



FROM THE EDITOR

The society has been very busy this summer moving into our new home at the Chingford Station Community Hub. All of our material and publications are now stored and the next task is to catalogue all items and decide what we should digitise for access by members, the public and other organisations.

We successfully launched the North Chingford Heritage Trail in partnership with LBWF in June at the hub and the event was well attended.

Thank you for your continued support - Gary Stone

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Chingford Historical Society



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Forthcoming Talks

See a full list at www.chingfordhistory.org.uk

20th October 2022 – **Ilford Hospital Chapel** - *Talk by Peter Haseldine. According to Pevsner's Edition of The Buildings of Essex 1140 (King Stephen) was the foundation date for the Hospital at Ilford*

17th November 2022 – **The Kingdom of the EaSt SEaXe** - *Talk by Julian Whybra – referred to as the Kingdom of Essex, was one of the seven traditional kingdoms of the Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy. It was founded in the 6th century.*

8th December 2022 - **A Selection of Acorn Films – 1950s to 2000s.**

Beverley Sisters - by Vince Wright



During a recent telephone call from my old school friend, Peter Uglow, he reminded me that the singing Beverley Sisters opened the Kingswood Court retirement home, Chingford, in 1996. This got me thinking about my own links with Chingford as well as my close association with the Beverley Sisters, who were a top-of-the-bill act in the 1950s and 1960s.

Joy, the middle one of the Bevs, was my mother and Teddie and Babs, identical twins, were my aunts. In 1958 my mum married my stepfather, who was also famous in his own right - the footballer Billy Wright, who captained England and Wolverhampton Wanderers and was the first player in the world to win 100 caps for his country. It was one of the most publicised marriages of that era.

I had reached my teens when I realised I wasn't going to make the grade as a professional footballer, so I wanted to do the next best thing and write about it, as well as my other favourite sports. I



left school in 1966 and a few months later was taken on by the local newspaper, the Waltham Forest Guardian. In my early days there I was required to do some news reporting and I was the junior of a team of two covering the Chingford area. The paper was an excellent grounding for journalists and a year later, in 1968, I was allowed to transfer to the sports desk, where I was in my element.



In early 1970 I moved temporarily to the paper's Loughton office, where I met the late Bob Barlow and his close friend Paul Davies. We got on very well but unlike me, Bob and Paul

eventually left journalism to embark on another career. Bob started RBC, a public relations company, and asked Paul to join him. The Bevs had already done some openings for them before they got the McCarthy & Stone account and the arrangement continued. Bob was very musically inclined, as is Paul, who joined the Barbershop Association, where he has been a judge for almost 30 years.

I spent some of my Easter holiday in 1958 with the Bevs, who were topping the bill at Wolverhampton. Howard Jones, a singer on the bill, knew Billy Wright. He also knew I was a football-mad nine-year-old and asked if I wanted to meet the great man and see some of his medals. I didn't need a second invitation! In next to no time I was having a kick-around with Billy in his back garden. Mum accompanied me and it was literally love at first sight. A few months later, to great fanfare, they married at Poole. My mum and aunts were the headline act at nearby Bournemouth for the summer season while Billy had just returned from Sweden after captaining England in the World Cup.



Billy retired as a player the following year when he was made a CBE. He went on to manage Arsenal for four years before becoming head of ATV Sport. Meanwhile, the Bevs made a spectacular comeback at the London Hippodrome in the 1980s and were honoured with MBEs in 2006.



I left the WF Guardian in 1974. After brief spells at the Luton News and Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph I was offered a job on the sports desk of 'The Times', where I stayed for 21

years. I was a sub-editor during the week and reported football matches on Saturdays. When I left in 1997 I moved to the Daily Telegraph, where I worked as a freelance sports sub-editor for about 15 years. But it was at Chingford where my journalistic career really took off.



The Beverley Sisters opened Kingswood Court Retirement home in Chingford Mount Road in 1996 for McCarthy & Stone.

