



Number 22

## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021

£1.00 (free to CHS members)

### FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks to all our members for their support during the pandemic with their messages and regular attendance to our online talks. Your committee have been working hard to ensure we put out a diverse programme of talks and continue our constant activity on social media. I am pleased to report that this effort has resulted in the society successfully attracting over 30 new members during this period bringing our membership up to almost 100.

We have a full programme of online talks for the rest of this year and look forward to seeing you all again as soon as it is safe to do so. – Gary Stone

Interact with us on the following platforms:



@Chingfordhist



Chingfordhistory.org.uk



@Chingfordhistorical



enquiries@chingfordhistory.org.uk



Chingford Historical Society



@ChingfordHistoricalSociety

### Forthcoming Online Talks

See a full list at [www.chingfordhistory.org.uk](http://www.chingfordhistory.org.uk)

**18<sup>th</sup> March 2021** – Victorian & Edwardian homes in Chingford – *Talk by Karen Averby. Followed by AGM.*

**15<sup>th</sup> April 2021** – Alternative Kings Cross - *Talk given by Chris Foster – A former police officer with many alternative stories about this area.*

**20<sup>th</sup> May 2021** - History of the Fire Station- *Talk by Billy Reading – Author and aficionado on Fire Stations.*

## President's history – by Peter Uglow



Peter Uglow

I was born in 1949 in Chase Side Nursing home at number 11 Forest View, we lived in a small flat above the family business at 77/79 Station Road. In 1956 we moved to 8 Crescent Road, where I made some great friends, with whom I spent my time exploring the Forest, boating on Connaught Water, and cycling to Larkwood Pool. I started school at Normanhurst in Station Road, going on to St. Aubyns, in Woodford Green and finally Forest School, where I was a boarder.

Following a college course on furnishings and interior design I worked at four West End department stores before joining the family firm 'Uglows' in 1972. There I enjoyed a challenging and rewarding career until 2010 when we sadly closed Uglows after 100 years of trading.

I am now enjoying a comfortable retirement, living in a 300 year old village house, overlooking the green, and the pub at Matching Tye.



Peter with his +8 Morgan



Uglow car at the Chingford Carnival 1970's

I have been able to keep up with some hobbies including sailing and classic cars. I have been lucky enough to own twelve two seater sports cars since 1970, the current pride and joy being a +8 Morgan and we have a sailing boat at Burnham on Crouch.

After so many happy years living and working in Chingford, I was both surprised and delighted to be offered the position of Honorary President of the Society last year and hope that I may be able to make a useful contribution in the future.

## The Dominican Convent School – by Jill Millard Shapiro

The Dominican Convent on Forest Drive was a private fee paying school teaching both Catholic and Protestant day pupils with a few occasional boarders. I was a Protestant day pupil from 1948 to 1954 from the age of 5. There were two houses and a private chapel set in large, well maintained grounds and stables facing Epping Forest. The property was bought in 1921 for £4000 with money raised in Durban, South Africa by Bishop DeLalle.



From The Halls of Montezuma ...

After morning assembly Sister Sisselaus would position herself at the piano, flick back her veil, and proceed with gusto to pound out The Hymn of The United States Marines. The original version was by Offenbach. I later knew it as From The Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli and seventy years on I can still see Sister Sisselaus hoisting her skirts, placing her feet on the pedals and playing for all she was worth while we marched forward to our classrooms.



The memories come flooding back: The murmur of nuns saying the rosary, liturgical chants faintly heard from the chapel, Miss Holder's ballet classes, garden fetes and fancy dress parades; I was the White Rabbit complete with watch and chain when my mother led the parade to be judged by the actress, former

pupil Lana Morris. Oh those glorious summers with lessons beneath the weeping willow tree. Memories of striped dresses and Panama hats purchased from Warne's outfitters in Woodford. Memories of the gardening sister who tended the flower beds with her skirts tied into a bustle to prevent her habit from trailing in the dirt and most vivid of all are the memories of Sister Gerard better known as Reverend Mother Prioress.

