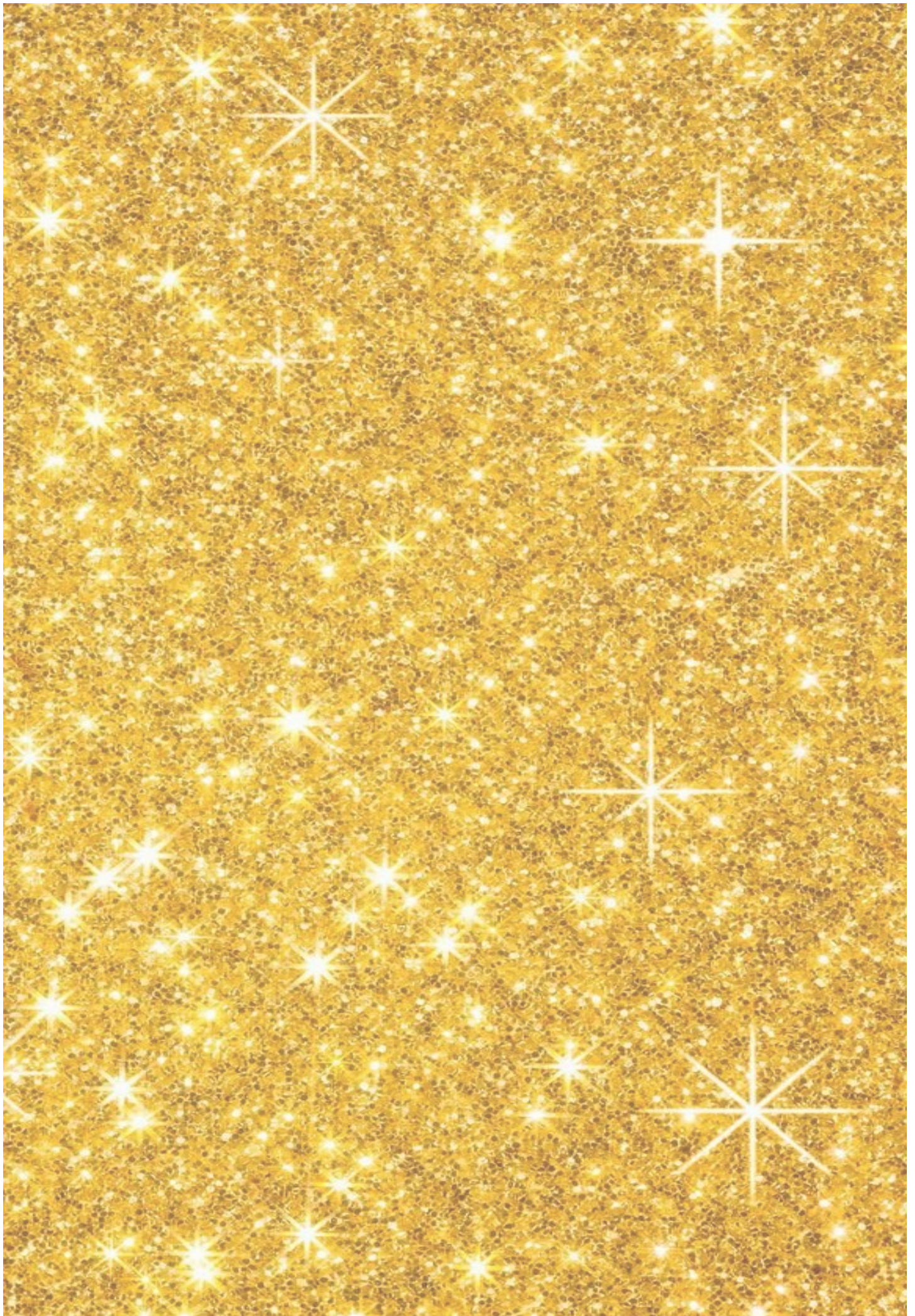


CADOS

**Chingford Amateur Dramatic and
Operatic Society**



**MORNINGTON HALL
CENTENARY**





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**Chingford Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society
Founded in 1945**

SOUVENIR BROCHURE

HALL CENTENARY



It is with great pride and pleasure that the CADOS Committee present this souvenir to mark the centenary of the wonderful community venue, Mornington Hall.

As part of our commemorations, we secured a generous grant from Waltham Forest’s ‘Make It Happen’ initiative. This enabled us to research into the hall’s history and commission a film-maker and writer to create a short documentary and a play-script that aim to capture the way the

hall has been used over the decades and what it has meant to our local Chingford Community. CADOS continues to rely upon the dedicated voluntary efforts of its members to maintain the hall for use as a performance space and a venue for local groups. We hope this anniversary will raise awareness of the importance of these community spaces and ensure that they are treasured and invested in for many more decades to come .



This brochure has been created by CADOS as a souvenir for the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of Mornington Hall. It captures some of the research undertaken into the history of the hall between 1924-2024. Thanks go to the London Borough of Waltham Forest and the 'Make It Happen' Grant that has supported these commemorations



1920s / 1930s

GROUNDWORK GIVEN

Mornington School FOR GIRLS AND BOYS



Children taken from the age of
three years.

Thorough groundwork given, and
preparation for Public Schools.
Kindergarten under a trained and
certificated Mistress with higher
N.F.U. Certificate.

Tennis. Netball. Swimming.
Verandah for Summer Lessons.

Prospectus on application to

Misses HUNT & NIX, M.R.S.T.

Cambridge Diploma in Theory and Practice of Teaching,

THE GREEN, CHINGFORD

MORNINGTON SCHOOL

A SCHOOL FOR CHINGFORD'S GIRLS & BOYS

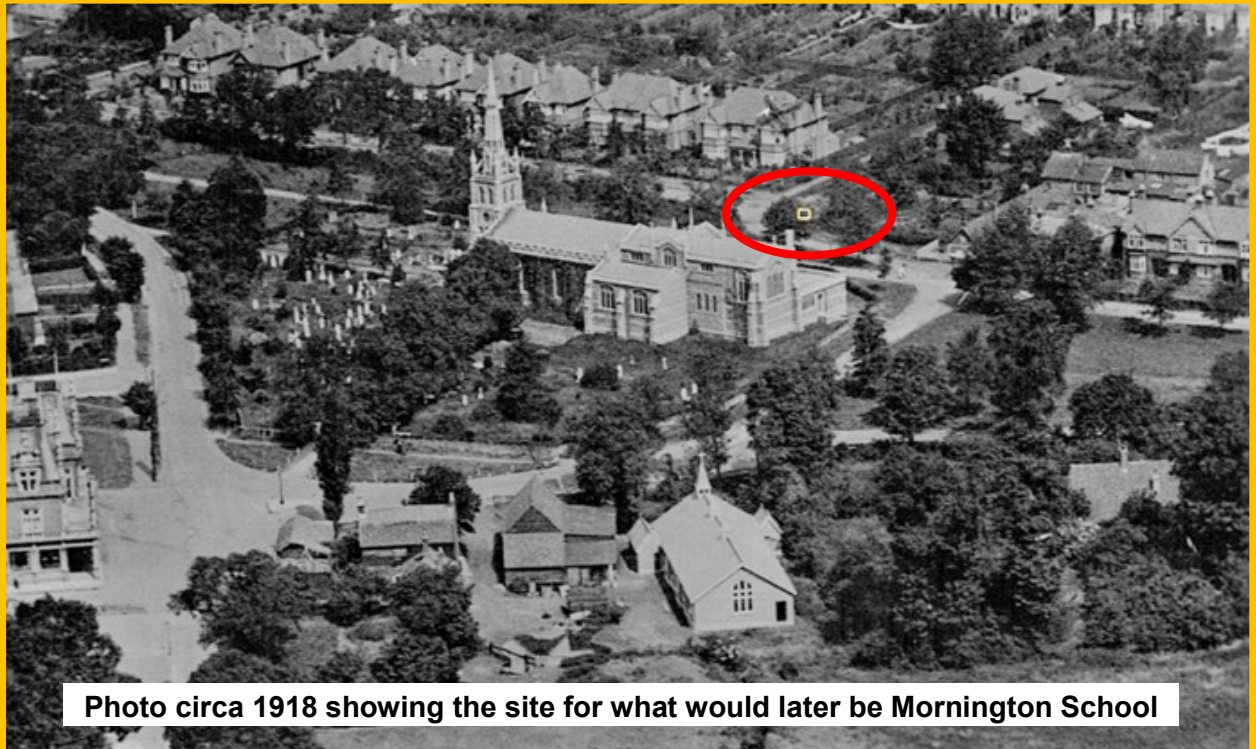


Photo circa 1918 showing the site for what would later be Mornington School

MORNINGTON SCHOOL THE GREEN, CHINGFORD

For GIRLS and BOYS



THE School aims especially at giving a thorough groundwork, character training, and happiness to the children.

They are prepared for Public and Secondary Schools, 90 pupils having already entered Woodford High School, Walthamstow High School, Bancrofts, Monoux Grammar School, etc. The Kindergarten is under a college-trained and certificated Mistress with Higher N.F.U. Certificate.

Children from three years of age may be entered for two hours daily if desired.

There are large, airy class-rooms, a verandah, and a grass playground.

Games, etc., are Tennis, Netball, Hockey, Cricket and Swimming.

Excursions are taken in the Summer to places of interest.

Fees are moderate and inclusive.

PROSPECTUS may be had on application to Misses HUNT & NIX, M.R.S.T.

(Cambridge Diploma in Theory and Practice of Teaching)

Mornington School, later known as Mornington Hall, was erected at the end of Green Walk in 1924. The Chingford Historical Society records show that the school, if not the Hall, was in existence earlier.

They have found reference that pupils performed a clever and pretty dance in character costume in the Church Hall in the Ridgeway and the United Services Club in 1921, and in 1923 there was a floral display at the Jubilee Retreat where pupils from the school entertained with dancing.

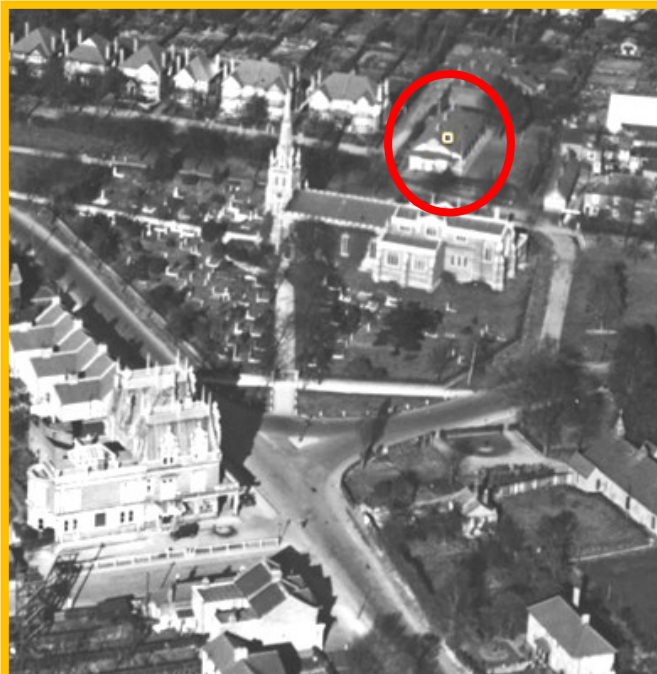
The school was promoted as taking children from 3 years old and offering 'groundwork' for Public and Secondary School as well as 'character training and happiness', and a range of activities including tennis, netball, hockey, cricket, swimming and summer excursions to places of interest.

Emphasis was placed on the qualifications of the Mistresses and inclusivity (something very much valued within the use of the hall today), due to moderate fees that were charged.

