



Number 20

## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2020

£1.00 (free to CHS members)

### EDITORIAL

We are very pleased to be off to a good start in 2020 with a great talk in January by Claire Weiss on Lady Hart Dyke's creation of a the silk farm. Also Claire's findings on Leabridge Farm, also known as Black Marsh Farm.

Due to popular demand, we have the return of the CHS summer outing. We have organised a visit to Copped Hall on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July. (see page 14)

Did you know? – We are now on Twitter @ChingfordHist.

Also Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ChingfordHistoricalSociety/>

Our web site is also being updated.

### Forthcoming Meetings

**19<sup>th</sup> March 2020** – AGM followed by **The Changing Face of North Chingford** – From buildings to bakers. *Talk by Gary Stone*

**23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020** – **The History of Gilwell**. *Talk by Sally Webb - A talk about Gilwell Park's history and heritage, previous owners and the present day Scout Headquarters.*

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2020** – **Uglows** – The history of the stores in Station road from humble beginnings to a flourishing landmark. – *Peter Uglow/Gary Stone*

**15th October 2020** *t b a*

**19th November 2020** *t b a*

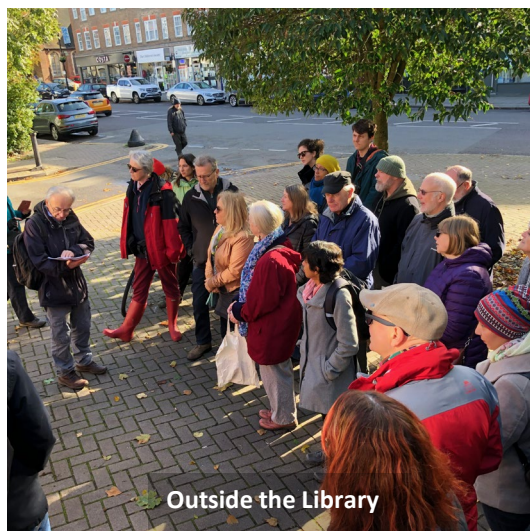
**10th December 2020** - **Acorn Films** - *Chingford in the '50s, '60s and '70s by kind permission of David Piggott (Acorn Films).*

## A Walk for the Chingford Art & Heritage Art Trail 2019– by David Boote

An opportunity to share and celebrate the history of Chingford appeared, at quite short notice, when our Society was contacted by Elizabeth Salazar Guerra. She had got some funding from the Waltham Forest First London Borough of Culture scheme, to organise an Art & Heritage Art Trail in north Chingford. Bravely, she acted as organiser. The 'heritage' element added to the title of similar events in Walthamstow and Leytonstone, and our Society had to rise to the challenge of contributing some activities. Our new Chair, Gary Stone, persuaded the Station Road branch of the Belgique chain to allow a display of striking photographs of Epping Forest by James Brimble, who had run a newsagents and stationers shop in those very premises. Joanna Moncrieff agreed to lead one of her popular walks on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October. I was asked to lead a walk combining some local history with a visit to the Organiclea project at Hawkwood.



David Boote



Outside the Library

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October was the first day after the end of British Summer Time. This gave people the chance to take an extra hour over breakfast at one of the coffee shops and cafes on Station Road and the Green which were displaying art as part of the Trail. Gary Stone had put up some historic photos in Helen's Coffee on the Green. Scoffs and Dada had original art works on display, as did the Kings Head pub.

Some 35 people, with a spread of ages, gathered by the Co-op store on the Green. I prefer to speak without much reference to notes, because this makes delivery more lively, but I depended for information upon the Society's publication Chingford Farms by Morna Daniels, and the series of Chingford Notes, Extra compiled by the late Len Davis. Our Society's archive of old photos provided some illustrations to hand round. The sun shone on us.



At The Kings Head Pub



A view from Pole Hill

Stimulating questions were posed by members of the walk group. To my surprise most of the group stayed with me to climb the footpath up to Pole Hill, and cut across a corner of Epping Forest to Organiclea (with some autumn colour), once Waltham Forest Council's plant nursery, and in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century the home of the purchaser of the manor of Chingford St Paul's, Richard Hodgson. There we were welcomed by Roger Skipper who had created some oil paintings

from old photos of shop fronts on Station Road, a theme that fits well with our Society's exploration of the businesses there in earlier decades. Members of the group could purchase food and drink at Organiclea's environmentally friendly principles, and look round that project.

