



TIMES PAST

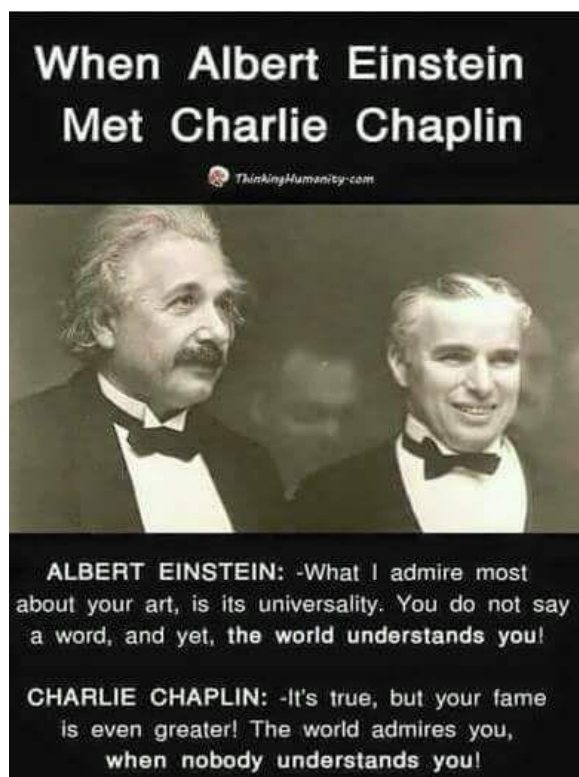
The Newsletter of the Kennington History Society
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KENNINGTON HISTORY SOCIETY IN 2021

During 2021 there were just 2 meetings due to Covid and it's aftermath. An A.G.M. was held in February by zoom, with an excellent presentation by David Holt about Chimney Sweeps, which seemed to be appreciated. Later in the year when the lockdown had been eased, the committee felt it safer not to restart meetings too soon and there were some logistical problems associated with using the Methodist hall as before. Three committee members had also expressed their wish to leave the committee, which would have made it all but impossible to carry on.

In late October a face -to -face Extraordinary General Meeting was held in St Swithun's Church Hall where the membership were asked for some help, otherwise the society would have to close. Fortunately four people offered to join the committee and another has since offered.

At the first committee meeting after the E.G.M. the new bookings secretary reported a full program for 2022, so the first face to face meeting will be on Mon 17th January at 19.45 in the Methodist Hall, where Brian Andrews will speak about *British History of the Computer*, on Mon 21st February there will be a normal A.G.M. followed by an invitation to members to bring an item of interest to them, and talk about it. Tea / Coffee is expected to be able to resume then also.



DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 17th January British History of the Computer, by Brian Andrews

Monday 20th February A.G.M. Followed by invitation for members to bring an object along and talk about it

Monday 20th March 19th Century Women Travellers and Explorers, by Katherine Bradley

HISTORY SOCIETY WEBSITE

Keep up to date with the latest details of the Society's events via the village website
www.kennington-pc.gov.uk and clicking organisations and clubs, then History.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

£15 Individual £25 family

Members who paid their subscriptions in 2020 will not need to pay again in 2022

QUOTATIONS

A smart person knows what to say, a wise person knows whether to say it or not.

Anon

Any fool can know. The point is to understand
Albert Einstein



First successful insulin treatment for Diabetes

The use of insulin to treat diabetes had been discovered during 1921 by Frederick Banting (a Canadian surgeon) and Charles Best (a research student) and had been administered in its first human trial with the help of John Macleod and Bertram Collip.

The first use of insulin as a diabetes treatment takes place during January 1922 in Toronto. The treatment was given to Leonard Thompson a 14 year old diabetic who had been near death, but had rapidly recovered after receiving the insulin shots, proving the treatment to be successful.

For this and their pioneering work Frederick Banting and John Macleod were awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1923, Banting being the youngest person to receive the medicine award



By 1920 it had been realised that groups of cells in the pancreas (*called islets*) produce insulin, and that if they are destroyed type 1 diabetes is the result. Various trials were undertaken to extract insulin from ground up pancreas cells, but to no avail.

Frederick Banting read that insulin producing cells in the pancreas are slower to deteriorate than other pancreatic tissue, and thought that that might allow the harvesting of the insulin. But he needed help with the scientific processes and enlisted the help of Toronto Professor John Macleod.

Initial trials were carried out on dogs finding out how to harvest the insulin from the dogs pancreas. Their method involved tying off the pancreatic duct to kill off other substances in the pancreas that would destroy insulin, but leave the islets intact. The remaining extract would then be given to other dogs who didn't produce any of their own insulin because their pancreases had been removed to work out its effects on their blood sugar levels. By the end of the year they had a treated dog who had survived for over 2 months

James Collip a biochemist joined the group working on purifying the insulin to make it safe for humans, and a refined version was developed from the pancreases of cattle

In January 1922, Leonard Thompson (a 14 year old boy dying from diabetes) was injected with insulin, and within hours his blood sugar levels had dropped. After further refinement of the insulin and a second injection Leonard's blood sugar levels returned to normal

News of insulin's success spread quickly and demand mounted. Banting and Best continued improving both the refining, and methods of production, and in May 1922 Mass production began.

Banting continued to research in Toronto into various things, often in regard to military aircraft and their pilots blacking out, and physiological problems of pilots at high altitude, sometimes experimenting on himself.

A "Flame of Hope" was lit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in 1989 as a tribute to Dr. Frederick Grant Banting and all the people that have lost their lives to diabetes. The flame will remain lit until there is a cure for diabetes. When a cure is found, the flame will be extinguished by the researchers who discover the cure, and similarly a time capsule buried in 1991 to mark the 100th anniversary of Banting's birth.