Vince Wright, The Times' pools forecaster for 18 years, holds the annual trophy awarded by Littlewoods. In beating 20 rivals from other national and regional newspapers, he recorded the highest ratio of score draws and no-score draws over nine months of the English and Scottish football seasons and in 2003 achieved the widest ever winning margin.

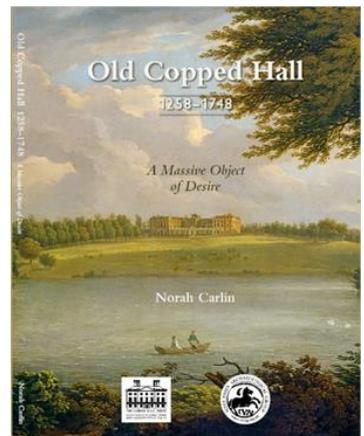


Norah Carlin : Old Copped Hall 1258-1748, A Massive Object of Desire - book review by David Boote



Norah Carlin MA BLitt taught history for over 30 years at Middlesex University and its predecessor institutions. The period which she researched was the mid-17th century Civil War. She is a Marxist, though I could not detect that from this book. Her remarkable strength of mind is clearly conveyed (and can also be experienced through her contributions to Twitter as @NorahCarlin, despite her being of an age group generally reluctant to use social media).

The book is not about the Copped Hall which stands partly restored from fire ruin looking towards Epping. That replaced an earlier building to the west which looked down to Waltham Abbey and was for a century and a half the prestige home of the Abbots. The Copped Hall Trust Archaeological Project has been gradually uncovering what remains of the earlier Copped Hall. On its behalf the West Essex Archaeological Group has published this beautiful book, which has many vivid colour illustrations at relevant places in the text. Full supplementary



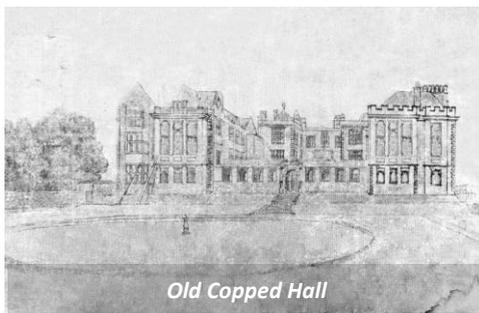
information is present, including chapter end notes, a list of the Abbots of Waltham, and family trees for the subsequent owners of the house.

Norah Carlin has to correct a number of myths about Copped Hall. Henry VIII was not at Copped Hall when Anne Boleyn was executed. He was at Whitehall that day. Copped Hall was however one of Mary Tudor's four main residences when her brother Edward was King, and the setting in 1551 for a highly dramatic scene. Princess Mary shouted down to a departing deputation of Privy Councillors her resentment that her expenditure was being scrutinised in a way demeaning to someone of her royal birth. Elizabeth I confiscated Copped Hall from the person to whom her sister Mary had given it, and bestowed it upon Thomas Heneage who enlarged the house with a long gallery and other features. To my disappointment there is nothing to support the story that Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' was written to celebrate Heneage's second marriage or that it was even performed at Copped Hall.



In 1624 the Lord Treasurer, Lionel Cranfield, Earl of Middlesex (whose name I recall from A level history) became the owner of Copped Hall. He was a successful businessman who took high government office under James I but lost it by resisting the growing influence of the heir to the throne Prince Charles. The fortunes of Copped Hall dropped with those of the Earl of Middlesex. The poet John Taylor wrote
"For . . . he that to this House will make Repair
Must pass through Bushes, Brambles, Dirt and mire;
Then he, as I, may find this Palace fair".

