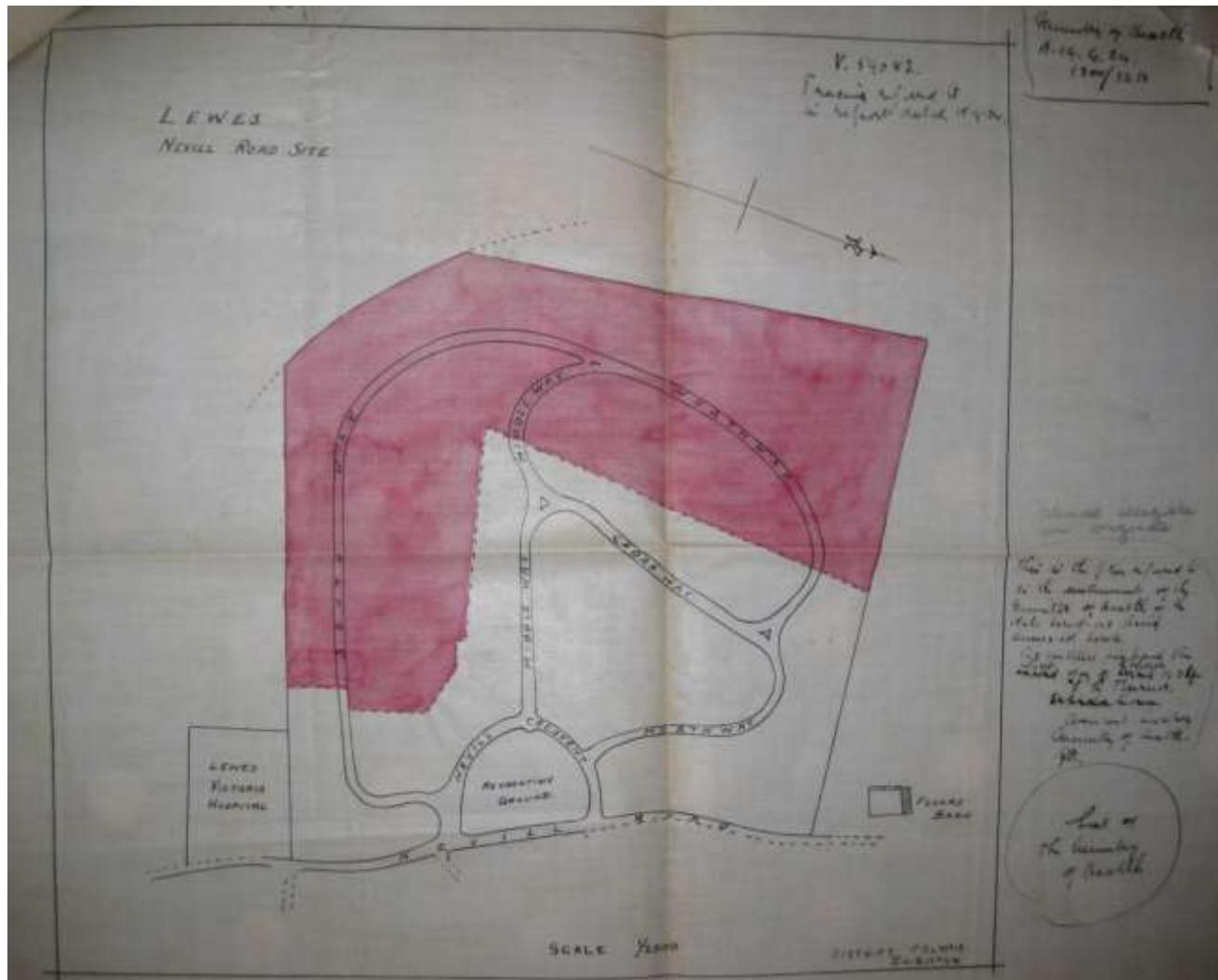
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THIS INDENTURE made the Fifth day of November one Thousand nine hundred and twenty BETWEEN the Most Honourable Reginald William Bransby Marquess of Abergavenny a person of unsound mind as found by Inquisition (hereinafter called the "vendor") acting by The Honourable Henry Gilbert Ralph Nevill of Eridge Castle in the County of Sussex commonly called "Lord Henry Nevill" (hereinafter called "the Committee") pursuant to the hereinafter recited Order of the twenty-sixth day of July one Thousand nine hundred and twenty of the first part The Honourable Richard Plantagenet Nevill of Eridge Castle in the County of Sussex C.V.O.C.M.G., commonly called "Lord Richard Nevill" and The Most Honourable John Charles (Fourth) Marquis Camden (hereinafter called "the Trustees") of the second part and The Mayor Aldermen and Burgessesses of the Borough of Lewes in the County of Sussex acting by the Council being the Urban District Council of the Urban District of Lewes and being the Local Authority for the said District within the meaning of the Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890 (hereinafter called "the Local Authority") of the third part WHEREAS under an Act of Parliament passed in the second and third years of the reign