During assembly Mother Prioress would read the letters sent to us from our missionary sisters in South Africa. The Dominican Convent's association with Africa began in 1921 with the arrival of four nuns who had come primarily to prepare young postulants for missionary work in the Kwazulu Natal district.



We were shown photographs of chubby African babies and nuns teaching young women how to use a Singer sewing machine. We were told of their good works and, at the age of seven, I resolved to go to Africa to see for myself. This was not from any religious desire to do good, far from it, but from a need to see the world beyond Chingford.

My school report for 1951 was signed by Sister Peter and says of me "She shows an interest in travel". The nuns had whetted my appetite.

My best friend Teresa and I were never intentionally naughty but our natural curiosity ensured that we were always teetering on the edge of trouble.

The main school building (now pulled down and replaced with blocks of flats) had a magnificent central staircase with a galleried landing around the first floor. We called them the green stairs and used to run up them, turn left or right, race all the way around and run back down the stairs again. If caught we were admonished as "unladylike".



My mother and I were both very ladylike when we walked up the green stairs for an appointment with the formidable Reverend Mother Prioress. My mother was nervous when she had to explain that my father had left us and our money had run out. She could no longer pay my school fees. We waited outside at the top of the green stairs while the situation was discussed with some of the sisterhood. When we were finally called back into the office Mother Prioress spoke without emotion and said "She is a very talented young lady. We will keep her here". We were dismissed without ceremony but, with those few words, the remarkable Sisters of the Dominican Convent in Chingford had pledged me a free education that would equip me for life in a world I had yet to see.

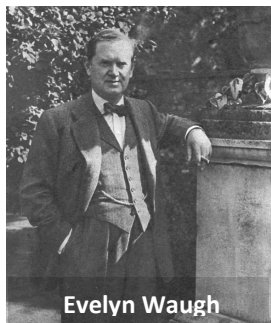


...To The Shores of Tripoli

In 1961 a United States Air Force plane landed me on the shores of Tripoli. I was there to entertain the troops. I had arrived in Africa and could almost hear Sister Sisselaus playing From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli.



The school closed in 1959 after 37 years. The two main houses of the convent had various names over the years. Convent of the Holy Rosary, Loretto Convent, St Dominics, St. Josephs and Walsingham House.



During the war 30 children, 6 nuns, a school mistress, a priest and two parents were evacuated to Evelyn Waugh's (Author of Brideshead Revisited) private house Pier's Court in Stinchcombe.

The Waughs let the house to the convent school for £600 a year in October 1939 while Evelyn served with the Army in Crete and Yugoslavia.

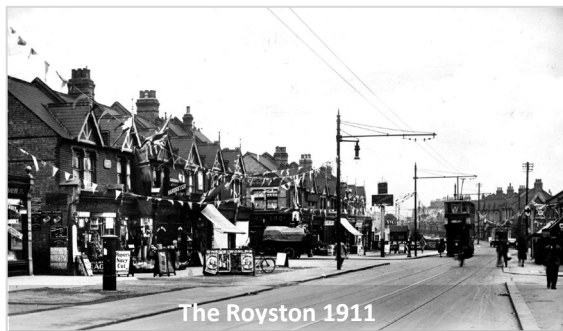
The contingent from the convent were at Pier's Court until 1945 and one of the girls wrote of their time there.

In 1959 the convent's main building was temporarily taken over by the Diocese of Brentwood and in 1964 the former St. Dominics was converted to a retreat house and in 1985 St. Joseph's was sold and Walsingham leased to the Diocese for ten years. In 1986 the community of sisters left Chingford after 65 years. In 1996 Walsingham was sold to the Diocese.



From memory, I can say that everything had been demolished by about 2005. I wonder what happened to the graves of the nuns who were buried there.