In June 1660 King Charles II and his brother James were hunting and dining for a day at Copped Hall as the guests of the 3rd Earl of Middlesex. There were quarrels in the 3rd Earl's family which would make good historic fictional drama. In 1674 Copped Hall passed to Charles Sackville, later the Earl of Dorset, a true Restoration rake who killed a man in 1662. He helped Charles II make a secret treaty with France



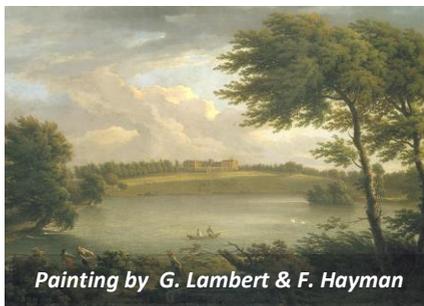
(the equivalent of today being on the payroll of Vladimir Putin). A writer of cruelly satirical verse, Bishop Burnet's opinion of him was : "Never was so much ill-nature in a pen as his, joined with so much good-nature as was in himself."



William III made a number of visits to Copped Hall. Thomas Webster bought the Hall in 1700 when he was only 24 years old but benefiting from his father's success in London business and finance. He too was typical of his era, a Whig sympathetic to Nonconformist Protestants. In 1739 Webster agreed to transfer Copped Hall to Edward Conyers who came from a Walthamstow family generations in the legal profession. In 1748 demolition began of Copped Hall, to be displaced by a house in the style of that time just over the boundary with Epping.

The book cover is a detail of a handsome view over an ornamental lake to Copped Hall painted by George Lambert and Francis Hayman. This is also reproduced inside, opposite the artists' view of the house from the other side, 'the park'.

The book has 160 pages in paperback form, with 60 illustrations, three quarters in full colour. It has been created to exacting standards by professional designer/printers. For early purchasers (over the next few months) the selling price is £17.99, with a further charge of £5 for postage and packing if needed. A number of local collection points will be arranged for those who wish to collect in person. The book has been published by WEAG, on behalf of the Copped Hall Trust Archaeological Project, in collaboration with the Copped Hall Trust. Its publication is not a fund-raising exercise, and to make it widely accessible it is being priced "at cost"



This is a limited edition, so "buy now while stocks last". It would make an excellent Christmas present. To buy a copy, and for further information, email weagbook@outlook.com, and you will be sent details of collection or post and methods of payment.

Judy Haines – Chingford’s Prolific Diarist – by John Conen

The excellent British social history books by David Kynaston set out to cover the period 1945-1979 in a series called Tales of a New Jerusalem. The titles are (so far) Austerity Britain 1945-1951, Family Britain 1951-1957 and Modernity Britain 1957-1962 all three of which comprise two books, each book covering around three years. These books have their own titles and have also been published separately so it can be a bit confusing!

Readers will notice that Kynaston includes plenty of quotations from contemporary diaries. As well as other perhaps more familiar diarists e.g. Vere Hodgson, Nella Last and Anthony Heap, Kynaston quotes from the diaries of a Chingford housewife, Judy Haines.



Judy Haines



Mass Observation Archive – University of Sussex

Judy Haines’ diaries are deposited in the Mass Observation Archive, part of the University of Sussex special collections at The Keep where archive material from the East Sussex Record Office, Brighton and Hove City Council, and the University of Sussex is kept. Although Judy donated her diaries to Mass Observation, she was not one of

the original Mass Observation wartime diarists.

David Kynaston later told Judy’s daughter Pamela that he liked her mother’s diaries because:

- 1) They were legible!
- 2) She had an optimistic personality and wrote well.
- 3) She wasn’t writing for the Archive so there was no ‘hidden agenda’ ... she didn’t think people would read them.

Judy Haines (1909-2005) was born Alice Gertrude Streames in Leyton. She worked for Britmex (The British Mexican Petroleum Company) in Haymarket, London until the office was evacuated in September 1939. While temporarily stationed in Ashted, Surrey she fell in love with her colleague Alfred Haines, and married him in June 1941. Soon after the wedding, Alfred was posted overseas with the army for nearly four years, and did not return until April 1945, although he was not finally demobbed until a year later. In October 1942 Alice leased a flat for them in Old Church Road, Chingford and it seems around this time Britmex returned to its central London offices.



