



THE COPPED HALL TRUST
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AUTUMN/WINTER 2020



THE COPPED HALL TRUST NEWSLETTER

THE COPPED HALL TRUST

Stables Courtyard, Copped Hall, Crown Hill, Epping, CM16 5HS
www.coppedhalltrust.org.uk

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Thea Ingham

Jonathan Denne

Marion Smith

Trevor Roberts (co-opted)

Linda Stewart (co-opted)

BUYING TICKETS

Tickets for concerts, theatre etc can be purchased online via Ticketsource at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/coppedhallevents> where you can view the event, pay and print your tickets. Both debit and credit cards may be used. Alternatively tickets may be obtained by post by writing to, Box Office, Copped Hall, Stables Courtyard, Crown Hill, Epping, Essex CM16 5HS. Cheques should be made payable to The Copped Hall Trust. Please enclose a SAE and provide a contact number. Our Box Office can be contacted on 07749 397932 or tickets@coppedhalltrust.org.uk.

For Auto Club events enquiries please contact us on events@coppedhalltrust.org.uk or call our Box Office - see above.

Information about the Drawing Classes and the Antique Furniture Restoration Workshop may be obtained from Alan Cox, 112 Torriano Avenue, London NW5 2SD. Telephone: 07799 473 108. Email: chairman@coppedhalltrust.org.uk

To enquire about private tours contact Alan Cox - see above

FRONT COVER: PHOTO - PETER WARNE

CHAIRMAN OF THE TRUST REPORT

During the time Copped Hall was closed, and subsequently, support from the community has been most impressive. First, there has been an increase in membership of the Friends. Secondly, there have been more donations received since the last Newsletter than following its predecessor, and thirdly, since Lockdown has been eased, we have had on average one new volunteer joining per week. This proves to us, once again, that the local community is taking the well-being of Copped Hall to heart.

In compliance with the Lockdown our builders left the site on the 23rd March and returned – part time – at the beginning of May. We are fortunate that the restoration of the mansion has reached the stage where it is watertight and can be made secure. Various local volunteers checked the site on a regular basis to make sure all was in order.

Once Lockdown was instigated our main concern was the maintenance of the gardens and in particular the Walled Kitchen Garden. If these were to be abandoned they would take a lot of work to recover. We contacted Kew Gardens, English Heritage, the National Trust and the Historic Houses organisation to ascertain their approach. All were maintaining their gardens in general terms but were conscious to ensure their staff maintained social distancing.

As Lockdown eased we began to restart certain events where social distancing could be achieved. These events were mainly confined to the gardens, the mansion being used only for educational purposes with social distancing. Almost all activities were pre-booked so that contact details were known. In all cases contact details had to be provided otherwise entry was declined.

Alan Cox



PHOTO: PETER GAMBLE

THE LIGHTWELL GLAZED ROOF – THE STEEL FRAME INSTALLED
THE RESTORED LIFT SHAFT IN THE BACKGROUND

CHAIRMAN OF THE FRIENDS' REPORT

In ordinary circumstances I should have stood down as Chairman of the Friends of the Copped Hall Trust at our Annual Meeting in August. As we are all aware, 2020 has been no ordinary year. I am privileged to be able to remain as your acting Chairman until next year and I am delighted that the rest of the committee have also agreed to remain in post.

During these difficult times we have shown that the Copped Hall community has fantastic resilience to continue to restore and maintain the project. Our garden events have proved hugely successful and we were all delighted to see so many familiar faces returning. Copped Hall was greatly missed during Lockdown

and, as volunteers, we were pleased to be able to safely welcome visitors back. Our many teams worked tirelessly to ensure that all regulations were being followed. The health and safety of our volunteers and visitors has always been the Trust's primary concern.

I am delighted to welcome those of you who have joined us this year as Friends and volunteers. The appeal of Copped Hall in the community continues to endure and your committee are proud to play a small part in that. Seeing so many new faces on a Sunday morning is truly a wonderful sight, I look forward to meeting you all over the winter months.

Louise Robertson



PHOTO: PRIVATE COLLECTION

MRS WYTHES ARRIVING IN EPPING HIGH STREET

GARDEN AND GROUNDS



PHOTO: PETER GAMBLE

ORCHARD HOUSE - SHOWING PHASE TWO INSTALLED

The erection of the second phase of the Orchard House is now almost complete - leaving only the doors to be installed - see picture above. This project has been made possible by the legacy we received from Neville Redman last year and subsequent donations. We are so grateful for these funds - without them it would not have been possible to embark on this project for some time. Phase Three of the Orchard House is more complex as it is slightly larger and the whole of the masonry floor, having collapsed into soft ground, will have to be rebuilt.

