Author, playwright, journalist, composer and public speaker. One of the 1920's original “Bright Young Things”.
Beaverly Nichols

Author, playwright, journalist, composer and public speaker. One of the 1920’s original “Bright Young Things”.
Beverley Nichols

He was a socialite surrounded by a constellation of the brightest stars of the first half of the twentieth century. His inner circle included the aristocracy, giants of commerce, stars of the stage and screen and the leading creatives of his age. Blessed with a talent that delivered success in multiple disciplines in the arts, Nichols remained a bona fide celebrity for his entire adult life. Yet, despite the acclaim he enjoyed, the fame of Beverley Nichols has dimmed in the years following his death in 1983.

Now 120 years after his birth, inspired by his fascinating and often contradictory life, individuals from both sides of the Atlantic are collaborating on a project to reintroduce Mr. Nichols to a modern audience. We invite you to join us!
Thank you to Eric Glass Ltd and Mr. Roy C. Dicks.
If walls could talk

Although the cottage is a private home and is not open to the public, in 2018 the owners allowed a photographer to take pictures of the famous ‘autograph wall, offering a fascinating glimpse into a bygone age of celebrity at the place that inspired the Glatton trilogy.

See the wall
Beverley Nichols
Meet the man himself.

Chronology
Key events in the life of Beverley Nichols.

Beverley Nichols Weekend
Learn more about Glatton’s Beverley Nichols Weekend.

The wall at Allways
Explore the famous autographed wall at Allways cottage in Glatton.
Heritage Open Days is co-ordinated and promoted nationally by the National Trust with funding by players of People’s Postcode Lottery, and run locally by a large range of organisations (including civic societies, heritage organisations, and local councils, community champions and thousands of enthusiastic volunteers).

**Beverley Nichols Weekend**

Heritage Open Days is England’s biggest and most popular heritage festival. It enables people to see and visit thousands of places that are normally closed to the public or charge for admission. It happens every year over four days in September and is a great chance to explore local history and culture. By opening doors, we hope to open people’s eyes and minds.

The Beverley Nichols Weekend has been planned to celebrate and commemorate the life of Glatton’s most famous resident on the 120th anniversary of his birth. Despite his prodigious creative output and position at the very centre of high society in the twenties and thirties, the memory of Beverley Nichols has faded in the public consciousness. In September 2018, the
parish of Glatton and the Fenland Trust plan to rekindle interest in the life of a man who rubbed shoulders with the luminaries of his age in the place that he loved most; Glatton.

free to explore

The seed of a blue lupin will usually produce a blue lupin. But the seed of a blue-eyed man may produce a brown-eyed bore...especially if his wife has a taste for gigolos.

Beverley Nichols
Down the Garden Path
Councillor Tim Alban on the Beverley Nichols project

Mar 17, 2018

Stilton resident and Huntingdonshire District Councillor Tim Alban is a keen supporter of local heritage. Tim represents the District on the Great Fen steering group, one of Europe’s most ambitious landscape reclamation projects, which has an important heritage...
The Parish of Glatton

The Fenland Trust

Sawtry History Society

University of Reading
University of Delaware

Penguin Random House

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Beverley Nichols – Overview of Life and Works

9th September 1898 – 15th September 1983
by Roy C Dicks

Hailed as one of the original “Bright Young Things” of the 1920s, prolific English author Beverley Nichols wrote more than 60 books, including novels, children’s books, mysteries, short stories and poetry, as well as works on travel, politics, religion, celebrity profiles, cats and gardening. His popular and often news-making books were published regularly throughout six decades, with his last published a year before his death at age 85. He also authored plays, composed songs for musical revues and wrote weekly essay columns for major newspapers and magazines.

His most enduring successes, however, were his books on gardens and homes. The first, and best known, “Down the Garden Path,” was published in 1932 and became an instant best seller on both sides of the Atlantic. It came about from his 1928 purchase of a thatched cottage in the village of Glatton, Cambridgeshire for a weekend home away from the bustle of London. Knowing nothing about gardening, he set out to learn, making the mistakes and discoveries common to all first-time gardeners. The public’s enthusiastic response to this whimsical recounting of his education compelled Nichols to write two more books on his Glatton experiences, “A Thatched Roof” (1933) and “A Village in a Valley” (1934), known collectively as “The Allways Chronicles” also referred to as “The Glatton Trilogy”.

