



Number 21

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2020

£1.00 (free to CHS members)

FROM THE EDITOR

Hello to all our members during these challenging times. It's been difficult keeping in touch with everyone, however, with the wonders of the internet we have successfully been able to continue with our monthly historical talks and social media feeds. We hope to return to real meetings soon subject to government guidance.

Our long serving president David Young died peacefully at a care home in Woodford Green on May 26th, at the age of 92. Read his obituary on page 2.

Please take the opportunity of visiting our new website at www.chingfordhistory.org.uk where you will find information on future talks, watch past talks again and keep up to date with the latest news at the society.

See us on: -

- Twitter: @ChingfordHist.
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ChingfordHistoricalSociety/>
- YouTube: Chingford Historical Society
- Instagram: chingfordhistorical

Forthcoming Online Talks

See a full list on our website

15th October 2020 – **Historical Tour of North Norfolk** - *Talk by Alison Goulter about places of historical interest in North Norfolk. Followed by AGM.*

19th November 2020 – **East Anglian Artists** - *Talk given by Jeff Page about how they portrayed the local landscape and life.*

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

DAVID ARTHUR YOUNG (1927 – 2020) – by Angela Wagstaff



David was born in 1927 and lived in Frankland Road, South Chingford. He attended New Road School and then Wellington Avenue Senior School but he was able to take a post-11+ exam which he passed, and was accepted at the Technical College in Forest Road, Walthamstow. He chose to study engineering which he greatly enjoyed. He left when he was 16 and was offered a job at the Ever Ready battery manufacturers in Forest Road, Walthamstow, where he stayed for the next 12 years.

He'd had some health problems for quite a while which may have been aggravated by the continued inhalation of multiple chemicals. In 2014, he was interviewed by the Waltham Forest Oral History Group about his time at Ever Ready. It was amazing at how much he remembered – especially as he'd left there in 1955, some 59 years previously.

He was a life-long member of various organisations including the Youth Hostel Association. He applied for a job as a Hostel Warden on the north coast of Scotland. He found the scenery, the ever changing weather patterns, and even the isolation, good for his soul. "How did he get there", you ask? Well, he went all the way on his bicycle, complete with rucksack and paniers containing everything he thought he might need for the next six months. The journey of around 1,000 miles took him two weeks and he stayed at hostels along the way. Only once did he need to take public transport. He provided dried and tinned food to the hostellers who cooked their own meals and although there were 32 beds available, he once had to cater for 50 visitors, some of whom had to sleep under the stars. The site was rather remote with a weekly mobile shop, and a postman who also brought medicines. The Youth Hostel Association would have liked him to stay on but after six months he decided it was time to look for a more lucrative career. He then spent just over a year making colour prints from colour transparencies and advertised his services in the Amateur Photographer Magazine. However, as his workshop was also his bedroom, he grew tired of the disruption.

David then applied to become a technician at Queen Mary College, University of London, starting work in a new building housing the Physics department. After

three years he became chief technician in charge of all technical services. He worked on astrophysics and took a 2-week trip to the Pyrennees' Observatory. He extended his stay there and his wife, Lilli, went out to join him. He'd met her during his time with the Chingford branch of the CND (Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament). Lilli, who was Jewish, had come to London from Germany just before the war as a refugee, to train as a teacher. They married in 1961 and took possession of their house in Whitehall Road the day before their wedding.

David joined the Chingford Historical Society in the 1970s and soon became an enthusiastic participant in many projects. He joined the committee and became Joint Secretary in 1985, then Chairman in 1986.

Many members will remember the annual Essex Mystery Coach outings when nobody knew where they were going until they were all on board the coach. He and Lilli spent a great deal of their time finding interesting places for us to visit, and where we eventually sat down together for what was then referred to as a High Tea. This was usually held in a Church hall and often proved to be a tasty salad meal.



David prepared many lectures for the society and always produced interesting slides, all of which we hope to retain. One of our favourite lectures was when he built a little cabin cruiser in his front garden. With help from a friend, he and Lilli managed to get the boat down to the river Lea. They then took it all the way to Cambridge via different rivers, some of which had not been properly maintained for many years. The journey took two weeks so they had to leave the boat there when it was time to return to Chingford and go back to work.