## The Royston Arms revisited – by John Conen

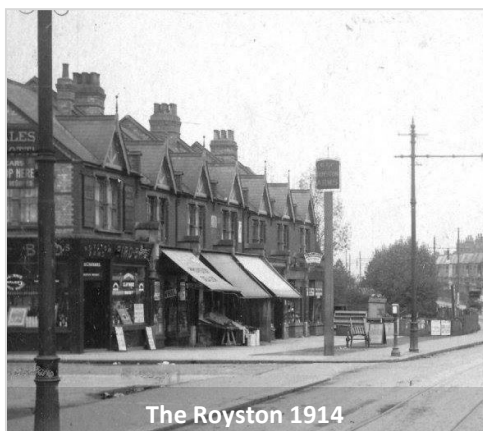


As South Chingford began to expand in the early part of the last century, housing development started up in Ainslie Wood Road and surrounding streets, and in Edwardian times a small community had grown up on this part of Chingford Road ('Mount' was not added until after World War 1). A lack of licensed premises soon

became an issue as there was no pub or off licence between the Prince Albert and the Crooked Billet. No doubt the residents of this part of South Chingford were desperate for convivial alcoholic refreshment.

This is how the Royston Arms originated. The pub probably took its name from an off licence on the other side of Chingford Mount Road. Further to the article on the Royston Arms in the autumn 2020 Newsletter, there is some understandable confusion. I don't think there was an 'old pub' either on the site of the later pub or on the opposite side of the road. The pub in the photograph in the autumn newsletter is the Royston Arms (no. 83) on the corner of Chingford Mount Road and Westward Road, built in 1938 for the brewers Charrington & Co, closed in 2014 and demolished in 2017. The site seems to have been vacant prior to 1938.

In pre-World War 1 photographs, a sign outside no. 80 Chingford Mount Road (formerly no. 68 before re-numbering about 1930) on the corner of Royston Avenue proclaims the Royston Arms. However, it is unlikely these premises were ever a pub despite the name, although they did belong to a brewer, Savill Bros of Stratford, who were taken over and closed by Charrington in 1925. The premises are in any case small and certainly not big enough to accommodate a pub.

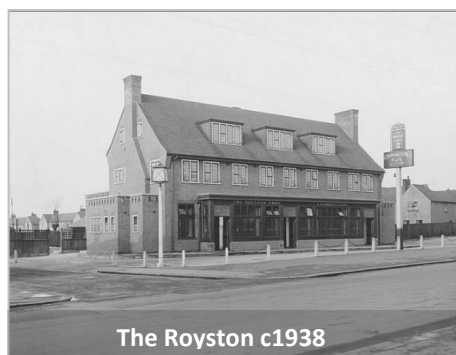




As Len Davis says, this was a shop for which Burton J Bird obtained a licence for off sales in 1910. Newspaper reports show that his application for a licence was strongly opposed albeit by people who wanted to have the licence themselves! Mrs Beech of the Prince Albert said she had specifically bought a property locally for that purpose.

I can't find any references to a Royston Arms pub prior to the 'real' pub opening over the road in 1938. At this time, breweries did own off licence businesses as well as pubs and these could have pub-type names and inn signs. In the 1911 census the occupier Burton J Bird is described as a 'wine, beer and spirit dealer' and in the 1923 Kelly's directory the Bird Bros were 'beer retailers' and ran an off licence here. Burton J Bird died in 1927. After World War 1 licensing magistrates were keen to see fewer, better-quality pubs and to promote large 'family' pubs with food provided rather than small 'boozers'. Licences for new pubs were hard to come by.

At Epping Magistrates on 4 February 1938, 'a licence for a new public-house to be erected on land at Chingford, fronting Westward Road and Chingford Mount Road, was granted to Albert James Wainwright. Mr Wainwright possibly represented Charrington the brewers who owned the pub. The architects of the pub were Foster & Sons of Loughton and it cost £11,260 to build. It opened in November 1938.



