

# Essex Journal

SPRING 2005

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A REVIEW OF LOCAL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY



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# ESSEX JOURNAL

(incorporating Essex Review)

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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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Cover illustration: John Downs (1796-1877) – see p.22 (*Courtesy of the author*).

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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 end of August 2005. Contributors are requested to limit their articles to some 2,500/3,000 words (other than by prior agreement with the Hon. Editor, who would welcome an occasional longer article on a suitable topic). Illustrations should, if possible, be camera-ready.

# Editorial

The recent Court decision has given just a little hope to the enemies of the detail of the present Stansted proposals, but there does not seem much to cause legitimate joy to the committed opponents of the entire concept of the expansion of the airport. If it can be ensured that the distance between the runways is substantially less than the present over-generous mile, a few of the local inhabitants whose houses have been at risk may be comforted (provided that their houses are fully sound-proofed). But the Essex countryside remains just as much as ever at the risk of the building of multitudes of new houses, of work-places and of all the infrastructure of transport, drainage and the rest that must accompany them.

For all the pretence of the Government's 'green' policies and support of the Kyoto agreement, it is seen in its true colours in its indifference - despite the very sound criticism of the National Trust and many other environmental bodies - to the maintenance of the natural ecology, the ancient trees and all the other beauties of Hatfield Forest, that superb and, to date, miraculously preserved piece of ancient woodland. So far this fine lung of countryside so near Stortford and Harlow has been affected only by the noise of intermittent aircraft to and from Stansted: these movements would become almost continuous were the airport enlarged.

Threats have also emerged at the other end of the county. The Government's addiction to the whirl of the windfarms, despite their restricted value as producers of energy, has already led to the spoliation of the Norfolk coast. Now there is a proposal for a further very large windfarm near Tillingham on the Dengie peninsula, which remains a surprising 'haunt of ancient peace'. Graciously its proponents would leave a narrow undeveloped corridor out to the chapel of St. Peter's-on-the-Wall 'to preserve its peace for pilgrims'; but what value would that have between the windfarm to right of us and the disused nuclear power station to left. Thankfully we still have time to object: but perhaps we are punch-drunk from so many assaults, or so used to being disregarded by Government as to have lost all energy to resist.

The current English Heritage *Conservation Bulletin* writes of their plans for the 'characterisation' of areas of the country at risk from development to ensure that they preserve so nearly as possible their ancient character. This is no doubt a very worthy aim, but over almost the whole of our county these various Government proposals seem designed irreparably to destroy that character. Were they, improbably, to be

done in full they might perhaps create a new character, but if, as is almost invariable in public sector schemes, they are done in part and on the cheap, the inevitable result is a characterless mess.

This is the last time that that we shall include a section on Essex University's 'Learning Partnerships' - the latest in a succession of meaningless choices of terminology for what we have always known as 'adult education'. But, despite the silly name on the wrapper, the product has been a good one. No doubt for this reason it is now being destroyed and will cease to exist as from September. One must presume that future courses will be organised from Cambridge (Madingley) for part of the county and from the University of East Anglia (Norwich) for the remainder. In practice of course many will tend to look to London University instead. No doubt all will do their best, and will achieve quite a lot. But such a change, however well managed, cannot but leave jagged edges and a lack of adequate information for those who would wish to take advantage of these courses.

On p.5 Chris Thornton writes about the problems caused to the VCH by the reduction of public sector funding, both from Essex University and from the County Council. We hope that more and more readers, and other well-wishers, will do what they can to help the VCH in its hour of need.

Many of us had been very concerned that one of the apparent Record Office economies was *Update*, the regularly published list of new accessions, and of other Record Office news, whose absence was severely felt by many active researchers and left all of us rather in the dark about how 'things were going'. We are very pleased that the Office has felt able to publish an accession list for 2004, and all members of the Friends of Historic Essex should have received this automatically with their recent Newsletter. Others who are not members of the Friends may purchase a copy at the Record Office Reading Room desk.

The Spring 2005 *Update* also gives us very welcome news of the progress of the Record Office. During the last three months of 2004 1,000 new readers' tickets were issued, a most welcome access of strength and support. The Archives Awareness Campaign, in which the Office took a very active part, has flourished so well that a series of events is planned at Chelmsford and elsewhere in Essex for 2005: details of some of these

are given on p.30: others are still in course of planning as we go to press

## Marconi archives

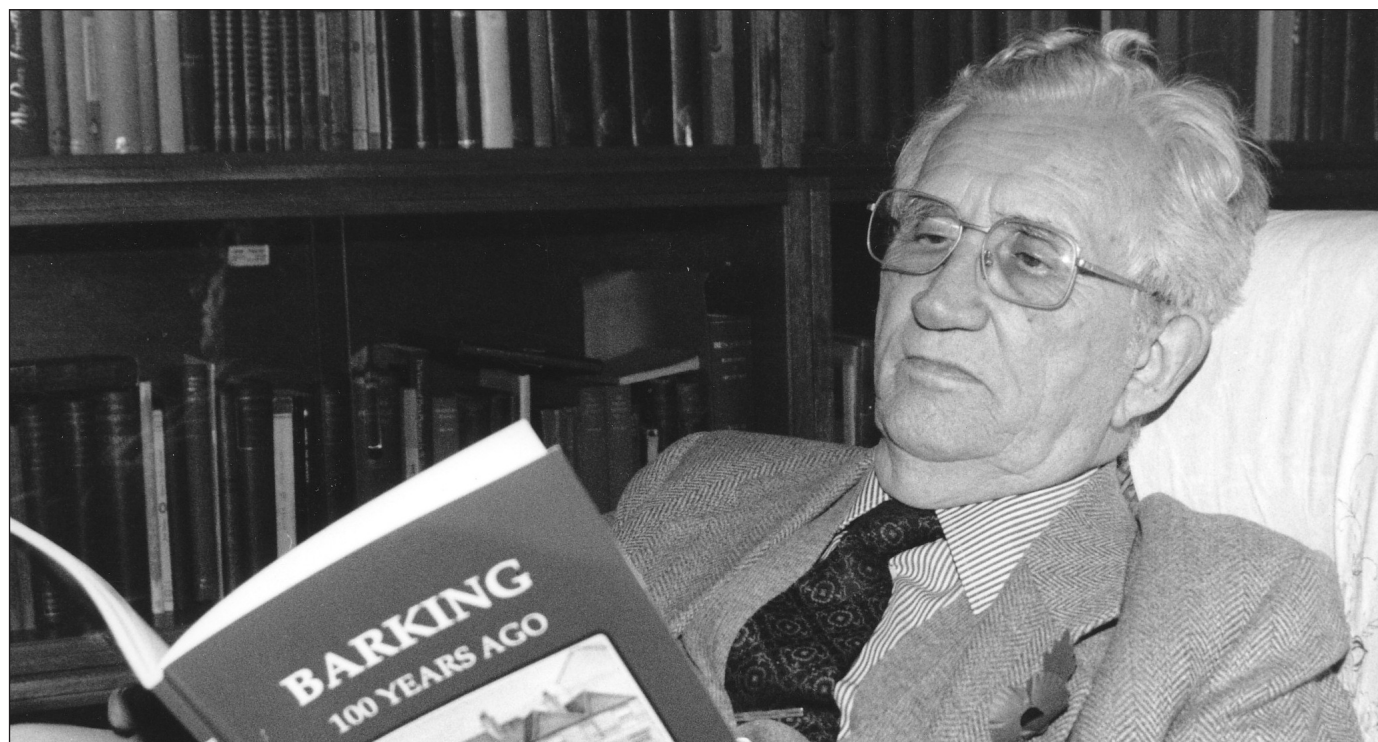
A few years ago we were expecting, with some degree of confidence, that the valuable records and artefacts comprising the archives of our own old Chelmsford Marconi company would find a permanent resting-place in a purpose-built museum adjacent to the Record Office. The then GEC, their owners, was very ready and the outstanding matters seemed merely to be the detailed financial tidying-up which, though tedious and entailing complex negotiations, would be 'all right on the night'. This project was seen as a great asset above all to the town, which so much needed and still needs a true tourist attraction, but also to the county, and a fitting recognition of the claim which 'the birthplace of radio' probably had above any other town or city.

But all this and much more, as we all well know, many to our financial cost, was lost through the gross and irresponsible mismanagement of the GEC successors, now again calling themselves Marconi. At the same time the local authorities, through their own financial constraints, became quite unable to bear that proportion of the costs which must have fallen on them in any circumstances, let alone the heavy additional costs which would now have been entailed.

Hence it is probably now right to offer a cautious welcome to the proposal that the new, and so greatly altered, company still calling itself Marconi should now propose to offer the archives to one of Oxford's many museums. Oxford has no significant, indeed probably no, associations with Marconi in any of its guises, its traffic problems are probably even greater than those of Chelmsford, and the Marconi archives will not rank as more than a modest tourist attraction in a city so glutted with them. But at least they can expect to be well-maintained, and accessible to visitors who can face the traffic there.

Dr Tony Fox, a long-standing subscriber and regular contributor to the *Journal*, has very kindly offered to organise an online index for the *Journal*, to operate not from Essex but from his home in California. Details will be available when arrangements have gone a little further forward, but it is a remarkable achievement, which the older of us cannot but find incredible, that the web has so conquered geographical distance.





## Herbert Hope Lockwood, F.S.A. (1917-2004)

Bert, as everyone knew him, died on 7 November, after having struggled gallantly against ill-health for some years. He was born in Ilford, educated at Ilford County High School, and except for his army service and four years as a teacher in Halifax all his life was spent in his home town. In 1952 he was appointed Lecturer in History and Social Studies at the Tottenham College of Technology, a post he held until his retirement in 1980.

He was a man of many interests, photography and horticulture among them. Also athletics: before the war he had been a reasonable half-miler, but his main interest became coaching. In the 1950's the Ilford Athletic Club had a number of talented athletes, and Bert successfully took the appropriate courses and became the Club coach in 1953, a post he retained until 1974. His interests included the discuss and javelin, and under Bert's tuition many of the Club reached national and even international standard.

But his greatest lifelong interest (one may well say love) was for the neighbourhood in which he lived, and we shall pre-eminently remember him for his work for local history. During the period from 1963 to 1988 he located and catalogued over 500 Barking parish documents, together with a copy of the Tithe Map of 1666, and later the associated Tithe Books. These were followed in due course by over 300 manorial and estate documents, a haul which included surveys and Court Books since 1679. Following this he commenced a doctoral thesis (unfortunately not completed) which identified extracts from a lost Cartulary of Barking Abbey, as well as nine previously unknown pre-Conquest charters. All this material was deposited at the Essex Record Office.

From firstly *Where was the First Barking Abbey?* (1986) he was the author of many books (I have identified 20) and of many articles and reviews. He contributed to Volume V of the *Victoria County History of Essex*. With Tony Clifford he has edited and published three volumes of extracts from the formerly misattributed and

disregarded manuscript study of early 20th. cent. Barking by William Holmes Frogley, whose value Bert quickly recognised. Many of his most recent works have been inspired by Ilford Hospital Chapel, to whose restoration he contributed greatly in many ways: they included a study of its scapegrace Chaplain the Rev. Bennet Allen and a valuable account of its history and architecture. Sadly Bert never saw published his work on Tithe and other Records of Essex and Barking: his many friends will be much concerned that this work should now be published as a memorial to him.

He was president of the Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress in 1992, a zealous committee member of the British Association for Local History, President of Barking and of Ilford Historical Societies, a member of the Friends of Historic Essex, a founder-member of the Friends of the Ilford Hospital Chapel, and an active member of not a few other societies in these fields. One wonders how he found time over so many years for all these active commitments. In all he was most ably and faithfully supported by his wife Dorothy, who also takes her own active part in several of them and is presently Chairman of the Essex Congress.

In 1996 he was made a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries: a very well-deserved honour which also gave pleasure to all his many friends.

I would hesitate to describe him as a 'character' - most of the 'characters' I have known have been either mad or crotchety, and Bert was neither. But with his strong, but tolerant, views and his firmness of expression of them he was in his way very much a character. As my friend and mentor for a number of years I shall miss him, as I am sure that many will. This was evident from the large number of his friends from all over the county, and beyond, who came to his funeral at St. Margaret's, Barking, the church which he loved and of which he was Archivist.

P.J.W.

**Humphrey Spender**, who in the latter years of his long and very productive artistic life made a great contribution to Essex art, has lately died at the age of 94. Before the Second World War his abilities as a realistic photographer had brought the hardships of unemployment home to readers of *Picture Post*, and during the war his work likewise showed the ordinary man and woman what life in the R.A.F. and on the smaller naval craft was like.

Thereafter he practised chiefly as an eminent textile designer, but, having settled in Ulting, he had a house built there by the then unknown Richard Rogers. In his 60's he took up, in effect, a third career as an individualistic artist in oils, collage and otherwise, with a particular emphasis on the little ships, and taking a very active part in the artistic life of Maldon. In 1992 his varied skills were used to great effect as the designer of the 42ft.-long tapestry to commemorate the millennium of the Battle of Maldon now on display in the Maeldune Centre.

#### Essex Book Awards

Unfortunately here there is little progress to report. The Friends of Historic Essex are discussing possible lines of future progress with the Essex Libraries Partnership, who have made some interesting suggestions which will be jointly explored. In view of these uncertainties we cannot be definite about what form the future awards will take, but neither the Libraries nor the Friends are or will be in the immediate future actively planning a Book Awards project on the lines of those held in previous years.

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#### Essex Environmental Trust

The Trust is to make grants totalling £250,000 to a total of 21 schemes of environmental value, including £10,000 towards a £67,000 scheme for improving Galleywood churchyard, £5,000 towards a footpath for the disabled at Braintree and £5,000 towards repairs to the roof at Tillingham church.

#### History Fair

Contrary to the doubts of many of us, last year's History Fair at Canvey Island was indisputably a success. This was very welcome, and the success is entirely due to the hard work and commitment of the central team of organisers and, perhaps even more, to the zeal of the indispensable, and very energetic, supporters in the Island and its neighbourhood. After the sad demise of the Southend-on-Sea Local History Society many of us had thought that Southend was arid and inhospitable ground for the study of local history: this success has shown that it was merely fallow ground in need of cultivation.

The History Fair takes place in alternate years: hence there are no plans for one in 2005.

Planning has however already commenced for one in Braintree on Sunday 25 June 2006. **Please note this date.**

## Norah Dane's 100th Birthday

On Tuesday, 30 November some of us had the great pleasure of attending the 100th birthday party of our oldest local historian. This is Norah Dane of Ilford, of the Barking & District Historical Society and almost a founder-member of the Friends of Historic Essex. The Friends had been delighted to have her with them for their own 50th birthday celebrations at Ingatestone Hall in July. For a lady of her age she is wonderful, still alert with a ready smile, and remembering our addresses as we greeted her at her party. Until two or three years ago she was still living on her own in Ilford: now she is cared for in a Old Peoples' Home, where she is very happy - and they put on such a spread in her honour that all the guests went away happy - and merry if they so wished - after it.