David loved walking, camping and cycling the mountains of North Wales. He soon realised he would like one of the isolated cottages that were laying idle with only

sheep as residents. He found 'just the one' nestling among the ferns above Betws-y-Coed. Happily, he was able to lease it from the Forestry Commission before purchasing it some years later. He spent many years renovating the cottage with his wife Lilli and the help of several friends who revelled in the challenge.



David developed an interest in sundials at a very early age and eventually co-founded the British Sundial Society in 1989. That society is still in existence and has members from all over the world. In the year 2000, as a Millennium project for the owner of Easton Lodge, Great Dunmow in Essex, David helped with the design and installation of a living sundial, now more than twice his height and still thriving. He last visited it in

2016 to make sure it was still pointing in exactly the right direction. He also had a small collection of his own.

The last few years of David's life were something of a trial for him when he developed multiple myeloma and needed to make frequent visits to hospital for chemotherapy treatment. However, he always retained an interest in the society and gave his last lecture when over the age of 90.

Lilli died on the 6th March 2006. There were no children.

David died peacefully at a care home in Woodford Green on 26th May 2020.

With thanks to Waltham Forest Oral History Workshop for their help in the production of this obituary.

Charles William Alcock – by Joanna Moncrieff



Did you know that the man described by the Football Association as the 'Forgotten Father of English Sport' lived for a time in Chingford?

Charles William Alcock lived with his parents and siblings at Sunnyside, now long gone apart from its former gatehouse at 73 Woodberry Way.

His father was a successful ship owner, later ship broker and in the mid 1850s moved the family south from Sunderland to Chingford which at that time was very sparsely populated.

6 years after moving his father also called Charles bought 40 acres of meadow land, which included Park Hill Farm and extended down King's Head Hill.

Charles Junior wasn't academically gifted but he was good at football. In 1859 during his last year at Harrow School Forest Football Club was established by Charles and his elder brother John.

Four of the team members were old Harrovians but there was a strong connection with Forest School Snarebrook and their first ground was nearby.

At that time there were no common rules; all the public schools had their own versions.



1863 *Bell's Life* noted that *"the play of Mr C. Alcock of the Forest club elicited great applause". "... he was 'an excellent dribbler and goal getter, very hard to knock off the ball, and as hard a worker as he was enthusiastic"*

The Football Association was formed in October 1863 and 3 years later Charles joined the committee. Scarcely a year after being elected secretary in 1870 he

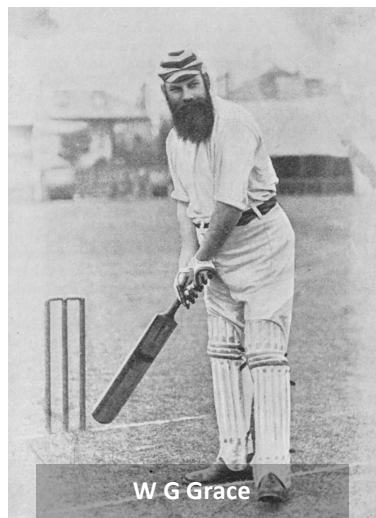
came up with an idea for a challenge cup – today's FA Cup. There were 15 entries for the first competition in 1872. Forest – by then known as Wanderers – were the first winners against the Royal Engineers.

This wasn't Alcock's only achievement. He was heavily involved with cricket too.

In 1899 Cricket legend W G Grace said of him *"He is a cricket encyclopaedia, full of reliable information and always ready to serve cricket by any means in his power."*

Wisden (1908) records that he was 'a steady bat, a fair change fast bowler, and an excellent long stop'

By 1864 he had moved out of Chingford and married Eliza Ovenden in Islington.



They went on to have 8 children: William Edward Forster Alcock (1865-1887); Elizabeth Maud Alcock (1869-1937); Florence Caroline Alcock (1870-1938); Charlotte Mabel Alcock (1872-1903); Charles Ernest Alcock (1873-1874); Helen Mary Alcock (1874-1946); Marion Frances Alcock (1875-1922); Violet May Alcock (1878-1952)



His parents remained at Sunnyside, his father acting as a respected JP.

