

Essex Journal

SPRING 2004

A REVIEW OF LOCAL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY



KENNETH NEALE

CAPTAIN SWING

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ESSEX JOURNAL

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The 'ESSEX JOURNAL' is now published by and is under the management of an Editorial Board consisting of representatives of the Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress, the Friends of Historic Essex, the Essex Record Office (on behalf of the Essex County Council) and the Hon. Editor. It was recognised that the statutory duties of the County Council preclude the Record Office from sharing in the financial commitments of the consortium.

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, Mr. W. H. Bowyer.

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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 the middle of August 2004. 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.

Message from the Lord Lieutenant

The County of Essex has a fine tradition of chroniclers and historians who have researched and recorded the topography and history of the county. The names of Morant, Round, Addison and Emmison spring most immediately to mind but that is far from being an exhaustive list. Kenneth Neale, in particular, fully deserves a place in that pantheon and so it is very fitting that the Essex Journal should have chosen to devote much of this issue to a celebration of his work.

The list of Ken's own publications over the years, which makes up one part of this tribute, is impressive enough, but of equal value has been his self-effacing work as a facilitator of the work of others, exemplified by his leadership of the Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress and, for many years, of the Friends of Historic Essex. It was this latter period of office which saw the creation of the fine new Essex Record Office in which he played

an influential role, his bringing to a successful conclusion Derick Emmison's magnificent Essex Wills series and his editorship of the sequence of festschrifts in honour of Derick, Sir William Addison and Sir John Ruggles-Brise. Nor should we overlook, even in a publication such as this devoted to Essex topics, Ken's long and extremely distinguished service to this country and to the Council of Europe in matters of penal theory and practice.

Now that he has retired from what is, in effect, his second career, he continues to work with equal effectiveness, albeit on a rather smaller canvas, in the Heritage Sampford project, and I welcome this opportunity to wish both him and Dorothy, his devoted and loyal helper in all his enterprises, a long life of continuing achievement which is, to borrow his title for the festschrift for Sir John, 'full of profitable things'.

Petre

New Homes for Essex

It now looks as though we are faced with a yet further unwanted and - despite all that Government says - unnecessary increase in the Government programme for new houses in the county. The County Council has already meekly caved in to the demand that we should programme for a ridiculous provision of 110,000 new homes in the next 20 years: it would have done better to use what guts it has to fight the Government on that figure rather than accept cuts in valuable heritage and environmental services to the county as it is.

But now the East of England Regional Assembly (despite its name a completely unelected body) has seen fit to up this figure to 131,000 to avoid annoying those counties that are part of the real 'east of England'. Another thing we had said here a long time ago was how completely futile, unnecessary and inappropriate for an ancient kingdom like Essex was membership of such a body (and were it elected it would be only marginally less objectionable). It has taken an even shorter time than I had foreseen to prove how actively harmful to our dear county is our enforced participation in this 'Assembly'.

★ ★ ★

Stansted

As we had all - except perhaps the most innocent and trusting among us - expected, the Government has made known its support for the proposal to go ahead with the second runway, unwanted by virtually everyone, and likely to do irreparable harm to that one more-or-less unspoilt section of the county. The harm it will do directly to Hatfield Forest, to the Gardens of Easton Lodge, and much else in the county is wanton, and the indirect harm from the inevitable consequential urban, transport and other

infrastructure development will make a bad situation yet worse.

We have written about it here and elsewhere, and there seems little point in doing so yet again. Those who would like to take a more active part, whether by financial support or direct action, may like to get in touch with:-

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★ ★ ★

English Heritage Grant for Chelmsford Cathedral

The cathedral has been awarded a £25,000 grant by English Heritage for an automatic fire detection system. A system of smoke detection is to be installed to cover the entire cathedral, including the soon-to-be-completed new vestry and education room. It is hoped that the new system will be in place by March or April.

In total the sum of £105,974 has now been awarded to it under the English Heritage cathedral grants scheme, which was launched in 1991 to help to clear a backlog of repairs to English cathedrals.

★ ★ ★

The Warner Archive returning to Braintree

The Heritage Lottery Fund has also done well by the Warner textile archive: Warners, the top silk designers, were at Braintree until 1971 and some of their textile archive has remained on loan at the Braintree & District Museum. Jean Grice of the Museum has been

campaigning for the return of the archive as a whole to the listed Warner's Mill in Braintree. With the help of £1.9m. from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £250,000 from the Clothworkers Foundation this will now be done. The collection includes over 80,000 fabrics and designs which will be on view to the public for the first time ever.

There will be an educational programme with opportunities for hands-on experience for children, computer links with the Record Office, video footing of the mill when in use and recordings made by former workers.

★ ★ ★

Hylands Park, Chelmsford

We have felt that Essex has been ungenerously treated, by comparison with neighbouring counties, by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Now a grant for £3.25m., the biggest ever for Essex, and which, with the Warner grant above goes at least some way to right the balance, is to be made to Chelmsford Borough Council for restoring the design of Humphrey Repton, the great Essex landscape gardener, for Hylands park. The total cost of the garden restoration is estimated at £5.4m.; it is due to start this summer and be completed by 2007. It will bring the total cost of the restoration of the great house and garden at Hylands to over £10m. The top floor of the house still remains to be restored.

No doubt if the work had been put in hand in the 1960's, when Mrs. Christine Hanbury, the last private owner of Hylands, died, and it was bought by the Council's predecessor, it would have been far cheaper on any calculation of costs. For most of the meantime it was left as a decaying white elephant and a disgrace to the county town. But it is better to congratulate the Council on their tardy realisation that it was a fine

house and a valuable open space, and when all the money has been spent it will be a great asset to the town and county. The house has now for some time been in use for major events, and has shown its usefulness by standing in for the White House for a recent film. The gardens have brought in hundreds of thousands of visitors, pre-eminently for the pop concerts and the annual Bank Holiday Spectacular, but numerous other big events are planned.

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Painting by Eric Ravilious

A painting called Hull's Mill and featuring the River Colne reached £30,000 at auction and is to go to the Fry Art Gallery at Saffron Walden. It was purchased for the Gallery with the aid of contributions from the National Art Collections Fund and the Victoria and Albert Museum purchase fund. At Saffron Walden it will join other paintings by Ravilious and by the Great Bardfield artist Edward Bawden. Ravilious lived at Castle Hedingham: he was killed on active service as a war artist in 1942, and the paintings and designs which he left are fetching increasingly high prices.

★ ★ ★

The Portable Antiquities Scheme comes to Essex

A voluntary scheme for recording archaeological finds by members of the public is coming to Essex, with the arrival of the new Finds Liaison Officer, Caroline McDonald.

Archaeologists and metal detector users have welcomed the new post, which covers the whole administrative county. She will report both to Colchester Museums and to the Heritage Conservation Branch of the County Council. With their support she hopes to widen recording of archaeological objects for a national database created by the Portable Antiquities Scheme. Appropriate information will also be added to the Essex Heritage Conservation Record, which means that researchers, from amateurs through to the County's planning officers, will have several ways of accessing these valuable data.

In her new role Caroline is already working closely with metal detector users and local societies and is keen to record all archaeological objects found by the public. As well as this, she hopes to hold event days around the county so that people can have 'hands on' experience of archaeology and to learn why it is important that we record our past. She can be reached at Colchester Museums Resource Centre on tel. 01206 282929 or at carolinemcdonald@colchester.gov.uk.

Essex has joined a long list of counties that now have their own dedicated Finds Liaison Officer recording objects, and it is hoped that by recording with the Portable Antiquities Scheme the public can make a real and important contribution to their own local archaeology. It will also help to establish a unique and powerful research resource that will also be available to future generations.

★ ★ ★

It is interesting to note, as a side comment in Stephen Hart's book on round-towered churches, briefly reviewed on p.25, that the Bishop of Pisa took part in the consecration of Bardfield Saling church in 1380. On the face of it, a remarkable tribute from the ruler of one of the world's most famous round (as well as leaning) towered churches to another less well-known one. But sadly one has to think of a more probable explanation, inspired in part by Christopher Starr's recent article. Pisa was controlled by Florence, and Florence looked heavily and expectantly to Sir John Hawkwood and his condottieri for its defence. So what more natural that, when for once Hawkwood was back home in Sible Hedingham, the Florentines should have sent one of their bishops to dance attendance on him, and no doubt periodically report back to Florence. The good Bishop no doubt enjoyed a day out, being made much of in the deepest Essex countryside and the busy Bishop of London could strike out this chore, and the travelling it entailed, from his diary.

★ ★ ★

As part of the caption to fig. 1 on p.45 of the autumn issue I should have noted that it was a *Drawing by T.F.White taken from Essex V.C.H., vol. V, p.120 by permission of the Executive Editor.* My apologies for this omission.

Essex Archives Users' Group

A new Essex Archives Users' Group has been set up following concerns for the future of the Essex Record Office.

Last summer Essex County Council announced its decision to discontinue the post of Heritage Services Manager, formerly the County Archivist. This role has now been absorbed into a new post of Heritage Arts and Sports Manager, and the Archive Service Manager is running Archive Service at the Essex Record Office.

These management changes gave rise to widespread fears that the County Council, faced with unprecedented financial pressures, was about to reduce the quality of service of what has been widely regarded over half a century as the leading local record office in the country.

The new Group brings together representatives of all the major organisations concerned with the county's history. The Essex Societies represented are the Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress, the Essex Society for Archaeology and History, the Essex Family History Society, the Friends of Historic Essex, the Victoria County History Appeal Committee, the Essex branch of the Historical Association, the Essex Gardens Trust and the Herts and Essex Architectural Research Society. Together they represent around 22,000 members involved in the protection and study of Essex history and heritage.

At a meeting with County Councillors shortly before Christmas, representatives of the new Group sought assurances for the future of the Record Office. County Councillor Kay Twitchen, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Heritage, Culture and Sport, reassured them that the Council remained firmly committed to the future of the Record Office, a service of which they were justly proud. The new Group will now be regularly consulted on any future developments affecting the Essex Record Office.

Maureen Scollan, Convenor of the Group, commented: "We do understand the difficult decisions which the Council has had to make because of government funding reductions, and we are looking forward to making a positive contribution to the Record Office's future."

Councillor Twitchen welcomed the formation of the Users' Group. "The County Council is determined to enable the people of Essex to make the very best use of their splendid modern Record Office and I am very pleased to have the help and support of the new Group in this way."

The new Archive Users' Group had its first meeting with councillors and Record Office staff on 25 March at 3pm.

Obituaries

Ken Bascombe (1932-2004)

Ken Bascombe, President of Waltham Abbey Historical Society 1987-1998, and an authority on the history of the town, died in a nursing home in Wiltshire on 4 Jan. 2004.

Born in Poole in June 1932, Kenneth Norman Bascombe attended Poole Grammar School and graduated in chemistry at Balliol College, Oxford, where he stayed on to take his D.Phil. He later undertook research at Cambridge University. He came to Waltham Abbey in the 1960's to work for the Explosives Research and Development Establishment (ERDE), and made his home there. He was an only child and never married, so his parents lived with him for the rest of their lives.

He excelled in his professional work and his expertise took him on numerous foreign trips. His major interest was, however, in local history, and he served for many years as secretary and curator before becoming President of the Waltham Abbey Historical Society. He amassed a fine library of books which ranged over his other interests, including architecture, chess and music as well as history, and he wrote a number of articles and papers. In 1974 he published *A Walk Round Waltham Abbey*, with drawings by John Bentley, and in 1985 *Old Waltham Abbey in Pictures*. He also served as the Secretary of the Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress from 1977 to 1984 and was President 1984-7. In these capacities he was well known in historical circles throughout Essex.

His ambition, on retirement, was to incorporate the fruits of his many years of research into a major new history of Waltham Abbey, but it was not to be. Ill health overtook him after the death of his widowed mother and in 1996 he agreed to move into a care home at Warminster in Wiltshire. He subsequently went to the nursing home where he died. He was buried on 13 Jan. at Melksham, Wilts.

Stan Newens, formerly MP and MEP, now President of Waltham Abbey Historical Society, praised Ken Bascombe's learning:

It is a tragedy that he did not produce his book. To follow exchanges between Ken and Waltham Abbey's doyen archaeologist, Peter Huggins, on the successive churches which have stood in the Abbey was a rare intellectual pleasure, and it is regrettable that he did not record more of his knowledge in print.

Guy Scott 'Pip' Sanders-Hewett (1922-2004)

Pip Sanders-Hewett (no one ever knew him by any other name) was one of the heirs to, and for many years the head of, the family company representing the old Hewett ('short blue fleet') fishing interests in Barking. Years earlier they had transferred their surviving fishing interests elsewhere, but in Barking they remained - and still are - prominent in contracting and in the construction and maintenance of industrial property.

With such a background, and a keen interest in his family history, he was a natural choice as President of the Barking Historical Society, and he was a very active figure and a generous host at their events. He was also a long-standing member of the Friends of Historic Essex.

A delightful man, he was active in the Fletchers' Company, Rotary, the Seven Seas Club and multitudes of other quiet good works. All of these he infused with

his light touch and great charm. He will be remembered with great affection by many in Barking and in Shenfield, where he had lived for many years.

Rev. Christopher Studd (1922-2004)

Rev. Chris Studd, formerly Vicar of Stifford, and later of Bowers Gifford, died on 15 Jan. His wife Pam wrote an excellent local history of Stifford village, and later worked on the Essex Victoria County History staff, where she was extremely popular. After Chris' retirement from the full-time ministry they lived at Roxwell and he helped a great deal in interregnums etc. at other local parishes. He also helped the VCH by serving for a period as hon. Treasurer of its Appeal Fund. He was a good priest and a good man and his death will be much regretted.

Richard Bartlett (1953-2003)

Richard Bartlett, formerly Museums Officer at Passmores House, who played an important part in unveiling Harlow's archaeological record in recent years, died in hospital of leukaemia on Saturday, 27th September 2003.

Born in Winchester in 1953, he was educated at Devizes Grammar School and Birmingham University, where he obtained a degree in Ancient History and Archaeology. After initially being employed in industry, he switched to conservation and worked at Trowbridge and Nottingham before his appointment as Conservation Officer at Harlow Museum, in 1977, with responsibility for archaeology.

Having earlier in his career participated in digs in Peterborough, France and elsewhere, he organised work on the site of Harlow Temple, revealing its mesolithic and Bronze Age past as well as throwing further light on its Iron Age and Roman history. He also inspired other digs in the Harlow area and kept a watching brief on all development. Knowledge of Church Langley's fascinating pre-history owes much to him.

Upon the retirement of Ian Jones as curator, Richard Bartlett became Museums Officer. However, despite many protests, he was made redundant some three years ago, leaving a void in responsibility for archaeology in Harlow. After his departure, he did consultancy work in Braintree and elsewhere and assisted Wally Davey in writing up the history of *Metropolitan Ware*, produced when Harlow was a major pottery centre.

With a knowledge of Latin, Greek, French, German and a smattering of other languages ranging from Danish to Thai, Richard was a recognised expert in archaeological circles and had a specialist knowledge of metal conservation and pre-Roman coins - Harlow's rich collection of which he helped to excavate. He was author and part-author of articles in archaeological journals - some dealing with Harlow - and had connections in London, Oxford and elsewhere.

He never married and is survived by two sisters and a brother and their families. He lived in Chelmsford.

Former M.P. for Harlow, Stan Newens, said:

We have lost one of the foremost experts of Harlow's ancient history, whose contribution to our town was not properly appreciated. His work should not be forgotten.



Fig 1. H.M.S. Firedrake. (Courtesy of the Imperial War Museum).

Kenneth J Neale, O.B.E., F.S.A.