On the Terraces, west of the mansion, work is advancing on the long bed immediately north of the Causeway. In addition, the restoration of the west facing bed on the southern lower terrace has been started. Work on these beds has been greatly assisted by the influx of new capable volunteers. At the same time the beds either side of the entrance from the car park to the south are being cared for which is particularly appreciated as this is where visitors enter the gardens.

The missing section of the Loggia has now been completed - see cover picture. We remain most grateful to the Essex Heritage Trust for their two £10,000 grants towards the restoration of this structure. We are also indebted to the various other donors who have contributed to this project. As explained in the Autumn 2019 newsletter, the plan is to make the South Front Garden (the Priory Garden) the focus of three immediately adjacent key buildings - the Loggia, the Glazed Corridor and the Wintergarden which are all in various stages of restoration.

Display boards are going to be fitted onto the back wall under the Loggia. Apart from two boards either side of the central entrance - which are reserved for the Essex Heritage Trust - the others will be used to illustrate the Loggia, Glazed Corridor and Wintergarden. This is especially relevant when we can facilitate public access to the Wintergarden.

To the east of King Henry's Walk a new volunteer - trained at Capel Manor - has taken on the task of upgrading the Rose Garden. We are grateful to her for her involvement.

GARDEN AND GROUNDS CONTINUED



PHOTO: ELENA VOITOV

PAT STYLES

Pat Styles, who has led the Walled Kitchen Garden team for over twenty years, has recently retired. We are extremely grateful to Pat for the enormous amount of dedicated work she has put into running the garden - with its production of vegetables, fruit and flowers. When we first obtained the garden in 1999 it was completely overgrown with all the glasshouses in ruins. Today, the whole enterprise is very impressively organised even though most of the glasshouses are still not restored. We wish Pat, and her husband Howard, every happiness in the years to come.

Pat says “Now that I have retired from the Walled Garden I would just like to say how much I have enjoyed my years helping to restore it. It has given me immense pleasure to work in the garden and my love and knowledge of Walled Kitchen Gardens has increased year by year. Thank you to all the Friends who have visited over the years and loved the garden, as well as all those who have dug, planted and pruned to keep everything moving forward and the garden looking good. I am now going back to the Cotswolds with Howard to design and plant a much smaller garden for myself and relax into retirement, but intend to keep in touch with Copped Hall in the future.”

The below ground boiler room beside the east wall of the Walled Kitchen Garden has a coal store underneath the adjacent path. The section of path where it passes over this underground coal room is surfaced with cobbles. Two hard working volunteers have cleared the long established carpet of compacted vegetation and discarded bricks that have covered these cobbles and exposed them to view – including the coal hole minus its circular cast iron lid and frame. The next task is to find a traditional iron manhole cover to fit. The cobbles are in perfect condition and provide further historical interest to the site.



PHOTO: GEOFF THOMAS

COBBLED AREA ADJACENT TO UNDERGROUND BOILER ROOM

The top few courses of brickwork to the south wall of the Walled Kitchen Garden are falling apart and are full of weeds. We have embarked on the first phase of reconstruction and have completed a length of wall. It is hoped we can raise funds to extend this restoration - see Wish List.

Alan Cox

WINTERGARDEN



PHOTO: PETER GAMBLE

THE SEMI-CIRCULAR PROJECTION - PART RESTORED

In response to the last Wish List, a kind donor has supplied funds to rebuild the stonework of the semi-circular projection. This had been dislodged by old tree roots. In addition a stone ventilator and seven other stones - all of which had been in store - have been reinstated in their original positions. Further restoration will involve new stone when funds allow.

A considerable amount of brickwork has been reinstated beneath the elaborate stone entrance doorway into the Wintergarden from the former Glazed Corridor. The original brickwork was destroyed in the explosions that severely damaged the building around 1960. This carefully reconstructed brickwork gives the stonework above a solid base in anticipation of the doorway's eventual restoration. In addition, the brickwork for two adjacent planters has also been reinstated.