The Birthday Card from the Queen of course had a place of honour: next to it was the formal photograph of her father, who had been the second Mayor of Ilford in the 1920's. It was therefore no more than her due that the present Mayor and Mayoress of Redbridge, Cllr. and Mrs Arthur Leggett (*see photograph below*), should have been the chief guests at the celebrations. She gave the community great service for many years as a teacher, and was Hon. Secretary of the Barking and District Historical Society from 1965 until 1980, as well as being a most active member of the Friends and of the Historical Association.

Altogether a remarkable old lady, and we all wish her many more years.

M.B.





# The Victoria County History of Essex

By Chris Thornton

The future of the Victoria County History of Essex is under threat. Essex County Council will halve its funding from 1 June 2005, and the University of Essex will not be able to contribute as much as in the past. The combined effect will be to reduce the budget by £60,000 a year, the remaining sum being sufficient to employ only a single member of staff. This will inevitably delay current work, and in the long-term imperils the survival of the project. The VCH Essex Appeal Fund is therefore raising funds to try to keep the present team together so that they can complete volume 11 on the Essex seaside resorts of Clacton, Walton and Frinton. After that the team will concentrate on completing volume 12 on the earlier history of the Clacton area, as well as developing new projects as suggested by the County Council.

Meanwhile, work has been progressing as well as can be expected given that so much staff time has been diverted by the funding crisis. On 26 October two VCH Essex staff gave short papers to a national conference in London 'A Place in History: Perceptions of the Historic Environment', jointly organised by English Heritage and the VCH. The following short reports on each paper give a flavour of the current work being undertaken by VCH and how it contributes to the debate about what role public and professional perceptions of historical significance might play in evaluating and designating individual sites and wider environments.

In my paper 'Clacton's "Punch and Judy Show": historical perspectives on the evaluation of a seaside environment', I discussed the foundation of Clacton. The early pioneers envisioned a high-class resort, the prospectus boasting that *"none of the evils inseparable from the old watering places will be allowed to exist. There will be no slums, nor any object that can offend the eye..."*. The first main building, the Royal Hotel of 1872 facing the Pier (where visitors were landed from steamers), was targeted at an upper-class clientele and still retains some fine period detailing such as cast iron verandahs. The original developer, the engineer Peter Bruff, designed an attractive geometric street pattern, resulting in some modest but handsome curving crescents opening out onto the Marine Parade. Very soon, however, the character of the new resort changed under the demand for holidays and day trips for the London working class and the coming of the railway in 1882. As the image of the resort changed, so did the quality of its buildings. As the town grew Bruff's original design was increasingly ignored, and long straight streets containing monotonous terraced housing were laid out. Over a century later, a notable aspect of Clacton's built environment is the sudden change in character from the relatively high-class sea-front area to the lower quality Victorian and Edwardian housing inland.

The paper suggested that Clacton's historic environment was put at risk by the failure of the seaside economy from the 1960s that transformed the area into one of the most economically deprived in Essex. Until the 1980s little official recognition was given to this endangered environment and no resort buildings were scheduled. The result was the fairly recent loss of a high proportion of local landmark buildings that no longer fulfilled their original function, typically being replaced with undistinguished flats, retirement homes,

car parks etc., creating a less attractive townscape. One such example was the Passmore Edwards Convalescent Home, 1898-9, a Sunday School Union Holiday home for deprived children, later a T.B. convalescence home, demolished in 1986 to make way for flats. More recently the relevance of the historic environment for planning, education, economic regeneration and tourism has been recognised and a small number of Clacton's buildings have been listed. These include two churches, the neo-Georgian Town Hall of 1931, and a single seafront hotel. The Grand Hotel of 1897 would surely have been demolished had it not, with the neighbouring Towers Hotel of 1891, been adapted as a teacher training college after WWII. It was recognised in 2000 as the earliest building so far discovered with a complete steel box framed structure with red-brick walls. An area of special character was also designated as a conservation area in 2001, generally coinciding with the seafront and the earliest developments by Bruff, with its seaside architecture, planned street pattern, formal gardens, marine parade, pavilions and pier.

Nevertheless, the steps taken so far reflect quite a limited view of the physical and social growth of the town. Between 1881 and 1911 the population multiplied fivefold from 2,000 to 10,000, and the number of dwellings from 400 to 2000. Focus on the seafront side-steps many issues concerning the ordinary people who actually lived in Clacton, and who ran the resort rather than just visited it.

A particularly interesting aspect is the role of local government in the development process, as many local politicians were property developers, architects, estate agents, and auctioneers. As an example the paper cited a local dispute over the quality of buildings that became public in November 1898. Cllr. Martin, a local architect, alleged in a Council meeting that many recently passed plans broke the byelaws. The plans belonged to the Council's chairman, T.H. Baker, another local architect with a large practice, and the local press gleefully reported the descent of the Council meeting into a veritable "Punch and Judy show". Ultimately a libel writ was issued when a third Cllr., Elijah Daines, refused to withdraw his claim that houses designed by Baker in Wellesley and Hayes Roads were so unsound as to be fraudulent. Plots on these roads were apparently sold off in lots to speculative builders and when the Council surveyor and medical officer were despatched to inspect the new houses they found much evidence of shoddy building, with sub-standard walls and floors, and poor sanitation.

The resulting court case uncovered a tangled web of speculation and impropriety. The plaintiff in the action, a builder, employed as his solicitor A.R. Chamberlayne, who also happened to be clerk to the Council. In court the builder openly admitted to rushing construction in order to satisfy the main creditor, who it then emerged was Chamberlayne himself. Chamberlayne was then also forced to admit he was acting as solicitor for both the builder and the gullible purchasers, the Misses XXXX, whose names were spared in court. In passing verdict the judge not only dismissed the plaintiffs' libel claim but passed a verdict on Clacton's rapid expansion: "No one", he fancied, "would be very anxious to invest money in

Clacton property". Although both Baker and Chamberlayne were forced to resign, they did so unbowed, Baker stating quite directly that he was leaving office so that he could advance, "quite unfettered ... the interest of his clients". The paper concluded by arguing that even in this mass of mostly unremarkable buildings there is important material for understanding the construction of a whole new community.

Shirley Durgan's paper 'Sea, sand and ... something more? People's historical perception of 20th-century Clacton', drew upon a short questionnaire completed by the Clacton VCH Group. The questionnaire investigated their individual perceptions of Clacton to see how these might feed into the debate about the protection and development of the historic environment. (The aim of the Clacton VCH Group project on Clacton in the Second World War was to enable local people to compile some of their own history for themselves, using valuable local knowledge and contacts, in collaboration with the Victoria County History of Essex.)

The survey emphasised many general points, such as that individuals have different perceptions about a particular place, and that some perceptions are more positive than others. Representations of a place can be contested. Any perceptions of a 'Golden Age' of Clacton would seem to be related to its heyday as a seaside resort in the early to mid 20th century, but researching the period of the Second World War, when the resort's seaside economy was in abeyance, gave people some positive perceptions of Clacton during that extraordinary period too. Clacton during the War was also seen as very different from other places that were not seaside towns.

One group member wrote, 'Clacton seems typical of the faded glory of the British seaside resort', and that sentence seemed to encapsulate many of the comments. There is a danger that representations of place that rely on nostalgia can rob people of any sense of progress, but it is possible to forge a new sense of identity. The questionnaire prompted specific suggestions for protecting and developing the historic environment of Clacton, for example:

- creating a restoration area around the Royal Hotel and the Pier
- devising a WW2 historic walk
- erecting a statue of Peter Bruff
- restoring the Martello Towers

- raising the profile of the Clacton & District Local History Society's history collections at the library and adding to them
- protecting the remaining Victorian buildings
- preserving the greensward and cliffs
- protecting historic buildings in Great Clacton ancient parish
- providing more hanging baskets and improving the public gardens

The members of the Clacton Group are people who were already interested in the historic environment to a greater or lesser degree, and they are not in any way representative of the general population of Clacton. Nevertheless Shirley's paper suggested that, when people learn more about a particular place, they are likely to take even more interest in their local historic environment and in creating a positive image of the place in the present.

The VCH Essex Appeal Committee knows it has a tough task to raise the £60,000 needed to support the team for the year 2005/06, but tremendous support has already been received. Grants have been received from many local societies and trusts, such as the Friends of Historic Essex and Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress. The central Victoria History Trust has also donated £1,000 and there have also been a large number of very generous personal donations. By January 2005 the sum raised had already exceeded £13,000 and as there are still some months remaining in which to gather funds we are hopeful of accumulating a significant amount that will help to complete volume 11. The VCH Appeal Committee will be making wide approaches in the county to organisations and trusts in search of support, but we need further leads, contacts, and sustainable funding ideas. Every cheque received helps to ensure the project's immediate survival, and every letter of support also goes a long way to making the case that the completion of the VCH series should continue to be seen as an important objective in the County's heritage and educational policies.

Donation and Gift Aid forms, and the latest VCH Essex Past newsletter, can be obtained from our website: [www.essexpast.net](http://www.essexpast.net) or from the VCH Essex Appeal Secretary: Mrs Patricia Herrmann, OBE, VCH Appeal Fund, West Bowers Hall, Woodham Walter, Maldon, Essex CM9 6RZ. The Essex County Editor can be contacted as follows: Dr Chris Thornton, [ccthorn@essex.ac.uk](mailto:ccthorn@essex.ac.uk)

## Sir William Addison (1905-92) - A Retrospective

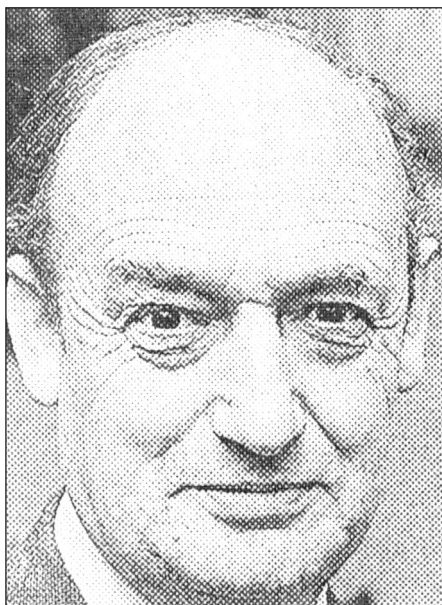
By Richard Morris, OBE

This April we celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Sir William Addison, who although not born in Essex, became an 'Essex worthy' in his adopted county through his contributions to the community and the historiography of Essex. Addison was the author of nineteen books, the subjects of which covered not only topographical and biographical studies of the county and its people, but wider fields of national interest.

Addison's first book, on Epping Forest,<sup>1</sup> was published in 1945, and his last, again about Epping

Forest,<sup>2</sup> in 1991. Many of William Addison's books are still viewed as essential reading for the local historian, but where does he stand today in the iconography of Essex historians?

William Addison was born on 4 April, 1905, at Mitton in the Ribble valley near the point in the Hodder valley where, at Dunsop Bridge, the road plunges into a gorge called the Trough of Bowland. In such a beautiful area it is little wonder that William became devoted to the topographical and social history of England. He was educated at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School and, in



1929, he married Phoebe, daughter of Robert Dean of Rimington in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

William's and Phoebe's decision to move south was influenced by the expansion of industry into the Ribble valley. They bought a small sports car and a caravan in which to search England for a place in which they could live their own natural lives, and it was almost by chance that they came to live in Essex. They were invited to spend a few days with some friends at Buckhurst Hill, in Epping Forest, and they were also to spend some time in Suffolk. However, while visiting Epping Forest they found their way to a bookshop in Loughton, which by chance happened to be for sale, and William bought it. The bookshop became the base for Addison's activities as an author, historian, magistrate and much else.

Epping Forest was to be an abiding passion for the rest of William's life. He was quickly to come to know it, and by 1945 he had written the first of three volumes about the forest. The first volume dealt with the forest's literary and historical associations with biographies of some of the more prominent persons who lived in or visited the forest. George Bishop, in his review of the book for the *Daily Telegraph*, commented that 'A walk with Mr Addison through Epping Forest is more than a charming stroll along leafy lanes. It is a pleasurable lecture-ramble on forest history and literature by a man in love with his subject. Mr Addison is a worthy academic verderer with a sure place on the fireside rambler's bookshelves.'

In his *Portrait of Epping Forest*,<sup>3</sup> published in 1977, Addison provided an historical account of the development of the forest from the early twelfth century, when it became a royal forest and a favourite hunting ground for the monarch, to the fight to save it from inclosure in the nineteenth century, and the appointment in 1878 of the Corporation of London as Conservators of the forest. In the last volume of the trilogy published in the year before his death in 1992, William returned to historical figures associated with the forest.

In 1957 William Addison was elected a verderer of Epping Forest, an office going back to the twelfth century, and which he held with one short interval for 27 years. He was thus able to speak with authority in writing about the forest, its history and its management. In 1884 Edward North Buxton had first published his *Guide to Epping Forest*, which was reprinted on numerous

occasions over the following twenty years. W R Fisher's *The Forest of Essex*, published in 1887, was an almost exhaustive study of the legal aspects of forest law and the people charged with maintaining it. By the beginning of the twentieth century some of the more popular guides began to appear, including P J S Perceval's *London's Forest*. Addison's three volumes, written in graceful prose, from which the author's love of the forest is clear, remain an invaluable introduction to the history and topography of Epping Forest.

The first of Addison's books whose scope went beyond the confines of Essex was *The English Country Parson*,<sup>4</sup> a social history of the clergy, and replete with colourful characters and authentic historical and social scenery. Harold Nicolson, in a review in the *Daily Telegraph*, described it as 'a gentle, nostalgic, reverent sort of book', and John Betjeman, writing in the *Daily Herald*, commented that 'Mr Addison writes with reverence and affection'. The success of the book was proven by the need for a reprint in 1948. A year later Addison returned to the Essex scene with his description of the society of Stuart Essex in *Essex Heyday*.<sup>5</sup>

Addison's literary output in the 1950s was prodigious with his topographical study of *Suffolk in the County Series*<sup>6</sup> (1950), *Worthy Doctor Fuller*<sup>7</sup> (1951), *English Spas*<sup>8</sup> (1951), and *English Fairs and Markets*<sup>9</sup> (1953), followed, also in 1953, by a history of *Audley End*.<sup>10</sup> In the latter respect William Addison demonstrated his scholarship by producing a work of wider interest and scope than those previously written about Audley End. In a foreword to the book, Lord Braybrooke wrote that he had 'been impressed by the skill and enthusiasm with which Mr Addison had tackled ten of thousands of documents, now in the Essex Record Office'.

The sixty miles of waterway between London Bridge and the Nore which had for more than a thousand years been vital to the security and prosperity of London, provided a rich historical source for Addison's *Thames Estuary*<sup>11</sup> published in 1954. A year later the charming and entertaining *In the Steps of Charles Dickens*<sup>12</sup> was published, in which Addison toured England searching for the original towns and buildings in which Dickens had set his novels. Chigwell and High Beach are among the several Essex connections mentioned.

