

Essex Journal

AUTUMN 2005

A REVIEW OF LOCAL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY



R. MILLER CHRISTY

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE AND THE ERIH PROGRAMME

THE RISE AND FALL OF THE HOUSE OF OLMIUS

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ESSEX JOURNAL

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The Chairman is Mr. Adrian Corder-Birch M.I.C.M., F.Inst.L.Ex., one of the Congress representatives, the Hon. Secretary is Mrs. Marie Wolfe and the Hon. Treasurer, (post vacant).

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Cover illustration: R. Miller Christy (see p.46) in early middle age (*Courtesy of W.R. Powell*).

Notes to contributors

Contributions and correspondence will be welcome and should be sent to the Editor. He does not guarantee that material will be published. He would be grateful if all material for the next issue could be with him not later than February 2006. Contributors are requested to limit their articles to some 2,500/3,000 words (other than by prior agreement with the Hon. Editor, who would welcome an occasional longer article on a suitable topic). Illustrations should, if possible, be camera-ready.

Editorial

We need to remember, in the course of all our complaints about the sidelining of real history in our schools today – justified though many of these are – the great upsurge of local history studies in the course of the last half-century or so.

For me this was underlined in reading the essay by Lionel Munby, the doyen of these studies in Hertfordshire and elsewhere, in the recently-published S.H.S. Paper no 21 (*for details see p.64*). Now nearly sixty years ago, when I was reading History at university and having the great privilege of attending lectures by such truly eminent men as Professors Herbert Butterfield and David Knowles, I never saw a real-life historical document except as a museum exhibit. We were never really at the coal-face. This was of course largely because such a high proportion of the history we studied was political and constitutional history (the sort of history so well caricatured by Sellar and Yeatman in *1066 and All That*.)

The consequence was that almost all our studies at under-graduate level, and I think most of those at second degree level, were restricted to printed, and largely to secondary, sources. Even for our special subjects we were, at least in medieval and early modern studies, confined to those documents which had been printed by the many long-established record societies (God bless them) and to the calendars of those which themselves remained unprinted. Historians were esteemed proportionately to the power which they showed in convincing reviewers and other established scholars that their contentions were correct. They had no doubt long ago read all those original documents thought to be pertinent, but the faithfulness of their reading, and still more the adequacy of their interpretation, was hidden from our student eyes. And, in a sense to make it worse, the scholarly parsons and attorneys of bygone years, whose labours had made known most of the documents that the professors and lecturers were seeking to interpret, were despised as pettifogging antiquaries whose vision was no wider than that of the monks and clerks whose writings they had in their turn sought to transcribe.

Local history was the natural home of the survivors of that race of derided antiquaries, and shared the ill repute given them by the broad-brush academic national historians. In some specialist fields where more authoritative information from public documents and chronicles was not available, more notably the social and economic history of the time, those few personal letters and papers then known, such as the Paston and Cely papers, had to do duty, although they had little more real authority than the despised 'anecdotal evidence'.

There were very legitimate excuses, which Munby recognises, for some of these shortcomings. County and other record offices were only just coming into being; their holdings were much smaller than today, their resources modest and often (though not in Essex) their aspect forbidding. Perhaps even more important, the photocopier had still to come. When we look in our older files at the indistinct, painfully legible and blotchy jelly-based or Xeroxed copies of poorly-typed documents which were handed out to us to study, we marvel at what we were willing to suffer.

But a new era in local history studies was coming. The greatest name, I would say, was W.G.Hoskins and his book *The Making of the English Landscape*. Tate's *Parish Chest* was an authoritative work, albeit somewhat forbidding in the way in which Record Offices often were. Essex was of course exceptionally lucky: its Record Office team led by Derick Emmison and the wonderful Ingatestone Hall exhibitions set up by Gus Edwards and others. Emmison's name demands inclusion by Munby in his rollcall of the great pioneers. But Essex had others outside the Record Office. I would instance Harold Priestley's classes at Upminster, O'Leary's work at Dagenham and in the foundation of Congress, the work of Arthur Brown at Colchester and for the W.E.A. and I am sure there are many others unknown to me. I would myself wish to give Gladys Ward a special mention, not least because her history of Clare, published in 1929, was an unsung morning star of what was to come later.

Though we already had some 'social history', from such different sources as Trevelyan and the Hammonds, the increase of factual knowledge given by the increase of historical research and the accessibility of its fruits opened the way to a much more widely based study. Local history gained a much enhanced prestige, and the way was opened to a perhaps undue obsession with history as seen from the bottom upwards. The Hammonds were out-Hammonded by a sequence of far left historians inspired by Christopher Hill. A reaction against *1066 and All That*-based history was overdue, but its successor was as partial (in both senses) and rather more partisan than the old history even at its worst.

At the risk of coat-trailing I would comment, for example, that the million signatories, including the forged ones, to the 1848 Chartist Manifesto, was a small percentage of the millions who voted with their feet by attending church or chapel in the pouring rain on the day of the 1851 Religious Census. For every working-class man or woman committed to radical reform or 'the working-class movement' there were far more to who

the Sunday sermon or the midweek prayer meeting were the mainspring of their lives. (Not that the two loyalties were mutually exclusive: many fine people cared greatly for both.) But the non-political activities, the movement for self-improvement, the working mens' clubs, the various strands of Methodism, need to be acknowledged to have at least as much, or perhaps more, significance than the political.

There were of course many other reasons for the upsurge in interest in local history. To replace the extinct gentleman-antiquary there were more academics urgently seeking subjects to research for the benefit of their careers, and those with careers behind them who sought worth-while enterprise to occupy their longer years of retirement.

There has been also the remarkable upsurge of family history. This should offer two-way advantages. It adds to the local historian's field of knowledge, and all family historians except those working on the narrowest focus must acquire useful knowledge of local history which will often encourage them to widen the bounds of their research beyond the family limits. At its best this has produced such fine books as Peter Sanders' *Simple Annals*. Let us also confess that it has been good ammunition for Record Offices to use in their desperate search for better funding.

The development of architectural history also helped: where would we be without the local Pevsner at our elbow? Our present knowledge is also being enhanced and corrected by techniques of carbon-dating and ring-dating. The development of information technology, and particularly of the world-wide net, have enormously facilitated the exchange of information throughout the world, so that the fruits of research pertinent to our own can be brought to our computer screens instantaneously from any country.

With so much going for the study of local history, why is it that local history, after all that has aided it in the last half-century, as shown by Munby in his essay, now seems to be at risk of languishing? One important reason has been the drying-up of public money and the inevitable consequence that public services become fewer and/or more expensive. As I have frequently complained, Record Offices increasingly have straitened finances and are obliged to reduce staff or services. Perhaps the reduction in non-vocational adult education services, and the heightened charges for those which survive, is a still more substantial problem, because it, as it were, strikes at the seed-corn.

But there is perhaps a yet more serious reason, which these last years have all too readily brought to my notice

as hon. Editor of this *Journal*. Every issue I sadly have to include obituaries of leading figures in Essex local history circles, and those of us who survive know only too well that we are getting older and diminishingly able to make valuable contributions. Fortunately there are some newer historical and similar societies which are flourishing, but one or two of our longer-established ones have ceased, and others are very much made up of the old faithful rather than a healthy spread of different ages. Such events as our History Fairs bring in plenty of people and plenty of apparent interest, but this is not – or at least appears not to be – transmuted into active participation. What can we do to encourage this?

★ ★ ★

Despite what I have written above, I cannot fault the quality of the periodicals published by so many of our local history and similar societies. The standards we look for in these days of information technology and the web are much higher, but the societies' standards of presentation and the quality of the articles they produce more than reflect this. Most are impressive and the best of them include valuable articles of wide interest and make even the – inevitably – parish-pump nature of the others good reading. As this is the 50th anniversary of the Wanstead Historical Society, this is a very fitting time to draw attention to one of the very best of them.

★ ★ ★

Vic Gray's by now rather out-of-date report on p.39 about the work of the Record Officer Users' Forum, which many readers will have already seen elsewhere, will offer a measure of reassurance to many who have been

concerned about the future of Essex' archives and associated services. A great deal of this success can be attributed to the firm line taken by so many critics, and to the vigour and good judgment of the Forum's response. The details of coming Record Office activities which we record in this issue are clear evidence that what Vic says is truth, and not council-inspired spin.

All the more reason therefore why we should concern ourselves about the two important shortfalls to which Vic has drawn our attention: the uncertain situation at Southend and the great problem of V.C.H. finance. We hope that the Forum's next report will indicate progress in both of these. One thing that we can all do in the meantime is to put our hands in our pockets and support the V.C.H. appeal.

★ ★ ★

I am very sad that the short article (on p.59) on the east window of East Mersea church by Jim Sunnucks appears too late for him to have seen it in print before his death earlier this year. I never had the privilege of knowing him, but several of my friends and acquaintances did, and what they have said, and *The Times* obituary also showed, makes it clear that he was a man of remarkable quality. He made his mark as an able and scholarly lawyer and as the head of his family business, but served the wider world as a Deputy Lieutenant of the county and as an active and devoted Reader and Churchwarden. There are not many of those left who are able or willing to offer this width of committed service to the community, and those who did will be sorely missed.

★ ★ ★

Can we dare hope that at last the long and rather unhappy saga of determining the future of Hylands has been brought to a (fairly) happy outcome? In 1966 Chelmsford Borough Council bought the house for £20,000 from the executors of Mrs. Christine Hanbury, the last private owner, and with it 700 acres of gardens and park. Since then the grounds have been open, subject to reasonable provision for maintenance and redevelopment, and, give or take a few noisy pop festivals that at least the crowds of teenagers (and others) attending have enjoyed, have given much pleasure to the public at large.

But the Council dithered for years over what to do with the rapidly-deteriorating house, throwing away the best opportunities for any sort of sale or lease to suitable occupants, and adding hugely to the costs of the rebuilding which no one but they themselves could, in the outcome, undertake. In the end Lottery funds have helped, but the Council (or rather their ratepayers) have had to bite the bullet and spend some £7m. on an admittedly fine restoration of the main body of the building to its early 19th. century décor. It will be an asset to the town, and a fine wedding reception venue, but it cannot hope to pay its way, and even those who justly enjoy it cannot but see it as a monument to local government folly.

★ ★ ★

The review of Dr. Daphne Pearson's book on Edward de Vere in the current issue, following on her article in the Autumn 2004 issue of the *Journal*, will remind us of the contribution she has made to our knowledge of the Tudor age in Essex. Years ago the Friends of Historic Essex were able through an Emmison bursary to help her in entering into this productive further career as a scholar.

Obituaries

John Hunter, F.S.A. (1932-2005)

John was one of those people who attracted the respect, admiration and affection of all those who knew him or worked with him. He inherited many of his cultural interests and accomplishments from a talented and versatile family, and made good use of them in a life rich in learning and achievement.

With a professional background in architecture, planning and landscape studies he was well equipped to devote his energies to the understanding, development and conservation of the rural heritage of Essex. His scholarship and commitment to this inspired his initiatives, both as a senior officer of the County Council and in his personal capacity, towards the fulfilment of that pioneering vision of preserving what he defined as the county's unique historic legacy. He was passionate in his belief in the importance of this enterprise and in the

duty of those who could to nourish and pursue its objectives.

More than anyone else, through his authority and knowledge, his was the voice and the guiding hand that established the status and the priority of the Essex landscape in Essex life and, so far as anyone can, made the conservation of all that is best in it secure for future generations. The people of Essex have much to be grateful to him for what he did and taught, and among his many valuable writings his 1999 book on *The Essex Landscape* probably shows his authoritative knowledge and his concern for the future most clearly. Inevitably as the work that he did and the writings he published became known, his influence extended well beyond the county boundaries.

John's roles in the county organisations for historical and archaeological studies meant that they too could benefit from his leadership and his imaginative contributions. He served as President of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History, with the regional committee of the National Trust and worked with the Essex Gardens and Essex Heritage Trusts. He was made a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1993, a well-deserved accolade that gave pleasure to all who knew and valued his work.

The considerable demands of these tasks and of his academic work did not mean that he was remote from more local enterprises. In his last years he devoted his knowledge and his generous personal commitment to local studies in Wimbish and Thunderley and to the Heritage Sampford project. It was inspirational to work with him and to learn how he could 'read' the landscape

in a historic perspective by reference to maps, documentary sources and of course fieldwork. In Heritage Sampford he identified several important historic features in the landscape which indicated ancient usage which had previously been unknown in that part of the county.

Along with these achievements went a kindly and patient way of putting his knowledge over to others. He will be sadly missed not only by his family, but also by those he brought into his field of work and who learned so much from him. It now falls to them, in the face of all the many problems faced by his home corner of Essex at the hands of the vested interests of government and elsewhere, to exert themselves in the causes that he inspired.

K.J.N.

Pamela Margaret Studd (1933-2005)

Yorkshire born and bred, Pamela had the gritty character typical of her county. Energetic and friendly, with powers of leadership, she was also scholarly. Marrying young she brought up a family before qualifying as a teacher. As the wife of an Anglican minister she was prominent in the Mothers' Union and in the Girls' Friendly Society, of which she became area president. She taught in the Sunday school, sang in the church choir, and played the organ. With a lifelong love of art, she photographed and sketched old buildings. For 15 years she was an editorial assistant with the *Victoria County History of Essex*.

Pamela was born on 27 December 1933, at Osbaldwick, near York, the eldest of three children of Frank Oxberry, a railway engineer, and his wife Maisie. At the age of twelve she entered Queen Anne Grammar School in York. In 1949 her father was promoted, and the family moved to Aldersbrook in Wanstead (then in Essex, now in Redbridge London Borough). After continuing her education at Wanstead County High School, Pam worked as a library assistant at East Ham until September 1953, when she married Christopher Studd, an insurance company engineering surveyor, who had previously been in the merchant navy.

Pam and Chris settled at Aldersbrook, and between 1954 and 1964 had four sons and a daughter. In 1969 Chris was ordained into the Anglican ministry through the Southwark Ordination Course, and became a curate at St. Mary's church, Shenfield. At the same time Pam entered a three-year teacher-training course at Brentwood.

In 1973 Chris Studd became Rector of North Stifford, and Pam took up a part-time teaching post at South Ockendon. In 1980 St. Mary's church, North Stifford, celebrated the supposed 800th anniversary of its foundation. To mark the occasion Pam and her friend Doreen Dean published a parish history entitled *Stifford Saga*. Pam was responsible for the Middle Ages, and spent months of original research in the Essex Record Office, during which she taught herself palaeography, and medieval Latin. The book was a great success, and went into a second edition.

While working on *Stifford Saga*, Pam met the present writer, who was then compiling a short article on Stifford for *V.C.H. Essex*, volume VIII (1983). In 1983 Chris Studd was appointed Priest-in-Charge of Bowers Gifford, with North Benfleet. Finding no teaching post in that area, Pam offered her services to *V.C.H. Essex* and in 1984, after a few months of voluntary work, became a part-time editorial assistant. She served in that post until her retirement in 1999. For volume IX (Colchester, 1994) she wrote eight short sections totalling over 20 pages. The longest were on Charities (p.367-72) and the Barracks (pp.251-303). For volume X (Lexden Hundred, 21 parishes, 2001), she wrote all the sections on Education and Charities, totalling 18 pages. The longest were for Dedham (pp.183-6) and Wivenhoe (pp.294-5).

At Bowers Gifford Pam worked hard for church funds, and ran a cake stall held on Fridays on the main road through the village. She took organ lessons, and became the regular organist at North Benfleet church. Here, as at Stifford, she accompanied the Sunday school children on 'assault' courses, and along with them struggled up the climbing frames and through the netted tunnels.

During her years with the *V.C.H.*, Pam studied at Goldsmiths College, London, for an M.A. in Local and Regional History, and was awarded the degree in 1997. Her dissertation was on Hatfield Broad Oak in the 14th century.

In 1993, when Chris retired, he and Pam moved to Roxwell, where she became organist at St. Michael's church. In January 2004, after years of illness, Chris died in hospital. During the following year Pam kept busy, travelling abroad with family and friends. In January 2005 she was diagnosed with an unusual and aggressive bladder cancer. She died at home on 13 June 2005.

For help in writing this memoir I am much indebted to Pam's daughter, Helen Coghill, who has also put it on computer disk. Information on Pam's M.A. was provided by her tutor, Dr. Jennifer Ward.

W.R. Powell

Essex Heritage Trust

The Essex Heritage Trust has given some £42,000 to a total of some 20 different beneficiaries in the course of 2004/5. Among these are the Victoria County History of Essex, the Plume Library at Maldon, to computerise and put on a website its catalogue of books and the River Stour Trust towards its Visitor/Education Centre at Cornard Lock. The Fry Art Gallery has received £3,000 for the purchase of a watercolour by Eric Ravilious, and the East Coast Sail Trust £5,000 towards the re-building of the sailing barge *Thalassa*.

Ten churches in the county are also among the beneficiaries. £3,000 went to the round church at Little Maplestead for the restoration of its organ. Blackmore church received a modest grant of £200 for the tree-ring dating of the timbers of its famous pagoda-like tower: the expert established that it was built in the year 1400 or very shortly afterwards: the heraldic symbols used on the nave roof timbers show that these were installed in 1397 or very shortly before, thereby giving a very precise dating to the re-building of the Priory Church.

News from the Essex Archive Users Forum

The Essex Archive Users Forum continues to represent to the County Council the views and interests of those who use and value the Essex Record Office.

