



# **The Essex Society for Archaeology & History**

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FORMERLY THE ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
FOUNDED 1852

**Annual Report and Accounts**  
**for the year ending 31 December 2020**

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## Trustees and Corporate Information

Patron	Lord Petre, KCVO, JP, MA
Vice-Presidents	A.B. Phillips, BEM, BA D. Buckley, BSc, MCIfA, FSA Dr. P.M. Leach, BA, MBBS H.M. Stuchfield, MBE, JP, DL, FSA, FRHistS Dr. C.C. Thornton, PhD, FSA, FRHistS Dr. J. Ward, PhD, FRHistS
Trustees	N. Brown, BA, MCIfA, FSA, FSAScot <i>President</i> H. Brooks, BA, FSA, MCIfA <i>Secretary</i> W.M. Abbott, MA, FIA <i>Treasurer</i> M. Atkinson, BA, MCIfA A. Corder-Birch, DL, FSA A. Crosby, BA, MSocSc, FSA <i>Chairman EIAG</i> K.L. Crowe, BEd, MA, AMA G.M.R. Davies, MA, FSA, FMA R. Havis, BA, FSA, MCIfA P. Sainsbury, SEN H.M. Stuchfield, MBE, JP, DL, FSA, FRHistS <i>Membership Secretary</i>
Curator	P. Wise, MA, FSA, MA, MCIfA
Independent Examiner	P. Evans, FMAAT
Registered Charity No.	213218
Registered Office	13 Greenacres, Mile End Colchester, Essex CO4 5DX
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC, Brentwood
Blog	<a href="http://www.esah160.blogspot.co.uk">www.esah160.blogspot.co.uk</a>
Twitter	<a href="https://twitter.com/ESAH160">https://twitter.com/ESAH160</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.esah1852.org.uk">www.esah1852.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.essex.ac.uk/history/esah">www.essex.ac.uk/history/esah</a>

## Trustees' Report

### **Structure Governance and management**

The organisation is an unincorporated association, originally founded as the Essex Archaeological Society in 1852, changing its name to the Essex Society for Archaeology and History in 1985. It is governed by a constitution as revised and adopted at the 2015 AGM. It registered as a charity in 1962. Its objects as stated in the constitution are:

1. to promote and encourage the study of archaeology and history in the historic county of Essex
2. in furtherance of the above, to publish the results of such studies in the Society's journal, and to disseminate information on Essex archaeology and history through the appropriate media
3. to organise conferences, lectures and visits for the benefit of members and interested members of the public, and to educate the wider community and other bodies on matters of common interest and concern
4. to provide library facilities for Society members and other members of the public.

The management of the Society is vested in a Council of Management who are the trustees of the Society. There are six trustees who are directly elected at the AGM, as are the President, Secretary and Treasurer, who are ex-officio members of Council. There are a number of members who serve the Society in various capacities and, as proposed by Council, further ex-officio members are elected onto Council at the AGM. The list of trustees is set out on page 2.

Council is aided in undertaking its responsibilities by various committees which report directly to Council, namely Publications and Research Committee, Library and Archives Committee and the Programme Committee. In addition it has special interest sections, namely the Essex Industrial Archaeology Group and the Essex Place Names Project, both of which are financially supported. The society is continuing the activities previously associated with the Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress. The trustees retain the direct responsibility for, and active supervision of, expenditure.

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report have complied with their duty to have regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties.

Inevitably the pandemic disrupted the normal work of the Society, however although physical meetings were not possible the Council continued to meet via Zoom. Similarly, the work of the Committees was carried out via email and zoom meetings. As ever Council is extremely grateful to all those who have given their time and energy to serve on these committees, as well as to those who have represented the Society on other bodies, particularly this year with all its disruptions.

## Review

The year 2020 has been one completely dominated by the pandemic which has disrupted all aspects of national life including the work of our Society. All of our events programmed for 2020 had to be cancelled and it is hoped that most can be re arranged to take place in 2021. Our AGM was amongst the events cancelled, the annual report and accounts were circulated to the membership and Council is very grateful to all those members who wrote or emailed to indicate their approval of the annual report and accounts.