In the 1939 Register there were eleven residents at the Royston Arms. Robert and Marjorie Foulsham seem to be in charge, Robert being described as a licensed victualler. They had married in 1926 and Marjorie was the daughter of Burton J Bird. The Pickerings were the managers of the pub and the Pickerings' two daughters were bar staff. Also in residence was an off licence manager, and another barman. The pub did not initially have an off licence so the off licence referred to might have been at 80 Chingford Mount Road, as Mrs Foulsham still ran this in 1939. There was also a clerk plus another person in residence but it is not known if they were actually working at the pub. The Foulshams remained at the pub until the 1960s.

80 Chingford Mount Road was still an off licence in 1976, but is now a pharmacy.



There were at one time other players in the field. The South Chingford Social Club and Institute, 61-63 Chingford Mount Road lost its licence in March 1937 as a result of serving drinks after permitted hours and serving non-members. At Waltham Abbey Petty Sessions the Justices came down hard

on the licensee. They heard that ‘the Club had been run as an unlicensed public-house’ and had been raided by the police. The conviction clearly had a salutary effect on Mr Walker, the steward of the club. In the 1939 Kelly’s Directory, there is no longer a club at 61 Chingford Mount Road, only a Temperance Café, run by Mr Walker!

SOURCES: National Brewery Heritage Trust, press reports of Licensing Justices sessions, Kelly’s Directories, 1939 Register. Information on the South Chingford Social Club comes from the Chelmsford Chronicle, Friday 12 March 1937.

**From the editor** – Further to the publication of the Len Davis’s extract about the Royston Arms in the last autumn edition, we have learnt more about Gwenda Wilkins who frequently performed there. Gwenda was one of Britain’s finest post-war accordion entertainers. Her career, which stretched from 1950 to the early 1980s, took her around the world, including many concert tours for the armed forces.



Educated at Sir George Monoux Grammar School in Walthamstow, London, Gwenda was expelled when her headmistress saw her on television performing in a music competition, and declared it to be “conduct unbecoming of a young lady”!

She performed on ‘Opportunity Knocks’ on Radio Luxembourg, on television, and many times on the BBC Light Programme, on such shows as ‘Workers Playtime’, ‘Accordion’, and ‘Music While You Work’. She worked frequently with the singers Gracie Fields and Vera Lynn, and many other stars of show business.

Gwenda Wilkin was widowed, had a son and daughter, and passed away on May 6th, 2020 at the age of 86 in hospital following complications during surgery.

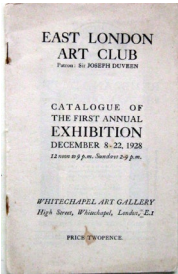


# George William Board – by Joanna Moncrieff



George William Board born in 1898 was a member of the East London Group of artists who were prominent in the 1920s and 1930s but largely forgotten about until recently. He came to my attention when the Twitter account <https://twitter.com/EastLondonGroup> posted an image of George’s painting entitled ‘Chingford’ which prompted much discussion as to where the painting was set. One of the suggestions was Thompson’s Lane north of Mott Street near Gilwell Park.

There then followed a conversation about a ‘lost’ painting by George Board entitled ‘The Owl, Chingford’ which was listed for sale at an exhibition in Whitechapel Art Gallery in December 1928 but that is where the trail stops and there isn’t even a copy of it.



It is a bit of a longshot but as the painting was of a local scene I wondered whether it had found its way to the home of any of our members or whether anyone has any knowledge of it or of any other George Board paintings of our area?