PHOTO: PETER GAMBLE

REINSTATED BRICKWORK BELOW ENTRANCE

WINTERGARDEN - THE FALLEN CORNER

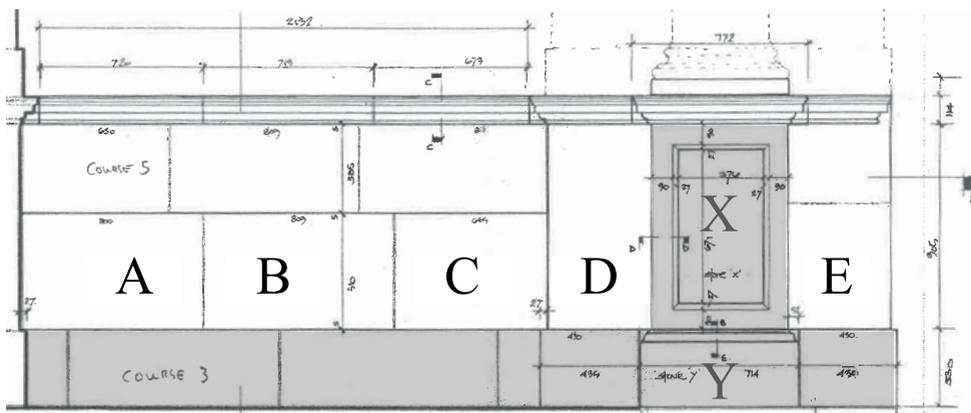


PHOTO: PETER GAMBLE

WINTERGARDEN - THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE FALLEN CORNER BASE COMMENCES

Readers will recall that in the last Newsletter we sought funds for two important stones labelled 'X' and 'Y'. We are fortunate that these have been funded and remain very grateful to the donor. These stones have now been installed together with associated

stonework - see photograph above. The stonemason's drawing below shows further stones that are required to consolidate the corner before the Fallen Corner can be reassembled on top. These new stones are listed in the Wish List on page 9.



WINTERGARDEN - WEST ELEVATION - SHADED STONEMASONRY IS INSTALLED
STONES A, B, C, D & E - REQUIRE FUNDING - SEE WISH LIST

THE MANSION

As the first Lockdown eased, the building team restarted work in the Lightwell in preparation for the installation of the steel roof beams. The work involved considerable rebuilding of dislodged white brickwork on the eastern wall. Finally, the steel beams were craned into position and secured. This operation brings to a conclusion the most complex phase of the Lightwell glazed roof project. The rest of the work is fairly straightforward. However, before that can start we have to raise some more money!

A donation had been received to reinstate the brick reveals to one of the Dining Room windows. This money allowed us to rebuild up to about half way on each side - see photograph below left. We have also received a donation to restore the damaged chimney breast in John Conyers' bedroom - see central photograph below. This work is taking place as I write. The bottom right photograph shows the completed restoration of the doorway from the Drawing Room to the stone staircase. All these works contribute to restoring the interior structure back into good order - we are most grateful to these funders.



PHOTO: PETER GAMBLE

ENTRANCE HALL WINDOW INSTALLED

The photograph above shows a newly installed Entrance Hall window. The other window will be delivered shortly. This project involves six components. Both external stone architraves have been restored from the damage done to them in 1950 when the elaborate wrought iron grilles within the architraves were ripped out by a tractor. In addition, two necessary steel security shutters have been installed. Once this work is complete the Entrance Hall will become a more welcoming place - as it should be. These works were funded by a total of five generous donations.



DINING ROOM WINDOW REVEALS



BEDROOM CHIMNEY BREAST



DOORWAY TO STONE STAIRCASE

PHOTOS: PETER GAMBLE

THE MANSION - CONTINUED

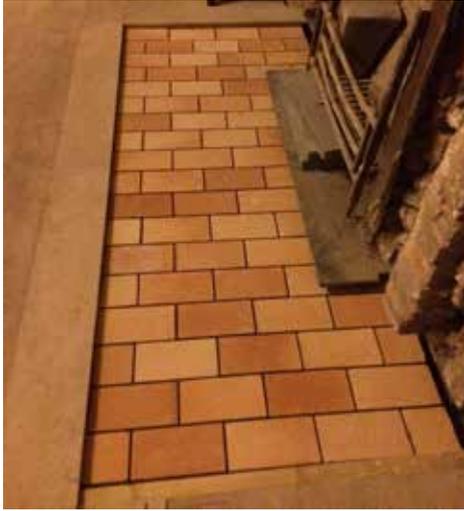


PHOTO: ROBERT GOOCH

FIRE BRICK HEARTH - JOHN CONYERS' BEDROOM

We reported in the last newsletter that we had received two donations towards the first flight of the stone stairs leading to the second floor. These donations were just sufficient to enable us to purchase all the stone required from the quarry. This stone is now in the stonemason's yard – see photograph below. Since that time we have received three more donations that will enable us to have the staircase treads carved into their final form ready for installation. The remaining funds required to install this flight are £11,500.



PHOTO: UNIVERSAL STONE

STONE BLOCKS FOR STAIRCASE

The photograph to the left shows the recently installed firebrick hearth in John Conyers' bedroom. The hearth has been funded by a kind donation. When the room is finally restored, a slab of white marble will be bedded in over the firebricks in the traditional manner flush with the floor.

