

Book Review

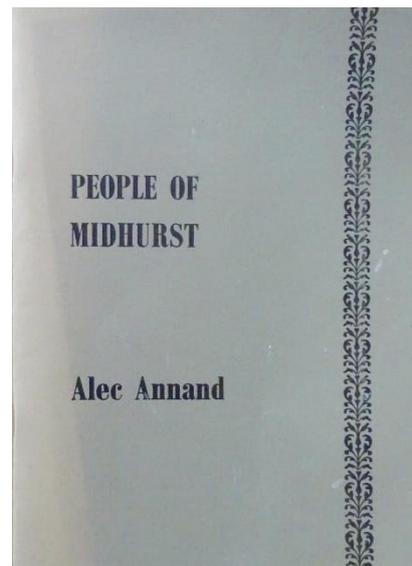
People of Midhurst

by Alec Annand (copyright 1982; no ISBN)

Illustrations by Astri Sharp

This booklet (35 pages) is an affectionate tribute to some of the people of Midhurst “liked and admired” by the author. In his foreword, he says:

“Much complaining is done today – too rarely are people praised or thanked. I hope these few poems may be seen as a small attempt to redress the balance; for we have in Midhurst much to be thankful for.”



The poems are simple in structure – “unpretentious verse” in the author’s own words”. The skilful illustrations convey something of the character as well as physical details. I won’t attempt to reproduce any of the poems, but for the sake of posterity here is a list of the subjects. We would be grateful if anyone can add to what we know of these people.

Mr E Knight, Chairman [of Town Council?]

Douglas Rudwick (Town Clerk)

The Pellings (Douglas & Beryl; reporters with “News” & “Observer”; lived in Lamberts Lane)

The Rushes (Betty & Bernard) (volunteers with MADCA, Weald & Downland Museum & others; lived in Black Lion Cottage, Cocking Causeway)

Mr Whiting (Telecorner and volunteer fireman)

Frank Ede (slow bowler and “the Wonder of Cricket”)

Ronald Pullin (vicar)

“Burly” [Burlington?] (WW1 ambulance driver)

John Allin (“Outfitter Extraordinaire”)

The Melvilles (Aubrey and son George) (Vets)

Ann Marchand (Actress)

John Woodward (MADCA)

Alan Sinclair (farmer, MADCA and Rotarian)

Del Ruinet (craft fair organiser)

Judy Robinson (Gymkhana organiser; lived and had riding stables in Carron Lane)

Martin Aukland (the first Day Centre manager at The Grange) (“Died far too young”) (lived in Petersfield Road near end of Carron Lane)

Mr Philip Mitchell MBE (street cleaner)

Leonard [Quinnell?] (Lenny the Lion?) (“My alarm clock each morning in North Street with his whistling”) (“Watcha Lenny”) (“I’ll meet yer at the pond ha’past 8”))”Where’s yer manners, Lenny” (Lived in Budgenor Lodge?)



Ladies of the Church

Marjorie Remington (Poet, producer, actor, organiser of theatre trips)

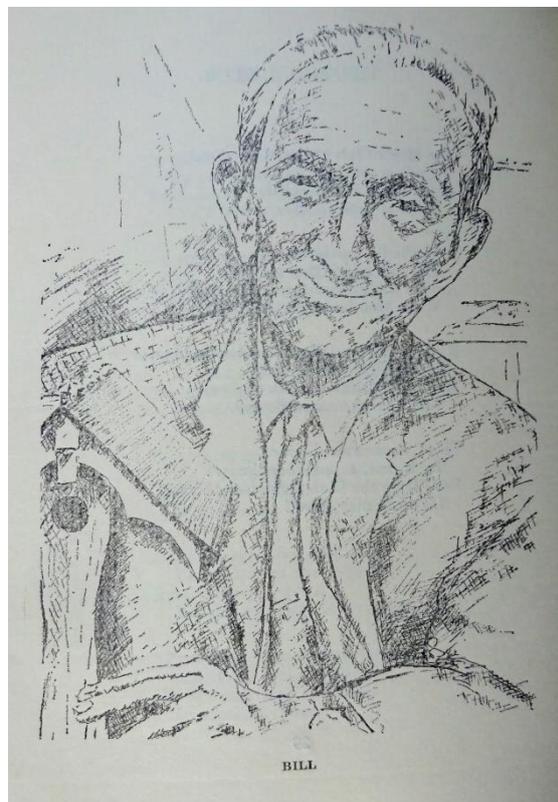
Bill Sims (tractor expert)

Mr Turner (butcher)

Ted [?] (traffic warden)

Harvey Tordoff, Midhurst, 22 February 2022

MADCA = Midhurst & District Community Association?



With thanks to Astri Sharp for permission to reproduce her drawings.