Nichols was always on the lookout for “the next big thing,” leading him to write on the widest range of subjects, from parapsychology to pacifism and from Christianity to cats. Because of this diversity, the literary establishment often criticized Nichols for a lack of focus and higher purpose. Indeed, much of his writing was of the moment and must be read in that context. But the garden writings, along with certain fiction and autobiographical works, remain timeless, delighting each new reader with their charm, warmth and humor.

Since 1930 until his death in 1983, Nichols lived with his long-term partner, Cyril Butcher.
Beverley Nichols’ Desert Island Discs

Mon 21st November 1955. Roy Plomley’s castaway was writer and journalist Beverley Nichols.

Jeanne Demessieux
(1921-1968)
Fantasie in A

Nellie Melba (1861-1931)
Depuis Le Jour

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)
Der Hölle Rache (from The Magic Flute), Soloist: Foster Jenkins, Cosme Mcmoon

François Couperin
(1668-1733)
Les Ondes, Soloist: Ruggero Gerlin

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)
Violin Concerto in B minor, Soloist: Yehudi Menuhin Orchestra: London Symphony Orchestra

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)
Frederick Delius (1862-1934)
The Walk to the Paradise Garden (from A Village Romeo and Juliet), Orchestra: Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Conductor: Thomas Beecham

Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943)
Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Soloist: Benno Moiseiwitsch Orchestra: Philadelphia Orchestra

Twenties Party Aka Beverley Nichols (1958)

Ripples of Prosperity by Beverley Nichols (from 'Milestone...
https://youtu.be/IG8uWs2yEfk


The Parish of Glatton

The Fenland Trust

Sawtry History Society
Beverley Nichols lived at Allways, a thatched cottage in Glatton, between 1928 and 1937. Here Nichols wrote his trilogy of books Down the Garden Path, A Thatched Roof, and A Village in a Valley.

The Allways Chronicles
(Glatton Trilogy)
Down the Garden Path 1932

The story of the restoration of a neglected cottage garden to the idyllic state of the author’s memory. Nichols undertakes the long process of restoring and designing the garden at Allways, Huntingdonshire as a self-confessed amateur with little or no knowledge of horticulturalism, having been seduced by the vibrant illustrations of bulb catalogues and the hazy ideal of the cottage garden.
A Thatched Roof 1933
A Village in a Valley 1934
The Parish of Glatton
The Fenland Trust

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University of Delaware

Penguin Random House
Beverley Nichols Chronology 1898-1983

(with grateful thanks to Roy C Dicks)

1898

1917
Inducted into the Labour Corps, a non-combat Army division.
1918

Invited on an academic junket to America with a Cambridge contingent – met with President Wilson and visited many US cities.

1919

Entered Oxford – became editor of The Isis and started a new magazine, the Oxford Outlook; had article published in the New York Post.
1920

Prelude, a novel is published. Elected president of the Oxford Union, graduates with a BA.

1921

1922


1923

Writes series of short stories for London Daily News under the title Little Tales. They are published by the Daily News in 2 booklets with 30 stories in each.
1924

Travels to Australia to work with Nellie Melba on her opera tour and to ghostwrite her autobiography. Hired Arthur R. Gaskin as his manservant (served him until his death in 1966).

1925

Melodies and Memories published (autobiography of Melba ghostwritten by Beverley Nichols).
1926

Writes a series of character portrait articles for London glossy magazine, The Sketch, which are later published as Are They the Same at Home?). Twenty-five, an autobiography is published.

1927

1928

1929

The Stag, a play by Nichols, opens in London.

1931

1932

Avalanche, a play by Nichols opens in London. Down the Garden Path, a novel about gardening is published. For Adults Only, a satire is published. Begins weekly articles for London Sunday Chronicle through 1943. Continues to write occasional articles through 1947. Evensong, the novel is published. Evensong, the play, opens in London on June 30th.
1933

When the Crash Comes, a play by Nichols, opens in London. Puck at Brighton, a tourists guide to Brighton is published. A Thatched Roof, a novel about gardening, is published. Failures: Three Plays is published. Cry Havoc!, a political novel, is published.
1934

A Village in a Valley, a novel about gardening is published. A Book of Old Ballads, a literary research is published. Evensong, the film, opens.

1935

How Does Your Garden Grow?, a collection of radio talks, is published.
1936

Purchased house at One Ellerdale Close, Hampstead. The Fool Hath Said, a religious novel is published. No Place Like Home, a collection of travel writings is published.