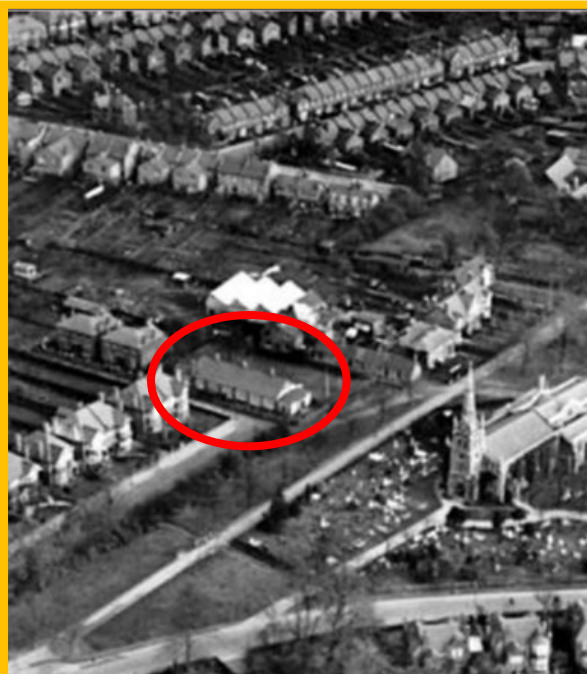
1930s advert for the new school

MORNINGTON SCHOOL

THE SCHOOL BUILDING OPENS IN 1924



Aerial photograph of Chingford Green from 1928 showing the Mornington School building



A further photograph of the school from 1930

The school is equipped for the modern 20th Century era and promotes the installation of electric light and central heating, all of which has required much maintenance 100 years later.

Sources show how the school took pride in developing pupils for enrolment in Woodford High School, Walthamstow High School, Bancrofts School and George Monoux Grammar School, and quotes the figure of 90 pupils gaining places in these prestigious establishments. The main hall is created for the classroom areas, with an additional building being added as a school house for the two Mistresses at some point after 1930.



MURIEL NIX, THE HEADMISTRESS

A GOOD GROUND WORK IN EDUCATION

TEACHERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION
 (Established by Act of Parliament and Constituted by Orders in Council.)

E. **S**

Register Entry concerning : **NIX, MURIEL GRACE.**

Date of Registration : **1st August, 1930.** Register Number: **77873**

Professional Address : **Mornington School for Girls and Boys,
 CHINGFORD, E.4.**

Attainments :

**Cambridge Secondary Teacher's Certificate.
 University of Cambridge Higher Local Certificate: (Hons.)**

Training in Teaching **Mary Datchelor Training College, Camberwell, S.E.**

Experience :

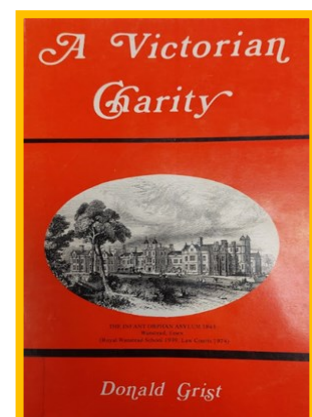
Assistant Mistress -	Ascham College, Clacton-on-Sea.	1901-1902;
	Church High School, Tewkesbury.	1902-1903;
	Grammar School, Odiham, Hants.	1904-1907;
	High School for Girls, Naesywmmwr, Cardiff.	1908-1911;
	Royal Infant Orphanage, Wanstead.	1912-1918;
Head Mistress -	Royal Infant Orphanage, Wanstead.	1918-1920;
Co-Principal -	Mornington School for Girls and Boys, Chingford, E.4.	1920-

Teacher registration records show that prior to running Mornington School, Muriel Nix was an Assistant Mistress from 1912 at the Royal Infant Orphanage in Wanstead (having left Cardiff School for Girls). She then became Head Mistress there for from 1918-1920.

Donald Grist's 1974 book '**A Victorian Charity**', describes experiences of life in the orphanage, (previously known as Wanstead Infant Orphan Society).

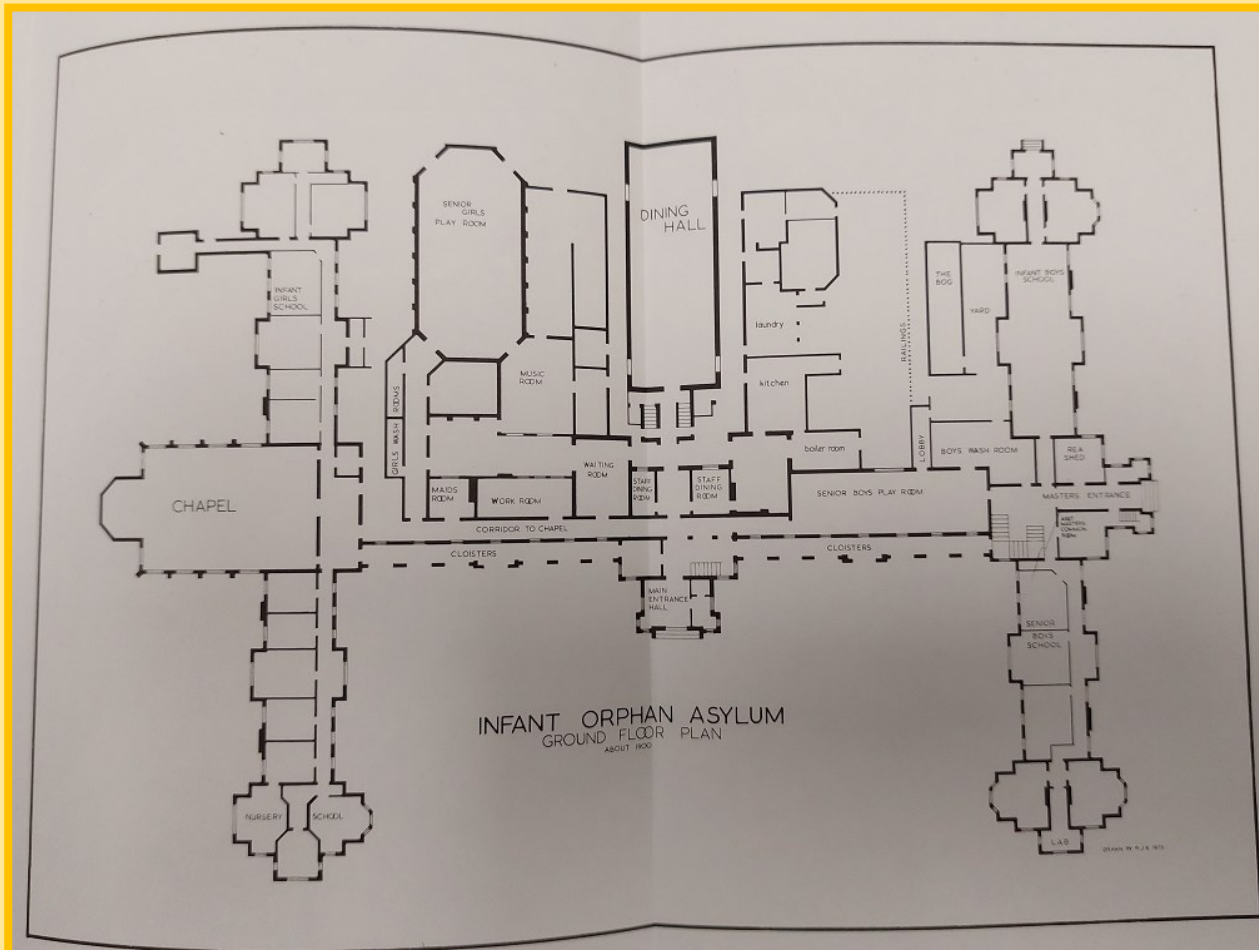
The orphanage and school was divided into separate areas for boys and girls with Miss Nix overseeing the Matron and other staff who undertook the care and education of the female pupils. In the book an 'old girl' recalls how the curriculum ran parallel to the boys with the basics of English, Geography, History and Mathematics alongside cooking, needlework, laundry management, music, gardening, gymnastics, swimming, hockey, tennis and croquet and describes

this as a 'good ground work in education'. It is clear that Muriel carried these educational ideas forward when she set up Mornington School a few years later.



WANSTEAD ROYAL INFANT ORPHANAGE

A BLUEPRINT FOR A SCHOOL



During Muriel Nix's tenure, as Headmistress, Edith Hunt became one of her staff members.

Donald Grist's book paints some vivid pictures of life at the school that clearly informed the plans for the subsequent Mornington School.

The girl's playground is described as including an area of grass with swings and a see-saw.

Meals in the dining hall were listed as: breakfast and tea consisting of bread and dripping with watered milk or cocoa and set

meals each day of the week including: cold meat, beetroot and stewed rhubarb; stew and potato and bread & butter pudding; roast beef with greens and rice pudding; roast mutton, boiled rice, haricot beans and plain suet pudding with golden syrup.

Anecdotes include:

Two boys found in girls classroom who were given twelve strokes on their bare behinds and given one week's ostracism from their fellows.

Prize Day, where awards were given for Oxford Examinations and successes in the Wanstead Industrial and Art Exhibition. A band played on the lawn and after tea boys were allowed to mingle freely with the girls.

Miss Smith, a Head Mistress, prior to Miss Nix's appointment was forced to leave after 'a scandalous state of affairs' around her association with Captain Martin. Miss Kerswell was reprimanded for gossiping and 'branding both with the stigma'.

MISS HUNT, A SCHOOL MISTRESS

THE PREFERRED TEACHER

My formal education began under Miss Hunt aided by an even stricter disciplinarian, Miss Kerswell. I do not remember learning to read but I know I was expected to reproduce in my copybook letters and maxims in the copperplate writing of the time. Few of the maxims have remained with me, but I do not think I shall ever free myself from their pressure and urgency. My friends say my writing is almost unreadable. Details of the very elementary arithmetic I must have learned escape me except the chant of the multiplication table. I have an impression that I preferred Miss Hunt to Miss Kerswell. It could be said of Miss Kerswell that only her age was uncertain. She was a small woman but to us she loomed large and fierce. She was energetic, forthright, knew her mind. If she had any humour she successfully concealed it under a mask of professional severity. I recall that she smiled once reading a composition of mine on a subject she had set – would you rather be a boy or a girl and why. I was utterly without initiative and the choice frightened me. Carefully and at the right time I peeped over the shoulder of the boy on my right. Romney was his name. He had chosen to be a girl. That settled me and I at once set out why I should like to sit quietly sewing and have children of my own. To my humiliation I was given needle, cotton and material and set to work. Miss Kerswell relented later in the face of my demonstrable

45

A number of photographs exist of the staff at the orphanage. They slightly pre-date the time of Muriel and Edith, but give an idea of the presentation of teachers at the time. Queen Mary visited at the time when Muriel was Headmistress and thus the school gained its royal title.

Miss Hunt is given a particular mention in further recollections from Grist's book:

“My formal education began under Miss Hunt aided by an even stricter disciplinarian Miss Kerswell. I do not remember learning to read but I know I was expected to reproduce in my copybook letters and maxims in the copperplate writing of the time. Few of the maxims have remained with me, but I do not think I shall ever free myself from their pressure and urgency. My friends say my writing is almost unreadable. Details of the very elementary arithmetic I must have learned escape me except the chant of the multiplication table. I have an impression that I preferred Miss Hunt to Miss Kerswell”.



Miss Dalley, the Matron, and her Junior Female Staff – circa 1910



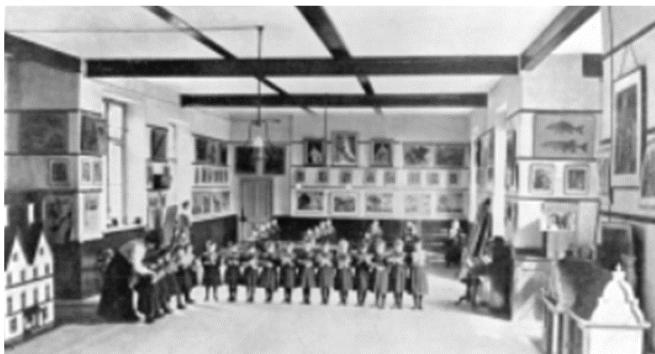
Matron and staff – circa 1900-1910



Queen Mary's visit to the orphanage 1920

WANSTEAD ROYAL INFANT ORPHANAGE

CHARACTER BUILDING



Muriel Nix taught at the orphanage from 1912 and no doubt developed her educational ethos in readiness for headship and then setting up her own school.

Photos clockwise from top left: **1909 laundry class, 1843 illustration of the original orphanage, 1911 Prize Day, 1920 Nursery class, 1910 Dining Hall, 1909 Junior Girl's Classroom, 1909 Cookery class,**



1920s / 1930s

TALE of TWO TEACHERS



Muriel Nix

Muriel Grace Nix

Edith Margaret Hunt.