In the last six months, the Group has met twice with officers of Essex County Council, led by County Councillor Jeremy Lucas. The overall Cabinet member with responsibility for Planning, Environment and Culture is now County Councillor Peter Martin and Councillor Lucas functions as Deputy with specific responsibility for championing Heritage issues.

Over the last six months, the Council has made considerable progress on issues that were discussed at earlier meetings.

The difficult question of the future of the services E.R.O. provides in relation to those London boroughs which were formerly in the administrative county of Essex seems to be moving towards an agreement which will satisfy all parties and should allay the fears of those who were concerned that archives might be transferred from Chelmsford and thus forced into conditions which were not good, either for them or for those wishing to use them.

The proposal now is that the County Council will arrive at agreements with each of the boroughs for the provision of services (particularly the storage, listing and making accessible of records) in exchange for an appropriate annual sum which will address the anomaly of Essex funding being used to support the history of areas now outside its control and remit.

Most significantly for archive users, the Council will not be seeking to remove archives from E.R.O., unless and until each of the boroughs is ready and able to take them and to meet the technical requirements of caring for archives. The National Archives is a partner in these discussions and will therefore be able to monitor the readiness of boroughs to take on these functions.

Less satisfactory at the moment is the position of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council which has now rescinded the longstanding arrangement whereby the County Council provided a Branch Record Office in Southend Central Library. All original records have now been removed to Chelmsford, leaving only copy materials in the form of microfilm, digital and paper copies in the Library for consultation. At the moment of writing, it is unclear how far the Borough will seek to do more for its local resident users of archives than sustain this residual body of material. It is to be hoped that they

will devise plans to provide a more adequate way of meeting local needs, and that would-be users will make their views clear on the issue.

While these policy issues have been moving forward the Group has heard of very positive work going on in the Record Office, both behind the scenes, with targets for cataloguing records being well exceeded, and in front, through the Outreach Team, in fields as diverse as working with schools and training in reminiscence therapy for the elderly and confused. Space does not, unfortunately, allow me to say more about all this excellent work, which E.R.O. could well do more to publicise. In many ways, it is still leading in the field.

Our time is not exclusively given up to E.R.O. and we try to keep an eye on what is happening with the other 'heritage services', all of which seemed under attack twelve months ago. The saddest outcome is with the Victoria County History which is now being forced to operate with much diminished resources following the halving of the County Council's contribution to its work. Now reduced to two part-time staff and increasingly dependent upon support won by the V.C.H. Appeal Committee, it is impossible to see this as anything other than a tragic diminution of the work V.C.H. has quietly but efficiently undertaken on behalf of the county for many decades.

More positively, the County's Archaeological Service has succeeded in setting up agreements for the provision – with reimbursement – of archaeological services to all of the district councils in Essex with the exception of Colchester (which undertakes work through its own unit). These agreements provide a measure of financial stability to the county service which would, otherwise, have probably been faced with more staffing cuts and loss of effectiveness.

It has to be hoped that the worst of the cuts which brought the Archive Users Forum into being last year have now passed and that the County Council will be more positively disposed to services which can and do play a very substantial part in supporting Essex against the developmental threats and issues of poor profile which beset it today.

Vic Gray
Chairman
The Essex Archive Users Forum.

May 2005

Industrial Heritage and the ERIH Programme

By David Morgans

Introduction

It is now fifty years since the historian Michael Rix first used the phrase 'industrial archaeology' to describe the study of industrial sites and structures, particularly of monuments dating from the Industrial Revolution (Cossans 1975). Since 1955, industrial archaeology has come to imply much more than the study of machinery and manufacturing processes. Just as traditional archaeology is concerned with culture in the widest sense, so industrial archaeology and heritage can be seen to embrace the fabric of a changing society. Industrial heritage has been described as:

...the tangible evidence of social, economic and technological development from the outset of industrialisation to the recent past (Palmer & Neaverson 1995)

In 2001, the Historic Environment Records Branch at Essex County Council became a partner in a major E.U.-funded initiative designed to stimulate awareness of the common industrial heritage of Europe. Termed E.R.I.H., an acronym for 'The European Route of Industrial Heritage'; the project plans to create a network of industrial heritage sites across the continent. When complete, the network will extend from



Figs 1 & 2 (opposite). Chappel Viaduct arches from the east. Centred at TL897284. Built 1847-9. Designed by the civil engineer Peter Bruff and reputed to contain 7,000,000 locally-manufactured bricks.

Ironbridge Gorge in the U.K., the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, through to the Ruhr basin in North-Rhine Westphalia, Germany. Partners from the U.K., Germany and the Netherlands collectively bring a wealth of experience to the projects.

David Buckley, former Essex County Archaeologist, is coordinator for the U.K. The U.K. partnership comprises Torfaen County Borough Council, Telford Borough Council and the University of Manchester Field Archaeology Unit, together with Essex County Council. A first tier of "Anchor Point" sites will form the main European Route. These will be sites and museums of outstanding importance both nationally or internationally, typified by high levels of museum interpretation and visitor facilities. A demanding process of selection has resulted in a list of just 23 Anchor Point sites for the U.K. as a whole.

The Royal Gunpowder Mills – An E.R.I.H. Anchor Point

Within Essex, the Royal Gunpowder Mills at Waltham Abbey have been selected as an Anchor Point. Easily accessible from the M25 motorway, and with superb visitor facilities, the Royal Gunpowder Mills provide industrial archaeology of international importance, with structures demonstrating the long history of gunpowder manufacture from the seventeenth century. Located on an island in the River Lea, the site was interlaced with waterways providing not only water power but also serving as a safe distribution system for raw materials and finished munitions.

Other U.K. Anchor Points include Merseyside Maritime Museum, Birmingham Jewellery Quarter, Kew Bridge Steam Museum, New Lanark Mills and Big Pit Museum at Blaenavon, as well as the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site. The project will aim to emphasise the international nature of the common industrial heritage through a series of transnational theme routes, educational initiatives and exhibitions. A travelling exhibition entitled 'Heroes or Villains?' will develop individual stories of industrial achievement and social impact. Information on all the routes is accessible via the Internet, where users can choose from a variety of regional or themed routes depending upon their interests. Users can select sites to visit across Europe from the comprehensive material available.

East of England Route of Industrial Heritage

Featuring the Royal Gunpowder Mills amongst the top industrial heritage sites in the U.K. will help to raise the profile of industrial archaeology in the east of England. This will be further emphasised by a new local initiative in which Essex County Council is working collaboratively with organisations and individuals to create a Regional Route of Industrial Heritage in the East of England.

The Regional Route will extend from the Anchor Point at the Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills and include sites in Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. The Industrial Revolution came late to the eastern counties and it is not seen as an industrialised region, yet the evidence of the region's industrial history is considerable. Sites include



industrial museums, monumental civil engineering structures such as canals, railways and pumping stations together with important industrial buildings. Indeed, some industrial buildings are still occupied by manufacturing enterprises with a long history in the region. The final selection will comprise a representative selection of authentic buildings and structures from all periods of industrialisation as well as museum collections to emphasise our rich industrial legacy. The systematic industrialisation of the region throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries resulted in economic growth, a continual increase in living standards and a rising population.

Essex County Council will provide resources for promoting and publicising sites through a dedicated internet presence, literature and educational materials. Within the East of England region, local authorities, specialist societies and volunteers are investigating and recommending sites. The collated data will form the basis of local routes to raise the perceived value of our industrial heritage, resulting in increased local commitment to the conservation of industrial sites and landscapes. Moreover, by encouraging the interest of young people the project hopes to extend commitment to industrial archaeology beyond the limits of memory.

The E.R.I.H. Project and Regeneration

Regeneration of industrial heritage sites, both buildings and landscapes, is a major objective of the E.R.I.H. project, seen to confer economic and environmental benefits. Skeletons of industrialised buildings should be seen as more than places of remembrance. It is possible to 'produce' in them again; the large spaces and volumes can be particularly suitable for conversion to social use and public events such as concerts and art galleries, as demonstrated by Snape Maltings and the Tate Modern. Museums, media and other creative uses, art and culture all offer a fresh economic and cultural future. The link of heritage with successful regeneration is seen by the E.U. as an important principle of local and international development.

However, the majority of industrial heritage sites are not within conservation areas or indeed covered by any form of statutory protection and therefore remain at the vicissitudes of market forces and redevelopment. In the east of England, much manufacturing industry has ended within living memory, yet industrial structures erected since 1945 are inadequately protected by the existing planning framework. Only selected buildings of all types from the period after 1914 are considered for Listed Building status, and buildings less than 30 years old are normally listed only if they are of outstanding



Fig 3. Mistley Maltings Number 1, constructed by Free, Rodwell & Co in 1896/7 and incorporating major technical innovations. Currently undergoing conversion into residential accommodation.

quality. Neither does statutory protection extend to plant and machinery, which can be of particular importance to industrial archaeologists. In the example of heavy engineering, Essex has lost many sites of engineering virtuosity that were instrumental in the rise of the region to prosperity in the later nineteenth and early twentieth century. Examples include Crittall Windows' Manor Works and Lake & Elliott's Albion Works in Braintree. Paxman's Standard Iron Works in Colchester (constructed from 1865) is an important remaining example of an engineering works from the heyday of the Industrial Revolution, but is currently threatened with comprehensive demolition and redevelopment.

Factories and administrative offices such as the 'constructivist' Bata Shoe Factory at East Tilbury can be striking in their architecture. The emphasis on outstanding architecture or ease of conversion, resulting in a further life period as service-industry or domestic accommodation has saved many important industrial and commercial structures. Many major towns and cities in the eastern counties retain a core of nineteenth century industrial and commercial buildings in productive use showing that regenerative uses are possible. A further Colchester example is provided by Hyam's clothing factory in the town centre, a building of historic importance now sensitively converted into architect's offices. In Heybridge, the distinctive Maldon Iron Works and a single Bentalls warehouse building have been retained and regenerated, converted to commercial uses. These sites serve as mute but eloquent reminders of founders'

achievements, in bringing prosperity and employment to Essex towns.

Essex and the other eastern counties were the granary of the industrial age and major producers of food ingredients such as malt products. Maltings are well represented in the industrial heritage of Essex as a result of their durability and ease of conversion. However fire, a major hazard of the maltings industry, resulted in the loss of many early structures with the result that remaining maltings are mostly 19th century incorporating innovative cast iron frames. In north Essex, the historically important maltings of Free, Rodwell at New Mistley and Mistley Quay, are currently undergoing restoration and change of use into residential accommodation. Alongside, in contemporary buildings, Edme Limited continues to prosper and to manufacture flour products for customers worldwide.

A surprising number of active manufacturing organisations within the East of England, particularly in the food industry, were founded during the nineteenth century and have shown interest in the E.R.I.H. project. These include Essex manufacturers Wilkins of Tiptree, a company with a keen sense of history and offering visitor and museum facilities. In addition, Essex organisations such as the East Anglian Railway Museum and the Colne Valley Railway cater in large numbers for those with an interest in locomotives and other technology of industrialisation. Outside Essex, the region can offer further historic gems, some supported only by volunteer contributions. These include important survivals as distinct as the Leiston Long Shop Museum and Fakenham Gasworks,



*Fig 4. Standard Iron Works, Colchester.
West front of original offices and assembly building erected by Davey, Paxman & Co., 1865.*

a Scheduled Monument and the only town gas works remaining in England. Sites of this quality embracing both original buildings and museum displays have great merit both regionally and nationally, and stand to benefit significantly from increased promotion.

Yet important too, are many sites without visitor reception facilities and which are not open to the public. These include representatives of 20th century industry, ranging from Marconi factories in Chelmsford, the birthplace of radio, to the nuclear power station at Bradwell, historically important as the second nuclear power plant in the U.K. to generate electricity for commercial use. Such sites will also be described on the Regional Route.

Cultural Tourism and the Global Village

The E.R.I.H. project also aims to encourage cultural tourism. Industrial archaeology and heritage will be new to most people and in the case of tourism will be competing with many other attractions in the local and global market places. For that reason, ERIH will promote an easily recognised identity, through a recognisable brand symbol, to give an assured 'quality of experience' at Anchor Points and Key Sites.

Heritage is seen as an important economic driver within the global village. Encounters with the past activities are seen as including a dynamic element of 'culture clash', similar in many ways to entering a foreign country, and this will become more so as industrialisation passes out of living memory.

For instance, 'Victorian classroom experiences' at industrial heritage sites bridge the gap with the young, with the nineteenth century now perceived as a distant era. The East Anglian Railway Museum, the Colne Valley Railway, Braintree Museum and the Royal Gunpowder Mills are amongst the Essex attractions offering educational visits.

In 1993, Marilyn Palmer and Peter Neaverson, respectively Professor of Industrial Archaeology and Reader at the University of Leicester, summarised the current view of managing industrial heritage.

For much of the twentieth century, public reaction to the relics of industrialisation was an adverse one: they were seen as symbols of sweated labour and unacceptable working practices, consequently being swept away in urban development or land clearance schemes. Only in the last quarter of the twentieth century has the international significance of Britain's industrial heritage begun to be understood and its value as a cultural resource appreciated, however, the continuing decline of heavy industry and the privatisation of other industries pose continuing threats to the physical remains of past industrialisation... There is an urgent need to understand and identify what still exists, to assess priority and to assign funding to ensure that what survives into the future is reasonably representative.

By implementing the ERIH project both within Essex and more widely, we will be making important progress in raising awareness of the issues in managing industrial heritage.

To follow the progress of the project, visit the E.R.I.H. web site (<http://www.erih.net>).

Information on many sites in Essex can be found in the Essex Historic Environment Record (<http://unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk>).

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Many company histories are available for Essex, two of the most comprehensive being Coleman's volumes on the history of Courtaulds and the recently published industrial history of the Colchester engineering firm of Paxman's, compiled by Andrew Phillips. There are also many excellent local industrial histories. In addition, local railway history, in common with railways everywhere, has a large and often specialist bibliography. The following list is only a selection of available texts.

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The author is a member of the Historic Environment section of the Essex County Council.

Warner Textile Collection

By the time this issue is published the Exhibition Gallery of the Warner Textile Collection at Braintree is due to have been opened to the public: the planned opening date is Saturday, 22 Oct. This is one of the welcome results of the success of the campaign to raise £2m to establish a national centre for textiles in the town to mark its continuous production of wool, silk and later rayon over 900 years. The campaign was initiated in 1948 by the Textile Society of Great Britain: many years later the Heritage Lottery Fund offered £1.9m towards it on condition that the residue was raised locally. The Record Office promised to keep the archive intact and the further necessary funds were offered by the Clothworkers Company, the Essex Heritage Trust and others.

Walter Bowyer

As we go to press we have just received the sad news of the death of Walter Bowyer, the hon. Treasurer of the *Essex Journal*, on 11 October. There will be a tribute to him in our next issue.

Dave Buckley

County Archaeologist 1983-2004

During his 21 years as County Archaeologist, Dave Buckley guided the county council's Archaeology Section through a huge range of changes and challenges faced by local government archaeology.

He originally joined the Section in 1974, shortly after it had been set up, as an archaeological assistant. In the late 1970's Dave moved into a more managerial role, as assistant county archaeologist. Among the many initiatives with which he was involved was the organising of the first conference on the archaeology of Essex, held at Clacton in 1978 (leading to the C.B.A. volume, *The Archaeology of Essex to A.D.1500*), and, with the then County Archaeologist, John Hedges, starting a programme of large-scale excavations at Springfield, on the edge of Chelmsford. The latter included the important Neolithic cursus monument, and a circular enclosure, known only as a cropmark, at Springfield Lyons. This enclosure, about 75 metres across, was investigated on the assumption that it was a henge monument, but turned out instead to be a Late Bronze Age settlement, containing the remains of three timber round houses. The site later became the focus of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, with over 250 burials, and a Late Saxon settlement, comprising at least sixteen timber buildings.

Following the departure of John Hedges to West Yorkshire metropolitan authority in 1983, Dave became the County Archaeologist. One of the first developments that took place under his guidance was the start of work in 1983 to convert the Site and Monuments Record (S.M.R.) from a paper to a computer-based record. In 2000 listed building information was added to the database, to create what is known as an Historic Environment Record (H.E.R.), containing over 16,000 archaeological sites and over 14,000 listed buildings. Most recently, with the aid of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, much of the H.E.R. data is now available on-line (at unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk).

Development control procedures were radically revised in the early 1990s, as a result of the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance no.16, (PPG 16). For the first time, this document set out clearly how archaeology should be treated as a material consideration within the planning process. As a consequence, the Archaeology Section was re-organised, with what are known as development control archaeologists, assessing the impact of planning proposals and where necessary drawing attention to the need for fieldwork. The Field Archaeology Unit (F.A.U.) became a separate team, still under the county council but offering their services as an archaeological contractor for fieldwork. Initially they undertook almost all the fieldwork in the county resulting from the application of PPG 16 within the planning process, but as private sector developers became more familiar with it, other contractors began to appear, and about 10 or 12 such organisations now regularly work within the county.

Although development in the form of house building, road construction, mineral extraction etc has the most obvious and dramatic effects on archaeological deposits, we should not forget that ploughing also erodes sites in

the long-term. With financial support from English Heritage, Dave was able to establish the post of countryside archaeological adviser, with the aim of negotiating with farmers and landowners, to persuade them to take advantage of agri-environment schemes funded by Defra, which provide compensation for taking sites out of the plough.