Neither Alice nor Alfred liked their given first names. Hence Judy (which derived from her second name Gertrude), and Abbé for Alfred, although this was to prove a little confusing and he later preferred John! They had two children, lone born in 1946, and Pamela in 1948.

In 1948 Judy and her husband moved to Priory Avenue and their daughters attended Chase Lane School and Chingford High School. They retired to Dorset in 1970.

Judy Haines kept diaries from 1938 until 1995. Every year she filled a 'day to a page' A5 Letts or similar diary with thousands of words and included many references to life in Chingford. Her post-war struggles with food rationing and later her daughters' 11-Plus anxieties will strike a chord with many Chingford residents of that era. Like many people Judy and her husband awoke on Wednesday 15 August 1945 not realising it was to be a public holiday - one of two for VJ Day. The food queues soon formed: 'I have never seen so many people in Chingford. The queues were more like those of a football match. The queue for bread from List's stretched round to the Prince Albert.'

All the surviving correspondence between Judy and Abbé during his wartime absence is also kept at The Keep. Judy's diaries are a really fascinating and valuable resource, and are well worth reading if you are in the area - The Keep is in Woollards Way, Brighton, BN1 9BP. Visits must be pre-booked.

I am very grateful to Jessica Scantlebury, Mass Observation Archivist at The Keep and to Pamela Hendicott, Judy's daughter for their help in researching this article.

Holly House – by Gary Stone

Chingford had a number of fine houses in the 19th century including Holly House. It stood on Kings Head Hill near to what is now Enterprise House.

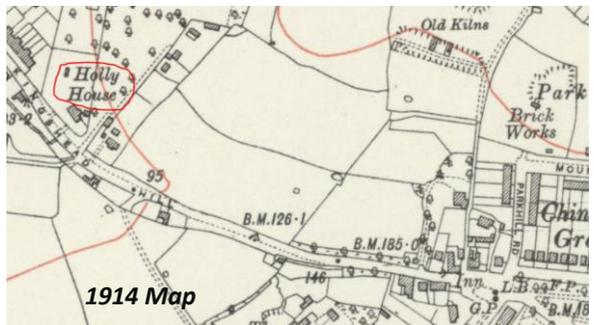
Ancestry shows that in 1881 Arthur Sheldon a silk merchant, his wife Alice and the eight oldest of their 10 children lived in Holly House. In 1891 they were still living there. One of the sons



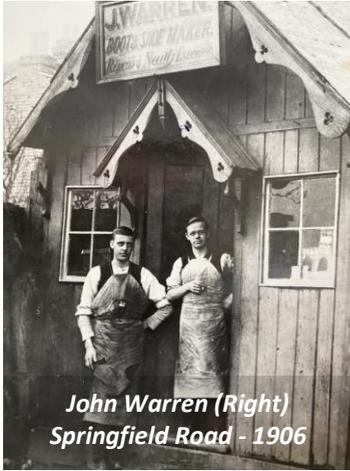
(also called Arthur) and a nephew who lived with them were assisting Arthur senior in the silk business. In 1901 only six of the children (all adult and unmarried) were living with their parents at Holly House. Arthur, the father, died in 1909,

probate shows that he left £47,782. His widow, Alice, continued to live at Holly House, in 1911 she had two sons and two daughters (Emily was one of the them) still living with her. Emily Sheldon died in 1936 in Paris. Probate says she was still living at Holly House. Arthur junior died at Holly House in 1938 apparently still a bachelor. The longest lived of the siblings was Annie Cordelia who died in Hampshire in 1954, never married.

Holly Drive which we believe stood on the site of the house was first occupied in 1939. This suggests the house was demolished by this time. Does anyone know the exact position of the house from the conflicting maps?