1938 copy of the agreement made in 1920 between the Abergavenny Estate and the Borough of Lewes. The Borough bought 39 acres of land on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1920 for £1,700 (Between £46 8s 10d and £81 an acre – compares with £1000 acre in Paddock area) for the purposes of Part III of the Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890."

On the 1st October 1924 the Ministry of Health consented to the sale of about 21  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres of this land (pink area) "for the purposes of Part III of the Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890." Council houses were built in both sections.



## THE SITUATION.

## ORBETT FISHER AT UCKFIELD.

## 10 THE WORLD FROM DISASTER.

Goldsmith presided at a meeting the auspices of the local Labour the small Foresters' Hall, Uckfield, on Friday evening. He was supported by Mr. J. Bushy Goddard, and the Mrs. Corbett Fisher (Daughter of the former M.P. for East

Seft Fisher's subject was "The world was dealt with by her in an and lucid manner. The speaker had the last time she was on a Uckfield was during the election when much had happened, she spoke specially to the days of the world had had to reconsider their faith. Their sentiments as a nation burned up by the war, and they

reconsidered the question from a new point of view. Her decision was to leave the Labour Party and to help other parties. They had the world before them. The world, and the more backwarding up behind. At the present could divide the civilized world into camps, the struggle between and labour. They might deplore it unnecessary and disastrous, but admitted it was there. They divided these forces, until they were camps. If they could help the in the right direction they would world from future disaster. They had heavy responsibilities boulders, but she thought they cut on the strong and progressive

ON AND BROTHERHOOD. The nation were the most advanced in the world. The struggle between labour was becoming more bitter. The speaker emphasized the co-operative movement. Instead the breach and incurring blood-they should compromise by linking together against national adversary necessary for their own personal on the labour side in that struggle also the right course to take for of the world. They had never been of Labour Government in this their Government had been record and not progressive. It was to interest to keep the nations of the world, for the benefit of their own. She urged those who were not of the Labour Party to take their soon as possible, and no further of freedom and brotherhood and stood for.

ENEVOLENT SOVIET. with the question of Soviet in, the speaker said she was firmly that the attitude of the Soviet, land was friendly, and that our it and the French Government,

## DIRECT LABOUR.

## LEWES HOUSING SCHEME.

## MAYOR TURNS THE FIRST SOD.

A start was made with the Lewes Housing Scheme on Monday, when the Mayor (Alderman A. E. Rugg) turned the first sod on the Nevill-road site on the spot pegged out for the first two dwellings.

The ceremony was quite an informal one, so much so that the spade with which the operation was performed had to be borrowed. The occasion was a meeting on the site of the Housing Committee, and besides his Worship there were present: Alderman J. H. Every, J.P. (Chairman of the Housing Committee); Councillors J. C. H. Martin, H. Tiller, and E. F. Young, with the Town Clerk (Mr. R. T. Baxter), the Chief Clerk (Mr. W. A. Pollard); Mr. E. H. Fuller (the architect); and Mr. H. Milham (the builder). The Deputy Mayor (Alderman T. G. Roberts), attended by invitation. Councillors C. Patrick and the Borough Surveyor (Mr. D. Roberts) were absent on holiday.