1937

Floodlight, a musical revue by BN, opened in London. Thatch Cottage in Glatton is put up for sale in September, mostly due to the loss of a £3000 investment in Floodlight – bought by the Hollingsworths of Blackpool. Mesmer, a play by Nichols is published.
1938
Mesmer, the play, is produced in London. News of England, a political book is published.

1939
Green Grows the City, a novel about gardening, is published. Revue, a novel, is published. Buys Butcher’s Barn, Danehill (near Haywards Heath) to escape London during the war.

1941
Men Do Not Weep, a collection of short stories, is published. Sells Butcher’s Barn and moves back into Ellersdale Close.

1944
Verdict on India, a political commentary, is published.
1945

Purchases Merry Hall in Ashtead, Surrey. Sells house at One Ellerdale Close, Hampstead. The Tree That Sat Down, a children’s novel, is published.
1946

Begins writing weekly column for Woman’s Own. Continued through 1967.
1948

The Stream That Stood Still, a children’s novel, is published.

1949

All I Could Never Be, an autobiography, is published. Shadow of the Vine, a play by Nichols is published. Yours Sincerely, a collections of magazine articles, is published.
1950

The Mountain of Magic, a children’s novel is published. Uncle Samson, a political book, is published.
1951

Merry Hall, a novel about gardening, is published.
1952

A Pilgrim’s Progress, a religious novel, is published. Attends Queen Elizabeth II’s coronation as one of the few newspaper reporters granted access. Commemorative booklet Queen’s Coronation Day in 1953 is published.
1953

Laughter on the Stairs, a novel about gardening is published. Evensong, is produced for TV as a musical.
1954

No Man’s Street, a mystery is published. Shadow of the Vine, a play by Nichols’, opens in London.

1955

The Moonflower, a mystery is published. Beverley Nichols’ Cat Book, a collection of cat photographs, is published.
1956

Sunlight on the Lawn, a novel about gardening, is published. Death to Slow Music, a mystery, is published. Merry Hall is sold. Nichols’ moves into the cottage on the grounds of Merry Hall for a few months, then to a ground floor flat in a house on Fitzjohns Ave, Hampstead.

1957

The Rich Die Hard, a mystery, is published.
1958

Purchases Sudbrook Cottage, Ham, Surrey in the Summer. Shadow of the Vine, is produced for television. The Sweet and Twenties, an autobiography is published.

1960

Murder by Request, a mystery is published. Beverley Nichols’ Cats A.B.C. is published.
1961

Beverley Nichols’ Cats X.Y.Z. is published.

1963

Garden Open Today, a novel about gardening is published.

1964

Forty Favorite Flowers, a book about gardening is published.
1966

Gaskin dies of cirrhosis of the liver brought on by alcoholism. A Case of Human Bondage, an autobiography, is published. Powers That Be, a book on parapsychology, is published.

1967

Art of Flower Arrangement, a book on garden writing is published.
1968

Garden Open Tomorrow, a novel about gardening is published.

1969

The Sun in My Eyes, a travel book is published.
1971

The Wickedest Witch in the World, a children’s novel is published. Gift of a Garden, a condensed version of the “Allways Chronicles” also known as the “Glatton Trilogy”, is published.

1972

Gift of a Home, a condensed version of the Merry Hall trilogy, is published. Father Figure, an autobiography, is published.
1974

Down the Kitchen Sink, an autobiography, is published.

1977

Beverley Nichols’ Cats A to Z a compilation of the previous Cats books into one volume is published.

1978

The Unforgiving Minute, an autobiography is published.
1982
Twilight, a collection of poems, is published.

1983
Fiftieth anniversary edition of Down the Garden Path published with new preface by Beverley Nichols.
Beverley Nichols 1983

Beverley Nichols dies from complication due to a fall on 15th September. His funeral service was held at St Andrews’ Church on Ham Common and he was cremated at Mortlake Crematorium. His ashes were later scattered in the grounds of St Nicholas’ Churchyard in Glatton where he was finally laid to rest within sight of his beloved Tudor cottage now known as “Allways”.
The Parish of Glatton

The Fenland Trust

Sawtry History Society

University of Reading
Beverley Nichols Weekend

The Beverley Nichols Weekend has been planned to celebrate and commemorate the life of Glatton’s most famous resident on the 120th anniversary of his birth. Despite his prodigious creative output and position at the very centre of high society in the twenties and thirties, the memory of Beverley Nichols has faded in the public consciousness. In September 2018, the parish of Glatton and the Fenland Trust plan to rekindle interest in the life of a man who rubbed shoulders with the luminaries of his age in the place that he loved most; Glatton.