Early Years

Ken was born in Hackney on 9 June 1922. We can see the flavour of his early life there in the reminiscences he has written for *A Hackney Notebook*. Hackney was not the 'heartland' of the East End: it was something of a halfway house between the raucous liveliness - and the poverty and the problems of immigration - of Stepney and the other parts directly fronting the river, and the genteelness of the steady and 'deserving' working-class suburbs like Tottenham and Walthamstow.

A stable home and loving parents gave him all the modest opportunities which Hackney, fortunately comparatively unaffected by the depression of the thirties, could offer. Life out of doors revolved round Hackney Marshes, dedicated to the public in 1894, fishing for tiddlers, the annual Lea Bridge Fair and Clapton Orient (as it then was) Football Club. Indoors it was board games on the table: perhaps a small and unreliable wireless and a few 78's for the gramophone. Membership of the Wolf Cubs at 7 or 8, and then of the Scouts, was an important rite of passage and a gentle introduction to the world outside the family. An annual Scout camp in the Chilterns supplemented the panto at the 'Hackney Empire' as a highlight for the year. Christmas was something special, enhanced by the fruits of the year's small savings and improvisations.

He passed the 11 plus to one of the local grammar schools, but the universities were well-nigh inaccessible to youngsters, however promising, from such a background. His initial inspiration was to come from a

different quarter, when he passed the examination for entry to the clerical grades of the Civil Service. These were a demanding, and in those days a much sought-after, career start for a young man or woman with a good School Certificate in English, mathematics and an adequate number of other useful subjects. The work in the Civil Service was usually dull and uninspiring, but the staff were civilised people, further study was encouraged and established civil servants' hopes of at least modest further promotion, by the time they had years of work behind them, were well-founded. Above all, in the times when the Great Depression was only just behind us, for such people as Ken's parents a secure and pensionable job had in itself a great attraction. Youths like Ken could consider themselves very lucky to have gained even that position in the working world.

Tithe Redemption

On starting work in 1939 he found himself posted to that remarkably obscure arm of government, the Tithe Redemption Office. This was a small and new department set up by recent legislation to resolve a then troublesome grievance. Farmers were suffering from the Depression hardly less than industrial workers, and liability to tithe fell very unevenly on different farmers. Some land was liable, some was exempt: some crops were potentially liable to it, others were not, or at variable levels. All this was the outcome of different historical accidents, ranging from the provisions of medieval law on tithe to the various effects of the

enclosures of individual parishes in the 18th and 19th centuries. Those who were not members of the Church of England took particular exception to having to support the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who paid clergy salaries largely out of tithe levied. Government had bought peace by a Tithe Redemption Act, which set up a complex financial arrangement for the phasing-out of tithe and created a Board, manned by civil servants, to administer this.

To work this out justly these civil servants had to acquire command of the historical detail: to know how the great tithes and the lesser tithes had been calculated and paid, back to the middle ages, and after this the complicated workings-out of the post-enclosure settlements which were characteristically set out in the 19th cent. Tithe Maps known to almost all local historians. For many of the civil servants posted to the Office it must have been a laborious and unwelcome field of esoteric study that Parliament would better have resolved by simpler means. But for Ken it was an introduction to local history which remained with him, and up to a point has inspired him all his life.

The War Years and After

But of course Ken was not left for long with his Tithe Maps. At that dire time just after Dunkirk he reached his eighteenth birthday. Male civil servants were, generally speaking, not a protected occupation, and he was called up in 1941 to serve for the next five years in the Royal Navy.

He was soon seen as potential officer material and served as a Lieutenant in the R.N.V.R. from 1942 to 1946. But first he had to serve as a rating on HMS *Firedrake*, (see ill. at fig.1) a destroyer engaged principally on convoy duties in the North Atlantic, a demanding but thrilling experience on board a staunch little ship often serving in heavy weather under an admired commander. Soon after he left the *Firedrake* for his officer training she was sunk, most of the crew he knew with her. He passed his training with distinction and was posted to shore duties. But he yearned for seagoing service and was appointed to the new battleship H.M.S. *Anson* (see ill. at fig.2), a sister ship of the *King George V* and the ill-fated *Prince of Wales*. After the D-day landings the *Anson* was chosen to serve as flagship of the Pacific Squadron. By this time Ken had married Dorothy Willett, and they were able to have some time together as the *Anson* was fitted out for her new duties.

The *Anson* had a long journey through the Mediterranean, the Suez Canal and calling at Colombo en route to Australia. Then came the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the sudden Japanese surrender and the *Anson* had to play her part at Hongkong and in Japan in clearing up the ensuing problems. After some months' further service on her Ken's time for demob was drawing near, and he returned home, this time serving on an aircraft-carrier, albeit a small converted merchant ship.

Return to the Civil Service

Both his distinguished service in the Navy and, no doubt, staff reports from his pre-war service would have shown that he was well qualified for higher things than service as a Clerical Officer, and very soon after his return to the Civil Service he was promoted to Executive Officer in the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance. This was itself no small step. But his

outstanding capacities had been clearly noted and for him it was only the start of a very speedy progress through the grades of the Civil Service. In 1951 he gained exceptional promotion to the Administrative Grade, which is a very great and rare achievement for one who started his career as a Clerical Officer, and became an Assistant Principal in the Colonial Office, and then in 1955 a Principal.

In the Colonial Office he soon found himself involved with the vexed problem of the future of Cyprus. For some years he was working in the colonial administration there as Secretary for the Interior and for Local Government and then as Deputy Administrative Secretary. For his services in the crisis over *enosis* and in dealings with Archbishop Makarios he was awarded an O.B.E. in 1959.

On his return from Cyprus he soon became involved in dealings about another colonial hotspot - Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). From 1961 he was working for the Central Africa Office, which was trying to resolve this problem, and thereafter until 1967 for the Commonwealth Relations Office and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. He was promoted to Assistant Secretary in 1964. But these moves brought him into the Foreign Service, and thereby would have entailed further service overseas.

First Foray into Essex Local History

In view of his family and other commitments - by then Dorothy and he had four children - he chose instead to move back to the Home Civil Service, and was transferred to the Home Office in 1967. He was appointed to the Prisons section of that Department, and there he remained for the rest of his distinguished Civil Service career. By this time he was heavily engaged with the history of Chingford, where he was living, and of the Epping Forest, and was an active member of Chingford Local History Society, and following from that, of the Friends of Historic Essex, the Essex Congress and the Essex Society for Archaeology and History. His first book, *Discovering Essex in London*, was published in 1969 and a little later *Chingford in History: the story of a forest village*. He wrote a column on things historical for *Essex Countryside*. He was also keenly interested in the history of Hill Hall and of the Smith family. For these studies he was awarded the prestigious distinction of a Fellowship of the Society of Antiquaries. These interests no doubt were one of the reasons for his choosing a home-based post. Even so, this move was not an unmixed blessing to Essex history studies, for his section of the Home Office came to be based not in Whitehall but in the south London suburbs, and it was there he had to go in 1970. Daily commuting from Chingford was hardly realistic, and for more than a decade he lived first at Slinfold and then at West Chilton, near Horsham.

Throughout these years, as Bob Morris' article on p.13 shows, his work related to different aspects of prisons and related penological matters, on which he soon became an expert. Sussex history also became one of his interests, and his next book was *Victorian Horsham*, (1975) principally extracts from the diary of Henry Michell, the Horsham brewer, showing the town as it was in his day. But necessarily his chief commitment was to his work for the Prison Service: in 1976 he was promoted to the rank of Under-Secretary of State. Despite all these



Fig. 2. H.M.S. Anson. (Courtesy of the Imperial War Museum).

distractions, he had by no means transferred his allegiance from Essex local history: his next book was the earlier version of *Essex in History*, which came out in 1977.

Retirement - Local History and Beyond.

He left the Civil Service on reaching the normal age of retirement in 1982, but his services were still much in demand at the Home Office and in Europe on his specialist subject of penology. However, now a free agent, he could return to Essex and, with his family of an age to do their own thing, he could devote much of his time to the cottage which Dorothy and he had bought at Great Sampford, and to his work for Essex local history and archaeology. He quickly renewed his old links with Essex-wide groups like Congress and the Friends. Before long he had become closely involved with the formation of the Sampfords Society, the village society which serves the active cultural life of the villages of Great and Little Sampford. With all these commitments he must have been hardly less busy than he had during his time as a civil servant. His enviable capacity and the organised deployment of his time enabled him not only to do justice to this wide range of commitments but, with Dorothy's active help, to make Honeysuckle Cottage into a delightful and hospitable home. Though she has never seen it as her place to involve herself personally in his local historical interests, she has given him constant support over the years in them all and been herself most active in Sampford affairs.

He was Chairman of the Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress from 1984/7, and thereafter President. This is the over-arching body which seeks to liaise between the many voluntary societies and other groups active in these fields, to provide leadership and representation in relations with local authorities and national heritage groups, and a focus point for intervention where necessary. In 1998 he was invited by the County Archivist to give the then annual Newton Memorial Lecture in Chelmsford Cathedral; his chosen topic, looking back to his earlier years in west Essex, was *Sir Thomas Smith and Hill Hall*. In collaboration with Iris Woodward he wrote admirable little guides to the churches and chapel of the Sampfords. Another aspect of his work, continued over many years and many different structures, has been as a most reliable member of the successive boards controlling the *Essex Journal*, where his advice has been of the utmost value. He has also contributed many reviews, often rather light-weight books on local topics which did not extend him; but he has been unfailingly generous in accepting this task.

With his considerable experience of writing local history he was the natural choice for hon. Editor when the decision was taken by the Essex Congress to produce a *festschrift* as a tribute to Derick Emmison for his lifetime of work for Essex archives and local history: this was published as *An Essex Tribute* in 1987. Similar *festschrifts* were to follow under his editorship to two other great lovers and servants of the county: *Essex Heritage* in 1992 to Sir William Addison and



Left to right: Lord Braybrooke, Sir John Ruggles-Brise and K.J. Neale for the launch of 'Essex' at Spains Hall, 25th September 1996. (Courtesy of Essex Congress).

Essex full of Profitable Things in 1996 to Sir John Ruggles-Brise.

Friends of Historic Essex

After three years as Vice-Chairman, he became Chairman of the Friends of Historic Essex in 1986. The Friends had been set up, largely by Derick Emmison, the first County Archivist of Essex, as a means of encouraging the county landowners and their lawyers and land-agents to deposit their archives, but had found a yet more valuable niche as the Record Office's support group, pre-eminently for the great series of exhibitions of county archives held every summer until 1980 at Ingatestone Hall. With the much-regretted discontinuance of these exhibitions, the Friends had to seek a new role, and it fell to Ken to establish it in such a way as to justify the Friends' existence. Essex has a remarkably fine series of proven wills from the reign of Elizabeth 1; Derick had taken the lead in their transcription and volumes of them had been published, mostly with the financial support of U.S. genealogical societies.

This support now dried up, but even so there seemed every reason for completing the series in view of their established value to family and social historians. But nine further volumes were outstanding; these would require devoted editing and careful publishing. Also since they could only slowly recover their up-front costs from sales their financing was a demanding task, beyond the Friends' financial resources. Ken's first major task as Chairman was to organise a special appeal, and this raised without undue difficulty the £15,000 calculated to be necessary. Of course none of those concerned had foreseen the speed at which information technology would spread and that the advent of the internet would obviate the need for the traditional forms of publication for such documents.

But this was only the beginning of Ken's concern with the Elizabethan Wills Series. With Derick's deteriorating health he found himself more and more acting as vice-editor, co-editor and ultimately, after his death in 1995, sole editor of this demanding series. He had to check the transcriptions of many thousands of these wills and, with the help of Tony Burton, to fit them and index them for publication in the nearly annual volumes of the Series.

In addition to bearing the problems deriving from Derick's old age and the delays following Tony Burton's serious illness he had also to plan ahead for the Friends' future. A new Constitution, amending the objects of the Friends more fully to acknowledge their new role, was agreed with the Charity Commissioners. This did not, as the former constitution had, set a three-year limit on tenure of the Chairmanship, and hence his wisdom and experience was available to those engaged in the planning of the new Essex Record Office which was to open in 2001.

And Much More

But the Friends were only a part of his work. He was closely involved with the varied activities of the Sampfords Society, and he had quickly discovered that, contrary to the views of earlier local historians, there had been a far from insignificant Roman presence at Shillingford, in Great Sampford parish.

Even more demanding on his time and energies was the continuing consultancy work, chiefly for the Council of Europe, on which, as Bob Morris' article shows, Ken's expert knowledge of penology made him much in demand, long after a normal date of retirement. One regularly heard of visits by Ken, sometimes at short notice, to countries and cities of which one had hardly heard - and which almost certainly did not possess luxury hotels to western European standards - to follow up issues arising from his visits and reports.

Ken and Dorothy's happiness at Great Sampford was sadly marred by a flash flood in October 2001, which suddenly early one Sunday morning - Ken was at church at the time - brought a three foot depth of water into their delightful cottage, wrecked their carpets, ruined many of Ken's books and damaged their furniture: at their age just the thing to destroy their comfort and cause anxiety. With the help of neighbours and family they were able to make shift at a different, and far less comfortable, cottage in the village so that his work there would not be too much affected. After a few months of enforced absence they were able, assisted by the expert professional knowledge of members of his family, to return to a restored Honeysuckle Cottage.

But now, having passed his 80th birthday and with their Diamond Wedding approaching, Ken judged that it was time to reduce his commitments. The vigorous progress of the 'Heritage Sampford' project (see the article on p.16) meant that this must necessarily be the one to which he would commit his available time and energy. He had reluctantly decided some years earlier that he was too old to continue his travelling on penology for the Council of Europe, and now was the time to withdraw from his still numerous commitments to Essex local history.

Essex has gained much from his scholarship, so well shown in the books he has published and edited, and the articles he has written. All of us have benefited greatly from Ken's wisdom, good judgment, equable temperament, encouragement and consistent quiet support. These qualities he has shown through easy times and hard, with colleagues both cooperative and less so - and his seemingly easy way of dealing with the more fractious and difficult of them, no doubt largely acquired from his long years in government service, has often been an object lesson to us all. We are very conscious of what we have already lost through his decision to withdraw from his wider activities. But we trust most sincerely that he will retain his present good health for many years to come to help Dorothy and to make a yet greater contribution to the progress of

DON'T FORGET THE HISTORY FAIR

LABWORTH Recreation Ground CANVEY

SUNDAY 11 JULY 10.30a.m. - 5.00p.m. (see also p.33)

Works by Ken Neale

Books

- Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge. 1964 *Chingford Historical Society*.
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- Essex in History (1st ed. 1977: rev. 2nd ed. 1997) *Phillimore* ISBN 1 86077 051 7.
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Essex Journal (articles and short contributions)

Arise, Sir Loin	Vol. 2 no. 3	June 1967
A Most Dreadful Fire	Vol. 3 no. 3	June 1968
Friday Hill House	Vol. 4 no. 3	June 1969
letter re Hill Hall Fire	Vol. 4 no. 3	June 1969
Sir Thomas Heneage	Vol. 4 no. 4	Sept. 1969
Sir Thomas Smith & Hill Hall (reprinted by Chingford Hist. Soc.)	Vol. 5 no. 1	Jan. 1970
Sir Thomas Smith - an Iconography	Vol. 6 no. 1	Jan. 1971
Greg Tonkin - obituary and tribute	Vol. 19 no. 3	Winter 1984
Sampfords Society	Vol. 28 no. 2	Autumn 1993
A Village Tragedy	Vol. 30 no. 1	Spring 1995
F. G. Emmison - obituary and tribute	Vol. 31 no. 1	Spring 1996
'Honest and credible aliens'	Vol. 33 no. 1	Spring 1998
Straw plaiting	Vol. 35 no. 1	Spring 2000
Shillingstone	Vol. 35 no. 2	Autumn 2000
'Heritage Sampford'	Vol. 37 no. 2	Autumn 2002

Book Reviews

Vol. 7 no. 4 (Winter 72/3), Vol. 22 no. 3 (Winter 87), Vol. 23 no. 2 (Summer 88)
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 Vol. 36 no. 1 (Spring 01), Vol. 38 no. 1 (Spring 03).