164	Pasture Land	G. BOARD	2 s. d.
165	The Waterfall	JESSIE RUBIN	1 1 0
166	Green Paint	T. JONES	1 1 0
167	Still Life	D. S. JONES	1 1 0
168	The Sideboard	ELWIN HAWTHORNE	2 2 0
169	Hastings Cliffs	J. W. LACEY	1 1 0
170	Bottles	ELWIN HAWTHORNE	2 2 0
171	High Breach	G. BOARD	2 2 0
172	Ferns	LILLY KIRBY	2 2 0
173	Landscape	W. S. BOYCE	2 2 0
174	Interior	GRACE OSKROFF	5 5 0
175	The Ringer	W. S. BOYCE	2 2 0
176	The Road House	GRACE OSKROFF	7 7 0
177	Rehearsal of The Resurrection	JOHN COOPER	20 0 0
178	The Owl, Chingford	G. BOARD	2 2 0

Alan Waltham who runs the ELG’s Twitter account and website was related to another ELG member by marriage. His wife’s uncle was Walter James Steggles.

Alan told me that 9 or 10 years ago he made contact with George Board’s daughter Myrtle, who coincidentally lived in Chingford and as far as I know still does. Myrtle had no knowledge of her father exhibiting his paintings. He had been made redundant just before she was born in 1930 and didn’t have the money to carry on

painting or exhibiting.

I have seen The Owl at Lippitts Hill referred to before as The Owl, Chingford so that must be the pub. If anyone can shed any light on this painting please contact Joanna either by email [joanna\\_moncrieff@yahoo.com](mailto:joanna_moncrieff@yahoo.com) or phone 07790 292 444 as it would be really good to see it.

For more information about the group including a wonderful BBC video that shows many of their paintings go to their website <https://www.eastlondongroup.co.uk/>

## Memories of Chingford – by Harold Melhuish (1893-1982)

A Draft sent to Jane Edmunds in Dec. 1964 about the recollection of Harold Melhuish

I came to Chingford as a small boy in 1900 and lived firstly at an oldish house in the High Street, subsequently named The Ridgeway.

Moving from Goose Green, East Dulwich, which prior to 1900 had been developed into a suburban area with built up streets etc., I found Chingford real country. Facing our house were cornfields, and, of course, no Reservoirs etc., just plain meadows and marsh lands below. Proceeding towards the Old Church, which was at that time an ivy clad ruin whose roof had collapsed, there were only 4 houses beyond us terminating with a house now called 79 The Ridgeway in which a family named Greengrass lived.

Shortly afterwards Mr Alfred Peachey built a house and sometime after another house was built by Mr Wells. Later a rather gaunt house, called Foxley, was erected and remained unoccupied for some, to my mind considerable time, and to us boys became the “haunted house”.

Just on the corner, where the house now called “Lucerne” stands, stood, firstly, a huge tarred barn and just beyond, with a gate in Endlebury Road, was an old brick Farm House with a wall and pump in the forecourt. I remember hearing it said, it had one time been a Workhouse.

At the other end of High Street there was a large house and out buildings in which it is reputed were the kennels for a pack of hounds. The old house still stands but the site of the stables etc. is now occupied principally by Pond House. This house is well named because just in front of the house named “The Croft” where there is a grass plot was a pond in which the horses coming up King’s Head Hill took a welcome drink.

My father had a position in a well-known Works in Angel Road, Edmonton, which naturally he went to daily. The only method of getting there was shanks pony, some three miles, which he covered 4/5ths of the way by field footpaths plus the usual stiles. The route taken was by fields at bottom of High Street (now entrance to Ridgeway Park) across various rough stiles coming out just in front of the Old Church, through the churchyard, thence by the back of Cherrydown Farm (long since gone) arriving at Waterworks Pumping Station,

then across the old Lea River and thence to an old narrow iron bridge over the Lea Canal, the beginning of Angel Road.

Hall Lane in those days was a narrow winding country lane with perhaps only 4 or 5 houses on the left hand side, each with a large garden. It, of course, wound round the Water Works Pumping Station which inter alia had a large farm alongside (Tolworthy's).