The asphalt roof finish has now been installed on top of the lift shaft. The fact that the lift shaft is now dry enables us to move towards making this historic lift work. We have located a firm of lift engineers that seem keen to undertake the work. In the meantime the ground floor timber side panels to the shaft will need to be manufactured. In addition, we will require three pairs of steel concertina gates – to add to the original pair we have in store.

Since the installation of a second floor window on the south elevation, we have received five donations for further windows which are in production. These donations have also enabled a window that was only partly funded to now be installed - see photograph below.

Alan Cox



PHOTO: PETER GAMBLE

NEW SECOND FLOOR WINDOW - TOP LEFT

RAISING THE ROOF

When we started our campaign for the Lightwell, we often used the term “Raising The Roof”. Well as you can see from the picture on page one, it is finally underway! The steel frame is in position after much effort in stabilising the walls and adjacent lift shaft. These structures had been considerably weakened from the years of abandonment, the growth of vegetation, and the roots of self-seeded sycamore trees.

The Trust would like to thank all our Friends who have contributed, either by running Coffee Mornings or by making donations to get us to this exciting point. For us to glaze the roof and seal it we will require further donations. If anyone feels inclined to contribute I would be very happy to show them around at roof level.

Phil McKinder
pmck@btinternet.com

THE ICEHOUSE



PHOTO: ROBERT GOOCH

THE ‘ICEHOUSE’

This building is situated to the north of the stables and is a Cold Store where ice was packed in to keep produce cold. Recently the external render has been renewed as the original had disintegrated. The entrance arch has also been restored. This work was carried out free of charge by our leaseholder - Paul Haley.



PHOTO: KATHRYN EDWARDS

THE COPPED HALL TRUST ROLLS ROYCE OUT ON HIRE

RECENT DONATIONS AND GRANTS

The response to the Wish List in the Spring Newsletter was encouraging in that ten of the items were fully funded. A total of £9,062 was donated to the stone staircase. The items funded were the reconstruction of stonework around the Wintergarden lily pond, the door to Lady Henrietta's Dressing Room, the Fallen Corner stones ('Y' and 'X'), an architrave, steel shutter and window to the Entrance Hall, the plants and rose bushes for the white border and the repair to the chimney breast in John Conyers' bedroom. In addition, five donations were received for the second floor windows. £6,250 was donated towards the repair of the front porch. A £2,000 grant was received for the Wintergarden stonework plus £2,950 together with £420 in memory of Martin Hipkin. Two Friends' garden parties raised a total of £1,146. We received £500 towards the gardens from a descendant of gardeners that worked at Copped Hall. £1,240 was given to the essential pruning of hedges. £6,250 was given towards the second phase of the Orchard House. A donation of £312 was received to support the garden maintenance team. And lastly a donation of £1,250 to the General Fund. Total donations and grants received, including Gift Aid where appropriate, is £65,069.

AUTUMN / WINTER WISH LIST

Walled Garden	Restoration of copings to south wall	£1,400
Mansion	Contribution to the creation of the archaeology archive room	£500
Wintergarden	Contribution to the ramp to provide public and disabled access	£2,500
Wing	Contribution towards the glazed roof of the Lightwell	£2,000
Mansion	Stone staircase - provision of one step	£1,850
Mansion	Further second floor window	£2,000
Wintergarden	The Fallen Corner - supply and install stone 'A' - see page 6	£550
Wintergarden	The Fallen Corner - supply and install stone 'B' - see page 6	£572
Wintergarden	The Fallen Corner - supply and install stone 'C' - see page 6	£568
Wintergarden	The Fallen Corner - supply and install stone 'D' - see page 6	£686
Wintergarden	The Fallen Corner - supply and install stone 'E' - see page 6	£354
Mansion	Install fire brick hearth in Lady Henrietta Conyers' bedroom	£650
Mansion	Extra spotlights in the Exhibition Galleries in the Wing	£500
Wing	Lighting circuit in future caretaker's apartment	£950
Wing	Lighting circuit in second floor trust administration office	£850
Terraces	Plants for northern Causeway flower bed	£400
Walled Garden	Replacement tools	£150
Long Garden	Hardwood bench	£300
Terraces	Hardwood bench	£300

AUTUMN / WINTER WORKS

Since Lockdown the works that were on hold have now mostly been advanced - see the reports on the gardens and mansion in the previous pages. The considerable number of new volunteers has helped greatly in the gardens where the maintenance of restored areas is essential. Copped Hall is such an uplifting place that it is hoped that even more skilled volunteers will arrive so that we can embark on new areas of restoration as well as maintaining what we have already restored.

For enquiries regarding the above lists contact Alan Cox on 07799 473 108 or coxalan1@aol.com

EDUCATION

Throughout the first Lockdown and afterwards we have been in regular contact with Historic Houses of which we are a member. Historic Houses has a direct line to the government. Since the first Lockdown eased we have been allowed to hold educational events within the mansion providing social distancing can be achieved.