Booklets

- (with Iris Woodward) St. Michael's, Great Sampford 1992.
 " " St. Mary's Little Sampford 1992.
 " " Introducing the Baptist Church, Great Sampford 1997.

Ken Neale and West Essex

By Peter Lawrence and John Boyes

The Chingford Historical Society

Ken was already a Committee Member of the Chingford Archaeological and Historical Society in the 1950's, though with the amount of time he had to spend in Cyprus at that time, as well as a fairly large young family, he must have struggled to find time for historical work. None the less he became Chairman in 1963, and was instrumental in changing its name to the Chingford Historical Society on 11 Nov. 1964. He greatly encouraged members to take a more active interest in historical research and managed to persuade Derick Emmison to bring photocopies of ERO documents and to instruct a team of volunteers from the Society on studying the palaeography of medieval texts. A master class indeed, and no doubt it was Ken's prowess in the interpretation of Elizabethan documents that remained in the minds of both of them during fraught hours of work on the Wills Series!

Meanwhile, despite his other commitments, he was setting an example to others by writing on aspects of local history. His first booklet for the Society was on Chingford's most famous old building *Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge: an Account of the History and Architecture of the Lodge* published in 1964. He also persuaded his son, later a qualified architect, to produce architectural drawings of the Lodge. This was but the first of numerous books he produced for the Society: a list of his main writings is given at p. 10.

In 1967 he published a booklet for the Society: *Chingford in History*. Within this booklet, in few pages, he presents so much of the information on the development of Chingford as a parish within the ancient royal hunting forest. It has been so popular as to warrant two reprints in different formats. Ken's first bound volume, *Discovering Essex in London*, was published in 1969. In 1968 he published *Chingford Enumerated*, an analysis of the parish at the time of the 1851 census: this was reprinted by the Chingford Hist. Soc. in 1975. What a fascinating pen picture it gives of a forest parish before the arrival of the railway and the invasion of suburbia! His calculations show 963 people living in 203 dwellings supported just 15 of their community who were poor. 110 years later, the last time that Chingford was enumerated individually, the population had reached 50,000.

He also found time to speak to the Chingford and to other local societies on local history and also on topics of interest arising from his work in Cyprus, and later in what is now Zimbabwe, returning from his new home in Sussex for some of them. In 1970 his departure from Chingford obliged him to give up his chairmanship of the Society, but they immediately appointed him President, an honour which they were delighted to continue until 1989, when he resigned because of his commitments to the Friends and the additional travelling involved. While at Forge Cottage in West Chilmington in Sussex he developed a new interest in collecting old tools surviving from earlier patterns of agriculture, not least the far-off days of the earlier 20th cent. All this of course made up a subject which formed the basis for another talk. In Sussex also he hosted a visit to his home for members of the Society: this was the precursor for his involvement in a Society outing to

Sussex where he guided us round the places we were visiting.

Despite his departure to Sussex and later to Sampford, he and Dorothy have always been held in high regard by the Chingford Historical Society, and are welcomed back whenever they are able to return.

Other Publications

But though during those years till 1970 Chingford was his home, it did not represent the horizon of his interests in local history. This had been shown in *Discovering Essex in London* (1969), which is gaining in importance as the decades roll by: lecturing to groups in the county as I do I am amazed how many people do not know what the county boundaries were before the creation of the Greater London Council in 1965. In a concise and scholarly way he summarised 2000 years of history within 200 pages. It remains a major point of reference for anyone who wishes to study the history of south-west Essex or indeed of the county as a whole, and it would be a tragedy were it ever to become unavailable. But the full extent of that width was to be shown in *Essex in History* (1977: revised and extended re-publication 1997), which probably remains his major gift to Essex history so far: a valuable account of the history of the whole of the county, and covering in its modest size a worth-while contribution to all the separated historical disciplines now springing up.

Sir Thomas Smith and Hill Hall

He has one other very particular interest springing from his knowledge of south-west Essex, and probably not a little inspired by his interest in Europe and his concern for efficient and responsible public administration. This is Hill Hall, Theydon Mount and its very eminent builder, Sir Thomas Smith; Ken had promised John O'Leary an article on the house for a future edition of the *Essex Journal*. Sadly and by a horrible coincidence this interlocked with the chief business concern of his



Sir Thomas Smith



Hill Hall, Theydon Mount, as it was.

later civil service career, prison administration. On 18 April 1969, only two years after Ken had transferred to prison affairs, Hill Hall, now used as a women's prison, was burnt down by its inmates. He saw it, and the Smith salamanders, the family emblem, still burning and contributed an eye-witness report to the number of the *Essex Journal* then preparing for publication - perhaps the one scoop in the *Journal's* history. Gladly Hill Hall has been rebuilt and can be seen from the M11/M25 intersection, (and visited on Wednesday afternoons by courtesy of English Heritage) but even a good rebuilding preserving all that can be of the features of the old house can never be quite the same thing.

Sir Thomas Smith (1513-77) was of course the most notable Essex-born man of the Elizabethan age. Born at Saffron Walden, he had an incredibly glittering Cambridge career, was esteemed the greatest English scholar of his day and became vice-chancellor at the age of 30. Turning to public life, he became one of Lord Protector Somerset's henchmen, and in 1548 Second Secretary to the King - whilst Sir William Petre was First Secretary. Like all other Tudor political figures he had his ups and downs. Though a Protestant, his connections with Bishop Gardiner ensured that he was at no risk under Mary: none the less he lay fairly low as Provost of Eton until Elizabeth succeeded. Both under Somerset and under Elizabeth he was occupied for much of his time - and sometimes kicking his heels awaiting a more opportune moment to be heard - in overseas embassies, especially to France. He was friendly with, and trusted by, Cecil, if seemingly rather less close to Elizabeth. In 1569 he succeeded to many of Sir William Petre's positions in Essex and at last in 1572 when Cecil, now Lord Burghley, handed over the post, reached the apogee of his life as a statesman as First Secretary to the Queen: he was also Chancellor of the Order of the Garter. His health having failed, he gave up this post in 1576 and died the following year at Theydon Mount.

The most lasting of his scholastic achievements was the *de Republica Anglorum, or a discourse on the Commonwealth of England*, which is among other things a very important source book for the understanding of how the English saw their political institutions in the age before the constitutional issues of the 17th. cent. arose.

But perhaps Hill Hall is even more remarkable as a symbol of his interests and studies. He chose this as his family seat and about 1558 started building there a relatively modest mansion which differed considerably from all the many later 'prodigy houses' built by Smithson and others for Elizabethan courtiers, nobles and landed gentry. He accepted as his leading influence the more nearly pure classical style which the Italians had brought to France and of which he had seen and read much during his lengthy stays there: inspired by Vitruvius whilst certainly not Palladian. With so much that was new about it it is hardly surprising that not all of it was entirely happy in design. He made much use of the emblem he had chosen, a salamander breathing fire, and there remains a part, despite the fire, of a remarkable series of wall-paintings of the story of Cupid and Psyche.

Ken's Continuing Interest

When Ken was asked to present the Newton Memorial Lecture in Chelmsford Cathedral in 1998 he chose Sir Thomas Smith and Hill Hall as his topic. It is a great pity that his lecture has not been published, because it is the fruit of yet more study of this subject since his magisterial article in the *Essex Journal* for Jan. 1970 (Vol 5: no.1:p.3).

Much of his work for Congress and for the *Essex Journal* has been strongly linked with the south-west of Essex. Sir William Addison, one of the recipients of a *festschrift*, had been among Ken's closest colleagues in their studies of the Epping Forest area, on which

Sir William had himself written, and all have contained important articles on aspects of the history of this part of the county.

He has frequently been back to his old haunts to talk to local societies. He has spoken to the Woodford Historical Society, for example, on 'Enjoying Local History' and 'Essex Historians and their Books'. These presentations have been highly valued by

those still working in south-west Essex societies both as an example of what has been achieved by him and as an incentive to those of younger generations to follow in his footsteps and carry on all this valuable work.

John Boyes (President, Chingford Historical Society)
Peter Lawrence (Chairman, Woodford Historical Society)

Kenneth Neale – A Life in Prisons

By Bob Morris

This contribution records an aspect of Ken Neale's professional life of which some readers will have heard a little, but which deserves fuller knowledge. Many people may feel they know all they need to know about prisons; some may, as magistrates, judges or volunteers have visited one or, rarely, more prisons; but almost no-one will have had the experience of managing a prison system and helping to develop and guide international penal developments. That experience has been an important part of Ken Neale's life's work, and it reveals not only something of him that deserves celebration but also, of course, raises questions about our own engagement in and understanding of work which has a very special significance for the character of our society.

Home Office Prison Department

As Michael Beale's appreciation shows, Ken came relatively late to prisons work. It was not until 1967 that he left a career in diplomacy and joined the Prison Department of the Home Office. However, he was by no means unprepared. Apart from the administrative and political experience he had already accumulated as a senior civil servant, he had had responsibilities for criminal justice administration during his time in Cyprus in the 1950s. In addition, later on his diplomatic experience came very usefully into play as he assumed international roles which lasted - remarkably - until he was in his late seventies.

After an initial period from 1967 dealing with problems relating principally to young offenders, women prisoners and remand prisoners, in 1970 Ken became head of the Directorate of Industries and Supply, later Industries and Farms. This was the body responsible for the resourcing of prison regimes, and which was until 1977 responsible also for supply to, and catering in, establishments. Under Ken's leadership considerable advances in the development of industrial and agricultural production were made. By the time he became a member of the Prisons Board in 1976, the value of industrial production within the prison service had doubled, and the growth of horticultural output increased by an even larger margin, with some 17,000 acres under cultivation.

Moreover, the character of production in both cases had been changed under a modernisation programme Ken had energetically pursued. New industries based on more sophisticated machinery requiring higher levels of investment in plant and machinery were introduced. In addition to selling in outside markets, the prison system aimed at self-sufficiency in clothing and furniture. Similarly, horticultural production aimed to supply and enhance the quality of the prison diet.

None of these things was easily accomplished across an estate of over 100 establishments. It required meticulous planning as well as the availability of funds together with the recruitment and retention of more highly skilled staff. Adapting old buildings for new production methods was not achieved at the wave of a wand. Getting prepared vegetables in good condition from often remote rural locations into the large urban prisons was not a straightforward exercise. Above all, perhaps, it would be a mistake to imagine that this work took place in an entirely closed and easily disciplined command economy. On the contrary, it had to cope with a considerable rise in the prison population, changing economic conditions applying to the ability to place "Prindus" goods in the open market, and vicissitudes in public expenditure which may now be forgotten but which included, amongst other things, three day weeks and the rigours of IMF imposed programmes.¹

Prisons Board

Elevation to the Prisons Board gave Ken even greater responsibilities for regime resourcing and management though at a higher level and of a less directly operational kind. Not only did he now oversee education and vocational training and have responsibility for physical welfare, he was also in charge of the psychological services and, in so far as anyone could be said to be in charge of such matters, religious activities - in all cases across the whole estate. Moreover, he headed up the crucial planning function for the prison system and its associated roles of explaining and presenting the work of prisons to the press and public. This meant, for example, that he had a directing hand in *Prisons and the Prisoner* of 1977 which, as the Home Secretary of the day pointed out, presented the first comprehensive account of the work of penal institutions for some years.²

Ken made very considerable personal contributions in respect of two events during his tenure on the Prisons Board. The first was the elaborate and happy celebration of the Prison Service's Centenary in 1978 - the anniversary of the amalgamation of the local authority and convict prison services. A Royal visit and garden party at Leyhill in Gloucestershire took place in brilliant weather. Ken not only was the prime mover in organising the exhibition of the Service's current and historical work but also conducted The Queen around displays. But that was not all. Typically, Ken also wrote a celebratory work (*Her Majesty's Commissioners 1878-1978*) printed, of course, on a prison industries press. Although called an essay, it was at 70 pages something much more than the title claimed, and contained much

shrewd reflection on the task of managing prisons which deserves re-reading today. The Essay also showed Ken's characteristic writing abilities - engaging narrative flow, confident and discriminating control of content, appealing language.³

Later the same year, and in a climate of continuing severe industrial relations problems and relentless increases in the prison population, the government set up a committee under the chairmanship of Sir John May (later Lord Justice May) to examine the prison services - there are three - throughout the United Kingdom with particular regard to resourcing and the staffs' conditions of service. Ken had responsibility for organising and co-ordinating the preparation of the government's evidence to the inquiry. This was not, of course, some merely clerical task but one which required experience and judgement as well as organising ability. In the event, the extent and weight of the evidence submitted in extremely short order to the May Committee was of unusual quality and depth. Moreover, although it is not customary to publish the evidence given to departmental committees as opposed to that put before Royal Commissions, it was Ken who saw that the evidence in this instance was published. This flowed from his determination to ensure that the copious (more than 450 pages) material giving a complete account of the services at that time was placed securely and immediately on the public record.⁴

International work

One of Ken's roles on the Prisons Board was to represent British penal administration on the European Committee on Crime Problems (ECCP), one of the most senior standing committees of the Council of Europe. For the reasons already apparent from his history and experience, he was especially well-qualified to assist the Council's functions. But there was more: Ken brought not only his energy but also his direct, attractive and winning manner into an international forum where personal qualities could be especially telling. It was partly his advocacy that led to the case for paying more direct attention to prison matters being accepted with the result that a new Council of Europe committee - the Committee on Co-operation in Prison Affairs - was established. Ken was invited to write the prospectus for this body and was its chairman during 1981-4, that is including for some time after his retirement from the civil service in 1982. This new Committee had two important functions: the promotion of penal philosophy and practice, and responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the European Standard Minimum Rules for the management of prison establishments.

Contemplating colloquies of bureaucrats based on Strasbourg does not, perhaps, immediately stir the blood. It will therefore be helpful to explain the business of these gatherings. This may best be done by concentrating on two of the initiatives with which Ken was especially associated - the revision of the former *Standard Minimum Prison Rules*, and the Steering Group on the Reform of the Prison System of the Russian Federation. In passing, however, it is necessary to emphasise that these were not Ken's only significant contributions. For example, in 1975, before he became a member of the ECCP, his report *Work in Penal Regimes* had been adopted by the Committee; in 1979 he delivered a paper, *Voluntary Workers in Prisons*, at the Conference of European Directors of Prison

Administration; and, at the invitation of the Council of Europe, he visited prisons in Turkey in 1980 as part of a program of technical assistance and he visited Portugal similarly in 1982.

The European Prison Rules

As to the *Standard Minimum Rules*, Ken - in his capacity now as a consultant to the Council of Europe - chaired a review group which produced revised *European Prison Rules* adopted by the Council of Ministers in 1987. These very considerably revised and updated the previous *Standard Minimum Rules* of 1973 in the light of the quinquennial reviews of 1978 and 1983 as well as developed penal practice. Ken's group accomplished more than a scissors and paste job: the outcome was a thorough and thoughtful root and branch recasting. The product, a code of 100 Rules and - written in fact by Ken - an *Explanatory Memorandum* similar to the length and detail of the documents that accompany UK legislation, was adopted by the Council of Ministers in 1987.⁵

Whilst the *European Rules* do not have direct legislative effect, their indicative and moral force cannot be underestimated. Although sensitive to the very different circumstances of Council of Europe members, they set the standard for penal administration. Nor is that standard, like the product commonly of mere talking shops, simply a flaccid summary of the lowest common denominator. On the contrary, the *Rules*, starting from a clear statement of general principles in Part I emphasising non-discriminatory due process, go on to lay down detailed requirements for the management of prison systems, their staffing, and training and treatment objectives. Examination of the text brings home the *Rules'* exacting character - including requirements which, for example, some parts at least of the prison systems in the USA would be unable to satisfy.