## THE SITE.

The site, which extends to 39 acres, is generally acclaimed as an excellent one, and has been secured on advantageous terms. The purchase price, including the redemption of title, and legal expenses, is £23,325. The negotiations for its acquisition from the Marquis of Abergavenny have been protracted as a result of having had to be conducted through trustees, and it is largely owing to the energies of the Town Clerk and Mr. Pollard that they have been brought to a successful issue. In fact, even now matters in several particulars have been somewhat anticipated to allow a start to be made. The land, which is undulating, adjoins the Victoria Hospital. It lies on an average 200 feet above ordnance datum, and commands views from its highest points of Newhaven, Firle Beacon, Mount Caburn and the Weald. The aspect is due east, and the contour is such that roads can be made with simple and easy gradients. It will be possible to connect up with the high level sewer, and as a consequence none of the sewage will require pumping. Water and gas mains and the electric light cables are easily accessible. The Government subsidy, so far as the Council is concerned, only applies to 162 acres, which are situated more in the valley. The remaining 24 acres are unbeschaffed. The view of the inspector who paid a visit in November was that this portion would not get its proper share of sunshine, and he accordingly ruled it out from the grant. On Monday it was positively bathed in sunshine, and the fact did not pass without comment. To get it at the price at which the transaction was carried through it was necessary to buy the large area, and this was done.

The site is on the outskirts of the town and some criticism has been directed against it on this score. As against this argument, however, it is pointed out that the station is only about a mile and a quarter distant, that there are three elementary schools in the neighbourhood, and Anglican and Roman Catholic churches near by. Further, the main bus route between Lewes and Brighton passes the end of Nevill-road, about 200

## NONCONFORMIST DR.

## DEATH OF DR. ADENEY LEWES.

Nonconformity lost one of its death on Wednesday, at his "The Croft," Southover, Lewes, year, of the Rev. Walter Frederick D.D.

A son of the Manse, late pris Lancashire Independent College, and Chairman of the Congregational in 1912, Dr. Adeney came to Lewes about three years ago. His health frequently failed him, but, although sufferer, he had borne himself fortitude and cheerfulness. Recently he had been able to attend correspondence, and his weekly copy of the "Sunday School Times" he within a few months of his death. Dr. Adeney occasionally presided at Lewes Congregational Church, and gave a series of Bible studies: Y.M.C.A. He was the son of G. J. Adeney, of Reigate, was born and was educated at New College. After working as a Congregationalist at Acton for 17 years, he became of New Testament Exegesis and Theology at New College, London, at Hackney College. Fourteen years was made principal of the Lancashire College and Lecturer in the University of Liverpool. He was a D.D. of St. Andrews. Published many works on the Christian Church and various theological among them being "The New Testament," which has been translated into Japanese. He was author of "The Bible Story" - a Biblical Introduction, and editor of the "Bible."

After Dr. Adeney retired from as principal of the Lancashire College in 1918 he went for a time to world, accompanied by his wife. The account of their travels was subsequently published in book form. For a time before coming to Lewes he lived at Hatch, Tunbridge Wells.

A widow and a family of four three daughters are bereaved.

The funeral takes place at Cemetery to-morrow (Saturday) at 2.30. It is expected that the be taken by Dr. R. F. Horwood, a personal friend of the church they used to attend.

Principal W. H. Bennett, of shire Independent College, died quite recently at the College. Obituary notice immediately published of Dr. Adeney in yesterday's "The

## LEWES FOOTBALL PROSPECTS.

## TOWN TEAM'S FIXTURES.

The Lewes Football Club fixtures

# Sussex Express

## September 3 1920

Alderman Rugg, Mayor of Lewes, presides over the opening ceremony for the Nevill building project.

RED LABOUR MEETING AT LEWES. BA

EEAN

NOT EXTREMISTS.

FA

Presiding at a meeting in the Co-operative Hall, Lewes, on Monday evening, when an exposition of the new Rent Act was given.

Mr. S. E. Plummer, one of the prospective Labour candidates for the municipal elections in November, said tenants had not really the means "of getting correct information from the Town Council as to how much their rents could be increased, whereas landlords are assisted in every possible way."

He wanted to point out to the Lewes town-people how much it would be to their advantage to vote for Labour at the approaching elections, instead of, as they always had done, for the capitalist class, who held sway in the Town Council. Unfortunately both of their present representatives, Councillor H. Tiller and Councillor J. Hills retired in November, but both were standing again, and he hoped they would send them back again with a bumping majority. As was well-known, both had been made J.P.'s during the last 12 months, and he would like to bear witness to the good work done by Councillor Tiller, especially with regard to the Housing scheme.