We are planning another CHS walk this year.

Photos by Roger Huddle.

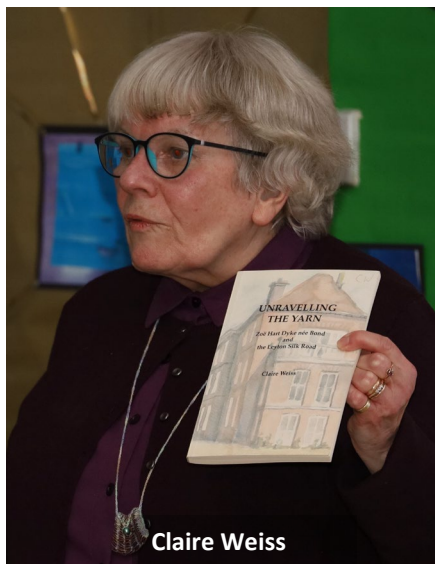
## January Talk Report – by Joanna Moncrieff

At our January meeting writer Claire Weiss delivered two fascinating talks about research she had undertaken on both a pioneering silk farmer with a local connection and the little known Leabridge Farm.

Claire's interest in Zoe Lady Hart Dyke (1896-1975) began when she found out that Zoe's early childhood was spent in the same house in Manor Road, Leyton that Claire herself had occupied in the 1970s.

Zoe who created Britain's only successful 20<sup>th</sup> century silk farm had an inspiring life.

Her social circle included Mrs Henderson from the Windmill Theatre and her silk was used for significant Royal occasions. The story of Zoe's life had many twists and turns which Claire related to us during her talk which kept us all hooked. If you want to find out more Claire's book '*Unravelling the Yarn: Zoe Lady Hart Dyke and the Leyton Silk Road*' can be bought for £8.50 post free from Claire on [claireweiss@hotmail.com](mailto:claireweiss@hotmail.com).



After our tea break Claire took us through her findings on Leabridge Farm, also known as Black Marsh Farm, the post-mediaeval farmhouse briefly mentioned in the archaeological report for the proposed Motion development on Lea Bridge Road.

Claire has produced a paper detailing this research which can be read on Leyton & Leytonstone Historical Society's website <http://www.leytonhistorysociety.org.uk/>

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

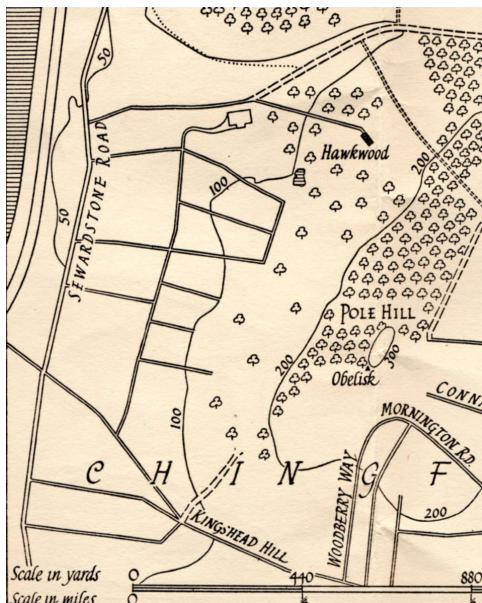


## Hawkwood House – CHS Extra (edited version)

Brimble's Map (1), shows Hawkwood to be west of Bury Road, south of Sewardstonebury and Woodman's Ride and north of the golf course and Pole Hill. To the west was Hawkwood House and Lodge.

The Land surrounding Hawkwood can be traced back to 1498 and the owner William Jacson of Chingford Halke (Hawkwood) who was a member of the Swainmote Court

Halke in Middle English meant a refuge, retreat or hiding place. It also has been said that Hawk means a nook of land in the corner of a Parish.



Henry VIII acquired Chingford Hall in 1544.