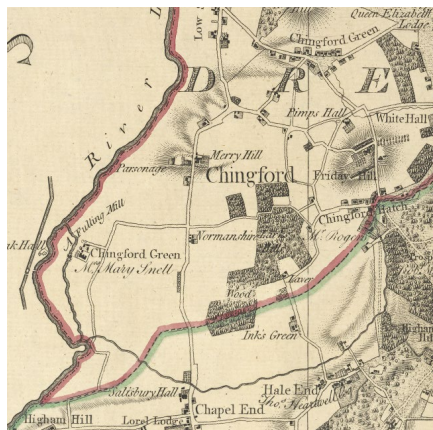
By the time of his death in 1907 he was living in Brighton. He is buried in West Norwood but his parents and several of their children are buried at Chingford Old Church.

For a more in depth look at the life of Charles William Alcock please go to our YouTube channel and watch Joanna's talk about him which took place on 19th June 2020.

Chingford Hall – by David Boote

Beside the dual carriageway North Circular Road is not where you might expect some rich local history, traffic-free quiet and views of water channels and big trees, but they are there.

Chingford had a mill when the Domesday Book was prepared in 1086. Today Lower Hall Lane, a no through road for vehicles, has a sharp double bend, and this is the ancient route that served the mill. King Edward the Confessor gave one of the two manors of Chingford to the Canons of St Paul's Cathedral in the City of London. This had its 'Hall' close to the Mill. In 1265 the Hall was part of a group of buildings inside a gated precinct with a chapel, a room for clergy, a kitchen, a granary and a dairy. Outside the inner gated area were more granaries, a kiln, a stable and servants' quarters, all of which were within two enclosures, possibly a mixture of walls, fences, hedges, ditches and a moat. A pigsty was outside all three enclosures. There is an engraving or woodcut of Chingford Hall in about 1765 (see above).



The map John Chapman and Peter André drew of Essex in 1777 shows Hall Lane with a right-angle bend (Waltham Way did not exist). Chingford Hall was occupied by Mrs Mary Snell. To the west of the cluster of manorial buildings ran the millstream for Chingford Mill, in 1777 'fulling' cloth, a process in which the water drives hammers bashing fuller's clay into woven cloth. The mill stream came off and later rejoined the River Lea, the boundary between Chingford and Edmonton, between Essex and Middlesex. To

the west of that was the canal-like Lee Navigation, just being completed as Chapman and André published their map.

About 1840 the manor house of Chingford St Pauls was rebuilt in yellow brick, to serve as a handsome farmhouse. The moat was reduced in scale to become part of the garden landscaping. A kitchen garden survived with 14 inch thick Tudor walls, as did a brewhouse. An image exists of barns at Chingford Hall Farm.



By 1848 the mill was back to exclusive use grinding wheat, which it did until closure in 1880. Lower Hall Lane (then Chingford Hall Lane) had until the 1870s a toll bridge where it crossed the mill stream. It led to Bleak Hall Bridge over the River Lea, later the site of Cook's Ferry.

The East London Waterworks Company purchased Chingford Hall and Chingford Mill. In 1886 the East London Water Works Company demolished the mill and the miller's house. It dug a well and a deeper borehole to extract water. Steam powered engines were installed and a turbine house over the mill stream. A red brick pumping building with a square tower and a chimney was built in 1895. Coal for the steam engine was brought by horse drawn vehicles from railway sidings at Angel Road.

Construction of the North Circular Road in 1928 transformed this part of Chingford from a backwater to a highly desirable factory location. A business making products from cork was transferred to near Chingford Hall. The Cork Manufacturing Company purchased Chingford Hall and its farm in 1940. Chingford Hall was converted into offices, the moat was filled in, and the gardens built over.

After the Second World War automatic electrical pumps took over from steam power at the Mill waterworks. The Victorian engine house with its surrounding land is now in private ownership, a residential property development.

In 1965 there was an archaeological dig which uncovered foundations of the manor house and part of the moat. The Cork Manufacturing Company closed and the buildings were demolished in 1983. The site is now a retail area with some modern residential properties.

