



EDITORIAL

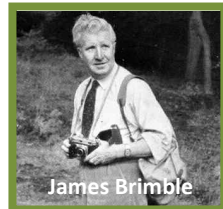
We are very pleased to welcome some new members to our society this year.

The Society has appeared at a number of events this summer in the borough including support for the Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture events.

As members, this is your newsletter, if you have any ideas or wish to provide contributions to future issues, please contact us.

Forthcoming Meetings

19th September 2019 - **James Brimble** - *Author of "London's Epping Forest"*, Photographer and owner of "Brimble's" bookshop/newsagent in Chingford between 1940s – 70s. *Talk by Gary Stone.*



17th October 2019 - **A Virtual Walk around Walthamstow** - Stories include the Dickens plagiarist, the hidden Greek theatre, the butcher/property developer and what Pepys thought of Walthamstow wine. *Talk by Joanna Moncrieff.*

14th November 2019 - **The STORT Story** - The river's history from 1766 up to the modern day. Looking at its journey from Bishop's Stortford to Hoddesdon. *Talk by Richard Thomas.*

12th December 2019 - **Chingford in the 80s & 90s** - A Collection of archive films features David Piggott who has chronicled the changing face of Chingford. *By kind permission of Acorn Films.*

Pimp Hall Open Day – by David Boote

On Saturday 18th May there was an Open Day at the Pimp Hall Nature Reserve which included public access to the 17th century Dovecote. Chingford Historical Society, with banners designed by committee member Gary Stone, had displays in the lower and upper floors of the dovecote. Rosemarie Evans, Dorothy Gilford, Angela Wagstaff, Joanna Moncrieff, David Mears and John Gilbert talked to visitors, and sold Society publications provided by our stockholder Morna Daniels. David Boote offered short walking tours of the site, on which the outlines of Pimp Hall farmhouse and barn have been marked out. The Friends of Pimp Hall Nature Reserve were there, having to warn people of some damage caused by recent vandalism, as well as talk about their hard work keeping the Reserve in good condition: Andy and Angela, Pat and Ron Andrews, Alan Butterworth, Colin Driver, Chris English, with Claire Ford ensuring everything went smoothly. There was a steady trickle of people, spanning all ages, and some good conversations around our Society's table.



In 2018 Waltham Forest Council had the dovecote restored with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund. Since then there has been little opportunity to see the results. There is a splendid new internal staircase of wood, greatly attractive to small children. Around the upper floor Perspex tubes bring in natural light, and symbolise perches for pigeons.

The weekend of the 21st and 22nd September is Open House London weekend when our city's architecture is celebrated. Chingford Historical Society has been invited to have a display again in the dovecote when it is open on the Sunday, the 22nd, between 11am and 2pm. The Friends of Pimp Hall Nature Reserve are again offering free tea and coffee to all visitors.

Guided Walks – by Joanna Moncrieff

I use many resources to research my guided walks but some of them may be less well known than others.

Take the Medical Officer of Health Reports which were digitised by the Wellcome Library in 2013. These reports dating from 1848 to 1972 provide a real insight into life in our area and further afield.

Shephard T Taylor MB the MOH for Chingford in his report for 1897 considers why there were only 26 deaths that year out of a population of 3,547. Taylor reports that the Rev Russell had remarked at a parish dinner that it was the quality of Chingford's mud which kept its people so healthy. Taylor didn't dismiss this but added that its low death rate must be connected to the fact that Chingford was '*cut off, as it were, to a great extent from the rest of the world*'. This was in 1897, 24 years after the railway had arrived.



Taylor goes on to remark that maybe the planned isolation hospital was a '*needless luxury*' as there had only been 9 cases of infectious disease that year. However he came to the conclusion that sooner or later the diseases from populous Walthamstow and London would eventually arrive in healthy

Chingford. The story of how the isolation hospital came into being deserves a post of its own but a plaque commemorating the building of the hospital can still be seen outside the Ainslie Rehabilitation Unit in Friars Close.

