

## **DAVID BURLEY :**

David Burley was born in Greenwich and had a sister Olive, who was 3 years younger than him.

His father worked for Southern Railway at an undesignated job. Mr Burley senior was killed in a railway accident when David was 11 and Olive was 8.

His family went to live in a large house with his grandmother.

David's mother was an excellent dressmaker and ran a dressmaking business from the grandmother's house. She employed several other seamstresses and did many of the designs herself.

David won a scholarship to Goldsmith's Art School. When he left, he went to work for Southern Railway as an Advertising Officer, eventually rising to Manager of this Department. He did paintings for the Railway, travelling all over the country to do his job. He also painted posters and advertisements in books, magazines and newsprint. He also undertook many private commissions such as the Hovis posters, Chessington Zoo posters and advertisement designs for Queen Mary. He was invited to the launch of the great ship at Southampton.

When David married Lorna, they set up home in Blackheath. Then the Second World War started and he joined the Home Guard. He worked on Camouflage Design for the War Office.

He and Lorna did a lot of music for the troops. Lorna also played for the BBC and for Troop Shows. This led them into many art, craft and music circles in the Blackheath area and beyond. They were bombed out twice and in trying to find a safe place to live, they remembered Birchington as a place David had been to in the Scouts as a boy. They came down to the village, liked what they saw and found a large house in Alpha Road (Beaconsfield), which was being converted. They bought the left hand section and moved down with most of his mother's furniture. They travelled to London quite a bit at first, but gradually put down deeper and deeper roots in Birchington, starting an Arts Club and working for Margate Theatre etc.

After the war, he became involved with the All Saints Guild of Players .....