A PAIR OF SINGLE MINDED WOMEN

WE OWE THIS PLACE TO THEM

Edith was born in Dover in 1876 and was the daughter of an insurance agent. Both she and her elder sister, Gertrude became teachers and neither of them was married

Edith was a school mistress at Wanstead Infant Orphanage from the early 1900s, when she was in her 30s and her time there coincided with Muriel Nix. Her description as being a preferred teacher is maybe what drew Muriel towards forming a professional partnership with her

The census in 1921 (after Muriel's headship ended and before the plans for Mornington School were in place) shows them both as visitors at a house 17 Cranworth Gardens in Brixton. Both of them would have been in their 40s and are indicated as being single, with their occupations as school mistresses.

In 1924, Edith opens Mornington School as co-principal along with Muriel. Kelly's directory in 1925 shows her also living with Muriel at 'Heydor' in Endlebury Road, Chingford and her O (occupation) as being at Mornington School. The advertisements for the school during the 1930s show that both women were clearly proud of the varied education they offered, as well as the number of pupils who they were able to assist into carrying on to secondary and public schools

At the start of WW2 in the 1939 census, she is shown as living in Endlebury Road with Muriel, but at some point it seems she returned to what is likely to be her family home with her sister Gertrude in Egham, Surrey.

Records have not revealed how she spent her retirement years, but her will shows acknowledgement of her years spent with Muriel.

Edith died in 1954 at the age of 78.

Muriel was born in Eastbourne in 1880, 4 years after Edith. Her father, John, was a jeweller and she had a brother Bertram. It seems she may have been educated at a boarding school in Camberwell, South London and records from 1895 also indicate she was a pupil at Warden Court Girls School in Cuckfield, Sussex

There is reference to her teaching in Cardiff, Monmouthshire in 1911 and then at Wanstead Infant Orphanage in 1912, where she met Edith. In 1918, she became Headmistress. A previous Headmistress, Miss Smith, appears to have left under a cloud amidst some 'scandalous' circumstances and Muriel took charge for two years until 1920.

It is not clear what Muriel did in the intervening 4 years until the opening of Mornington School; perhaps the planning of this venture dominated her time.

The school was taken over by Chingford Urban District Council in 1939. This coincides with the publication of her children's book 'Mrs Winkle and Other stories' published by A.H. Stockwell; a copy of which resides in the British Library

She was back in Eastbourne during the war and a copy of the Eastbourne Herald from 1957 refers to her wartime activities involving her support for the Women's Voluntary Service by changing the window displays in their HQ "to draw attention to some of the many activities of the women in the familiar green uniform".

Remaining creative and with the development of children still in mind, she was a contributor to the 'Swift' Annuals in the 1950s which contained stories and articles for a young readership.

This full and fulfilling life ended in 1979, when Muriel died in Eastbourne on 24th September.

EDITH MARGARET HUNT

Edith Margaret Hunt.

Superintendent Registrar's District <i> Dover</i>						EDITH'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE 1876				
Registrar's District <i> Hougham</i>										
18 <i>76</i> BIRTHS in the District of <i> Hougham</i> in the County of <i> Kent</i>										
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
<i> 31</i>	<i> Sixteenth October 1876 35 Winchelsea Street Hougham</i>	<i> Edith Margaret</i>	<i> Girl</i>	<i> John Hunt</i>	<i> Margaret Hunt formerly Summers</i>	<i> Railway Porter</i>	<i> Margaret Hunt Mother 35 Winchelsea Street Hougham</i>	<i> Twentieth November 1876</i>	<i> [Signature] Registrar</i>	



35 Winchelsea Street, Hougham, Kent

Edith was born on the 16th October 1876 at 35 Winchelsea Street, Hougham in Kent.

Her will shows her residing at 41 Grange Road, Egham in Surrey along with her sister Gertrude. There are no records of Edith marrying or having children. Although, it is not known exactly what happened to Edith after her time at Mornington School (which would have closed when Edith was in her 70s), its is clear that her bond with Muriel remained strong from their time teaching together, as Edith leaves part of her monies to 'her friend', then living in Eastbourne.

I, EDITH MARGARET HUNT of 41 Grange Road Egham in the County of Surrey Spinster ~~HARRY ARNONE~~ all Wills and Codicils at any time heretofore made by me **AND DECLARE** this to be my last Will I **APPOINT** Harry Clarkson of 14 Bookmead Road Sunbury-on-Thames and William Herbert Jeller of 40 Grange Road Egham in the County of Surrey (hereinafter called "my Trustees") to be the Executors and trustees of this my Will **AND I BEQUEATH** to each of them the sum of Ten pounds for their kind services in proving this my Will I **DEVISE AND BEQUEATH** to my sister GERTRUDE HUNT all my property whatsoever and wheresoever of or to which I shall be possessed or entitled to at the date of my death for her absolute use and benefit **PROVIDED ALWAYS** that in the event of my said sister Gertrude Hunt predeceasing me then I **DEVISE AND BEQUEATH** all the remainder of my property as aforesaid unto my trustees Upon Trust that my trustees shall at such time or times and in such manner as they shall think fit sell sell in and convert into money such parts thereof as may not consist of money and so that my trustees shall have full power to postpone such sale and conversion for such a period as my trustees without being liable to account may think fit and proper and to pay out of my ready monies and from the money to arise from such selling in and conversion my funeral testamentary expenses and debts and to stand possessed of the residue of such monies In Trust as to one half thereof between Nora Clarkson of 14 Bookmead Road Sunbury-on-Thames in the County of Surrey and my friend Muriel Grace Nix of 2 Meads Road Eastbourne in the County of Sussex in equal shares absolutely and in the event of any one of them predeceasing me then such share shall be sold in Trust for the survivor or them absolutely AS to the other half thereof between my sister Kate

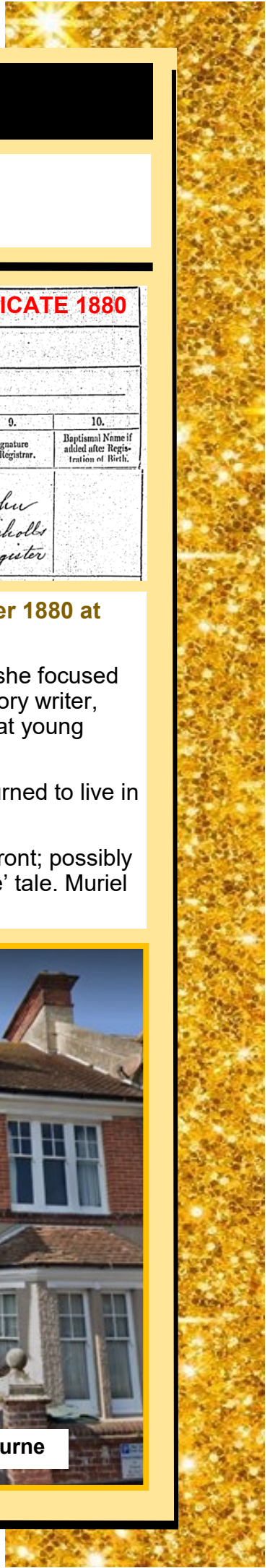
EDITH'S WILL 1953

possessed of the residue of such monies In Trust as to one half thereof between Nora Clarkson of 14 Bookmead Road Sunbury-on-Thames in the County of Surrey and my friend Muriel Grace Nix of 2 Meads Road Eastbourne in the County of Sussex in equal shares

Edith retired to her home in Surrey. It seems fitting that the modest bungalow has something of the look of Mornington Hall about it .



41 Grange Road, Egham, Surrey



MURIEL GRACE NIX

Muriel Grace Nix

Superintendent Registrar's District <i>Eastbourne</i> MURIELS BIRTH CERTIFICATE 1880										
Registrar's Sub-District <i>Eastbourne</i>										
1880, BIRTHS in the District of <i>Eastbourne</i> in the County of <i>Sussex</i>										
Column:—	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
No.	When and Where Born.	Name, if any.	Sex.	Name and Surname of Father.	Name and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Rank or Profession of Father.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.	Baptismal Name if added after Registration of Birth.
<i>383</i>	<i>Twentieth September 1880. 6 Terminus Road, Eastbourne</i>	<i>Muriel Grace</i>	<i>girl</i>	<i>John Nix</i>	<i>Mary Deen Nix formerly Pryor</i>	<i>Jeweller</i>	<i>John Nix Father 6 Terminus Road Eastbourne</i>	<i>Twenty second October 1880</i>	<i>John Nicholls Registrar</i>	



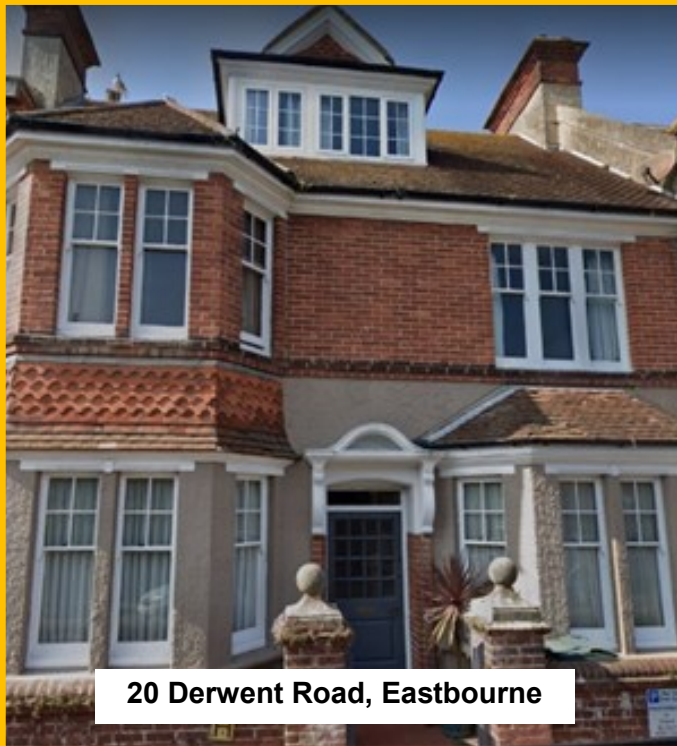
6 Terminus Place, Eastbourne.
The upstairs is currently and appropriately a Children's Health Centre

Muriel was born 20th September 1880 at 6 Terminus Place, Eastbourne.

After Mornington School closed, she focused her attentions on being a short story writer, with her imaginative tales aimed at young children.

Her will showed that she had returned to live in Eastbourne at 20 Derwent Road.

It is a ten minute walk to the seafront; possibly an inspiration for her 'Mrs Winkle' tale. Muriel died on 24th September 1979.



20 Derwent Road, Eastbourne

48
2

This is the last Will and Testament of me

MURIEL GRACE NIX of 20 Derwent Road Meads Eastbourne in the County of East Sussex Spinster hereby revoking all Wills and testamentary dispositions heretofore made by me

1. I DESIRE that my body be cremated and my ashes scattered

2. I DESIRE that my name be inscribed on the family gravestone at Ocklynge Cemetery

3. I APPOINT my niece Muriel Mary Geraghty to be the Executor of this my Will

4. I GIVE the following legacies free of duty:-
Three hundred pounds (£300) to Rhoda Jackman of Flat 5 26 Hyde Gardens Eastbo
One hundred pounds (£100) to Mrs J D A Adams of 2 Mill Cottages Fir Toll Road Mayfield Sussex

5. SUBJECT to the payment of my just debts funeral and testamentary charges and the legacies bequeathed hereby or by any Goddial hereto I DEVISE AND BEQUEATH all my Estate and effects both real and personal whatsoever and wheresoever unto whichever of them my brother Bertram Deen Nix and my niece Muriel Mary Geraghty shall survive me and if both shall survive me in equal shares between them

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand this *fourteenth* day of *March* One thousand nine hundred and seventy eight

M.G.N.
M.N.
1978

MURIEL'S WILL 1978

MURIEL G. NIX

STORYTELLER AND PUBLISHED AUTHOR

THE QUEER ZOO

Once upon a time there was a small zoo consisting of ten animals and three keepers. They were all two-faced, and three kept you laughing. You think, I can hear animal had two faces, but I don't mean anything of the kind, although something did happen in their faces later on in the story. What I mean is that they seemed to be so good and so kind their keepers so much, but got up to all sorts of tricks when the keepers backs were turned of them. They also said unkind things about them. They were sly and deceitful and were really not what they pretended to be, and we call that being two-faced.

One moonlight night they played a trick which most of them were very sorry about afterwards. They decided to change faces for a list. "I've seen people looking through the bars at us and changing hats," said the Chimbaras at us and changing hats. "so I don't see why we shouldn't change faces," and all the others agreed. So they took off their faces very carefully and put them in a great big box.

