



# NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2021

## Letter from the Editor

Hello!

It's finally here, the long-awaited book by Norah Carlin, chronicling the people who have lived in Old Copped Hall. Please see Tony's article on the book below with details of how to get your copy. Tony is also our speaker this month and will be talking on '*Excavating Verulamium: An Introduction*'.

Next month we will be meeting in person at our usual venue for the Christmas social and roundup of members activities, if you would like to do a presentation please get in touch. There will be an opportunity to look at and purchase Norah Carlin's book as well as our usual book sales.

### Donate to WEAG for Free

Donate to WEAG for free using Amazon, you can generate money for WEAG by putting [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) into your browser, choosing West Essex Archaeological Group as your chosen charity or just click the image below.



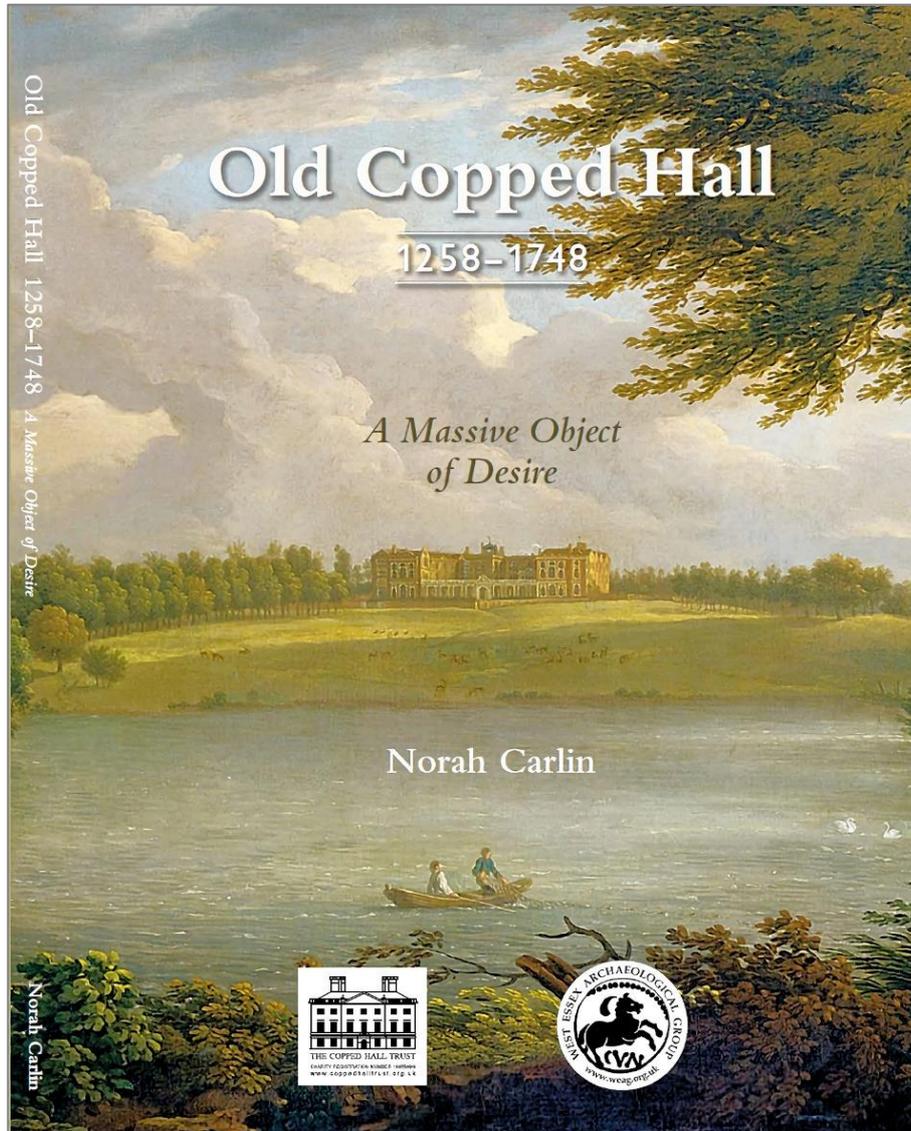
### WEAG Member Profile

Would you like to be 'our profile on a member'? If so email me on and I'll forward you the questions.

### Stay In Touch

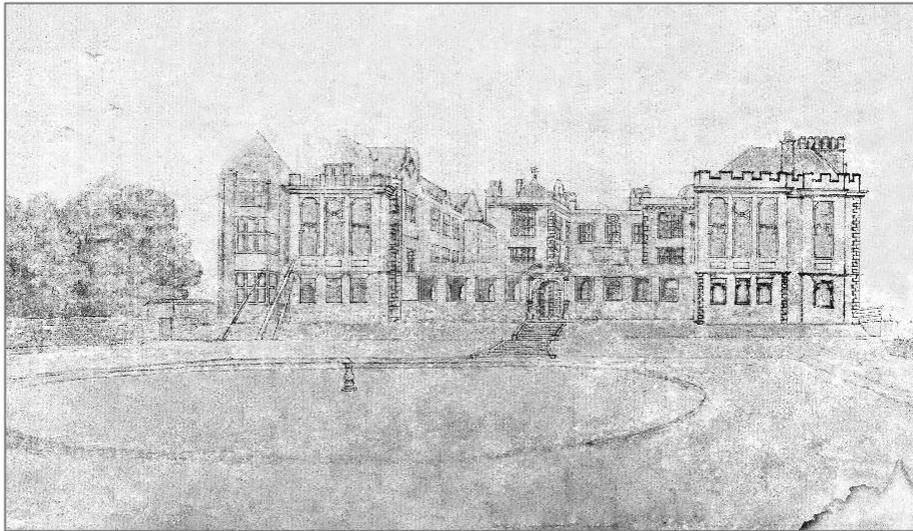
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Anything you'd like to contribute to the WEAG Newsletter or if you have any comments on the new format, please email [lexie.lyons@icloud.com](mailto:lexie.lyons@icloud.com)

# OLD COPPED HALL (1258–1748) A Massive Object of Desire by Norah Carlin



The long-awaited new book about the history of Copped Hall is now on sale.