The five Drawing Classes were completely booked up at the beginning of the year. The first two had to be cancelled due to the Lockdown but once this eased we were able to hold the remaining classes plus two extra ones. This has enabled us to accommodate most of those who had booked. Social distancing is particularly easy to achieve with the Drawing Classes as the attendees are individually spread out throughout the gardens and mansion.

The lecture on City Churches was a success with a limited audience spread out in the South Room. Many thanks to Dick Speller for organising the event.

The Antique Furniture Restoration Workshop attracted the maximum number of participants which is seven. Social distancing and the prevailing Government restrictions were easy to achieve as the South Room is quite large.

In addition we had a Historic Houses (Invitation to View) private tour. The attendees all wore masks and kept their distance from each other unless in a family bubble. We also were able to hold a Bee Study Day where the participants were heavily cocooned in their bee costumes.

Alan Cox

The academic year of 2019-2020 was going to be a remarkable one for Copped Hall. Thanks to volunteer teacher, Lesley, the format of our provision had been amended and tweaked to make it ever more relevant to the latest government guidelines. We had conducted a straw poll of schools to find out whether they wanted whole class or gifted and talented days.

The dates of the study days had been circulated and the bookings had rolled in. It looked as though it was going to be the best year for a long while: by the beginning of February schools had booked places for over 240 students. And then ... Coronavirus hit! Everything was cancelled!

We had managed to squeeze in two study days, teaching 50 students before the Lockdown, but all our plans had to go on hold. We know there is an appetite for students to use Copped Hall as a stimulus for students to use Copped Hall as a stimulus for enrichment activities. We have the expertise to deliver workshops tailored to the needs of the curriculum. Alas, at the moment schools are not allowed to send students on trips or visits. Therefore we have to adapt to the 'new normal'.

We have lots of ideas and would like to make our study days accessible from schools. We are looking for someone with filming and editing skills to help us create virtual workshops that can be accessed via our website. Can you help us?

Jane Taylor

THE GEORGIAN AND VICTORIAN COLLECTION

WHAT IS IN THE ARTEFACT ROOM?



A CHERUBIC FACE

This delightful cherubic face, delicately moulded in fine plaster, was once part of the decorative system in Lady Henrietta Conyers' dressing room. The face of the cherub, or putto, would originally have rested against a pair of wings in a motif popular in the 18th Century.



AN EGG AND DART MOULDING

PHOTO: PETER WARNE

Many fragments of beautiful plasterwork came to light during the most unusual first floor excavation beneath the floor of Lady Henrietta's room. Having collapsed during the fire into the voids between the floor and the brick vaulted ceiling of the Georgian kitchen below, these plaster fragments remained inaccessible until the voids were excavated in 2010.

Lengths of deeply moulded borders were produced using wooden moulds to form the panels of the decorative scheme. It is possible to reconstruct some of these from the numerous pieces that have survived.

The excavated fragments were thoroughly dried – then carefully brushed clean. The variation in the consistency of the plaster was interesting. Some pieces felt as if they had been made from lightly compressed icing sugar whilst others were rock hard. The rescued fragments form an interesting contrast in style to panels of Victorian plasterwork still in situ in the wing.

Please ask me if you would like to see these or any other items in the Collection.

Carol Bentley

PHOTO: PETER WARNE



VICTORIAN MOULDING

PHOTO: PETER WARNE

ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT



PHOTO: CLAIRE HOOPER

LEE JOYCE RECORDING ARTEFACTS

As what would have been WEAG's excavation season comes to an end without having had the opportunity to dig, the question arises what has been achieved this year and how will it help our work in the future.

First of all, early in the year while we were still able to meet, the work on the brick and tiles (Ceramic Building Material (CBM)) continued at a pace and has generated masses of data that should keep me busy over winter. While the vast majority of the material is just your standard Tudor brick, there are a number of examples that allow us a glimpse of the detailing of door and window frames, fireplaces, staircases, chimney stacks and the roofline, which in a house of high status like Copt Hall, would have been made, at least in part, of ornately shaped brick and tile.

During the early days of Lockdown I took home the Clay Tobacco Pipes we have excavated over the years and recorded them on a pro-former. Although we do not have any pipes of the very early period (C1580-1620) we do have a very wide range of dates represented in the assemblage. The vast majority date from 1640-1770. Pipes in this area (Greater London) are catalogued using the 1969 Atkinson & Oswald typology, thus giving the exciting name of AO 25 to our most common type and AO16 to the most

interesting. This has a gauntlet mark in relief on the base. These marks can be as early as 1600 and are a trademark of makers from Amesbury, Wiltshire. These were a very high quality pipe and purchased by the likes of the Marquis of Hertford. It is for this reason that they were copied by pipe makers in the London region. Ours are almost certainly examples of the very-nearly as well made London type and date from 1640-60 based on dates provided by excavations at our near neighbour Hill Hall. Amongst our assemblage the usual repertoire with heels, spurs and makers' marks are well represented as are later Victorian pipes. The assemblage as a whole offers good scope for further research and compares well with the material excavated at Nonesuch Palace.