In 1832, the Revd. Thomas Snell, Lord of the Manor of Chingford St Paul's, owned and occupied a dwelling in Hawkwood but the location is not known.

Hawk Wood is an ancient oak and hornbeam woodland.

By 1963 the wood had been seriously mutilated by clearing timber from its western slope and enclosing fields 473 and 464 on the Ordnance Survey map.

In 1844 Richard Hodgson paid £2,900 for land including Hawkwood, part of Chingford Plain, land at Chingford Green and on marshes and the Manorial Rights. So he became Lord of the Manor of Chingford St Paul's

In 1854 Hodgson had Hawkwood House built and the Lodge was added. Hodgson owned and occupied a Brick Kiln. It is said clay on Chingford Plain was excavated to investigate whether it was suitable for bricks to build Hawkwood. Bruce Cook describes in his guide book three ponds at the side of Bury Road which were excavations for brick clay.

The House was approached by a fine avenue of oak trees from Davis Lane, now Yardley Lane.

He died at Hawkwood House in 1872, aged 68, after a long painful illness caused mainly by his efforts on behalf of debenture holders of the London, Chatham & Dover Railway.

## THE HOUSE



Ground Porch, hall, drawing room, dining room, library, conservatory, billiard room, kitchen, servants and domestic areas. First Floor Main bedroom, three other bedrooms, study, bathroom, three servants bedrooms, storerooms. Upper floor two large bedrooms, small bedroom, box room. Basement with wines,

beer and coal cellars. Stables, coach-house, harness room, cow house, cart shed, poultry yard, piggery, tool stores & kennel etc.

By the 1920s the grounds had been laid out to include pleasure grounds; lawns, flower beds and walks plus Kitchen garden with store sheds and greenhouse. Parkland; landscaped and timbered with many exotic species, ornamental pond, tennis court and rustic summer house.

Richard Hodgson left his estate to his wife Jane who appears to have held the Manorial Rights for some years. When she died in 1880, she left her estate to her daughter Margaret. Their son, as expected, soon died, so there was provision in the Will that her grandchildren would be provided for by selling the land around the House, the farm, and the scientific equipment Richard had accumulated.

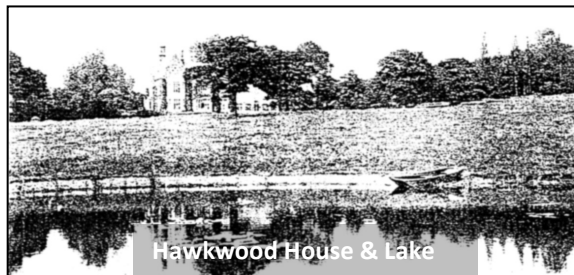
In 1886 Hawkwood House was purchased by Sidney Cooper for £6, 250 including the Lodge and the piggeries. The piggeries were occupied by William Barnes, Field No. 469 on the 1938 Tithe map.

Sidney Cooper was a well-known entomologist and a member of the Essex Field Club.

In 1898 Cooper bought Fields 476-478,460 and part of 483 forming part of Spencer's Farm. In 1918 these fields were let to Mr Soper of Low Hall Farm. In the 1930s they were covered by houses in Drysdale Avenue and neighbouring streets.

In 1909 photographs of Hawkwood House were published with the following note: Hawkwood, the residence of Sidney Cooper, is an Elizabethan mansion of red brick and stone, situated near Chingford, on the verge of Epping Forest, commanding extensive views, and standing in beautifully timbered and undulating park lands, which extend over eighty acres. The mansion was designed by Vulliamy, and erected for the late Mr Richard Hodgson, Lord of the Manor of Chingford St. Paul'

Sidney Cooper died in 1913. His Trustees were Emily Cooper, Harold Cooper, Joseph Cooper, D. Edwards and F. Howe.



In 1921 the Trustees offered Hawkwood House for sale and it was said to have been purchased by Adolphus Herman Louis of Beaulieu for £3,500 but in 1924 when Mrs Cooper died the House was again offered for sale and was sold to G.C. Nokes of Forest Road,

Walthamstow for £3,600. The inventory was signed by Nokes.