My father did this journey on foot for some 17 years or so and recorded he had walked to business, apart from traversing the Works during the day, some 25,000 miles.

A rather vivid memory of such days was the fact that for many of the early years he was dressed in Silk Top Hat and Frock Coat, suitably covered in the winter with a mackintosh (how it smelt of rubber) and, of course, a stout pair of boots.

I suppose in the days of 1900/1902 the population of Chingford was some 4,000 or so swelled on Bank holidays to maybe 100,000. It was a sight to see the Harry and Harriets, Pearly suits and fathers coming along from the East End etc. on their pony carts, traps etc. for a good day at the Fair on the Plain, and I am sorry to say the somewhat drunken trip back, the girls usually wearing Harry's hat and vice versa. All, except the poor animals, seemed to have enjoyed themselves. These days were ones when the residents felt it better to keep inside their houses and gardens.

Of course, the greatest scene of activity was Chingford Station, with trains coming and going not only from Liverpool Street but Stratford, Gospel Oak, Tottenham etc. Talking of Chingford Station I can still picture the Wooden Arch, looking somewhat dowdy, which stood at the entrance, which was erected in 1882 when Queen Victoria came officially to declare Epping Forest an open space for ever for the people.

Warren Pond I remember being drained and gravel extracted: all the work being done by hard digging, no bull dozers then, and being loaded into a sort of three wheeled wooden glorified wheel barrow, hauled up the bank by horses. I would not be surprised if W & C French did the job.

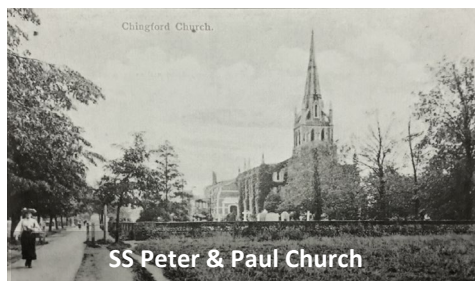
Harold Melhuish b1893 in Camberwell, d1982 Epping Forest (Chingford). This extract was discovered by Dave Branchflower (Chingford born) whilst carrying out research on his family history.

## Extracts from the Parish Magazine (Pt 5) – 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.

4 Sept 1820 - Vestry Meeting: the Constable was sent to 'throw open' the Church path and one road that had been stopped up near Pimp Hall.

1827 - Churchwardens' Accounts: the crusade against sparrows continued and they paid 2d (1p) [55p] per dozen eggs. In all 37½ dozen (ie.450) eggs were destroyed that year.



9 June 1879 - Boot Club: only girls in the National Schools under 13 and children in the Infants' School could join. In order to obtain a pair of boots at Christmas, children had to have subscribed the following amounts by 8 December:

- children at the Infants' School 2s 6d (12½p) [£8.30]
- a girl under 11 3s (15p)[£10]
- a girl under 13 4s (20p)[£13.25]

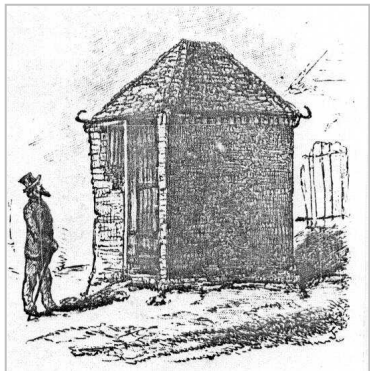
23 Nov 1882 - A public meeting was held to establish a branch of the Church of England Temperance Society in the parish. "The Society recognises that both Temperance and Total Abstinence are lawful according to the Scriptures. It wishes to include all who hate excessive drinking and who are anxious to help to put a stop to this sin".

18 June 1887 - The Queen's Jubilee Festival of Sunday School children at Crystal Palace was attended by over 5000 children. About 50 children from Chingford took part in the concert.

1 Aug 1889 - The Privy Council had issued an order. All dogs in Metropolitan Police District had to be muzzled to help prevent the spread of rabies.