Then they took turns to pick out a face and

MRS. WINKLE AND OTHER STORIES
MURIEL G. NIX

put it on, and as they had no faces to see with they did not know what they were taking. What they thought they were when they had looked, and what a noise they made while they were finding out which faces they had picked from the box, for as they had no mirror they were obliged to ask one another. Strange to say, no one had picked out his own face. Suddenly they remembered that there was a box of soap near by and they rushed helter-skelter to see their reflections in that. Two or three of them cried hard when they saw what they looked like.

Others just laughed until they ached. Then some of them said that their names were outside their cages and these would also have to be changed.

So they set to work to invent new names. When they had done this the old names were taken down and the new ones put in their places.

In the morning the keepers came along. It was a terrible shock to them to see such queer creatures in the cages, and for some time they did not know what to do. They got used to it, carefully watched lest they should do something even worse, so they never had a chance to get back their right faces again.

New try and see if you can find out from their new names how they had changed faces. Each one kept the beginning of his old name and fixed it to the end part of the name of the

animal or bird whose face he had taken from the box. For instance, the one called *ant* was an ostrich with an elephant's foot, a kangaroo, parakey, elephant, mouse, alligator, crocodile, and hippopotamus.

I am sure you would like to pay a visit to that queer zoo, but I am sorry to say that you will never be able to do so, as it only exists in my dreams, and so I cannot tell you where it is.

PUFFY AND RUFFY

My name is Puffy, my sister's name is Ruffy, and our mother's name was Mrs. Winkle. We are big cats now, but we can remember we used to be little kittens.

We were exactly alike, even to small black spots at the ends of our tails and at the ends of our noses. Except for these spots we were white, or supposed to be, but not to say we were a couple of racials, and often made ourselves thoroughly dirty.

When we were tiny we used to lap milk from a large saucer. Sometimes we pulled in it, and one day Ruffy rolled in it, so she and I had to lick the milk off her fur, and we rather enjoyed it.

We loved to play with our mother. When she was lying down she would let us run over her back and put her face. If we purred too hard she boxed our ears, but she did not really hurt us.

She had a nice rough tongue, and she never seemed to be tired of licking us down with it. One day we found a queer wooden thing with a long thin worm curled round it. We caught hold of one end of the worm and pulled, and would you believe it, in a few minutes it

MRS. WINKLE AND OTHER STORIES
MURIEL G. NIX

LONDON
ARTHUR H. STOCKWELL LIMITED
29 LUDGATE HILL, E.C.4.

wound itself all round us so that we couldn't walk! Our mother had to get our mothers to cut the worm off and the ball we were made to indeed! We called it *otter*, and we were really round us like that! A horrid worm, wouldn't there was a wood near our home, and sometimes we used to run away from our mother and go for adventures.

Often we came back with bits of silver hanging on our fur, and once I had a thimble. Sometimes our feet were wet and muddy and we smelt of fish. That was when we went to a stream and caught fish with our claws.

Ruffy didn't like speaking, or if mother called her to have one I sometimes went and had a bit for her, because mother did not know the difference between us.

When I did this Ruffy used to give me some of the fish she caught next time we went down to the stream.

All the time we were growing up we were learning lots of different things, which help us now that we have left the arms of our own.

One thing we have learnt is to expect them to do exactly what we need, and although we have to when we were young, and although we have to spank them sometimes we try not to spank them too often, and only when they really deserve it. I believe they know this, and that they love us just as much as we love our own dear old mother.

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THE ANIMALS' RACE

ONCE upon a time there was going to be a Donald the Dog, Kenneth the Kangaroo, Percy the Pony, and Doris the Donkey.

Each animal was friendly with all the others, except Kenneth the Kangaroo. It was not his fault. He had tried to be friendly, but they would not have anything to do with him.

"Let's turn up our noses at him," said Percy the Pony. "he has no business here. He ought to be in Australia, or shut up in the zoo."

"Yes," agreed Donald the Dog. "we don't want an awkward creature like that racing with us. Besides, he can't run properly."

remarked Doris the Donkey. "great looking thing, jumping up and down like a switchback!"

Each in turn made very rude remarks about poor Kenneth the Kangaroo, but the truth was that they knew he would probably beat them in the race. So these naughty unkind animals played a trick on the poor Kangaroo. First outside his house there happened to be a large hollow place which had once been a pond, but which was now dried up. In the dead of night, on the day before the race, they filled it with water. In the morning they all pretended to

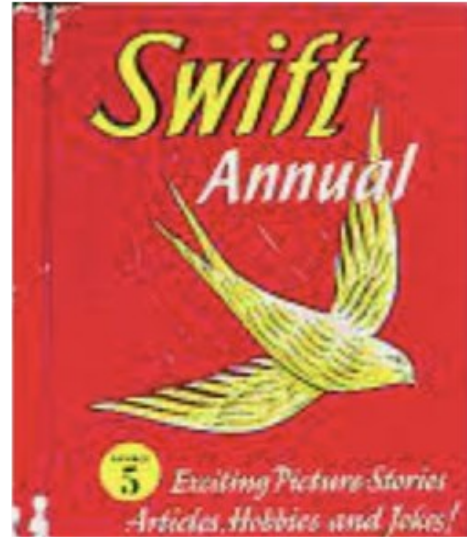
be quite friendly, and came round to his house to remind him that it was the day of the race. He hurried up to join them outside, opened his front door, and sprang out right into the pool of water! "Ha! ha! ha!" they all laughed, as he floundered about in the sticky water. "Ha! ha! ha!" they all called for you later and let you know who won the race.

"Oh they went, leaving him to get out of the race as best he could. Harry the Horse won the race and received a handsome prize of a new saddle. Then the animals rushed back to see how Kenneth the Kangaroo was getting on. When they got to his house he was nowhere to be seen, so they stood by the pool of treacle to wait.

Suddenly there was a terrific rush from the back of the house, and before they had time to say a single word or move an inch there seemed to be kangaroos all over the place, who seized them, kicked them hard, and threw them into the pool of treacle.

"Ha! ha! ha!" laughed Kenneth the Kangaroo. You thought it was quite fair for five of you to join together against me, didn't you? But you didn't know I had five brothers living with me, did you? And now we are going to pay you out. Perhaps you will think twice before playing a trick of that sort again."

The animals begged for mercy, but each time one of them managed to crawl to the edge of the pool, he was pushed in again by an angry kangaroo.



- Stories**
- Blackie's Own Adventure
 - A Friend for John
 - Wuffles and the Nature Lesson
 - Circus Girl
 - The Magic Train
 - David's Highland Holiday
 - Lindy and the Kittens
 - Lady Dunkle's Swimming Pool
 - The Gooseberry Thief
 - A Really Good Club

Your Writers and Artists

The stories, verses and articles are by: Sylvia Allen, Kay Baker, Lilian Bedwell, Dilys Beeston, Kathleen Binn, Geoffrey Bond, K. V. R. Bowerman, Brian Branson, R. F. Brown, Graham L. Bryer, Ann Devenon, Lesley Gordon, R. Harcourt, Penelope Knox, Dinah Lawrence, Barbara Livingstone, Clifford Makins, Hazel Mills, Maud Miller, Muriel G. Nix, Peter O'Donnell, Jacqueline Russell, Doreen M. Sharp, Alwyn Swift, John Taylor, Margaret Thomas, Martin Thornhill, Barbara Wace, Bill Wellings, Roger Wilkinson.

As well as publishing her 'Mrs Winkle and other stories' collection, Muriel is also credited as one of the story authors in the 1958/59 edition of the Swift Annual: an anthology of stories, articles, hobbies and jokes. It is interesting to wonder which of the titles listed is penned by her.

The British Library 1939 copy of Muriel's 48 page collection of short stories for children featuring animals, fairies, magic and mermaids. It is very likely she created and told these to the Mornington School children

MRS WINKLE

A TALE FROM THE SEASIDE

MRS. WINKLE

ONCE upon a time there was a funny old lady called Mrs. Winkle. Her house, which was on the very edge of a cliff overhanging the sea, was called Kipper Cottage. It was covered all over with shells which Mrs. Winkle had collected from the beach ever since she was a tiny child. At the time of my story she was ninety-six years, four months, and two days old; so you can imagine that there must have been hundreds and hundreds of shells altogether.

She was very fond of everything to do with ships and the sea, so it will not surprise you to know that the chimney was an old ship's funnel. In the windows of her house were long strings of seaweed for curtains, her bed was a boat, the sheets were made from old ship's sails, and so were her clothes, but sometimes she trimmed them with small shells and little tiny pieces of seaweed to make them look a bit smarter.

She had nothing to eat but fish, which she always caught herself. There was a very steep flight of steps cut in the cliff, and she went down these to fish, but there were times when her rheumatics made her old legs rather stiff, and then she used to fish from one of the windows. For this purpose she had a long rod and a very

19

long line indeed which hung right over the cliff into the sea. She was an expert angler, which means that she managed to catch a lot of fish quite easily. It took her just five minutes, two-and-a-half seconds, to pull up the line, which was nearly a quarter of a mile long, but if she had caught an extra big fish it took a little longer.

To get salt to eat with her fish she used to boil sea-water in an old saucepan, and when the water had evaporated, and when the salt left behind was put in a salt-cellar shaped like a lighthouse.

No one lived with her but her pussy, whose bed was in a round fishing-net which hung from the ceiling and made quite a nice hammock for him. Pussy, whose name was Shrimp, was very clever at jumping out in the morning and jumping back again at night.

One day there was a dreadful storm. The wind blew, the lightning flashed, the thunder made a terrible noise, the waves lashed the cliffs with fury, and the rain came down in torrents.

Suddenly the part of the cliff where Mrs. Winkle lived gave way, and the house covered with shells, the old lady, and all her belongings turned a somersault, and disappeared with a tremendous splash into the sea below.

"Oh!" cried the mermaids. "Come and look at this dear old lady who has suddenly come to pay us a visit!" They gathered round her, they crowned her with beautiful wreaths of seaweed, and they made her their queen.

20

Perhaps you wonder how I know all this. Well, have you forgotten the pussy? He gave a flying leap as the house went over the side of the cliff, and he landed on the deck of a passing ship. He was a pussy with very good sight and hearing, and he peered down into the deep sea, and saw and heard what was happening to the old lady. I am the captain of that ship and he told me all about what had happened and he told me as well as the story of the old lady before her house turned a somersault and fell into the sea.

By the way, we saw Shrimp's fishing-net-bed floating in the water next day and we managed to save it, so he still sleeps in it every night.

If you don't believe it, just come and pay a visit to Shrimp and me in the good ship *Lobster* next time she docks in Herring Harbour and you will be able to see and hear for yourselves.

21



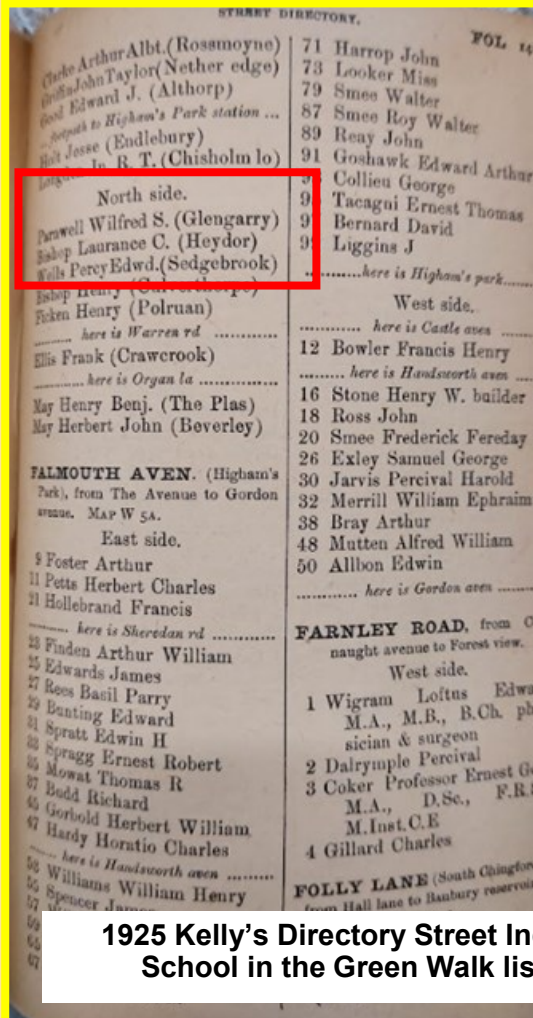
Muriel's early life was spent by the coast in Sussex, so it is no surprise that the title story from her collection is inspired by the magic of the sea.

