

# MORLEY

## LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY Newsletter

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Founded 1965

[www.morleylhs.btck.co.uk](http://www.morleylhs.btck.co.uk)



### Tonight

A warm welcome to our Christmas meeting. Also to our speaker Eric Scaiffe who will be entertaining us with some 'Tyke Talk'. Eric has not visited us before but the reputable word is that his talk will be a mix of Yorkshire dialect, tradition, folklore, history and humour - something to gladden our hearts, I'm sure.

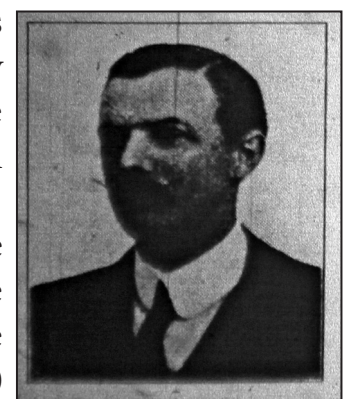
As is our custom, you are invited to take a drink beforehand and the break-time coffee or tea is free. We thank Peter and Christine for continuing to give us such wonderful fare.

### The Last meeting

Ken Cothliff gave us an extremely fluent and detailed talk on the History of Yeadon Airport. As they say, and it's true in this case, I think: what Ken does not know about Yeadon is hardly worth knowing. Though perhaps he might disagree with that as I was most impressed with the matter of fact way he presented his knowledge with the help of slides. It was really quite marvellous, the way he picked out the details on the photographs he presented. The many changes in the landscape as the airport has expanded were related to present day features and he told us of the extensive network of folks who have developed it, clearly knowing many of them personally. Thank you, Ken.

### Edwin Gentry and the Great War

One hundred years ago, the war was very much on people's minds with no end in sight and the Morley Observer was giving Casualty data every single week. We are keeping a record of these and, as I've already indicated, we are storing them locally and on the Imperial War Museum site. Over 250 names are now stored on the latter. One man who preceded us, Edwin Gentry, the Librarian of the Borough from 1906 to 1940, made, in conjunction with his wife Frances, a massive Roll of Honour containing the names of all the men who had left Morley to fight. We are told it contained 3000 names. Sadly we do not know what became of it, despite extensive searches. Our own records are of the order of 1500.



*Edwin James Gentry  
(1880-1940)*

In December 1917 Edwin himself was in Beckett's Park Hospital in Leeds, recovering from wounds received in the conflict. He appealed to the people of Morley for a piano or a record player for his ward because the inmates had no other form of entertainment. I don't know if this wish was fulfilled but Morley preferred to fund Leeds hospitals at this time rather than that at Dewsbury. Since Morley was part of the Dewsbury Union this did cause it to have unpleasant publicity from other towns in this area.

## The McCutcheons and the Clarkes

Recently, Robert McCutcheon, the son of Dr Gregory and Moira has lent me some family photos and documents which give us insight into the family and the work that they did in looking after people's health.

As some of you will remember, Robert's father held his surgery at Brean Down, High Street for many years. However, the surgery dated back to the very early 1890s when Dr Arthur Clarke moved here from Street in Somerset. Brean Down is a beauty spot close to Street.



*Brean Down in High Street*

Arthur Clarke was the brother of John Chaundy Clarke, another doctor in Morley, who came to the town in the 1860s and whose son, Travers and grand-daughter Ella also became local doctors. In the mid 1890s Arthur was joined, in his practice, by Dr William Robert Clarke, recently qualified and born in Ireland. As far as both Robert, Julie Heeley and I can tell there is no family connection between the two men.

In 1908, Arthur Clarke left the practise due to ill health and his place was taken by Dr William Thomas McCutcheon, recently qualified, who moved into Brean Down where he remained all his life. He quickly settled into the practice and was one of the first Morley doctors to buy and use a car, a Renault. I suspect that the model shown above was one of his later cars.

In the early days his surgery was only open two hours a day. However his records show that he would make many visits to folks' homes. For instance we know that he made 17 visits on Saturday, 3-February-1912 and 6 on the next day, a Sunday. Each patient paid him 2s-6d (12.5p).

He married Elizabeth Florence Clarke, the daughter of his older partner, on 23-July-1914 in St Paul's Church, Morley. They honeymooned in Eastbourne and very shortly afterwards Britain declared war on Germany. Dr McCutcheon served with the RAMC from mid 1916 and we note that Dr Clarke died in December 1917. The strain on local medical services during the War were great indeed as these men were not easily replaced, if at all, at the time.



*The groom is in the middle of the 2nd row.  
Dr W.R. Clarke is at the end of this row and  
his wife is to the left of the bride.*

Dr McCutcheon became deeply involved in local affairs and he was a member of the Borough Council from 1925-1933, taking particular responsibility for local health matters. He and his wife had three children with Dr. Gregory succeeding him at Brean Down. I am reliably informed that Dr. Gregory would often work until 10pm in his surgery but he still maintained his interest in local history and church affairs.

## The Society Trip

As yet, no firm plans have been made for the Society trip but, be assured, it is to go ahead. The initial plan is to visit Lincolnshire and Robert is looking for two suitable venues. We have had good success in this area previously and he is confident that he can make arrangements which would cost no more than £24. It will be on Sunday 3-June.

Finally, the Committee and I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas time and Peaceful New Year.

**Clive McManus**