The Housing scheme, so far as Lewes was concerned, originated with the Trades and Labour Council. The Town Council thought it was not necessary, but the Trades and Labour Council were of a different opinion, and went further into the matter. Eventually the Town Council was forced to adopt a housing scheme for Lewes, which, owing to the endeavours of Councillor Tiller, had been pushed forward to a great extent, and was now, he was happy to say, in the course of operation.

The benefits that would accrue to working men and women by voting Labour were simply enormous. The men on the Town

Sussex Express  
October 1 1920

The prospective Labour candidate, S.E. Plummer, claims Trades and Labour Council had to press Town Council to agree to new Housing Project

ALS.

## "TRAVESTY OF THE TRUTH."

### ALDERMAN EVERY ON LABOUR IMPUTATIONS.

### LEWES HOUSING SCHEME AND ITS HISTORY.

At the meeting of the Town Council on Wednesday evening, Alderman J. H. Every, J.P. (Chairman of the Housing Committee), repudiated the statements, which he described as "an entire travesty of the truth," made at a Labour meeting the previous week, and reported in the "Sussex Express."

#### NOT A MINUTE LOST.

He said he had two newspaper reports (which practically agreed) of the meeting at which the action of the Town Council with regard to housing matters had been somewhat criticised. In one paper, "The Sussex Express," it was stated that the housing scheme, so far as Lewes was concerned, originated with the Trades and Labour Council. The Town Council thought it was not necessary, but the Trades and Labour Council were of a different opinion, and went further into the matter. Eventually the Town Council were forced to adopt a housing scheme for Lewes which—owing to Councillor Tiller—and so on and so on. Alderman Every said he had dates before him which absolutely disproved the remarks he had quoted, and with all the assurance he had, he said, to suggest that the Town Council were in any way backward in coming forward, as Andy Andy put it, was an entire travesty of the truth.

Alderman Every traced the progress of events in detail, and said that from the time when the housing question began to get acute the Council did not lose one single minute in setting to work and getting matters under way. He would like to point out that Councillor Tiller had sat on the Housing Committee ever since he had been on the Council, and he had raised no protest whatever as

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Sussex Express 8 October  
1920

Alderman Every says the Housing Committee "did not lose one single minute in setting to work" on the new Housing Estate and that there had been complete agreement on the committee.