Steering Group on the Reform of the Russian Prison System

Following the collapse of the Soviet system from the late 1980s, the Council of Europe, which had up to then a membership of 15 countries, rapidly expanded to include 45 countries. Moreover, if there had been diversity amongst the 15, this was rendered relatively mild in comparison with the diversity of the newcomers. Former communist states frequently inherited prison systems which not only suffered from severe physical deficiencies and unmodernised custodial practices but which were also located within criminal justice regimes more directed to maintaining the security of the predecessor states than to the observance of principles of human rights and due process.

The prisons in the Russian Federation exemplified many of these problems. The new governments were by no means in a state of denial about their situation and were glad to look for and accept what assistance could be made available. The response of the Council of Europe, in collaboration with the European Union, was in 1995 to set up the Steering Group on the Reform of the Russian Prison System of which Ken was rapporteur up until 2001.

Effectively addressing the Russian problems was no pushover. In 1995, for example, there were 1 million prisoners, a budget which covered only 50% of costs, accommodation which was judged as sub-standard for 44% of the inmates, and a serious health problem with about 100,000 prisoners having contracted tuberculosis



Hill Hall, Theydon Mount. East Block of Inner Courtyard. (Courtesy of John Boyes).

in establishments devoid of access to adequate healthcare facilities. Political responsibility for prisons rested with the Ministry of the Interior rather than the Ministry of Justice, and this primacy of security enforcement was instanced by the then power of the police to imprison alleged offenders without the prior directive of any judicial authority. Amongst other things, the government was not in a position to ratify the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment - though it later did so.

At the outset, the Steering Group identified three priority areas: staff involved in the enforcement of sentences, reduction of the prison population (proportionately one of the highest in the world), and prison regimes. These issues were energetically addressed in an extensive programme of visiting in Russia and to western European facilities and in conferences, all as means of experience exchange and support for Russian colleagues. As rapporteur for these events, Ken's role was to draw out conclusions and point up directions for change. In such programmes, it will be understood that the rapporteur is not just a passive recorder of others' contributions. On the contrary, someone of Ken's background and personality may also encourage and shape developments. The records of the events show Ken's contribution - realistic, positive but also demanding:

"What is fatal, in regard to any ... problem, not merely that of long-term imprisonment, is to allow the inadequacy of resources to stifle all change and effort or to be accepted as an excuse - though it may well be a reason - for inactivity or failure."

The Russian authorities themselves did not lack determination. Despite considerable odds, they undertook a series of measures to deal with their inheritance. For example, responsibility for prisons was moved to the Ministry of Justice, the prison population was reduced by a number of means, staff training revitalised, open prisons introduced, criminal justice procedures reformed, and prison healthcare improved. The Steering Committee played a part in assisting the process of change, and continues to do so. Ken stayed with the work - including some arduous travelling - until 2001 when over 78 years of age. Amongst other things,

he brought a touch of humour even to the most intractable subjects. The following was the final sentence of his report of a Steering Group meeting on the management of long term prisoners:

"There was talk, mildly flippant, of pigs and tigers: I thought for one weak moment that we were talking about farmyards and zoos rather than prisons - but this workshop has been about human beings, prisoners, staff and all their families - and we had better not forget it!"⁶

One of the things history teaches us is the significance of the contributions of individuals in special or unusual situations. Prisons are, of course, both special and abnormal places. Usually out of sight, they can too easily be out of mind. What Ken was up to in activities which began in 1967 and which extended long beyond his ordinary retirement was attempting, in circumstances which are almost invariably adverse, to apply humane standards to the conduct of prison lives - staff as well as inmates. The work of the Council of Europe gave him opportunities to encourage and support colleagues outside the United Kingdom, and we must, I think, be grateful that he responded to those challenges with the same determination, sympathy and good humour that he has brought to the rest of his life everywhere else.

Bob Morris was a colleague of Ken in the Home Office and the *Essex Journal* is most grateful to him for his contribution.

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Heritage Sampford Project

By Richard Havis

The Essex County Council has worked closely with Kenneth Neale and the Sampfords Society for a number of years. Initially this involved joint working on a site at Shillingstone which resulted in the successful identification of a Roman rural settlement. The success of the Sampfords Society in undertaking a number of other projects, and the growing interest in the local community in understanding the history and origins of the Sampford area encouraged the Society to apply for funding for a project on the heritage of the Sampford area. This led to partnership with Essex County Council in the development of the Heritage Sampford Project, which has gained funding by the Local Heritage Initiative and by English Heritage.

Shillingstone Roman Settlement

Earlier local historians, including Gerald Curtis in his generally excellent *The Story of the Sampfords* (published by the author, 1981) had found nothing but isolated Roman artefacts in the district. He said (p.2): "no remains of Roman building have been found in the Sampford parishes"

None the less, the Roman artefacts which were found in Shillingstone Field in Great Sampford Parish led to a decision in 1996 to undertake a geophysical survey. This was undertaken by Peter Cott at the request of the Sampford Society which identified the possible location of a building. Fieldwalking recovered quantities of Roman and prehistoric pottery, Roman tile, including both roof and floor tiles. Following discussions with Kenneth the Heritage Conservation Branch was able to provide a grant which enabled support staff to help in the excavation of a series of trial trenches in the area of the Roman concentration. The team from the Field Archaeology Unit worked alongside and helped to train some of the Sampford Society in archaeological techniques.

The trial trenches found evidence of Late Iron Age field boundaries and rubbish pits and two parallel Roman ditches in use up to the late 4th century. The presence of parallel ditches is a frequent phenomenon found on many rural Roman settlements throughout Essex. The archaeological work successfully established the presence of a Roman settlement, and eventually led to the development of Heritage Sampford.

The Heritage Sampford Project

This is a joint archaeological venture brought about through a co-operative arrangement between the Sampfords Society and the Heritage Conservation Branch of Essex County Council. The general administration and overview of the project is being undertaken by Kenneth Neale. Its overall aim is to undertake high quality archaeological review and research within the parishes of Great and Little Sampford, and in so doing to introduce as many local people as possible, including school children, to their historic environment and the practicalities of recognition and recording of archaeological data. It is hoped that the eventual outcome of this project will be a general picture demonstrating the settlement pattern in the two parishes from the Mesolithic (c. 8000 BC) through to the modern day.

The project has been funded by the Local Heritage Initiative (a partnership between the Heritage Lottery Fund, Nationwide Building Society and the Countryside Agency) and English Heritage, who have together made grants totalling £37,500 enabling the Society to successfully launch Heritage Sampford on 28 August 2002.

The objectives of Heritage Sampford

These were as follows:

1. To verify and update the Essex Heritage Conservation Record (this is the County Council Database recording all known archaeological deposits and listed buildings across the County) database for the two parishes.
2. To carry out an archaeological survey of as much of the two parishes as possible by fieldwalking.
3. In selected areas to follow fieldwalking with geophysics or limited excavation work.
4. To test and develop the fieldwalking methodology with a view to its application on other areas of Essex.
5. To inform and involve the general public.

Fieldwalking Techniques

The main part of the project is the survey of land by fieldwalking, by which it is hoped to examine all arable land in both parishes.

A detailed method of fieldwalking recording the exact location of each find was undertaken in the first year. This, although successful, proved very time-consuming with only a small area covered.

In 2003 it was decided to alter the fieldwalking technique to improve the coverage of the survey work and the methodology used throughout Essex since 1985 on all developer-funded sites is no being used. This fieldwalking methodology requires that a 10% sample of the survey area is walked on a controlled grid system

Finds recognition days, hedgerow and documentary surveys.

In addition to the fieldwalking, a programme of finds recognition days were held at Sampford, with specialists, such as the flint specialist Hazel Martingell, identifying, explaining and dating finds found during fieldwalking. Chance finds, discovered by gardening or other activities have also been recorded and plotted. John Hunter came to Sampford and explained the methodology for dating hedgerows and the use of cartographic and documentary sources in interpreting the landscape, work which members of the Society are progressing.

Conclusion

The Heritage Sampford project is proving a huge success. The driving force of Kenneth, his support team in the Sampfords, with support from the Heritage Conservation Branch means that the knowledge of the historic and prehistoric environment within the Sampfords has improved greatly already.

Over a short time the Society has grown in numbers, experience and skills. Since the launch in August 2002 the number of volunteers registered has risen from 90 to 154, with over 65 of them actively involved in the fieldwalking side and over 30 people from the surrounding villages.

Regular activities in their busy timetable also include giving talks and providing help and advice to other emerging fieldwalking groups within the county. They have, in many respects, become a 'model' for voluntary fieldwalking groups within the county both in their fieldwalking activities and their community involvement.

There is still much work to be done and it is hoped that the same enthusiasm carries on and grows. It is also hoped that with the success of this project other societies will be interested in undertaking similar work. The project has shown how local communities can work together in partnership with the County Council to develop a detailed understanding of their parishes and this is especially important in those areas where there is limited development as there is little opportunity to develop our understanding of the historic environment from contract archaeology. It is also essential for local communities to have an understanding of the historic environment that they live in and to value this important resource.



Hill Hall in 1969 shortly after the fire. (Courtesy of John Boyes).

Essex Book Awards 2005

A decision in principle has been taken by the Friends of Historic Essex and the Essex County Libraries Service that there will be an Essex Book Awards competition for books published in the course of the years 2003 and 2004, books being judged in late 2004 and early 2005 for a presentation early in 2005. It is hoped to link it more closely with the Book Festival which will be run by the County heritage services in March 2005, as in March in the two earlier years. Details are still being worked out, but as in those years it is planned that entry forms will

be circulated to bookshops, publishers and societies, and that they will be made available for collection from County Libraries. In all probability the closure date for entries will be 31 Jan. 2005, comparable to the arrangements for previous years.

It is hoped to involve the media and commercial interests more closely than had been practicable in earlier years when there had been no Book Festival.

Fuller details will be given in the next Journal and in forthcoming Friends' and Congress Newsletters.

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Is this a vacant post?

I have gone on as above about our county's woes - and their only solution - many times. But from the national press' report on the Prittlewell Treasure (see p. 19) light may have dawned. An eminent retired cleric, Canon Michael Seward, formerly on the staff of St. Paul's Cathedral (which, remember, was our cathedral right down to the 1820's) points out in his letter to *The Times* that his name shows he is descended from Seward, the pagan son of King Sigebert. This earlier Seward led an anti-Christian reaction in Essex which sent Bishop Mellitus, Augustine's Bishop of London, packing, and Essex thereafter remained pagan until Bishop Cedd came to Bradwell from Yorkshire and achieved a more lasting conversion.

Our Canon Seward therefore had an evil family reputation to live down - which to be fair he has done handsomely as an eminent priest, preacher and hymnwriter. But does he now see before him a still greater post, leading our county out of its present travails, and would he face exile to Chelmsford to regain his ancestors' honours as the royal heir of Sabeht?

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The Essex Chronicle

Now we know their views from their issue of 10 March. Like so many other they want to divide Essex – along the line of the A12: the posh bit and the slaggy bit: Maldon and Walthamstow. Sleazy Maldon becomes part of Gormansland, named after our recent Billericay M.P. (why not Gormenghast – it sounds better and has far more fitting literary associations). Walthamstow and Waltham spring from the same distinguished roots and the name of their elegant half of the county is still to be revealed. Colchester is Gormansland, and Chelmsford receives the accolade of pretentiousness.

Well! Well! Well!. So what does that tell us about our county?

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The Friends of the Plume Library, Maldon

The Friends are needing a Librarian – who must be well-versed in the literature of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries if justice is to be done to this important old Essex library. The hours are short, but not very convenient to fit in with the opening hours.

James Bettley (tel: 01621 892450) would be delighted to hear from anyone interested.

East Saxon King buried at Prittlewell?

The spectacular burial site of an East Saxon king has been discovered by archaeologists at Southend. It is the richest Anglo-Saxon find since the Sutton Hoo ship burial was unearthed in 1939 and contains incredible objects that are providing a fascinating glimpse into the life and death of the aristocracy of the Dark Ages. The wood-lined chamber, hung with a lavish collection of treasures and grave-goods, has been found by archaeologists from the Museum of London Archaeology Service during an archaeological evaluation commissioned by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council in association with the development of the Priory Crescent road improvement scheme.

The burial is probably contemporary with the Sutton Hoo burial (c.AD 630), where the dead man was very possibly (though not by any means certainly) Raedwald, King of the East Angles. No trace of the body remained, as it had been dissolved by the acid soil, but the coffin had been placed in the chamber, which measured about four metres square by one and a half metres high, surrounded by objects of rare splendour. Two gold foil crosses suggest that the king was a newly-converted Christian. This invites the guess that the Prittlewell burial was that of Sabeht, the King of the East Angles. Both he and Raedwald were mentioned by Bede¹, writing at the end of that century.

According to Pewsey and Brooks², following Bede, Sabeht, the nephew of Ethelbert, the King of Kent, had followed his uncle into the Christian faith following the teaching of St. Augustine, sent from Rome. He accepted Mellitus, one of St. Augustine's band of priests, as Bishop of London, his capital (if one can call it that). Sabeht died, it is calculated, about AD 616.

A late and far from compelling tradition has him buried at Westminster Abbey: one may conjecture that this is an example of the competing traditions created by the rivalry between St. Peter's Abbey of Westminster and St. Paul's of London, where later kings of Essex were more credibly buried. More reliably, Bede tells us that there was a pagan reaction under Sabeht's three sons, and Mellitus found it prudent to go back for a while to Gaul, never returning to London. Whether it was in fact Sabeht's body that was found will assuredly be one of

the subjects of the further study of the find. To add to the uncertainties, another fairly similar, if somewhat less rich, burial site, was found and investigated at Broomfield, near Chelmsford, at the end of the 19th. cent.

Whoever the person buried may have been, his life-style (or perhaps one should say his death-style) would not seem to have been greatly affected by his new Christian faith. He was also taking with him everything he might need to carry on his life of feasting and lavish display. Some of the treasures are imported from the farthest corners of the known world, and many have survived in remarkably good condition. They include wooden vessels with exquisitely decorated gilded mounts, a gold buckle and traces of gold braid, as well as coloured glass vessels and copper bowls. The find is spectacular in its size and quality, but what makes it unique is that, unlike Sutton Hoo, all the objects remained and in their original positions, just as they had been arranged on the day of the funeral.

The most exotic finds are a decorated flagon and at least one bowl that were both imported from the eastern Mediterranean, possibly Asia Minor. Other highlights among the sixty or more finds are a hanging bowl decorated with metallic strips and medallions and two cauldrons, one small and one vast, measuring 75cm. across. There are also two pairs of coloured glass vessels, eight wooden drinking cups decorated with gilded mounts, buckets and the remains of a large casket that may have originally contained textiles. A particularly unusual item is the frame of a folding stool, which could be from Asia Minor or Italy. The dead man had also been provided with two Merovingian gold coins from northern France, and what appear to be a sword and a shield.

The contents of the tomb had been held in place because the sand from the mound sealing the grave gradually seeped into the chamber, silting up the air spaces and supporting the roof-timbers. Most of the organic material on the site had been destroyed by the acidity of the soil, but fragments of wood from the burial chamber and from some of the vessels have survived.



Fig. 1. Urns from the find.



Fig.2. Working on the find.