Dave never lost sight of the importance of publishing results, at both a popular and academic level. During his time as county archaeologist, the Section established an unrivalled reputation for its publications. These ranged from the annual newspaper supplement, *Essex Past and Present* (formerly *Essex Archaeology*), articles in the *Essex Journal*, and the *Origins of Towns* booklets, to the many articles in *Essex Archaeology and History* and the monographs in the *East Anglian Archaeology* series.

In addition to his county responsibilities, Dave was also active at both regional and national levels. He was instrumental in merging the smaller separate groups of county archaeologists and district archaeologists to form the organisation now known as A.L.G.A.O. (the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers), so that local government and English Heritage professionals could speak more effectively and influentially with a single voice.

Among Dave's contributions with the East of England regional group of A.L.G.A.O. was guidance for the first regional research framework for archaeology (published as two *East Anglian Archaeology* occasional papers, in 1997 and 2000). In partnership with colleagues in Kent County Council and English Heritage, a research framework for the Greater Thames was published in 1999. From the mid-1990s, European archaeology beckoned, and Dave became closely involved with a number of projects, funded through the European Union's INTERREG programme, which seeks to promote co-operation between the regions. Working with archaeologists from Germany, Holland, France and Belgium has provided very useful insights and comparisons into the way in which archaeologists on the European mainland operate, especially in terms of S.M.R.s, procedures and legislation.

In 1999, the former Archaeology Section was combined with colleagues in the Historic Buildings and Conservation Section, to form the Heritage Conservation Branch, with Dave as the Branch manager.

During all of his time with Essex County Council, Dave was a staunch supporter of local societies. He was President of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History for three years during the 1990s, and helped particularly with setting up that Society's Essex Place Names Project, which has been running for several years with input from many local individuals and groups.

One of the keys to Dave's success as county archaeologist was his willingness to embrace partnership working, long before this became a cliché in local government. Even after his formal retirement in 2004, Dave is putting his wide experience of partnership to excellent use, providing a consultancy to help the county council's three current E.U.-funded projects to continue to run smoothly.

Owen Bedwin

R. Miller Christy, Essex Naturalist and Antiquary – Part 1

By W. Raymond Powell

In January 1874 Robert Miller Christy arrived as a boarder at Bootham School, York.¹ This was a small Quaker school, founded in 1829, and since 1846 housed in a mansion previously belonging to Sir John Johnstone, Bt.² John Fryer, headmaster 1875-99, was described by one old pupil as 'kind and courteous and interested in us . . . very occasionally severe . . . no fireworks . . . but with a quiet dignity, no side and very sincere, not without humour.' One of Christy's contemporaries made a similar assessment of Fryer, adding that 'he let nobody down'.³

Bootham School

Bootham was a progressive school, with a wide syllabus, and no corporal punishment. Bob Christy, as he was then known, was twelve years old on entering the school. He is said to have been 'one of the most disorderly of small boys', often in trouble, with little interest in classwork or games.⁴ But he soon discovered the 'delectable natural history room,' and in August 1875 started a 'Diary of Birds, Animals, Ferns &c.' which he kept up for most of his life.⁵ The Quakers were always interested in observational sciences, particularly natural history⁶ and these subjects were promoted at Bootham school from the first.⁷ Bob Christy joined enthusiastically in excursions and country walks for naturalists, led by Benjamin Le Tall, a brilliant teacher.⁸

A frequent venue for the Bootham excursions was Askham Bog, a 20-acre tract about two miles west of York, intersected by wide, muddy ditches, and containing vegetation, shells, insects and birds.⁹ Christy's description of one such excursion reveals his typical attention to detail.¹⁰

Went to Askham Bogs [*sic*] & saw several *Martins* and *Swallows* on their way and back, in one place we saw a pair plastering mud on a wall as if it was for a nest. Today has been pretty fine, and has no doubt tempted more of them into activity . . . I got some immense *L(astraea) Thelypteris* [fern] at Askham Bogs, not in the place where it is ordinarily found, but at the further end of the first kind of wood. The longest piece measured as much as 3 ft 2 ins long, and of this same root patch I got 6 fronds of the very rare female that is so seldom found . . . I found 3 *Ringdoves* nests in the further part of Askham; two of them contained two quite freshly laid eggs, each of which were pure white . . . The nests were at about 6 feet from the ground . . . but one of them was rather higher. It was built in a blackthorn bush and contained two young birds . . . We were guided to them by the loud flapping of the old birds . . . The nests were all of twigs . . . We saw immense quantities of *L (astraea) Spinosa* & *Osmunda Regalis*, one piece of which must have been 8 feet long. I got one nice piece of *L (astraea) Femina* about 3 feet 8 inches long.

Other excursions went to Strensall Common, about 6 miles NNE of York. 'It covers about 2,000 acres and is a fine place for birds.' One visit, on 6 May 1876, mentions *Pewits*, *Snipes*, *Wild Ducks*, *Hérons*, *Reed Warblers*, *Larks*, *Finches*, a *Carrion Crow*, a *Cuckoo* and other birds. At Skelton and Overton Woods, some 4 miles NNW of

York (14 October 1876) 'we saw 6 *Fieldfares* . . . heard 2 *Magpies* making their chattering noise . . . There were tens of thousands of *Ringdoves* . . . an immense flood of *Pewits* . . . a couple of *Jays* . . . no end of *Hares* . . . a large flock of *Rooks* coming home to roost & among them were a good number of *Jackdaws*.' In the same woods Christy saw a gamekeeper's 'gallows' and his 'larder', containing many *Magpies*, some *Jays*, a *Carrion Crow*, a *Kestrel's* nest and a large *Sparrowhawk*. He also noted a covey of *English Partridges*, a flock of *Starlings*, and many ferns.

A walk via Acomb Wood to Askham (18 May 1877) was 'one of the most successful I ever made.' Among many birds seen were a *Hedge Sparrow* with 3 eggs, in what a little boy there called a 'Cuddy's' nest. A *Magpie's* nest in the wood was the largest Christy had ever seen, measuring over a yard in diameter. Pasted into the Diary for that day are three news-cuttings: *Blackbirds* nesting under a railway van at Mistle (Essex); the recent *Wildfowl Preservation Act*; the birth of a captive *Sea-lion* at Brighton.

On a school outing to Harrogate on 9 May 1877 the train passed some *Teasel fields* at Marston Moor, and at Cattal railway station 'there were a lot of *egg shells* stuck on the tops of all the *Gooseberry* trees, but for what purpose I can't make out.' In the afternoon the boys walked out to Birk Crag, west of Harrogate, on which 'there were hundreds of *Willow Wrens*' and many ferns.

On 15 September 1876 Christy records a trip by steamer up the river Ouse to Aldwark, 12 miles NW of York. He saw many *Moorhens* and *Pewits*, a pair of *Sparrowhawks*, three *Common Sandpipers*, which flew squealing in front of the steamer, *Swifts*, *Wagtails* and a *Kestrel*.

Bob Christy kept a keen lookout for shellfish, as on 3 February 1876, when he collected some *P(lanorbis) Corneus*, and much *L(ympnaea) Peregra* from ditches along the Ouse south of York. He gradually got into the habit of reporting daily on the weather and on small mammals seen near the school. His discovery of a *Lastraea Cristata*, one of the rarest British ferns (29 September 1875) was a remarkable achievement for a 14-year-old boy. But his main interest was always in birds. Besides describing those seen in and around York, he frequented the taxidermists and poulterers in the city and noted their wares, sometimes in great detail.

During the later 19th century taxidermists, usually described as bird-stuffers or naturalists, had a ready market, not only in museums, but also in middle class homes, in which could often be seen a glass case containing stuffed birds.¹¹ In York Bob Christy visited at least five stuffers. The most helpful was Ripley, who often gave him, for dissection, the bodies of birds previously skinned. The poulterers stocked a wide variety of birds, foreign as well as British. Two he often visited were Relph and Robinson. On 21 October 1876 Christy described a particularly busy shopping trip.

Ripley gave me the body of a male *Sparrowhawk*. It had the remains of some small bird in its gizzard. He also gave me a female *Barn Owl's* body. It was very fat & the eye bones were large and 15 in no. . . . I bought 2 *Pewits*



Fig 1. Stevens Farm, Chignal St. James. New Farm Buildings 1852.

& 2 *Dunlins* at Robinsons & a *Dabchick* or *Little Grebe* at Relph . . . The length of one of the *Pewits* was 13¾ inches, bill 24/25, expanse of wing 28 ins., length from tip of first primary to carpal joint 8%. [Long descriptions of this and the other *Pewit* follow.]

The *Dabchick* was extremely fat & was a male. The gizzard was very full & contained vegetable remains, a no. of large bees &c. The eye bones were 14 in no. & pretty large & the breastbone was large & broad. The total length of the bird was 11½ ins., bill 21/25 long, & expanse of wing 14 ins. Length from carpal joint to tip of first primary 3½ ins. [Long description follows.]

We also bought a pair of *Dunlin*. They had been killed near Bubwith [near Selby, (Yorks)]. The male had the bill black, long & slender, slightly curved downwards & 1¾ inch long tip to tip, expanse 14¼ in., & 4¾ from tip of wing to carpal joint. It was evidently changing plumage. [Long description follows.]

The foreign birds noted by Christy in the poulterers' shops, included *Canada Geese* (16 December 1876); *American Prairie Hens* (27 January 1877 . . . 'sent over packed in ice'); *Capercaillies* and *Ptarmigan* (21 April 1877, 'I think from Norway') and *Quails* from Egypt (23 May 1877, 'the poulterers have lots of these . . . & fat them in small cages').

Christy sometimes visited York Museum, which housed many birds. He saw an albino *Blackbird* and a *Great Auk* (19 December 1876); and assessed the Rudston & Strickland collections (20 February 1877). On another occasion he explored the gardens, finding many shells, much frog spawn, many noisy *Missel Thrushes*, and two *Rookeries*. Inside the museum he examined 'a rather poor collection of *Land and Freshwater shells*' including some from Longleat (Wilts). He also saw a white *Swallow*, a cream-coloured *Chaffinch*, and the Museum's egg-collection (24 March 1877).

Bob Christy's interest in the behaviour of birds often appears in the Diary. A *Carrion Crow* was attacked by *Pewits* (6 May 1876). At a Fat Cattle Show there was a military band: while it was playing the *Chickens* were silent, but when it stopped they made a great noise (13 December 1876). A *Rough Legged Buzzard* attacked a man (21 March 1877). A *Chiffchaff* was 'either fighting or playing with a *Great Whitethroat*' (22 May 1877). 'At every [Quaker] meeting for a long time I have heard a *Robin*: odd as it is in the City centre.' (27 May 1877). The song of a *Blue Tit* is 2 or 3 "chees" and then a "cheet" (28 May 1877). That of a *Chiffchaff*, is "chip, chop, chip." (30 May 1877). A *Shrike's* notes are "clack" and "gee gee" (29 July 1877).

Besides observing birds and mammals, Bob Christy sometimes conducted experiments with them.

Today . . . I placed the *Hedgehog* while curled up close to the head of the *Tortoise*, then slowly it uncurled & after thinking about it suddenly gave a savage bite at the left leg of the *Tortoise*. But its scales protected it, & it was not hurt in the least, but it drew in its head as if greatly scared (13 October 1875).

On another occasion Bob found a young *Sparrow* which had been thrown out of its nest and was nearly dead. Having revived it, he put it in a *Blackbird's* nest with four fresh eggs. A few days later he found the *Sparrow*

almost fully fledged & pretty well grown, but there was only one egg, the others I suppose went rotten while the *Blackbird* was getting food, so it took them away. The *Sparrow* was quite lively and wanted to jump out of the nest . . . It must have been fed by the *Blackbird* for it was far from its own nest.

Besides attending the Quaker meeting in York, the Bootham boys were made welcome in the homes of local Friends. On 26 May 1877 Bob Christy 'went up to James Backhouse's house for the afternoon, a most splendid place for nests.' The Diary contains several other references to information received from Backhouse. On 30 May 1877 Christy had tea with J(oseph) Rowntree at 19 Bootham.

Occasional entries foreshadow Christy's widening interests. On 13 February 1877 he attended a lecture by Henry Seebohm on a recent expedition with Harvey Brown to report on the birds in Siberian Russia (Pencil notes in Diary 14 February 1877).

The Diary shows that natural history studies can be dangerous, even fatal. On 9 April 1877 Bob Christy's 18-year-old friend Frank Leslie Poulton, then living in Bristol, was gathering ferns and flowers near the south buttress of Clifton suspension Bridge, when he slipped and fell onto the rocks below, suffering injuries from which he died later that month. (Newscutting of inquest, Diary 26 April 1877).

The school year at Bootham comprised two terms: January to June and August to December. Bob Christy spent the holidays at Stevens, the family farm in Chignal St. James, near Chelmsford in Essex. He had been born there on 24 May 1861, the son of Robert Christy, and grandson of James Christy of Broomfield, an adjoining parish.¹² The family were Quakers long established in Essex. Robert Christy's sister Mary had married Joseph Smith of Great Saling, also in Essex. Their daughter Charlotte Fell Smith (1851-1937) was therefore Miller Christy's first cousin. She also became a distinguished writer on Essex, and in this work was associated with him in several ways.¹³

During term-time Christy's Diary often reported natural history information received from home, compared conditions in York with those in Essex, and recalled things that he had seen or heard in the holidays. A *King Dove* has occupied a *Turtle Dove's* nest. (10 August 1875). *Fieldfares* are called '*Fieldfliers*' in Essex. (28 August 1875). *French Partridges* are common at home (29 May 1876). A *Diver* had been caught on Springfield Hill, opposite Chelmsford gaol (7 December 1876). A pair of *Wigeon* had been taken in the Tillingham duck-decoy (20 November 1876). Christy occasionally received one or two birds from home. Among them was a *Teal* which had been shot in Springfield. He dissected its gizzard and then described the bird in great detail (16 November 1876). Cuttings from Essex newspapers are often pasted in the Diary. Four from the *Essex Chronicle* mention fruit-eating *Squirrels* at Birch Hall, and the shooting season in Dengie hundred, Leigh, and Tolleshunt D'Arcy (15 September 1876).

In the school holidays Bob Christy pursued his interests vigorously in and around Chignal, and occasionally as far north as Lindsell, where his family had a farm . . . (17 June 1876; 23 June 1877).¹⁴ At Broomfield 7 or 8 pairs of *Swifts* had been nesting for several years. 'People there called them "Skreek

["Screeching"] Owls" and I believe were half afraid of them.' (24 June 1876).^{14A} 'On the way through Stebbing I got a flower called *Wild Clary* or *Sage*. It grows by the road, and is much eaten by donkeys.' (6 July 1876). Stanford Rivers Hall farm, also the home of relatives, was visited at least twice (15 January & 25 June 1877).¹⁵ After the second visit Bob had tea at Ongar Park Wood farm:

In the Keeper's larder there were a *Royston Crow* & 2 old and 2 young *Carrion Crows*, these from a nest built that year in the wood, & 2 *Sparrow Hawks*. He had destroyed 3 nests that season. In his *Pheasant* enclosure were many pied ones, & while talking to him we saw a *Redstart*, & . . . he showed us a nest built close to his house in a hole in a cut down stub . . . only 3 inches above the ground . . . It contained 3 young birds nicely fledged . . . They were . . . light blue. Then he took us to a *Nightjar's* nest.

At Rollestons in Writtle, Bob Christy visited his friend Henry Corder, finding there many shells and ferns, a stuffed cock *Heron*, and several birds and nests (16 July 1877). After another visit to Rollestons he went on to Skreens Park in Roxwell. In the lake there:

We saw a young *Moorhen* which had caught its feet in the weeds. Also, we put up a male *Wild Duck* from . . . the bank, . . . a *Turtle Dove* . . . and some *Reed Sparrows*. In the lake are thousands of *A. Cygnea* [shellfish]. Of the two vars., I think one was a light green & a thin shell, & the other thick dark & slightly beaked. (9 July 1877).

A summer excursion passed near Fingrith Hall in Blackmore 'where the *Bupleurum Falcatum* grows . . . in vast quantities for about ½ mile. Some we got was over 3 ft. high.' (2 August 1877).¹⁶

Then I went on to Mr Patmore's at Fyfield, on whose farm the *Fyfield Pea* grows (*Lathyrus Tuberosus*). They said that they very often had people down to get it, but . . . it is increasing (2 August 1877).¹⁷

Bob Christy found the Chelmsford and Essex museum 'extremely fusty, but . . . it could present great curiosities.' It contained the last wild *Wolf* shot in Britain (near Ongar in 1862).¹⁸ The museum also had a *Chicken* with two bodies, a *Duck* with four legs, a fine collection of *Shells*, and a *Puss Moth's* cocoon in the leaves of a Bradshaw (20 July 1877).

During the school holidays Christy visited a bird-stuffer named Crick. 'He was stuffing a *Black Swan* shot at Writtle (16 June 1876). 'In Crick's . . . there was . . . a *Ring Ousel* & a *Pied Blackbird*, as well as a *Rough Legged Buzzard* shot at Nottingham (27 December 1876). 'The other day I got the body of the *Black Throated Diver* from Crick for 6d.' (1 January 1877). This man may have been identical with Joseph Crick, later a cricket-bat maker and tobacconist of 88 Duke Street, Chelmsford.¹⁹

Bob Christy hunted with the Essex Staghounds, which had kennels at Ingatestone.²⁰

The *Stag* was taken in a pond where it was turned off after a long run (6 January 1877) . . . Today, after a short run they took the *Stag* in Skreens Park, but they had to kill it because the dogs had injured [it] (9 January 1877).