Glatton

Glatton is a village and civil parish in Cambridgeshire, England. Glatton lies approximately 8 miles south-west of Peterborough, near to the villages of Conington, Yaxley and Stilton.

Weekend Events
Village Hall

Roaring 20’s/30’s function Friday 7th September. Literary exhibition of the work & life of Beverley Nichols with classic car show Sunday 9th September.

St Nicholas’ Church

Service of commemoration and unveiling of a memorial to Beverley Nichols with the Fenland Trust. Sunday 9th September.
St Nicholas is part of the Diocese of Ely. The church is mentioned in the 1086 Domesday book however none of the original building now remains. A notable feature of the church is its tower which was built in about 1500 AD.

Addison Arms Beer Festival

Courtesy of landlady Ruth & landlord Ray Groves. Celebrate at the Addison Arms, Glatton with a pint of handcrafted “Beverley Nichols” ale by Angles Ales. Bottles of the commemorative ale will be available to purchase and take away. Friday 7th to Sunday 9th September.

The Addison Arms has stood in the village of Glatton since the beginning of the 18th century and is named after playwright Joseph Addison, a relative of first landlord Peter Addison who built the pub after a tavern that had initially stood on the site was demolished.

It has Dutch influences in its architecture and has a notable spine-beam which was common in 18th century buildings. Although extended to the rear in relatively-recent times, the pub still retains its original silhouette.

We both know, you and I, that if all men were gardeners, the world at last would be at peace.

Beverley Nichols
Green Grows the City: The Story of a London Garden
The Parish of Glatton

The Fenland Trust

Sawtry History Society

University of Reading

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Bibliography
by Roy C. Dicks

To go to the greenhouse when the weather is wild, to close the door, to stand and listen to the wind outside, to the rain that slashes the frail roof, to see, through the misted glass, the black, storm-tossed branches of distant elms, to take a deep breath, to savour to the full the strange and almost uncanny peace which this frail tenement creates ... to me this is one of the truest joys which life has given

Beverley Nichols
Down the Garden Path

Novels

- Prelude (Chatto and Windus 1920)
- Patchwork (Chatto and Windus 1921; Holt 1922)
- Self (Chatto and Windus 1922)
- Crazy Pavements (Jonathan Cape 1927; Doran 1927)
- Evensong (Jonathan Cape 1932; Doubleday 1932)
- Revue (Jonathan Cape 1939; Doubleday 1939)

Mysteries

- No Man's Street (Hutchinson 1954; Dutton 1954)
- The Moonflower (Hutchinson 1955; Dutton 1955 as The Moonflower Murder)
- Death to Slow Music (Hutchinson 1956; Dutton 1956)
- The Rich Die Hard (Hutchinson 1957; Dutton 1958)
- Murder by Request (Hutchinson 1960; Dutton 1960)

Children's Novels
The Tree That Sat Down (Jonathan Cape 1945)*
The Stream That Stood Still (Jonathan Cape 1948)*
The Mountain of Magic (Jonathan Cape 1950)
The Wickedest Witch in the World (W. H. Allen 1971)

*These two titles were published in one volume by St. Martin’s in 1966.

**Autobiographies**

- Twenty-Five (Jonathan Cape 1926; Doran 1926)
- All I Could Never Be (Jonathan Cape 1949; Dutton 1952)
- The Sweet and Twenties (Weidenfeld and Nicolson 1958)
- A Case of Human Bondage (Secker and Warburg 1966; Award Books 1966)
- Father Figure (Heinemann 1972; Simon and Schuster 1972)
- Down the Kitchen Sink (W. H. Allen 1974)
- The Unforgiving Minute (W. H. Allen 1978)

**Gardens and Homes**

- Down the Garden Path (Jonathan Cape 1932; Doubleday 1932)*
- A Thatched Roof (Jonathan Cape 1933; Doubleday 1933)*
- A Village in a Valley (Jonathan Cape 1934; Doubleday 1934)*
- Green Grows the City (Jonathan Cape 1939; Harcourt 1939)
- Merry Hall (Jonathan Cape 1951; Dutton 1953)†
- Laughter on the Stairs (Jonathan Cape 1953; Dutton 1954)†
- Sunlight on the Lawn (Jonathan Cape 1956; Dutton 1956)‡
- Garden Open Today (Jonathan Cape 1963; Dutton 1963)‡
- Forty Favourite Flowers (Studio Vista 1964; St. Martin’s 1965)‡
- Garden Open Tomorrow (Heinemann 1968; Dodd 1969)‡
- The Art of Flower Arrangement (Collins 1967; Viking 1967)

*These three titles form the Allways trilogy about Nichols’s Tudor cottage in Glatton, Cambridgeshire. The Gift of a Garden, a condensation of the three, along with a new introduction by Nichols, was published by W. H. Allen in 1971 and Dodd in 1972.