Despite the effects of the pandemic our publications were produced in the usual way. *Essex Archaeology and History (Transactions)* continues to be the bedrock of the Society's activities. Vol. 9 (2018) was published in 2020 and Vol. 10 (2019) will be published in early 2021. These important volumes present a range of significant work on the archaeology and history of Essex. We are grateful to our Editor, Paul Gilman for all his hard work, in which he has been supported by the Publications Committee, and in particular, Chris Thornton and Henry Webber, the assistant editor. A number of Occasional Papers are in progress and details will be announced in due course.

With regard to other publication and dissemination activity, at the beginning of 2020, Zoe Quinn resigned as newsletter editor and webmaster. The usual four issues of the newsletter were produced during 2020 with Adrian Corder-Birch acting as editor, assisted by Martin Stuchfield. Victoria Rathmill has been appointed as newsletter editor and has also taken responsibility for the Society's Twitter account. From 2021 the newsletter will move to digital distribution. Also from 2021 our Society will assume responsibility for publication of *Essex Journal* and Steven Pollington has been appointed as editor, to succeed Neil Wiffen who stood down at the end of 2020. Council has laid plans for the revision and redesign of the Society's website which will be implemented in 2021.

At the end of 2020 the Society had 295 (2019: 290) fully paid individual members, of whom 65 (2019: 65) are family members and 20 (2019: 19) are associates. It also has 73 (2019: 77) paying institutional members. In addition to these 368 (2019: 374) paying members we reciprocate publications with 32 (2019: 33) other institutions and distribute our publications to 12 (2019: 14) other institutions.

The Society's extensive Library continues to be held in the Albert Sloman Library at the University of Essex, to which we extend our gratitude. In addition, a storeroom is maintained in Hollytrees Museum at Colchester, which contains the Society archives and surplus books, mainly the *Transactions* and Occasional Papers, for sale. Unfortunately, the pandemic has meant that our Library has been closed to visitors throughout 2020. However, the Library and Archive Committee continued its work; the Committee covers four areas: archives, books, stock management and the digitisation project.

During 2020 the government issued a consultation on 'Planning for the Future' a white paper suggesting a major change to the planning system. The white paper says the nature of our current planning regime makes '...the English planning system and those derived from it an exception internationally...' and proposes replacing it with a system of zonal planning rather like those used in the Netherlands and Germany. The scale of the changes and the compressed timetable for their implementation raise concerns about future provision for historic environment issues. The Society submitted a full response to the consultation raising these concerns. In addition, the Society wrote to Braintree District Council opposing a planning application for a Solar Energy farm at Foxearth in the Stour Valley which would

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have detrimental effects on the historic environment, especially in terms of visual intrusion. We also wrote to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in support of the Society of Antiquaries of London's campaign to stay in Burlington House. Extraordinarily steep rent rises imposed by government threaten to make it impossible for the Antiquaries and the other learned societies housed around the Burlington House Courtyard to stay. There is a real danger that government action in the 21st century will destroy a great cultural hub created by government action in the 19th century.

The Society made a number of grants during 2020; three to the Essex Record Office, £500 for the Sister Luard Papers, £575, for F.S. Eden Drawings and £125 for Parmenters Ledgers; £250 for displays at Boxted Airfield Museum, £1,000 to support publication of a book on the Thaxted cutlery industry and £1,000 to the University of Essex for conservation work on the Repton Red Book for Stubbers and production of a facsimile.

On behalf of all members, I would like to thank the Society's Officers, Trustees, Council, Committees and Representatives on other bodies for all their hard work and support during the year. They have generously given their time in the best interests of the Society and its members. In particular, I would like to express thanks to Bill Abbott, Howard Brooks, Adrian Corder-Birch, Lucy Jack, Martin Stuchfield and Jane Pearson. The latter is not only our Librarian, but also chairs the Library and Archives committee and is our Programme Secretary. All have been essential to the smooth running of the Society and their work has been complicated by the pandemic conditions of 2020.