## Ordnance Survey Mapping (supplied under fair dealing)

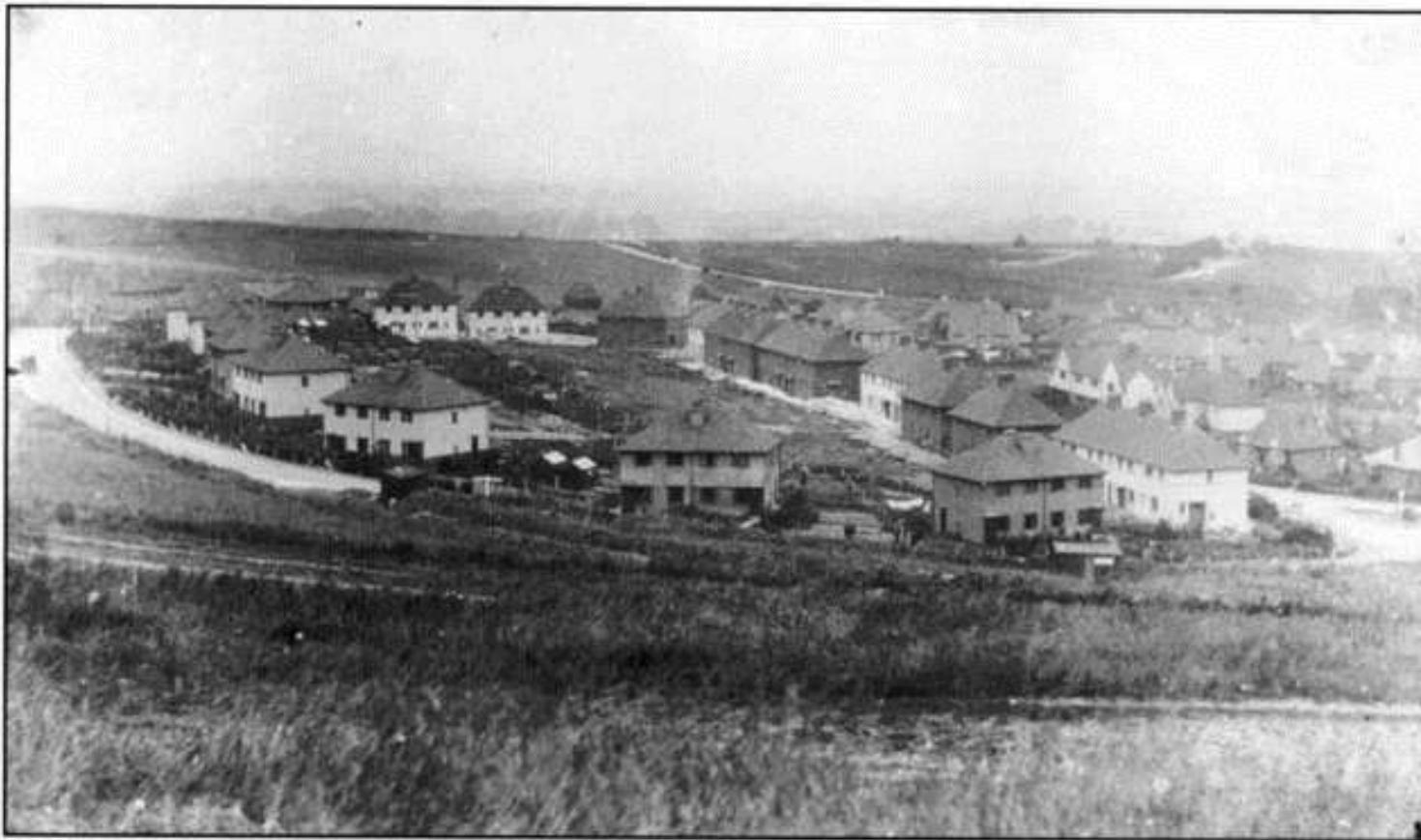


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1930

By 1930 a large part of the estate had already been built

Nevill Crescent from 1922  
North Way from 1922  
South Way from 1924  
Nevill Road from 1922  
Middle Way from 1927  
Cross Way from 1927



Development on the downs. The first houses on the Neville estate – North Way in 1930. To which has since been added South Way, Cross Way, East Way and a whole lot more. The road to the racecourse stands out. Nowadays trees and bushes largely obscure the line of the road. The remaining sheep grazing land, known as Landport Bottom, was ploughed during the Second World War but has now been restored to chalk pasture by Lewes District Council which acquired the land.

James Cheetham photograph from *Lost Lewes* by Kim Clark

- ([The National Archives | Access to Archives](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/access-to-archives)
- www.nationalarchives.gov.uk › ... › [Access to Archives](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/access-to-archives)
- Land (30a) and *Floods Barn* (part of Landport Farm), *Lewes*, sold to John Christie on 16 Aug 1933 for the Nevill Housing Estate ABE/47D 1931 - 1937 ...)