Christy's schoolboy Diary rarely mentions archaeology, but his interest in the subject was

stimulated by William Gibbens, rector of the neighbouring parish of Chignal Smealy.²¹

The Rev. W. Gibbens showed me a *flint spear head* dug up in his garden (29 December 1876). Went up to Mr Gibbens' at Chignal Smealy . . . In [his] garden he dug up some time ago a *flint arrowhead* which he says was brought up when the foundation of the house was dug. He also had a small silver coin but we were not sure [when] that was dug up. (30 July 1877).

On 20 December 1877 Bob Christy finally left Bootham. On the same day, on the way home, he led a school party to Walton Hall in Sandal Magna, near Wakefield (Yorks.), former home of the naturalist Charles Waterton (1782-1865).²² He compiled a full account of the visit for the 'Naturalists Journal . . . the Organ of the Sociable Crossbeaks Club.'²³ The party was accompanied by Thomas Lister of Barnsley, a naturalist who had known Waterton. In 1877 the house belonged to Edward Hailstone, a lawyer of Bradford. He had invited the visitors to lunch, but he was away that day, and so at first, was Mrs Hailstone. When at last she did appear, it was only to provide a meagre supply of bread, cheese, sardines and apples, until the boys obtained more 'by various exertions at the bell-rope'. In the morning the party had explored the grounds of the Hall. The building stood on an island in a 25-acre lake. It had been built in the later 17th century to replace one demolished by Cromwell. Part of the old house survived as an ivy-covered ruin. Cannon balls had been found in the lake. Charles Waterton had planted yews and holly to attract birds, and had built an 8 ft. wall to keep out foxes and badgers. An old park-keeper described the species of geese and ducks. A heronry had been destroyed by Waterton's son. The boys learnt of Waterton's eccentricities and his love of practical jokes. They saw his grave, marked by a 6 ft. cross at the lake's edge.

After lunch the visitors toured the house, viewing Hailstone's valuable furniture, gold rings and lace, Waterton's observatory and his former chapel. Upstairs was a library of Yorkshire books. A small 'Blood and Murder Room' contained books on English trials. This had been Waterton's bedroom; he had slept on the floor wrapped in a rug, as on his travels in South America.

Bob Christy spent the evening of 20 December at Wakefield, visiting the poulterers. He found the town 'objectionable and uninteresting', with too many public houses. He concluded his account of the day with an account of Charles Waterton's life and work.

After spending the night at Wakefield, Christy went on to London, viewed the birds at the British Museum, and then completed his journey home. He remained at Chignal for the next two months, noting daily the weather and his sighting of birds, molluscs, plants, and animals. He went up to London to visit Leadenhall market (7 and 11 February 1878), visited Pleshey (18 January, 19 February), Fingrith Hall in Blackmore (18 February) and Chelmsford Museum (11 January), and went hare-coursing (10 January, 21 February).

Brighton

On 27 February 1878, at the age of sixteen, Bob Christy travelled to Brighton to start his working life. He remained there until 1 September 1879, except for seasonal holidays at home. His Diary does not mention his employment. It was probably in an office or, as later



Fig 2. Miller Christy's Journeys on Foot from Brighton 1878-9. Shown by Dark Lines. Scale 1 inch to 2 miles.

at Saffron Walden, in a bank. He thought Brighton 'miserable' (21 January 1879), 'an execrable hole where there are no walks or shooting or sketching to be got' (6 February 1879), and on departure 'left wretched Brighton . . .' (1 September 1879). Such complaints suggest occasional depression and homesickness. Although he seems not to have gone shooting from Brighton, he did a great deal of walking across the south Downs and beyond, including several pleasant excursions, while adding to his knowledge of natural history and archaeology. His Diary contains a map of his walks.²⁴

While in Brighton Bob Christy had rooms in Park Crescent (14 June, 10 August 1878). From there he ranged along the shore as far east as Newhaven and westwards to Worthing. The occupants of the Park Crescent house seem to have kept a boat at Southwick, from which Bob occasionally sailed in Shoreham harbour (1 November 1878, 20 June 1879). For this and other purposes he often visited Shoreham. One evening he went over to the saltings opposite Shoreham and Kingston.

The man who ferried me there said there were numbers of *Ring Dotrells* nests ('Sandals') there. The salts ought to interest a botanist more than anything, as plants numerous - *Sea Campion Thrift*, *Yellow Sea Poppy* &c. (23 June 1879).

Bob visited Shoreham saltings again four days later, noting, with sketches, that he picked up a *Boar Fish*, a *Needle Fish* and some *Spider Crabs* (27 June 1879). He made friends with Mr Swales, the Shoreham harbour master, who gave him a fine *Long-Eared Bat* found in Shoreham church (18 February 1879). He obtained from Nathaniel Short, the Shoreham pier master, an account of what he had seen about 3 or 4 a.m. on 24 February, of a huge meteor that had exploded near York (20 March 1879; and see 27 February 1879).

Bob walked across the Downs to Saddlescombe, four miles north of Brighton, at least 16 times between 13 July 1878 and 16 August 1879. He once received from Saddlescombe a *Long Eared Bat* (14 August 1878). Later he spent 'a delectable afternoon there' (5 January 1879). He saw 'The Great Wheel' at Saddlescombe, bringing up water from a deep well. It was 14ft. in diameter and was easily worked by one man. There was a similar one at Carisbrooke castle (I.W.), but few others now (17 May 1879). On one occasion Bob was driven to Saddlescombe after attending a Friends' meeting, presumably in Brighton (10 August 1879). All these references suggest that he had associates or possibly relatives at Saddlescombe who were also Quakers.

'A great day for me' introduces Christy's account of a visit to the *Parham Park heronry*, about 20 m. NW. From Brighton he went by train to Bramber, where he met 'E. Robinson and his two sisters' (26 April 1879). Robinson was Bob's companion on other occasions (e.g. 10 August 1879), and may well have been one of his Saddlescombe friends. From Bramber the party drove past Wiston, Steyning, and Washington to Storrington, where they lunched at the Half Moon inn. At Steyning they saw 'an old, disused and queer-looking Friends' meeting house.' Parham Park was then the seat of Lord Zouche. In the park was a large herd of deer. The *heronry* is fully described in the Diary.

In the following week Bob spent another 'most charming day' at Parham Park (4 May 1879). This time

he walked from Steyning station via Wiston Park, where he saw the Rev. John Goring's 'tiny & queer-looking Scotch cattle'. At Parham Park he picked up a couple of deers' antlers 'which we had feloniously stowed away about our persons to carry off.'

Among Bob Christy's excursions were at least eight to Lewes. On one afternoon trip he saw a female *Heron* in a poulterer's shop (31 August 1878: 'to Lewes again.') On another he watched blasting in a chalk pit (17 October 1878). He visited Lewes again on Bonfire Night to see the fireworks (5 November 1878) and described this annual 'Carnival' in the 'Sociable Grossbeaks "Naturalists' Journal"'.²⁵ On a later occasion he went round Lewes to Mount Caburn, past Glynde Place, 'residence of Mr Brand, present Speaker' [of the House of Commons],²⁶ to Ringmer church, then across the field to Barcombe, and south to Lewes (5 April 1879). Two months later, on Whit Monday, he was accompanied by R.W. Christy, probably a cousin, who was visiting him (2 June 1879). They viewed the ruins of Lewes castle, part of which contained the Sussex Archaeological Society's museum, in which he noted tombstone rubbings, an ancient British canoe, and Roman pottery. The tourists then went farther east, round Salmeston church, recently rebuilt. At Wilmington they met an old man with a sheep-washing pole. They saw the 'Long Man of Wilmington', cut in the turf, newly outlined in white brick.²⁷

Bob Christy's longest excursion took place on 4 August 1879, Bank holiday Monday. On this 'very pleasant day,' he travelled 25 miles north via St. Leonard's forest and Tilgate to Worth, where the church was said to be the oldest in Sussex. Then he went through the forest to Pease Pottage hamlet. Finally he explored Horsham, where 'in a place called Carfax we found fastened in the ground . . . an old ring about 5in. in diameter, in which, it was said, the bull used to be fastened in baiting times' (4 August 1879).

At Brighton, as before, Christy frequented the poulterers, noting 'hundreds of *Larks* (16 October 1878), '*Capercaillies*, probably Norwegian' (25 October 1878), a '*Pied Pheasant* . . . *Wild Ducks*, *Teal*, *Wigeon* and thousands of *Larks* . . . a *Meadow Pipit*, and a good sprinkling of *Common Buntings*,' one of which Bob bought for 2d. (31 October 1878). Later he reported the arrival of many *American Prairie Hens* at 2s. 8d. each (13 February 1879). He also visited Booth's Bird Museum in Dyke Road, watching live birds being fed: 'They caught the fish thrown to them most wonderfully. The man thought they would make good cricketers' (9 November 1878). At the Brighton Aquarium, Bob saw a *Whale*, washed up and killed against the rocks (26 June 1879), and a *Boarfish* (15 July 1879). He also attended the Dutch fish auctions on Brighton beach 'where fish are sold as landed, to London dealers & hawkers: *Mackerels* & *Herrings* mainly, & *Plaice*, *Turbot*, &c.' (19 July 1879, cf. 26 July, 2 August 1879).

During his months in Brighton, Bob Christy got into the habit of visiting churches. This may originally have been prompted by his interest in the *Bats* often found in their belfries (e.g. 7 June, 4 July 1879). Gradually, however, he began to note church architecture and furnishings. Over the porch of Poyning's church were the Poyning's family arms (26 October 1878). An outing to Lancing took in the church of Sompting, 'c.1150-tower pre-Norman' and that of Tarring, with the neighbouring fig-plantation; one fig-tree was said to have been planted

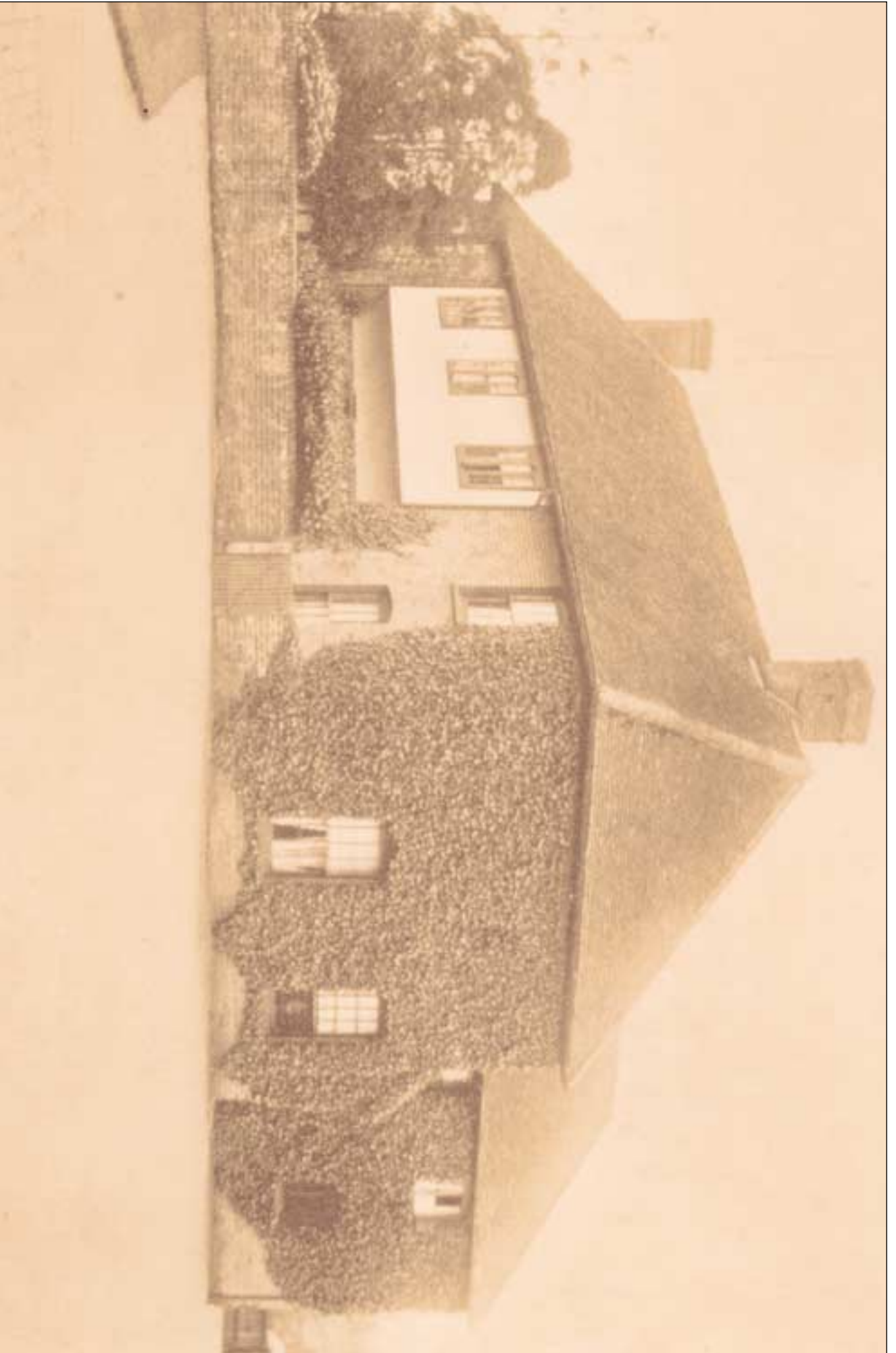


Fig 3. Chignal Hall, Chignal St. James. 19th Century Photograph.

by Thomas Becket (21 June 1879). St Michael's church, Lewes had a round tower, and a tombstone to Cordelia (d.1811), widow of William Longslow; while Barcombe church had a huge yew tree (27 July 1879). Preston church, in the northern suburbs of Brighton, had fine old frescoes. Patching church, viewed on the same evening, contained the tomb of Richard Shelley (d.1594) (11 July 1879). At Balsdean, a hamlet 4 m. NE of Brighton, was a former chapel now housing pigs (21 August 1879).

Christy's interest was also aroused by the Norman castle at Bramber (21 September 1878); a flint- implement factory near the Dyke, north of Brighton (29 September 1878); the cottage at Southwick where [in 1651] Charles II sheltered before escaping from Shoreham to France (16 October 1878); Hangleton Place, 'an old . . . house with many stone doorways and mullioned stone windows' (9 July 1879); and Hollingbury 'Castle', 'which is only a Roman camp' (23 November 1878).²⁸ In reporting antiquities, at that period Bob was sometimes credulous: 'Dr Harold of Porblade lent me an old Saxon brass. It bore the date 1072.' (11 October 1878). The Diary includes a rubbing of the brass, but adds a later caption: 'A Brummagen hoax!'

Bob attended a lecture on electric light by Mr Jago, at the Dome (5 December 1878); skated on Earl of Chichester's pond at Falmer (12 December 1878); and took his first bathe of the year' (18 July 1879). Active and confident, he made valuable friends during his time in Brighton. 'Met at the Free Library Mr Woodward from the British Museum, a great geologist. He brought me from the beach at Blackrock a very delicate *Starfish*,' (26 July 1878). On the following days he went with Woodward to Shoreham, Beeding, and Bramber (27 July 1878), and to the Dyke (28 July 1878). During the Christmas holiday he called on Woodward at the B.M., where he was introduced to Davies, an osteologist, and Butler, an entomologist (22 December 1878). Another new friend was Thomas Glaisyear, with whom, one evening, 'we examined with his microscope the hairs on the backs of birds' necks,' (13 March 1879).

During his stay in Brighton Christy spent four holidays at home in Chignal. His knowledge of antiquities was growing, 'At Boynton Hall . . . they have a small Roman pot dug up whilst land ditching on the farm,' (9 May 1878).²⁹ In New Street, Chelmsford, are two new houses, replacing a barn erected in 1731 with funds left in 1520 by William Davey to endow a charity for the poor (27 December 1878). The churches of Chignal Smealy and Chignal St. James have both been recently restored. The church of St. Mary once stood on the site, now called St. Mary's field, in Chignal St. James (28 December 1878).³⁰ At Chignal Hall, in Chignal St. James, the ancient moat is still visible. The old road past Chignal Hall to Boynton Hall is now partly lost (28 December 1878). On a visit to (William) Gibbens, rector of Chignal Smealy, Bob is shown an old confirmation cup, and makes a rubbing of a silver coin of James I. He is told that the church brasses were broken by Cromwell's men (12 April 1879).³¹ The old font from Chignal St. James church stands in the Rectory garden (13 April 1879). At Mill Green, Ingatestone, is the site of a medieval pottery (14 April 1879).³² Near it, are fragments of an ancient hermitage (Ibid).³³

As a countryman Bob Christy was interested in folklore and customs.

Enquired today regarding farm-workers' names for meals. Horsemen called breakfast 'dewbit'. About 11 they have 'beaver'. At 3 or 4 'dinner'. After going home they have 'tea', i.e supper. In harvest time 'beaver' is called 'levens', and dinner 'fours' (12 April 1879).