In 1978 Addison, by now Sir William, published two slim volumes on *Understanding English Place-Names*<sup>13</sup> and *Understanding English Surnames*.<sup>14</sup> The first volume was dedicated to P H Reaney, the author of *The Place Names of Essex*<sup>15</sup> and whom Addison knew well. The books are useful basic guides to their subjects but the same ground had been well covered by other authors, and it is not clear why he chose to write on these topics. However, the Place-Names volume was reprinted in 1979, with the *Essex Chronicle* commenting that it was 'a scholarly but eminently readable work'. In the 1980s Addison wrote three books on aspects of English rural life: *The Old Roads of England*,<sup>16</sup> *Local Styles in English Parish Churches*,<sup>17</sup> and *Farmhouses in the English Landscape*.<sup>18</sup>

*Essex Worthies*<sup>19</sup> was published in 1973 and amounts to a selective *Dictionary of National Biography* for the county. In completing such a massive task it was inevitable that errors crept into the details of some of its subjects, but nonetheless it is a book of reference for all who delve into the county's past. It was also in 1973 that Addison wrote the guidebook for Wanstead Park.<sup>20</sup>

In 2001 I was shown a manuscript containing approximately thirty poems written by William Addison over a twenty-year period starting in 1936.



The background to many of the poems is the forest, and of course the period also covers the Second World War. I felt that Addison's published works should include a selection of his poetry and, with the support of the Corporation of London, a small volume was published in 2002 under the title *Winter Forest and Other Poems*.<sup>21</sup>

Between 1955 and 1973 there is a gap in Addison's literary output, with no books published during this period. There are possibly a number of reasons for this, the principal one being that by the middle of the 1950s he had become very involved in serving the community as a magistrate and verderer, as well as sitting on innumerable committees associated with recording the history of the county. All this left little time for his own historical research.

In 1949 Addison had been appointed a Justice of the Peace, sitting on the Epping Bench, and within six years had been elected bench chairman. After a temporary move to Westcliff-on-Sea in 1966, where he sat on the Rochford bench, he moved back to Epping and was Chairman of the Epping and Ongar Petty Sessions until 1976. His deep interest and commitment to the magistracy led to a place on the Council of the Magistrates Association of England and Wales, and he was subsequently elected Chairman, a post in which he served with distinction from 1970-76.<sup>22</sup>

It had long been one of the essential duties of magistrates to serve as Visiting Justices who thus bore responsibility for the general oversight of the prisons with a right of direct access to the Home Secretary. William Addison served in this capacity as a member of the Boards of Visitors at Hill Hall, a women's open prison at Theydon Mount (the prison was closed in about 1980 following a major fire), at the traditional Chelmsford Prison and the modern Bullwood Hall, a girls' Borstal near Rayleigh, all in Essex, during the years 1955-70.<sup>23</sup> William was Chairman of the Treatment of Offenders Committee and the Visiting Justices Conference from 1961-68. He was a member of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Council on the Training of Magistrates, and the Magistrates Courts Rules Committee, and was a member of the Home Secretary's Advisory Council on Probation and After-Care. In the last respect he was often visited at his bookshop in Loughton by former offenders, seeking advice and assistance on accommodation or a job.

In his role as a verderer of Epping Forest, Addison's knowledge as a magistrate and historian was invaluable. He was a verderer during the time that the Ministry of Transport was seeking to implement several road development schemes, including the improvement to the North Circular Road at Waterworks Corner, and the construction of the M25 and M11 motorways. The proposals for a motorway crossing the forest at the sensitive point at which the woodlands merge with Green Belt land to the north, roused the fighting spirits of the forest as nothing had done since the early arguments in the 1880s over the management of the forest. Most of the other problems, in Addison's view, came under the heading of 'Effects of Urbanisation', and the current proposals for housing building in the county, together with the regeneration of Harlow, the M11 corridor development, and a second runway at Stansted Airport, have shown his concern to be a valid one.<sup>24</sup>

In 1978 the Epping Forest Centenary Trust was formed to celebrate the centenary of the protection of Epping Forest. Its principal aims are to increase young peoples' understanding of the forest and its habitats.

Addison, together with Alfred Qvist, the then Superintendent of the Forest, played a major role in establishing the Trust, which continues today to reach out to those young people who would otherwise have little opportunity to visit and understand the rural environment.<sup>25</sup>

The Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress was set up in 1964 and William Addison, then President of the Chigwell Local History Society,<sup>26</sup> was one of the founders who devised its first constitution and set out the guidelines for its work. He served as President of the county's senior society, the Essex Archaeological Society (now the Essex Society for Archaeology and History) from 1963-66. The scholarly *Victoria County History of Essex* benefited from his Chairmanship of the Editorial and County Committees for many years. Addison was president of several local history societies and on the national scale his professional qualifications were recognised by his Fellowships of the Society of Antiquaries and the Royal Historical Society.

In 1973 William Addison became one of the Deputy Lieutenants of Essex and in 1974 a knighthood was conferred on him for his distinguished work in so many areas of public life.

Addison was a writer of graceful prose and an engaging speaker. His capacity for hard work, the qualities of sound and moderate thought, and a natural poise, made him an effective and respected chairman of the bodies on which he served.<sup>28</sup> Dignified and businesslike certainly, but also tolerant and friendly, so that he gained universal respect and affection. His books will remain a permanent memorial to his versatile life. There is also a recording of him narrating an evening of poetry and prose about his beloved Epping Forest, which was made at the first Forest Festival in June 1967. Sir William Addison died at Epping in November 1992 in his eighty-seventh year, sadly whilst *Essex Heritage*, a *festschrift* in his honour, was in the final stages of preparation for publication.

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## St Michael and All Angels, Walthamstow

By Julian W S Litten

*St Michael and All Angels, Palmerston Road, Walthamstow, E17 is a fine example of a late Gothic Revival red brick suburban church. Its instigator and first vicar, the Rev'd Edmund Ibbotson, kept a meticulous journal' of its construction, added to over the years by his successors. Church, parsonage and schools occupy a large plot bordered by Palmerston Road, Northcote Road and the Barking-Gospel Oak railway line; although it is the largest church in Walthamstow it escaped the attention of Pevsner when compiling his Essex volume in the Buildings of England series. This paper is compiled from information to be found in Ibbotson's journal and from contemporary newspaper reports.*

Standing as a template for the principles of the Ecclesiological Society the church of St Michael and All Angels rises in red brick over the slate roofs of Northcote Road and Palmerston Road. The architect, James Maltby Bignell (1827-85) of 12 Orlando Road, Clapham, secured the commission from the Rev'd Edmund Ibbotson, Vicar-designate of St Michael's, in 1884. Ibbotson had asked for a building to accommodate eight hundred people at a cost of £10,000 with an additional £2,000 for the fixtures and fittings. The final bill came to £10,842 yet the plans had been amended at an early stage to compensate for the loss of the proposed detached south-east tower and spire.

In addition to the church, Bignell was responsible for the vicarage, school and parish rooms. These were all built to the south of the church as the plot had firmer ground to the north and it was decided that the church itself should be constructed on this portion. Space was

left to the north of the school and the west of the church for any future extensions while Bignell envisaged a cloister connecting the school to the south-west porch of the church. St Michael's was Bignell's last venture into ecclesiastical architecture as he died six days after its consecration. His fee for the church, vicarage, school and parish rooms amounted to £475.

The church consists of a nave with north and south aisles, a south porch, a north porch with bellcote above (the single bell costing £25 in 1885), a baptistery at the west end of the nave, a north-east chapel dedicated to Christ the King, and a chancel with a raised sanctuary. To the south of the chancel are large vestries with the organ loft above; further south of these was to be the detached tower and spire but, as the cost would have exceeded the budget available, the scheme was abandoned in 1884. The main body of the church has parquet flooring which, together with the open-work pews, was supplied by J T Wilson of Hampstead Road, London, for £450. The hot air heating system installed by Grundy's became troublesome towards the end of the 19th century and was upgraded to gas-fired boilers.

On 7th July 1884, Messrs G H Adamson of Putney, with a Mr Dennis as Clerk-of-Works, secured the contract for the church. On 22nd July the site was levelled and the trenches dug for the foundations. The foundation stone was laid by Lady Warner, the wife of Courtney Warner, a prominent local land owner, on Saturday 11th October, 1884 at the base of the easternmost pier of the south arcade of the nave, and reads: Deo Optimo Maximo/ sub patrocinio/ St Michaelis et omnium Angelorum/ Ecclesia ædificata/



AD MDCCCLXXXV. It is interesting to note that the date on the foundation stone is the projected year of the building's completion.

The building work continued quickly so that the church, with the exception of the incomplete north porch, was consecrated by the Bishop of St Alban's on Wednesday 18th November 1885. A contemporary report of the event noted that Bignell, "having given his daily and untiring attention to the work, was unable to be present . . . through a very serious illness on which he is still sadly lingering, and which had prevented him ever seeing the conclusion of his labours." Bignell died on 24th November and his requiem took place at St Michael's. Fortunately his brother, Jabez, was able to take over as consultant architect.

According to James Bignell the style chosen was "Early Decorated of the 14th century". The building is of stock brick with stone bands, red brick arches and a free distribution of red bricks with the stocks. The interior was never intended to be plastered: however the 'redness' of the brick was to be relieved by large mosaic panels depicting the Twelve Apostles in the spaces between the clerestory windows. Unfortunately, these mosaics never materialised.

The nave, with the side aisles, is 104ft (32m) long and has a total width of 56ft (17m). It was intended that the westernmost bay of nave should become a narthex, or "ante-church", formed by the construction of a light wooden screen, but this was not executed, consequently the nave remains open at the west end. Proportionally

the nave is 30ft (9.25m) and the aisles are each 13ft (4m) in width; the height of the nave walls is 35ft (10.75m) and 10ft (3m) for the side aisles; in comparison, the height of the chancel walls is 40ft (12.3m), but the interior height from the floor to the ridge of the roof is a constant 61ft (18m) from west to east, the ridge being open timbered though the beams above the sanctuary are slightly more elaborate in execution. Externally, the roof is covered with hand-made Broseley tiles.

The Baptistry (*see below, fig.2*) is built in the space formed between the external buttresses of the western wall of the nave. Approached from the main body of the church, through a segmental brick arch bearing the text "I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins" (cut and gilded for £17), one is faced by a palindrome Greek inscription, "ΝΥ ΟΝ ΑΜΟΜΗΜΑ ΜΗ ΜΟΝΑΝ Ο ΞΝ" ("Wash away my sins, not my face only"); this, together with the stencilled panels on the ceiling bearing the names of deceased members of the Sunday School, was executed by Hardman's for £18. Hardman's also executed the three small lancet windows in the Baptistry west wall, depicting Guardian Angels leading children to Christ. The font, which cost £50, is of grey stone, supported on four columns, with, at the angles of the bowl, symbols of the Four Evangelists. In 1886 the American walnut font cover, inscribed "M.P. 1885", was given by the Rev'd and Mrs F J Poole as an offering following the baptism of their daughter, Margery, and cost £5. The mosaic floor, depicting a



*Fig.2. Baptistry.*



Fig.3. Altar Frontal to North Aisle (*Christ the King*). Altar by Rev'd Ernest Geldart.

stream with fish among reeds and water-lilies, was laid between 1888-89 and cost £25.

The north porch, with its tiled floor, was not built until 1890 though James Bignell's design was closely followed. The work cost £226 and was executed by Messrs Scott of Walthamstow. This is the main entry into the church, access being afforded directly into the west end of the nave through a pair of large wooden doors or through a small single door leading into the west end of the north aisle.

The nave is of six bays, its brick arcades supporting stone capitals. The west wall is almost filled with a large two-light window flanked by narrower, but equally tall, single lancets. Its clear glass floods the church with light. The clerestory is lit on each side by two windows of great scale with rich wheel tracery and cusping, carried up into the roof by gables. They, too, are glazed with clear glass. In between the clerestory windows are recessed panels, intended for mosaics depicting the Twelve Apostles. The American walnut pulpit (£150) and lectern (£25) were given in 1886 in memory of Henry Pearse Hughes of The Priory, Walthamstow, and a great benefactor of St Michael's. On the west face of the easternmost pier, and facing the statue of Our Lady, is an *opus sectile* mosaic by Wipple of Exeter depicting a kneeling censing angel, installed in 1926 in memory of Rosie Wooff.

The north aisle has eight single lancet windows, grouped four and four, each 30ins (900mm) tall and 15ins (450mm) wide, containing stained glass costing £10 per panel by Messrs Hardman (*see fig.6*) inserted between 1892 and 1935. There is a note by Fr Ibbotson in his printed account of the first ten years of St Michael's to the effect that he had promised the execution of all of the stained glass to Messrs Hardman. On the walls of both the north and south aisles is a fine set of Stations of the Cross. Executed by Farmer of Westminster in the 1890s, acquired in 2003 as a gift from various members of the congregation. The wooden polychrome statues of St Michael and Our Lady at the east end of the nave are by Sebastian Zwincke and were given in 1892, and the canopied statues of St Clement,

Christ the Good Shepherd and the pulpit Crucifix - again all from the Zwincke's Oberammergau workshop - arrived in 1895.

The most beautiful part of the nave is the highly-decorated chapel at the east end of the north aisle, dedicated to Christ the King. This chapel is separated from the rest of the church by a couplet arch with tympanum in which are three lancets, the centre one containing a stained glass window of St Peter confirming, inserted in 1886 to commemorate the first confirmation in St Michael's on 17th December 1885, flanked by wooden statues executed by Sebastian Zwincke of Oberammergau depicting the boy of John Ch.6 and the maid of 2 Kings Ch.5. The chapel was furnished by Messrs Hardman's in 1893 for £205, paid for by "R.F.S." in memory of her parents. The small lancet windows represent King Offa, St Alban, St Amphibulus, St Germanus and St Lupus, persons connected with the early Church in the diocese of St Alban's<sup>2</sup>. The American walnut and cedar altar, its front painted by the Rev'd Ernest Geldart (*see above, fig.3*) in imitation Italian brocade, supports an elaborate reredos with a pinnacled canopy enclosing a seated figure of Christ in Majesty. From the arch immediately in front of the altar hangs a fine jewelled sanctuary lamp of c.1890 by Hardman's, acquired in 2003.

The south aisle is entered via a pair of doors set into the south face of its westernmost bay and was the main entrance to the church until the north porch was built in 1890. The stone statue of Christ the Good Shepherd in the niche above the door was added in 1890 in memory of a deceased member of the Sunday School. As in the north aisle, the side windows are filled with glass by Hardman of Birmingham. The large two-light window at the west end of the aisle continues to await its stained glass depicting the Nine Orders of Angels. In the second bay from the west is an altar dedicated to Our Lady of Walsingham and, in the second bay from the east, an altar to Our Lady from the daughter church of St Paul, demolished in the early 1950s. Beyond this aisle are the choir and clergy vestries.



Although there is no structural division between the nave and the chancel, short of a low wrought-iron screen of 1889 by M J Stone of Southwark, the change is marked by an ornamental queen-post 50ft (15m) up in the roof, forming a marginal chancel 'arch'. Upon this post can be seen the bases intended for large statues of Our Lady and St John the Evangelist, part of the proposed Rood to be executed by Sebastian Zwincke. However, its cost was considered too great at the time and the scheme was eventually abandoned in 1890.