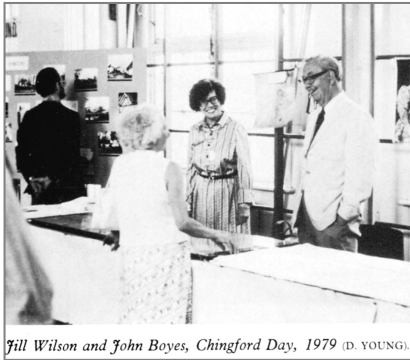
Online access to more than 5,500 Medical Officer of Health reports for what is now Greater London can be found at

<https://wellcomelibrary.org/moh/search>

Up-to-date details of Joanna's Chingford walks can always be found at <http://bit.ly/E4WalkMoncrieff>

Rosalind Jill Wilson (1929 – 2018)

by Angela Wagstaff



Jill Wilson and John Boyes, Chingford Day, 1979 (D. YOUNG)

Jill Wilson joined the CHS Committee in the late 1950s organising different sections of work at different times. She became Vice-Chairman in 1974 and Chairman in 1978. She was made an Honorary Member in 1984 and resigned from the Chair in 1986 when she moved away from Chingford. Her wise counsel and diplomatic approach were invaluable. Her friendship will always be

remembered by our older members along with her fascinating illustrated talks, as she was an excellent photographer.

Following her education at Woodford High School, she had plans to go to medical school but priority was being given to returning soldiers so she joined local government instead where she excelled. She eventually became deputy head of Further Education in her department at County Hall. She became one of the first students of the Open University in the early 1970s, taking a degree at the same time as working in her increasingly demanding job.

After her move to Chipping Campden she joined their History Society and became a major contributor and influence in its development.



Right – Jill in 2003 with Chipping Campden Historical society members.

Following her death in December 2018, her executor contacted the society to say that she had left us the sum of £500. The committee would like to use this gift to acquire better advertising display material to promote the society at future events.

To read more about Jill's life go to:-

<https://www.chippingcampdenhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Signpost-10-Final.pdf>

James Arthur Brimble – by Gary Stone



After reading his book 'London's Epping Forest' I wanted to know more about the author, James Arthur Brimble.

My journey started by contacting various organisations including Friends of Epping Forest and the Society who quickly put me in touch with Angela Wagstaff.

Research on Brimble led us to his birthplace in Whitechapel in 1897. Born to publicans, tragedy struck in 1906 with the unexpected death of James's father, James Henry Brimble, after being

taken ill on a train from Harwich with a Diamond dealer.

Soon after, James Brimble, was sent to the Masonic College at Bushey after his mother Anne Leticia rallied round her Masonic friends to get enough vouchers to cover the cost.

At the age of 17, James was called up for his country for the First World War and joined the Machine Gun Corps. However, during recovery in hospital from an ankle injury in June 1917, he missed a major campaign in which most of his Corps were killed in action.

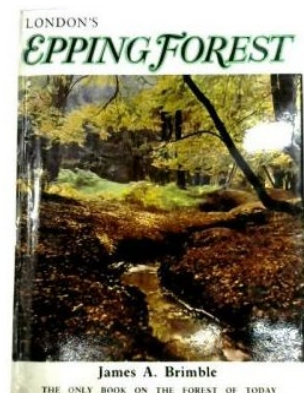
Records show that James moved to Chingford where his mother ran a Newsagents shop called A L Brimble. At this time James took an active interest in Photography and joined the Royal Photographic Society. This launched him into success with his photos published in various magazines including Country Life, The Austin and Essex Countryside.



Brimbles – Station Road

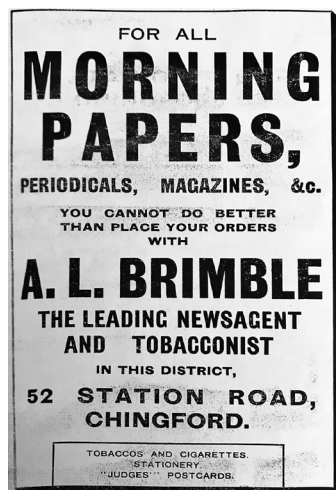
James married Grace Noake in 1924, in her home town of Erith, Kent. Being members of the camping club of Great Britain along with their love of cycling, they would travel around Britain making a photographic record of their trips along the way.