Ian Blair, Senior Archaeologist on the site, said “To find an intact chamber grave and a moment genuinely frozen in time is a once in a lifetime discovery. The fact that copper-alloy bowls were still hanging from hooks in the walls of the chamber, where they had been placed nearly 1400 years ago, is a memory that will, I’m sure, remain with all of us for ever”.

When the nature of this unexpected discovery became clear, English Heritage provided the additional funding needed to ensure the excavation was completed to the highest standard. David Miles, Chief Archaeologist at English Heritage, says “This is a discovery of international importance which stunningly illuminates the rich and complex world of the so-called Dark Ages”.

Acknowledgments

The hon. Editor thanks the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council for permission to use material from their handout in the above and for their courtesy in allowing him to reproduce illustrations in their possession.

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Captain Swing

by Michael Holland

For those who do not know, the Swing Riots occurred across rural England during the early part of the 19th century, or to be precise, 1830 to 1832. They were caused, in the main, by the progressive use of mechanisation in farming, specifically the use of the threshing machine to process grain after the harvest. Before the advent of this machinery, agricultural labourers had performed the work during the winter months, thus ensuring that they were kept in employment when other forms of employment were denied them.

The Swing Riots were so called because a proportion of the anonymous threatening letters that were sent to farmers and the Anglican clergy were signed with the pseudonym, *Swing* or *Captain Swing*. Where the name came from is difficult to assess. Contemporaries put forward the suggestions that it came from the swingel - the flail part of the hand-threshing tool. Alternatively, it may have originated from the command given to the scythe men working in the harvest field '*Altogether, Swing!*'

The main weapon used by protesting labourers during these riots was incendiarism, sometimes preceded by an anonymous letter giving an ultimatum - better pay or your farm will be fired. The letter received by farmer Ashford of Orsett, '*What the Poor Lacketh, the flame will catcheth*' was succinct and to the point.¹ Other covert offences included animal maiming and killing, and damage to crops. Machine breaking incidents against threshing machines and mole ploughs were relatively common as were wage riots, poor law riots, and assaults on poor law officials. As these offences were normally carried out in daylight, there was a greater chance of offenders being apprehended.

Various historians have commented upon the Swing Riots, during the last century. The Hammonds dubbed

them the 'Last Labourer's Revolt' in their work, *The Village Labourer*.² During 1960s Marxist historian George Rudè referred to the riots in his study on collective crowd action.³ His perspective being developed in 1969 when, with fellow historian Eric Hobsbawm the then definitive work, *Captain Swing* was written.⁴ They catalogued 1473 incidents in England.

Since Eric Hobsbawm and George Rudè wrote their work on the Swing Riots in 1969, a fair amount of further work has been done on the incidence of Swing in various counties of England.⁵ In addition to published work, the Swing Riots have attracted the attention of a portion of postgraduate local history students across the country, the author included. When the Swing Riots are considered at local level there are grounds for believing that the true figure had been grossly underestimated, this was certainly the case for Essex.

Swing in Essex

According to Hobsbawm and Rudè, there were forty-six Swing incidents in Essex with the first occurring at Rayleigh, in the south of the county on 5 November 1830.⁶ However, recent research carried out in Essex shows that there were in fact sixty-six incidents of Swing protest carried out between 1830 and 1832 in that county. Furthermore, there is strong evidence to suggest that agricultural unrest consistent with *Captain Swing* protest occurred far earlier in 1830 than has hitherto been thought.⁷

The first indication of rural discontent in Essex occurred in the parish of Childerditch towards the end of March 1830 when three farm labourers assaulted a poor law official who they considered had been misleading them over the question of work. The parish operated the Roundsman system and this appears to have been at the centre of the confrontation.⁸ Within the

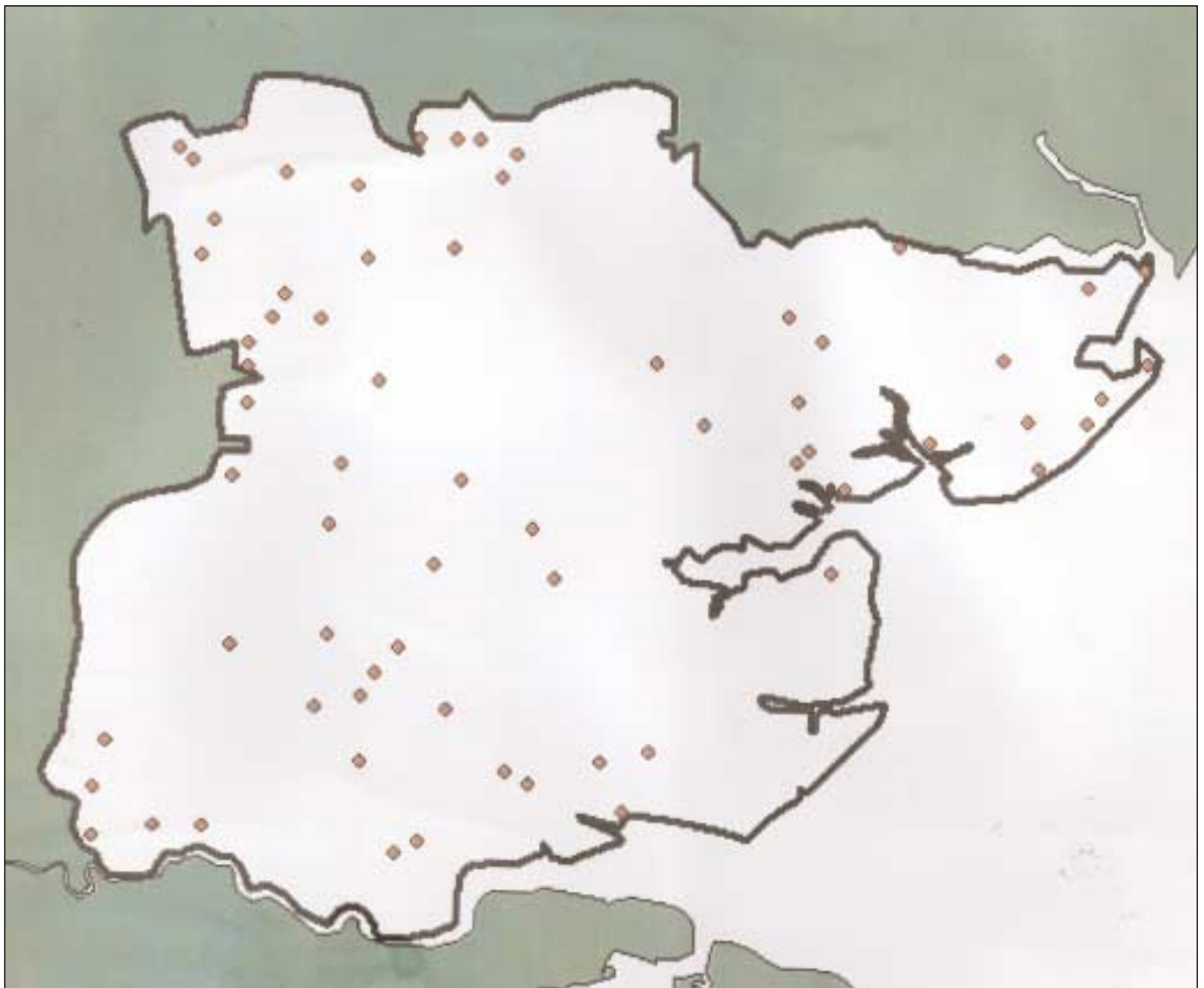
Date	Parish	Offence	Date	Parish	Offence
10/12/30	Arkesden	Wage Riot	10/12/30	Henham	Wage Riot
7/30	Aythorpe Roding	Animal Maiming	10/12/30	Henham	Wage Riot
18/12/30	Barking	Anon Letter	14/12/30	Horndon-on-the-Hill	Incendiarism
02/01/31	Basildon	Incendiarism	7/32	Ingatestone	Animal Maiming
23/12/31	Billericay	Incendiarism	08/12/30	Kirby-le-Soken	Machine Breaking
16/12/31	Birchanger	Incendiarism	26/04/30	Layer-de-la-Haye	Incendiarism
2 to 5/12/30	Birdbrook	Wage Riot	05/11/31	Leigh	Incendiarism
3/9/31	Boreham	Incendiarism	14/12/30	Leytonstone	Incendiarism
31/01/32	Bowers Gifford	Incendiarism	08/12/30	Little Clacton	Machine Breaking
14/08/30	Bradwell-juxta-Mare	Incendiarism	10/12/30	Little Wigborough	Wage Riot
30/11/30	Brightlingsea	Incendiarism	Jun-31	Messing	Animal Maiming
11/12/31	Brightlingsea	Incendiarism	13/1/31	Mountnessing	Attempted Incendiarism
9/30	Broxted	Incendiarism	03/12/30	Orsett	Anon Letter
29/03/30	Childerditch	Assault on Poor Law Officer	10/12/30	Peldon	Wage Riot
11/12/30	Clavering	Wage Riot	8/3/32	Radwinter	Animal Maiming
6/12/30	Colchester	Wage Riot	05/12/30	Ramsey	Machine Breaking
6/12/30	Colchester	Wage Riot	7/12/30	Ramsey	Machine Breaking
6/12/30	Colchester	Wage Riot	07/12/30	Ramsey	Incendiarism
06/12/30	Colchester	Wage Riot	05/11/30	Rayleigh	Incendiarism
6/31	Dagenham	Animal Maiming	01/12/30	Ridgewell	Wage Riot
08/01/31	Danbury	Anon Letter	8/3/32	Saffron Walden	Animal Maiming
08/01/31	Danbury	Anon Letter	06/12/30	Sheering	Robbery
14/12/30	Dedham	Anon Letter	06/12/30	Sheering	Machine Breaking
09/12/30	Dunmow	Machine Breaking	22/11/31	Shenfield	Incendiarism
07/12/30	Elmdon	Wage Riot	mid 1/31	South Weald	Incendiarism
19/2/32	Elsenham	Incendiarism	13/1/32	South Weald	Incendiarism
14/12/30	Finchingfield	Wage Riot	13/10/30	Stansted Mountfitchet	Animal Maiming
14/12/30	Finchingfield	Wage Riot	29/03/32	Stapleford Tawney	Incendiarism
07/12/30	Great Chesterford	Incendiarism	10/12/30	Steeple Bumpstead	Wage Riot
7/12/30	Great Clacton	Machine Breaking	10/12/30	Steeple Bumpstead	Wage Riot
7/12/30	Great Clacton	Machine Breaking	06/12/30	Steeple Bumpstead	Wage Riot
7/12/30	Great Clacton	Machine Breaking	10/30	Stondon Massey	Incendiarism
7/12/30	Great Clacton	Machine Breaking	10/12/31	Tendring	Incendiarism
07/12/30	Great Clacton	Wage Riot	06/12/30	Tendring	Wage Riot
13/12/30	Great Clacton	Machine Breaking	24/11/30	Thaxted	Incendiarism
22/11/30	Great Coggeshall	Poor Law Riot	08/12/30	Walton-le-Soken	Machine Breaking
20/01/31	Great Hallingbury	Anon Letter	07/12/30	Wenden Lofts	Wage Riot
04/12/30	Great Holland	Machine Breaking	18/07/31	West Bergholt	Incendiarism
5/12/30	Great Holland	Machine Breaking	13/11/32	West Ham	Attempted Incendiarism
11/09/30	Great Holland	Incendiarism	10/12/30	West Mersea	Wage Riot
5/12/30	Great Holland	Machine Breaking	1/12/30	Woodford Bridge	Threats
02/04/32	Great Waltham	Incendiarism	05/02/31	Writtle	Incendiarism
2/4/32	Great Waltham	Incendiarism	08/03/31	Writtle	Incendiarism
16/03/31	Harwich	Attempted Incendiarism	7/2/31	Writtle	Incendiarism
10/12/30	Hawkwell	Anon Letter	24/03/31	Writtle	Incendiarism
12/30	Helions Bumpstead	Wage Riot	9/31	Writtle	Animal Maiming

month, an act of incendiaryism was reported to have occurred on the premises of Mr. Pearson at Layer-de-la-Haye, although the local press opined that him being singled out for attention was something of a mystery, as he was so popular with his workforce.⁹

In the middle of August, an incendiary attack was reported to have occurred at Lemon Hall, Bradwell-juxta-Mare in the occupancy of William Spurgeon. A reward of £100 was offered for information leading to the conviction of the incendiary.¹⁰ As far as is known this was the first incendiary attack of the period directly linked to the use of a threshing machine. It is known that Mr. Spurgeon favoured the use of a threshing machine over manual threshing through a comment to Arthur Young on that precise issue.¹¹ Despite the reward, no one was brought to book over this incident. In mid September an incendiary attack occurred in Great Holland, in northeast Essex, an area that had been affected by the agricultural unrest of 1816 and 1822.¹² On 13th October 1830 two farm labourers Griggs and Warwick were indicted for an act of animal maiming on the farm of Thomas Griggs of Stansted Mountfichet.¹³ Then on 5th November, the incendiary attack occurred at Rayleigh as documented by Hobsbawm and Rudé.¹⁴ The full list of Swing incidents in Essex is reproduced in the table above and in the map below.

The Essex results led to consideration being given to other rural counties of England, and in fact, Wales and Scotland, parts of the United Kingdom disregarded by Hobsbawm and Rudé. If the actual number of Swing offences was greater than previously recorded in one county, might this not hold true for the rest? With this thought in mind, an approach was made to the Family and Community History Research Society (FACHRS) with a view to launching a nationwide research project to try to establish the true level of Captain Swing across England, Wales, and Scotland.

The plan of action was to recruit FACHRS members to perform research within their own county into the incidence of all acts of protest between January 1st 1830 and December 31st 1832. They were asked to scan their local newspapers for that period to assess the level of Swing and to then expand their knowledge base by searching court materials such as process books of indictment, petty sessional minutes, and quarter sessions depositions in order to utilise as wide a range of sources as possible at local level. The data that they obtained was then to be recorded onto a specifically designed form that would then be submitted, preferably by e-mail for entry onto the database. It was anticipated that events occurring in one county might be reported in a newspaper of another, accordingly researchers were



Swing Offences in Essex 1830-2.

asked to briefly record any such incidents that they encountered so that protest incidents would not be missed. A dedicated e-mail address was set up to enable researchers to communicate directly with the academic adviser.

In addition to the local researchers, volunteers living in London were recruited to cover the British Newspaper Library and the Public Record Office to perform specific searches such as clemency papers and indictments. The researcher recruited to cover the Newspaper Library was also to perform searches of newspapers for areas such as Middlesex where it had proved impossible to recruit researchers. It was accepted at the outset that some counties of England would not reveal more than a minimum of Swing incidents. Researchers operating in such counties were asked to perform searches to establish the extent of rural crime in their county for the Swing period and five years either side. This was partly to assess the level of criminality prevalent in non-Swing counties and to act as a control.

The project is probably unique in that it is 95% run via e-mail, thus cutting back on the need to use the postal service for correspondence between the team and the academic adviser. This medium has also proved invaluable for initial findings to be submitted. The research team is an extremely keen body of people who have demonstrated their willingness to pursue an area of research that was virtually unknown to them prior to the start of this project. Initial feedback has demonstrated that we have an extremely dedicated group who are eager to expand their historical knowledge of an exciting period of rural history. Without them, this project would not have been the success that it is.

Conclusion

As already stated, the original assessment of Swing in England produced a figure of 1,475 incidents. The FACHRS project has revealed that there were no fewer than 3144 occurrences and that the rural disturbances crossed into Wales where 15 incidents were

recorded and Scotland, 1. There is a great deal of work still to be performed on the raw material, which will take place over the next two years. Inevitably, as time goes on, other incidents will come to light. As soon as is practicable a basic database will be established on the FACHRS Website to allow the wider historical population access to our findings. In the meantime, queries on Captain Swing can be directed to SwingProject@aol.com.