J Warren & Sons, Shoe Shop – by David Warren/Gary Stone



*John Warren (Right)
Springfield Road - 1906*

John Warren, was born in the late 1880s in Ridgewell, on the borders of Essex and Suffolk, and as a child came to Chingford with his family. He started work at the age of 12, and in 1906 started up a business making and repairing boots and shoes in Springfield Road, in a shed at the back of the shop next door to what eventually became J Warren & Son.(see photo)

In 1911 John and his wife, a member of the Banham family who ran the greengrocer's shop on The Parade, made the move to 151 Station Road, into both the shop and the flat above. In 1912 his son



Shop - 1960s

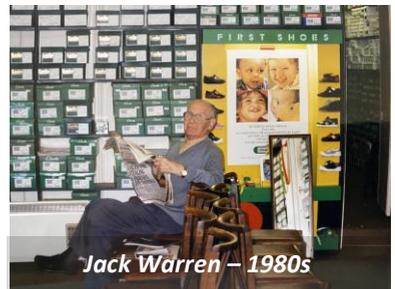
John Robert was born there, followed about 2 years later by his daughter Evelyn. When the First

World War started he was rejected by the army because he was not tall enough. In 1923 he became a founder member of Chingford Golf Club, a club created for local people who worked in trade. In 1927 he was joined in his business by his son John (known to everyone as Jack).

In 1940 Jack went into the army, and was in the first wave of troops to land on Juno Beach during the Normandy Landings on D Day, 6th June 1944. During the war there was a prisoner of war camp on the Plains. Jack's cousin, Dick Richards, was a fireman at Chingford Fire Station in Kings Road, then later at the Fire



*151 Station Road
1911*



Jack Warren - 1980s

Station on the Ridgeway. He befriended one of the German prisoners of war and remained in touch with him after the war ended. Dick was a member of the choir at the Methodist Church, and some years later when his friend's daughter was married he travelled to Germany to sing at her wedding. After the war, in 1946,

Jack returned to Chingford, the business continued to thrive and a small workshop was opened in Willow Street for shoe repairs. This was closed in the 1960's.



David Warren – 1970s

John and Jack were both well-known and popular characters in 'the village', both keen golfers and in Jack's case, an enthusiastic member of the local Rotary Club. John passed away in 1973, and later that year Jack's son David joined his father at J Warren & Son. After Jack retired,

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Shop – 1990s

David continued to run the business until he closed it down when he retired in 2007.



David Warren with Gary Stone

This is David's story of his family business. I had the opportunity of interviewing David on film in August 2022 to show as part of a talk on the shopkeepers of Chingford to be announced at some point in the future.

The Royal Forest Hotel - Len Davis

This is a description of the hotel before 1912 as uncovered by Len Davis.

The Hotel is not really in Station Road but it is important to the history of the road and one of the most interesting bits of history is the account I found about the hotel written before the fire of 1912.



It is charmingly situate in the Forest, close to Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge, the Connaught Waters and the Green Ride. It is the key to all the principal places of interest in the Forest, including the British and Roman encampments of Boadicea and Suetonius. There are many delightful and interesting drives in the neighbourhood.

The scenery around the Forest Hotel is the loveliest in the whole district and the woodlands are among the finest in England, the oaks, elms and beeches being remarkable for their luxuriant and stately beauty.

There are special attractions in the Forest during all seasons of the year. Nightingales and other birds abound. The Connaught Waters form a magnificent sheet of ice for skating in the winter.

The arrangements of the cuisine of the Hotel are particularly good and are under the management of a French Chef.

There is good hunting five times a week. The Woodford Harriers meet three times and the Essex Foxhounds twice, in the neighbourhood, within an easy distance.

Mr Roberts was the courteous Manager and below is a note of the chief features of the remarkable hostelry giving the luxuriant elegance fit for a prince where one would least expect to find it.