A number of curiosities in the area were folly-style buildings ornately decorated with shells. Including Goodwood House in Chichester and Pitshill House in Petworth (illustrated above).

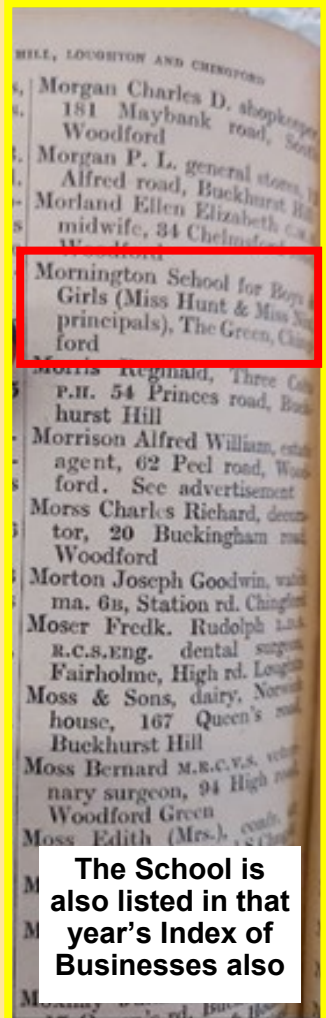
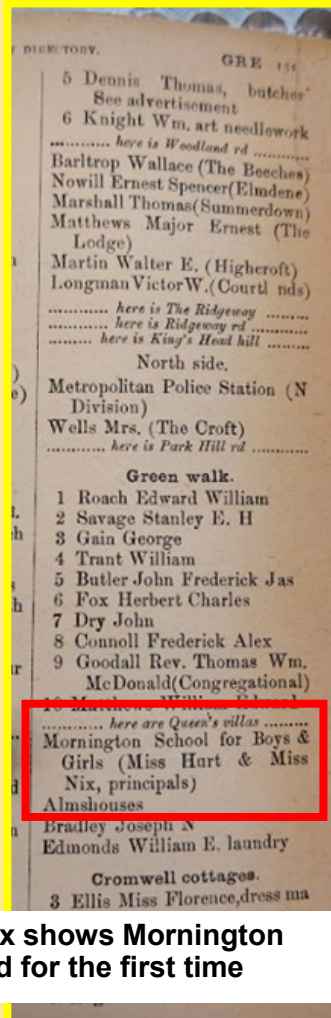
When Muriel created her heroine as a 96 year old, little did she know that she herself would live well into her late nineties. The care with which Mrs Winkle builds her house of shells, echoes the creativity and dedication Muriel herself seemed to demonstrate in her long life.

KELLY'S DIRECTORY 1925

THE SCHOOL IS LISTED



1925 Kelly's Directory Street Index shows Mornington School in the Green Walk listed for the first time



The School is also listed in that year's Index of Businesses also

E.D. Letter Code: CCAC Borough, U.D. or R.D. Sec. of Chingford. Registration District and Sub-district: 189/11

ADDRESS	SCHEDULE		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES	SEX	M. or F.	BIRTH		S. or D. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION
	No.	Sub. No.				Day	Year		
12 Queens Walk	172	1	Godfrey George A	-	M	11/17	89	11	Teacher Intermediate
12 ditto	172	2	Godfrey Annie	-	F	8/15	71	11	Unpaid Domestic Dut
12 ditto	172	3	Godfrey David Edw	-	F	1/10	02	5	Domestic Dut
12 ditto	172	4	Godfrey Annie E	-	F	2/10	05	5	Domestic Dut
12 ditto	172	5	Godfrey Marginal	-	F	11/4	01	5	Unpaid Domestic Dut
13 ditto	171	1	Richardson William	-	M	10/15	70	10	Tramway (Small ac
13 ditto	171	2	Richardson Joseph	-	F	1/15	01	5	Unpaid Domestic Dut
13 ditto	171	3	Richardson Joseph M	-	F	10/19	17	5	Unpaid Domestic Dut
13 ditto	171	4	Richardson William	-	M	1/11	07	5	Tramway (Small ac
14 ditto	174	1	Taylor Julia	-	F	2/17	70	11	Unpaid Domestic Dut
14 ditto	174	2	Smith Ethel F	-	F	1/15	74	11	Unpaid Domestic Dut
14 ditto	174	3	Smith Ethel F	-	F	1/15	74	11	Unpaid Domestic Dut
Mornington School Station	176	1	Nix Muriel S	-	F	3/14	80	5	Teacher
11 The Green House	176	1	Bright Edna J	-	F	11/7	62	5	Unpaid Domestic Dut
11 The Green House	177	1	Bright Edna J	-	F	1/11	08	5	Unpaid Domestic Dut

The handwritten Electoral Register entry shows Muriel Nix as a teacher and principal of Mornington School



A WARTIME RESOURCE



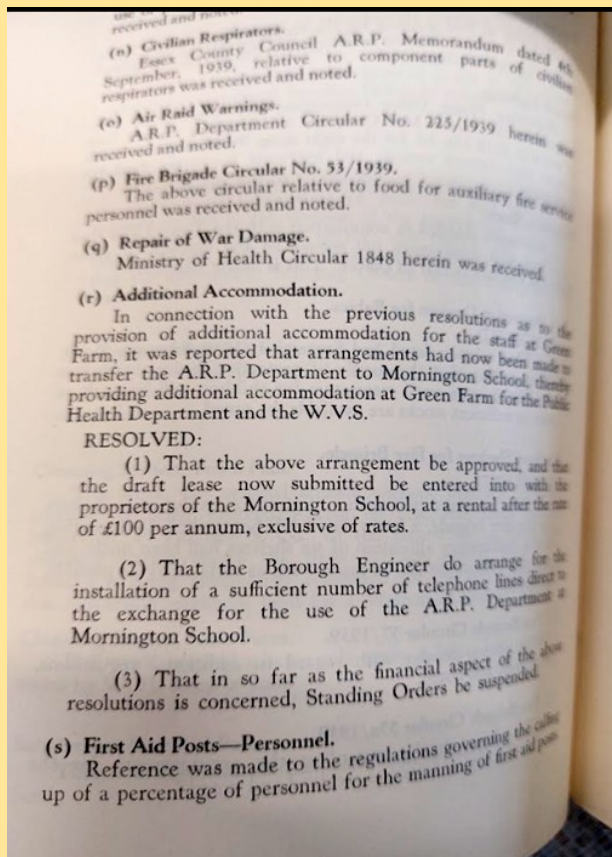
Mornington Hall as a WW2 British Restaurant



Chingford's ARP Wardens

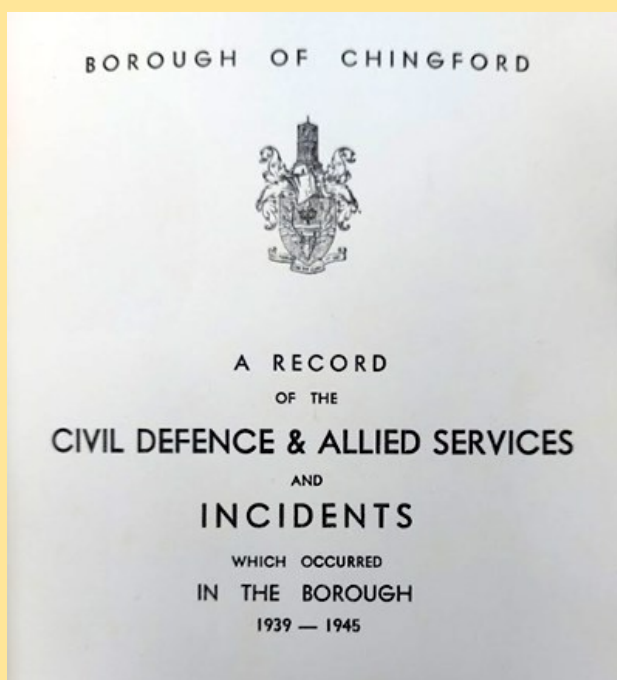
A WARTIME RESOLUTION

AN HQ FOR THE ARP WARDENS



Council Minutes from 1939 show the resolution that Mornington School will be used to accommodate the Air Raid Precautions Department.

Muriel Nix and Edith Hunt, as proprietors were to be compensated £100 each year. The book 'Chingford At War' was published by Chingford Borough Council in 1946 to record the work of the Civil Defence Services including the ARP Wardens. In his forward to the book, the Mayor at the time, Alderman P. S. Powell described how '**Chingford did not escape and today we mourn 103 of our townsfolk who died of enemy air attack**'. He also gave thanks to all '**either in uniform or out of uniform, who strove so gallantly and so successfully, to minimise as far as was humanely possible the sad effects of such devastating and indiscriminate warfare**'.



By S Warburton, with permission from LBWF Council and Vestry House Museum



CHINGFORD AT WAR

ALWAYS TIME FOR A PANTO

From 'Chingford At War'

The Wardens Service in Chingford was formed in 1938, from volunteers enrolled in response to an appeal by the Government, through the Local Authority, for volunteers for the various services which were to be set up in the Borough in connection with the Air Raid Precautions Scheme. During the winter of 1938-39 most of the enrolled members of the Warden's Service received their first basic training in anti-gas and other air raid precautions, a number of the original Wardens being included in the first class prior to the outbreak of war to qualify as instructors.

During the early part of 1939 the Wardens Service was considerably extended by volunteers enrolled in connection with National Service Week. Just prior to the outbreak of war the Service numbered some one thousand volunteers, many lady members being included in this figure. During the summer 1939 approval was given by the Government for the erection of "Wardens' Posts in the Borough, and the service was organised on a district basis under the Chief Warden, Deputy Chief Warden, and four District Wardens, together with twenty four Post Wardens and their deputies. In the last few days before the outbreak of hostilities on instructions from the Government, the Wardens' Service and other branches of the Civil Defence (General) Services of the Borough, were put on a wartime footing, and came into operation. Rotas of duty were formed and the Warden's Posts were manned.

In the early days of the war the Wardens were called upon to assist the Police Authorities in the enforcement of the black out regulations and these duties continued until the regulations were relaxed when the end of the hostilities in Europe was in sight.. Almost every member of the Warden Service undertook specialised training in Incident Control and many members undertook special training in Decontamination,

Bomb Reconnaissance and Resuscitation.

In spite of their many duties, time was found to organise a social side, which included the Chingford Warden's Cricket Club which provided relaxation to many who were interested in that particular sport. In addition, the Warden's Service through the Darts Club, ran an inter-Post competition which competed annually for the Gillham Cup.

The Service organised annually from 1942 onwards a Christmas Party for the children of members of the Civil Defence Services of the Borough. The parties were held at the Wellington Avenue School, and each year a pantomime was given, the cast being drawn from the members of the Warden's Service. At Christmas 1942, 'Aladdin' was produced and presented to the children, the performance being repeated in the evening for the adults. In 1943, 'Dick Whittington' was the choice, and a special performance was given in aid of the Connaught Hospital; and an amount of £50 was raised. This was followed in 1944 by 'Puss in Boots' and in addition to performances given to the children of the Borough and adults, special performances of the pantomime were given to various Army units in the area, to war factories, and to members of the Civil Defence Services at Waltham Holy Cross, and Chigwell.



The Warden's 1944 production of 'Puss In Boots'. CADOS continues the tradition of panto performances to this day

CHINGFORD AT WAR

SHARING THE SPACE



The Chingford Women's Voluntary Service who shared the use of the Hall

9. Mornington School—Chief Warden's Office.
RECOMMENDED :
 That the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to the surrender of the Lease in respect of the use of the above premises by the Wardens' Service.

(5) Mornington School.

The Chief Warden advised the Committee that the proprietresses of the above School were desirous of using part of the hall for teaching approximately 14 pupils and that the user would not interfere with the work of the Wardens or Women's Voluntary Service.

RECOMMENDED :

That permission be given until the next meeting of this Committee and that, in the meantime, the Chairman do inspect the accommodation at Mornington School.

In 1941, the council further recommended that the Hall continues to be used for the Warden's Service

Minutes from the Essex/Waltham Forest Council meeting on 21st October 1941 refer to the Muriel and Edith wanting to share the use of the hall with the Warden's and the Women's Voluntary Service, in order to continue with the teaching of a small number of pupils. It is interesting to imagine how this shared use might have worked in practice.

