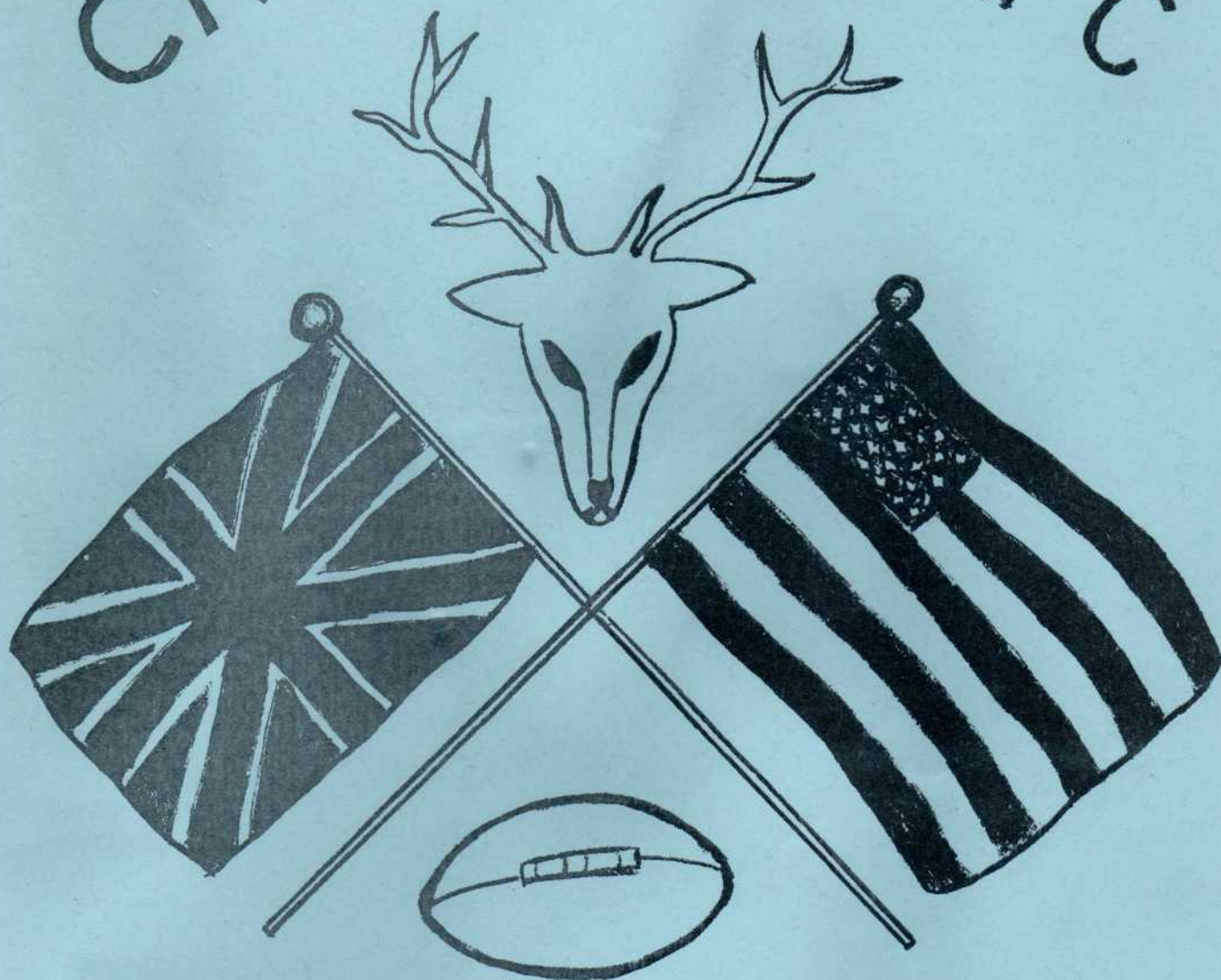


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# CHESHUNT RFC



USA TOUR 1985

A Short  
History  
Of  
Cheshunt





CHESHUNT is an ancient parish and former urban district in southeast Hertfordshire. At present the population is 49,000. Situated in the valley of the River Lee, its southern boundary is coincident with the northern boundary of Greater London.

It is connected to London by electric railway, modern buses and 2 main roads - one the site of an ancient highway, the other a 20th. century motorway. Many Cheshunt people work in London or in light industry in the nearby borough of Enfield. In Cheshunt is the headquarters of one of the country's largest supermarkets - the largest single employer of labour in the district.

Cheshunt contains a very large acreage of the London Green Belt, a band of open and very often attractive land with which London is ringed. On the valley floor much of the land has been incorporated into a new Lee Valley Park, a project started 12 years ago to provide more sporting and recreational facilities for Londoners. The park stretches for 19 miles from Walthamstow in East London to Ware in Hertfordshire, and water sports will be the main feature of the park within Cheshunt.

Due mainly to its proximity to London, Cheshunt is rich in history. There were Stone Age settlements here and in Roman times the famous military highway - Ermine Street - passed through the district. In the Domesday Book of 1086 Cheshunt is mentioned as a place of importance with a priest, twentyfour merchants and a water mill. In 1291 a cross was built on the old highway in memory of Queen Eleanor, wife of Edward I, to commemorate the passing of her funeral procession which had stopped overnight at the nearby monastery of Waltham on its way from Lincolnshire to Westminster Abbey in London.

In the 15th. century the Church of St. Mary was rebuilt and is now undergoing extensive restoration. Queen Elizabeth I frequently came to Cheshunt to be entertained by William Cecil, Lord Burleigh, at the magnificent Palace of Theobalds, later completely destroyed during Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth. Oliver's son Richard fled abroad when the monarchy was restored, but he returned after 20 years to live under the assumed name of Richard Clark in a house near St. Mary's church. During the 18th. and 19th. centuries many large houses were built, and one of the few surviving is Theobalds Park Mansion, once the home of Sir Henry Meux who in 1878 brought the demolished Temple Bar from the City of London and erected it in the grounds of his house.

About 1880 the glasshouse horticulture industry was established in Cheshunt and at one time had the largest concentration of crops under glass anywhere in the world. The industry has declined rapidly in the last 20 years, although at nearby Turnford, Rochfords world-famous houseplant nurseries survive and several smaller nurseries flourish on the higher ground of Goffs Oak.

TODAY, Cheshunt is a lively community, well served by schools and two colleges of further education. There are a large number of societies concerned with recreation and pastimes, and many sports clubs.