On 1 January 1879 Christy's Diary reported the annual meeting of the 'Sociable Grossbeaks club,' This was a natural history society which he himself had founded in October 1877. The members comprised two of his brothers, two cousins and a few young friends. He was the chairman, under the name 'Rusticus'.³⁴ The AGM was held at Rolleston in Writtle, the home of Bob's friend Henry Corder ('Dabchick'), who was the club's secretary. The *Sociable Grossbeak*, after which the club was named, is a foreign bird breeding in large communal nests.³⁵ On 14 April 1879 the club went on its usual Easter Monday excursion, this time to Writtle Park. It was dissolved in January 1881.³⁶

Acknowledgments

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The article has been put onto computer disk by Helen Coghill and has been read in proof by my wife Avril. Their continuing help is much appreciated.

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2. *Bootham School 1823-1923*, ed. F.E. Pollard (1926), p.45; illus. f.p. 52. Sir John Johnstone, Bt. (d.1869) of Hackness (Yorks.) was father of the first baron Derwent: *Complete Peerage*, iv, p.223.
3. *Bootham School 1823-1923*, p.145.
4. Note by J.E. Clark, 16 May 1930, attached to R.M. Christy's 'Diary of Birds, Animals, Ferns &c. 1875-7' at Bootham School.
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6. M.J. Wigham, 'Quakers in Irish Natural History and Medicine', *Occas. Pap. Bot. Natl. Gard. Glasnevin* 8, pp.1-10 (1996); G. Cantor, 'Aesthetics in Science, as Practised by Quakers in the 18th and 19th Centuries', *Quaker Studies*, 4 (1999), pp.1-20. These references were kindly supplied by Dr. Bridget Morris.
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10. On 27 Sept. 1876.
11. S. Moss, *A Bird in the Bush* (2004), pp.44-5. For British taxidermy today see *Radio Times* 20-26 August 2005.
12. *ER* xxxvii (1928), p.58; *E.A.T. NS* xix (1930), p.138.
13. W.R. Powell 'Charlotte Fell Smith', *Jnl. Friends' Hist. Soc. Vol.* 60, no. 2 (2005), pp.113-14.
14. *Kelly's Dir. Essex* (1886), s.v. Lindsell.
- 14A. But see O.E.D. s.v. 'Screech-Owl', meaning 'Barn-Owl', thought to be a bird of ill-omen.
15. *Kelly's Dir. Essex* (1886), s.v. Stanford Rivers.
16. For *Bupleurum Falcatum* (sickle-leaved Hare's Ear) see S.T. Jermyn, *Flora of Essex* (1874), p.111.
17. For the Fyfield Pea: *Flora of Essex*, p.84.
18. The wolf is thought to have been mistakenly imported with some fox cubs.
19. *Kelly's Dir. Essex* (1886).
20. For the Essex Staghouads: *V.C.H. Essex*, II. p.584 and illus. f.p. 582.
21. For Rev. W. Gibbens: *Kelly's Dir. Essex* (1886).
22. For Charles Waterton: *Oxford D.N.B.* (2004).

23. For this club see below. The account also appears in the 'Essays and Articles, 1877-80,' at Newham.
24. R. Miller Christy's Diaries, vols. II to IV (15 September 1877 to 30 June 1925), are in Newham L.B. Heritage Service, Resource Centre, Plaistow. Unless otherwise stated, the following account of his life is based on them.
25. For the 'Sociable Grossbeaks' Club's 'Naturalists Journal' see above.
26. Henry B.W. Brand (1814-92); Speaker 1874-82, later Viscount Hampden and Baron Dacre. See *Oxford D.N.B.*
27. Cf. *Sussex* (Little Guide, 8th edn. 1928), p.233.
28. But cf. op. cit. 142, 'called Roman on the Ordnance map, but much older.'
29. Boyton Hall Farm, in Roxwell, was occupied by relatives of Miller Christy: *Kelly's Dir. Essex* (1886).
30. Miller Christy, 'The Two Chignal Parishes', *E.R.* xxxii. p.57; *P.N. Essex*, p.246.
31. Cf. W. Lack, H.M. Stuchfield and P. Whittemore, *Monumental Brasses of Essex*, pp.142-4.
32. Miller Christy and F.W. Reader, excavated this pottery in 1914: *E.A.T. NS* xiv. p.49.
33. Bedeman's Berg in Writtle: *P.N. Essex*, p.278, cf. *V.C.H. Essex*, II. p.94.
34. Inf. from Essex Field Club.
35. *Shorter Oxford Dictionary*.
36. Inf. from Essex Field Club.

The Rise and Fall of the House of Olmius

By Michael Beale

Creation of the Estate

One fairly notable Essex landowning family, briefly holders of (anomalously an Irish) peerage, was that of Olmius, and remarkably little seems to have been written about them. Like many others, what attracted them to Essex seems to have been its proximity to London. Herman Olmius first appears in the later years of the 17th century as a 'trader in German goods' in the London city parish of St. Peter-le-Poer, where he evidently greatly flourished. In later papers he is said to have been descended from an ancient family of Arlon, which is now in the Belgian province of Luxembourg (separated from the Grand Duchy in the 1839 settlement which established the borders of Belgium.)

Prospering, he, like so many others, entered into the purchase of landed estate. The break-up of the Rich estate among several heirs meant that a substantial slice of land in the area between Chelmsford and Braintree was likely to become available as the nucleus of a new estate. What evidently first interested him was that part which had come into the hands of Lord Scarsdale. Olmius' first purchase appears to have been that of Moulsham Hall and of Fayrewood manor, in the parish of Great Leighs.¹ Morant does not specify the date: but Olmius followed this up by the purchase of Bishop's Manor, Braintree, also from Lord Scarsdale, in 1701.² In 1703 he purchased Cressing Temple, this time from the Davies family.³ But these were small acquisitions by comparison with the purchase in 1705 of the very large manor of Walthambury, the capital manor of Great Waltham, and of Chatham Hall bordering on Langleys, from the dowager countess of Manchester, another co-heir of the Rich estate.⁴ These estates immediately made him an important Essex landowner.

More was soon to come. Throughout the first half of the 18th century other properties in the locality – and a little further afield – were bought by members of the family. In 1705 Queen Anne sold Herman Olmius the rights and profits of Braintree Fair.⁵ Properties in Pattiswick, in White Notley and Felsted came into his hands. He acquired the advowson of Braintree⁶ and also, it would appear, of the parishes of Rayne and Little Leighs.

Herman died in 1718, but his eldest surviving son John maintained the family business and heightened his family's county profile. He also enlarged the family estate in 1727 by buying, again from the successors to the Rich estates, Patching Hall and Wood Hall in Broomfield.⁷ A younger son Herman lived at Warren House in Little Leighs and a third son Drigue had houses at London and Woodford. Defoe wrote in 1724:

There are in this part of the country (viz. around Witham) several very considerable estates purchas'd and now enjoy'd by citizens of London, merchants and tradesmen, as Mr. Western an iron merchant near Kelvedon.....Mr. Olemus (sic) a merchant at Braintree.....and several others.⁸

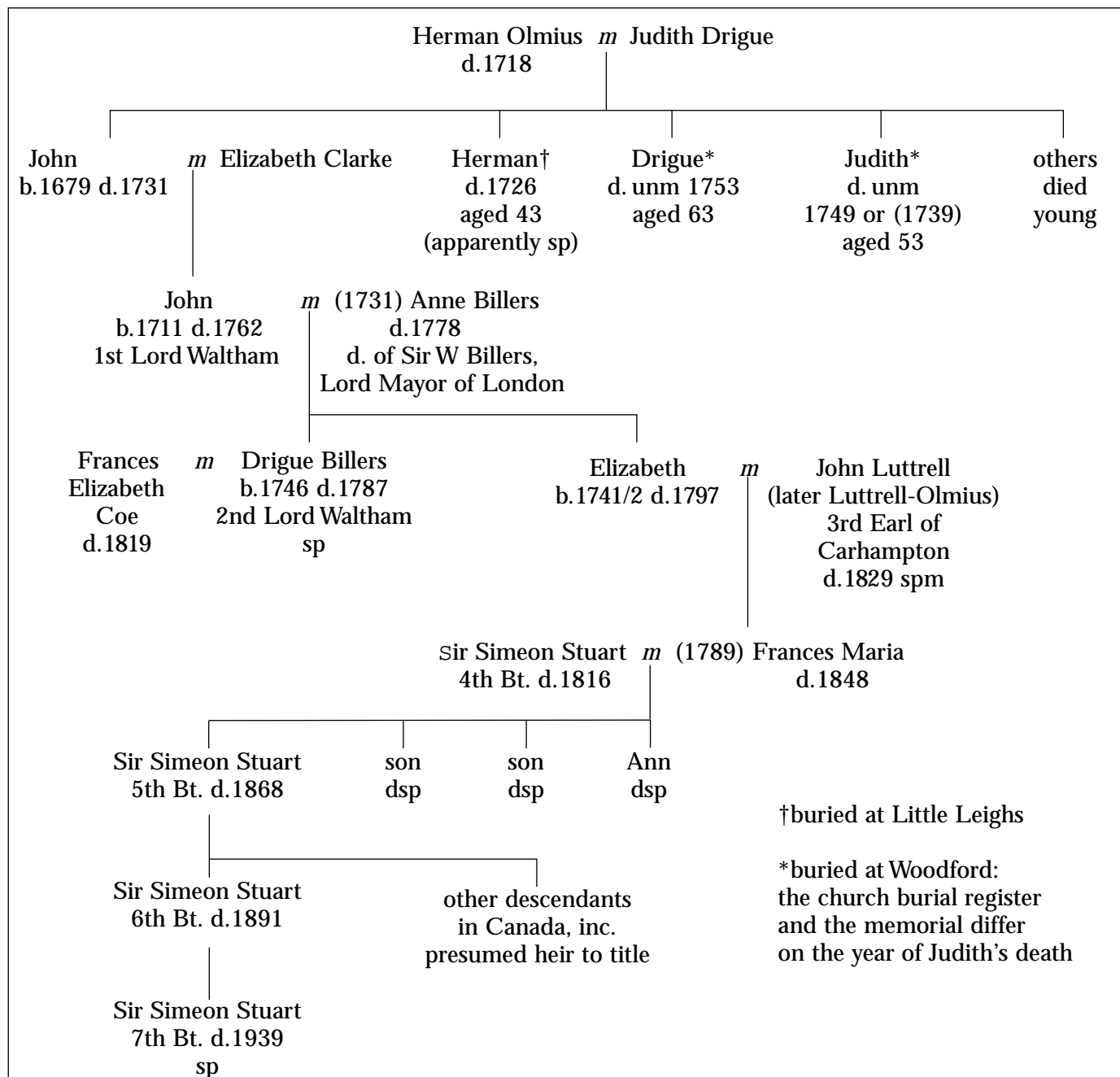
But the most significant of these later purchases of landed property was not from the heirs of the Riches. It was that of New Hall, Boreham. Benjamin Hoare, of an even greater and longer-surviving London banking family, acquired in 1726⁹ the reversion of the New Hall estate, to have effect on the death of the 'mad' Duchess of Montague, who had inherited it from her first husband, Christopher Monck, 2nd and last Duke of Albemarle, who had died in 1688 as Governor of Jamaica. She herself lived on to the age of 95 and only died in 1734, though the house had been neglected since even before Monck's death. It is thought that Hoare's original intention was to restore New Hall as his residence, but he had second thoughts and built as his residence Boreham Place on the opposite side of the main road (now owned by Fords) with its great lake-lined approach drive.

In 1731 John Olmius died, and was succeeded by his son, another John. John junior decided to do, in effect, what Hoare had considered and rejected. He bought the house, its outbuildings, the access drive and 591 acres of deer park (though not the whole of the parkland) from Hoare in 1737, demolished much of the house as unmanageable, and decided to rebuild the remainder, including the Great Hall, to be his family seat.¹⁰ Some further purchases to consolidate the estate in Boreham were also made, in particular of the Old Hall.¹¹

The Family in Public Life

As early as 1706 John Olmius senior had served as High Sheriff for the county; he also maintained his mercantile connections and became a Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. He also gained a seat in parliament for the rotten borough of Melcombe Regis.

John Olmius junior was, it seems, still more ambitious for a position in public life. In 1741 he was apparently successfully elected Member of Parliament for the Borough of Colchester, but the election was disallowed (presumably on grounds of corruption). Following on his father's tradition he served as High Sheriff in 1746. He was elected M.P. for Colchester in 1754, but was not re-elected in 1761 (it is not clear whether or not he stood for election). On 6 May 1762, having no doubt angled for it, he was awarded a peerage: but it was an Irish peerage, as Lord Waltham of Philipstown in King's



County. He had, so far as I can find out, no Irish connections. It may be that he wanted merely an Irish peerage because that would enable him to remain in the Commons: but he was no active parliamentarian, so this seems unlikely. It is considerably more likely that he was not yet thought worthy of a peerage which carried with it a seat in the Lords; there were numerous other cases of Irish peerages being given to men who, for example, had not severed their business connections, which were felt unfitting in a 'proper' lord. (The Vannecks of Heveningham, similarly placed, never gained more than an Irish peerage.) But speculation is futile: it certainly was for the new Lord Waltham, for on 4 October in the same year he died aged 51.

The Estate at its Height

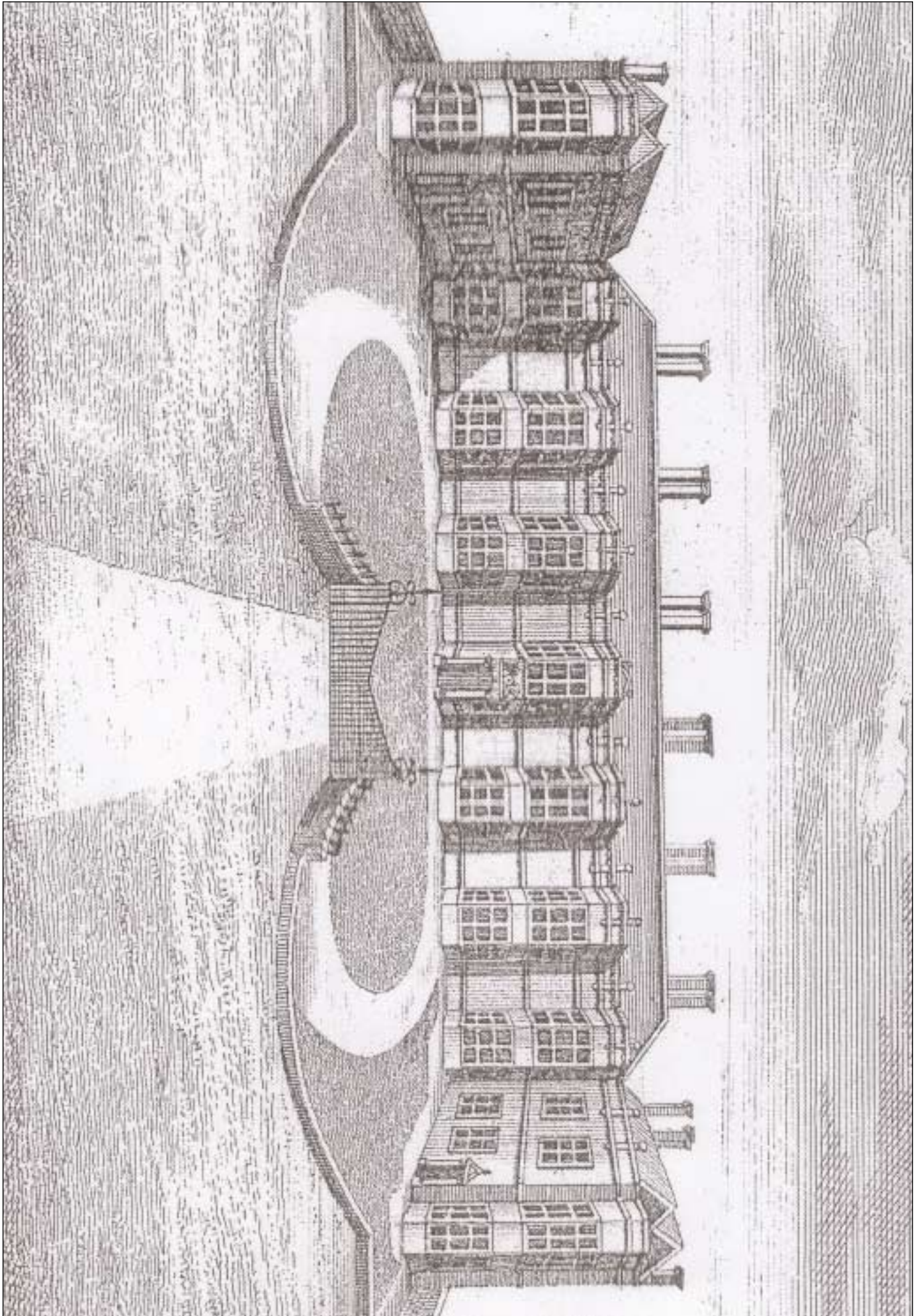
Chapman and Andre's famous map shows New Hall, with a very substantial park surrounding it, as the seat of Lord Waltham. But in 1769 Muilman as 'a Gentleman' in his *History of Essex*¹² waxed enthusiastic on the attractions of the house and estate. This is worth setting out in full:

The late Lord Waltham took down a considerable part of this great edifice, yet reserved sufficient of it to make a noble and commodious country seat for himself, to which he added several new offices.

The great hall I supposed to be the noblest in the kingdom. Upon the entrance of it the beholder is struck with its amazing grandeur: it is upwards of forty feet high, ninety in length and fifty wide.

