

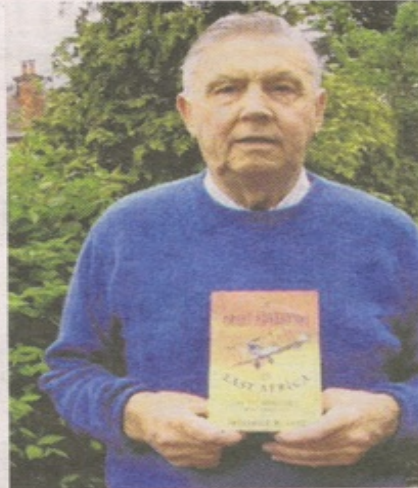
Local man pens World War I book

A new book entitled *A Great Adventure in East Africa* has just been published by the Walmsley Society telling the experiences of Leo Walmsley an observer in the Royal Flying Corps in World War One.

It was written by local man Frederick Lane who has been a member of the Walmsley Society for 29 years.

Walmsley 1892–1966, became an author and was well known in literary circles. J. Arthur Rank's first feature film *The Turn of The Tide* was based on one of his books. The Society, formed in 1985, for a those interested in the writings of Leo Walmsley and the art of his father Ulric and has members in a number of countries.

In 1915 Leo Walmsley left the Royal Army Service Corps which he had joined at the outbreak of WWI to become an observer in the Royal Flying Corps later to become the Royal Air Force. From an early age he was influenced by the many facets of his surroundings, observant of even the smallest details – an ability that was to serve him well. Many young people joining the armed forces in WWI thought it might be a 'great adventure', but could not have envisaged what was to befall them. East Africa was considered to be a 'side show' by many in the military who were mainly concerned about the war in Europe, but for those who were there it was all too real. Despite the dangers, and many crashes in his aeroplane, Walmsley survived, but many of his compatriots did not. The book is about his per-



Frederick Lane

sonal wartime experiences, a little documented area of conflict, using extracts from his own writings.

Frederick Lane has been involved in collaboration with others in producing other books but this is the first he has written under his own name. He was born in Orpington, Kent, but grew up in Eastbourne during the Second World War when in 1940 his mother, from an Eastbourne family, brought him and his brother Robert to live with his grandparents in the town. He went to St. Andrews school in Winchelsea Road, St. Mary's boys school Green Street, Bedewell and the now demolished Eastbourne Technical College, in The Grange, St. Anne's Road. The book has 440 pages is illustrated with some of the actual photographs taken by Walmsley whilst serving in East Africa and is available through the website of the Walmsley Society walmsleysoc.org or most booksellers.