# Nevill Downs Estate – mid 1930s

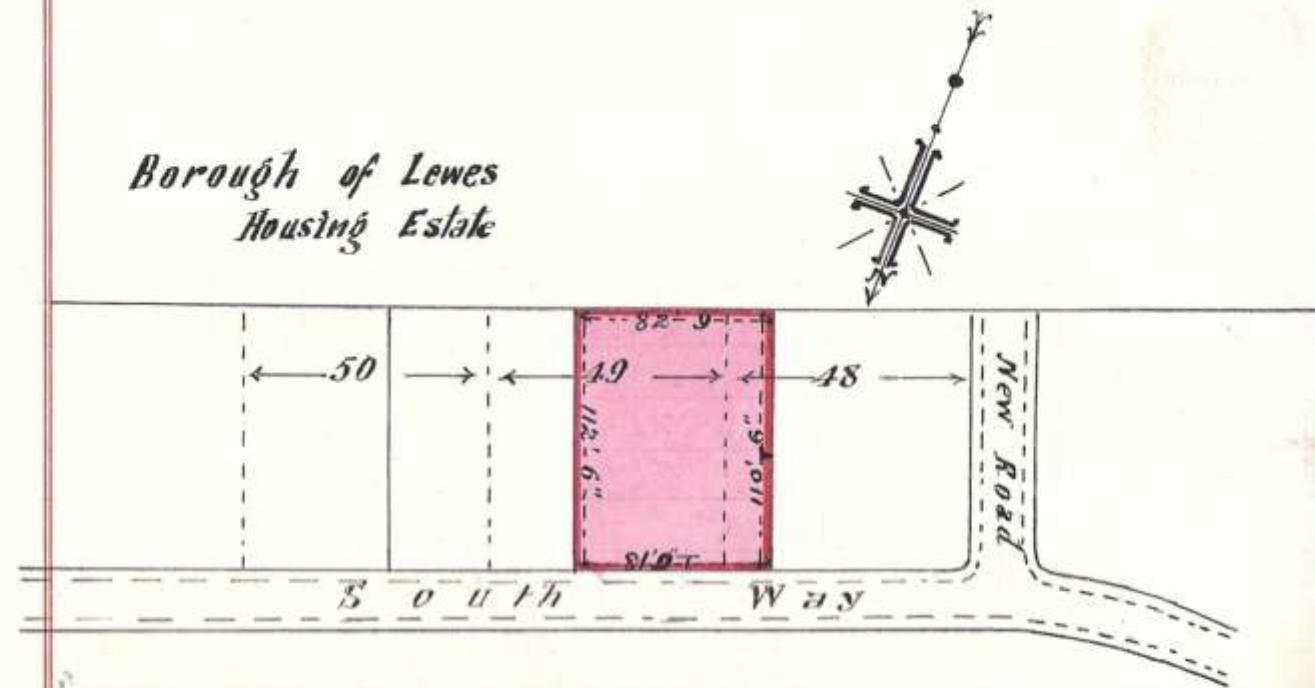


**RESIDENTS OF SOUTH WAY 1924 - 1934**  
**from Pike's Directory for Lewes, Seaford & Newhaven**

Nos. from 1934	House name Named from 1924 to 1934 or as dated	Resident name 1924-5	1927-8	1929-30	1931-32	1932-34	1934-36	1936-38	1938-40
LEFT SIDE									
2	<i>The Gables</i>					Firmin AH	Webster Misses	"	"
4	<i>Rand Cottage</i>	Chandler H J	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
4a	<i>Downland</i>			Carter A	"	"	"	"	?
6	<i>Downsville</i>		Savage Alfred			"	"	"	"
8	<i>Penrith</i>	Gilbertson Mrs A E	"	"	"	"	"	"	No resident
10	<i>Holmbush</i>	Pannett Charles	Pannett C & Son	"	"	No resident	Potter Frank	"	Huck major John OBE MA
12	<i>Laverock</i>		Simpson W E	"	"	dla25/DL/A/25/1099	"	"	"
14	<i>Four Winds</i>			No resident	Skinner Miss E	"	"	"	"
16	<i>The Haven</i>			Sweatman, Albert E	"	"	"	"	"
18	<i>Bellerby Lodge</i>			Gilbert Frank	"	"	"	"	"
20	<i>Rathbarry</i>				Atkin Miss M V W	"	Holdoway Henry R	"	Kitching Laurence Charles
22	<i>Ecila/Elila 1932</i>					Butchers	" (Reginald)	"	"
24	<i>Ramleh 1936</i>					???	Letts F C	" (Fredk Cuthbert)	"
26	<i>Evelyn 1936</i>					Collett E A	Collett E A	"	Auld D M MA
28	<i>Aorangi</i>					Johnston W R S	"	"	"
30	<i>Lamorna 1938</i>						Easton W H	"	Euston Wm Hutton
32	<i>Four Corners 1938</i>						Pickard Mrs E	Bardsley Thomas Reginald	"

Sale of land to first owner of 20 South Way:

Miss Mary Victoria Worthington Atkin



the land to vest in him by virtue of Section 6 (d) of  
Part 2 of the First Schedule to the said Act ~~Act~~ whereas  
the Local Authority have agreed with the Purchaser for the  
sale to her of the piece of land hereinafter described and  
intended to be hereby conveyed for an estate in fee simple  
absolute in possession free from incumbrances subject  
however to the matters covenants restrictions and stipulations  
hereinafter referred to at the price of One hundred and  
twenty five Pounds ~~Now~~ This Deed witnesseth that  
in pursuance of the said agreement