Opposite to the grand entrance, is another door, which formerly led into a spacious court: over this are seen the arms of Henry the Eighth. They are done in basso relievo in free stone, and inimitably executed. The crown is of the most nice, and curious, sculpture: the supporters are a dragon, and a greyhound, with crowns over their heads: beneath is the following motto in old characters; (supported by a lyon and a hawk) from which we are led to conclude, that monarch made great additions to this noble building.

HENRICUS REX OCTAVUS, REX INCLIT. ARMIS
MAGNANIMUS STRUXIT HOC OPUS
EGREGIUM



The ground work of this elegant piece of workmanship is composed of the most delicate foliage: and the whole is enclosed in a frame of stone. The outside of it is embellished with warlike instruments, and military trophies agreeably displayed. It was beautified with the room at the time the present lord came of age. The ceiling at that time was richly adorned with curious stucco work, in the center of which are his Lordship's arms: at each end his crest; two other parts are adorned with cherubims represented as supporting the chandeliers. The whole is magnificent and admirably wrought.

The present right honorable possessor has improved the designs of his father, and is now laying out the gardens and park with such taste, as to render the situation delightful. He is making a noble sheet of water in the new gardens behind the house, and erected near it an exceeding good green house. He has likewise, at a considerable expense, added to the other buildings a new wing for stables, coach-houses etc., which being situated near the front, have a very good effect.

The avenue which leads from the great road to the house is near a mile long, and has double rows of lofty trees on each side. It is reckoned the finest in England, and gives an air of veneration to this desirable and magnificent mansion.

The Family (*see also family tree on p.55*).

The Olmius family were not prolific in heirs. Herman and his heiress Judith Drigue had numerous children, but they were survived merely by three sons, John, Herman and Drigue, and one daughter. Drigue and Judith died unmarried: their memorial is in St. Mary's Woodford. The younger Herman, whose wall memorial stands in Little Leighs church, died in 1726 and also seems to have had no descendants. In 1706 John married Elizabeth Clarke, but the one son who became Lord Waltham for so brief a time would seem to have been his only child. He in turn married Anne Billers, the daughter and heiress of a former Lord Mayor of London, and they had a son, Drigue Billers Olmius, and a daughter Elizabeth.

The son succeeded as the second Lord Waltham, and it was notably his improvements to New Hall (*see ill. on p.56*) which evoked Mulman's praise. He was elected Member of Parliament for the borough of Maldon in 1784, and held the seat until his death on 2 February 1787. There is no evidence that he held any other public position. He had married Frances Elizabeth Coe, a Mildmay grand-daughter, but died childless and his title became extinct. His widow lived on till 1819.

The daughter Elizabeth became the heiress: she had married John Luttrell, later to become the third and last Earl of Carhampton (also an Irish title), who added the name of Olmius to his own. Elizabeth Luttrell-Olmius died in 1797: the only child of the marriage, a daughter Frances Maria, married Sir Simeon Stuart Bt. in Woodford in 1789.

On the death of the first Lord, the family had constructed at the south-west corner of Boreham churchyard an octagonal building, about 64ft. in circumference with a tiled roof in white brick and stone. This was a large mausoleum, (*see fig. on p.58*) whose design was based on the famous Temple of the Winds in Athens. In it were the tombs of the two Lords Waltham, the two dowager Ladies Waltham and of Elizabeth Luttrell-Olmius. It stood deteriorating and used as a store for coal for the church for many years, until in

1935 the Parochial Church Council decided that this use was unfitting for a burial place. But, with the war ensuing, this only meant that the mausoleum had become useless and unsafe, and a faculty was granted for its demolition in 1944.

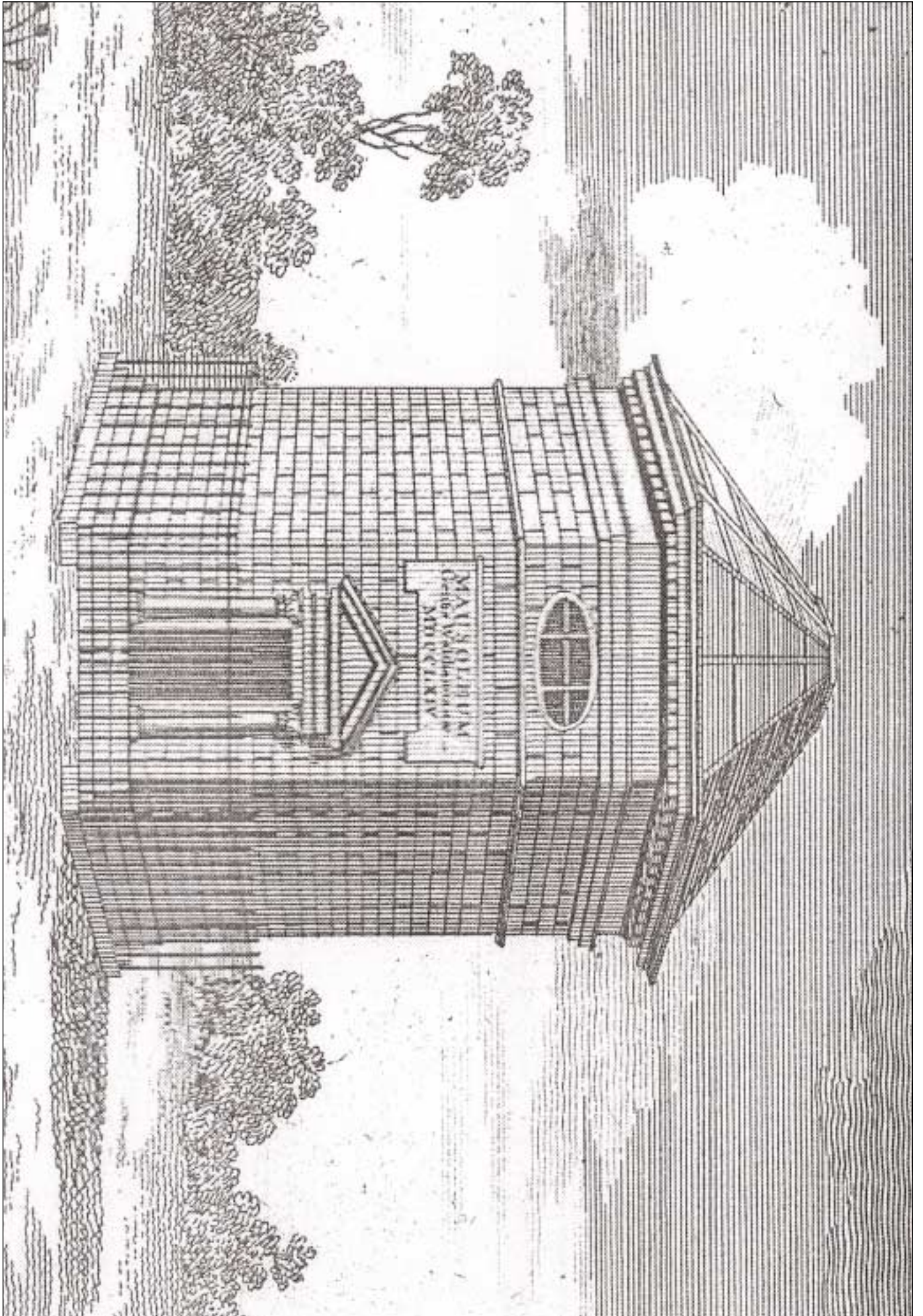
The End of the Estate

The largest of the agricultural holdings was the great manor, largely unenclosed, of Walthambury. Even during the second Lord Waltham's time, by at the latest 1776, a substantial part of the copyholders' rights in this land had passed to the neighbouring estate of the Tufnells of Langleys. One may speculate that this was to raise funds for the improvements to New Hall. Subsequent deeds show clearly that this had happened with his knowledge and consent: a deed of 1781 gave John Jolliffe Tufnell an interest in three-quarters of the manor, subject to the rights of any children of Lord Waltham.¹³ Since there were none, it was to be expected that after his death his heirs should agree to sell the manor, and such other rights as still pertained to them in Walthambury to Tufnell, and this was completed in December 1793, the year before Tufnell's death.

Much of the rest of the estate was sold by the Luttrell-Olmius' family in those years. They retained for themselves the deer park (New Hall park): other parts were sold off to the Wolford and Round families.^{14 & 15} But not all of the estate was sold at that time. White's *Directory* (1848) shows that Cressing Temple remained in the hands of Capt. Stuart (*a Luttrell-Olmius descendant, see genealogical table*) and Lady Stewart (this could well be a spelling mistake for Stuart) as non-resident Lady of the Manor of Moulsham Hall, Great Leighs, one of the Olmius family's earliest Essex purchases of land.¹⁶ Cressing Temple remained in the hands of the Stuart family until a later Sir Simeon Stuart had to dispose of the lands following his bankruptcy in 1881.¹⁷ None the less he was still shown by Kelly as Lord of the Manor of Broomfield in 1890.¹⁸

The greatest problem was that of the house. Luttrell-Olmius had to seek a tenant or purchaser, but such a house with a large park but little productive land was an encumbrance. The problem was however neatly solved by the side-effects of the French Revolution. English Roman Catholic communities of monks and nuns, whose predecessors had taken refuge in France or the Low Countries from persecution in England, were now in their turn moving back to England, among them the Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre, a teaching order of nuns who had made their home in Liege. In 1794 they had found it impracticable to continue to live so near to revolutionary France. They moved temporarily to Maastricht, and thence to Rotterdam, where they took ship to England. After residing in other temporary accommodation in London and elsewhere they were enabled through the generosity of a Mr. McEvoy, the brother of a member of the community, to find and to buy the deteriorating house of New Hall at £2,000 for the house and a further £2,000 for 58 acres of grounds. In January 1799 the purchase was duly effected, the purchaser being their Prioress, Bridget Clough, and a Declaration of Trust between her and 43 other women, no doubt the members of the community, was signed on 9 March 1799.¹⁹

There they have stayed ever since, though their one-time community house, where the nuns worshipped and also ran a small private school for a relatively few Catholic girls from well-to-do families, has been



enlarged to become in recent years a full-scale boarding and day school for several hundred girls. The Great Hall has stayed at its centre, serving now as an impressive chapel where the nuns and the schoolgirls attend daily Mass – as on Sundays and feast days do many also from the general public. The Royal Arms which so impressed Muilman are still there, and were recently restored with aid from the Essex Heritage Trust. Much else has changed, with the massive new estates built at Springfield abutting on the school's land, and more is likely to change soon, since the teaching staff at the school is now nearly all lay.

Acknowledgments

I am most grateful to many for their assistance in bringing these facts together, though the conclusions are my own. I should particularly like to thank:

Mrs. Eleanor Burgess and her colleagues in the Boreham Histories Project Group for their permission to use information extracted from *About Boreham* (1990) and *More about Boreham* (1996).

The Community of the Holy Sepulchre at New Hall for the sight of documents held by them and for the use of extracts from their booklet on their history (*From Then to Now*: 1992).

Mrs. Sarah Micklem of Langleys for her great kindness in giving me access to her family papers and also her great knowledge of the history of her house and of her Tufnell ancestors.

Mrs. Pat Ryan for her studies of the history of Cressing Temple, and to Mrs. Ursula Myers (Woodford Historical Society), Dr. Julian Litten and Dr. James Bettley for their help.

Also to the Essex Record Office for their help.

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An Epiphany East Window and Maimonides

By the late James Sunnocks

After the end of the Great War of 1914/18 the family of Ernest Arthur Lazarus Barlow gave the parish church of St. Edmund King and Martyr, at East Mersea an east window celebrating the feast of the Epiphany. At the top, scarcely visible from the ground, is a small 'hand of God'. Below this are the four seraphim, six angel musicians and then a large depiction of the Holy Family with the shepherds and the three magi. The artist was Thomas Curtis (1854-1924) and the glass was made by Howard Burkin O.B.E.

Ernest Arthur (1855-1914) was the son of John Barnett Lazarus (1824-1904). He was born a member of the Jewish community on 15 May 1824 in Grottingen in Courland, now Latvia. He became a Christian and was disowned by his family and fled to London, where he was baptised into the Church of England. He was later ordained priest, and served as a Chaplain to the Forces in the Crimean War and later joined the Church Mission to Jews. On 29 September 1853 he married Martha Barlow at St. Jude's, Whitechapel.

Lazarus claimed to be a descendant of Maimonides through 22 generations. Moses Maimonides (or to give him his Arabic name Abu Anoran Musa) was a Spanish Jewish philosopher and physician born in 1135 at Cordoba – then a great Arab city as the mosque, now the cathedral, shows so clearly. He settled in Egypt in 1165 and became Court Physician to the great and chivalrous Saladin who led the Arabs in the Crusades against Richard the Lion-Heart. He was a great thinker who devoted his life primarily to the work of Aristotle and its relationship to the Jewish scriptures and the Talmud, and in medicine one of the first to go beyond the work of Galen and the medical practice of the classical world. His most famous work is the *Guide to the Perplexed*. As he saw it the road to perfection and immortality is the

path of duty and as prescribed in the Law of God, and translations of his work were read by, and much influenced, St Thomas Aquinas, Duns Scotus and the other medieval schoolmen.

The children of the Rev. J.B. Lazarus adopted their mother's maiden name of Barlow with varying degrees of formality. Martha Barlow was the niece of Sarah Trimmer, who was a friend of Dr. Johnson and a writer of children's books. Sydney Smith described her as 'A lady of respectable opinions and very moderate talents defending what is right without judgment and believing what is holy without charity'.

Of his sons, Ernest Arthur was the manager in England of three branches of a French bank. He lived at Smith's Hall, East Mersea. Walter Sidney (1865-1950) was educated at the City of London School and Downing College, Cambridge. He was a leading worker in cancer research in his day and Professor of Experimental Pathology at London University and Middlesex Hospital, writing a number of noted medical publications. He lost an arm as a consequence of some of his experiments. He lived at Coverdale, West Mersea. Both brothers in turn won the Mersea Flower Show, competing among others with the then Vicar, the Rev. R. Dunn, in the years 1909, 1910 and 1912.

Walter Sidney had a son Percy, who was a consultant pathologist to the Hastings hospitals. He had a daughter, who went to the United States and a baby son who was buried at East Mersea. Ernest Arthur's only surviving child was a daughter Edith, who married a Mr. A.E. Snook, but no descendants are now known.

Such is the story of a much-valued east window set alongside remains of medieval glass recovered from the churchyard after the depredations of the Roundheads.

Book Reviews

EDWARD de VERE (1550-1604): The Crisis and Consequences of Wardship. by Daphne Pearson. *Ashgate* 2005 ISBN 0 7546 5088 X. 263pp. ill.

A.L. Rowse, the famous historian of the Tudor age and its personalities, described Edward de Vere, 17th. Earl of Oxford, as '....a gifted aesthete....self-indulgent and quarrelsome, hopelessly extravagant, in the end perhaps a little mad'. Prejudiced, of course, especially as he deplored the attribution of Shakespears's work to de Vere by the so-called Oxfordians. But he was not far wrong, for de Vere was not an adornment to that glittering age. Nor was he a particularly influential figure, except locally in north Essex, and hardly a commendable example of personal dignity and responsibility. However he and the complicated vicissitudes of his life as a ward of the Crown have provided the author with the basis for a brilliant study of the topic noted in the sub-title.

At twelve years of age Edward de Vere was the inheritor of a vast estate and numerous lordships in Essex or immediately adjacent to it. He was a scion of what Macaulay described as 'the longest and most illustrious line of nobles that England had seen'. By the time he died intestate he had squandered most of his inheritance, its wealth, estates and personal authority. Daphne Pearson argues convincingly that the regulatory and inhibiting aspects of wardship on his life was at least as much to blame as his personal inadequacy for his incompetent management of his inheritance and personal affairs.

Wardship was a relic of the complicated web of feudal relationships. This study explores its nature and significance, and the manipulative management by the Crown's administrators, notably de Vere's father-in-law, Robert Cecil himself, of the formal responsibilities and liabilities that flowed from the status of wardship. The texts are thus inevitably burdened with esoteric detail. Although complicated legal, social and financial matters are explained with admirable clarity, they are not susceptible of simple expression. This book is not so much a biography as a technical evaluation of the subject of wardship in an otherwise privileged man's life.

Researched in comprehensive detail, assessed with objective judgment and informed perceptions, this is a definitive study: not of a life, but an evaluation of a very difficult and obscure process and its disastrous effect on one of its victims' life and circumstances. Advertised as 'more than simply a biography' it is not one: nor is it an easy read. It is not for the general reader expecting an engaging and compelling account of a notable Tudor personality and his involvement in the vagaries of Elizabeth's court and the major events of her time. But students and professional historians will be richly rewarded. They will also be grateful that the main texts are most usefully complemented by a number of transcripts of key documents, tabular detail, extensive footnotes, an exhaustive bibliography and an ample index. The illustrations are modest but there is a good typeface.

Although some readers might have expected it, the author does not allow herself to be drawn into the arid and tedious controversy concerning the authorship of Shakespeare's plays. Rather, this book is a superb work of scholarship, replete with knowledge and informed

insights, and thus essential reading for the serious study of an important socio/legal of the Tudor period. The dust wrapper does not reveal the price, but whatever it is, it is worth it.

Kenneth Neale

★ ★ ★

WITCHFINDERS: A Seventeenth Century English Tragedy. By Malcolm Gaskill. *John Murray.* 2005 ISBN 0 7195 6120 5. 354pp. ill. £20.

Witchfinders is an excellent book for anyone interested in the great East Anglian witch-hunt of the mid 17th century, its causes and consequences. Whatever your background knowledge you will find this well written and well presented book a fascinating and highly informative read. Gaskill does however, on occasion, over dramatise by embellishing the historical fact to add emotion to the narrative in order to make it more lively and readable.