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Coalhouse Fort

Coalhouse Fort was, and one fears still is, much too little known by almost all Essex people. Its history was, and its geography remains, among the chief reasons for this.

It is hidden away in the far south of the county, in a dull area only served by bad roads: Thurrock does not enjoy a good reputation in the rest of Essex and there are not many other good reasons than Coalhouse Fort itself for a visit. Until less than 40 years ago it was determinedly left unknown as a part of the Ministry of Defence's strategic sites, albeit a small and unimportant one.

When at last the M.o D. left it in 1962, in rather a run-down mess, it came into the hands of the Thurrock District, now Unitary, Council, and it is much to their credit that, with all their other activities, it has not been left firmly at the bottom of the pile to crumble still further. They have hardly been fairy godmothers (how many Councils can afford that role for any part of their heritage!) but at least they have been responsible parents giving it access to a decent share of the few goodies available.

One of the goodies they have given it is a share in the services of Jonathan Catton, the vigorous head of

Thurrock's Heritage Services. They have also given at the least encouragement to the Coalhouse Fort Project, who are a volunteer body and a Registered Charity managing the property on the Council's behalf and opening it to the public regularly in summer months and some other times (see p. 32 for details for 2004). I hope and trust that quite a few readers saw the BBC 'Restoration' programme in the autumn, in which Coalhouse Fort was the only Essex project included in the tv programme which concluded the project. Jonathan did a very fine job there in seeking to explain why the Fort had a better claim on the public's money than did the 30 or so other restoration projects, most of which had more obvious glamour or at least a louder claque of supporters. Unsurprisingly he did not succeed.

But it is nearly true that 'there is no such thing as bad publicity' and Jonathan's efforts were certainly valuable. I understand that there were twice as many people as hitherto at the Fort's final large public event in the autumn, and that quite a lot of additional money has come in. But sadly these are as peanuts to the need.

Not many people know of this distinguished example of military architecture close at hand in Essex. It is



Coalhouse Fort (internal View). (Courtesy of Coalhouse Fort Project).

undoubtedly among the most important and unspoiled examples of a 19th. cent. defensive structure to be seen in this country, and perhaps further afield. Each spring issue of the *Journal* has included, thanks to John Webb and Brian Burton, two very active members of the project team, a summary account of the Fort's history as part of the Diary, but there is much more than this to say.

The Thames Estuary has since the dawn of history been of great strategic importance as part of the gateway to London. As all the world knows, Queen Elizabeth I was at Tilbury, and it is inconceivable that then, and earlier, there was not a watch tower with 'state of the (then) art' defences. After the debacle with the Dutch in the 1660's Charles II and later kings built and enlarged Tilbury Fort. As high explosives developed, with important factories (remember Fairclough's articles in the *Journal* particularly in 1996) up the Lea Valley it made obviously good sense both for strategic and safety reasons for the temperamental cargo to be shipped from there to the magazines at Purfleet, and thence to the ships using it or transporting it further afield.

In the 1860's Palmerston's government was - seemingly rather stupidly imagining that the two Napoleons were much more nearly alike and that the French were much stronger than they were - very worried about the threat that they posed to our ports and naval defences. Elaborate defence systems were planned around Portsmouth and Plymouth and at the approaches to London. They were not completed until Napoleon III has been overthrown and the French had proved their military incompetence in the Franco-Prussian war. Even so, records show that French spies were trying for some years to penetrate these defences.

Coalhouse Fort was built on a site where Henry VIII had already built defences because of its view of

downstream shipping, and is among the best preserved of Palmerston's forts, built again to the the 'state of the art'. The future General Gordon 'of Khartoum' was one of the senior officers of the Royal Engineers charged with its building. Partly because of late Victorian peace, at least in Europe, and also because newer types of warships and breach-loading guns had outdated the design, it hardly fired a shot in anger: perhaps the odd anti-aircraft pom-pom in the Battle of Britain or during air raids. But it was at the least a good base for searchlights and useful accommodation for servicemen and (who knows) it might be useful again. Vacated by the Services, it served for a little while as temporary housing. Now in the hands of the Project Teams it is a good centre for occasional classic car shows, displays of appropriate outdated military equipment and the like.

The Project Team would like to restore it to what it was in past years, but years of, at best, 'care and maintenance' in the hands of central and local government have wrought their toll. A full restoration particularly of the barracks section would cost at least £3m., and where would such money come from other than one of the Heritage Lotteries?. But the Team has done very well by voluntary labour in bringing the site as a whole up to a far better state than it has been for many years. There are well-run guided tours to explain its purpose and to show people round, there is a gift shop and there is also the Thameside Aviation Museum. Furthermore it is, despite the poor roads serving its neighbourhood, the centre of a very attractive small public park with good long views up and still better down the river.

What about a visit there this summer to see what is undoubtedly about the least known of Essex' gems?

Book Reviews

THE MONUMENTAL BRASSES OF ESSEX. By William Lack, H. Martin Stuchfield and Philip Whittemore. *Monumental Brass Society*. 2003 ISBN 0 9543271 0 2. 2 vol. (948 pp). £25.00 or £35.00 (inc. UK post.) from Monumental Brass Society, c/o Lowe Hill House, Stratford St. Mary, Suffolk CO7 6JX.

Monumental brasses are a fascinating survival and a primary source of our history. The county of Essex has the third highest total of any county in the country: this comprehensive record has taken five years to produce and entailed visiting 628 churches. It is part of an even more ambitious project to survey the whole of the country. It is a work of outstanding scholarship and a massive achievement for which all those interested in brasses, and many with a less specialised interest in ecclesiology and in local and family history will be forever grateful.

The arrangement of the record is alphabetical. Churches are listed under place names and those parts of Essex now included in the London Boroughs are included. In this and other ways the survey builds on earlier surveys recorded by the Rev. Herbert Haines (1861) and Mill Stephenson (1926). For each church the survey begins with a list of existing brasses with descriptive details and measurements. This is followed by a list of indents (slabs from which brasses have been removed) and lost brasses, some of which have been recorded at earlier times and are when possible illustrated by surviving rubbings. Finally there is a list of written sources from which more can be discovered about these brasses and indents. All figure brasses are handsomely illustrated and some indents are also shown.

The term 'monumental brass' is interpreted very precisely in this survey. Every brass tablet in church and churchyard has been noted and recorded down to the present day. Much of this later information may not excite the same interest as medieval engravings, but the record will be important in preserving this information. To compress all the information given into two volumes abbreviation has been necessary. This is usually immediately understandable, but in any case a comprehensive key is given on p.xxvi. There is a full index at the back of Vol. 2, a chronological list of brasses with styles of engraving down to 1642 on p.857, an extensive bibliography at the start on p.xx, and even a list of churches visited but found to have no brasses at the bottom of p.855.

A number of general comments prompted by the survey are to be found in the introduction. It is sad to learn that a few thefts continue to deplete our collection of brasses. However some discoveries have also added to what we possess. Literary records describe some of the losses which took place in the 1530s and then the 1640s. The introduction also includes some interesting stories of brasses which were commissioned in wills but which appear never to have been actually made.

The three authors of these volumes do not tell us how they shared the heavy work of making this remarkable survey, but all who have any interest in discovering this rich heritage of brasses are much in debt to them. These volumes do not deal with the art

of brass engraving, nor with the history of this particular style of memorial, but they provide the basis for discovering Essex' rich collection of monumental brass, and by their admirable referencing a ready place to which those primarily studying other Essex topics can refer. The quality of the production and printing is of the best and the illustrations are large and clear throughout.

Michael Swindlehurst

★ ★ ★

FIELD SYSTEMS IN ESSEX. by John Hunter. *The Essex Society for Archaeology and History*. Occasional Papers, New Series, no.1. 2003 ISSN 1740 5890. 41pp. £5.95 inc. p. & p. Available from Dr. Chris Thornton, 75 Victoria Rd. Maldon CM9 5HE.

This Occasional Paper has been published in celebration of the Society's 150th. anniversary in 2002, and makes a welcome and much-needed contribution to Essex studies. Nearly 100 years ago H.L. Gray commented on the difficulties of describing the early field systems of Essex. More recently, John Hunter's articles and his book *The Essex Landscape* have helped to solve these difficulties, and *Field Systems in Essex* provides a clear and attractive account of how the agricultural landscape developed. The numerous maps add appreciably to the text. After a general introduction we are given a historical outline of field development from prehistoric to modern times, and this takes account of the overall economy and landownership. This section is followed by four case studies examining Crossing Temple, Little Easton, Broxted and Tilty, Little Park and the 'parallel parishes' south of Brentwood comprising Great and Little Warley, Childerditch and East and West Horndon. The paper concluded with discussion on the need for future research, and gives practical advice on how this may be carried out. Some work is already ongoing, such as the Heritage Sampford project masterminded by Ken Neale, but there is plenty more for all of us to get engaged in.

Jennifer Ward

★ ★ ★

THE ROUND CHURCH TOWERS OF ENGLAND. by Stephen Hart. *Lucas Books*. 1999 ISBN 1 903797 32 7. £15.99.

Many readers will know *The Round Tower Churches of South East England* by W.J. Goode and wonder whether this book has anything to add. In fact Hart takes a radically different approach, and in place of Goode's gazetteer of round towered churches he gives an analysis from the point of view of the trained architect. After painstaking study of all the churches, he divides them by groups according to particular features and by looking at details of the building work. This leads to a considerable rethink on the dating of the churches, where earlier writers have been prone to sweeping generalisations, all Saxon, all Norman, some earlier

than 13th. cent. etc. This study shows the situation to be considerably more complex and is illustrated with the author's own excellent photos. It is likely to be of interest to anyone seeking to know more about building in flint (on which Hart has already written in *Flint Architecture of East Anglia*: see James Bettley's review in the *Journal vol.36 no.1 p.19*) as well as those interested in Round Towers.

Anne Haward

★ ★ ★

BRAINTREE PAST AND PRESENT. By John Marriage. *Sutton Publishing*. 2003 ISBN 0 7509 3157 4 128pp £11.99.

This, one may say, is yet another of the many picture books of our towns and villages brought out by this and other competing publishers, and it has few special virtues to mark it out. An effort is made to compare past with present: sometimes this works, sometimes it does not. There is no reference to the cooling towers which dominate Braintree hardly less than Jumbo dominates Colchester. Only a little of the great contribution made by Braintree's great industrial families, the Courtaulds, the Crittalls and the Warners is referred to, though more is implicit, at least to those who know. The text, though good so far as it goes, is slight. But it is fair to say that the comparison of old with new does bring out the virtues of some of the older buildings, such as the free churches, unusually distinguished for Essex, which do survive.

In this review, however, I must pay tribute to John Marriage, whose death took place on 17 December. His death is a great loss to the county. He has contributed many books of this kind and in his newspaper writings made Essex known to many more. It is sad that we shall not have the benefit of more of these writings. More than this, he was an authority on and a devotee of, Essex inland waterways and Chairman of the Stour Trust's Navigation and Conservation Committee, and his loss will be much regretted.

M.B.

★ ★ ★

CHELMSFORD: A HISTORY. by David Jones. *Phillimore*. 2003 ISBN 1 86077 246 3. 130pp. including 149 illustrations. £15.99.

This book deals with the history of Chelmsford from the Iron Age to the year 2002, a brave undertaking. We first read of Roman Moulsham, then of the Bishop's medieval 'new town' of Chelmsford on the opposite side of the river, with its new bridges drawing the London traffic, and its flourishing market, fair and church (now the cathedral). The success of the Mildmay family provides a continuous thread from the 16th century onwards, through the struggles of the Reformation, the Civil War, the great plague, the Restoration and beyond. In the eighteenth century we see many problems, but also bold developments such as the provision of the stone bridge, the Shire Hall, an improved water supply, and the canal to Heybridge. The Napoleonic Wars brought a huge influx of soldiers into and around the town, while the 19th century opened with the falling down of the church in 1800. Victorian transformations included the building

of the new London Road and the railway, both on land provided by the Mildmays, and the provision of an efficient water and sewerage system by the new Board of Health of 1850.

These developments culminated in the proud acquisition of a Borough charter in 1888, causing lively celebrations. At the same time the seeds of the 20th-century town were sown by the arrival of the three great engineering companies, Crompton, Hoffman and Marconi. Many assets of modern Chelmsford owe their existence to the townsmen of the 1930s, who for instance built the swimming pool, the bus station, the library and the museum. Chelmsford's residents suffered much from bombing during the Second World War, but before war had ended they had already begun to look to the future, partaking in the national enthusiasm for re-planning.

David Jones chronicles all these developments and more very thoroughly, making this a most useful work of reference. He also finds room for interesting stories and quotations. The illustrations are numerous, fascinating, and beautifully produced. Navigating the way around a town history such as this can be complicated, and the editors could have helped considerably by providing a map of the whole town, and some subheadings. But overall this is a most worthy addition to this growing series of town histories.

Janet Gyford

★ ★ ★

CHELMSFORD STAR: A CO-OPERATIVE HISTORY. by Malcolm Wallace. *Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society Ltd*. 1999 148pp including 15 tables, plus 16pp of photographs. £5.00. Obtainable from the Customer Desk or Marketing Department of the Society, 220 Moulsham Street, Chelmsford CM2 7HH.

One of the delights of local history is the never-ending variety of topics available to its students. This is illustrated by the fact that Malcolm Wallace has successfully filled a complete book on an aspect of Chelmsford which is not covered by David Jones' publication at all! He is to be congratulated on a detailed and careful piece of original research. After setting the scene, he tells us about the Chelmsford Co-operative Coal Society which was formed in 1847, only three years after the well known 'Rochdale Pioneers' Society. The Chelmsford body set the pattern for its successors, in being run by the working class for themselves, not depending on charity, and providing goods which were cheaper and better than those available elsewhere in the town. In 1867 a new organisation to sell meat and groceries was proposed, and thus the Chelmsford Star Co-operative Society was formed. In a very short time it had several hundred members, was paying them a regular dividend, and had to obtain a larger shop. Other services were added, not least the large social events and celebrations in which the Co-op excelled. The Depression of the 1870s caused difficulties, but by 1881 the Moulsham Street complex that we know today had been started. Modern techniques were always used, and the extension of 1892 was one of the first Chelmsford premises to install electric lighting.

The subsequent story continues to give us similar interesting examples of the development of the town as

a whole. But the Society did not only reflect the rest of Chelmsford; it was an active player. It was remarked in 1902 that many local children only went to school properly clothed and fed because of the Co-op. Furthermore, the alliances and experience gained in its Committees and Guilds helped members to play an important part in the somewhat tentative growth of radical politics in 20th century Chelmsford. This book demonstrates the rewards that other local historians could receive from studying the contribution of Co-ops to their localities. And with its wealth of background information about the national and county picture, and its detailed chronology and notes, it will provide such students with an essential starting point for their research.

Janet Gyford

★ ★ ★

I AM JUST GOING OUTSIDE: Captain Oates – Antarctic Tragedy. By Michael Smith. *Spellmount Limited*. 2002 ISBN 1 86227 178 X. £20.00.

This is the third substantial book about the famous Antarctic explorer, Captain Lawrence Edward Grace Oates of Gestingthorpe Hall, Essex. Readers may wonder why a third biography was necessary following *A Very Gallant Gentleman* by L.C. Bernacchi, O.B.E., published in 1933 and *Captain Oates Soldier and Explorer* by Sue Limb and Patrick Cordingley (compiled c.1967) and eventually published in 1982. The principal reason for this third and perhaps more complete biography is the wealth of new information which has become available not only about Captain Oates and his private life but also about Polar exploration generally and this tragedy in particular.