The earliest material I have been working through is the pottery from the fill of the medieval moat belonging to the first Copt Hall. This material dates from 1050-1200 and is the everyday cooking and dining ware of the Fitz-Aucher house first mentioned in C 1150. The material consists mostly of two fabrics (pottery types) a shelly type (Fabric 12A) ware and a sandy type (Early Medieval ware or Fabric 13 as they are properly known). These are the ubiquitous pottery type of the period and this, coupled with the fact that no Medieval grey wares or Orange sandy ware (Fabrics 20 and 21) are present, seals the date of the filling up or silting of the bottom of the moat at no later than 1200 and proves conclusively that the site was moated by this period.

Although we have not been able to get in the trenches this year many members have continued to work behind the scenes. This helps us to play an important role in fulfilling Copped Hall's aims of delivering cultural and educational opportunities to the community. All this puts us in a strong position when we return to site.

Lee Joyce

WILDLIFE, NIGHT AND CLOSE-UP PHOTOGRAPHY

There were limitations placed upon me as well as everyone else from March through April but by the end of that month, there was a little more freedom. At least sufficient for me to resume some wanderings around the gardens and surrounding areas.

Remember May? One of the warmest on record. So warm that many flowers both wild and cultivated were weeks ahead of their normal schedules. One of the saddest sights for me was watching the carp in the pond just beyond the hall gasping for breath and I learn that some were lost through heat stroke. However, there were survivors as the image below illustrates.



PHOTO: PETER WARNE

CARP IN THE POND

After the heatwave came a relatively cold and wet June and wetter July which rather slowed what could have been a bumper year for insects. In fact, I have not found insects to be particularly numerous although one of our volunteer gardeners managed to slice through a wasp nest while trimming a shrub opposite the long border alongside the walled garden. He was lucky in that he was only stung once – so was I when I spent time watching them rebuild the nest with their mixture of wood and saliva.



PHOTO: PETER WARNE

WASPS REPAIRING THEIR NEST

The picture above shows the start of repairs with the larger queen marshalling her workers to rebuild. The job was largely complete within the week.



PHOTO: PETER WARNE

RED KITE

One last note. Despite everything the crops were sown and the hay fields enjoyed a few dry days so that they could be cut. I was lucky enough to catch this spectacle for it attracted relatively large numbers of buzzards, red kites and an isolated kestrel, all hunting rodents as they ran out from the tractor wheels. Harsh realities of nature I'm afraid.

Peter Warne

THE ROY OSBORNE COLLECTION



PHOTO: ROY OSBORNE

ROY IN FRONT OF SOME OF HIS COLLECTION

Roy has been adding to his collection. He has received a number of pre-World War II mowers from Mr and Mrs Bossell of Waltham Abbey together with an ancient wheeled seed drill. Also added to the collection are a number of laundry items including two mangles. Roy professionally restores all these items to working order. In addition, Roy has spent a considerable amount of time creating a successful display of his collection - including items belonging to the Trust. We now have three Allen Scythes to add to the collection.

The collection attracts a lot of interest from visitors. Many younger people have never seen such items before and they take away a glimpse of another world before they were born. Education is one of the purposes for which Copped Hall was saved and Roy's collection greatly assists in that endeavour.



PHOTO: ROY OSBORNE

THE DISPLAY ON ROUTE TO THE STABLES



PHOTO: ROY OSBORNE

1924 DENNIS CYLINDER MOWER



PHOTO: ROY OSBORNE

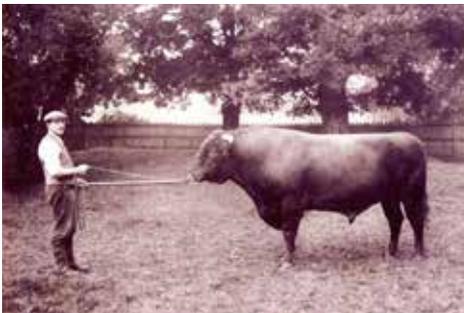
LAUNDRY COLLECTION DISPLAY

CONNECTIONS

On a guided tour day during 2019 I was fortunate to meet Lorna Shawe. At the end of the tour she hung back and told me about her late Grandfather's family connection with Copped Hall. This is his story.