In 1933 Nokes died and in 1937 his widow conveyed the property to Chingford Urban District Council for £7,250. Mrs Nokes wanted the land to be preserved as an open space and a memorial to King George V and the Council accepted those terms.

During the war the Army requisitioned the House and the building suffered damage during the occupation. Further damage was caused by a bomb which fell in the grounds near the Drysdale Estate. In 1943 considerable damage was done to windows and proceedings were instituted against four boys for malicious damage.

Also in 1943 CUDC arranged for water to be laid on to the House and £15 was spent on the removal of scrub around the House. It was used to stop gaps in hedges. CUDC Minutes also show that the same year a dresser was moved from the House to Pimp Hall for the storage of seeds.

In 1945 Chingford Townswomen's Guild and Women's Association asked for the House to be converted to a Maternity Hospital. In 1949 the House was sold to Essex County Council who wanted it for a school but this was never done. Further vandalism made the House unsafe and in 1951 it was demolished by Ernest Knifton Ltd for £375.

Hawkwood Lodge was built soon after Hawkwood House c1854, as a Lodge for the House and it has not been demolished.

The Lodge was built with 4 bedrooms, a sitting room, a kitchen, a scullery and a wash-house.

In 1886 it was acquired by Sidney Cooper with the House. Ownership passed with the House until 1951 when the House was demolished and the land and Lodge were the property of Essex County Council and in 1965 of the new London Borough of Waltham Forest. In 1981 The Lodge was converted into a Field Study Centre.

## Extracts from the Parish Magazine (Pt 2) – 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.

**1814** - Vestry Meetings: the Parish Workhouse was in a house at the corner of High Street and Endlebury Road (later the farm house of Tonk's farm). An agreement was made with the master of the workhouse (Thomas Hewes) to feed & clothe the poor for 6s 9d (34p) [£17] per head per week, from Michaelmas 1814 to Michaelmas 1816. In addition he would be given £2 [£103] for each child apprenticed & £1 [£52] for each servant who was found a place



7 August 1815 - Vestry Meeting: the Poor Rates of the parish were administered at these meetings and at the August meeting they allocated between 1s 6d (7½p) [£4] & 6s (30p) [£15.50] to several people; a man was given a pair of shoes & stockings and a widow was given a shift & pair of shoes.

9 April 1822 - Vestry Meeting: 2 ale conners (or ale tasters) were appointed for the next year. They were sworn to examine and assay the beer and ale, to ensure that it was good and sold at the proper price

29 January 1880 - The first Parish dinner for Chingford residents and their friends was held at the new 'Forest Hotel'. It was attended by 50 gentlemen, who had dinner and were entertained by music and singing.

5 September 1880 - Church fabric & gifts: the Parish Church re-opened after it's summer closure. The exterior had been repaired and the interior cleaned and coloured. Gas had been laid on in the church and the churchyard. Ventilating tubes had been fixed in the windows. Hot water pipes had been placed in the building the previous year and the vaults underneath the floor drained. When the church was built a sum of money was given on condition that half the seats would be free, therefore all the seats in the northern half of the church (organ side) were made free seats for ever.



1881 - There were 25 burials during the year and the average age of those who died was 56½.

3 March 1885 - Chingford drainage: the Rural Sanitary Authority at Epping had surveyed the Parish to report on the best method of drainage. Maps and plans had been prepared and the cost was estimated to be about £10,000 [£735,000] which excluded the cost of buying the land for the filter beds and works. There would also be the added annual costs for maintenance. This would all mean the rates of the Parish would double causing problems for many households. After long discussions at the Parish meeting it was proposed not to go ahead as the Parish was not prepared to meet the cost. If the Sanitary Authority decided to go ahead with the scheme for drainage then a Sanitary rate of 2s 6d (12½p) in the pound would be required to meet the £600 [£44,500] estimated annual cost.