CHINGFORD AT WAR

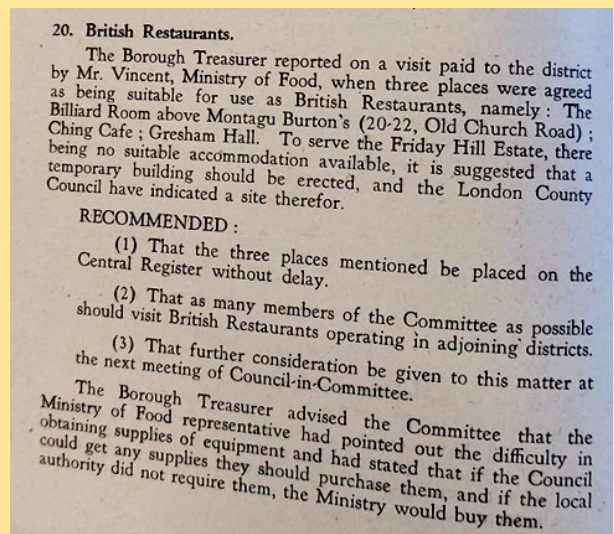
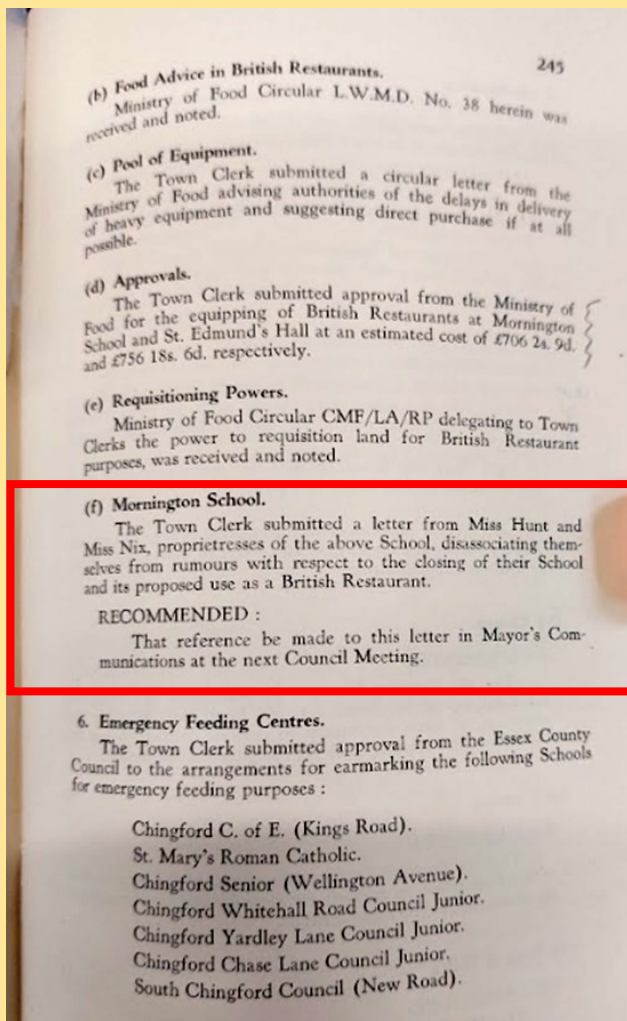
A BRITISH RESTAURANT

British Restaurants were communal kitchens created during WW2 to help people who had been bombed out of their homes, had run out of ration coupons or otherwise needed help.

Originally called 'Community Feeding Centres', the name British Restaurants was chosen by the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill. They were set up by the Ministry of Food and run by local government or voluntary agencies. Meals were sold for a set maximum price of 9d or less. No-one could be served with a meal of more than one serving of meat, game, poultry, fish, eggs, or cheese. By mid-1941, over two hundred British Restaurants operated in the London County Council area, and the Wartime Social Survey conducted in 1942 - 43 indicated they were more popular in London than in the rest of the country. By 1943, there were some two thousand British Restaurants across the country, serving around 600,000 meals per day.

Council Minutes from 16th July 1941 show that there are other British Restaurants in Chingford but none to serve the Friday Hill Estate

Minutes from the 17th December 1941 show the first discussion about requisitioning of Mornington School for use as a British Restaurant'



CHINGFORD AT WAR

A BRITISH RESTAURANT



An example of a British Restaurant menu

Despite sharing their building for a time with the Wardens and WVS, and Muriel and Edith's resistance to the possibility of requisition as British Restaurant, it became inevitable that the Council would have the plans approved and the Town Clerk and the Borough Engineer submitted their plans and estimates to convert it from a school

6. Mornington School.

The Town Clerk reported that it was anticipated that approval would be received from the Ministry of Food to the requisitioning of Mornington School for a British Restaurant.

The Borough Engineer submitted a revised plan and estimate for the conversion of the School for use as a Restaurant, using the whole of the School building and the house.

RECOMMENDED :

That the Town Clerk be authorised to submit the revised plan and estimate to the Ministry of Food for approval.

ALMOST A THEATRE

1948 PROPOSAL TO ADAPT THE HALL

Had local decisions been different the Hall might have been used for amateur drama 50 years earlier than it eventually was.

In 1948 The Council Entertainments Committee is discussing how local societies can be accommodated for performances and proposes a block booking at Chingford County High School as well as suggesting that Mornington Hall be adapted into a theatre. Clearly there was a debate as the records (right) show the various considerations between maintaining it as a catering facility or letting it out as a venue for performances.

Mornington Restaurant (Catering)—continued	
Extractor Fans	750, 855, 891
Friday Hill Community Centre	656, 750
Kitchen	283, 413, 559, 750, 855, 891, 955, 977, 1023, 1232
Meal Prices	283, 413, 657, 750, 1052
Metal Trays	567
Ovens	854, 891, 955, 977
Posters	657
Potatoes	1334, 1421
Prams	567
School Meals	283, 412, 567, 656
Tables	1052
Vegetables from Pimp Hall	1459
W.V.S.	567, 656
Weighing Equipment	283, 412
Mornington Restaurant (Entertainments)	
Adaptation as Theatre	1110, 1214, 1232, 1287, 1335, 1385, 1461, 1465, 1478, 1518, 1574, 1575, 1587, 1636, 1711, 1798
Applications for Hire	69, 183, 282, 411, 569, 649, 662, 663, 921, 992, 1010, 1112, 1184, 1387, 1802
Block Bookings	183
Casual Bookings	184, 292, 566
Charges	171, 182, 282, 291, 411, 753, 790, 809, 920, 1216
Conditions of Lettings	282, 333, 334
Curtaining	1802
Equipment	660
Flourescent Lighting	649, 660
Half Hall	663, 752, 790
Management	411, 476, 642
Piano	752, 754, 1111
Receipts from Lettings	69, 171
Stage	171, 218
Storage of Theatrical Scenery	1289, 1384
Mornington Road, Footpaths	

Report and Recommendations of the
Entertainments Committee
Meeting: 8th October, 1948

Present: Aldermen A. J. Strachan, J.P. (Chairman), A. H. Franklin, Councillors J. W. Corder, S. G. Greasey, W. S. Higbo and L. J. Scully, T.D.

- The Minutes of the last meeting, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.
- Meeting with Representatives of Local Organizations** (vide para. 3 (a), page 1007).—Consideration was given to suggestions put forward at the meeting of the Committee and representatives of Societies in the Borough interested in Entertainments which immediately preceded this meeting.

RECOMMENDED (1) That consideration of the following two suggestions be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee :

 - That the Borough Council should make application to the Essex County Council on behalf of local societies for a block booking of the Hall at the Chingford County High School on Saturday evenings, the allocation of dates between the societies to be mutually agreed by the Council and all societies interested.
 - That the possibility be explored of local societies using the Mornington Restaurant as a theatre and of the building being adapted for this purpose.

(2) That the Borough Engineer and Pool Superintendent do submit to this Committee at its next meeting, suggestions as to any accommodation which may be available and suitable for the storage of theatrical scenery used by local societies in their productions.

(3) That the Town Clerk do maintain a diary, showing the venues and dates of all functions of an entertainment nature to be held within the Borough, which diary shall be available for inspection by any persons interested, and that all local societies concerned with entertainments be invited to notify the Town Clerk of their events for inclusion therein.

THE TITLE CHANGES

Property title registers show that by May 1949 the property had transferred from the original proprietors Edith and Muriel to the Chingford Aldermen and Burgesses

C: Charges Register
This register contains any charges and other matters that affect the land.

Class of Title: Title absolute

Entry number	Entry date	
1	2017-05-10	A Conveyance of the land in this title dated 17 May 1949 made between (1) Edith Margaret Hunt and Muriel Grace Nix and (2) The Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the borough of Chingford contains stipulations but neither the original deed nor a certified copy or examined abstract thereof was produced on first registration.
2	2017-05-10	The land is subject to the lease set out in the schedule of leases hereto.
3		Registration Date : 10.05.2017 Property Description : Mornington Hall Date of Lease : 09.06.2004



SCHOOL DINNER TIMES



SCHOOL DINNERS

CHOCOLATE SPONGE & WHITE SAUCE



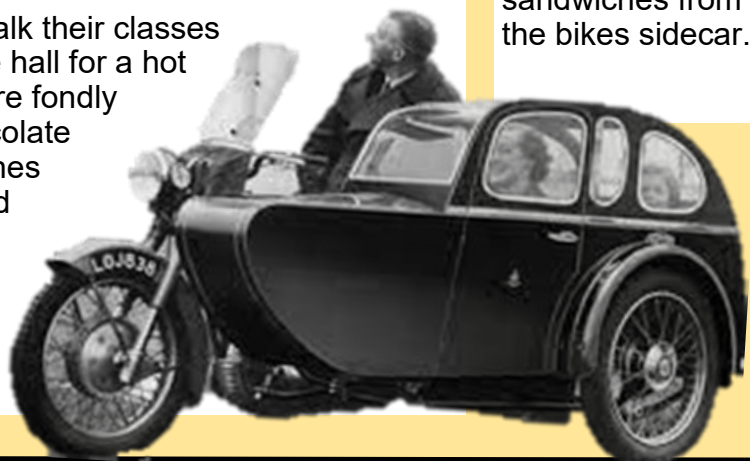
Carol Mills, CADOS member and Chingford resident, has a distinct memory of her son Trevor and his reaction to the school dinners at Mornington Hall.

Teachers told her that during the lunch time walk, Trevor had made his feelings known by sitting down in the middle of Station Road and refusing to move.

Trevor was only persuaded to get up by the reassurance that he would no longer have to have his lunches there. Instead his father, who worked nearby, would turn up on his motorbike and Trevor would contentedly eat his sandwiches from the bikes sidecar.

The council decided to keep the hall as a venue for catering within the borough. Many Chingford residents have childhood memories of the hall being used as the place where they went for their school lunches.