This article has taken much of its information from two Chingford Historical Society publications by Septimus Barry: 'Chingford Hall' and 'Chingford's Water Supply'.

Extracts from the Parish Magazine (Pt 3) – 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 centuries.

1810 - Churchwardens' Accounts: the Churchwardens were not only responsible for taking care of the fabric & ornaments of the church, but also ridding the Parish of vermin. It appears they paid:

4d (2p) [78p] per hedgehog; polecat & weasel

4d (2p) [78p] for a dozen sparrows

3s 4d (17p) [£7.75] per fox



Nov 1815 - It was decided to build a Lock-up House for £50 [£2,500]. It ceased to be used when a police station was built in Woodford.

16 Jan 1818 - Vestry Meeting: "That it is the opinion of this meeting, that the proposed enclosure of the Forest of Waltham and Waste and Commonable lands situate within the boundaries thereof is inexpedient, and pregnant with serious consequences to the owners and occupiers of property situate within said boundaries. And it is therefore the opinion of this meeting, that the proposed measure of enclosure be opposed, and that this Resolution be communicated by the Churchwardens to the General Meeting to be held at Chigwell on the 19th inst. 1818"

Apr 1879 - The South-West Essex Benefit Society: it was established in 1838 and by the end of 1877 it had 273 members and £6554 available. Members [men & boys only] could subscribe for the following benefits:

Sickness: the scale of payments was fixed according to the age of the person when he joined. A boy under 18 who paid 11½d (5p) [£3.30] a month would receive 8s (40p) [£26.50] a week, however a man who joined at 26 had to pay 1s 2d (6p) [£3.86] a month to receive 8s [£26.50] a week when ill.

Funeral expenses: in order to receive £8 [£530] on death to pay for funeral expenses, a boy under 18 had to pay 2½d (1p)[69p] a month; a man under 30 had to pay 3½d (1½p) [97p] a month

Endowments: parents by paying a monthly sum could secure an endowment of £6 [£400] at age 14 or £12 [£800] at 21

Doctor: an additional payment of 2d (1p)[55p] a month would secure the services of a doctor.

Jul 1879 - The Chingford **National Schools** were inspected by HM Inspector. The 1876 Education Act stated:

- children between the ages 5-14 had to receive instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic.
- children under 14 could not leave school to go to work unless they had passed the third Standard or attended school 250 times a year during the previous 3 years.
- for children over 10 who had 150 attendances and to whom it was thought necessary and beneficial to work, then school managers could agree.
- parents could be fined 5s (25p)[£16.50] for not sending their children to school.
- anyone who employed children who should be at school could be fined £2 [£132].

The local committee at Epping had requested that the Schoolmaster make a monthly report of the names of all children who attended irregularly or had left school early, so that the school visitor could make enquiries

1880 - The Parish Church was closed for repairs. During this time the unused Old Church was used for services after it was pronounced safe to use. Permission was granted for Banns to be read there, although the marriage had to take place in the Parish Church.

Apr 1882 - At a public meeting it was decided to form a cricket club. A list of rules was drawn up and a committee was formed. About 35 were elected as members. It was planned to have practices on Monday & Wednesday evenings and on Saturday afternoons. A piece of land at the back of Mount Caroline was lent to the club.

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.

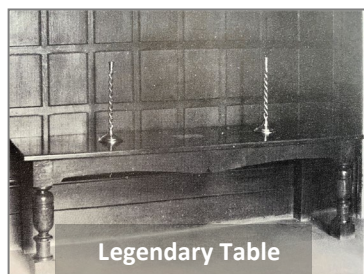
Little Friday Hill House – by Gary Stone (extracts from Len Davis Notes).

The first Little Friday Hill House burnt down in the middle 1800s but later rebuilt. The occupant for many years was Mr Zygilie, a popular man locally. He allowed local youths to have a day's shooting in Larkswood on Boxing Day; scores of rabbits and other types of game were shot.

In 1935 the building was used for offices for the London County Council during the construction of the Friday Hill estate.