With James's love for Epping Forest, in 1950, Country Life commissions James to produce a book on the forest called "London's Epping Forest" to include newly commissioned maps and photographs together with his eloquent and descriptive narrative on the forest and its secrets. The book was a success and soon subsequently generated another 3 revised additions with the last in 1968.



Brimble endeavours to enlighten readers with stirring descriptions of the Forest together with outstanding photographs through the seasons covering virtually all of the Forest. The book alone no doubt, encouraged the faint-hearted to explore more vigorously the Forest that was already their own.

Although the forest was opened to the public back in 1878 by Queen Victoria as the "People's Forest", Brimble suggests in his book that "the Londoners whose forest it is, and even those who live around its borders, know little of its charms and secrets".



James was also a member of the local Rotary club and for a time the Chingford Historical Society.

Brimble had at least 2 sets of postcards produced from his photographs of the forest and surrounding areas. In addition, a popular pocket map of Epping Forest was also produced and all could be found at his shop at 52 Station Road, Chingford.

Although long out of publication, you can still find Brimble's books, maps and postcards for sale on the internet today.

James Arthur Brimble uncovered the secrets & beauty of the Forest to the public like no one before, and should be considered as the unsung hero of Epping Forest.

James died at his home in Beresford Road in 1974, survived by his 2 daughters.

Extracts from the Parish Magazine – by Elizabeth Edwards

After retiring from the British Library, Elizabeth now has an interest in the parish and in particular the Parish Magazines. They reveal an insight into the local running of Chingford in the 19th and 20th century.

6 May 1882 - Royalty: Queen Victoria came to Chingford from Windsor by train to visit Epping Forest. The station had been re-painted & decorated and at the entrance to the Station Yard a triumphal arch was erected.

A row of wagons which had been decorated with red cloth and flags were placed in the field opposite the station. About 200 local school children & 30 teachers, sat on them to watch the royal procession. Each child wore a blue sash & a blue rosette and carried a white wand with a small bouquet of flowers tied to it.

The Queen arrived at 4pm and was driven to High Beech, where an amphitheatre had been erected. The Lord Mayor declared the Forest “open and dedicated to the delectation of the public for ever” on behalf of the Queen. After she had left Chingford the children had tea in the school room and there was a firework display in the Forest during the evening.

10 Jun 1882 - Chingford Cricket Club played it's first match against the Woodford Wells (Temperance) Cricket Club and won.

22 Jun 1886 - Chingford drainage: the adjourned inquiry was re-convened at the Royal Forest Hotel to consider the Board of Guardians plans. The proposed scheme was for the main sewer to run from the Green, down Maddox Lane, through Forest Side, along Whitehall Lane, following the road which leads to the 'Prince Albert', then down Chingford Hall and Folly Lane to the field selected for the Outfall works.

Sep 1897 - The East London Waterworks Company took some boys to court at Waltham Abbey for bathing in the River Lea at the Bank Holiday. The Company said that people bathing in the river damaged the banks and stirred up the mud, and if they drowned could contaminate the water for drinking. The magistrates fined the boys 2s 6d (25p) equivalent to £10 today.

June 1900 - The Corporation of London did extensive restoration work on Queen Elizabeth's Lodge. Following a report done in Feb 1897 which showed that it had previously consisted of 1 large room on each of the 2 upper floors and small apartments below, the Corporation decided to restore it as far as possible to its original configuration. Both of the large rooms would then be used by the Essex Field Club for the Epping Forest Museum.

During the restoration the plaster was stripped off and some of the original timbers were revealed. This showed that originally there were no windows in the two upper floors, only on the lower floor where there were 3 rooms and an entrance door. The chimney had been added later. It appeared that the upper floors had been open to the weather and that the floor in the middle of the room was higher than the sides to allow any rainwater to flow away. The conclusion was that the Lodge was originally a "Grand stand" to view the hunting in the Forest rather than a house.

