

The Hundred Parishes

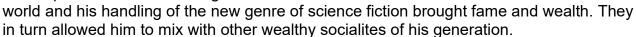
Introduction to a famous local person . . .

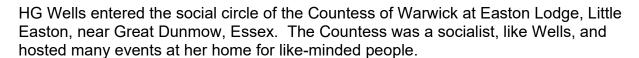
HG WELLS (1866 - 1946)

Herbert George Wells was born in Bromley, Kent in 1866 in humble circumstances. He became famous as a writer, especially in the relatively new genre of science fiction. He was also wellknown for his extra-marital affairs.

In early life he was a teacher and in 1895 he separated from his first wife and married one of his students, Jane Robbins. Between then and 1898 he wrote four of his most popular novels: The Time Machine, The Island of Dr Moreau, The Invisible Man and The War of the Worlds.

Wells believed that science afforded infinite possibilities for creating a better

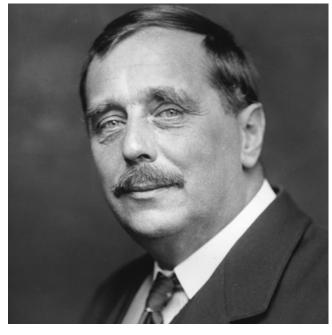




Besides his home in London, Wells rented Easton Glebe, on the Easton Lodge estate, between 1910 and 1928. It was during this time that Wells had a 10-year affair with Rebecca West. They met in 1912 when Wells was 46 and West only 19. West was also a prolific writer, later being appointed a Dame for her service to English literature. Their son, Anthony West, born in 1914, grew up to became a well-known novelist.

Wells set at least one novel, *Mr Britling sees it through*, in the Little Easton area. When the rector of Little Easton, RL Gwynne, published a history of the parish in 1923, HG Wells contributed the preface.

Wells died in London in 1946 and his ashes were scattered at sea. A commemorative plaque was installed at his home in Regents Park, London.



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