Lastly as this report was being drafted the Society learnt of the death of Stan Newens, Stan was an active and committed supporter of all aspects of Essex heritage. Readers will have seen him pictured in our Winter 2020 newsletter in his capacity of chair of the Gibberd Garden Trust.

He was also Chair of Harlow Civic Society, President of the Waltham Abbey Historical Society, a Vice-President of the Socialist History Society, President of the North Weald Preservation Society and a trustee of the Victoria County History of Essex. An enthusiastic supporter of *Essex Journal*, he served this Society variously, as President, Vice President and stalwart member of both the Publication and Research Committee and Library and Archives Committee. He will be much missed by friends, colleagues and organisations throughout Essex and far beyond. A full obituary will appear in a future edition of *Essex Archaeology and History*.

### *Finance*

The principal financing activity of the Society relates to the costs of producing and distributing the *Transactions* and its Index as well as occasional papers. We try wherever possible to get sponsorship grants for individual articles and in the main are for archaeological papers. Grants for Volume 9 of the *Transactions* amounted to £4,140 (Volume 8: £3,685) with the net cost, including distribution, for Volume 9 being £3,132 (Volume 8: £2,931).

In 2019, our receipts exceeded payments by £4,946, including £3,645 from the absorption of the residual assets of the Essex Mills Group. In 2020 payments exceeded receipts by £1,309. One particular feature was that our donations to fund research publications, acquisition of artefacts etc had increased from £1,396 to £4,225.

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We have investments which are valued at market. In the course of the year we have moved £32,500 from deposit to investment funds which have significant holdings in equities. As a result of market movements and the timing of these investments, our resources have been augmented by a capital gain of £7,099 (2019: £3,623). It is the nature of our holding in investments that their value will oscillate. The net increase in our funds was £5,791 (2019: £8,578).

As a post balance sheet event, your society on 1 January assumed all the assets and liabilities of the *Essex Journal*. The immediate effect has been to increase our unrestricted funds by £6,779 and restricted funds (to provide an index for the *Journal*) by £5,534.

The notes to the accounts provide significant detail. Most items speak for themselves, but items relating to the successful rewriting of the Chelmsford Industrial Trail booklet under the aegis of the EIAG has over the three years generated a net income of £808.

We continue to benefit from the 2018 review of our membership database. The absorption of the *Essex Journal* will generate additional subscription income

The Society greatly benefits from the input of many volunteers and the unrestricted general reserves of the Society are being maintained at a level which would ensure the capability of producing and distributing volumes of the Transactions and Occasional Papers and the *Essex Journal* for at least the next five years.

We have sufficient resources to make further occasional donations to support heritage projects in Essex.

Nigel Brown, President  
1 May 2021

## Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year that properly present the charity's receipts and payments during the year and its assets and liabilities at the end of the year. In preparing these statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which enable them to ensure that the receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

## Statement of the Independent Examiner

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below

During my examination, no matter has come to my attention which

- a) gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011 and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act, have not been met; or
- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Peter Evans (Fellow Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians)  
1 May 2021



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## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 Dec 2020

	2020	2019
	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
Members subscriptions (note 2)	10,270	10,352
Publications; Grants and sales (note 3)	4,140	10,050
Other Income (Note 4)	264	4,224
Income from Investments	2683	2,468
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>17,357</b>	<b>27,095</b>
<b>RESOURCES USED</b>		
Production costs: Transactions (note 3)	7,434	12,666
Production costs: Newsletters	1,382	708
Administration costs (note 5)	5,291	5,728
Other outgo (Note 6)	4,559	3,047
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES USED</b>	<b>18,666</b>	<b>22,149</b>
<b>NET INCOMING(OUTGOING ) RESOURCES</b>	<b>-1,309</b>	<b>4,946</b>
<hr/>		
Gains/losses on unrealised investments	7,099	-1,420
<b>INCREASE IN FUNDS</b>	<b>5,791</b>	<b>4,823</b>