13 Dec 1915 - William Boothby-Heathcote, Lord of the Manor of Chingford Earls died on 13th December following a bout of influenza. He was the last surviving son of the former Rector of Chingford, Rev Robert Boothby-Heathcote. His brother Robert died in 1893 and Frederick Sinclair died in 1914. William was born in Chingford but did not live at Friday Hill until after Frederick's death.



Robert Boothby Heathcote

1 Jul 1919 - Clergy: Canon Russell's resignation took effect. He had been appointed Rector in August 1878. During the period he was Rector the population of Chingford increased from about 1,000 to 9,000; the Parish church doubled in size; the Church Hall was built in the Ridgeway; the Church Hall of St Edmund's was built in South Chingford & the church schools were enlarged.

3 Jan 1923 - The annual Old People's Tea took place with about 100 attending. All ladies were given a packet of tea and the men a pipe and some tobacco.

A History of Gilwell – Part Two

If the prospect of public disgrace wasn't enough to deal with they had to contend with the loss of two of their children. Walter Grenfell Chinnery died in 1802 of influenza, aged nine, after visiting Paris, his mother erected Walter's Urn in his memory, set in the children's garden, she placed flowers on it every day.



The White House – Gilwell Park

Caroline Chinnery caught whooping cough in March 1811 and had recovered two months later. In response her mother put up 'Colonna Carolina' as a thank you to God for sparing her life. Unfortunately she died aged 21, a year later of the same disease, a day after her father fled into exile. Their remaining child George Robert Chinnery was given a job at the Treasury in order that Margaret had an income as she had no other family to turn to.

The Government requisitioned the Estate in March 1812 so it could be sold to cover the money taken by William Chinnery. The auction only raised £6,400 of which the House amounted to half of this figure. Margaret was forced to move to Charles Street in Manchester Square and wrote the following account of losing the Estate. "... It was an earthly paradise, in which the delightful harmony resulting from the perfect accord of duty and inclination were felt and enjoyed. Those who have been witness of our manner of living at Gilwell can vouch for the truth of what I say. God best knows why the happy, peaceful home where He was adored in fidelity and truth is now to be sold by public auction. In the garden is a little monument to the memory of my youngest son. We adorned it every day with fresh flowers - is it to be pulled down or destroyed? There is also a column very dear to my heart because it was put up in remembrance of what we vainly thought was the recovery of my daughter from whooping cough. The will of God be done. Nothing now remains to me of all that I so lately possessed but one child. I bow my head in resignation; to those who are the delegates of power on earth I resign my claim to my paternal home."

The new owner of the Estate was Gilpin Gorst who was the Deputy

Governor of the Honourable Irish Society. His son Philip sold it to Thomas Usborne in 1824. Usborne added the extension to the House which included the Crinoline Staircase and the drawing room, he also brought the London Bridge balustrades to Gilwell.

The next most significant owner was William Alfred Gibbs who acquired Gilwell from Samuel Burgess in 1858. Gibbs was in manufacturing and commuted to his London factory on a large white stallion! He was also a poet compared with Tennyson who also lived nearby at High Beech between 1837 and 1840. He invented a number of machines and products which varied in success. These included a hay cutting, sorting and baling machine, a drying hay machine and Gibbs' Dentifrice or toothpaste which is still made to this day. Gibbs died in 1900 and his wife five years later. His eldest son Kenneth Yardley Gibbs remained on the Estate but had to sell off eight acres which encompassed the Gillwellbury land in 1907 and moved into the Farm. He then sold this building in 1911 to Reverend Cranshaw and transferred to a Scandinavian cottage he constructed opposite the current Lodge. By 1918 he had gone and the Estate had become seriously neglected as the Gibbs family lacked the income to look after Gilwell and this sets the stage for how Scouting and Gilwell Park became intertwined.