The earliest records show that in 1844 the house was on the Ordnance Survey map and James Wallace lived there in 1848. In 1851 the Mason family from Scotland lived there. Mr Mason was a Baltic agent. The building has been described as an old dower house and at one time Miss Boothby Heathcote's chauffeur lived there.

In 1952 the Brewing Trade Review reported that at the end of May, 1952 a completely new public house, to be known as the Sirloin, opened on Friday Hill. It was opened by Mr S.H.Combe, M.C.,Chairman of Messrs Watney, Combe, Reid & Co.Ltd. The name followed the claim that the knighting of the loin had taken place there.



The story is told that King James I used the old Friday Hill House (across the road in Simmons Lane) as a hunting lodge when he came to hunt. On a table in the front hall, was a brass plate on which was engraved 'All lovers of roast beef will like to be informed that on this table "the loin" was knighted by King James I on his return from hunting in Epping Forest'

The licence was transferred from The Rising Sun at Lambeth under The Licensing Planning Act of 1945; thought to be the first planning removal to a permanent building in the London area. Inside the pub there were large photographs of film stars. The inn sign was by John Turner.

According to the Waltham Forest Guardian of January, 1985 there were the first structural changes since 1952; the Governor was Neil Spanjar. There was a new

children's room, attractive landscaping and the inn sign was replaced with a likeness of Charles II.

In 2003, Colonel Pubwatch commented on the change of name to Forest Edge which he thought more appropriate than the phony Sir Loin. The film stars were replaced with woodland scenes.

In September, 2005, licensees Terry and Lorraine held a barbecue event to raise money for Haven House Children's Hospice.

Memories of The Sirloin Pub – by Peter Sceats

I live in Switzerland and people often ask me whereabouts I come from in the UK (they guess when I speak my bad accented German that I am not exactly Swiss!), and I tell them “I am Chingford born and bred”.

Actually that's not quite right because I was born in Woodford, but that level of detail is not usually required here in the land of lakes and mountains.



My first home was an art deco semi in Heathcote Grove (now tragically demolished). I can just about remember our Mormon lodgers and dad's Renault Dauphine parked outside. We moved to Hornsey North London in 1964 when mum and dad took the plunge and became publicans. It went very well for several years but mum and dad missed leafy Chingford and the cows that would wander around the town without a care.

A pub, formally Little Friday Hill House in Chingford became available in the late 60's and my Dad (George) with Mum (Joyce) worked hard to become the new licencees of The Sirloin Friday Hill. Being from Bethnal Green/Stepney area himself, he had the idea to make it into a cockney home from home and a sing-along of a pub.

To say the idea worked is an understatement. The Sirloin became the heart of the community and was packed to the rafters every weekend when dad would play

the Lowrey organ and accompany the many locals who fancied themselves as a Dean Martin or a Matt Munro.

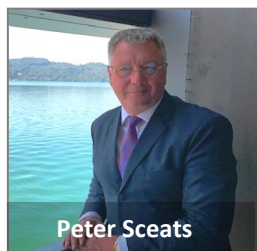


As a youngster, upstairs in the flat over the pub watching telly with my cousin Michael Wells, I could hear the evening getting going when I heard “I’ve been terribly alone... (audience goes “ahhh”), forgotten in Manhattan... (ditto), I’m going home (the whole pub would cheer and shout ‘go on then clear off!’)... To my city by the bay... I left my heart, in San Fran...”. Well you know the rest.

The remainder of those evenings would see about half a dozen singers get up to sing. It never occurred to me back then how my dad knew so many songs or how easily he could change key for the different singers. As a musician myself, I now realise what a top busker my dad was...

It was a golden time for our family which extended to about 300 members every weekend all through the 70s. I joined the firm as a 14 year old potman with my old mate Douglas Gear and I got to be proper part of it all until football and then becoming a Mod took over (I was way too cool to be potman by that stage!).

By the early 80s it all ended, as things do. Mum and dad retired, took another pub on the Norfolk Broads and then retired again, then opened a B&B, then finally retired to life of hosting each other instead of everyone else...