## Balance sheet at 31 December

Library Books	100,000	100,000
Investments (Note 7)	91,959	52,360
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>191,959</b>	<b>152,360</b>
Plus		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS (Note 8)</b>	<b>82,376</b>	<b>116,144</b>
Less		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES (advance subscriptions)</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>555</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS (note 9)</b>	<b>273,739</b>	<b>267,949</b>
consisting of		
Unrestricted funds-general	106,954	102,218
Unrestricted funds -designated:		
Essex Place Names	5,304	5,304
Restricted:		
Publications and Research Fund	57,977	57,923
Pleshey Project	39	39
Mediaeval Merchant	1000	-
Essex Mills Projects	2,465	2,465
Historic Book Collection	100,000	100,000

N Brown President

W M Abbott Treasurer

1 May 2021

## Notes forming part of the financial statements

### Note 1 General

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 Designated funds form part of the general funds but relate to funds which Council have designated as being for a specific purpose. The restricted funds reflect constraints imposed by the donors of the funds. The Historic Book Collection, which consists of books held by the University of Essex and documents loaned to the Essex Records Office, is classified as designated. The Collection is not available for sale, but has been given a value, believed to be prudent, of £100,000. Computers and new books purchased are written off on purchase. Investments are shown at market value and capital appreciation on these investments is shown after the net amount of incoming resources.

### Note 2 Membership subscriptions

	2020	2019
	£	£
Subscriptions collected in year	8,835	9,054
Gift Aid recoveries in year	1,435	1,298
	<b>10,270</b>	<b>10,352</b>

2019 subscriptions included £625 of backdated payments

### Note3 Transactions and Occasional Papers

	Trans's Vol 8	Trans's Vol 9	Pleshey Project	Total
	£	£	£	£
<i>2020 Analysis</i>				
Income				
Grant income		4,140	0	<b>4,140</b>
Publications: Grants and Sales		<b>4,140</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,140</b>
Outgo				
Printing		5,206		<b>5,206</b>
Other, inc distribution		2,066	0	<b>2,066</b>
		<b>7,272</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,272</b>
Net Income (Outgo)		<b>-3,132</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-3,132</b>
 <i>2019 Analysis</i>				
Income				
Grant income	3,685		6,350	10,035
Publications: Grants and Sales	<b>3,685</b>		<b>6,350</b>	<b>10,035</b>
Outgo				
Printing	5,004			5,004
Other, inc distribution	1,612		6,050	7,662
	<b>6,616</b>		<b>6,050</b>	<b>12,666</b>
Net Income (Outgo)	<b>-2,931</b>		<b>300</b>	<b>-2,631</b>

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## Note 4 **Other income**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Licensing Fees & Royalties	29	33
Sale of Library Stock	25	154
Donations	25	40
EIAG: Heritage Fair		255
EIAG Trail Rewrite: Sponsorship and Sales	85	553
Transfer from Essex Mills Group	0	3,465
Visits and other events	100	-275
	<u>264</u>	<u>4,224</u>

## Note 5 **Administration Costs**

Insurance	75	75
Editors' Honoraria	900	1,050
Printing: flyers etc	347	501
Dispatching mailings	2152	794
Website	984	2,020
Room Hire	807	292
Purchase of IT hardware	0	0
EIAG Trail Rewrite	0	573
EIAG Heritage Fair/ Annual meeting	0	48
Other printing and Postage	26	375
	<u>5,291</u>	<u>5,728</u>

## Note 6 **Other Outgo**

Subscriptions Paid	108	276
Purchase of Books	0	193
Digitisation Project	0	933
Place name Project (note 9a)	0	249
Donations (note 6a)	4,450	1,396
	<u>4,558</u>	<u>3,047</u>

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### Note 6a Donations

	1,000	
The Mills Archive Trust		
Report on Bradford St. Braintree	250	396
Boxted Airfield Historical Group	500	
ERO: Sister Luard Papers	500	
Thaxted Cutlers Publication	1,000	
University of Essex: Red Book of Stubbers	1,000	
Dr Thomas Plume Publication	1,000	
ERO: FS Eden's Drawings	575	
ERO: Parmenter's Ledgers	125	
	4,450	500