The chancel is 24ft (7m) in length, 24ft (7m) wide and has a total height of 56ft (17m). It is unfortunate that its decoration was not completed, and though the slender shafts flanking the sanctuary windows were never inserted their absence does not mar the overall effect. Indeed, it is a most spacious area, illuminated by tall lancet windows with clear glass in the north and south walls of the sanctuary. The north chancel wall was left blank for a large mosaic (the subject not being indicated in Fr Ibbotson's notes), but in the 1950s wooden panelling, similar in style and identical in height to that within the sanctuary, was installed.

The chancel was furnished in 1885, the pews being supplied by J T Wilson of Hampstead which, together with his screen beneath the organ loft, came to £220. The organ was acquired in the same year for £200 but it was only temporary as a much large instrument by Walker of London was planned. However, the Walker instrument never materialised and the 1885 organ was replaced in 1974 with a rather inferior second-hand one. This, in turn, failed and, in 2003, a splendid free-standing instrument of the late 1850s by George Holditch was acquired from the redundant church of St Peter's, Birch, Essex and placed at the east end of the south aisle.

Fr Ibbotson's great east window - 32ft (10m) high and 18ft (5.5m) wide - depicting Christ in Majesty with St Michael and All Angels, did not materialise until 1915, almost eighteen months after his death. Executed by Hardman's of Birmingham it cost £550 and serves as the parish memorial to Fr Ibbotson (*see fig.4*). This was, to some extent, the only time that the parish moved away from Fr Ibbotson's decorative scheme for he had proposed filling the east window with Belgian glass. Flanking the window is two large wooden angels, each over 6ft (2m) in height, carved by Sebastian Zwincke (£25 each), installed in August 1890.

The great east window is complemented by a massive wooden reredos whose accompanying panelling covers the walls of the sanctuary to a height of 26ft (8m). Work on the reredos began in 1889 and was completed in



*Fig.4. Chancel and Main Altar.*

1892 and was an amalgamation of craftsmen from the workshops of J T Wilson of Hampstead, Hardman's of Birmingham, Cornish & Gayner of London and Zwincke of Oberammergau. In March 1889 £71 was paid to Wilson for erecting the lower panelling of the sanctuary and sedilia. The altar was installed in 1891. The specification for the altar was that it should be made of American walnut and that the painted panels should depict Passion of Our Lord; furthermore, it was to be paid for by public subscription and not cost more than 150 guineas. In the centre are three canopied niches containing wooden statuettes of St Gabriel, St Michael and St Raphael (*see below, fig.5*). To the left of the statuettes are three painted panels depicting the Nativity while the three to the right represent the Resurrection. In October 1891 work began on assembling the Bavarian oak reredos, its central 24ft (7m) fleche enclosing a



*Fig.5. Statuettes and Painted Figures: Main Altar.*





*Fig.6. One of the Hardman windows in the North Aisle.*

painting of the Entombment surmounted by a large Calvary by Sebastian Zwincke. On either side of the fleche are two tiers of painted panels by Hardman of Birmingham, depicting the Agony in the Garden, the Scourging, Ecce Homo, and Christ carrying His Cross, separated vertically by statuettes of the Twelve Apostles (Zwincke). The gabled wing to the left of the main panels show Noah offering Sacrifice and, on the right, Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac. The wooden predella, carved with medallions of Our Lady, Mystic Rose and Instruments of the Passion, was executed by Messrs Cornish & Gayner, the contractors who undertook the assembly of the whole. Below the Calvary is the inscription SIC DEUS DILEXIT MUNDUM ("Christ so loved the World") and below the panel of the Entombment, AGNUS DEI QUI TOLLIS PECCATA MUNDI MISERERE NOBIS ("The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world").

St Michael's possesses a fine collection of plate and metalwork. The three enormous brass sanctuary lamps with red and white lead crystal cabochons, the matching processional cross and the brass alms dish were acquired from Hardman's of Birmingham in 1893. The first item of plate to be acquired in 1885 was a silver chalice and paten of 1882 by Thomas Pratt of London, and this was followed eight years later by a silver chalice and paten of 1893 by Hardman of Birmingham. Also in use is a

silver-gilt paten with Agnus Dei motif of 1871 by John Keith and a silver chalice and paten of 1873 by TJ & Co of London. In 1889 the Rev'd A H Baverstock presented a pair of brass thuribles and incense boats and in 1900 St Michael's acquired its first silver ciborium (unmarked). In 1907 a silver ciborium by the Art & Book Company was purchased and in 1910 the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament gave a silver chalice and paten by John Wilmin Figg. A silver plated chalice was acquired in 1911 for the 1871 John Keith paten and in 1941 the church received a magnificent amethyst-studded silver chalice and paten by B & W & Co. A rather robust monstrance of c.1890 by Jones & Willis of Birmingham was acquired in the 1960s as did a modern silver ciborium, also by B & W & Co.

Coloured vestments were introduced for the first time at High Mass in September 1889 and by April 1890 vestments were being used at all services. A white silk cope was presented in November 1897 and in April 1889 came a splendid set of High Mass vestments in cloth or gold and crimson silk acquired from Hardman's of Birmingham. The parish was involved in a slight alteration in November 1904 when the Royal Commission on Ecclesiastical Discipline forwarded to Fr Clarabut a lengthy report submitted to them by a Walthamstow resident on certain ritualistic practices that he had witnessed at St Michael's in August of that year. Fr Clarabut replied to the charges with his usual aplomb

Dear Sir,

In reply to your communication of yesterday's date, enclosing a copy of evidence that has been given before the Commissioners of a service held in St Michael's church, Walthamstow on Aug 28th last. I beg to say that with one or two exceptions of more or less importance, the evidence is substantially correct. I also beg to thank the Commissioners for their willingness to receive an application from me to give evidence before them, but the evidence they have received will furnish them with the information they require, and there is nothing for me to add.

Nothing further came of the matter.

The Sunday School for four hundred children had been dedicated on 6th October 1885, the foundation stone having been laid five months earlier by Mrs W E Gladstone. Doubling-up as the parish hall, the school is 70ft (21.5m) long and 30ft (9.5m) wide, is on a north-south axis to the church, and has a magnificent hammer-beam roof. A small transept 18ft (5.5m) square, projecting from the east wall, provided space for the infants. A later extension, 30ft (9.5m) by 18ft (5.5m), at the south end of the main hall, served as a kitchen. The school was further extended in 1894 to provide accommodation for an additional two hundred pupils and again in 1895 to provide more accommodation for infants. Between 1885 and 1895 a total of £2,700 was spent on school accommodation. This extended complex survives and now serves as Parish Hall and Social Club. It is unfortunate that the cloister, intended to link the school with the church, was never built. In October 1892, 47ft (14.25m) of frontage on Northcote Road to the west of the church was bought from the Misses Hammack and Lambul for £180 for school room extensions. However, this was never needed and it now serves as a most pleasant enclosed grassed area for the enjoyment of the uniformed organisations associated with the church.

The large parsonage to the south-west of the church was part of James Bignell's original scheme. Of red brick under a slate roof it cost £2,300 to build. The foundation stone was laid in July 1888 and the house was ready for occupation in April 1889. This contract was also supervised by Jabez Bignell.

The boundaries of the parish were published in the London Gazette on 28th January 1887. In August of the same year it was estimated that the population was between 5,000 and 5,500, but within five years this had risen to 8,796 as a result of which the stipend was increased by £150 per annum. It was evident that St Michael's was unable to provide for the needs of the expanding parish so in 1900 a daughter church, dedicated to St Paul and built to the designs of W A Longmore, was established in the westernmost part of the parish. It served the needs of those living in that area until 1964 when it closed, at which time its altar and plate were removed to St Michael's.

In the late 1970s St Michael's church was looking a little care-worn. A robust restoration programme was mounted and within five years the building had been repaired and the interior cleaned. It fortunately escaped the 1980s mania for re-ordering and thus remains exactly as it was in 1905. As a result, St Michael's can now be seen as Fr Ibbotson had wanted it look had he been in a position to complete it during his lifetime. It remains one of a handful of churches in the Diocese of Chelmsford which not only retains its original interior arrangements but also maintains its original parsonage and parish halls, a tribute to successive generations of incumbents and church wardens.

### Illustrations

By courtesy of the author.

### References

- 1 The journal, a maroon leather-bound book 210mm x 130mm, is held at St Michael and All Angels. I am indebted to the present incumbent, the Rev'd J C Ravensdale SSC, for permission to draw from it.
- 2 Of which the county of Essex was part of until 1914.

## Your Contributors

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## The Place-Name Mashbury, Mæcca's Lost Burgh Found?

By James Kemble

The incursions of the Viking armies into England in the 9th and 10th centuries, so vividly documented in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, no doubt profoundly disrupted the lives the ordinary farming communities of Essex. Well recorded is Alfred's response in setting up rallying-points for the 'fyrd', a system honed and extended by Edward. Alfred's early burhs, such as at Exeter, Winchester and Bath reinforced old Roman defences, but Roman walls had proved inadequate in saving London from falling to the Vikings in 851.

The form of these burhs varies. At Wareham a bank and ditch surround about 80-90 acres, the enclosure shaped by the rivers Frome and Piddle at Cricklade the enclosure was rectangular, about 80 acres with a 30 foot wide bank; both had had wooden revetments. On the west bank of the Thames at Wallingford a 100 acre burh was rectangular while at Lydford (Devon) the river Lyd determined a wedge-shape burh on a promontory (Ransford, 1970).

In Essex, near Witham in Rivenhall 'Burgate' (*Burgettfeild*, 1596) may indicate a Saxon defended residence. The Witham burh, referred to in the *Chronicle* for the year 912, has been linked to a D-shaped enclosure at Newland Street guarding the river crossing; the evidence for refortification by Edward of the Late Bronze/early Iron Age camp at Chipping Hill, an outer oval ditch surrounding some 26 acres with a central scarped citadel of some 10 acres, is scant (Stenton, 1987; Rodwell, 1993). The oval burh at Maldon, with ambiguous evidence of Iron Age origins and Saxon re-use, some 250 x 350 metres (c.21 acres) or, according to Strutt c.13 acres, overlooking the steep slope to the River Blackwater, was built or reinforced by Edward around 916 (Gould, 1909; Bedwin, 1992). The burh at *Wigingamere* has been identified with Newport (Haslam, 1988). After the Vikings were removed from Colchester in 917, a burh was built there within the Roman walls (Crummy, 1981; Hart, 1992).



Few pre-Alfredian burhs have been identified. At Yeavinger is a 'citadel' of the 7th century kings of Northumbria, and at Tamworth (Staffs.) one side of a rectangular defensible enclosure is the river Teme (Ransford, 1970). Within the Roman fort at Birdoswald on Hadrian's Wall has been identified a large post-Roman hall, and at Tintagel 6th century pottery from southern Turkey has been excavated on an 'elite's site' on the craggy promontory.

The Essex parish of Mashbury in the south-centre of the Hundred of Dunmow has long been suspected as being the site of a Saxon burh. The earliest documentation of the name *Maisseberia* and *Mæisbyrig*, 'Maecca's burh', occurs in the confirmation of privileges and lands granted by Ingelric the priest to St. Martin-le-Grand in London by King William in 1068 (Ekwall, 1960; Reaney, 1935; Hart, 1971). Ingelric and his brother Girard had re-endowed this collegiate church c.1056.

At least from the 11th century there have been close ties between Mashbury and adjacent Good Easter. In Domesday Book, an unnamed berewick of Mashbury lying in Chelmsford Hundred is recorded under Good Easter (VCH, 1903; Hart, 1971). Before 1066, Good Easter had been held by thane Aelmer, and Mashbury by Edwin and a free woman Aelfeva. In 1022x1029, Godgifu, widow of a certain ealdorman, willed to the monastery at Ely an estate of *Æstre*, which she inherited from her parents (Hart, 1971). Although this is associated with High Easter (VCH, 1903), Godgifu gave her name (after 1086) to Good Easter, so she may have held part of Easter which she did not will to Ely. Good Easter too was a possession of St. Martin-le-Grand, granted by Count Eustace, brother-in-law of King Edward (Morris, 1983). In 1888 the western eleven field-parcels in Mashbury were transferred to the civil parish of Good Easter. The civil and ecclesiastical boundaries are still unconformed.

On the western edge of Mashbury parish is 'Oldberry field' (TL635126) still in the possession of *Armours*, associated with Richard le Armurer (Feet of Fines, 1517) (*Fig. 1*). The adjacent fields to the west and south, in Good Easter parish, are Great and Little Oldbury, in a rental of 1453 *Oldebery*. These fields constitute a subrectangular enclosure whose eastern and southern boundaries are surrounded by ditches respectively up to 1.5 and 3 metres deep from base to top of an eroded bank. The north boundary is also protected by a ditch. Internal field boundaries divide the enclosure into four approximately equal rectangles. A ford across the ditch midway along the southern boundary suggests a former 'entrance' which is approached from the south from the river Can.

According to the Tithe survey of 1847, Oldberry field measures 11 acres. If to this is added 52 acres, the size of *Great and Little Oldbury* (though the western boundary is now indistinct and may not accurately represent the old one), the area enclosed was clearly large enough for several thousand men to rally. Using the Burghal Hideage (generally held to date from Edward's reign but probably reflecting earlier practice), about 1450 men would be needed to hold the perimeter against attack. Little is known of the size of Essex burhs (other than those at Witham and at Maldon). The Mashbury burh thus provides for further investigation a relatively unaltered site which has not been built on.

## The Surrounding Landscape

The site is on a spur on the 200 foot contour with extensive views east towards Mashbury church across a tributary of the River Can, and west towards Good Easter with its prominent shingle spire. The rising ground and elevation are best appreciated from the road south of the road junction at Smallshoes, looking westwards. The burh dominates the high ground above the River Can about a half mile distant in its curve flowing southerly then easterly to touch the southern parish boundary. Reaney (1935) suggests the tributary to the east was *Massebrok* (1235), though the main river may have been formerly so-called here in its upper reaches (cp. River Blackwater and Pant). This part of the river was called 'The Brook' on the Survey of Little Newarks dated 1754 (ERO: D/DTU237).