THE ROYAL FOREST HOTEL,
ADJOINING QUEEN ELIZABETH'S LODGE,
CHINGFORD, EPPING FOREST.

The more public departments of the Hotel, as distinguished from the Residential portion, comprise:

THE ELIZABETHAN BANQUETING ROOM
Is a Handsome, spacious, and lofty Hall, devoted to
FESTIVALS, ANNIVERSARY AND OTHER DINNERS,
LARGE PRIVATE PARTIES,
WEDDING BREAKFASTS OR EVENING ASSEMBLIES,
And it may be engaged along with a Suite of Private Rooms for Dinners or Evening Parties.

THE MASONIC HALL,
With its SPECIAL ANTE-ROOMS, is also available for similar purposes, as well as for MASONIC AND OTHER BANQUETS.

IN THE ELIZABETHAN BANQUETING ROOM
From 80 to 100 Guests may be conveniently accommodated, and the MASONIC HALL will receive 100 Visitors. The service in both Rooms is of a very special and attractive description.

The more public departments of the Building, which are entirely distinct from the residential portion and the rooms above mentioned, comprise a

TEA ROOM,
A SERIES OF VERY SPACIOUS BUFFETS,
And (apart from the Hotel itself)

A LARGE PAVILION,
Especially devoted to the reception of LARGE ASSEMBLIES, numbering from 100 to 1,000.

The Great Pavilion for large meetings, such as Volunteer or Trade Dinners, School Treats, Sunday School Gatherings, or other assemblies, is very commodious, and its great height and appropriate decorations make it exceedingly attractive. It will receive 100 to 750 adult Guests, or 1,000 Children, all of whom can be supplied by a special service with any kind of refreshment that may be desired. The excellence of the Great Pavilion as a resort for holding Temperance Festivals has already been acknowledged, and the arrangements for Sunday School Treats and Holiday Excursionists are efficient and extensive.

ALEX. GORDON & Co.,
Refreshment Contractors, Proprietors.

The building is of the rustic Elizabethan order and its architectural style and proportions make it a picturesque object in the landscape.



The entrance is by a spacious lobby, on the left of which is a large and comfortably appointed tea and coffee room, looking immediately upon the ornamental grounds of the Hotel and the wood beyond and is cool in the warmest weather and amply warmed in the

winter. On the walls are some fine water colours of Forest scenery.

The wide staircase is decorated with a fine stained-glass window representing Queen Elizabeth and her Court.

The landing is of noble dimensions and lighted by another large window opening on a broad balcony with views of the Forest. On the right of this landing is the Great Dining Hall. The high arched roof, the ample windows with heraldic designs and the original subjects of the wall tapestry combine to produce a pleasing effect. The furniture and gas fittings of the Dining Hall are in keeping with its architectural style and adornments. The six private rooms are each unique in design.



The Garden Rooms overlook a parterre. The second storey is occupied by well-lighted and ventilated bedrooms. The pavilion is situated in the grounds and commands a view of one of the most beautiful glades. The stabling and coach-houses are all that could be desired.

Chingford Police – A History (Pt4)

Plans made in the 1930s to erect a new police station for Chingford reached the stage of a new site being identified in North Chingford and building plans completed, but the project went no further than that. Plans for the building showed a cottage style building.

With the outbreak of war in 1939 the joint court building in Highbridge Street, Waltham Abbey, where police court business had been held was closed up.

The Waltham Abbey Petty Sessions was displaced to take up residence in the 1914 built Recreation Room at the rear of the Sun Street police station. Conditions in this outsized tin shack were, needless to say, far from ideal. Magistrates, Court officials, police, press, witnesses and onlookers were accommodated in a hotch potch of confusion as they vied for space with the immovable full size snooker table.