Charles James Wingfield, always known as Jim, was born on 3rd July 1886, in the little cottages of Copped Hall Green, part of the original Copped Hall estate. His father was James Wingfield, a "Hay Carter" employed by the Wythes of Copped Hall. Two years later his younger brother, George Ernest Wingfield, appeared on the scene. When Jim was 12 years old his mother died and he had to leave school to go out to work. He joined the staff at Copped Hall as a gardener, a job he really loved. Not long afterwards George also joined Copped Hall as a gardener.

Jim developed a way with animals and he was put in charge caring for one of the Estate's prize bulls. A particular bull weighing 1 ton, 7.5 Cwt would only respond to Jim and he became known for the control he had over the animal. The picture shows Jim with this prize animal when he was featured in a 1906 newspaper article. When Jim left the Estate, the prize animal had to be put down as he had "run amok" at several shows and apparently no one else could control it.



JIM AND THE BULL

Jim was a pacifist and when war was declared in 1914, he went to work at the Cordite factory in Waltham Abbey, hoping that this would avoid having to go to France. His younger brother George had no such convictions and joined the 11th Essex Regiment. The photograph below shows the two brothers shortly before George went off to France.



GEORGE AND JIM

George was tragically killed at the Somme on 21st August 1916. One week later, Jim was conscripted into the Army. He was first a member of the North Hants Regiment, but because of his now intensified pacifist beliefs he was moved into the Labour Corps and sent off to France. Joining the Labour Corps was no "opt out". They cooked, cleaned, carried and cared for the soldiers on the front line and behind the lines. They built roads and railways, carried the wounded and buried the dead.

PHOTO: PRIVATE COLLECTION

PHOTO: PRIVATE COLLECTION

CONNECTIONS - CONTINUED



PHOTO: PRIVATE COLLECTION

GEORGE'S GRAVE IN FRANCE

Jim returned to work as a gardener at Copped Hall after 1918, but he was plagued by foot infections, nightmares and hallucinations for the rest of his life. Such was the horror of his experiences that he vowed he would never leave the Loughton area again. He stayed at Copped Hall until 1936 working in the gardens, after which he carried on gardening but in a private capacity almost up till the end of his life. He died in 1978 and was buried in St John's Church, Loughton. George is buried with his comrades in Beaumont-Hamel cemetery in France, but is remembered on both the Epping and Waltham Abbey war memorials.

One of Jim's enduring memories was looking through into the Copped Hall Wintergarden when the lily pond and its fountain were lit up for the evening. To him this was really like a magical fairyland. The picture shows Lorna today at that same spot enjoyed by Jim all those years ago.

Phil McKinder



PHOTO: PRIVATE COLLECTION

JIM IN UNIFORM



PHOTO: PHIL MCKINDER

LORNA BY THE WINTERGARDEN LILY POND

BOOK SHOP AT COPPED HALL



PHOTO: PETER GAMBLE

THE POPULAR BOOK STALL

During Lockdown, the Book Team has been working hard to maximise income for CH – specifically to raise funds for the lift project. Over £3000 has been raised in the last 18 months.



PHOTO: GORON BROWN

THE BOOK DEPARTMENT

To help us, we need a constant supply of books that we can sell either to visiting Friends and public at £1 a book, or for us to sell to specialised bookdealers and other outlets.

So please do declutter and donate your books – we appreciate all we receive. Sometimes we receive a book with greater value that, when sold, adds to our income. We can arrange to collect if it's difficult to bring to Copped Hall.

We also welcome “wanted lists” so we can look out for particular genres/authors – please just email your wants or complete this quick questionnaire: <https://tinyurl.com/Coppedhallbookswants>

We also would welcome more volunteer Friends to join us to help sort and process books for sale.

Thanks

Gordon Brown junior – eldest son of the late Gordon Brown, the original bookstall founder.
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LOCKDOWN LADIES MAKE LOADS OF LOLLY

When the Government announced the start of the Lockdown in March, of all the voluntary groups at Copped Hall, the Refreshments Team was perhaps the hardest hit. Not only would there be no volunteers to bake for every Sunday, but with the Mansion closed for the foreseeable future there would be no Guided Tours, no Garden Afternoons, no Afternoon Teas, no Easter Egg Hunt, no lectures about Copped Hall, no Bee Keeping, no Garden Workshops, no Open Air Theatre, no concerts with Craig Ogden or The New Redbridge Wind Orchestra, no Archaeology Taster Weekends. No outlet for their considerable culinary skills. And no revenue for Copped Hall.

As so many of the Team were shielding, their first action was to set up a WhatsApp group so that they could all keep in touch. This was to be filled with Linda's Joke of the Day, updates on jigsaws and general chit-chat so no one felt isolated.