### Note 7 Investments

COIF Fixed Income Fund (income units)	34,247	33,132
COIF Investment Fund (income units)	34,163	19,228
M&G Charifund	23,548	
	91,959	52,360

### Note 8 Current Assets

COIF Deposits	15,403	46,041
Shawcross 100 day deposit	50,524	50,550
Barclay Bank Balances - Savings	8,923	8,916
- Current	7,526	10,593
Advance Payments	0	44
	82,376	116,144

### Note 9 Designated and Restricted Funds

1. *The Essex Place-names Project Fund.*  
This Designated Fund is for a research project which collects and disseminates information on the history of local place and field names in Essex. It is funded by grants, which may be time limited, and donations.
  
2. *Publication and Research Fund ("PRF").*  
The Restricted PRF exists to support the publications and research of the Society. Specific subscriptions to this fund have been received on the basis that they would form an endowment fund generating income which would support the purpose of the fund. This inalienable element of the fund amounts to £32,465. Subsequent attributions to the fund have not been so constrained.

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3. *The Pleshey Project (Restricted Fund)*  
The Society is in receipt of grants to fund writing up Bassett's excavation work at Pleshey in the 1970s. Eventually this work will be published as an Occasional Paper
  4. *Essex Mills Projects (Restricted Fund)*  
The residual amount received on taking over the Essex Mills Trust and available for Mills related projects
  5. *Mediaeval Merchant (Restricted Fund)*  
The Society has received a grant for this planned Occasional Paper
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**ESSEX SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY**  
Registered Charity Number 213218

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 2.00PM ON SATURDAY 8 JUNE 2019 AT LITTLE MAPLESTEAD ROUND CHURCH.**

In the Chair: Mr Nigel Brown (President)

Vice Presidents: Mr Stan Newens, Mr Martin Stuchfield and Dr Jennifer Ward.

Trustees present: Mr W Abbott (Treasurer), Mr Howard Brooks (Secretary), Mr Mark Davies, and Mr Paul Sainsbury.

Associate members of Council: Mr Adrian Corder-Birch (Immediate Past President), Mr Paul Gilman (Editor), Dr Jane Pearson (Programme Secretary), Ms Zoe Quinn (Newsletter Editor) and Mrs Lucy Jack (Minutes Secretary).

These were present, together with 22 other members of the Society.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Dave Buckley, Tony Crosby, Chris Thornton, James Kemble, Brian Barton, Alan Beale-Forbes, Ashley Cooper, Jeff Harvey, Dianne Jackson, David GI Morgan.
2. Opening remarks. The President welcomed members and guests. He thanked Reverend Gay Ellis for hosting the Society in the church, originally a chapel of The Knights Hospitaller. A talk on the history of the church would be given after the meeting.
3. The minutes of the 2018 AGM, as published in the *Annual Report and Accounts*, were approved as a correct record.
4. Matters arising. The matter of family membership voting rights (minute 5) was raised from the floor. The President reported that this issue had been discussed by Council during the intervening year, with the conclusion that all members are able to vote.

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Pressed for clarification, he stated that this includes both parties in a family membership.