** A collection of four radio essays by Nichols plus essays by Compton Mackenzie, Marion Cran, and Vita Sackville-West.

†These three titles form the Merry Hall trilogy about Nichols’s Georgian manor house in Ashtead, Surrey. The Gift of a Home, a condensation of the three, along with a new introduction by Nichols, was published by W. H. Allen in 1972 and Dodd in 1973.

‡These three titles form the Sudbrook trilogy about Nichols’s late-eighteenth-century attached cottage in Richmond, Surrey.

**Politics**
• Cry Havoc! (Jonathan Cape 1933; Doubleday 1933)
• News of England; or a Country without a Hero (Jonathan Cape 1938; Doubleday 1938)
• Verdict on India (Jonathan Cape 1944; Harcourt 1944)
• Uncle Samson (Evans 1950)

Religion
• The Fool Hath Said (Jonathan Cape 1936; Doubleday 1936)
• A Pilgrim’s Progress (Jonathan Cape 1952)

Travel
• No Place Like Home (Jonathan Cape 1936; Doubleday 1936)
• The Sun in My Eyes (Heinemann 1969)

Short Stories
• Women and Children Last (Jonathan Cape 1931; Doubleday 1931)
• Men Do Not Weep (Jonathan Cape 1941; Harcourt 1942)

Drama
• Failures (Jonathan Cape 1933)
  A collection of three plays: The Stag, Avalanche, and When the Crash Comes.
• Evensong (Samuel French 1933)
  Written with Edward Knoblock.
• Mesmer (Jonathan Cape 1937)
• Shadow of the Vine (Jonathan Cape 1949)

Miscellaneous
• Memories and Melodies (Thornton Butterworth 1925; G. H. Doran 1926)
  Nichols ghostwrote this “autobiography” of Dame Nellie Melba. The 1980 reissue of this title in
  Australia (Thomas Nelson) and in London (HamishHamilton) acknowledged Nichols’s authorship.
• The Valet As Historian (R.W. Forsyth 1926?)
  A customer premium for the R.W. Forsyth “Shop For Men” in London.
• Are They the Same at Home? (Jonathan Cape 1927; Doran 1927)*
• The Star-Spangled Manner (Jonathan Cape 1928; Doubleday 1928)*
  “These two books of celebrity sketches were published, together with Twenty-Five, as Oxford–London–
  New York by Jonathan Cape in 1931, with a new introduction by Nichols.
• For Adults Only (Jonathan Cape 1932; Doubleday 1933)
  A satire on parental advice manuals.
• Puck at Brighton: The Official Handbook of the County Borough of Brighton (Brighton Corporation
  Publicity Committee 1933)
Annual tourist guide to which Nichols heavily contributed.

- A Book of Old Ballads (Hutchinson 1934)
  Compiled and annotated by Nichols.
- A Stream and Its Source (Edinborough & Co. 1935)
  A customer premium for the Dexter line of tailored men’s clothing.
- The Living and the Dead: An Essay on Indian Art (Thacker [Bombay] 1944)
- Yours Sincerely (George Newnes 1949)
  A collection of Nichols’s columns from the popular weekly Woman’s Own, including those by fellow columnist Monica Dickens.
- The Queen’s Coronation Day: The Pictorial Record of the Historic Occasion, with the Eyewitness Account of Her Majesty’s Crowning (Pitkin Pictorials 1953)
- Beverley Nichols’ Cat Book (Thomas Nelson 1955)
- Beverley Nichols’ Cats’ A. B. C. (Jonathan Cape 1960; Dutton 1960)*
- Beverley Nichols’ Cats’ X. Y. Z. (Jonathan Cape 1961; Dutton 1961)
  “These two titles were published together as Beverley Nichols’ Cats’ A to Z in 1977 by W. H. Allen.
- Powers That Be (Jonathan Cape 1966; St. Martin’s 1966)
  An overview of paranormal phenomena.
- Twilight: First and Probably Last Poems (Bachman and Turner 1982)