The highly informed account opens by clearly and dramatically setting the background against which the infamous witch-hunts took place. Gaskill describes the political chaos and uncertainty caused by the Civil War: a period when brother killed brother. Into this chaotic mix we can add plague, disease, extreme poverty and the religious upheaval that grew out of the reformation. These are set against a social background describing the rituals and beliefs current at the time, which produced a blurring of the natural and supernatural worlds. The result for the people of East Anglia was turmoil, with secret doubts and desires surfacing from the depths of their consciousness. Ordinary people who had never really thought about such things now pondered upon the dividing line between body and soul in order to describe how they understood their existence.

Into this turbulent world came omens of the Apocalypse, visions appeared in the sky, monstrous births were reported and, to many, it was the end of days. For ordinary folk it was witches that reflected the reality of the impact of political crisis on the life and mood of the nation. They considered Satan to be abroad in every shire and if evil could be seen as a tangible destructive force it could also be challenged and defeated.

Such was the world in which the infamous witchfinders of East Anglia, Matthew Hopkins and John Stearne, found highly fertile ground on which to operate, seething at the evil in their midst. Gaskill tells the early life story of Hopkins as this helps give an insight into what motivated and drove him to persecute suspected witches which such fanaticism and zeal. All the major and lesser well known witch trials are described in detail. The result is probably the best description of the trials available in one publication and a study that is a testimony to the thoroughness of Gaskill's research.

We learn that Hopkins' persecution of witches began in the Manningtree area and then spread through north Essex, into Suffolk and across East Anglia, reaching as far west as Northamptonshire. Stearne and Hopkins used a variety of methods for the detection of witches most notably the drawing of blood, searching for teats

and the infamous ordeal by water. Interestingly, in many of the witch trials Hopkins' name is hardly ever recorded, his prime intention was to set others to work before moving on; that way the fruits of his labours were great, the risk of censure light.

By 1646 witch-hunting had exceeded what could, even in that highly-charged atmosphere, be regarded as a tolerable degree of self policing and the tide was turning against Stearne and Hopkins. Hopkins himself was eventually accused of witchcraft, and his motivations were questioned as were his methods for extracting confession particularly through sleep deprivation and swimming. By the time of Hopkins' death in 1647 the persecutions had all but finished. But in less than two years between them Hopkins and Stearne, exploiting the anxiety and lawlessness of the times, had terrified hundreds of prisoners into confessing and sent scores to the scaffold.

As the author rightly points out, belief in witchcraft did not die out after the episode of the witchfinders but has continued in many parts of Essex up to the present day. Mention must be made of Victorian 'cunning' men such as Murrell of Hadleigh and Pickengale of Canewdon. Neither must we forget that the witch-hunts of the period 1560-1680 were by no means confined to the north of the county. Contemporary records reveal that witches were indicted throughout the county with particular hotspots around Hatfield Peverel, Burnham, Chelmsford, Barking and Danbury.

Mark Curteis

★ ★ ★

WASN'T IT EXCITING! by A. Stuart Mason M.D., F.R.C.P. *London: Royal College of Physicians.* 2004 ISBN 1 86016 206 1. 224 pp., illustrated. £10.00 inland, £12.00 overseas, post and packing included (soft cover).

Adair Stuart Mason M.D., F.R.C.P. was a physician and endocrinologist. After qualifying at The London Hospital and subsequent war service, he established his home at Gidea Park near Romford, and was a Consultant at both The London and Oldchurch Hospitals. He was the founding editor of no fewer than three medical/academic journals, and also found time to write books on endocrinology and clinical method. But his interests were far wider than these professional pursuits, becoming an expert on the history of the Royal College of Physicians long before he retired. In later years, he became the expert on Essex estate maps, and was Assistant Editor of *Essex Journal* from 1990 until 2003. The Essex Record Office published his *Essex on the Map*, and readers will be familiar with his contribution 'A measure of Essex cartography' in *Essex: Full of Profitable Things*. Among many Essex studies, 'Summer Camps for Soldiers 1778-1782' focussing on Great Warley near Brentwood, won the national Local History Award of the British Association of Local History. His last article in this journal appeared posthumously in 2003. Perhaps uniquely, Stuart Mason (which is how he signed his name) occupies two eminent places in Essex history. Firstly, he, himself, is part of the of the history of science and medicine in Essex. Secondly, Dr. Mason was the pre-eminent expert on surveying, estate management and the maps of Essex.¹⁻⁵

The undisclosed editor of this book has reprinted a selection of Stuart Mason's writings that fully represent his wide interests and expertise. The four main sections concern themselves with medicine, the history of the Royal College of Physicians, Essex maps, and more general vignettes of medical history. All are easily accessible, even to a non-medical audience. The section on Essex maps will probably be of greatest specific interests to the readers of *Essex Journal*, and the introduction to this section by Jennifer Butler adds to it greatly. But all sections of this book will pique the interests of those with general historical interests. Biographical sections on Stuart Mason are also included.

Whether dealing with ignorant medical students (like me), or with neophytes in Essex history (again, like me), Stuart Mason was never presumptuous. Doubtless, this book could only have been published posthumously, although one naturally wonders whether the author himself would have made the same selections (in the unlikely event that he could have been persuaded to do so at all). Moreover, these public documents reveal nothing of Stuart Mason's private life, except in a small part of the transcript of an interview that he granted to the Harveian Librarian at the Royal College. Thus, his *penchant* for horse-racing is entirely absent, his family features very little, and his deeply-held christian faith is confined to a single paragraph, which includes the statement "I say to bishops that I am a non-conformist Roman Catholic."; one can just hear him saying that. If the remains of Jeremy Bentham are described as an auto-icon, then I suppose this book can be described as the *auto-festschrift* of a true gentleman.

We shall not again see the likes of Stuart Mason (9 December 1919 – 23 August 2003). This book is a worthy memorial to him.

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Tony Fox

★ ★ ★

PEOPLE AND PLACES OF HARLOW 1900-1975. by Douglas Beard. *Friends of Harlow Museum.* 2005 95pp. ill. Available from the publisher (Tel: 01279 454959). £6.50.

A manuscript written in two Woolworth's exercise books and donated to Harlow Museum some thirty years ago or so recently came to light and has proved to be an unexpected mine of history on the history of Old Harlow. Transcribed by Brenda Miller and produced as a book by the Friends of Harlow Museum, it has been illustrated with a profusion of pictures and prints to provide a street-by-street account of the area from 1900 to the early days of the New Town in the post Second World War period.

The author, Douglas Beard (1903-87) was the son of Walter Beard, a former Epping Rural District Council

Building Surveyor, who lived in Harlow with his family from 1909 until his death in 1955. After attending Churchgate St. School and St. Mary's College in the town, Douglas Beard studied theology at Cambridge University and became an Anglican priest. As his book demonstrates, although he thereafter lived elsewhere, and was vicar of St. Mary's, Worcester, from 1934 until his retirement in 1975, he kept in close touch with events in his home town. His connections were supplemented by those of his wife Evelyn, who also came from Harlow. Her father, Herbert George Mace, was active in the Harlow community and gained a reputation as an expert on bees, on which he published several books.

Making good use of his knowledge, Douglas Beard wrote a survey of the town, covering churches, schools, public houses, places of work, homes and practically every other feature in meticulous detail. It also provided information on a sizeable number of the inhabitants. As a result one may now walk round the Old Town with the book open at the appropriate page and identify a large number of the older properties, with the names and activities of a succession of their former residents.

Like most towns comparable in size, Harlow had its private residents of all classes, its professional workers, its traders and craftsmen. Among these were colourful personalities, and those who achieved distinction in many different walks of life.

William Coleman, a barge owner, Baptist, Liberal Parish Councillor and strict teetotaler, insisted on being served with a temperance drink at communion and threw a bottle of beer, about to be drunk by his employees with their lunch, into the river. Sam Deards, a gas fitter, builder, inventor, captain of the Fire Brigade and a staunch Conservative, was his sworn opponent. Both had relatives who played prominent roles in the town and also figure in the book.

Mr. Spurgin, a retired butcher who lived the life of a gentleman, interested in yachts, horses and dressage competitions, shocked townspeople by being taken into charge for drunk and disorderly conduct. Col. Neville Marshall of New Road, described as a soldier of fortune, won the V.C. in the First World War but was killed just before the armistice.

This book makes it possible to envisage Harlow as it was before the New Town, and to make the acquaintance of the residents who once walked its streets. It is a fascinating survey which is of interest to all devotees of Essex history, but particularly to those who have Harlow connections.

Stan Newens

★ ★ ★

ROBERT SURMAN of VALENTINES. Georgina Green. *Friends of Valentines Mansion* 2005 ISBN 0 551172 0 8. 36pp. ill. Copies from Mrs. Cherry Hooker, 115 The Drive, Ilford IG1 3JD enclosing cheque or p.o. for £5 per copy (inc. postage) payable to the publishers.

Georgina Green's researches on the history of Valentines have called substantially on the work of the late E.J. Erith and, building on these, she has been able to reconstruct the interesting life of Robert Surman (c.1693-1759), who owned the Ilford mansion from 1724 to 1754. He was Deputy Cashier of the South Sea Co. at the time of the 'South Sea Bubble', the complexities of which are admirably clarified by Mrs. Green. As nephew of Robert Knight, one of the prime movers, he was closer to the action than his modest formal office would suggest.

He found himself in some trouble, but in the event was only a little singed by the scandal, and contrived to emerge a fairly wealthy man. He had the resources and the standing to set up his own bank and continued to flourish until an obscure bankruptcy ruined him in the last years of his life.

The house has been much changed since his day so we cannot learn much of his contribution to it. But his connections with the Childs of Wanstead Hall, and the other less ostentatiously wealthy local families add much to our knowledge of gentry life in those business/professional circles in Georgian times.

M.B.

★ ★ ★

VOICES: an oral history of Buckhurst Hill in the 20th. Century. Rory Worthington (editor). *Monkswood Press*. 2003 ISBN 6 906454 09 3. For sale from Buckhurst Hill Parish Office, 62 Queens Road, Buckhurst Hill IG9 5BY. (Cheques only, payable to J.R. Worthington: £12.50 or £14.50 inc. p&p.).

Oral history is a useful supplement to more formal historical studies because it tackles subjects which are otherwise neglected, and originates from the voices and memories of ordinary people.

There is no general history of Buckhurst Hill, which anciently was in Chigwell parish, but which developed rapidly after the coming of the railway in 1856, so this 190-page volume of memories is a most useful addition to local literature and contains lots of amusing anecdotes and interesting colour.

The problem with *Voices* is its editing. Oral history is very valuable, but people's memories are unfortunately rather fallible, particularly in relation to exactly when a certain event occurred.

This can be countered by editing. *Voices* cannot be thought accurate - for instance the Methodist church is said to have closed in the 1960s, when it actually lasted until 1980. And nobody seems to have realised the church and the Wesleyan chapel were one and the same. The account of the formation of the Chigwell Urban District Council is wrong and Winston Churchill is said to have retired as the Buckhurst Hill M.P. in 1946 when, in fact he continued to 1955. The genesis of Epping Forest District Council is mixed up with Chigwell U.D.C.'s successful efforts to keep out of the Greater London Council a decade before. And whereas it might technically be possible to take a paddle steamer up the Lea to Clapton, I suspect this is simply a mis-transcription of 'Clacton'.

All this the editor should have picked up and footnoted, while keeping the integrity of the story as told by the teller. Nevertheless, it was a valuable exercise to get this little volume together, because it documents quite a bit which would otherwise remain unrecorded, but don't rely on it as absolutely accurate history!

Chris Pond

[This is an edited version of a review that first appeared in the Spring 2005 edition of 'Think Loughton' included here by his kind permission].

★ ★ ★

Alan Godfrey Maps (of Prospect Business Park, Leadgate, Consett DH8 7PW) have published another reprint to add to their series of old Ordnance Survey Maps. This is of Chipping Ongar 1915, reduced from the scale of 1:2500 to 1:4340 (15" to a mile). The price is £2.20 from the publisher.

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(inclusion here neither implies nor excludes a future review)

LOCAL HISTORY SINCE 1945. by Lionel Munby et al. *Socialist History Society Occasional Paper no. 21.* 2005 ISBN 0 9537742 8 7. 56pp. £3.00 (see editorial on p.36).

REMEMBERING ROMFORD. by Brian Evans. *Sutton.* 2005 ISBN 0 7509 3856 0. £12.99.

JOHN RAY (1627-1705): Pioneer in the Natural Sciences. by Malcolm Bryan. *John Ray Trust.* 2005 ISBN 0 9550150 0 6. £6.75.

THE GREATEST IS CHARITY. by Andrew Reed. *Evangelical Press.* 2005 ISBN 0 85234. 432pp. (A biography of Douglas Reed, philanthropist and teacher, of Buckhurst Hill). £16.95, from the publishers, Grange Cross, Faverdale, Darlington DL3 0PH.

HUMPHREY REPTON'S MEMOIRS. edited by Ann Gore and George Carter. *Michael Russell.* 2005 ISBN 0 85995 29 50. 160pp. £15.95.

RAINHAM & WENNINGTON Memories. Cecilia Pyke. *Tempus.* 2005 ISBN 0 7524 3671 6. 127pp. ill. £12.99.

FRONT-LINE ESSEX. by Michael Foley. *Sutton.* 2005 ISBN 0 7509 4260 6. £12.99.

RAYLEIGH: a History. by Ian Yearsley. *Phillimore.* 2005 ISBN 1 8607 7355 9. £15.99 (hardback).

A GRIM HISTORY OF ESSEX. by Neil R. Storey. *Sutton.* 2005 ISBN 1 7509 3842 0. £14.99.

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(b) M. A./Diploma in Local and Regional History.

The History Department runs M. A. and Diploma schemes in Local and Regional History. These concentrate on the history of Essex and Suffolk but also explore some of the wider issues surrounding the subject. Schemes comprise taught modules, a Summer School, and a dissertation, and can be taken full-time in one year or part-time in two, or by credit accumulation over 3-5 years. Much of the teaching is done in the evening.

For further details contact the Graduate Secretary, History Dept., University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ (Tel: 01206 872302) or e-mail gsechist@essex.ac.uk or look at the History Dept. website (<http://www.essex.ac.uk/history/>).

University of Essex History Department offers a new Certificate Course and M.A.'s by full-time, part-time and evening study. **Open Evening:** Thurs. 19 May 6.30-8.00pm. Telephone: 01206 872190 for details.

The University of Essex Open Studies Programme will be closed with effect from Sept. 2005 on account of the Government funding regime.

Opportunities for Future Study at University Level

Both the University of Cambridge and the University of East Anglia have substantial continuing education programmes covering the same range of subject areas as the Open Studies programme.

Their courses are run at a large number of venues, many of which may be accessible to students formerly studying with the University of Essex. They also offer a range of general and subject-specific Certificates and Diplomas which may offer routes to continue an interest in a particular topic. The University of Cambridge also runs a range of weekend residential courses at Madingley Hall.

Both institutions would be pleased to send information on their programmes and details can be found on their websites.

University of Cambridge

University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education
Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge CB3 8AQ
Tel: 01954 280280 www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk

University of East Anglia

Continuing Education
University of East Anglia
Norwich NR4 7TJ
Tel: 01603 593266 www.uea.ac.uk/contedu

ESSEX PLACE-NAMES PROJECT

The Ninth Annual Place-names Seminar will take place in Saffron Walden on Saturday, 12 November 2005 at 2.00p.m. The Guest Speaker will be Dr. S. Oosthuizen, Ph.D., of Cambridge University who will speak on "The Place-names, the End of Roman Britain and the Mercian Kingdoms". There will also be talks by Local Recorders. Tickets price £5 (payable to "E.S.A.H.") are obtainable from the Project Recorder, 27 Tor Bryan, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9JZ. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

PLUME LECTURE

Chris Thornton and **Brenda Watkin** on *The Excavations at St. Osyth.* 7.30p.m. on Sat. 26 Nov. at All Saints church, High St., Maldon. Admission free.

THE ESSEX HISTORY FAIR
BRAINTREE
SUNDAY 25 JUNE 2006

ESSEX RECORD OFFICE

(Wharf Rd., Chelmsford unless otherwise indicated).

2005 Programme

- 24 Oct.-5 Nov. *Conjurations, Inchantments and Witchcraftes.* Exhibition and day-school (29 Oct.) on the history of witchcraft in Essex and further afield.
- 12 Nov. /10 Dec. Introductory Searchroom Tour. 10.00am.
- 14 Nov. Welcome to the Essex Record Office. 2.00pm.
28. Nov.-3 Dec. Record Office staff will be at County Hall with display to explain E.R.O. facilities.
- 23 Dec. *Get Crafty at Christmas:* Family event.

You are advised to book the tours - (Tel: 01245 244644).

The 2006 Programme has still to be finalised. Details will be available from Debbie Peers (Tel: 01245 244677).

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL: Historic Buildings & Conservation Traditional Building Skills Courses 2006

- 26/27 Jan. *Lime Plaster, Run Mouldings and Pargeting* (inc. lecture on 27 Jan. which may be attended separately).
- 16/17 Feb. *Repair and Conservation of Historic Joinery* (inc. lecture on 17 Feb. which may be attended separately).
- 9 March *Brick Arches: repair and conservation.*
- 10 March *Brick Arches: Tour* (guided tour of brickworks and of historic town).
- 5/7 April *Stone Repairs* (inc. lecture on 7 April which may be attended separately).