*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.*

## Chingford Police –A History (Pt1)



Chingford has only had its own police station since 1888. Prior to that year all police were under the control of Waltham Abbey station house four miles to the north. Constables and sergeants posted to the strength of Waltham Abbey, but resident in Chingford, High Beech or Sewardstone, patrolled the village area.

The rural area had been previously patrolled by members of the Metropolitan Police 'N' Division Horse Patrol, a scarce resource that had been formed out of the Bow Street Horse Patrol in 1837. Locally men of this patrol operated from Enfield and Loughton. It was not until late in 1839 that plans were made to expand the 1829 formed Metropolitan Police to take in the new area with foot patrols, as part of the Enfield Highway section of the 'N' (Islington) Division. The Waltham Abbey section was to have had four sergeants and 13 constables posted to it, but only two of these were intended for Chingford. Two of the sergeants and a constable were held back, partly because difficulty was experienced with finding stables locally. The mounted sergeants were placed at Enfield until suitable stables were found in 1852.

Documents of the period show that until 1840 wrong doers in the area were taken to face the Justices sitting on the Bench of the Petty Sessions Court in Epping, sitting in "The Cock" Inn. After the police moved in during 1840 Waltham Abbey Petty Sessions was formed to hear cases in an area stretching from Nazeing to Chingford. The Justices initially sat in a room above the old Waltham Abbey police station, but later developments brought about the use of a purpose built building in the town. It was not until 1945 that a separate Chingford Court was started.

Chingford was a very scattered Parish; with a population of only 1,250 by 1871, the area did not initially warrant its own police station. A village lock up, a rectangular building with tiled roof and barred windows, undertook the task of providing a temporary means of incarceration for locally based officers. This far from secure structure dated back to 1815, 25 years prior to police being sent there in January 1840. It was to be demolished in 1887.

The men policing the area were dressed in a uniform consisting of blue jacket and trousers. The coat was high necked, swallow tailed and of heavy material. In

summer the trousers worn were white. A reinforced top hat was worn to reduce any sense of militarism. The constables were equipped with a bamboo truncheon, kept in the tail of the coat, a cutlass and a rattle. They also had the option of firearms. This last option was usually confined to the night duty officers as a matter of course. The men were literate, but usually coarse and fond of their drink. For pay of £1.1s.0d. the men worked almost every day of the year, twelve hours a day. Even off duty hours required the men to wear their uniform. With such long hours, many men were dismissed from the force as 'worn out' before they had served many years. In 1864 the men received new uniforms of a dark frock and trousers. The truncheon had a separate holster. The following year saw the introduction of a variation of the familiar helmet, with its badge, or "plate". Still no pay rise, or a day off had appeared in Police Orders of 31st December 1864, the Commissioner directed that the Superintendent of 'N' Division, amongst others, make immediate efforts to obtain sites for new police stations at various sites, including Chingford and Waltham Abbey.

The search for new station sites was to be very protracted, and not aided by the distance of both stations from the Divisional Centre at Islington. Horses were the main mode of transport for the service at the time, but the majority of the constables were confined to their feet until bicycles arrived.

In 1869 the police received their first pay rise since 1829 when an award of one shilling was made.

A memorandum from the Commissioner to the Receiver (financial controller) on 15th December 1874 requested a report from the surveyor on a piece of land that lay 'on the hill at Chingford by the railway station'; Mr. Charles Alcock was offering the land for sale at £250. The land was stated to front the highway where the old lock up stood and had a side road. In January of 1875 the Commissioner stated that in his opinion the site at Chingford should be purchased as the police must have a station there before long. The heavy increase in Londoners visiting nearby Epping Forest was the main consideration. The Home Office agreed to the purchase in February 1875, and the freehold was secured in the June. In the meantime Waltham Abbey had seen the purchase of another site, which saw the erection of a new station there in 1876.