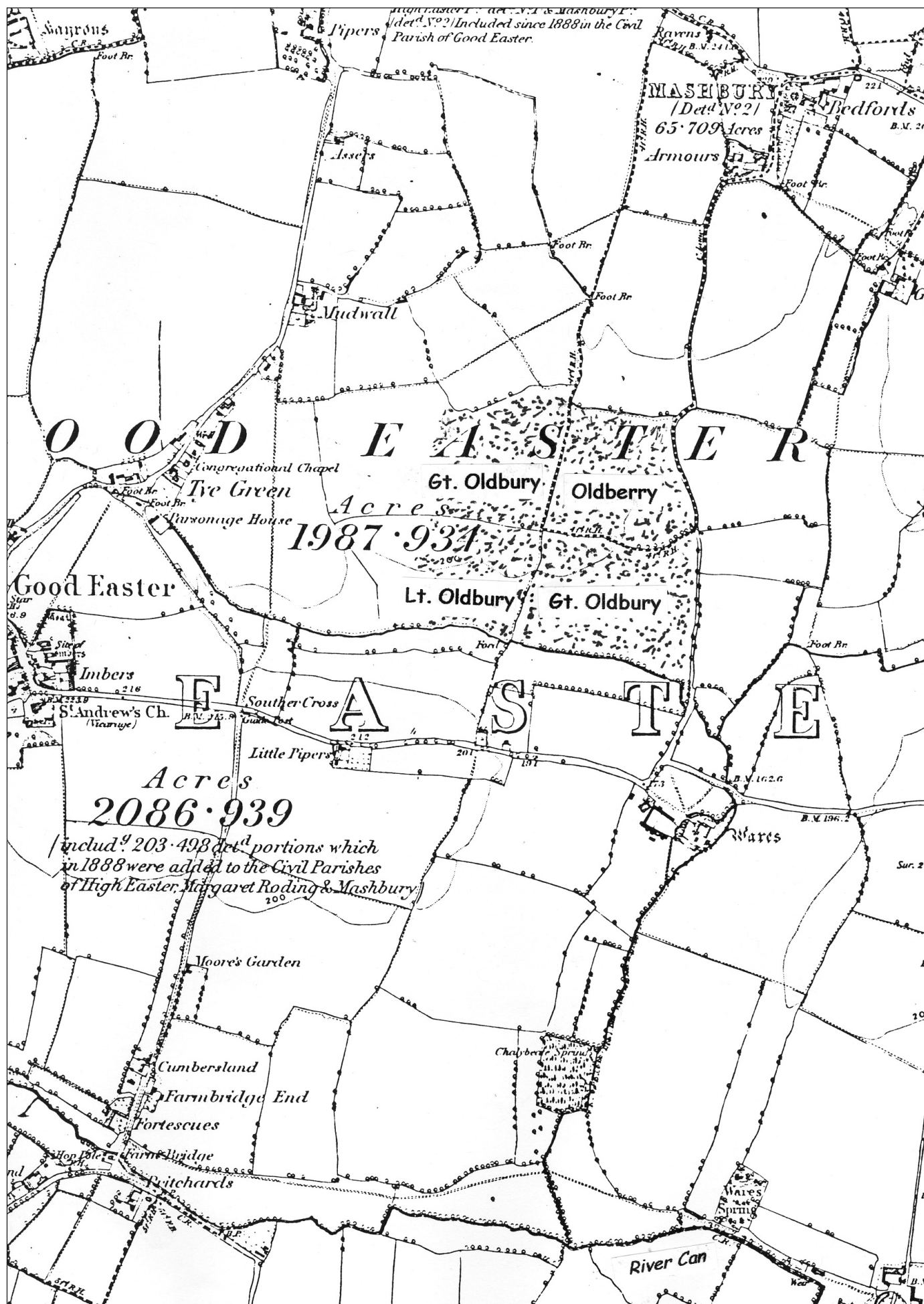
The Can river straddled on both banks by Good Easter provided access to the sea via Chelmsford (*Celmeresfort*, 1086, DB, 'ford of Ceolmaer') and Maldon (*Mældune*, 913, ASC, 'hill with a cross'). The burh lies almost equidistant between two parallel Roman roads running through Leaden Roding to Great Dunmow and that from Little Waltham to Braintree, each about 3 miles away. A possible Roman villa site is about 1½ miles to the north. A Chalybeate spring rises due south, and a green lane skirts the eastern boundary leading from Wares to Armours, both moated house sites.

To the east lie the Chignalls (*Cingehala*, 1086, 'Cicca's corner'), formerly three parishes united by the Chignall Brook. To the west lies the block of land, the Rodings (*Rotinges*, *Rodinges*, 1042-1066), settlement of Hrotha's people, which, judging from its size of about 11800 acres (assigned in the Tribal Hideage, whose origin may have been in the 7th century, as 29 hides 113 acres) must have been a large following; it is united by the River Roding. High and Good Easter, Mashbury and Pleshey (which was part of Easter) constitute a block of land of about 4500 acres (assigned as 12 hides 95 acres) unified by the River Can which rises north of High Easter. Rivers constituted 'Saxon highways' and it is perhaps not unreasonable to suggest that these four parishes constitute an early Saxon landholding. If so, Maecca's burh dominated the southern half and the river access.

## Who was Maecca (or Maessa)?

The name may survive in such widely-spaced places as Marshborough (Kent), Massingham (Norfolk), Messingham (Lincs) and Marsworth (Berks) as well as Messing (*Metcinges*, 1086, DB), Mashbury and Matching (*Matcinga*, 1086, DB) (Ekwall, 1960; Watts, 2004). The personal name was therefore probably not uncommon.

The Laws of Ine, king of the West Saxons, (dated c.690) explain compensation to be paid for *burgbryce*, violation of a stronghold. Ranking below the king, bishop, ealdorman and thane was the *gesithcund* man who owned a burh and who was entitled to payment of 35 shillings for such breach. He was required to contribute to the fyrd upon forfeiture of his land which had been granted to him by the king (Stubbs, 1913; Morris, 1977). This system of land-grant can only have worked in any large degree when the king had spare land to give to his lesser nobles before the more senior acquired great estates. If similar law applied to the East Saxons, Maecca may have been such a *gesithcund man*.



*Fig.1. 6" Ordnance Survey map c.1875 showing putative 'burh' site.*



Despite Reaney's (1935) bold attempt, it is difficult to provide a meaningful link between Messing, Mashbury and Matching separated by some 22 miles and with the Rodings intervening. If all are associated with one Saxon chief, how is at present obscure.

### Dating

The 'Oldberry burh' satisfies only two, possibly three, of the five criteria of Haslam (1988) to qualify as an Edwardian one of the early 10th century. There is a hiatus in the siting of burhs between London, Hertford and Witham which the Oldberry burh might fill in south central Essex. The site on a spur commanding access along the river and equidistant from the two major thoroughfares from London northeastwards could be argued to be a strategic one, though such a siting is not necessarily confined to Edwardian burhs.

Within a few years of King Edward's death in 924 some burhs became trading centres. At Maldon, coins were minted. The appellation 'burh' thus became identified with places that could be defended and hence manorial centres or towns. 'Oldberry' has no characteristics or evidence of a trading site, settlement or manorial centre. The place-name survival is surely significant, but the burh was not manned by a permanent population to become a town, nor was it a royal possession. By the 11th century the focus had moved from the burh eastwards, for the isolated church next to the manor house at Mashbury has Norman features. The village of Good Easter and the non-nucleated holdings scattered across Mashbury parish developed outside and at a distance from the burh.

That the Mashbury-Good Easter parish boundary runs through the Oldberry enclosure dates it to before the drawing of that boundary (Powell, 1953). The associated territory which extends across the river Can (into Chelmsford Hundred) suggests the landholding may also predate the Hundred boundary.

If the territory was an earlier Saxon one united by the river Can, it might be expected to have included land both sides of the river. That it did indeed include land on the south bank is problematical, for south of Oldberry the river is the boundary between Dunmow and Chelmsford Hundreds. There are however clues that it did. The territory would have included part of Roxwell (which does not appear in Domesday Book, but was included in Writtle as *Neuuelanda*). Domesday Book records a berewick of half a hide and 20 acres in Chelmsford Hundred which, before 1066, was part of Mashbury (Hart, 1971). A quarter of a knight's fee in 'Stane' in Good Easter was held by Alan Fitz Gervase in 1252 but in 1346 the jurors denied it had ever been in Dunmow Hundred. Stane has been identified with 'Staines' (Tithe parcel 691) or Stonehill Farm (TL638077) in Roxwell (Reaney, 1937). It is suggested this was a holding of a Saxon lord of Mashbury which pre-dated the establishment of Hundred boundaries (in the 7th century?) or their rearrangement in Alfred's time (Rickwood, 1911; Christy, 1926; Stenton, 1971).

That the Mashbury burh is of an early date is suggested by the affix of a personal name, a practice perhaps more likely when the stronghold was closely identified with a local leader rather than as one, part of a system of Alfredian or Edwardian strategic planning. If the etymon is accepted, it falls into a class of pre-Conquest burh-names compounded with a personal name, in Essex shared with *Tolesberia* (1086, Tollesbury),

*Halingheberia* (1086, Hallingbury) and *Tilaburg* (c.735, Bede, Tilbury).

Bede writes that Bishop Cedd set up churches in Essex at places such as Tilbury (*Tilaburg*, c.735) and Othona about 653. The exact site of the burh at Tilbury on the north bank of the Thames has not been identified but land was granted by the Saxon kings for the establishment of churches at or near previous Roman forts, perhaps because they contained building materials readily accessible. Nor has the precise location of the burh at Tollesbury at the entrance to the River Blackwater been identified, but Tilbury, Tollesbury and Mashbury share the common feature of commanding rivers. Wallbury at Hallingbury (*Halingheberia*, 1086) commanding the River Stort, that at Danbury (*Danengeberiam*, 1086) and, synonymously, Oldbury in Kent are sites of Iron Age forts with some evidence of Saxon re-use (Morris and Buckley, 1978; Thompson, 1986, Fox 2004).

To these Essex place-names may be added Frindsbury, Kent (*Freondesberiam*, 789), Tisbury, Wilts (*Tyssesburg*, 759), Bibury, Gloucs (*Beaganbyrig*, 721-43), Maugersbury, Gloucs (*Meilgaesbyri*, 714), Fladbury, Worcs (*Fledanbyrig*, 691x9), Henbury, Gloucs (*Hameteberie*, 691x9), Malmsbury (*Maldumesburg*, c.675), Burgh Castle (*Cnobheresburg*, 633 (8th)), Aylesbury (*Ægelesburg*, 571 (9th)), Barbury Hill, Wilts (*Beranbyrh*, 556 (9th)) and *Finns-buruh* (c.400, near Leeuwarden, Netherlands) (Ekwall, 1960; Sawyer, 1968; Watts, 2004). It will be appreciated that most of this corpus pre-dates the 9th century. These early documented names strongly suggest that burh place-names with a personal name prefix are likely to date from the 8th century or earlier. For the Oldberry burh at Mashbury, a date of the first quarter of the 10th century is possible but a early to mid-Saxon one favoured.

### Conclusion

This study aims to use place-names, topography of the surrounding landscape, field boundary features and later documentary landholding evidence to identify the site of *Mæisbyrig*. The site at 'Oldberry', partly within the later parish of Mashbury and partly in Good Easter, well fits the evidence. Its territory of influence probably extended south across the River Can.

Even when there is documentary evidence for Saxon occupation at Essex burh sites, archaeological confirmation has proved difficult. Few pre-Alfredian burh sites are as yet known and it is likely that only a combination of such evidence from several disciplines will lead to their identification.

*The author wishes to thank the landowners Mr. Tom Pitt, Mr. Gerald Simpson and Mr. Richard Matthews for their help and involvement. He wishes also to record his thanks to the staff of the Essex Record Office and to Dr. Chris Thornton for assistance with documents.*

**The Essex Place-names Project** records place-names from old documents onto a county database and investigates them on the ground. The database is available on the internet at [www.essex.ac.uk/history/esah/essexplacenames](http://www.essex.ac.uk/history/esah/essexplacenames) and at the Essex Record Office, Chelmsford. Interested potential Recorders are invited to contact the Project Coordinator through the ERO; no previous experience or expertise is necessary.



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- Sawyer, P.H., 1968. *Anglo-Saxon Charters*. London.
- Stenton, F., 1971. *Anglo-Saxon England*. Oxford.
- Stubbs, W., 1913. *Select Charters*. Oxford. p 68.
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# Late Medieval Graffiti in Chelmsford Cathedral

By Bari Hooper

Chelmsford Cathedral was constructed in the early 15th. cent. as a parish church, and only acquired its present status in 1914 when it was chosen to become the cathedral of the new diocese for the county of Essex. A south chapel was added or rebuilt c.1430, and in the second part of that century the north and south arcades were rebuilt and a clerestory and an engaged west tower were added. In 1800 the roof of the nave collapsed destroying the clerestory and much of the north and south arcades: the church was subsequently rebuilt by John Johnson using some of the material saved from the destruction.

Most of the medieval churches of Essex have graffiti incised upon their interior stonework, and Chelmsford Cathedral is no exception. On the nave piers there are a number of names and initials bearing 17th. cent. dates, including some which are now inverted, showing that at Johnson's rebuilding many of the original stones were reversed. Other graffiti in the nave include crosses and pentacles; these last probably symbolising the Five Wounds of Christ.

More graffiti may be seen on the stonework of the ground floor of the west tower, including what appears to be a rough sketch of a medieval ship. From about the time of Edward III all the great aristocratic families adopted heraldic badges as supplements to their armorial bearings. Among the well-known examples of these are the Bouchier Knot and the Stafford Knot, examples of which are also present as graffiti in the west tower. From the 14th. through to the 16th centuries these two families possessed many Essex estates, including some in the Chelmsford Hundred (the Bouchiers in Broomfield and Springfield, the Staffords in Chignal, Great Waltham and Writtle). The Bouchiers, who of course became earls of Essex, have their badge also carved in the spandrel of the west doorway, and were probably among the principal contributors to the rebuilding of the church in the 15th cent.<sup>1</sup>

Although these heraldic badges are worthy of note, they are not the most remarkable graffiti in the tower. Two lightly-incised drawings of crowned couples, clearly by the same hand, are much more revealing. Graffiti depicting people are fairly common in churches, but in most cases the sketches are too poorly executed and lacking in distinguishing features to date them. The present sketches, whilst far from being masterpieces of draughtmanship, are nevertheless reasonably well-drawn, and what is more important, they have certain details which enable a tentative assessment of their date to be made.

### Fig 1 (opposite)

The crowned woman on the left is wearing her hair loose, allowing it to hang below the shoulder line. In the Middle Ages and the early modern period most upper-class women grew their hair long, but when appearing in public they usually wore it plaited or otherwise coiffured according to the prevailing fashion. There were exceptions to this: for example unmarried women usually secured their waist-length hair with a simple narrow head-band, allowing it to hang down their back.<sup>2</sup>

As the sketch consists only of head and shoulders, we are presented with but a tantalising glimpse of the top of her gown. Unfortunately the diagonal lines by which it is represented do not present enough of a clue to identify its type.

Her companion, positioned slightly forward to her left, appears to have her hair covered by a diaphonous veil through which is woven a zig-zag pattern of threads. On her head she wears either a coronet of unusual form with a central finial, or perhaps a small cap or bonnet. Her neck is enclosed within the collar of her gown.





**Fig 2 (above)**

The perpendicular lines on either side of the head of the crowned woman on the left, probably representing her long hair, or, less likely, a symmetrical hemmed veil falling to her shoulders. The diagonal lines on her neck indicate that she is wearing a gown with a very high neck-line which, given the late 15th. cent. date of the tower, is rather unusual, since from the mid 14th. through to the early years of the 16th cent. most women favoured garments which left the neck exposed. High-necked garments were occasionally worn during the reign of Henry IV (1399-1413)<sup>3</sup>, but they are rarely seen in illustrations after this time.

Her companion appears to be a crowned clean-shaven male with his hair neatly styled in two clumps at the side of his head.