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

- [East Sussex Record Office](#)
- [Lewes Borough Council: building control plans](#)

Reference	dla25/DL/A/25
Former reference	DL/A 25
Covering dates	1882-1948
Held by	<a href="#"><u>East Sussex Record Office</u></a>
Extent	About 2400 files

- 20 South Way, Lewes for Miss M A Worthington Atkin by Messrs Wratten and Godfrey, 18 Queen Anne's Gate, London, architects **dla25/DL/A/25/774 6 Jun 1928**
- Garage, 20 South Way, Lewes for Miss M A W[orthington] Atkin **dla25/DL/A/25/775 6 Jun 1928**

roads and Bridges Committee a free hand to act in the matter. That was six months ago. This week the Roads and Bridges Committee asked the Council to rescind their resolution and take back the powers they gave to the committee. This was done, so there is order once more, and the committee chairman said: "When we have our plans ready they will come up in the ordinary way."

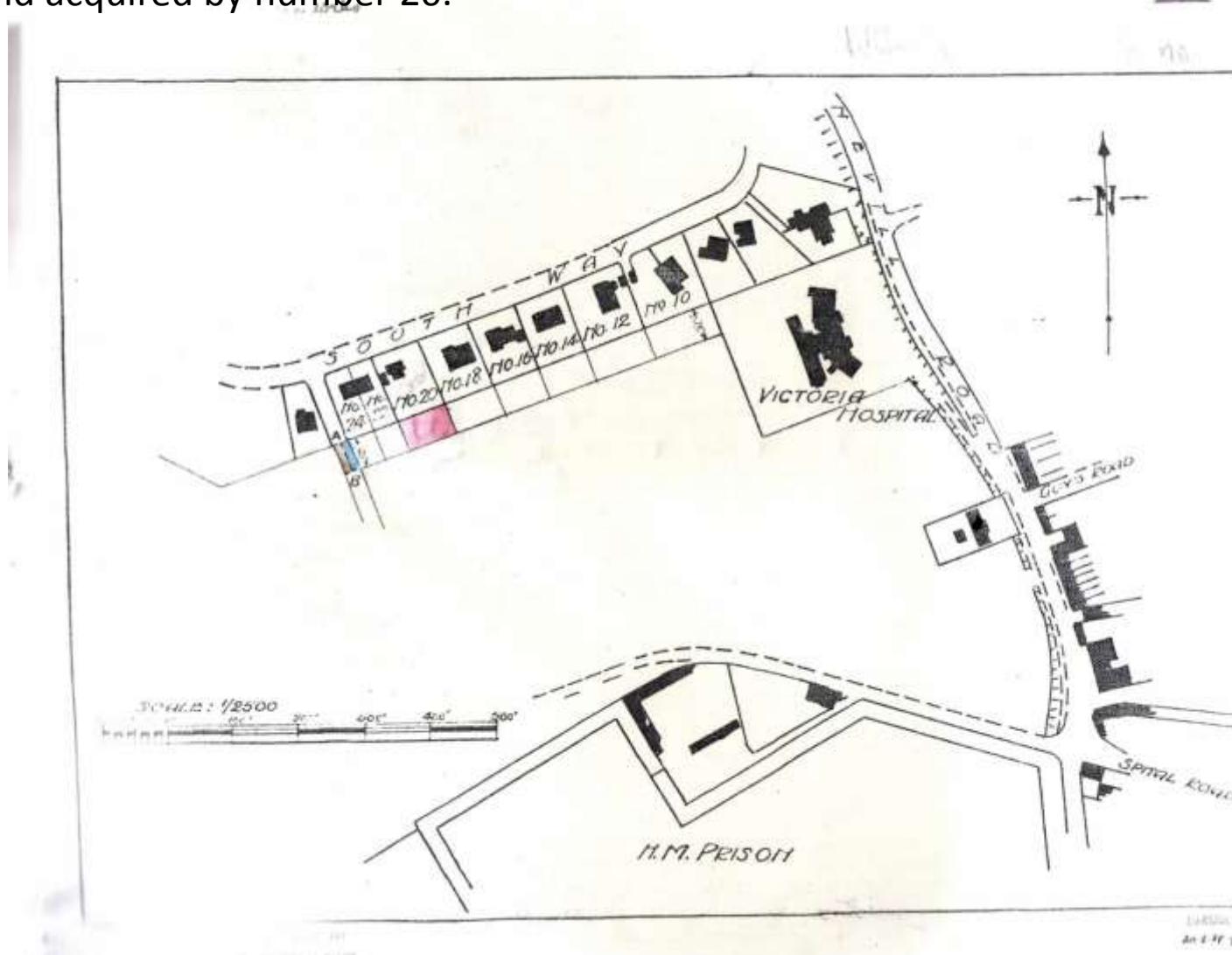
The County Council received a letter from the Lewes Borough Council expressing "considerable apprehension" at the proposal to build cottages for the prison staff in the area between the prison wall and the Brighton-road. Alderman Innes said the cottages would affect very much the appearance of this entrance to the town, and the proposal went clean through the town planning scheme. He appealed to the County Council to do what they could, and the matter was referred to the chairman of the Council, the chairman of the Roads and Bridges Committee and the chairman of the Town Planning Committee with power to act.