### Books introduced or prefaced by Nichols

- The Faro Table, or The Gambling Mothers by Charles Sedley (Nash and Grayson 1931)
- The Making of a Man: Letters from an Old Parson to His Sons by Albert Victor Baillie (Nicolson and Watson 1934)
- In Extremis: Worst Moments in the Lives of the Famous by Cyril Butcher (Hutchinson 1934)
  Nichols is also featured in one chapter.
- Ye Sundial Booke by T. Geoffrey W. Henslow (Foyle 1935)
  A collection of sundial mottos and verses.
- How to Do the Flowers by Constance Spry (Dent 1953)
- Cats in Camera by Jan Styczynski (Deutsch 1962)
- In an Eighteenth Century Kitchen: A Receipt Book of Cookery, 1698 (Woolf 1968)
  A reprint of the original that Nichols found boarded up in his Glatton cottage and described in A Thatched Roof.
- So Brief a Dream by Rafaelle, Duchess of Leinster (W. H. Allen 1973; John Day 1973 as The Dutchess from Brooklyn)
- All About Cats (Orbis 1975)
- Jam Tomorrow: Some Early Reminiscences by Basil Bartlett (Elek 1978)

### Published music and lyrics

Published by Warner-Chappell:

- From Cochran’s 1930 Revue: “Selection,” “The Little Things You Do,” “Since Eros Went Away”
- Cabaret number “My Heart Is Out of Work” (1934)
- From TV Production of Evensong (1953): “The Song of the Willow”

Published by Lawrence Wright Music:
- Cabaret number “Another One Gone” (1935)
- Included in Father Figure (1972): “Piano Etude”

**Recorded music**

- Selection from Cochran’s 1930 Revue, including “The Little Things You Do,” piano solos by Billy Mayerl, Columbia DB 117.
- “The Little Things You Do” was also recorded by Leslie “Hutch” Hutchinson, on Parlophone R 639
- “The Little Things You Do” was included in the 1986 LP and the 1990 CD The Song Is – Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart, Living Era AJA 5041. It was incorrectly attributed.
- Piano selection from Floodlight (1938) played by Beverley Nichols, HMV BC 443.
  Also from this revue: “Artificial Flowers,” sung by Frances Day, and “Little White Room,” sung by John Mills and Frances Day, HMV B 8590. This song was included in the 1970 LP Revue 1930-1940, EMI Parlophone PMC 7154, when the entire score of Floodlight was incorrectly attributed to Vivian Ellis.
- Other songs by Beverley Nichols were recorded by performers including Dame Clara Butt.
  Unfortunately, archive material is incomplete or information had been lost.
There comes a time, or there should come a time, in the life of every civilized man, when he realizes that the eighteenth century said the last word worth saying in absolutely everything connected with the domestic art. Sometimes this realization comes by chance; he may be standing in a Georgian doorway, and the sun may shine in it, and he may look up and suddenly perceive that he is standing in a frame that is as perfect as a melody by Mozart.

Beverley Nichols
Merry Hall
The Parish of Glatton

The Fenland Trust

Sawtry History Society

University of Reading

University of Delaware

Penguin
Random House
UK
The Wall

Allways at Glatton is home to the famous “autograph wall”, located on the east wall of the north room of the cross wing. The wall features signatures of the many famous visitors to Allways in addition to illustrations and cryptic symbols.

In February 2018 Terry Brignall MBE was able to take photos of the wall and undertake the task of identifying the autographs. The gallery below, itself a work-in-progress and incomplete, depicts the famous visitors to Glatton.

Please note that Allways is a privately owned property and is not open to the public.
Joseph Montague Kenworthy
1886-1953

10th Baron Strabolgi. Active supporter of the movement for the independence of India, and wrote numerous articles on the Second World War especially the war at sea. His book "Peace or War" was introduced by H.G. Wells.

Doris de Strabolgi
1889-1988

Wife of Baron Strabolgi. Became Doris Whitley after their divorce.

David George Brownlow Cecil
1905-1981

6th Marquess of Exeter. English athlete, sports official, peer, and Conservative Party politician. He won the gold medal in the 400m hurdles at the 1928 Summer Olympics.

Colonel Eric Sawyer

Former officer in the British Army was the lover and lifelong companion of American architect, Barry Dierks.