5. President's Report for 2018. A written report in the *Annual Report and Accounts* had previously been circulated to all members. The President highlighted the Society's growing library at the University of Essex, plans to publish *Essex Journal* as well as the newsletter and *Transactions*, and the Essex Industrial Archaeology Group's *Chelmsford Industrial Trail* which had been distributed to all members with the AGM papers. He commended the efforts of the officers and members of Council, the three committees and two sub-groups which carry out the work of the Society. The Annual Report was approved.
6. Presentation of 2018 accounts. The Treasurer noted that a financial report, together with the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement and the Statement of the Independent Examiner, had previously been circulated to all members in the *Annual Report and Accounts*. He added that due to a reduction in sponsorship grants, the Society's contribution to the costs of Volume 8 of *Transactions* would be higher than for Volume 7. However, the finances remained robust. He emphasised that members could suggest Essex heritage projects the Society may wish to support with funds. The subscription charges would remain unchanged for 2020. Since the publication of the 2018 accounts, Essex Mills Group had been absorbed into the EIAG. Their funds of £3420 formed a new fund restricted to Essex Mills projects. The Accounts were unanimously approved by the meeting.
7. Election of Independent Examiner. Mr P Evans had indicated that he was willing to continue and was elected unanimously.
8. Election of President, Secretary and Treasurer for 2019-2020. Mr N Brown, Mr H Brooks and Mr W Abbott had indicated that they were willing to stand again for the positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively and were unanimously elected for these offices. They would be ex-officio members of Council.
9. Election of Trustees for 2019-2020. The President noted that the Constitution requires six members to be elected to the Executive Council. Mr K Crowe and Mr GMR Davies had been re-elected at the 2018 AGM for a consecutive three-year term in accordance with clause D2 of the constitution. Mr R Havis and Mr S Benfield had been elected at the 2018 AGM for a three-year term but Mr Benfield had subsequently stood down. Mr A Corder-Birch was duly elected in his stead. Mr M Atkinson and Mr P Sainsbury were also elected, having been co-opted to Council at its meeting in June 2018.
10. Any other business.

### Membership

Peter Sharp presented a paper on the decline in membership of the Society. In the 1970s the membership exceeded 700 and contributors to *Transactions* were mainly amateurs. After professional Archaeology Units took over all major excavations, membership and papers from local archaeology societies declined. More recently, *Transactions* has become a medium for commercial archaeologists, few of whom are members, to publish their reports. He felt that they are often written in a style which is not easy to read; the Society could

encourage more reports from members and amateur groups and in a more readable format, or risk only attracting professional archaeologists. The President agreed that the Society should encourage membership, but it was not at all clear that changes in the Society's membership reflected changes in the character of the Transactions. Council was discussing whether to prepare a 10 year strategy for the Society; increasing membership would be part of that. With the decision on assuming the responsibility for publishing *Essex Journal*, Council and its Publications and Research Committee would be considering how to organise and balance its suite of publications, including online resources. In response to a question from the floor about whether amateur groups are affiliated to ESAH, he pointed out that Congress had been absorbed by ESAH, but there might be more the Society could do to encourage participation. In any case group may present a report at the annual symposium and publish it in one of the Society's publications, not necessarily *Transactions*, to do so it would of course be expected to match the standards which applied to all contributors. A comment from the floor noted that ESAH had had an education officer in the 1960s/70s and suggested that ESAH organise talks to schools about archaeology. The President doubted the practicality of that which would in any case careful consideration and a lot of work. Martin Stuchfield pointed out that the recent decline in membership figures had been due to reorganisation, so that those organisations receiving the Society's publications for free were no longer counted and family memberships were counted as 1 rather than 2. This gave a more realistic figure for those paying subscriptions. A comment from the floor noted that numbers are down in every membership organisation. The President commented that the Society has a relatively small but solid membership foundation and will consider how this can be developed.

### Ordnance survey grid references

Peter Sharp presented a paper arguing for the adoption of latitude and longitude coordinates by the Society, to identify sites with greater accuracy. However, the President pointed out that Peter had raised this matter with the Publications Committee which had discussed it at length and decided, in line with all other journals and counties, the Society should continue to use ordnance survey grid references. Peter's views on the use of latitude and longitude had been published in the Spring 2019 newsletter.

### High Laver Roman Villa

Peter Sharp presented a paper on his research and report on this large Roman villa, the largest in Essex. His report had not been accepted for publication by the Society. The editor of Transactions noted that it had been subjected to peer review in the usual way and that consequently a shorter version had been advised. The President noted that this matter had been discussed a number of times by the Publications and Research Committee, which had treated the matter with the scrupulous fairness it applies to all reports submitted for consideration.

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Members subsequently enjoyed an illustrated talk given by Nick Ellis on the history of Little Maplestead Round Church. The church is on the site of one built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century by the Order of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem, known as the Knights Hospitaller, and is still associated with the Order. It is one of only four round churches still in use in England. It was heavily restored in Victorian times and is cared for by the Friends of the Round Church.