### **Discussion**

If the crowned woman in *fig. 1* and the figures in *fig. 2* are wearing crowns, then the artist presumably intended them to be representing royalty. But if they are wearing coronets, whilst they might still depict people of the royal blood, they are more likely to represent people of the non-royal aristocracy. In the early medieval period even ordinary knights sometimes adorned their helmets with coronets, but it is with the aristocracy that the coronet is more usually associated, though even among them its possession was not necessarily an indication of the title of its wearer. For example Richard, earl of Arundel, in his will (1375) bequeathed coronets to his daughters as well as to his son and heir; for to them the coronet was an indication of high birth rather than rank<sup>4</sup>. However in time the coronet gradually came to be recognised as the principal distinguishing sign of a peer,

though even as late as the 15th cent. its design was not subject to any regulation. It is therefore perhaps not insignificant that the coronets of the Chelmsford graffiti are all of different forms. The woman in *fig. 2*, for instance, wears a coronet of the open type with an indented upper edge, while her companion and the crowned woman in *fig. 1* both wear a more elaborate type with spikes and double arches.<sup>5</sup>

The traditional circular coronet continued to be worn after the accession of Henry VIII (1509) by Tudor queens and princesses up to the introduction c.1515 of the French hood, a crescent-shaped headdress with upstanding edges stiffened with wire.<sup>6</sup> Because of its circular form a coronet could not be worn with a French hood. It was replaced with goldsmith's work, pearls or beads attached to the fore or back edges of the headdress. The coronets, long hair and veil worn by the women in both graffiti ante-date incontrovertibly the introduction of the French hood.

Apart from his hair, which is represented by two clumps on the right side of the head, the man in *fig. 2* has no distinguishing features so far as dating is concerned. The two clumps suggest a full hair style reaching at least to the neck. From the first half of the 15th. cent. most (but not all) of the aristocracy wore their hair in a distinctive 'pudding-basin' style with the back and sides of the hair shaved. This style, which in any case is incompatible with the date of the tower, is not worn here, or it would be apparent on the forehead and the lower clump of hair would be absent. Long hair came back into fashion during the reign of Edward IV (1461-1483), and it remained in vogue among his successors up to the reign of Henry VIII, who issued peremptory orders for all his courtiers and attendants to wear their hair short.

The above facts, taken in conjunction with the date of the tower's construction, suggest that the drawings were probably incised somewhere between the accession of Edward IV in 1461 and the introduction of the French hood in 1515.

Vernacular drawings of this period are far from common, and these drawings are obviously in need of some form of protection from possible future damage. A toughened glass plate sufficiently raised above the surface of the stone to allow the circulation of air would be ideal. Although this precaution would make it difficult for visitors easily to perceive the faint lines of the graffiti, the drawings reproduced in this article could easily be copied and displayed close by.

#### Illustrations

By courtesy of the author.

#### References

1. Morant, citing the Visitation of Essex of 1634, mentions a number of escutcheons in the roof of the church, including those of Bourchier. *The History and Antiquities of the County of Essex* (1763-8). London 1.7.
2. See the monumental brass of Elizabeth Echyngham, spinster, (1480) at Etchingham, Sussex. The practice of women wearing their hair long began in childhood and lasted until they either married or joined a religious order. This is evident on the monumental brass of Sir Thomas Urswyck (1479) at Dagenham, which depicts his nine daughters, the eldest in the habit of a nun, the second and third as married women wearing butterfly head-dresses and the remaining six unmarried daughters, wearing steeple head-dresses rather than head-bands, with their long hair brushed behind them (see Lack, W., Stuchfield, H.M. and Whittemore, P., *The Monumental Brasses of Essex (A-K)* pp.207-8, London 2003). Even married women occasionally wore their hair long in public (see Harleian MS 2278 (c.1450), which depicts a crowned queen with her hair falling behind her back.)

3. See the brass c.1400 of an anonymous lady in Tilbrook Church, Bedfordshire. (Lack, W., Stuchfield H M and Whittemore, P: *The Monumental Brasses of Bedfordshire* p.92, p.95. London 1992).
4. Fox-Davies, R. (1929) *A Complete Guide to Heraldry*, (1993 edition) London. pp.362-3.
5. An arched crown first appears in England on the coins of Edward the Confessor. William I (1066-1087) and William II (1087-1100) may also have worn arched crowns, but it was not until Henry VI (1422-1461) that it re-appeared. From that time the State Crowns of England have always been arched.
6. The introduction of the French hood into England has been credited to Anne Boleyn, but as the costume historian Herbert Norris has pointed out, if the date of 1515 assigned to a portrait of Princess Mary Tudor by Jan van Mabuse (Jenin Gossart de Maubeuge) (1470-1534) is correct, then it is she who most probably introduced it. *Costume and Fashion; the Tudors* (1938), London (1997 edition intro. by Richard Martin, New York), p.337.

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# From Essex to Aberystwyth, the Harvey family archive

The last of the male line of the Harvey family to live at Rolls Park, Chigwell, was Admiral Sir Eliab Harvey, who commanded the *Temeraire* at Trafalgar. Eliab's eldest daughter, Louisa, who inherited the Chigwell estate, married William Lloyd of Aston Hall near Oswestry, in Shropshire. The Lloyd family continued to own Rolls Park until 1953 when Andrew Lloyd decided to demolish the house.

It was also at about this time that Andrew Lloyd deposited with the National Library of Wales (NLW), at Aberystwyth, all the estate records of Aston Hall, together with many of those relating to the Harvey estates in Essex, including Chigwell and Hempstead. In addition, there are several thousands of letters written to Louisa Lloyd by members of the Harvey family in the first half of the nineteenth century which give a fascinating insight into the social life of a very wealthy family who moved in aristocratic circles including the Duke of Wellington. The correspondence also includes letters written at the time of Trafalgar.

The estate records contain a bound volume of a survey made in 1770 of the estates of William Harvey in Hempstead and adjoining parishes. The survey includes 66 maps of each parcel of land beautifully drawn by Owen Swan.

The house at Rolls Park was one of the most richly decorated Georgian mansions in the country and included a fine collection of paintings by artists such as Lely, Kneller, Hudson, Ramsay and Van de Velde. After Admiral Harvey's death in 1830, William Saquier made a valuation of nearly one hundred paintings in the house, excluding the family portraits, and a copy of the valuation is in the archive at the NLW. Most of the family portraits have descended with members of the family but many others, including some of the marine paintings by Van de Velde, can be found in galleries and museums.

The NLW has an excellent on-line catalogue of the Aston Hall records which can be found on the main NLW website: [www.llgc.org.uk](http://www.llgc.org.uk). The Essex Record Office already has material relating to the Harveys of Chigwell and Hempstead, but nothing of the magnitude of the NLW archive. Items from the NLW collection could form a most interesting exhibition at the ERO.

*The Loughton & District Historical Society is publishing a book in March on the Harveys of Rolls Park, Chigwell, as part of the Trafalgar Bicentenary celebrations.*

Richard Morris

## The Downs Family and Iron Foundry at Gestingthorpe

By Adrian Corder-Birch

During the mid 1990s Adam Garwood of Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit surveyed all known sites of former iron foundries in Essex. He prepared a report 'Iron Foundries in Essex: A Comparative Survey', 1997, one of the completed surveys and reports referred to by Shane Gould in his article 'Yesterday's Archaeological Heritage in Essex' in the Spring 2000 edition of *Essex Journal*. The report briefly included Downs Iron Foundry at Gestingthorpe. The history of this small rural foundry and the family who operated it has been researched in more detail. The result is this article, which is a further contribution to the industrial archaeology and history of Essex.

### The iron foundry

The small iron foundry at Gestingthorpe was one of thirty operating in Essex from the late eighteenth to the twentieth century. The Gestingthorpe iron and brass foundry was established by John Downs, senior, (*see cover illustration*) during the 1820's. On 15 November 1823, he purchased a blacksmith's shop and small shop adjoining from James Smith, a farmer, for £180. This old established blacksmith's shop had previously been in the possession of Ambrose Smith for some years until 1787. John Downs soon extended the business and the premises from a blacksmith's shop to that of a wheelwright and iron foundry. He was born in Ovington in 1796 being the second of three sons of

William Downs and Elizabeth Butcher who had married in Gestingthorpe in 1786. This branch of the Downs family, were principally blacksmiths. It was also the initial occupation of John whilst living in Ovington and during his early time in Gestingthorpe. His brother, William Gardiner Downs, was a blacksmith at Belchamp St. Paul, and later at Castle Hedingham and William's five sons were also blacksmiths.

The iron foundry was constructed on part of the Over Hall (or Gestingthorpe Hall) estate, on the south side of North End Road from Gestingthorpe cross roads towards North End, Little Yeldham. The large two storey building used as an Agricultural Implement Warehouse and Show Rooms was formerly a hop kiln. Later, there were foundry buildings on both sides of the road. A tunnel was constructed under the road to connect the furnace with a steam engine housed on the north side of North End Road, which drove a fan to make the blast. Earlier, hand bellows were used to do the pumping.

This foundry, in common with other early Essex foundries, was mainly involved with the manufacture of agricultural implements and in particular with ploughs. It served an essential need in rural north Essex and also had customers in south Suffolk. In fact the business gained a wide reputation and amongst many good connections were those established in Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire.





*Fig.1. Walter Downs (1830-1911) wheelwright, with his self-made cart.*

### **John Downs, senior, his family and other business interests.**

In 1818 John Downs married Edith Ripplingale Rayner (1798-1836), a member of the well-known Gestingthorpe family of brick and tile makers. They lived at Foundry House and had eight children. Edith Downs died in 1836 and the following year John married Sarah Mahetabel Rayner (1813-1863) by whom he had four more children. Sarah was the widow of John Rayner (1800-1833), the parents of John Eliezor Rayner (1832-1870). After the death of Sarah in 1863, he married thirdly, Wilhelmina Sophia Dykes (1818-1906), who survived him and continued living in Ashley Cottage, Gestingthorpe until her death in 1906.

John Downs became the trusted manager of the Over Hall estate during the 19 year widowhood of Mrs. Stephana Walker: George Walker had died in 1848. He remained as manager until 1869 when the estate was sold to John Brewer, a London barrister. In 1891 the estate came into the ownership of the Oates family, of whom Captain L.E.G. Oates (the Antarctic explorer) was a distinguished member.

John Downs diversified and became the owner of an extensive Brick, Tile and Pottery Works at Gestingthorpe and a farmer of 142 acres including Tucklands Farm and the Foundry or Pound Farm containing about 32 acres. He also carried on the business of a wheelwright and blacksmith in conjunction with the iron foundry and was for half a century a large employer of labour in the village. He was also proprietor of another brick yard at Brick Kiln Hill, Castle Hedingham. He owned several other properties including Ashley Cottage, Gestingthorpe, where he lived in later life and had

purchased in 1869 for £320. By the time of his death in 1877 he owned over thirty cottages in Gestingthorpe, Belchamp Walter and Ovington. John Downs was also the first Post Master in Gestingthorpe from 1848 until about 1863. He was followed by Samuel Rayner (1829-1908), who was Post Master for 45 years, until succeeded by his daughter, Adeline Kate Corder (1862-1948). She was Post Mistress for forty years and therefore, Gestingthorpe Post Office was operated by only three people in its first one hundred years.

A son, William Downs (1821-1845) took over the Brick Works from John in February, 1845. Sadly, William died later the same year, whereupon his father resumed control of the Brick Works. When John Downs died in 1877 the Brick Works were left to his daughter, Elizabeth Rayner (1828-1897), widow of John Eliezor Rayner (1832-1870). Elizabeth Rayner had already inherited another brick works at Gestingthorpe owned by her husband and therefore became the owner of three brick works; two in Gestingthorpe and one in Castle Hedingham.

Another son, Walter Downs (1830-1911) was a wheelwright and plough fitter at the foundry and lived at the Dower House on the Bulmer Road. He later became a wheelwright on his own account, working from his home. His son, Truman Downs, became a plough painter and another son, Josiah Downs, a wheelwright and plough fitter at the foundry. Josiah was the father of Allan Downs (1898-1960) and grandfather of John Downs (1927-1992) who were well known steam engine owners and travelling showmen in East Anglia and the Home Counties.

### **John Downs, junior.**

In 1845 John Downs, junior, (1819-1873) took over the foundry from his father. The following notices are quoted from the Essex Standard of 20 June, 1845:

#### **"GESTINGTHORPE FOUNDRY**

John Downs, senior.

Returns his best thanks to his friends and to the public generally for the very liberal support with which he has been favoured for many years past in the above business and begs to inform them that he has disposed of the same to his son, John Downs, junior, who he can assure them, is in every way qualified to carry on the trade in a manner that will ensure their future patronage.

John Downs, junior.

Having taken over the old established foundry business, most respectfully solicits the favour of that patronage so long enjoyed by his father. John Downs, junior, will constantly attend the markets at Clare, Braintree and Sudbury, for the purpose of receiving orders."

By 1851 John Downs, junior, was living in Foundry Row. As well as being an iron founder, blacksmith and plough manufacturer, he was a farmer of 60 acres employing a total of 11 men. In 1861 he employed 4 men and 1 boy in the foundry. These employees were John Mays (foreman), Philip Chinery (iron founder), Jonathan Smith and Theophilus Hasler (moulders). These four employees lived at Nether Hill. In North End Road was a row of four cottages called 'Foundry Row', one of which was occupied by Charles Turner, a journeyman iron-founder. John Downs, junior, who was also a farmer, employing 6 men on the farm, occupied Foundry House. In 1871 his total employees had increased to 21 men and 4 boys and he also farmed Netherstreet Farm situated at the bottom of Hill Farm Lane. Ten years later, his widow, Elizabeth Downs was recorded as a farmer and iron-founder occupying 158 acres and employing 17 men and 2 boys. Her employees included Theophilus Hasler (moulder), Jonathan Smith and John Mays (iron-founder's labourers).

In 1869 John Downs, junior, purchased Pound Farm with 31 acres for £2,120 from the Over Hall estate. In the same sale he bought Gestingthorpe sand pits comprising of two acres for £190. He also farmed Tucklands Farm and land at Audley End. He owned a number of cottages including six in Netherhall Hill, thirteen in Audley End, eight in Barrack Yard, three in Pot Kiln Chase and one at North End.

John Downs, junior, married Elizabeth King in 1840 and had seven children, including a son King Downs (1850-1919) who later inherited the iron foundry. John Downs, junior, predeceased his father in 1873. The foundry was continued by Mrs. Elizabeth Downs and her son, King Downs until King Downs later took complete control.

### **King Downs and his ploughs**

King Downs became well known as a plough manufacturer and in particular of the Essex A plough and the popular T.D.O. (Turn the Dirt Over) plough. The T.D.O. ploughs were well known throughout the country, being steady running and very economical. These ploughs, which were pulled by horses, were simply constructed and convenient. They had

wooden handles and plough-beam but the 'working parts' were made of iron. They turned a single furrow and were guided by two handles; the curved left-hand one, in line with the plough-beam controlled the direction and the right handle kept the plough vertical. The shaft or right handle was lighter than the left or main handle. Similarly designed ploughs were manufactured at various foundries from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century. Other manufacturers later used cast iron frames, which facilitated replacing parts.

In October 1909, a T.D.O. plough, in competition with other well known makes, received all three prizes at the Haverhill Root Show in the twelve mile limit class. The Essex A ploughs were acknowledged by farmers to be one of the cheapest possible plough for a farmer to keep up. Quite apart from ploughs, other products included land rolls, farm wagons, flat irons, pig and poultry troughs, boot scrapers, sign posts, iron railings, iron finials for the top of gate posts and a variety of other items. The majority of these products had the name DOWNS on them.