I am the designated family historian and archivist. I have many photos and mementos from those days on display in the family house back in the UK. Some you’ll see around this article.

There is so much more to tell of that period. So many stories... All of it stored in full 1970s colour in my encyclopaedic memory. But that will have to wait for another time.

This is Peter Sceats, “**SIL**verthorn 4602”, signing off for now.

SOUTH CHINGFORD – by Leonard Davis 2005 (Extra 52, pt2)

THE ROYSTON ARMS

This was an old pub situated at 83 Chingford Mount Road. The earliest record comes from the Walthamstow Guardian of 5.1.1912. 'Burton James Bird of the Royston Arms appealed against the Poor Rate made 28.4.1911. It was a small place having a shop, parlour and scullery and a sitting room, two bedrooms and bathroom above. It had previously been a shop but obtained an Off Licence 18 months earlier in 1910.



The Poor Rate was then increased. The House was tied to Savill Bros.

In 1913 Mr Bird gave Notice of Appeal against the restriction in his Off Licence to be closed on Sundays.

In the post World War II years Mr Maurice George Brewer of Royston Avenue was a trolleybus conductor. He was well-known as the Leader of the Roystonians Concert Party. One of the artistes was Gwenda Wilkins who later became one of the leading accoridian players in the country.

In 2005 Colonel Pubwatch visited the Royston and described it as a valuable community asset.

The pub was closed in 2014 and finally demolished in 2017 to make way for apartments.

CHERRYDOWN FARM

This farm took its name from the fields. Little, Lower, Middle and Upper Cherrydown which were on the slope of the hill at the top of which was the Old Church. The farmhouse buildings were sited approximately at the junction of Priory Avenue and Old Church Road. 1594. From the Calendar of Charters & Rolls in the Bodleian 1878 -'Cherrydowne'.

1738. John Buckmaster farmed 127 acres. Jared Hill Map. 1838. Tithe Award. Rev. Boothby Heathcote leased to George Briihl. 1851. Census. George Briihl aged 75, retired Guards Officer, 127 acres. Employed four labourers. It has been said that Count de Briihl was a natural son of George III but we have seen no evidence of this. 1861. Census. Joseph Hartwell farmed 150 acres with his wife Mary.

1871. Census. Cherry Hall. Employed 4 men, 1 boy, 1 servant.

1981 Census. Joseph had retired and Alfred Hartwell ran the farm of 126 acres with 3 men and one boy. They were well known horse breeders.

1887. Owner Robert Boothby Heathcote.

1893. William Walter Burrows new tenant farmer.

1894. Occupier William Pierson, 127 acres.

1901. New owner William Edward Heathcote.

1902. Tomlin Brothers farmers.

1908. Owner Frederick G.Sinclair.

1916. War Agricultural Committee Census. W.F.Kerry. 85 acres grass, 15 acres arable, 40 acres heath, 9 horses, 24 cows in milk, 7 cows dry, 33 cattle, 3 sows, 70 pigs, 1 Farmer, 1 stableman, 2 dairymen, 2 women. 1926. The farm of 99 acres was sold to Thomas Walter Good of Good Brothers, builders for £15,000.



Before World War II the Cherrydown Estate was built on the former farm land by Good Brothers or other builders such as the Reader Brothers. First occurrences in Rate Books were as follows: 1931, Priory Avenue, 1935, Priory Close, 1936, Brindwood Road, Lansdowne Road, Leadale Avenue, Rectory Close, St. Catherines Road, 1937, Heriot Avenue, 1938, Rampton Close and 1939, Dovehouse Gardens.

Churchill Terrace was not planned until 1951 and first occupied in 1954.

The small garden at the corner of Priory Avenue and Old Church Road has been described as a memorial to Thomas Walter Good.

LATEST CHS NEWS

We now have historical photos of Chingford from our archive appearing in the Guardian paper and online on a weekly basis.

Fees for membership for 2021 will be due in January. If you have already paid for 2020 this will be rolled over to 2021.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

We plan to attend another Saturday Farmers market in Station Road in the near future. Please see the website for details.

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

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter or have any historical material to share,
please contact Gary Stone at enquiries@chingfordhistory.org.uk

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