Then they went into action: allotments still needed to be tended and the produce used; jam and chutney production began in earnest. Thanks to the WhatsApp group, orders were placed and jars delivered (at a distance). Word of Marion's endeavours soon spread to volunteers, friends and relatives. Once tasted, no one wanted to go back to shop-bought jams and chutneys! Thankfully, this year was a bumper harvest on the allotments and in their gardens.

Using the closure of Copped Hall as an opportunity, Brian and his team set about the picnic tables which were either repaired and repainted, or rejected. It soon became apparent that new tables would be needed for when the pandemic was over, the gates to Copped Hall were open again and the Refreshment Team would be producing their wonderful lunches in the Priory Gardens.



PHOTO: MARION SMITH

HOMEMADE FACE MASK

Weeks passed and restrictions were eased. There was now a need for face masks: enter Hilary and her sewing machine. So we added masks to our dedicated WhatsApp group so that orders could be taken. By 16th July they had raised over £530 from jam making alone - the equivalent of over 200 jars of jam! They had also raised £520 from selling masks - that's 104! The Lockdown Ladies made over £1,050 in four months of shielding, social distancing and staying home to stay safe!

Having held four Garden Afternoon events since Lockdown, the joint efforts of Marion's jam and Hilary's mask making had raised £1,311.75 for the Priory Garden picnic tables.

The Trustees agreed that funds from the jams and masks could be set aside for the new picnic tables.

Jane Taylor



PHOTO: VAL

HOMEMADE FACE MASK - DEPLOYED

OBITUARIES

George Parnham

We have received news that George Parnham has died. George carried out the first restoration of the Orchid House with his colleague Reg. George was a restorer of high quality antique furniture and an expert wood carver. We are very lucky that he took on the initial restoration of the Orchid House which was the only glasshouse made entirely of teak - he also rebuilt one of the teak pinnacles from the Wintergarden roof - which was found underwater.

Later George and his wife decided to move from Walthamstow to Manningtree and regrettably had to leave the project. George was a highly respected individual and it is very sad that he is no longer with us.



GEORGE PARNHAM WITH PRINCE CHARLES

Nick Bright

The Trust has learned with regret of the recent death of Nick Bright, a furniture restorer and wood turner who made and generously donated wooden decorative items to the Copped Hall shop.

Chris Buckley



PHOTO: ADRIAN MITCHELL

CHRIS BUCKLEY

It seems extraordinary to be writing a few words in memory of Chris. He was so much a part of the ‘mansion team’ that one expects him to turn up next Sunday as if nothing had happened. Chris was very much a gentleman, highly intelligent, dignified with a great sense of humour.

Chris worked for several years in the USA. On retirement he became a volunteer at the Citizens Advice Bureau, U3A and Duxford Airfield. He attended a course in 2002 at Copped Hall and offered his support for the Rolls Royce team - specialising in electrics. Despite his diagnosis last year he gave his support right up to the end. He used to say that irrespective of how the week had gone for him, he always felt happier when driving up to Copped Hall on Sunday mornings.

Chris is very much missed at Copped Hall and it has been a privilege to have known him.

PHOTO: MICHAEL BOYTON

MEET A VOLUNTEER



PHOTO: ANDY POPPERWELL

CHRISTINE AND STEPHEN POTTS

One sunny Saturday afternoon my wife and I were watching a game of cricket at the Theydon Bois Cricket Club and enjoying a pint of beer. A gentleman, started talking to us. He asked us if we knew about Copped Hall. We explained that we had been there with our boys who had played in a concert whilst they were at Davenant Foundation School. He talked about “Apple Day”, which was to take place in October (2018).

That October we went along to Apple Day and met and spoke to some of the volunteers; this was the catalyst for initially becoming a Friend of Copped Hall and our volunteering.

We went to the Christmas Party and spoke to many volunteers about their role plus we spoke to Alan Cox and heard about the history and long term aims of the Trust. This definitely whetted our appetite to be part of the volunteer team.

We took on a winter project of removing the brambles from the right terrace; plus getting the sit-on mowers operational.

Christine and I are now part of the mowing team and have been looking after the lawns and gardens since March 2019.

I have an engineering background and like many people at Copped Hall have worked on cars and engines since teenage years. The mowers were made operational with the assistance of another member of the mowing team and have been put to good use over the past year and a half. Grass cutting is rather like painting the Forth Bridge, you get to the end and then have to start over again - but if the gardens are kept tidy and the equipment serviceable, what better fun!

In conclusion we both enjoy being part of the mowing team. We are looking forward to 2021 so that we can continue keeping the gardens looking their best and making improvements along the way.

We welcome other people to volunteer with us in order to develop the garden and grounds for all to enjoy.

Stephen Potts

