

## **DAVID BURLEY - 1902/1990**

Summary by Janet Denyer – Sept 2014

Born in Greenwich in 1902 Married Lorna and lived in Blackheath.

Studied at Goldsmith's College of Art

Joined Southern Railway as a staff artist His paintings were used in railway carriages and on station platforms to advertise resorts all over the country. The National Railway Museum has a collection of his posters.

Worked on camouflage design for the War Office in WW2

Undertook private commissions such as posters for Hovis, Chessington Zoo and advertisement designs for Cunard's 'Queen Mary'

Designed a map for Whitbread's Brewery showing the inn signs of their public houses in East and West Kent

Exhibited at Royal Academy and Royal Institute of Watercolour Painters

Retired in 1948 when he and his wife Lorna (a professional musician) came to Birchington.

They moved into part of 'Beaconsfield', a large house in Alpha Road.

It was the west side of the 'Beaconsfield' garden which he sold to KCC in 1967 for the new Birchington Library.

A tutor for Galleon Holidays and taught in Adult Education in Thanet

He took groups on painting holidays in England and abroad.

David & Lorna's interest in village life involved them in the Guild of Players, Arts Groups and with Margate Theatre.

He started a fund in 1953 for what he called the 'Village Centre' and designed the building to house it. It was through his initiative that the Quexpo Events from 1970 to 1986 raised funds for the Village Centre to be built in 1974 on ground at the rear of the Library.

Sadly he died in 1990 aged 88, but the legacy left to the village is enormous. In 1994 the large room at the front of the Library was renamed 'The Burley Gallery' in his honour and opened by John Brazier, Head of Arts Promotion, KCC.