August 1887 - "During the months of July and August Chingford is visited by crowds of excursionists. Sunday schools, mothers' meetings and associations of various kinds come to Chingford to spend a happy day. Probably but a few of those who come here see much of the Forest. Swings and skittles, and cocoanut shies are far more attractive than woodland scenery or walks amongst the trees. The astonishment of the excursionists at the ordinary sights of the country is often naively expressed and they sometimes show that they are completely ignorant of the names of the commonest birds and flowers. Still they seem to enjoy themselves thoroughly, and go home expressing a rather uproarious approval of their visit to this neighbourhood. Residents, who very naturally prefer the quiet of the country to the noise of the cockneys will find to their surprise that parts of the Forest are nearly as secluded now as at any other season, and if they will take care to avoid the centres, which are the resort of the excursionist, they may explore undisturbed the recesses of the Forest, and will meet perhaps, only one or two persons who, like themselves have wandered into the Forest for a gentle stroll."

**January 1888** - Funds were sought to enable a Parish Room to be built on the site given for that purpose in the High Street. The cost was estimated to be £175 [£14,000] plus additional costs for fencing etc. The Room was intended to be used for meetings & classes and as a reading room for lads and young men in the evenings.

*NB. Values in round brackets ( ) are the approximate conversion from £sd to decimal currency and those in square brackets [ ] are the approximate current equivalent according to the National Archives Currency converter: 1270-2017.*

## A History of Gilwell – Part Three

The Gilwell estate was purchased in early 1919 by Maclaren for the Boy Scout Association. Nevill first took his Rover Scouts to begin repairing the estate on Maundy Thursday, 17 April 1919. On this visit, the Rovers slept in the gardener's shed in the orchard because the ground was so wet they could not pitch tents. They called this shed "The Pigsty" and recently restored, it still stands, as it is the site of the first Scout campsite at Gilwell Park. Maclaren was a frequent visitor to Gilwell Park and helped repair the buildings. His dedication was so great that he donated another £3,000. Maclaren's interest had been in providing a campground, but Baden-Powell envisioned a training centre for Scouters.

An official opening was planned for 19 July 1919 but it was delayed until Saturday, 26 July 1919 so that Scouts could participate in the Official Peace Festival commemorating the end of World War I. Invitations were changed by hand to save money. Significant remodeling and construction was done in the 1920s. Because of limited finances, few improvements were made during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Baden-Powell never lived at Gilwell Park but he often camped, lectured, taught courses, and attended meetings. He emphasized the importance of Scouters' training at Gilwell Park for Scouting by taking it as the territorial designation in his peerage title of 1st Baron Baden-Powell of Gilwell in 1929 when the barony was conferred upon him by the king.

### Origin of the axe and log totem

The axe and log logo was conceived by the first Camp Chief, Francis Gidney, in the early 1920s to distinguish Gilwell Park from the Scout Headquarters. Gidney wanted to associate Gilwell Park with the outdoors and Scoutcraft rather than the business or administrative Headquarters offices. Scouters present at the original Wood Badge courses regularly saw axe blades masked for safety by being buried in a log. Seeing this, Gidney chose the axe and log as the totem of Gilwell Park. This logo came to be strongly associated with Wood Badge leader training and is still used on certificates, flags, and other programme-related items.



## Wartime and later development

The estate was requisitioned by the War Ministry from 1940 to 1945 as a local command, training, and ordnance centre. Little remains at the estate from World War II, except the hole created by a bomb dropped by the Luftwaffe. It was enlarged and is now used for swimming and canoeing.

After the purchase of the original site in 1919, the purchase of Gilwellbury and adjoining land in 1945 is probably the next most important in Gilwell Park's Scouting history because it allowed The Scout Association to close the original road and fully utilize Branch et Field. It was originally used for small retreats and conferences but is now used as staff accommodation. The Ministry of Education assisted in the purchase.



The Gilwell Farmhouse is believed to date from the early 18th century, making it the oldest original building at Gilwell Park. It is composed of two buildings that were joined together. There is a brick well head on the farm that is known as the Gil Well. A field adjoining the boundaries of Gilwell Park, known as Bill Oddie Field, affords dramatic views of the London skyline over Pole Hill, Chingford. The field was so-named after employees of The Scout Association spotted TV ornithologist Bill Oddie recording a programme about circling birds of prey on the field in 2006.