Councillor E. T. Hall has started his year as Mayor of the town under a happy augury. In a week of rain and dull, cloudy weather, the sun shone when he was being elected on Saturday morning. It peeped out from behind the clouds to shine on the mayoral procession on its way to church on Sunday morning, and the umbrella that the Mayor carefully

**Sussex Express**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Nov 1935**

Where should  
prison houses be  
built?

Extra land was sold to South Way residents (angered by the proposed construction of houses blocking their view) 18<sup>th</sup> May 1939 on condition they maintained a short stretch of Hawkenbury Way. Later a large communal concrete air-raid shelter was built on the pink area of land acquired by number 20.



Waddington  
Osterholtz

Brachsal  
(Baden)

R. W.

1947

2012/05/07 11:22

Hawkenbury Way before 1983 when houses were being built on the southern side of the road.





Brian Beck in  
front of number 7  
North Way

RIGHT SIDE <b>NORTH WAY</b>	<i>House name Named from 1929 to 1930 or as dated</i>	Resident name 1922-3	1924-5	1927-8	1929-30	1931-32	1932-34	1934-36	1936-38	1938-40
1 (5 in 1922)		Arnold E	Clark George William A	"	"	Jackson Stanley C	"	Lawler Thomas Joseph	"	"
3 (6 in 1922)		Ryder J Howarth professor of music	Butchers G	Butcher Charles	"	Sincock Sydney J	"	"	"	"
5	<i>Launceston</i>				Booth W J	"	"	"	" - William James	"
7	<i>Dilston</i>				Beck W J (check)	Beck T G	"	"	"	"
9	<i>Hillside</i>				Wingfield Ernest	"	"	"	"	"
11	<i>Beaulieu(not 1931))</i>				Wallace William	Beck Mrs A	"	"	"	Micklin J
13	<i>Elsenham '38</i>					Wright A	"	Rowsell RTG	No resident	
15	<i>Netherleigh '38</i>					Coleman The Misses	"	"	"	
17								Seargill Leonard	"	"
19								Williams Frederick Charles	"	Finn Norman Ray
21								Whisker Alfred C	Mansfield Albert Job	Mawford Albert Job " ?
23								Field Hubert George	"	"
25	<i>Slopefield (Plot 13 -Borough Minutes)</i>			<b>dla25/DL/ A/25/742</b> for Mrs Emma Avery	No resident	Avery Ernest	"	"	"	"
27 Archive record	<i>St Valery (from 1927)</i>			Duval	Duval William	No resident	Crotty Mrs C E	<b>"dla25/DL/A /25/1290</b>	"	"
29	<i>Gorselands 1931</i>			<b>dla25/DLA /25/757</b> TE Rawles builder?		Odom W E	"	"	"	"

# Nevill Local History Group

Do you have stories to tell?

Do you have pictures and documents to share?

Would you like to explore the history of your street?

If so please contact us:

<http://leweshistory.org.uk/projects/the-lewes-street-stories-initiative/the-nevill-estate/>