

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge, Epping Forest and Copped Hall, Epping on 31st July 2008

This visit has been organised by Graham Allbright.

We meet at Butler's Retreat (BR), a Victorian wooden building just east of Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge (QEHL), where day trippers could (and still can) obtain food and drink; a more recent addition is toilet facilities.

QEHL lies at the edge of Epping Forest near Chingford, London E4. It was commissioned by King Henry VIII as a "Great Standing", where royal guests could watch the hunt and was completed in 1543. Constructed from massive oak timbers and using innovative joints, the superior finish to the timbers indicates a building of high status. It is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a Grade II* Listed Building.

Subsequent generations made numerous alterations to the buildings, but in 1993 extensive renovation work was carried out to replace or repair rotted timbers and to restore the exterior to what today's scholars believe to be as close as possible to the original appearance.

After a guided tour of QEHL, in one or two groups depending on our numbers, we move on to Copped Hall (CH), a distance of about 5 miles, where lunch has been arranged for us.

CH is the third building on the site. The first, which stood a few hundred yards from the present site, was built in the 12th century. In the 1570s, a new owner pulled the house down and built another, said to be the "greatest house in Epping Forest and perhaps in the whole of Essex". In 1701, CH was sold again and, in the next few decades, it passed through many hands. By then, it was in a poor structural state and, with very little persuasion, it collapsed! For 150 years, the third CH impressed those fortunate enough to visit it, but on 5th May 1917, it was gutted by fire. What was left of the house was stripped of almost anything saleable, including the fine staircase. CH stood empty and boarded up until ten years ago when a Trust was set up, which was able to buy the house and grounds. What we shall see today is the largely restored gardens and the considerable work that has been carried out on the house itself. We are to have the advantage of being shown round the house by the architect responsible for the restoration work.

The cost of the outing will be:

BR – we each buy our own tea, coffee, etc.

QEHL – the tour is free, but donations are welcome. It is suggested that a minimum £5 donation from each of us towards the work of The Corporation of London in maintaining Epping Forest would be appropriate. It may be possible to Gift-Aid the donations, but this is not yet certain.

CH – guided tour £8; lunch (meat or cheese ploughman's and cold desert) - £6.50; afternoon tea and cakes - £2.

The £8 for the guided tour has to be pre-paid; you can pay the other costs and donation on the day.

Timetable

10.40 – 11.20	Meet at Butler's Retreat for tea, coffee and toilets;
11.20 – 11.30	Very short walk to Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge;
11.30 – 12.30	Guided tour of Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge, in two groups, if more than about 20 in the party;
12.30 – 13.00	Use own cars to travel to Copped Hall. (Anyone arriving by public transport will be able to get a lift from a car driver.);
13.00 – 13.45	Ploughman's Lunch (ham or cheese) and cold dessert.

(If there are more than 20 in the party – divide into two groups, otherwise just the Group A programme will be followed.)

Group A

14.00 – 15.15 Tour of Copped Hall, accompanied by the Restoration Project's architect;
15.15 – 15.45 Tea and cakes;
15.45 – 16.30 Tour of the gardens;
16.30 Depart.

Group B

14.00 – 15.15 Tour of the gardens;
15.15 – 15.45 Tea and cakes;
15.45 – 16.30 Tour of Copped Hall, accompanied by the Restoration Project's architect;
16.30 Depart.

How to get there

BR is on the north side of Rangers Road, A1069, just outside Chingford, London E4. Those of you with SatNav can ignore the rest of these instructions – just do it!

Ordnance Survey Grid References are QEHL – 397 948 and CH – 430 015.

By car – via M25 – leave at J26 (Waltham Abbey) and follow the signs to Loughton (A121). At roundabout take 4th exit (A104) and at next roundabout take 2nd exit towards Loughton (still A104). In 1 mile take right turn (signed Chingford) A1069. QEHL is 1 mile on the right. The free car park is opposite on forest land.

By car from Central London by A11 (anywhere from Whitechapel onwards) – at Green Man roundabout (Leytonstone) take 3rd exit, then keep left (still A11). At next roundabout take 2nd exit (A104 north). In 2 miles turn left (A1069). QEHL is 1 mile on the right. The free car park is opposite on forest land.

By car via North Circular Road (A406) – at Waterworks roundabout leave A406 by slip road. Take 1st exit if coming from the west or 3rd exit if coming from the east (A104 north). In 3 miles turn left (A1069). QEHL is 1 mile on the right. The free car park is opposite on forest land.

By train – travel from Liverpool Street Station to Chingford Station – trains terminate here. Exit station onto Station Road. Cross over this road and turn right. QEHL is a 10 minutes walk on this side of the road (Rangers Road).

By bus – for any intrepid Over 60's Bus Pass holders, a number of buses terminate at Chingford Station. Depending on how far you have to come, remember that the pass is only valid after 9.30 am. You may think this a risky way to travel, timewise.

How to get from QEHL to CH

Travel east along Rangers Road (A1069).

Turn left at the end into A104.

At Robin Hood roundabout take 2nd exit (still A104) Epping New Road.

At Wake Arms roundabout take 2nd exit (B1393) Epping Road.

In ¾ mile turn left (signed Upshire) Crown Hill.

CH entrance gates are on the right in ½ mile.

Volunteers from the Copped Hall Trust will be there to direct us to the Hall. Please note that the lodges at the gates on Crown Hill are privately owned and that we are advised that under no circumstances should the lodge owners be disturbed for access to the mansion.

Any drivers, who have taken a passenger from QEHL to CH, will need to return them to Chingford for their return journey at the conclusion of the visit.

The maximum number of people is 40 and the pre-paid cost is £8.00.

Contacts

Prior to visit – Reinalt Vaughan-Williams, reinalt@physics.org, (020) 8946 3399, 07758 85741.

On the morning of the walk only – Graham Allbright, 07528 961752.