King Downs was also agent for other well-known Agricultural Implement Makers, including E. H. Bentall of Heybridge Iron Works, Maldon. In fact his father, John Downs, junior, had originally been appointed agent by E. H. Bentall in 1868. A younger brother of King Downs, Charles Edgar Downs (1867-1936) who lived at Ashley Cottage, was an agricultural implement agent as well as a reaping and mowing machinist on his own account.

On 7 October, 1889, John Row who farmed at Foxearth and Long Melford purchased half a dozen plough shares from King Downs for 3s 6d. (7d. each). The cost of a T.D.O. plough in October, 1914 was £2 12s 6d but had increased to £3 0s 0d by September, 1915. Coulter Staff and Gallas - extra 4s 6d each.

King Downs, known as The King of Gestingthorpe, also carried on business as a wheelwright and blacksmith and as a farmer at Rectory Farm, also known as The Parsonage. He also owned and farmed Pound Farm, which was situated opposite the foundry. King Downs married Elizabeth Land in 1882 and lived at Rectory Farm with their five children. He was a Churchwarden and School Manager at Gestingthorpe. His family also owned The Upper Farm Audley End, Pump Yard and several other cottages in Gestingthorpe. The Upper Farm at Audley End comprising of house, yards and buildings was owned by John Rayner and occupied by John Downs, senior. The land was later incorporated into Delvyns Farm.

Owing to the business capabilities of all three generations of the Downs, the iron foundry was built up into a flourishing concern. They advertised the delivery of all implements and goods carriage free. King Downs mainly used Heddingham Station on the Colne Valley and Halstead Railway to transport his ploughs and other agricultural implements. In 1898, he testified at a Public Inquiry into the construction of Light Railways that the proposed Heddingham to Long Melford Light Railway would be a great benefit to his business. The route was planned through Nether Hill, Gestingthorpe, which was comparatively near his foundry. This railway was never built. Would it have been any more successful than those, railways, like that from Elsenham to Thaxted and from Kelvedon to Tollesbury, that were built under the Light Railways Act of 1896?



In 1891 King Downs's employees at the foundry included Jonathan Smith, Theophilus Hasler, William Turner and Nehemiah Cansell. Ten years later, Jonathan Smith was still employed as an iron moulder making plough irons and Arthur Felton was also an iron moulder making ploughshares. The average number of foundry employees over the years was six. It is clear from the various census returns for Gestingthorpe that the majority of these men were employed at the foundry for their entire working life.

#### **The fourth generation**

Stanley Cyril Downs (1887-1972), a son of King Downs, assisted his father in his work. He carried on a cycle and motor agency and built the popular bicycle named Perfection. He also held a stock of guns, cartridges and sporting requisites. In May, 1918 he gave a successful demonstration of ploughing up land with a new implement. It consisted of an ordinary Ford model T motor-car, to which was fitted an Eros tractor unit, which converted it into a farm tractor. It was claimed that by this arrangement the car could do equal work of a four horse team - not only ploughing, but haulage work and many other kinds of farm and road work. Stanley Downs used a seven year old Ford car and fitted to the tractor a two-furrow Ferguson plough. Apparently the complete machine worked well and made a straight and even furrow. The unit could also be adapted as a binder, cultivator, harrow, roller and when fitted with a pulley it would drive a circular saw. The engine ran on paraffin, by fitting a vaporizer

and only required a few drops of petrol to start it. An ordinary Ford car could be converted into a tractor in twenty minutes and vice versa. It only required one man to operate it and the tractor attachment only cost £65. The demonstration took place over several days and was watched by a number of interested farmers. Stanley later established Downs' Garage at Ballingdon Street, Ballingdon (formerly in Essex but now in Suffolk). He became a general motor engineer, radiator manufacturer and repairer and hired out cars. He became well known as the manufacturer of the 'Cool as a Cucumber' radiator.

Stanley's brother, Percy King Downs (1884 -1951), was an agricultural ironmonger and cycle agent at Nether Hill, Gestingthorpe, where he lived in a detached bungalow. In the garden were a timber and iron shop, warehouse and workshop where he carried on business. The property had been in the possession of Percy King Downs and before that of his father King Downs since before 1904. From 1899, Percy King Downs had supplied agricultural and garden tools including forks, spades, shovels, hooks, axes, shears, nails, files and saws. He also held a stock of new cycles and accessories and supplied turnip cutters, disc mangle or wringer rollers and was an agent for oil stoves. He also stocked cricket bats, wickets and balls, tennis rackets, balls and nets, croquet sets and footballs, repaired and supplied locks, including padlocks, and fitted electric bells.

The third brother, John Corban Downs (1886-1949) was a motor engineer.



*Fig.2. King Downs (1850-1919) in front of Iron Foundry, c.1912: Foundry House on left.*

M <sup>r</sup> <i>Collison</i>		Terms: CASH.	
BOUGHT OF		PERCY DOWNS,	
		IRONMONGER,	
GESTINGTHORPE,		near Castle Heddingham, Essex.	
Forks, Spades, Shovels, Wire Nails, Pails, Hoes, Bill Hooks, Saws, Hammers, Chisels, Files, Cutlery, Razors, and			
ALL KINDS OF AGRICULTURAL IRONMONGERY.			
* * Agent for Cricket Bats, Balls, Wickets, Tennis Rackets, Balls, Nets, Croquet Sets, Footballs. * *			
1910 Oct	18 <sup>th</sup> Repairing 2 Punctures in Football & Blowing up same	£	s. d. 1 0
Paid With Thanks Oct 19 <sup>th</sup> 1910 Percy Downs.			

Fig.3. Specimen Bill-Heading.

### Closure and surviving remains

The foundry, later known as Gestingthorpe Iron Works was still in production during the early years of the twentieth century. Although the foundry closed about 1908, King Downs continued selling off his stock for some years and was still advertising the manufacture of T.D.O. ploughs as late as Autumn, 1915. The retailing of old stock probably ceased before or at his death in 1919.

By this time it was no longer economic to operate an iron foundry in a comparatively rural and isolated location with poor communications and this was one of several rural foundries in Essex to close during the early years of the twentieth century.

The only remains of the former foundry are the lower courses of a red brick wall, with two ventilation windows with brick lintels at the base. This now forms a garden boundary wall along North End Road. It is thought that remains of the foundry, hearth and casting pits may survive below ground level. To the east of the former foundry site stands the appropriately named Foundry House, next to the crossroads still known as Foundry Corner.

Occasionally items manufactured by Downs Foundry, such as pig troughs, are noticed on local farms. A Downs T.D.O. plough has recently been restored, by farmer Ashley Cooper and carpenter Brian Ambrose, at Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe. The author owns two gate finials made by King Downs, now on loan to Braintree District Museum. It is pleasing that a few of the items produced by this small rural foundry have survived.

### Illustrations

By courtesy of the author.

### Bibliography

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### Other sources

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Sale particulars of The Overhall Estate, Gestingthorpe, 1869.

Wills, sales particulars and other documents of the Downs and related families.

Essex newspapers, particularly: *Essex Standard*, *East Essex and Halstead Times* and the *Halstead Gazette*.

Essex Directories.

Information supplied, courtesy of Dorrie Pannell and Ashley Cooper. The author also acknowledges the kind assistance of Ashley Cooper, Adam Garwood and Nigel Pratt for proof reading and checking this article.



### More Books wanted

One of the predicable - and predicted - effects of the closure of the Record Office Bookshop in Wharf Road has been that the sales of Record Office and of Friends of Historic Essex books and other publications have dropped heavily. This has meant a financial loss to them, and no doubt inconvenience to would-be readers. We should like to remind any who may be in doubt that all

Record Office publications currently in stock, and all but one of the Elizabethan Essex Wills Series, are available, and like the Accession List, may be purchased from, the desk in the Reading Room.

Those who wish to purchase back numbers of the *Essex Journal* (price normally £1.50 per issue, plus postage) or copies of the *festschriften* published in honour of Derick Emmison (of which a

very few copies remain for sale) and of Sir John Ruggles-Brise should contact the hon. Editor (see title page).

No doubt other authors and publishers of books on the county's history have suffered, at least to some extent, from the loss of the Record Office outlet, since for obvious reasons it cannot be normal practice for the Reading Room desk to sell commercial publications.

## Book Reviews

### HAWKWOOD: DIABOLICAL ENGLISHMAN.

By Frances Stonor Saunders. *Faber & Faber*. 2004 ISBN 0-571-21908-x. 366 ill. £17.99 (hardback)

This book is a biography of Sir John Hawkwood of Sible Hedingham; a soldier who learned his profession in the Hundred Years War against France, then found his true vocation as a mercenary in Italy.

Hawkwood was born c.1320, the son of Gilbert de Hawkwood, a minor member of the Essex gentry. It is likely that Hawkwood enlisted at Hedingham castle, perhaps as an archer, when aged about 20. He was clearly an outstanding soldier and his knighthood may have been conferred on the battlefield. Following a truce with France Hawkwood and many other soldiers thereby lost their livelihood, and made their way to Italy where there was much work for mercenaries. For the next 30 years he sold his services to one or other of the three most powerful forces in Italy; Florence, Milan and the Church. They, together with their allies, were perpetually in conflict with one another, forming, dissolving and reforming alliances and employing free companies of foreign mercenaries to fight at long range on their behalf.

Soon after his arrival in Italy Hawkwood was chosen to command one of the free companies and at their head he became the most feared and ultimately the most famous condottiere of his generation, ending his days as the captain general of war for the city of Florence. As the book shows, he was a businessman and his business was war. Throughout his long residence in Italy he remained an English patriot and indeed was employed by Edward III and Richard II on important diplomatic business, in the course of which he met the poet Chaucer who, it has been suggested, may have taken him as the model for the knight in the *Canterbury Tales*.

Frances Stonor Saunders is to be congratulated on bringing out the first biography of Hawkwood since 1889. However, volume two of Professor Kenneth Fowler's majestic *Medieval Mercenaries* will shortly be published and promises to be a definitive and scholarly study of the man. Ms Saunders has produced an adequate portrait of a mercenary soldier who many in late fourteenth-century Italy regarded as the devil incarnate. Yet in this book the devil is mainly in the detail. The author is weak on Hawkwood's Essex background: for example, she places Sudbury in Essex; confuses Hawkwood with both his nephew and brother and has his son living in 1464 when he was evidently dead by 1412. She also confuses Hedingham castle with Castle Hedingham and erroneously describes Sible Hedingham as a 'small village'. She tells us very little about Hawkwood's social background such as his family's rapid rise from villein status and his connection

with the powerful Coggeshall family into which his daughter Antiocha married.

Relying mainly on printed versions of chronicles and letters (if she used original documents she does not cite them), the author repeats uncritically some of the legends and stories that relate to Hawkwood's 'war record'. Although the book is rich in repulsive details of fourteenth-century sexual *mores* its coverage of Hawkwood's set-piece battles is relatively slight. The author is at her best when describing the activities of the later-canonised Catherine of Siena, the role of women in medieval Italy and papal corruption. Taken at face value the book provides a colourful account of an English soldier who rose from the ranks to become a general, a mercenary who made and lost a fortune and a man who at the age of 57 married one of the most beautiful women in Italy. Hawkwood achieved success by maintaining a balance of terror between the warring powers through the skillful employment of his soldiers' ruthless war-fighting abilities and loyalty to their commander.

Near-contemporary paintings of Hawkwood have him as either an ugly, armoured brute riding a heavy horse, sword in hand, his trumpeter by his side; or as an elegant, statesmanlike figure, also in armour, but mounted on a high stepping horse. Ms Saunders' book shows us Hawkwood the warrior, patriot and devil incarnate, but before we judge him too harshly, let us remember how in extreme old age he was concerned for the welfare of the souls of those soldiers who died under his command, or as he movingly put it, those 'who were slain for his love'.

Christopher Starr

★ ★ ★

**COLCHESTER, A History.** By Andrew Phillips. *Phillimore*. 2004 ISBN 1 86077 304 4. 134pp. ill. £15.99 (hardback).

Compressing over 2000 years of history into 130 pages is a difficult, some might have thought impossible, task, but Andrew Phillips succeeds brilliantly. He discusses every period of Colchester's history from its Iron-Age origins to the present day, dealing with major political events, social and economic history, town government, and the growth of the town, all in authoritative and sometimes fascinating and amusing detail. He also, briefly, puts Colchester and its history into its national context. Somehow he manages to do all this in a very readable style; the reader never feels overwhelmed by information, yet absorbs it all the time.



The book starts with an excellent summary of recent archaeological work on Iron-Age Camulodunum and Roman Colchester and continues with an account of the Anglo-Saxon and Norman periods, for which the archaeological evidence is much sparser. Written sources allow a fuller account of the medieval period, although not the details of daily life which enliven the earlier and later chapters. The religious disputes and conflicts of the Reformation period and the Civil War and siege of Colchester, with a full account of the cloth trade and the 'new draperies' introduced by the Dutch refugees, occupy much of the next three chapters, but the importance of Colchester's market and port is also stressed. Perhaps the best chapters are those on the 19th and 20th centuries, Andrew Phillips's own speciality, where he is able to make good use of newspapers and of the oral history of the 'Colchester Recalled' project; the account, on p. 105, of the 'spontaneous' celebrations stage-managed by the trade unions in 1918 is only one example of the importance of the latter source.

Among the copious illustrations are excellent reconstruction drawings for the prehistoric and medieval periods; portraits, woodcuts, and details of panoramas and early maps for the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries; and many photographs of people, places (including the innovative roundabouts!) and events for the chapters on the 19th and 20th centuries. One illustration which seems to be lacking, however, is any large-scale map of the town after the Roman period.

The book is well produced, with clear print, high quality illustrations, and a short but useful index. I have noted only a few printer's errors: 'half-yearly' for 'half-year' on page 65, 'prescribed' for 'proscribed' on page 104, and 'disbursed' for 'dispersed' on page 111.

The last sentence makes it clear that the book is aimed at Colchester residents, which perhaps explains the lack of modern maps and an underlying assumption that the reader is familiar with the topography of the town. It is to be hoped that those residents will indeed buy the book in large numbers, but the book deserves a wider readership among those interested in urban history, as an excellent introduction to the history of one of eastern England's major towns.

Janet Cooper

★ ★ ★

**BRENTWOOD: A History.** by Jennifer Ward. *Phillimore*. 2004 ISBN 1 86077 279 x. 132pp. ill. £13.99.

Brentwood is a well-recorded town: Larkin in his series of *Fireside Talks* tells us much about the character of the town in the early 20th. cent., and the long list of other historical studies listed in Jennifer Ward's bibliography, notably her late mother's own works, shows that it has been well written-up for other periods too. Located as it is, Brentwood has figured more largely in national history than most other towns of its (until recently) modest size. The Hubert de Burgh incident in 1232, the town's substantial role in the Peasants' Revolt, the martyrdom of William Hunter, the market fracas in 1577, and more lately the location in the town of the headquarters of such organisations as Ford in Europe and Amstrad have all heightened its profile.