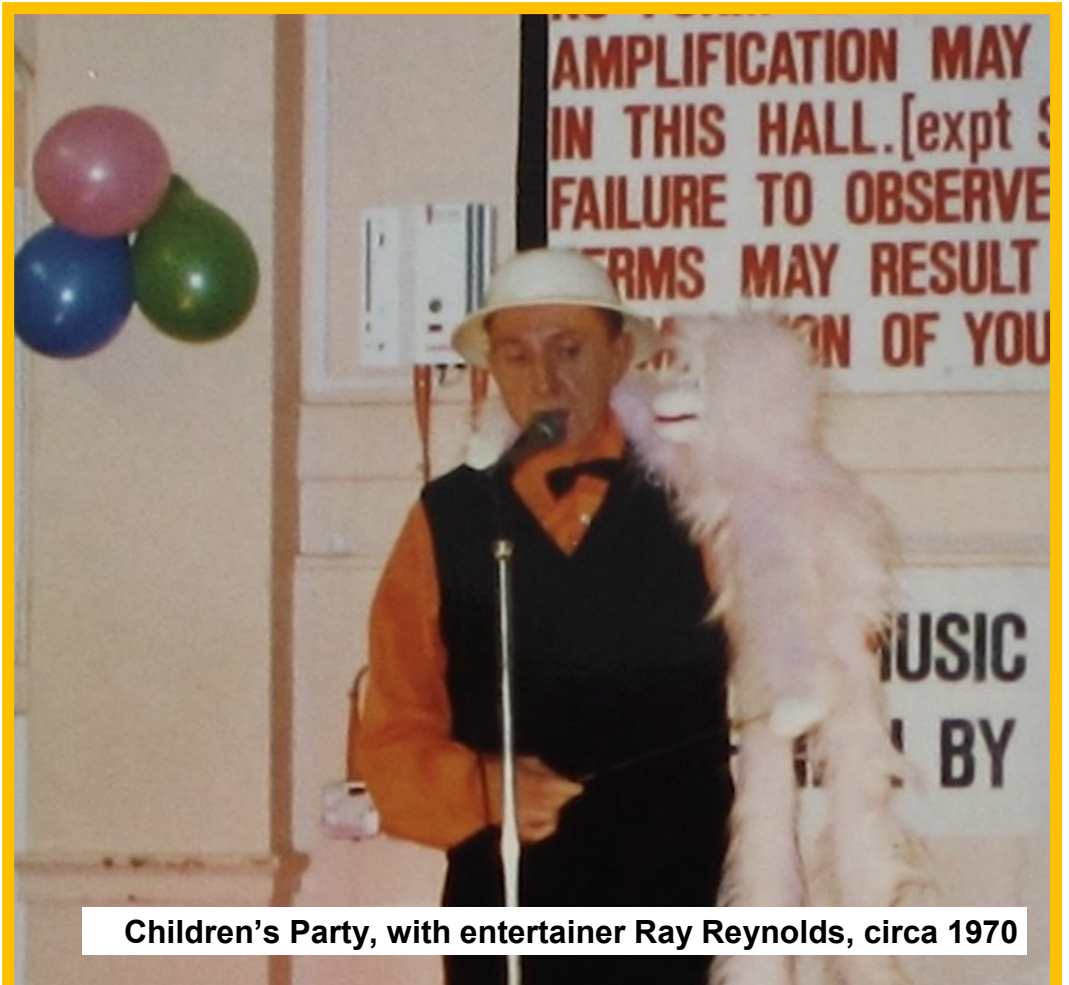
Several primary schools would walk their classes in threes 'crocodile' fashion to the hall for a hot meal. Classic 1960s dishes feature fondly in several recollections, with chocolate sponge and white sauce and prunes with pink custard being mentioned with a smile by one resident. Another described that as a post-war child who moved from Silvertown this was the best meal of his day.





COMMUNITY MEMORIES

1970s - 1990s



Children's Party, with entertainer Ray Reynolds, circa 1970



The Hall in 1992

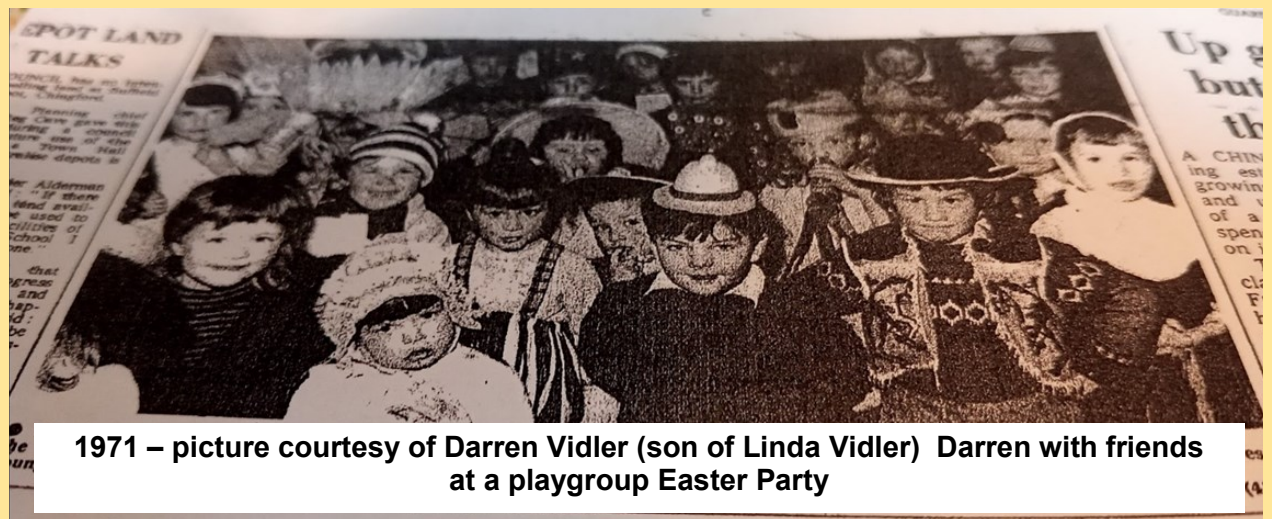
HALL FOR HIRE

A PLACE FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS



For the next three decades, the hall was hired out by Chingford council for events and parties.

During this time, **Ray Reynolds**, worked as a DJ and entertainer and recalled many children's parties (where his monkey puppet went down well), 18th and 21st celebrations as well as other milestone birthdays and anniversaries. To this day, the hall is in great demand for use by families and groups who want to mark their special occasions.

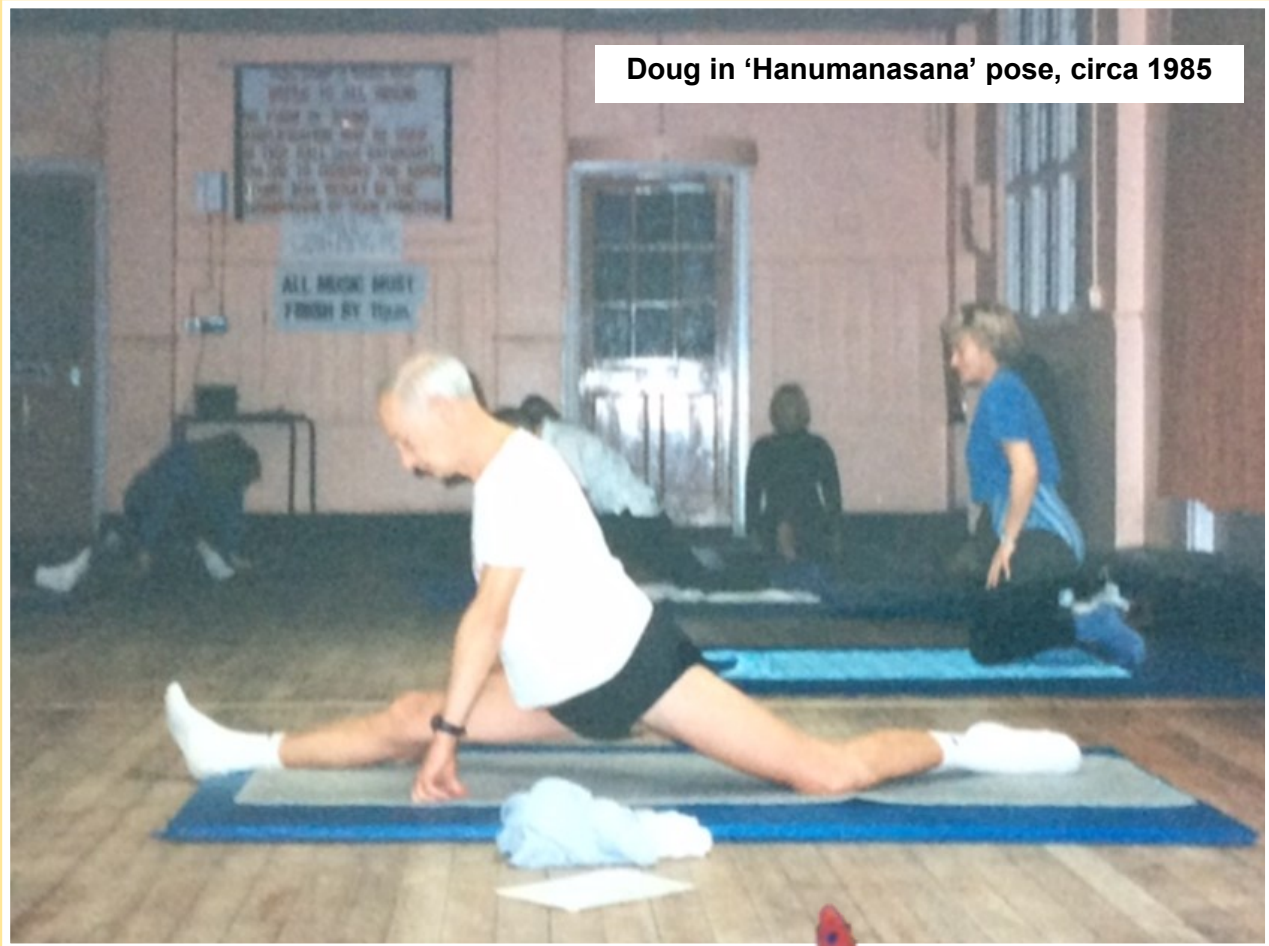


1971 – picture courtesy of Darren Vidler (son of Linda Vidler) Darren with friends at a playgroup Easter Party



HALL FOR HIRE

A PLACE FOR FITNESS AND WELLBEING



Doug in 'Hanumanasana' pose, circa 1985

Chingford resident, **Barbara Ives**, remembers attending yoga sessions held at the hall during the 1980s.

Sessions were run by **Doug Dyas** (pictured above) and then by Barbara herself. The association of the hall with health and fitness continues. Barbara, still attends the Weds Tai Chi sessions and Yoga, Fitsteps, Zumba, Folk Dancing and Mini-Athletics for youngsters, all feature on the regular weekly booking sheet for the benefit of locals.



Barbara taking up her poses, circa 1985





CADOS AS CUSTODIANS



Bob Borrow of CADOS securing the hall



CADOS moves into the hall June 2004

HALL FOR SALE

CADOS SEEKS A NEW HOME



After several decades of hires, the hall is beginning to fall into disrepair and Chingford council begins to look at the possibility of selling it. CADOS is struggling to pay the costs of putting on shows at other local halls and now explores the idea of taking over Mornington Hall to use for rehearsals and performances but to also keep it as a community space.



HALL FOR SALE

CADOS MAKES ITS BID

A Chingford Guardian article reports that CADOS is trying to save the hall

Images of the 50 year lease on the hall that was signed on 9th June 2004 by John Williams and Steve Ranger as CADOS Trustees

Players in bid to save hall

LEADERS of a popular charity group are hoping to save a community hall from closure despite plans to sell the site next month.

Chingford Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society (CADOS) hopes it still has time to come to an agreement with the council over using Morningson Hall, The Green, Station Road, and maintain it to future use as a community facility.

The hall, which was closed down by the council at the end of December is due to be auctioned off by Strettons on February 2 if an agreement is not reached in the next few weeks.

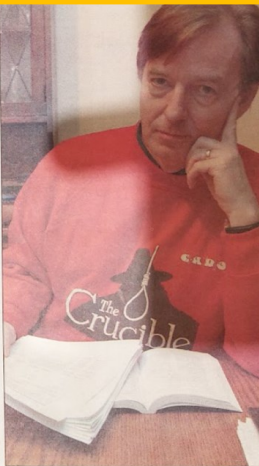
CADOS chair John Williams, of Merryhill Close, Chingford, is concerned the council did not take into account the hall's community value when setting the lease price. The council is currently asking the group to pay more than eight times the price for the hall than its current lease at Chingford Hall, Morningson Road. It cannot afford the cost.

Mr Williams, 61, said: "During the recent community council meeting at Chingford Assembly Hall the question was asked about Morningson Hall and CADOS was the group approached as the one that could look after it."