Michael Smith makes numerous references to the domination and influence of Oates' mother throughout his life. He was clearly the favourite of her four children and she retained the privacy of his personal papers, which were not available to earlier authors. However, she was one of the first to question the well-known story of this Antarctic tragedy. In short she blamed Captain Robert Scott for the disaster and loss of her son and the other explorers. The book contains evidence to support this but it must be remembered that it is written from Oates' and not Scott's perspective. The facts have been recorded fairly following careful research by the author and with the benefit of the release of new material.

The legend of Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole in 1911-2 is well known. In brief Scott, Oates, Evans, Wilson and Bowers successfully reached the South Pole only to find that Amundsen and his Norwegian team had narrowly beaten them. On the return journey Evans was the first to lose his life. One month later Oates left the tent during a blizzard with the now famous words, "I am just going outside and may be some time". By this gallant act he hoped that Scott, Wilson and Bowers would have a chance of returning safely but sadly this was not to be.

Quite apart from the national and even international interest in this well-known aspect of our history this well illustrated book is also of significant relevance to Essex historians. The Oates family owned

Gestingthorpe Hall from 1891 to 1947 and Captain Oates himself was Lord of the Manor from the death of his father in 1896 until his own death in 1912. In 1900 he was one of the founder members of the East Essex Hunt Club. His family were great benefactors to Gestingthorpe and in particular to its church and school.

The heroism of Oates was not restricted to his ultimate sacrifice in Antarctica, as he had previously served with distinction in the Boer War. In 1901 he was seriously injured near the town of Aberdeen in South Africa and for his bravery in refusing to surrender he was recommended for the Victoria Cross. His bravery was acknowledged by a 'Mention in Despatches'. After recovering from his injuries he returned to action later the same year. At the end of the Boer War his safe return to Gestingthorpe was commemorated by the ringing of the church bells on the orders of his mother. These had recently been restored at her expense. After his death, Caroline Oates had an apple tree planted in the gardens of Gestingthorpe cottages and the library at the Hall was converted into a chapel in his memory.

Finally, this book reveals that Oates had apparently fathered a daughter but he was not aware of her existence when he died on his 32nd birthday.

He was a gallant, courageous, Edwardian gentleman and the author is to be congratulated for making so much new information available to us.

Adrian Corder-Birch

★ ★ ★

CHINGFORD PAST. By Barbara Way. *Phillimore*. 2003 ISBN 0 948667 87 7. 144pp. 175 illus. £19.95.

This is a comprehensive account of the life and development of Chingford from a remote and isolated forest-side village into the suburban community it is today. The author is a long-time resident of Chingford and has seen many of the changes about which she writes. As a local teacher she had been involved in its history, and her interest in education is shown in the very full account she gives of the local schools. With her contact with lifelong residents she has been able to bring a personal touch to the story. She has been able to draw on the photographic resources of the Vestry House Museum and elsewhere to illustrate virtually the whole range of activities which are the day-to-day life of a community.

However on at least one occasion she has strayed beyond the Chingford boundary in her illustration of a watermill: she does not identify it in the caption, but the date given there is wrong. The mill is Sewardstone Mill, and this was demolished in the 1880's so the picture could not have been taken in 1906. Another slight criticism is that the reservoir consistently described as 'George V Reservoir' has as its official name 'King George Reservoir'.

These however are minor criticisms when set against the overall delight of the book and it is one to be wholeheartedly recommended to anyone who has even the slightest connection with this area.

John Boyes.

CLACTON at WAR 1939/45. By the Clacton VCN Group. *VCH Essex & Univ. of Essex*. 2003 ISBN 0 9546458 0 4. £5.95 from Clacton & Dist. Local Hist. Soc., Clacton Library, 96 Station Rd. or £6.95 (inc. UK post.) from C.H. Preen, 14 Highview Ave., Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 4DY. .

This is a pioneering work undertaken by a group of local volunteers sponsored by the Essex VCH, currently working on Tendring Hundred, which took advantage of the interest their work has generated, together with the vigour of an already notably committed and go-ahead local history society. The result is a work that, whilst no doubt in a sense something of a burden on an already stretched VCH team, has already made new skills available to them and should prove a model in reducing the VCH team's future burdens elsewhere in the county and perhaps beyond.

The Second World War is obviously a promising choice of subject for such initiatives. Memories remain vivid, oral history will be readily available and the lavish written records can be compared with these, both for accuracy and for possible bias and selectivity. All good local historians working on the recent past will be doing their best to achieve this, but local memories are selective and partial, and to filter them through the eyes of trained historians working on, principally, the written records must give the nearest approach to complete authenticity that the fallible human brain can achieve.

This little book comes triumphantly through these pretentious hoops to produce a readable and lucid account of how a local community, cut off by voluntary, and some obligatory, evacuation, and facing a greater problem than most through its geography, suffered the first civilian casualties of the war, followed by many others, and still, albeit with difficulty, coped. For this account we have reason to be grateful to the VCH professional team, especially to Shirley Durgan, but perhaps even more reason to be grateful to the people of Clacton who collaborated in its preparation.

M.B.

★ ★ ★

THE REMARKABLE RADWINTER REREDOS: Scenes from the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary. *Friends of Radwinter Church*. 2003 To be bought from the publisher, The Rectory, Radwinter, Saffron Walden, CB10 2SW. £3.00 or from Saffron Walden Tourist Office at £2.50.

Unknown to almost all of us among the fine carvings of Essex churches, this remarkable work has been restored and brought to life only just now. It was carved in Brussels by a follower of Roger van de Weyden and Kim Boorman in the late 15th cent. and is among the five Netherlands altarpieces of the period recorded in England. We do not know when it was brought to England – almost certainly in the early 19th cent. Like many other fine continental works of art, a Tractarian vicar, Rev. John F.W. Bullock bought it to adorn his church in 1888.

It stood behind the altar on an outside wall, its woodwork deteriorating, all but uncoloured and its qualities invisible. Many of its nineteen panels were hidden by being folded back. But following the restoration of the chancel to enable the Eucharist to be celebrated behind the altar it has been repainted and

restored by Dr. Woods and can be seen in all its splendour, all its panels visible and an additional glory to this lovely Nesfield church. The superb carving illuminates all the traditional scenes of Our Lady's life and, more than ever, even in its years in Brussels, it is a joy of art and of devotion.

We can be grateful to the Friends of Radwinter Church for bringing this wonderful work to our attention in this fine booklet.

M.B.

★ ★ ★

BOOKS RECEIVED

DICK TURPIN: The Myth of the English Highwayman. James Sharpe. *Profile* 2004 256pp. £15.99. (I am informed that this book is now sold out. (Ed.)).

THE DUST DIARIES. Owen Sheen. *Faber & Faber* 2004 ISBN 0 571 21016 3 (hardback). 310pp ill. £16.99.

MAYLANDS AERODROME 1928-1940. *Ian Henry* ISBN 0 86025 535 2 £9.95.

LOST CASTLE OF ESSEX. Hunter. *Ian Henry* ISBN 0 86025 520 4 £7.95.

A LOOK BACK AT HALSTEAD. Doreen Potts. *the author* ISBN 0 9545555 0 3. £9.95 (plus p.& p.).

★ ★ ★

The British Association for Local History and The Local Historian

Essex and the *Journal* have been treated with impressive generosity by the BALH and its journal; this is assuredly not a little due to the Lockwoods' long and close connection with both. Years ago Stuart Mason's article on the 9th Lord Petre and his luxurious entertainment of George III visiting his troops at Childerditch gained their special award, and their recent issue honoured Stuart with an obituary. Last year Shirley Durgan's article on municipal housing in Chelmsford early last century was published and this deserves note.

After considering the earlier legislation she showed how the Working Classes Act 1890 at length made it practicable for local authorities, not only to demolish and replace slums, but to build more widely for the needy. Chelmsford undertook this earlier than most, although until 1919 it could make no call on state funds for assistance in its plans. The Medical Officer of Health saw no need from his bailiwick but a majority of the council, urged by Councillor Lunney and the young Borough Engineer E.T.Harrison, were much influenced by overcrowding. Leading figures in the town looked exclusively to private enterprise, but all parties took a contrary view.

Land was purchased off Rainsford Lane; in 1912 tenders were sought and one accepted and the first 143 houses were completed and occupied by 1914. The Council as a whole quickly came to take the view that, even in a prosperous and growing town, this was needed to meet the needs of the poorest and to avert overcrowding. The choice of Cramphorn as one of the street names shows the spirit of their approach.

We hope very much that more Essex folk interested in local history will show their appreciation by membership of the BALH (and the receipt with it of *The Local Historian*).

Lifelong Learning

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

Department of History, Centre for Local History

(www.essex.ac.uk/history/local_history)

(a) Certificate in Local History.

This is a one-year, 30 session part-time course which studies the local history of Essex and concentrates on the most important developments in the region 1600-1950, the most significant sources and archives for local and regional history, and how to plan, execute and write up a piece of original research. It draws on the teaching resources of the University Local History Centre and the Essex Record Office. The classes are mainly taught in the evening, but there are also several Saturday day-schools and a Summer school.

(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/>).

2004 BURROWS LECTURE

This lecture will be given on Wednesday 19 May at Writtle College at 7.30pm. The speaker will be **Simon Lyster**, who is a Director of the Wildlife Trust, and his subject will be **"Is there any future for Essex's wildlife and does it matter anyway?"**. Admission will be free.

2004 DUDLEY WHITE LECTURE

This will be given by Prof. Ann Hughes of the University of Keele at 7.00pm on Tuesday 15 June in the University of Essex Lecture Theatre Block. Her subject will be: *'One of the worst places in the Kingdom for opinion': Religion in Civil War Essex and Thomas Edwards' Gangraema*.

The **ESSEX LOCAL HISTORY LECTURE** will be given by Dr. Peter Razzell on *Essex and Smallpox: a new view of 18th. cent. Demography* at 7.30pm on Thursday 26 June at the Local History Centre, University of Essex. (£1.00 at the door).

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE BOARD OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing Education in most of the county now comes under the aegis of Essex University, but the west of the county remains under that of Cambridge. Various daytime courses are being offered at different centres.

There is also a very wide range of residential courses - weekends and sometimes longer - being offered at the famous adult education centre at Madingley Hall. Details of all these and of other courses being offered by the Board are available from the Board of Continuing Education, Madingley Hall, Cambridge CB3 5AQ (Tel: 01954.210636).

WEEK OF STUDY 2004: ESSEX WEA SUMMER SCHOOL

(in conjunction with History Dept. University of Essex). Mon 5 July - Friday 9 July. Based at Wilson Marriage Centre, Magdalen St., Colchester. (free parking on site: 5 mins. walk from Town station).

Course 1: *How Dark were the Dark Ages?*, Fresh thinking on Anglo-Saxon England. Tutor: Pat Brown (Mon.- Thurs 10.00am - 12.30pm). Friday all day at West Stow: transport in students' own cars: entrance fee £3.00 - £4.00.

Course 2: *Visiting Essex and Suffolk Churches* Tutor: Elwyn Morris. (Mon. 10.00am - 3.30pm. in class. Tues. & Wed. 9.30am. - 4.00pm. visiting churches. Additional fee for coach travel £16.00).

Course 3: *The Golden Age: Dutch Art in the 17th. cent.* Tutor: Dr. Robert Brownell. (Mon. - Fri. 10.00am. - 12.30pm).

Course 4: *The Sonnet.* Tutor: John Coborn. (Mon. - Fri. 10.00am. - 12.30 pm).

Course 5: *Sources and Documents for Local History.* Tutor: Patrick Denney. (Mon. - Fri. 10.00am. - 12.30pm).

For Application Form please consult Mrs. C.T. Voysey, La Coupee, Nounsley Rd., Hatfield Peverel, Chelmsford. CM3 2NQ. (Tel: 01245 382595, email: cvoysy@onetel.net.uk) Fee £40 (concessions £38) plus expenses, if any, stated above.

CRESSING TEMPLE

The Cressing Temple site and Visitors' Centre will be open to the general public on Sundays from March to October inclusive from 10.30am. to 5.00pm. They will also be open on Bank Holiday Mondays and on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from April to Sept. inc. (but not Good Friday) 10.30am. to 4.30pm. (On Saturdays it is heavily booked for weddings and other private events). No dogs, except for guide dogs. Group, school and other specialist visits are welcome by agreement (Tel: 01376 5843 for details).

Study days etc.

- 26 May *Conservation for Professionals:* a one-day seminar on the conservation of historic buildings. 9.00am - 4.30pm. £50 inc. lunch. For information or to book, consult Pauline Hudspith (Tel: 01245 437672).
- 4 June *Pot Pourri and Candlelit Garden.* Join our horticulturist, Andrew Mugford, in the Walled Garden. 7.15pm. - 10.00pm. Please book in advance (Tel: 01376 584903). £10; no concessions.
- 6 June *Cressing Uncovered.* Look into the history of Cressing Temple's site and buildings with Elphin Watkin. No need to book.
- 17 June *Basic Maintenance of Historic Buildings.* for their owners. 9.00am. - 4.30 pm. £35, inc. lunch. Consult Pauline Hudspith, as above.
- 12 July *Brick in Eastern England.* One-day conference on history and manufacture. 9.30am. - 5.30pm. £17.50 (EHBG members £15); lunch £5 extra. Consult Pauline Hudspith, as above.
- 19 August *Ruin or Rebuild.* 9.00am. - 4.30pm. £50, inc. lunch. Consult Pauline Hudspith, as above.
- 2 Sept. *Sense of Place: Landscape and Historic Buildings* A one-day seminar on development control etc. 9.00am. - 4.30pm. £50 inc. lunch. Consult Pauline Hudspith, as above.
- 9 Sept. *Seed Collecting Afternoon* with our horticulturist, Andrew Mugford. 1.00pm. - 3.30pm. Please book in advance (Tel: 01376 584903). £4; conc. £3.50 (includes seeds to take home).
- 19 Sept. *The Household.* A living history event: the home of a 15th. cent. silk-weaver is recreated. 10.30am - 4.30pm.
- 17 Oct. *Apple Day.* Almost 20 varieties of apples and pears on display: bring yours for identification - they may be a lost Essex type. From noon.

Craft Shows and Events

- 12/13 June *Cressing Craft Festival.* Both days 10.00am. - 5.00pm. Adults £3, concs. £2. Hallmark Craft Fairs (Tel: 01702 477100).
- 29/30 Aug. *Guild of Essex Craftsmen 5th Annual Fayre.* Both days 10.30am - 5.30 pm. An event for all the family. Details from Celia Reed (Tel: 01277 356008).
- 4/5 Sept. *Antiques and Collectors' Fair.* Both days 9.30am. - 5.00pm. Adults £3; concs. £2. Hallmark Fairs (Tel: 01376710383).
- 25/26 Sept. *Cressing Autumn Craft Fair.* Both days 10.00am.- 5.00pm. Adults £3; concs. £2. Hallmark Craft Fairs (Tel: 01702 4773).

Musical Events

- 19 June *The Bootleg Beatles*. Open air concert with supporting events, some for children, organised for charity and presented by the Braintree and Bocking Rotary Club. 12.30pm - 10.00pm. £19.50 (under 14's £12.00). For tickets & information. (Tel: 01376 584903).
- 26 June *'Last Night at the Proms'*. 7.30pm. Traditional favourites presented by Witham Choral Soc. and the Colchester Philharmonic Orchestra. £10 (no concs.) For enquiries and booking contact Ian McCullum (Tel: 01206 210754).

