



Rare footage of the tennis club going back to the 1930s

Our tennis club was founded in 1920 by Guy Chester in the grounds of North Bank House. Guy Chester lived in Hazlehurst on Colney Hatch Lane – one of the Victorian villas that back onto the North Bank Gardens. He lived there until he died in 1973. He bought North Bank and the whole estate when the last resident died in 1924. The gardens became available for church and community almost immediately, but the house's future was uncertain until he decided to organise a refurbishment to make it available as a centre mainly for young adults, linked to the old church on the other side of Colney Hatch Lane.

The original tennis courts were traditional shale and moved to their current site in the mid 80s to allow the sheltered housing to be built.

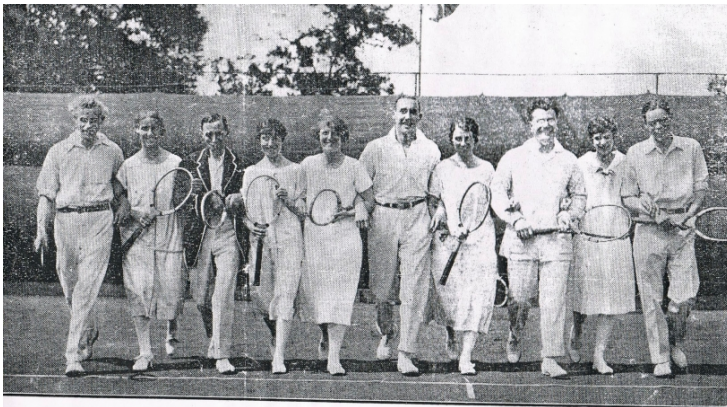
This footage is part of a whole collection of films taken by Guy Chester from 1931 to 1970. They were apparently on reels and stored somewhere in Chester House, but were being turned out maybe twenty years or more ago. They were then offered to Mike Quinlan, Guy Chester's grandson, and he took the ones that were most relevant to the family. The rest were taken into the care of the late David Elsbury, who worked in connection with the Department of Education and Youth based then in Chester House. He was a film enthusiast, and was afraid they were going to get ditched. Thankfully they were recently passed on to the Methodist Church who diligently sorted and labelled them. Now they have been uploaded to YouTube so that a wider audience can enjoy this rare and delightful history of the Estate.

Remember that it's all taken in the old location of the courts and pavilion, situated where The Paddock is now. Click on the following links to see this fascinating record of our club, interesting both as a history of tennis and of fashion:

[1931-1938>>](#)

[1939-1968>>](#)

There are some photos overleaf, and yet more historic footage of the Estate if you [click here>>](#)



Wesleyan Tennis Players. Left to Right : Mr. H. Guy Chester, Miss Foster, Mr. C. P. Thompson, Miss Britten, Mr. Stephens, Mr. E. H. Oates, Mrs. Benton, Mr. R. Welsh, Miss Doris Thompson, Mr. W. K. Lewis.

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