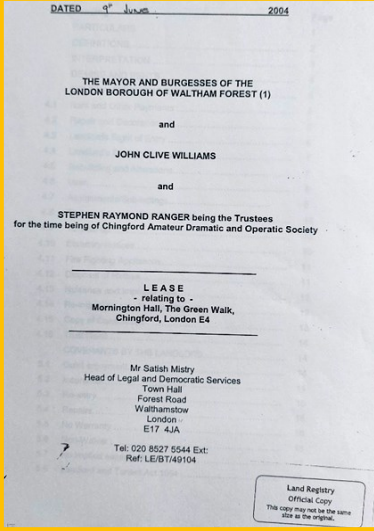
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CADOS chairman John Williams working on plans to take over the running of Morningson Hall (S4W4256)



DATE	9 th June 2004	2004
1. DATE OF THIS DEED	9 th June	2004
2. LANDLORD	THE MAYOR AND BURGESSES OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST of Town Hall Forest Road Walthamstow London E17 4JF	
3. TENANT	JOHN CLIVE WILLIAMS of 1 Merryhill Close Chingford London E4 7PT and STEPHEN RAYMOND RANGER of 16 Geneva Close Chingford London E4 9BT being the trustees for the time being of the Chingford Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society (CADOS). The liability of the Trustees for the time being in respect of any breach by the Tenant of any of his obligations under this Lease to be limited in amount to the realisable value of the assets of CADOS that are for the time being vested in the Trustees as trustees of CADOS and nothing contained in this Lease entitles the Landlord to any right or remedy against the personal estate, property, effects or assets of any of the Trustees or against any assets for the time being vested in the Trustees that are not assets of CADOS.	
4. COMMENCEMENT DATE	9 th June	2004
5. DEMISED PREMISES	The building known as Morningson Hall The Green Walk Chingford London E4 and shown edged red on the plan attached hereto.	
6. RENT	£18,500 per annum. Payable quarterly in advance	
7. RENT COMMENCEMENT DATE	9 th June	2004
8. TERM	50 years from and including the commencement date	
9. USER	Amateur Dramatic and Operatic rehearsals or subject to obtaining the prior written consent of the Landlord any other	

The future of Morningson Hall as a community venue has been saved thanks to last-minute talks between the council and the Chingford Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society (CADOS).

The council initially decided to sell off the hall at The Green, Station Road, Chingford and its future looked bleak early last week when residents called the Guardian to say it had been placed on the website of chartered surveyors Strettons. If a suitable tenant was not found, allowing the hall to be hired out to other local groups, it would have been auctioned off to a private firm on February 9. CADOS has now secured a 50-year lease on Morningson Hall, however, and although it will be using the hall three or four week-day evenings for its own classes, the hall will be available for hire throughout the rest of the week. CADOS chairman John Williams said that the drama group had saved the hall for the community and said it was now time for the community come forward and help CADOS." He said "It was

a very passionate night at the meeting of the North Chingford Community Council recently. There was such feeling there". The exact amount of rent to be paid has not been disclosed but for the first five years it will be reduced while CADOS pays for renovation of the hall. "We are appealing for anybody out there to come forward and help us in any way," said Mr Williams. "If there are any building firms in the area that would help us with the building plans, or people with fund-raising ideas, we would ai like to hear from them." The deal struck between CADOS and the council is still subject to survey and contract but is expected to go through without a hitch. Keith Rayner, cabinet member for corporate services, said: "An agreement has been reached with CADOS, and the details are being finalised by the council's legal department. I am optimistic this means that Morningson Hall's future as a community facility for Chingford residents has been secured."

Guardian article reporting CADOS's work in saving the hall

A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

CADOS MOVES IN



8. Membership

A new lady called Suzanna telephoned and there is also a new lady called Lesley. (No further information)

Jan has organised a list of people who still owe subs. Miranda said that there had been a problem with her bank account and money had been taken out, but unfortunately it had not reached CADOS. It has now been sorted out, but she said this could also have happened to other people who paid by standing order. It was said that if we had had a second bank statement, which was requested months ago, this would have been picked up beforehand and the problem identified by June of last year. Jan intends to speak to people individually. She will compose a letter to those who are behind with their payments and not in rehearsal at the moment.

9. Chepping Hall

To remove the 2 containers will cost £1,500. David Kelly will offer them to the new leaseholders. We are still paying £8.62 a day for rent and insurance because the containers are ours. Roz has sent a cheque to close off the water. She has also got the forms regarding the business rates. £66.49 will be transferred to Mornington Hall from Chepping.

Mornington Hall

Steve, Paul & Jan have worked at the hall this last weekend. They have replaced the fence at the front. Unfortunately the water meter is behind the gate (which they were unaware of) The "Meet the Locals evening on the 9th July was successful. 18/20 people turned up. John did not have much to say, but Kevin gave out some forms regarding the "Friends of Mornington Hall". There has been an initial meeting of the "Friends". Kevin Wyatt will be chairman. There will be 3 members of CADOS Steve, Bob & Detta (who will be treasurer) and also some from the community council. They will formalise the constitution. At the Assembly Hall yesterday, 4 people paid £10 to become a "Friend of Mornington". On Sunday the ceiling panels and framework will be removed. The fluorescent tubes will eventually be replaced. It is hoped that the roof and ceiling work will be completed by the following week.

Will and Steve intend to make a list of all the work required. So that we can arrange some form of funding. We need to have an overall costing to apply for this though.

Roz has tried to apply to the Arts Council for a grant of £1,500 in respect of moving costs. The biggest expenditure will be converting the toilet behind the kitchen.

There is possibly a source of money for this project. John is looking into the possibility of Capital funding. Will is going to speak to John on this matter.

We had had quite a few hirers. The first outside non-charitable hiring was at the weekend. There is the possibility that we may be able to hire the hall to the Chingford Wine makers on a Friday evening.

Due to the lack of daytime hirers we do not have anyone to open and close the hall. We do have a caretaker/cleaner once a week. The electrical heater cabinets do not work and will be removed.

Steve will sort out a new clock and bring it to the hall.

Publicity

The A4, A3 posters and flyers are done. We do not have the tickets yet and they will go to the Patrons first. Paul will take the flyers to the shop and pass them to Cathy in due course. The people who do the T shirts and Sweatshirts also do Mugs, Key rings etc. Paul will price them and they may be available.

Society Committee Meeting minutes from April 2004 give a flavour of what an enormous undertaking the move into the hall was.

Alongside the usual business of rehearsals, show publicity and membership fees, there were the issues of a new constitution, fixing lighting and fencing, organising possible hires of the hall, fundraising efforts for the considerable amount of renovation work and the business of transferring the items of scenery, props and costumes from Chepping Hall to Mornington Hall. CADOS and the community owe a great deal to the committee members at that time whose drive, organisation and commitment enabled the hall to be to be given this new lease of life.



HOUSE WARMING

THE FIRST PERFORMANCE



CHINGFORD AMATEUR DRAMATIC & OPERATIC SOCIETY FOUNDED 1945 REGISTERED CHARITY 280695

CADOS
by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd

Present...

The Boyfriend
by Sandy Wilson

Directed by Detta Anderson
Musical Director Ian Brookman
Choreographer Emma Ranger
Accompanist Rosamond Savournin

Welcome to our House-Warming!

Well it feels a bit like one, as this is our first full production in Mornington Hall, which is set to be our home for the next fifty years. It took many months of work and negotiation to get the lease here and we have many years of work ahead of us to turn the building into how we would like to see it. A big thank you to everyone who has helped us get this far, and to those who will be helping in the future.

Although I have not personally been involved in the rehearsals for 'The Boyfriend' I am sure it must have been quite a strange rehearsal period with work on the building going on around those rehearsing and in between rehearsals so that those involved were not sure what to expect to find each time they entered the building. So, all credit to Detta, yet another new producer from within our own ranks, and the team for having achieved what, at times, must have felt impossible – getting a polished performance assembled to place before you, our audiences.

As you sit waiting for the show to start, or are enjoying your interval refreshments, please take a few moments to take a look around at the building and share our vision of it for the future. If you are inspired to help us in any way, and hopefully you will be, please contact any CADOS member and we will be delighted to discuss the opportunities with you. It does not necessarily have to mean becoming involved in any productions – we need help with any number of things from fundraising to hard labour to sourcing materials. And then relax and enjoy the show – the first of many in these new surroundings. You are, indeed, very welcome to our new home!

John Williams CADOS Chairman

Only five months after moving into the hall, CADOS was able to put on its first production there from the 13th - 16th October 2004.

This was the musical **'The Boyfriend'** by Sandy Wilson. It seems appropriate that CADOS's first show in Mornington is a story set in a school in the 1920s, the very decade that Edith and Muriel created the building and for the same purpose. Admittedly, their school was not in France and was not just for young ladies like Madame Dubonnet's establishment.

As John Williams, the chair at the time, says in his programme notes it must have felt like an incredible achievement.



A GROWING VISION

THE WORK CONTINUES



Morningnington Hall has been refurbished and improved

New look for Morningnington Hall

- Refurbished home of Chingford Amateur Dramatic & Operatic Society
- More community use now available



Morningnington Hall, home of Chingford Amateur Dramatic & Operatic Society (CADOS), has been the scene of considerable renovation works lately, aimed at bringing the hall – a former World War II army restaurant and school – into more regular use for small community groups in the area, and funded by a Community Council grant. The upstairs rooms are

currently used as storage for props but CADOS plans to hire out the refurbished room and build new storage space at the rear of the hall. Other works include installing a ramp for access to the garden, insulating the roof and upgrading the disabled toilet. CADOS has performed musicals and other productions in the Chingford area for more than 60 years as well as running sessions for younger people. The Society welcomes new members – either aspiring actors/singers or backstage staff. "When completed, the refurbishment will make a tremendous difference,"

says Fran Chalkwright, Chair of CADOS. "We will have a better space for our own activities and we will soon be able to hire the hall out to other community groups to make use of as well. "We've got a packed 2010 planned, with productions of 'Oh! What a lovely war' and 'Moll Flanders'. We are always happy to hear from people who want to be involved in the productions or supporting the group."

More info
For more information on CADOS call Fran Chalkwright on 020 8826 7413.



The vision for the hall continued to develop over the following years. The upstairs area of what had once been the bedroom of Muriel and Edith's school-house had been used to store props and costumes. In 2010, it was converted into studio space that could then be hired out to generate more income to cover the renovations and lease and provide another space for local community groups to use.



At the same time a large free standing wooden storage shed was created at the back of hall . This multi-purpose space complete with a mezzanine floor was used to house the stocks of scenery, props and costumes . It is still a vital area for CADOS today, undergoing a re-fit last summer and is still affectionately known to members as 'the chalet'.



LEAVING A LOCAL LEGACY





A COMMUNITY ASSET

KEEPING CREATIVITY ALIVE

Mornington Hall is now used by a range of local people of all ages and backgrounds, from our youngest users in the Baby Sensory Group to some of our longest standing hirers such as the Folk Dance Group and Chingford Horticultural Society.

BALLROOM DANCE



BABY SENSORY



HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



A WELCOMING SPACE

ALWAYS TIME FOR TEA AND CAKES



Above: Members of CADOS organise tea and cakes in the hall to support the annual Chingford Village Festival that takes place on the neighbouring village green. **Below:** tea break for the Folk Dancers our longest standing hirers





A GROWING VISION

THE WORK CONTINUES



CADOS members and patrons give their time willingly to maintain the hall: Toilets re-floored, new heating installed, walls repainted, outside walls and storage areas repainted, curtaining hung, flooring restored, vandalism cleaned up, new clock hung and ivy pruned back.

A VOLUNTEER FORCE

FOR MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP



Our volunteers run fundraising events and apply for grants in order to pay for all the maintenance and upkeep

Top row: Levelling out the lawn, the topsoil arrives, cutting back the bushes, clearing the gutters; **Middle row:** Re-seeding the grass, rebuilding the wooden storage area, weeding and planting, replacing the front paving;

Bottom row: creating a front flower bed, fitting a new secure front door, refurbishing the kitchen, installing a defibrillator

ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS

CELEBRATING TOGETHER



CADOS
presents

1924 - 2024

BOOK NOW
07445650935
www.cados.org

**Beyond
The
Bricks**

A Musical Play
celebrating
the centenary of our venue
Script and Lyrics
by Theresa Rendle
Music by Marcus Scroop

noda
An inspired by heritage theatre

15th-18th MAY 2024

Waltham Forest

In Summer 2023, CADOS used a London Borough of Waltham Forest grant in order to commission the creation of a film and a play to commemorate this history of the hall. Local film-maker, Linda McDonald-Cairns and writer, Theresa Rendle undertook research, engaged with local Chingford residents and historical sources to produce two wonderful works: A play with music (by CADOS member Marcus Scroop) entitled 'Beyond The Bricks' performed in May 2024 and a short documentary (narrated by CADOS members Fran Chalkwright and Tom Adlam) presented in June 2024. A cabaret evening of songs and music across the ten decades is due to round off the anniversary in October 2024.



Stills from the short film about the hall

Sincere thanks go to the following for their invaluable contributions to the research and creation of our special commemoration events:

Theresa Rendle
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Jacky Logan
Jerome Farrell
Fran Chalkwright
Rosalind Zalicks
Darren Vidler
Carol Mills
Steve Ranger
Paul Daynes of NODA
CADOS Committee
CADOS Patrons
CADOS Members
Chingford Historical Society
Vestry House Museum
All those who shared stories with us



Waltham Forest