Baroness Marie Rose Antoinette Catherine d’Erlanger

Society hostess; wife of Baron Emile d’Erlanger. Nichols dedicated “Down the Garden Path” to her.
Rosita Forbes
English travel writer and explorer

Ivy St. Helier
British stage actress, composer and lyricist.

Michael Morris
3rd Baron Killanin

Sir Cecil Walter Hardy Beaton
English fashion, portrait and war photographer, diarist, painter, interior designer and an Academy Award–winning stage and costume designer for films and the theatre.

Oliver Hilary Sambourne Messel
English artist and one of the foremost stage designers of the 20th century.

Emily Maria Borie Ryerson
American first-class passenger who survived the sinking of RMS Titanic. The sister of John Borie who sold “Allways” to Beverley Nichols.
Sir David Bowes-Lyon
His elder sister Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon married Prince Albert, Duke of York, the second son of King George V.

Sir Edward Seymour Hicks
British actor, music hall performer, playwright, screenwriter, actor-manager and producer.

Dame Nellie Melba GBE
Australian operatic soprano.

Milly Isabella Louisa Soltau-Symons
Wife of John Powys, 5th Baron Lilford, near Oundle, Northamptonshire.

Raymond Hart Massey
American actor. Nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actor for Illinois (1940).
Betty Askwith
Writer and biographer

Eleanor Theodora Roby Benson
Writer (collaborator with Betty Askwith) and author of travel books, an edited collection, and during the Second World War (when she worked as a ghostwriter on official speeches) an information book.

Rowland Leigh
1903–1963
American lyricist, screenwriter, and librettist. He has worked with many famous actors and musicians in his career on Broadway and in Hollywood.

Gerald Hugh Tyrwhitt-Wilson
14th Baron Berners. British composer, novelist, painter and aesthete. He is usually referred to as Lord Berners.
The Very Rev, Sir Albert Victor Baillie KCVO, DD
A Church of England clergyman during the first half of the 20th century, ending his career as Dean of Windsor. He was the Registrar of the Order of the Garter (1917-1939). In addition, he was a godchild of Queen Victoria. He was educated at Marlborough and Trinity College, Cambridge.

Earnest Hollingworth
Most Probably – the person who bought “Allways” from Beverley Nichols.

Beverley Nichols

William Clark Gable
American film actor and military officer, often referred to as “The King of Hollywood” or just simply as “The King”.
Dennis Price
English actor, best remembered for his roles in Kind Hearts and Coronets (1949) and as Jeeves in 1960s television adaptations of P.G. Wodehouse’s stories.

Eric Mowbray Knight
English novelist, screenwriter and creator of the fictional collie Lassie.

Hermione Ellis
Sister of Vivian John Herman Ellis, CBE

Mary Ellis
American actress and singer appeared on stage, radio, television and film, best known for her musical theatre roles, particularly in Ivor Novello works.

Auriol Lee
British stage actress who became a successful West End and Broadway theatrical producer and director.
John William Van Druten
English playwright and theatre director, known professionally as John Van Druten.

Reginald John “Rex” Whistler
British artist, designer and illustrator.

Henry Maxwell Andrews
Banker husband of Dame Rebecca West.

Dame Rebecca West
British author, journalist, literary critic and travel writer. Time called her “indisputably the world’s number one woman writer” in 1947.

Sir Hugh Seymour Walpole, CBE
English novelist.

Edward Knoblock
American-born British playwright and novelist most remembered for the often revived 1911 play, Kismet.
Cyril George Butcher
English actor and director, longtime companion of Beverley Nichols.

Geoffrey Harmsworth
Co-owner of the Harmsworth Publishing empire that owned the Daily Mail, Daily Mirror & The Times.

Sir Basil Hardington Bartlett, 2nd Baron
Actor, screenwriter and writer, and in the 1950s the head of the BBC’s script department.

Colin Bancroft Davidson
Land surveyor and Captain in the Australian Military Forces during World War II who was awarded the US Medal of Freedom in 1948.

Dorothy Warrender
Wife of Victor Alexander George Anthony Warrender, 1st Baron Bruntisfield MC, known as Sir Victor Warrender.

Madge Garland
Barbara Nash Back
Wife of Dr Ivor Back, a surgeon at St Georges’ London. She was a close friend of Somerset Maugham keeping him informed of London “gossip” and regularly entertained for him, particularly before his west end plays. Beauty columnist for the Daily Mirror.