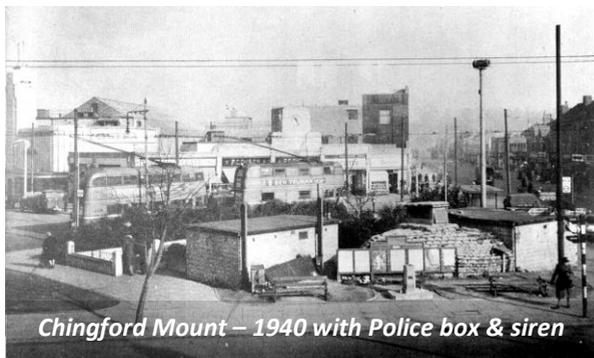
When civilian witnesses had to leave the Court whilst others gave their evidence, they were required to stand outside in the cold and windswept police station yard regardless of the weather. The winter of 1939-40 was one of the worst on record.

This state of affairs continued for some time until the Home Office eventually gave permission for the Highbridge Street building to be used again for weekly sittings. Even this concession had its drawbacks. It was stipulated that the large, bare and damp building was not to be kept heated because of national fuel shortages. The Court was often freezing cold, a cold not easily overcome within the space of the court's day by the three or four small gas fires eventually installed. It was a far cry from the relative warmth the Bench had enjoyed in the police station shack, but better overall for everyone. The conditions put everyone on the same level, everyone attending and working in the court being forced by conditions to wear as much outdoor clothing as those out in the street.

Although no police officers stationed at Chingford police station came to any harm during the Second World War, an officer from Walthamstow, having taken time off from duty arrived home only to be cut down by shrapnel as he stood on



his doorstep in Tufton Road, fumbling 'for the front door lock. The station itself was saved from major damage in spite of a number of near misses and an incident where a V2 rocket landed in Pole Hill, only 100 yards from the station.



When, at 5pm on Wednesday March 7th 1945, a Nazi V2 rocket weapon fell close to the Petty Sessions building the court was just finishing its daily business. Although it was wrecked, no-one was hurt.

Chingford had long wished to have the kudos of its own Petty Sessions, but were held back by the lack of a suitable site, the demise of the Waltham Abbey building provided the spur. The existing court was transferred to the Council Chamber in Waltham Abbey, an enforced move that allowed Chingford to match the type of building for the first time.

On Tuesday August 14th 1945, Chingford Petty Sessions sat for the first time in the Town Hall, The Ridgeway, Chingford. After all the years that the witnesses, defendant and officials had travelled north to Waltham Abbey to have their cases heard (often in the face of a lack of Waltham cases) it was perhaps fitting that, for once, the position was reversed on this occasion. All of the cases came from Waltham Abbey!

From 1945 onwards, on alternate weeks for the next 20 years, the work-load of the Petty Sessions (soon to be re-titled as Magistrates Courts) was shared between the two Council Chambers under the continued Clerkship of Mr. W. Edmonson of Jessop & Gough. The venues underwent a fair amount of fortnightly furniture removal but few complained in the face of the credit gained.

The Magistrates were served by the two sites for many years, Chingford eventually building its own small, purpose built, Court House alongside their Town Hall in the Ridgeway. This building lasted into the late 1970's before becoming a dispersed site for the Snaresbrook Crown Court for a short period. It was demolished in favour of housing. – **Part 5 in next edition.**

PLEASE NOTE

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CHS are hosting this autumn's Arts & Heritage trail in North Chingford in partnership with LBWF. The new proposed date is 22nd & 23rd October 2022 with a number of venues hosting various artists & artisans demonstrating their crafts. Local guided walks are also planned. Further announcements to be made.

<p>President – Peter Uglow Chairman – Gary Stone Vice Chairman – Joanna Moncrieff Secretary – Angela Wagstaff Treasurer – Simon Goulter Membership – Frances Pick Committee Member – Alison Goulter Committee Member – David Boote Committee Member – Marion Fox Committee Member – Stephen Pick Committee Member – Alan White</p>

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

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