Miscellaneous Events

- 1/2 May *Wedding Fayre*. All to make your wedding go well. Sat. 10.00 am. - 5.30pm. Sun. 9.00am. - 5.30pm. Adults £2.50: children 50p.: other conc. £1.50 (Tel: 01245 360565).
- 8/9 May *Templars Fayre*. Medieval market with medieval entertainment. Both days 10.30am. - 5.00pm. Adults. £4: concs. £3.
- 29/30/31 May *Mind, Body and Soul Weekend*. Food hall, alternative medicines, mediums, tarot card readers etc. Sat. 10.30am. - 5.30pm., Sun. & Mon. 10.00am - 5.30pm. Adults £2.50, chil. 50p., concs. £1.50. (Tel: 01245 360565).
- 24 June *Feng Shui* with Colin F. Brook. 10.00am. - 3.45pm. £18 (excludes lunch: no concs.) Please book in advance (Tel: 01376 584903).
- 1 Aug. *Discover Dowsing* with Barry Hillman-Crouch and Colin Peal. Rods may be bought: no need to book. Two sessions 11.00am.- 1.00pm. and 2.00 pm.- 4.00pm
- 21/22 Aug. *Country Fair and Fun Day* Fun day out for all: displays, food hall, competitions. Sat. 10.00am.- 8.00pm., Sun. 9.30am. - 8.00pm. Adults £2.50, children £1.50, concs. £2. (Tel: 01245 360565).
- 2/3 Oct. *Mind, Body and Soul Weekend*. As for May event.

- 10 Oct. *Reflexology Workshop* with Lynne Grogan. 10.30am.- 3.00 pm. £27 (excludes lunch: no concs.). Booking (Tel: 01376 584903).

Children's Activity Days

- 3 Aug. *The Celts at Cressing*.
10 Aug. *Meet the Romans*.
17 Aug. *Viking Visitors*.
24 Aug. *Medieval Fun*.
31 Aug. *A Tudor Tuesday*.
Each event 10.30am. - 3.00pm. All comers £3.50 each, or family ticket (2 adults, 3 children) £15 (includes all craft materials).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL FESTIVAL.

Fri. 7 May - Sun. 15 May.

- Sat. 8 May. *Chelmsford Echoes Mystery Tour*. 10.30am. at the Cathedral. £6.00 (adults) £3.00 (children).
- Tues. 11 May *Home and Away*. Dot Bedenham and Ian Hook tell the story of Chelmsford's young men, going to war in 1914 and expecting to be home by Christmas. £6.00.
- Tues. 11 May **The APU Lecture.** *The Making of an University Town*: talk by Mike Malone-Lee 6.15pm. at the Michael Ashcroft Centre, Anglia Polytechnic Univ. £8.00.
- Wed. 12 May *The Bells are rung up: Dorothy L. Sayers and Lord Peter Wimsey*: 2.30pm. at the Essex Record Office. £6.00.
- Thurs. 13 May *History of the English Garden*: talk by Matthew Wilson, Curator of RHS Garden, Hyde Hall 6.00pm. at Hyde Hall. £6.00.
- Thurs. 13 May *History of Change Ringing in Chelmsford*: talk by Stephen Nash 5.30pm. at the Essex Record Office. £6.00.
- Fri. 14 May *The making of Hanningfield Reservoir*: talk by Vanessa Hart 10.00am. at the The Fishing Lodge, Hanningfield. £6.00.

Essex Place-Names Project

The Essex Place-Names Project is now available on the internet at www.essex.ac/history/esah/essexplacenames. The database is being continually augmented as further parishes are recorded. The Project, in conjunction with the Record Office, also produces parish place-names booklets (available from the ERO), of which over 80 parishes are now published. Currently the database contains over 35,000 entries of place-names, owners, tenants, land-use and topography which can be used for research by historians, archaeologists, genealogists,

philologists and linguists. The work of the Project has been appreciably enhanced by a grant from the Friends of Historic Essex.

The **7th Annual Essex Place-Names Seminar** will take place at Braintree Museum on Sat. 3 July 2004 at 2.00 pm. Entry will be free. Talks will be given by Local Recorders and a guest Speaker. Further information about the Project is available from the Essex Record Office.

PEVSNER and ESSEX – 50 Years on

This is, in its way, a very important anniversary. We now see, perhaps a little too clearly, the defects of Pevsner's early works in the *Buildings of England* series, of which *Essex*, published in 1954, was one. But this work is one of the many debts that we owe Sir Nikolaus for his great achievement: he was, it would be near the truth to say, the founder of all that most of us know in England about architectural history and criticism, and this has enabled us to put into their just and valuable place the essentially dilettante, though fresh and invigorating, works by the likes of Basil Clarke and John Betjeman.

I wrote with feeling because, introduced to it during the war by our young curate, I studied Basil Clarke. His *Church Builders of the 19th Cent.*, was my bible, a still earlier study which is by now much out-dated, for so many cycling enterprises when cycling was easy and safe, but the absence of signposts made it well-nigh impossible often to find out where one was. I learned about all the national architects, but the locals like Chancellor remained to me a closed book. When Pevsner's *Essex* arrived it was a moment of joy, and I cherish the copy in which I wrote down all my discoveries on the blank end-sheets. Enid Radcliffe's revision in 1965 made but little impression on me.

But in 2000 James Bettley was appointed by the Buildings Books Trust to create an entirely new volume.

All the heritage societies were asked to give financial support, and many, like the Friends of Historic Essex, willingly did so. The Trust are now seeking an update of that support in their *Essex Project Fund*, and I sincerely trust that it will meet with a generous response. A lot of progress has been made since then and James has, the Trust tells us, produced very fine work and kept closely to the original schedule. We look for publication early in 2006, and then the older editions can take honourable retirement.

50 years is time for celebration, and the Trust are arranging an event in Colchester on 12 June – 10.00a.m. at the Methodist Church Hall, Maidenburgh St., very near the Castle. James Bettley will be one of the speakers, and Elizabeth Williamson of the V.C.H. will be another. Our good friend David Andrews will be bringing us up-to-date on timber-framed buildings.

A flier is enclosed with this issue, but if anyone wants an application form or other additional information would they please contact:

Michael Beale
The Laurels
The Village
Great Waltham CM3 1DE
(tel: 01245 360344
email: jem_beale@hotmail.com)

Essex Museums

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
CHELMSFORD & ESSEX MUSEUM and
ESSEX REGIMENT MUSEUM**
Oaklands Park, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford CM2 9AQ
Tel: 01245 615100. Fax: 01245 262428

Open weekdays and Saturdays 10.00am-5.00pm, Sundays 2.00-5.00pm.
Admission is free but there may be charges for special events.

Special Events and Exhibitions 2004

24 April - 4 July *Ivor's Sculpture Group.*
10 July - 29 Aug. *Handle with Care.*
4 Sept. - 31 Oct. *Margery Allingham.*

BTHE 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.

COALHOUSE FORT (see also p.23)

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. 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 Sunday 11 April, on the last Sunday in each month from April to September and on Bank Holidays from 11.00am to 5.00pm (last entries 4.00pm) and on some other special occasions. Admission £2.50: over 60's £2.00. Under 16's free, but must be accompanied by an adult. For more information please ring 01375 844203. Parties of 20 or more can be accommodated at other times by prior arrangement with Mr. Brian Burton (Tel: 01708 853053).

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.

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.

SAFFRON WALDEN MUSEUM
Museum Street, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1JL
Tel: (01799) 510333

The Museum is open on Mondays-Saturdays from 10.00am-5.00pm, and on Sundays and Bank Holidays from 2.30-5.00pm. Cost of admission £1.00: discount tickets (retired etc.) 50p: children (18 and under) free.

Special Events and Exhibitions 2004

Closing 13 June *The Thaxted Pharmacy.*
Opening 26 June *Transco Pipeline Archaeology.*

UPMINSTER TITHE BARN (Agricultural and Folk Museum), Hall Lane, Upminster, will be open from 2.00-6.00pm on the following weekends: 3/4 April, 1/2 May, 7/8 Aug, 4/5 Sept, 2/3 Oct.

UPMINSTER WINDMILL will be open from 2.00-5.30pm on the following weekends: 3/4 & 24/25 April, 8/9 May, 19/20 June, 17/18 July, 21/22 Aug, 18/19 Sept.

18/19 Sept. London Open House Weekend.

Both these are owned by the Havering Council but are operated under a licence from them by the Hornchurch and District Historical Society. Entry to both is free.

The Museum is a thatched barn 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. When it is open, guides give visitors a thorough conducted tour lasting 45 minutes explaining how it worked.

Members of the Society are willing also to open 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

**THE FRIENDS OF HISTORIC ESSEX
2004 (50th Anniversary) Programme**

Sat. 17 July **Annual General Meeting** at 6.30pm. (please note time) at Ingatestone Hall (by kind permission of Lord and Lady Petre). Members of the Friends are invited free to view the house that afternoon. After the Meeting there will be drinks and a talk by Lord Petre.
Sat. 9 Oct. Evening entertainment at Ingatestone Hall for members and guests.

For details of membership please see back page.

**THE FRIENDS OF THOMAS PLUME'S LIBRARY
2004 Programme**

Sat. 15 May **Annual General Meeting** followed by a talk *The Church and the High St.* by Canon Atkins. 7.30pm. The Rotunda, St. Mary's church.
Sat./Sun 11/12 Sept. **Heritage Open Days** 10.00 am - 4.00 pm.

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.

**ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONGRESS
2004 Programme**

Sat. 8 May **Annual General Meeting.** at the Christian Centre, Writtle. 10.00am for 10.30am.
Sat. 7 Nov. **Archaeological Symposium** (Venue still to be decided).

For further information please consult the hon. Secretary, Mrs Glynis Morris, 56 Armond Road, Witham. CM8 2HA. (Tel: 01376 516315/ e-mail: essexahc@btopenworld.com).

**ESSEX SENIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2004 Programme**

Tue. 4 May *Flames across Essex: the Swing Riots and the Effects on the Essex Countryside* by Michael Holland.
Tue. 1 June *Fraud and Financial Wizardry: a 13th. cent. Essex Scandal* by Christopher Thornton (V.C.H.).
Tue. 7 Sept. *The Photographs of Fred Spalding* by Chris Lambert (E.R.O.).
Tue. 5 Oct. *18th. cent. Medicine* by Pam Rollason.
Tue. 2 Nov. *Essex Soldiers: Essex Sources: the much-maligned Essex Soldier: What has he done and how do we find out about him?* by Ian Hook (Keeper of the Essex Regiment Museum).

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.

ESSEX SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY
2004 Programme

- Fri. 21 May **Morant Lecture** (evening) Prof. Killingray on *All conditions of life and labour: the presence of black people in Essex c.1950.*
- Sat. 26 June **Annual General Meeting** at Silver End Village Hall, followed by talk by Mrs. Ariel Crittall.
- Sat. 17 July Visit to Great Warley church and Warley Lodge gardens. (2.00pm).
- Wed. 25 Aug. Visit to Great Bardfield Vineyard (evening).
- Sat. 25 Sept. Visit to Dynes Hall, Great Maplestead. (2.00pm)
- Sun. 10 Oct. **Morant Lunch** at the Old Moot House, Castle Hedingham.

For further information (including costs and further details of visits and meetings) please contact the hon. Excursions Secretary Mrs. P. Ryan, 60 Maldon Road, Danbury, CM3 4QL (Tel: 01245 222237).

ESSEX SOCIETY FOR FAMILY HISTORY
2004 Programme - Chelmsford

Meetings are held monthly on a Saturday (except in August) at Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford. Free parking nearby. Library opens from 10.45am. Bookstall opens later, IGI and other microfiche available. Computer Group meets at 11.00am. Main meeting at 2.30pm., with a short break for tea, (30p charge).

- Sat. 15 May *Where did they get married?* by Eve McLaughlin.
- Sat. 19 June *Essex Coast Sea Fencibles* by Levina Jones and Jennie Killick.
- Sat. 17 July *Property and Probate Links for Family Historians* by Liz Carter.
- Sat. 18 Sept **Annual General Meeting** (2.00pm) and *Hon. East India Company* by Col. Peter Walton.
- General* by Frederick Feather.
- Sat. 16 Oct *Essex Guilds and Guildhalls* by Anne Padfield.
- Sat. 20 Nov *The Swing Riots* by Jill Chambers.
- Sat. 18 Dec *Visions of Essex: Film from the Archive* by Martin Astell.

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).

THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES

The first Study Day 2004 will be Wed. 5 May commencing at Great Leighs church at 10.00am. and proceeding to Little Leighs, Black Chapel and Great and Little Waltham.

The second will be Sat. 2 Oct. Details have still to be finalised, but the churches visited will probably be Tilty and others likely to be affected by the expansion of Stansted Airport.

The cost is £5 each: further details from Mrs Marion Scantlebury, Parvilles, Hatfield Heath, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM22 7AT (Tel: 01279 731228).

ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND
HISTORICAL CONGRESS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 8th May 2004
Hosted by Writtle Archives

Details from Mrs G Morris,
56 Armond Road, Witham, CM8 2HA
Please send an s.a.e.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
Essex Branch 2004 Programme

- Fri. 3 Sept. Annual General Meeting 7.30pm. followed by *Recent Finds at Prittlewell* by Museum of London Archaeological Service (to be confirmed)
- Sat. 2 Oct. *The Essex Sound and Video Archive (with examples from the ERO Archive)* by Martin Astell. **Please Note: at Essex Record Office, Wharf Road.**
- Sat. 6 Nov. *Napoleon in Caricature* by Prof. Harry Dickinson, Edinburgh Univ., President of the Historical Assn.
- Sat. 4 Dec. *The Fall of Singapore* by Prof. Carl Bridge, Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, Kings Coll., London.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will be held at 2.30pm. and in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford. Members and visitors are asked to arrive at County Hall 15 mins. early for security reasons. Visitors and prospective members warmly welcomed: a £2 donation is requested.

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

ESSEX GARDENS TRUST
2004 Programme

- Wed. 26 May Evening (6.15pm.) visit to Coopersale (by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. P. Rushmore) to see a rare survival of early 18th. cent. work by Adam Holt. (cost £3.50).
- Wed. 16 June Evening (6.00pm.) visit to the Priory, Hatfield Peverel to join Mr. and Mrs. Cowell in entertaining visitors from the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust, who are visiting Essex gardens. (cost £3.50).
- Sat. 24 July Afternoon (2.30pm.) visit to Marks Hall, Coggeshall for a guided tour of the walled garden (cost £6.50 to include entrance, tea and tour.).
- Sat. 11 Sept. Historic Design workshop, Writtle College (10.00am - 3.30pm.: bring your own lunch: cost £7.50).

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

ESSEX HISTORIC BUILDINGS GROUP
2004 Programme

- Fri. 30 April *Disentangling the Priors Hall complex: a Multidisciplinary Approach* by Pam Walker.
- Sat. 22 May 20th Anniversary Visits to Widdington and Rickling, incorporating the AGM.
- Sat. 10 July EHBG/ECC Conference at Cressing Temple; **Brick in the Eastern Counties.**
- Fri. 23 July *Sundials* by David Young (at Cressing Temple).
- Fri. 3 Sept. *The Hearth Tax in Essex* by Pat Ryan.
- Fri. 15 Oct. *The Results of Fifty Years of Recording* by Stanley Jones.
- Fri. 26 Nov. *Wall Paintings: Recent Research* by Muriel Carrick.

All meetings (except where otherwise indicated above) are at 7.30pm for 8.00pm on Fridays in the first floor Conference Room at Moulsham Mill, Parkway, Chelmsford.

For further details of the Group and its activities please contact the Secretary, Alan Bayford (Tel: 01245 256102).

ESSEX HISTORY FAIR
2004

Sunday 11 July 2004
Labworth Recreation Ground
Canvey Island
10.30am - 5.00pm

Family History Societies, Archaeological Societies,
Local History Societies, Crafts, Bookstalls,
Live Entertainment & Displays.

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