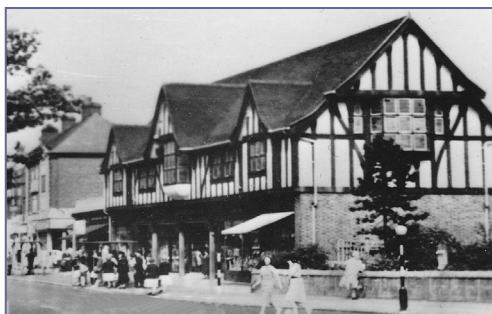
Lord Baden-Powell

William F. de Bois Maclaren who was a Scout Commissioner in Dumbartonshire but also the owner of a publishing company. Having witnessed Scouts trying to carry out activities in the overcrowded East End of London he offered Baden-Powell £7,000 to purchase a camping ground for them in 1818. Search parties of Scouts were sent out to find a suitable location, Assistant Scout Master John Gayfer suggested Gilwell Hall to the District Commissioner of East London. Neville visited and discovered by chance that the asking price was exactly the same amount as Maclaren had offered!

To be continued...

STATION ROAD - CO-OP

Some readers will think of the South Midlands Group Food Store at No. 3 Station Road but in his memoirs Mr Leech recalls the Enfield Highway Co-op with food downstairs and clothing upstairs and many will remember that. However, the Co-op was built on the Tile House site (Extra No. 45) and development of that side of the road took place about 1935 and Richmond Road was planned about the same time so before then the Co-op was elsewhere.



My earliest record is dated 1912 in a rate book but I have no other information. 1917 rate books place it at Nos. 15 and 17 and the stables and slaughter house at No.31. About 1927 Arthur Rumble had a regular Saturday morning job as a van-boy with the Co-op Society bakery roundsman working from the old slaughter house and

stable premises adjoining the Methodist Church, obviously not the present building.

In 1902 there was a slaughter house in Willow Street, later it was the composing room of E.G.Ellis, the printers.

On 6th December, 1991, WFBC consulted the Society about the proposed demolition of the single storey milk depot at the rear of the Co-operative supermarket, 3-11, Station Road, which was, of course, within the Chingford Green Conservation Area.

The application was by Enfield and St Albans Co-operative Society Ltd.

The proposed demolition was for the whole building with the exception of the wall up to eaves level adjacent to No.2 Richmond Road.

After discussions WFBC were advised that the Society had no objections to the demolition.

Chingford Cricket Club – Part Two



CHINGFORD v A.C. RUSSELLS XI (1928)

In the year of the General Strike the first eleven were successful with a playing record of fifteen victories, nine draws and seven defeats. The fixture list showed the RT. Hon. Winston Churchill as a patron of the club.

In the next year (1929) the playing record differed only by one additional defeat, and Sunday cricket first began with a single side playing all day games at home every week, although this was only on a casual basis. Details become much clearer on October 23rd, 1929 from which date the General Committee Minutes are complete. It appears that from the 1930 season onwards Chingford were to run a 1st XI with Reg Taylor as captain and two second XIs (A and B) using a second ground at Ridgeway Park.

The Golden Age 1930-39

The buildings in those days were quite primitive, and the 1930 Annual General Meeting was held at the nearby Royal Forest Hotel while selection committee and socialising were performed at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel conveniently next to the ground. The Club's main structure was in front of the current stables and a tea hut was located half-way along the south side of the ground. Tea would be carried from the tea hut to the pavilion, to be eaten under an awning attached to the side of the pavilion. The groundsman carried the left-overs back to the tea hut at the end of the interval. In addition there was also a Tennis Pavilion which is still standing (just) and is now used as the groundsman's shed.

The club also played a part in raising funds for charity with the public paying to watch a game in aid of Forest Hospital; a total of £26 was raised which suggests a large crowd. Cricket week ended with a concert in aid of the blind. 1932 was a good year for the club with the first XI unbeaten under the leadership of Gordon Downes. Thirteen games were won, eight were drawn and one abandoned with the team averaging over 200 runs per innings and 4417 runs were scored against 2511 conceded.

Meanwhile the first of many rows had broken out between the Club and the innkeeper at the Queen Elizabeth over a willow tree behind the bowler's arm at the "Lizzy" end of the ground. The club wanted the tree pruned but the innkeeper didn't and at one point a "commando" raid was being considered.