Robert Byron
British travel writer, best known for his travelogue The Road to Oxiana.

Alexander Peregrine Fuller-Acland-Hood, 2nd Baron St. Audries
The son of Alexander Fuller-Acland-Hood, 1st Baron St. Audries and Hon. Mildred Rose Evelyn Eveleigh-de Moleyns. He died on 16 October 1971 at age 77.

Rev. Charles Bernard Mortlock
Treasurer and Canon of Chichester Cathedral from 1950 until his death. Westminster clergyman, writer & novelist.

Cecil Mornington Roberts
English journalist, poet, dramatist and novelist.
Jose Collins
English actress and singer celebrated for her performances in musical comedies and early motion pictures.

Victor (Peter) Spencer

Vivian John Herman Ellis
English musical comedy composer best known for the song “Spread a Little Happiness” and the theme “Coronation Scot”.

?
A Denton
Probably added to the wall by the current owner (Denton’s or their brother Alan?).

Miss Meig Herridge
Beverley Nichols former governess whom he held in high esteem. She taught Nichols how to play the piano and to appreciate composers like Chopin. She visited Nichols at “Allways” when she learned that the fictional “Miss Hazlitt” in “A Village in a Valley” was modelled on her.

Nicholas de Nolas
Theatre director & designer

"Every moment of this strange and lovely life from dawn to dusk, is a miracle. Somewhere, always a rose opening its petals to the dawn. Somewhere, always, a flower is fading in the dusk."

Beverley Nichols
Author, playwright, journalist, composer and public speaker. One of the 1920's original "Bright Young Things".
Beverley Nichols

Author, playwright, journalist, composer and public speaker. One of the 1920’s original “Bright Young Things”.

Beverley Nichols

He was a socialite surrounded by a constellation of the brightest stars of the first half of the twentieth century. His inner circle included the aristocracy, giants of commerce, stars of the stage and screen and the leading creatives of his age. Blessed with a talent that delivered success in multiple disciplines in the arts, Nichols remained a bona fide celebrity for his entire adult life. Yet, despite the acclaim he enjoyed, the fame of Beverley Nichols has dimmed in the years following his death in 1983.

Now 120 years after his birth, inspired by his fascinating and often contradictory life, individuals from both sides of the Atlantic are collaborating on a project to reintroduce Mr. Nichols to a modern audience. We invite you to join us!

Meet Beverley Nichols
Thank you to Eric Glass Ltd and Mr. Roy C. Dicks.
If walls could talk

Although the cottage is a private home and is not open to the public, in 2018 the owners allowed a photographer to take pictures of the famous ‘autograph wall, offering a fascinating glimpse into a bygone age of celebrity at the place that inspired the Glatton trilogy.

See the wall
Beverley Nichols
Meet the man himself.

Chronology
Key events in the life of Beverley Nichols.

Beverley Nichols Weekend
Learn more about Glatton’s Beverley Nichols Weekend.

The wall at Allways
Explore the famous autographed wall at Allways cottage in Glatton.
Heritage Open Days is co-ordinated and promoted nationally by the National Trust with funding by players of People’s Postcode Lottery, and run locally by a large range of organisations (including civic societies, heritage organisations, and local councils, community champions and thousands of enthusiastic volunteers).

**Beverley Nichols Weekend**

Heritage Open Days is England’s biggest and most popular heritage festival. It enables people to see and visit thousands of places that are normally closed to the public or charge for admission. It happens every year over four days in September and is a great chance to explore local history and culture. By opening doors, we hope to open people’s eyes and minds.

The Beverley Nichols Weekend has been planned to celebrate and commemorate the life of Glatton’s most famous resident on the 120th anniversary of his birth. Despite his prodigious creative output and position at the very centre of high society in the twenties and thirties, the memory of Beverley Nichols has faded in the public consciousness. In September 2018, the
free to explore

The seed of a blue lupin will usually produce a blue lupin. But the seed of a blue-eyed man may produce a brown-eyed bore... especially if his wife has a taste for gigolos.

Beverley Nichols
Down the Garden Path
Councillor Tim Alban on the Beverley Nichols project

Mar 17, 2018

Stilton resident and Huntingdonshire District Councillor Tim Alban is a keen supporter of local heritage. Tim represents the District on the Great Fen steering group, one of Europe’s most ambitious landscape reclamation projects, which has an important heritage... read more
University of Delaware

Penguin Random House

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