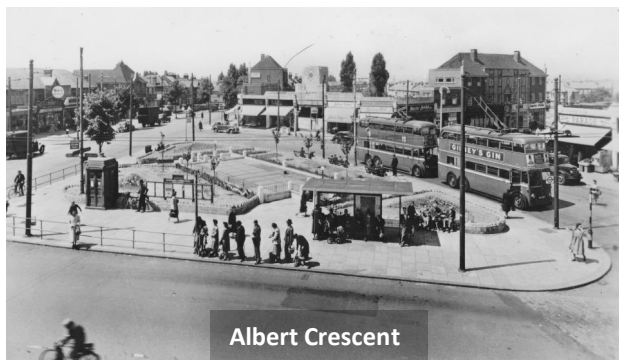
After the war, the Boy Scout Association bought adjoining land to increase the estate and protect it from rapidly approaching new developments. These areas are called The Quick, New Field, and Hilly Field. An additional purchase and a donation from South Africa in the early 1950s brought the estate to its present size. This began an era of expanding camping facilities for Scouts which lasted until the early 1960s. Training and sleeping facilities were added through the early 1970s. The Boy Scout Association was renamed The Scout Association in 1967.

During the 1970s, two key and popular facilities were built: the Dorothy Hughes Pack Holiday Centre for Cub Scouts and the Colquhoun International Centre for training Scouters, originally called The International Hall of Friendship. In the 1980s extensive remodelling of the White House was done. In April 2001, The Scout Association moved its program staff from London to Gilwell Park, where its training staff were already located. Extensive renovations were done to the White House and other buildings.

## **SOUTH CHINGFORD –by Leonard Davis 2005 (Extra 52, pt1)**

### **THE CROSSROADS**

The crossroads near the Prince Albert are sometimes called the 'Albert' crossroads but in the seventeenth century they were known as the Four Wants or Four Want Way; 'want' from Old English 'went' meant a way.



Across the road at the corner of Chingford Mount Road and New Road William Trant and Horace Grundy opened a hardware and grocery store before World War II and Mr Trant was appointed sub-postmaster. Many people remember this old fashioned store. After the War it was replaced by a

firm selling electrical goods and for some years has been a £1 shop.

In recent years the practice of putting stock on the pavement outside shops has become commonplace but the practice outside the Prince Albert was much earlier, particularly for selling flowers on Saturday etc. In 2003, I received a letter from a lady then living in Norfolk but formerly in Chingford. She wrote that her husband's father used to be a fishmonger that came round on a horse and cart but also used to be outside the Prince Albert before it was pushed underground.

### **The shoe shops**

So far as I can recall there have always been shoe shops across the road from the £1 shop i.e. at the corner of Hall Lane and Chingford Mount Road. In the early 1950s No. 1 Hall Lane was occupied by F.G.Timms, (formerly Bouchard's ), for footwear repairs, best work and materials, reasonable prices, personal supervision; opposite The Prince Albert. In recent years Stead and Simpson Ltd. have sold shoes etc at 275, Chingford Mount Road but for many years Freeman, Hardy and Willis were there.

### **Albert Crescent**

The remaining corner is now occupied with Albert Crescent. This was first occupied in 1932. Before then the space was sometimes used as a fairground. A shop that in 1974 was at No. 4 Albert Crescent was Romarne, Chingford's Fashion Centre, which advertised that it sold bikinis.

## **Cherrydown Avenue**

Albert Crescent connects with the end of Cherrydown Avenue where there was once the Odeon Cinema. Across the road there was 'Hair by Lindsey Salon' which had been popular with local ladies for decades. In 2001 Terry Nash informed the local Guardian that after 35 years in the business he was in process of selling the shop to a staff member.

## **The Roundabout**

Since 1905 trams had run from the Prince Albert into Walthamstow but when they were replaced by trolleybuses the roundabout enclosed by Albert Crescent was used as a terminus and it is still used for that purpose by ordinary buses. During World War II it was the site of a Wardens Post. In 2000 it acquired a Millennium Fountain and for many years has been the location of public toilets.

## **THE ODEON CINEMA**

The Odeon Cinema was opened in 1935; the name was changed to The Classic in 1967 and it was closed in 1972. It was replaced by Wallis's supermarket, then International Stores Ltd and then Gateway Foodmarkets Ltd. Now the site is occupied by the Pound Stretcher Stores.