There seemed to have been some uncertainty over the future of the ground, and at the AGM on the 18th November it was proposed that a sub-committee be formed and their business will be to enter into the question of obtaining another ground and the raising of necessary finance.

Apparently the Club made enquiries to Whitbreads concerning the possible purchase of their grounds. Whitbreads were not prepared either to extend the lease or to sell the freehold and the club approached the Council to purchase the ground on its behalf.

There was less insistence on pavilion facilities and comforts. In these days Chingford never had a shower among the ablutions or a bar on the ground. Arthur Luton, who ran the Queen Elizabeth, let us have drinks in a hut in the Queen Elizabeth grounds. Evening practice took place in two nets at the top corner of the "The Pelham", as the ground was called by local people. Attendance at nets each evening, except perhaps Fridays, was considerable. The wickets were good and it was wise to turn up as early as possible for latecomers had fading light and poorer bowling to contend with. Not until the end of August - we always had an excellent cricket week at the start of the month - did attendance at nets diminish.



CHINGFORD CRICKET GROUND 1950

Yes, the 30's were lively and exciting years in Chingford club cricket. Club rivalry was extremely keen and then came September 4th, 1939 and World War II to take players away for a few years. It couldn't be helped. But Chingford Cricket Club survived and has now reached it's century. A few clubs of standing in those days, we don't hear of them today, were less fortunate.

To be continued...

Latest CHS News

Money Raised

Members will be pleased to learn that £90 was raised from the sale of books donated by the executor of the estate of the late Dorothy Barr, a long time former CHS member. The money raised has been donated to The Macmillan Nursing Organisation.

David Young

Our President, David Young is currently receiving treatment in hospital for a long standing medical condition. We are in touch with David on a regular basis and wish him a speedy recovery.

May Day Fayre

The society attended the May Day Fayre on Chingford Plain as part of the Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture events.

Despite challenging weather conditions, the event was well attended and we had much interest shown in the society's largest display in recent times.

David Boote & Joanna Moncrieff gave a talk about the History of Chingford Plain. Gary Stone talked about James Brimble and his connection to Epping Forest. Organisers thanked the society for our attendance and informative talks.



Chingford Hatch Day

The Chingford Hatch Day at St Anne's in June was well supported despite the very hot weather. David Boote and Angela Wagstaff were in attendance to answer any historical questions.



SS Peter & Paul Church

The society was asked to support SS Peter & Paul's 175th anniversary year in June with our display in the church. Alison Goulter gave a fascinating tour of the church that included the building's history and interesting facts.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 19th September at 7.30pm

JAMES BRIMBLE TALK

Please note that this is an additional monthly meeting.

James A Brimble is perhaps one of the unsung heroes of Epping Forest. His book, "London's Epping Forest", along with his postcards, were sold from his shop in Station Road in the 1950s/60s. The talk will uncover the life of Brimble from Whitechapel to Chingford together with spectacular photographs and descriptive maps of the forest, plus his work in various publications.

Sunday 22nd September 10 – 1pm

PIMP HALL DOVECOTE OPEN DAY

We will have a display table in the Dovecote. David Boote will be showing visitors around and answering questions.

TBA

HISTORICAL OUTING

Please note, the society is in the early stages of investigating suitable locations for an outing next year. If members have any suggestions, please come forward to a member of the committee.

President - David Young Chairman – TBA Secretary – Angela Wagstaff Treasurer – Simon Goulter Committee Member – Alison Goulter Committee Member – Joanna Moncrieff Committee Member – David Boote Committee Member – David Mears Committee Member – Gary Stone
--

All enquiries to: Angela Wagstaff
020 8926 8205
abelwag@ntlworld.com

Pimp Hall Nature Reserve
Dovecote

OPEN DAY

See
inside one of
Chingford's
oldest
buildings!



**SUNDAY 22nd
SEPT**

10am to 1pm

FREE Tea & Coffee



Entrance off Kings Rd,
Chingford, E4 7HR
Bus route: 212, 397, 179

In partnership with



Friends of Pimp Hall
Park & Nature Reserve