The book covers the history of Copped Hall from 1258, when the first surviving documents describing it were written, through to its demolition in the 1750s. This is the building that came into the ownership of King Henry VIII a few years before the dissolution of Waltham Abbey, and was then passed to his daughters Queen Mary I and Queen Elizabeth I. Its last owner, John Conyers, had it demolished, to be replaced on a nearby site by the Georgian mansion that we see under restoration today. But the former mansion was every bit as grand. Over 500 years, perhaps longer, it had grown from a simple manor house to the magnificent building in the illustration on the book's cover, and in a drawing shown below, made just before demolition.



*Reproduced by courtesy of the Essex Record Office, reference D/DW E27/2  
Digitally retouched by Peter Gamble*

The book's author is Norah Carlin, a retired history lecturer and WEAG member. Norah's previously published works are highly regarded accounts of social change in England from the 17th onwards. The book grew out of the documentary research that WEAG undertook as part of the excavation of the site over the past 20 years. It goes a lot further and deeper than previous histories of the site. Norah has examined many documents (some in Latin) in national and regional record offices and archives. But while the book is a treat for professional researchers with its detailed sources and footnotes, it is no dry history. Norah has brought the building to life by describing its owners and their colourful lives, and she has brought together, for the first time, many delightful colour illustrations from national art galleries, museums, and private collections. Amongst other things the book contains contemporary portraits of all but one of the owners of Old Copped Hall from King Henry VIII onwards (there seem to be no extant portraits of the "missing" owner!).

Norah discusses the evidence for several of the stories that have grown up about Old Copped Hall. For example, did King Henry VIII pace the gardens at Copped Hall waiting for confirmation of Anne Boleyn's execution, and was Shakespeare's "*A Midsummer Night's Dream*" first performed there? You will have to buy the book to find out what evidence Norah has found for and against these stories!

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

This is a limited edition, so "*buy now while stocks last*". It would make an excellent Christmas present.

To buy a copy, and for further information, email [weagbook@outlook.com](mailto:weagbook@outlook.com), giving your name, the number of copies you want to order, and stating whether you want the copies posted to you or whether you want to collect them yourself.

# WEAG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Lecture Program

2021 Lectures are accessible via Zoom at 7:15pm – All except for the Christmas Social which will be in the committee room at Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green, IG8 9LA from 7:30pm.

Non-members are welcome to attend Lectures. A voluntary contribution of £2 would be appreciated from guests.

### **Monday 8 November 2021 @ 19:15**

'Excavating Verulamium: An Introduction'. *Speaker: Tony O'Connor.*

Tony O'Connor, BA FSA began his career in archaeology at the excavations of the Gorhambury Villa at Verulamium. Tony's field archaeology career includes excavations across Britain, including working for the Museum of London Archaeology Service. He also worked on excavation projects in Italy and North Africa, before switching to museum-based archaeology as a curator at the Verulamium Museum, St. Albans. Tony has worked in museums for over 30 years and is currently Museums, Heritage and Culture Specialist for Epping Forest District Council. Tony is also Chairman of the West Essex Archaeology Group.

### **Monday 6 December 2021 @ 19:30**

Christmas Social (book sales and refreshments) and roundup of member activities at Woodford County High. See next page for list of books available and their special member prices.

### **Monday 1 January 2022 @ 19:15**

*Details to be confirmed*

### **Monday 14 February 2022 @ 19:15**

*Details to be confirmed*

### **Monday 14 March 2022 @ 19:15**

**Annual General Meeting.** *Speaker: Harvey Sheldon, Birkbeck College, WEAG President.*

### **Monday 11 April 2022 @ 19:15**

*Details to be confirmed*

### **Monday 9 May 2022 @ 19:15**

The Rudge Lecture – 'to be announced'.

### **Monday 13 June 2022 @ 19:15**

*Details to be confirmed*

### **Monday 12 September 2022 @ 19:15**

*Details to be confirmed*

### **Monday 10 October 2022 @ 19:15**

*Details to be confirmed*

### **Monday 14 November 2022 @ 19:15**

*Details to be confirmed*

### **Monday 5 December 2022 @ 19:30**

Christmas Social (book sales and refreshments) and roundup of member activities at Woodford County High.

# CHRISTMAS SOCIAL BOOK SALE

	RRP	Special Offer Price
The Romano-British Temple at Harlow	£ 7.00	£ 3.50
Exploration and Discovery in South West Essex	£ 7.00	£ 3.50
Archaeology – what it is and how to do it	£ 9.50	£ 8.50
Copped Hall Report 2003	£ 4.00	£ 2.50
Copped Hall Report 2004 / 5	£ 7.00	£ 2.50
Copped Hall – A Short History (Cassidy)	£ 2.50	£ 2.50
Annual Review 2008/2009	£ 0.50	£ 0.50
Annual Review 2009/2010	£ 0.50	£ 0.50
Annual Review 2010/2011	£ 0.50	£ 0.50
Annual Review 2011/2012	£ 0.50	£ 0.50
Wanstead Park – Revealed (DVD)	£ 3.00	£ 1.50
Wanstead Park – Living Park (DVD)	£ 3.00	£ 1.50
The Wanstead Archive (DVD)	£ 3.00	£ 1.50