27/28 April
10/12 May

Thatch.

Timber Frame Repairs (inc. lecture on 12 May which may be attended separately).

25/26 May
14/16 June

Wattle and Daub.

Flint Walling (inc. lecture on 16 June which may be attended separately).

Fuller details, including locations, prices and application forms from Pauline Turner at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1QH. (Tel: 01245 437672 - Fax: 01245 437213 - Email: pauline.turner@essexcc.gov.uk).

WEA - (Essex Federation)

Autumn one-day School Summer School - to be held 26 Nov. at the Feering Community Centre, Coggeshall Rd., Feering. Topics:

Nelson's Navy - tutor: William Tyler.

Heraldry (Every Coat of Arms Tells a Story) - tutor: Myra Wilkins.

Music at the Movies - tutor: Prof. Chris Green.

Fee £8.50 (concs. £8.00): free parking nearby: tea/coffee and biscuits available, but please provide own lunch. Book by post only stating chosen topic (one only) to Mrs. B. Dyer, 6 Cross Lane, West Mersea, Colchester CO5 8HN. Enclose s.a.e. if receipt desired. Further information if needed from Ron Marks (Tel: 01376 561627).

For information on planned course for Spring 2006 and other Federation information please refer to the WEA Essex Federation website: www.wea-essex.org.uk.

Museums and Places to Visit

Colchester Museums

CASTLE MUSEUM

High Street Colchester

Tel: 01206 282939

Open Monday-Saturday 10.00am-5.00pm, Sunday 11.00am-5.00pm (last entry 4.30pm). Admission £4.00 adults, £2.80 concessions, family tickets available at cheaper rates.

Largest Norman Keep in Europe, superb Roman displays, hands-on activities and daily tours of the Roman vaults, castle roof and Norman chapel. Saxon, Medieval and prison displays. Many special attractions and events for children.

HOLLYTREES.

High Street, Colchester

Tel: 01206 282940

Opening hours are the same as the Castle Museum. Admission free, but charges are made for some activities. Hollytrees' museum shows how the lives of Colchester people, including the past inhabitants of Hollytrees House, have changed over the last 300 years. Discover how technology has transformed our domestic lives and play with Victorian toys. There will also be a doll's house of Hollytrees showing the furniture and building as it was in 1881.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

All Saints Church, High Street, Colchester

Tel: 01206 282941

An interesting perspective on the local natural environment from the Ice Age up to today. Admission free. Same opening hours as Castle Museum.

TYMPERLEYS CLOCK MUSEUM

Trinity Street, Colchester

Tel: 01206 282943

A fine collection of Colchester-made clocks displayed in this restored late 15th century house. Admission free. Same opening hours as Castle Museum, but closed on Sundays.

Southend Museums

CENTRAL MUSEUM

Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 6EW

Tel: 01702 215131

Open Tuesday-Saturday 10.00am-5.00pm. Entry free.

An Edwardian building housing displays of archaeology, natural history, social history and local history, telling the story of man in his changing environment within the south-east Essex area. The 'Discovery Centre' will include four sections: historic photographs of south-east Essex through a computer base, a video microscope for coins and natural history and topic tables for schools.

Southend Planetarium is situated on the first floor of the Central Museum. Shows from Wednesday to Saturday, at 11.00am, 2.00pm, 4.00pm. Please telephone for bookings and further details. This is the only Planetarium in south-east England outside London.

PRITTLEWELL PRIORY MUSEUM

Priory Park, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea

Tel: 01702 342878

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am-1.00pm and 2.00-5.00pm. Entry free.

The remains of a 12th century Priory with later additions. It now houses displays of natural history, medieval religious life and a nationally important display of the history of radio and television. Adequate car-parking within the grounds.

CHELMSFORD & ESSEX MUSEUM

and ESSEX REGIMENT MUSEUM

Oaklands Park, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford CM2 9AQ

Tel: 01245 615100. Fax: 01245 262428

For times of admission etc. please see inside front cover.

Special Events and Exhibitions 2004/5

8 Oct. - 6 Dec. *'Kismet McHardy'* - Chelmsford Sailors and the Sea.

10 Dec. - 15 Jan. Wildlife Photographer of the Year.

THURROCK MUSEUM SERVICE

Central Complex, Orsett Road, Grays RM17 5DX

Tel: 01375 385484

Open Monday to Saturday (Bank Holidays excepted) 9.00am-5.00pm. Admission free.

SAFFRON WALDEN MUSEUM

Museum Street, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1JL

Tel: 01799 510333

The Museum is open on Mondays-Saturdays from 10.00am-4.30pm, and on Sundays and Bank Holidays from 2.30-4.30pm. Cost of admission £1.00: discount tickets (retired etc.) 50p: children (18 and under) free.

Special Exhibitions 2005/6

12 Nov. - March *Silk Cotton and Fur* (the life of a Chinese family through fabrics).

COALHOUSE FORT

Coalhouse Fort at East Tilbury is owned by Thurrock Unitary Council but leased to the Coalhouse Fort Project, whose members carry out maintenance work and open it for guided tours to the public. It was constructed between 1861 and 1874 as part of the renewal of coastal defences undertaken by Palmerston. It is situated in pleasant landscape alongside the Thames, with a car park and toilets close by.

The Fort is closed in Winter but will be open again to the public on Easter Monday 17 April and thereafter on the last Sunday in each month to 26 September and on Bank Holiday Mondays (plus occasional special events) from 11.00am to 5.00pm (last entry 4.00pm). Normal open day admission charges are adults (16-59) £3: senior citizens £2. Children under 16 are admitted free *but must be accompanied by a responsible adult*.

Contact point for parties desiring to visit etc.: Ken Levy (Tel: 01375 677764).

THOMAS PLUME'S LIBRARY

Thomas Plume's Library, Market Hill, Maldon (registered charity no 310661) is a remarkable example of an endowed public library, founded by Thomas Plume, Archdeacon of Rochester, in 1704. It contains about 7,000 books, the considerable majority of them brought together by him, on the upper floor of the disused church of St. Peter's and represents the library held by a scholar of his day. The Trustees and the Friends of the Library make it their business to maintain the collection and, so far as possible, replace the relatively few which the ravages of time and of borrowers have caused to be lost from the original lists.

It is open free for visits and reading from 2.00 to 4.00pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 10.00 am till noon on Saturdays. It may be opened at other times by previous agreement with the Librarian. For reasons of safety there are not permitted to be more than about eight people together on the library floor at one time.

BRAINTREE DISTRICT MUSEUM

Manor Street, Braintree

Tel: 01376 325266

Open Mon-Sat. 10.00am-5.00pm. Enquire for Bank Holiday opening hours. Admission £1.00 (50p concessions) to residents in Braintree District; £2.00 (£1.00 concessions) to those outside.

THE VESTRY HOUSE MUSEUM

Vestry Road, Walthamstow, London E17 9NH

Tel: (020) 8509 1917

This is the Community History Museum of the London Borough of Waltham Forest, only a few minutes' walk from Walthamstow shopping centre and set in the former workhouse, built c. 1730. It contains the Local History Library and the Archive for the Borough.

It is open Monday-Friday 10.00am-1.00pm and 2.00-5.30pm Saturdays 10.00am-1.00pm and 2.00-5.00pm. Could those wishing to consult the Archive please make a prior appointment by telephone.

UPMINSTER WINDMILL will open in 2006 from 2.00 to 5.30pm for guided tours on the following dates: April 1/2, 15 and 16.

UPMINSTER TITHE BARN, AGRICULTURAL & FOLK MUSEUM will be open from 10.00am to 5.30pm on April 1/2. It will also be open on Bank Holidays.

Both these are owned by the London Borough of Havering but are opened under their authority by the Hornchurch & District Historical Society. Entry to both is free.

The Barn was built of oak about 1470, near to Upminster Hall (now a golf clubhouse). It is full of agricultural and domestic items all cleaned and maintained by members of the Society.

The Windmill was built in 1802/3 and is a smock mill with boarding, brick roundel and fantail fitted to the cap. The interior workings remain intact since it was last operational in 1935. Guides give visitors a thorough conducted tour lasting 45 minutes explaining how it worked.

Members of the Society are willing also to open both to Society and school and other parties by mutual agreement at other times. Please enquire of P. Butler (Tel. and Fax.: 01708 447535).

County Historical and similar Societies

ESSEX SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

2006 Programme

- Sat. 25 March *Provision for the Aged Poor in Essex* by Jane Pearson. 7.00pm. The Chapel, Winsleys, Old Heath Rd., Colchester.
- Sat. 29 April Guided walk round Mistley with talk by Local History Group. 2.00pm. Mistley Towers.
- Fri. 19 May Morant Lecture. *Development of Railways in Essex* by Adrian Wright. 7.30pm. Cttee. Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford.

For further information please contact the hon. Membership Secretary (Miss Ann Turner, 1 Robin Close, Great Bentley CO7 8QH) or the hon. Excursions Secretary (Mrs. Pat Ryan, 60 Maldon Road, Danbury, CM3 4QL - Tel: 01245 222237).

ESSEX SOCIETY FOR FAMILY HISTORY

2005 Programme - Chelmsford

Meetings are held monthly (except in August) at the Essex Record Office, Wharf Rd., Chelmsford. Parking nearby. Research Room and bookstall opens from 10.30am. Computer Group meets at 10.30am. Tutorials 12.30pm. Main meeting at 2.30pm., with a short break for tea, for which donations invited.

- Sat. 19 Nov. Local Registration: Chelmsford Registry Office.
- Sat. 10 Dec. *A light-hearted look at cemeteries* by Michael Ashby.
- 2006
- Sat. 21 Jan. *An Introduction to DNA & Family History* by Chris Searl.
- Sat. 18 Feb. *Kill or Cure: Medicine in the 19th cent.* by Lady Teviot.
- Sat. 18 March *Going on Holiday? - How Holidays Began* by Louise Read.
- Sat. 8 April *People at the Margins: Essex Highwaymen and Smugglers* by William Tyler.

- Sat. 20 May *Illegitimacy* by Dr. Ruth Paley.
- Sat. 17 June *Dating Old Photographs* by Jean Debney.
- Sat. 15 July *The Villages of East London* by Peter Lawrence.

In addition to the meetings at Chelmsford the North-West Essex Branch holds monthly meetings at Saffron Walden Library at 8.00pm on the second Thursday of the month. The North-East Essex Branch holds meetings at the Cardinal Vaughan Hall, Priory St., Colchester on the first Saturday of the month at 2.15pm (doors open 2.00pm). The South-East Essex Branch meets at The Avenue Baptist Church Hall, Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea on the first Saturday of the month at 2.45pm (doors open 2.00pm). The West Essex Branch holds meetings at St. John's Arts and Recreation Centre, Market Street, Old Harlow normally on the first Saturday of the month at 2.30pm.

For further information please contact the hon. Secretary, Mrs. Ann Church (Tel: 01206 863857).

ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONGRESS 2005/6 Programme

- Sat. 5 Nov. **Archaeological Symposium** at the Central Library, Victoria Ave., Southend-on-Sea. 10.00am-4.00pm.

2006

- Sat. 25 March **Local History Symposium** 'Raindrops and the Raging Sea' (Essex and Water), Christchurch, New London Road, Chelmsford. 10.30am.
- Sat. 14 May **Annual General Meeting** at Clacton-on-Sea. 10.00 for 10.30am. (Further details later).

For further information please consult the hon. Secretary, Mrs. Pauline Dalton, Roseleigh, Epping Rd., Epping CM16 5HW. (Tel: 01992 812725/ email: pmd2@ukonline.co.uk) or the hon. Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Wendy Hibbitt, 2 Green Close, Writtle CM1 3DX (Tel: 01245 421653/ email: wendyhibbitt@hotmail.com).

**THE FRIENDS OF HISTORIC ESSEX
2005/6 Programme**

- Sat. 10 Dec. Concert at Ingatestone Hall (for members and friends only). 7.30pm.
2006
Sat. 8 July **Annual General Meeting** at Feering Community Centre. 2.00 for 2.30pm.
For details of membership etc. please see back page.

**HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
Essex Branch 2005/6 Programme**

- Sat. 5 Nov. *James VI and I, the Gunpowder Plot and the Religious Tensions of Early Stuart England* by Dr. David Smith, Selwyn College, Cambridge.
Sat. 3 Dec. *Trafalgar to Waterloo* by Lt. Cdr. David Harris (formerly Commanding Officer, H.M.S. Victory).
2006
Sat. 7 Jan. Members' Meeting (at our Chairman's House: 6.00-8.00pm).
Sat. 5 Feb. *Daily Life in Ancient Egypt* by Dr. Miriam Stead, Essex Record Office (at the Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford).
Sat. 5 March *Munich and Appeasement* by Philip Bell (at the Record Office, as above).
Sat. 13 May **Centenary Celebration** (see below).

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, and will commence at 2.30pm. Could those attending all meetings in the Committee Room please arrange to arrive at the Atrium 15 mins. early for security reasons.

Visitors and prospective members warmly welcomed: a £2 donation is requested.

Enquiries to the hon. Sec. Mrs. Barbara Windsor, 11 Butlers Close, Broomfield, Chelmsford, CM1 7BE.

ESSEX GARDENS TRUST

For further information please consult the hon. Secretary, Lance Lepper (Tel: 01245 400284) or the hon. Membership Secretary, Vanessa Stopford (Tel: 0208 674 1416 - Email: v.stopford@ukonline.co.uk).

THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES

Annual minimum membership subscription: £15 individual, £25 family. Holds annual September Bike Ride in aid of Essex Churches, and other events. Hon. Membership Secretary: Keith Gardner, Pink Cottage, Curtis Mill Green, Stapleford Tawney, Essex RM4 1RT (Tel: 01708 688576/ email: keith.gardner@care4free.net).

Study Days will be Wed. 3 May and Sat. 7 Oct. 2006. Venues still to be decided. Enquiries to Mrs Marion Scantlebury, Parvilles, Hatfield Heath, Bishops Stortford, Herts. CM22 7AT (Tel: 01279 731228).

**ESSEX SENIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2005/6 Programme**

- Tues. 1 Nov. *The Castles of Edward I* by Neil Whiffen.
Tues. 6 Dec. *The History of Marconi 1874/1937* by Peter Turrall.
2006
Tues. 3 Jan. Programme to be announced.
Tues. 7 Feb. " " "
Tues. 7 March " " "
Tues. 4 April " " "

The Society meets at 10.30am in the Lecture Theatre of the Essex Record Office. The meetings are open and free to all but a charge of 50p. is made for tea/coffee and biscuits.

**THE FRIENDS OF THOMAS PLUME'S LIBRARY
2006 Programme**

- Sat. 11 Feb. **Plume Feast:** Maldon United Reformed Church. 7.30pm.
Sat. 20 May **Annual General Meeting** at The Octagon, St. Mary's church, Maldon. 7.30pm. Speaker to be announced.

The Friends of Thomas Plume's Library (reg. Charity no. 1098311) was formed in 1987 to support and assist the Trustees of the Library in all aspects of the preservation and conservation of books and accessions to the Library. Enquiries about membership should go to the hon. Membership Secretary, Dr. Ken Aberdour, 9 Riverside Maltings, Bridge St., Coggeshall CO8 1NP.

**WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP
2005/6 Programme**

- Mon. 14 Nov *Under the Bandages - the Science of Mummies* an illustrated talk by Paul Clifford, British Museum.
Mon. 12 Dec *The Saxon Monastery of Leominster - the 2005 Excavations* an illustrated talk by Bruce Watson, Museum of London.
2006
Mon. 13 Feb. *Smelting and Casting: more about Ancient Metallurgy* an illustrated talk by Paul Craddock, British Museum
Mon. 13 March Annual General Meeting and Presidential Address by Harvey Sheldon (7.30pm).
Mon. 10 April *Dead Creeks: Funeral Images* an illustrated talk by Richard Woff, British Museum
Mon. 8 May Rudge Memorial Lecture: *The London Temple of Mithras 50 years on* an illustrated talk by John Shepherd, University of London (8.00pm at the Assembly Hall, Woodford County High School).
Mon. 12 June *Under London's Streets* an illustrated talk by Denis Smith, Birkbeck College.

All meetings, unless otherwise stated, at 7.45pm in the Sixth Form Unit, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green. For further details please telephone: 020 8989 9294.

CELEBRATION OF HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION'S CENTENARY and HISTORY IN ESSEX

**ESSEX RECORD OFFICE
SATURDAY 13 MAY 2006**

Day of Lectures to be arranged jointly by the Historical Association,
the Centre for Local History at Essex University and the Essex Record Office

Further details will be available later

Help to support the
Essex Record Office
by joining the
Friends of Historic Essex

You will:

- Have the opportunity to be involved in special projects in the Record Office, such as helping to preserve some of the vital raw materials of Essex history.
- Receive regular newsletters and free copies of 'Update', the Record Office bulletin of accessions.
- Receive a discount on Essex Record Office publications.
- Meet other people with historical interests at occasional talks and seminars especially geared towards new researchers, and at other special events.

**Join the Friends of Historic Essex, and help support
one of the best county record offices in England.**

Please send your cheque for *at least* **£5.00**
(but a larger amount is especially welcome)
to the Hon. Membership Secretary:

Ms Katherine Schofield
Membership Secretary, Friends of Historic Essex
c/o Essex Record Office
Wharf Road, Chelmsford CM2 6YT