The Cinema was noted for its art deco lines dominated by a tower and said to be the best example, other than the 'Odeon' Leicester Square, of Andrew Mather's rather brash but highly effective approach to Odeon design.



In November, 1937 the British Legion held a Remembrance Service there.

In September, 1938 an audience at the Odeon watched the actual handing over of the new Borough Charter to the Town's representatives for safe keeping.

In February, 1938, a crowd of film fans attended the Odeon to see the glamorous Russian film star Tamara Desni and her actor husband (Count) Bruce Seton. Some of the fans had seen the star on the London stage. The event was the screening of the film of Edgar Wallace's 'The Squeaker' in which Tamara Desni starred. Mr Henri de Roфе, Manager of the Odeon, introduced her to the audience and three year old Derek de Roфе presented a bouquet.



In 1939 during National Service Week there were special displays on the stage and 750 people volunteered for A.R.P.(Civil Defence) duties.

A member mentioned that near the Odeon there was a Maynard's sweet shop. Since then there has always been such a shop at that location but the proprietors have changed several times.

### LATEST CHS NEWS

#### **David Young**

*Our President, David Young, has not enjoyed good health for the last couple of years. He is currently staying at Harts House, Woodford Green, where he is well cared for. We will try and get him to write an article for the next newsletter. He has so many interesting and happy memories of our society especially the annual mystery outing in Essex which he and his wife, Lilli, arranged. Members never knew where they were going and we usually ended up with a splendid fish and chip supper on the way home.*

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

We have organised a society outing to the historic estate of Copped Hall, Crown Hill, Epping.

Sunday 19th July is Copped Hall's "extended tour" day. There are 3 separate tours offered on that day, an "upstairs" tour focusing on the Georgian phase of the house, a "downstairs" tour, concentrating on the Victorian phase and finally a Garden Tour, which will talk about the Tudor and Stuart and earlier periods.

Each tour is about an hour long and visitors can do all of them in any order, or simply opt for the tours they wish to concentrate on. There are sufficient guides during the day.

Light Lunches until 2.00pm; other refreshments will be available throughout the day, until 4.00pm. The shop will be open and plants and produce will be on sale in the gardens.

We have reserved a coach for the outward and return journey. Pickup from Station Road (TBC) at 10.00am and returning for 3.30pm (approx.)

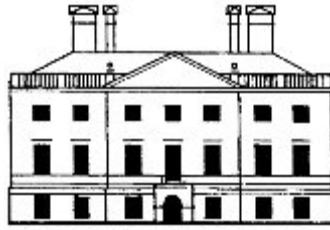
Subsidised Cost (includes entrance fee and travel): £20.00      Non- Members: £30.00

Please complete the booking form and return with full payment by 19<sup>th</sup> March.

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

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Gary Stone

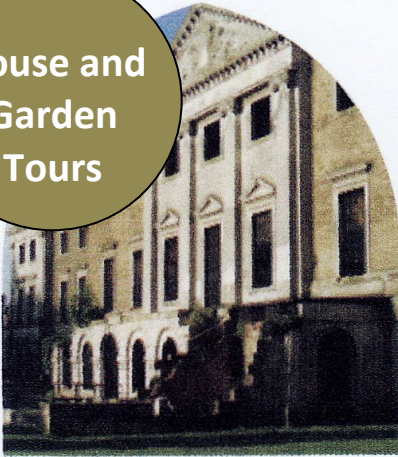
All enquiries to: Angela Wagstaff  
020 8926 8205  
[abelwag@ntlworld.com](mailto:abelwag@ntlworld.com)



THE COPPED HALL TRUST

# CHS Visit - 19th July

House and  
Garden  
Tours



BOOK  
NOW

## Copped Hall

Copped Hall has a long and important history.

From 1350 until 1537 the Abbots of Waltham Abbey occupied the estate. Mary Tudor also resided in the Abbot's mansion before she became Queen in 1553.

In 1567 parts of the mansion were incorporated into an Elizabethan palace where Shakespeare's *Mid-Summer Night's Dream* was first performed. This building was demolished when the present mansion was built in the 18th century. This mansion was burnt-out in 1917 and is, at long last, being restored by the Copped Hall Trust.