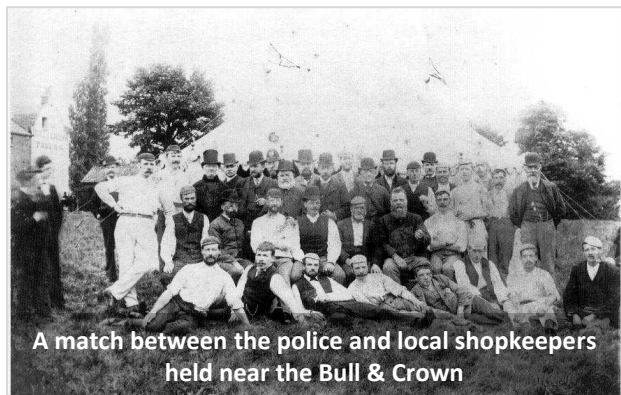
The Superintendent of 'N' (Islington) Division requested in a special report of April 1880 that a police station be erected on the Chingford site in view of the presence of many London excursionists in the summer months. The police presence remained much as it had been forty years previously. Plans were put in hand, and



passed by the Home Office, for a house that would accommodate the sergeant and a mounted constable, one of the five constables in the area. The building, which at a cost of £1,850 was designed to be convertible into a police station on demand did not get built.

In 1880 tenders were invited from contractors willing to build a two stall stable at the Chingford site. Only three bid, with the cheapest Lathey Brothers of Battersea, gaining the contract at a cost of £339, but as the work progressed additional costs inevitably presented themselves.

The East London Water Company, already laying a water pipeline across the front of the building down Kings Head Hill, agreed to supply water to the police site for £22.10s.0d. A further expense arose when it was decided to widen the side roadway next to the public house at an estimated cost of £138.10s.0d. This side entrance was to be a feature of the police station when it was built. The new stables eventually cost £495.14s.0d., slightly down on the estimates. The 'N' Division Superintendent used part of the stable to house his mount on visits to inspect that part of his division, then being the Woodford sub-division.



In May of 1882 Chingford men were present at the official opening of Epping Forest to the people of London by Queen Victoria.

By 1871, the previously great Epping Forest had dwindled alarmingly. In that year the City of London started buying up sections of it, eventually obtaining

6,000 acres in all. The Epping Forest Act, 1878, regularised the acquisitions. The ensuing years were to bring many clashes between officials and the local populace. Fortunately for the officers at Waltham Abbey most of the trouble appears to have affected Loughton station. Officers posted into the forest beats were, however, unable to avoid the constant bickering over lopping - the right of the common people to take kindling wood from the forest. – **Part 2 in next edition.**

PTO for latest news & events.

## LATEST CHS NEWS

After discussions with Acorn Films, they have kindly given CHS the rights to produce copies of the Chingford newsreels for sale to our members and the wider public. More details on when the newsreels will be available to follow shortly.

A reminder that our AGM will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> March via zoom.

CHS is growing and we are looking for enthusiastic people to join our committee to help with the general running of the society. A very rewarding position for someone interested in local history, meeting new people and being part of a motivated team. Please contact Gary on 07970 524553 or [enquiries@chingfordhistory.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@chingfordhistory.org.uk)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Due to the pandemic, there are no society attended events planned at the moment. However, we are talking to a number of other local historical societies including Woodford to bring you details on their talks that may be of interest.

President – Peter Uglow Chairman – Gary Stone Vice Chairman – Joanna Moncrieff Secretary – Angela Wagstaff Treasurer – Simon Goulter Committee Member – Alison Goulter Committee Member – David Boote Committee Member – Vacant
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If you would like to contribute to the newsletter or have any historical material to donate or share, please contact Gary Stone on 07970 524553 or [enquiries@chingfordhistory.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@chingfordhistory.org.uk)

All other enquiries to: Angela Wagstaff  
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