With, as it were, her mother's fine book of 1980 looming over her shoulder, the author's task was to do

something more than merely updating this. The ground covered had to be largely the same, and inevitably many of the same illustrations reappear. But rather more space was available, and Jennifer Ward has employed this to good effect.

One choice was to give her book a more chronological sequence. This is particularly valuable in marking the development of Brentwood through the 18th and 19th centuries. The impact on the town of the army at Warley, from George III's visit to Thorndon in 1778 right through to the end of Warley Barracks in 1959, was immense. Even greater, perhaps, was the coming of the railway and the development of firstly Shenfield - as shown by the 1851 Census - and later of Brentwood itself as an educational centre. Perhaps a less happy effect of this chronological approach, together with the new material available, is that the final section inescapably becomes a rather breathless and less than critical run through the more recent developments of the town - which of course are many with its becoming increasingly a commuter-oriented society.

But the updating of Gladys Ward's book was necessary: Jennifer has done an admirable job in presenting the history of the town and enabling those of us who have lived in it, been educated in it or just known it, to appreciate it better.

M.B.

★ ★ ★

**ILFORD: A History.** By Sue Curtis. *Phillimore*. 2004 ISBN 1 86077 302 8. 132pp. ill. £13.99.

This book reminds me of the proverbial curate's egg - good in parts. There are some very good chapters, for example that on the Hospital Chapel, and that on the scent of the manors which went to make up Ilford (a subject fraught with potential pitfalls) and the author copes with this fiendishly involved topic very well, although I did notice some re-iteration from preceding chapters.

The chapter on the arrival of the railway, the development of housing and the inexorable tide of the housing estates which have made Ilford what it is today is covered well. It shows how these factors propelled the town towards becoming a middle-class commuter suburb of the City, which is why the building of the Becontree Housing Estate after the First World War was not universally welcomed.

The illustrations have been well chosen. I particularly liked those showing the various farmhouses, so much a feature of former Ilford, and those of Charter Day and of Hog Hill - but I could have wished for less of those of Little Ilford and of Marks Gate. The photographs of shop advertisements and on estate agents are a joy.

In the chapter entitled 'A multi-cultural community' I would have expected a fuller treatment of those Jewish residents who in the past - and still today - contribute so much to the life of the town. Here I must say that I am mystified by the inclusion of a very long article on a Mr. Leon Grossman - a worthy man who has suffered much - but what has this to do with the history of Ilford? I would have liked a fuller treatment of the early struggles of the Ilford Local Board (later to become the Ilford Urban District Council) but, to be fair, this topic requires a much fuller coverage than could be dealt with in a book of this size or compass.

P.J.W.

**DICK TURPIN: the Myth of the English Highwayman.** By James Sharpe. *Profile Books*. 2005 ISBN 186 197 4183. 258pp. ill. £8.99 (paperback).

Essex historians are already familiar with the literary and academic talents of James Sharpe from his excellent study of crime in 17th cent. Essex published some years ago. I was pleased therefore to be asked to write a brief history of his later work, already sold out having been published a little while ago as a hardback. In this he evaluates the mythology attached to highwaymen in England in the context of the criminal activities of Dick Turpin.

It would be reasonable to assume that Derek Barlow (*Dick Turpin and the Gregory Gang*, 1973) had laid this topic to rest, leaving no room for another essay in this field. Not so: James Sharpe has cleverly woven the Turpin legend, for this is all that it is, into the broader canvas of 18th. cent. criminology. In doing so he necessarily draws upon much of the same corpus of national and county archives as was available to Barlow. But his insights into the wider aspects of the contemporary and later social and political scenarios have given his work important new dimensions.

The 18th cent. was a period of elegance, progress and the consolidation of the political freedoms that flowed from the political events of 1688. It was also a time when social disciplines were eroding and of some alarming episodes of public disorder. In the absence of a regular army or of an organised police force, the penal laws constituted the political response. These included the death penalty for numerous, and therefore mostly comparatively minor, felonies. By and large the general public supported this, though the actual incidence of capital punishment was mitigated in practice by local juries with a public conscience. The concepts of severity and deterrence, not ostensibly retribution and certainly not rehabilitation, defined policy. In the spectrum of crime highway robbery was conspicuous and, it would seem, vicariously glamorous.

The book, in an engaging narrative, details the criminal career of Turpin with style and the authority of rigorous research. This has, of course, been done many times before, but never with such valuable perceptions and rarely as well. In particular the author demolishes yet again the spurious heroics of the Turpin experience fictionalised by William Harrison Ainsworth, of whom he also gives an interesting account.

More than that he seeks to understand why a rogue such as Turpin, a common criminal in his day, should have gained such legendary status. Hardly Joan of Arc, but he certainly ranks with Robin Hood. And although described as a 'cold-blooded footpad and murderer' he finds his place in William Addison's book of *Essex Worthies*. Was it all due to Ainsworth's *Rookwood*? Not quite: though Ainsworth lit the fuse no other 'gentleman of the road' has quite made the grade. Do we not see echoes of the same phenomenon today? Capone following a violent criminal career in the United States, Mesrine in France and the train robbers? This excellent book, which reads well, is therefore also a valuable introduction to several aspects of what is still a difficult question. What is it that determines the level of public tolerance and the boundaries of official coercion in controlling crime and the criminals in our midst?

Kenneth Neale

**ALDHAM.** By Angela Green. *The Author*. 2004 ISBN 1 904572 16 2. 30 ill. 2 maps. £10.00 (plus £1.75 p. & p.) from the author at Tintern Cottage, Halstead Road, Aldham, Colchester CO6 3PP.

The history of the parish of Aldham has, until the twentieth century, received scant attention, and many books concentrate mainly on the life of the Rector of Aldham from 1745 to 1770, who was the Essex historian Philip Morant. However the archives that are available were exhaustively researched by Angela Green when she was invited by Janet Cooper, then author of the Essex *VCH*, to undertake the chapter on this village in vol. X. The present book is based on this research, together with other additional material not used in the *VCH*, and on the notes made in the parish records by Morant when he was rector.

There are sections covering the the history of Aldham from c.1300 to the twentieth century, which are preceded by chapters covering the parish, the manors, the land, local government and poor relief, the church, charities and schools. In addition to these there is information regarding farms and houses which includes architectural details, historical information and the names of occupants over the years. This is of interest not only to local historians but also to family historians who are researching family names in the area: these are fully covered in the index, and also where they lived and worked and their place in the community. Added to this scholarly work are the recollections of those who are living or have lived in the village, and these, among other things, point to the present thriving social and community life. When these are added to the detailed information used from previous censuses it can be seen that Aldham, like so many other villages in the area, has changed and become partially a dormitory village,

There are eleven appendices supplementing explanatory notes to what has gone before, and like the rest of the volume they are comprehensively referenced. The maps are of the village c.1840 and c.2000. This volume is a fully rounded picture of the parish from the earliest times until today and is a must for any parish historian.

Pat Lewis

★ ★ ★

**MORTON MATTHEWS 1866-1953: a Halstead Artist and Teacher.** By Mary Downey. *Halstead & District Local History Soc.* 2004 ISBN 0 9825166 4 0. 104pp. ill. £4.95 (plus £1 p&p). From the author at 166 Colchester Road, Halstead CO9 2EU.

The Halstead Local History Society has continued in its admirable tradition of publishing books on different aspects of the town and district's history. In this little book, admirably well-presented as befits its subject, Mrs. Downey has presented the brief biography of a highly-esteemed local art teacher who was a member of the Society of Graphic Arts and whose work gained such accolades as inclusion in Royal Academy exhibitions. Among his preferred topics were studies of the old buildings and vistas of his home town, to which the good reproductions included in the book do justice. They give it a topographical interest which makes this book as much a memoir of the old town and buildings of Halstead as of a good and able man who used his considerable talent in the service of the town and of its people.

## OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED OR NOTED

(This neither indicates nor excludes future reviews)

**THE HARVEYS OF ROLLS PARK, CHIGWELL, ESSEX.** by Richard Morris. *Loughton & District Hist. Soc.* 2005 ISBN 0854 2314 9 X. 50pp. ill. with map and genealogical table. (see p.22).

**ROCHFORD: A History.** by Mavis Sipple. *Phillimore.* 2004 ISBN 1 86077 310 9. £15.99.

**COTTIS OF EPPING: The Story of an Essex iron foundry.** by Chris Johnson. *The Author.* 2005 ISBN 0549442 0 8. (from the author at 37 Southview Road, Loughton, Essex. IG10 3LG).

**ESSEX MURDERS.** by Linda Stratmann. *Sutton.* 2004 ISBN 0 7509 3554 5. £12.99 (paperback).

**THE TIME TEAM GUIDE to the Archaeological Sites of Britain and Ireland.** by Tim Taylor. 4 Books. 2005 ISBN 1905 02601.3.

By the time this issue is published, the first of the two Pevsner Architectural Guides of particular interest in Essex is due to have been published by Yale University Press and the Buildings Books Trust. This is *London 5: East*, by Bridget Cherry, Charles O'Brien and Nikolaus Pevsner, and the part of 'London' which it covers consists of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and the five which used to be within the administrative county of Essex. I hope to include a review in the next issue of the *Journal*.

## Lifelong Learning

### UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

Department of History, Centre for Local History

([www.essex.ac.uk/history/local\\_history](http://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](mailto:gsechist@essex.ac.uk) or look at the History Dept. website (<http://www.essex.ac.uk/history/>).

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

The University of Essex Open Studies Programme will be closed with effect from Sept. 2005 on account of the Government funding regime. The following day courses will be on offer: all will be in the Constable Building at the University, are from 10.30am to 4.00pm (coffee available at 10.00am) and cost £21.00 (£16.00 concessionary) inc. tea and coffee:

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Fri. 20 May  | <i>The Charge of the Light Brigade</i> with Julian Whybra (UN DS 04202).  |
| Fri. 17 June | <i>he Vernacular: recent research on timber-framed buildings</i> with Adrian Gibson (UN DS 04308).                        |
| Fri. 24 June | <i>Women's Employment 1880-1937 'the blackboard, the typewriter and the sales counter</i> with Susan Lomax (UN DS 04306). |

#### Opportunities for Future Study at University Level

Both the University of Cambridge and the University of East Anglia have substantial continuing education programmes covering the same range of of subject areas as the Open Studies programme. Their courses are run at a large number of venues, many of which may be accessible to students formerly studying with the University of Essex. They also offer a range of general and subject-specific Certificates and Diplomas which may offer routes to continue an interest in a particular topic. The University of Cambridge also runs a range of weekend residential courses at Madingley Hall.

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

#### University of Cambridge

University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education

Madingley Hall

Madingley

Cambridge CB3 8AQ

Tel: 01954 280280 [www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cont-ed.cam.ac.uk)

#### University of East Anglia

Continuing Education

University of East Anglia

Norwich NR4 7TJ

Tel: 01603 593266 [www.uea.ac.uk/contedu](http://www.uea.ac.uk/contedu)

#### ESSEX RECORD OFFICE

(Wharf Rd., Chelmsford unless otherwise indicated).

Exhibition: *This Sporting Essex* 18 April – 21 May in the foyer.

*Starting your Family History.* Thurs. 26 May 10.00am – 3.00pm.  
Drop-in event: no need to book

Essex County Library, Ongar. Record Office & Local Studies Library.  
Tues 14 June 10.00am – 3.00pm. Drop-in event for those interested .

Exhibition and Talks: *Handwriting from the Essex Record Office.*  
Wed. 1 - Wed. 8 June.

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Sat. 4 June | <i>A Peep into Conservation.</i> Two showings only: 10.30am, 11.45am. Please book (01245 244644). |
| Mon. 6 June | <i>A Brief History of Handwriting</i> with Richard Harris. 7.00pm.                                |
| Wed. 8 June | <i>An introduction to reading Historical Documents.</i> 2.00 - 4.00pm. Please book.               |

#### WEA - ESSEX (Eastern Branch)

**WEA Summer School Week of Study** - to be held Mon. 11 - Fri. 15 July at the Wilson Marriage Centre, Barrack St., Colchester. Classes 10.00am -12 noon. Topics:

*Essex' Links with Jersey* – tutor: Frank Falle.

*'Before we Forget'* (sharing memories of 1940-60) – tutor: Anita Marie Sackett.

*Pre-Raphaelitism and Victorian Art* – tutor: Dr. Rob Brownell.

*Glittering Prizewinners* (Nobel Literature Prizewinners) – tutor: Valerie Quinlivan.

*How Plants Grow* – tutor: Helen Brent.

Application form from Mrs. C.T. Voysey, La Coupee, Nounsley Rd., Hatfield Peverel, Chelmsford CM3 2NQ (Tel: 01245382595/ e-mail [cvoysey@onetel.com](mailto:cvoysey@onetel.com))

Fee £40.00 (concs. £38.00).



## CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL FESTIVAL.

**Fri. 5 May - Sun. 14 May.**

Events will include:

- Sun. 8 May. Cathedral: 8.00pm. *Opus Anglicanum* present **The Seeds of Love** telling, with music, how Ralph Vaughan Williams, Cecil Sharp and others combed the countryside to find and preserve its folk music before it was lost to posterity. Tickets: £10.00.
- Mon. 9 May Essex Record Office, 2.30pm. *Mick McDonagh* (Chamber of Commerce and High Chelmer Shopping Centre) and *Cathy McBride* (Town Centre Manager) on **Future Chelmsford**. Tickets: £6.00.
- Tues. 10 May RHS Hyde Hall, 10.30am. *Brent Elliott* (Head Librarian & Archivist, RHS) on **The 1950's: Brave New World?** Tickets: £6.00.
- Tues. 10 May Michael Ashcroft Centre, APU. 6.15pm. *Prof. David Tidmarsh* (Vice-Chancellor, APU) APU Lecture on **The Influence of Motor Vehicles on the Environment**. Tickets: £8.00.
- Wed. 11 May Essex Record Office, 2.30pm. *James Taylor* (N.M.M. Greenwich) on Nelson and Trafalgar. Tickets: £6.
- Thurs. 12 May RHS Hyde Hall, 2.30pm. *Troy Scott Smith* (Curator RHS, Hyde Hall) on **Photographing Plants and Gardens**. Tickets: £6.00

## CRESSING TEMPLE

Cressing Temple is open to the public from 10.00am. to 4.30pm. (last entrance 3.30pm) on weekdays and Sundays from April to October. Opening on Saturdays is restricted in view of private events. The great medieval Wheat and Barley Barns, the Walled Garden, the Wheelwright's Shop, the Old Forge, the Granary and the Visitors' Centre are open to visitors. Group bookings, specialist tours and school visits are always welcome (Tel: 01376. 584903 for details; e-mail: [cressing.temple@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:cressing.temple@essexcc.gov.uk); [www.cressingtemple.org.uk](http://www.cressingtemple.org.uk))

Among the open events, for which a fee may be charged, are:

### Traditional Craft Courses and Seminars:

- 19 May *Basic Maintenance of Historic Buildings*: 9.30am – 4.30pm. £35.00.
- 18 June *Building the Medieval Timber-Framed House*: 9.00 am. – 4.45 pm. (with Essex Historic Buildings Group – Tel: 01245 361408/256102 or 01371 830416).

- 30 June *Buildings at Risk*: 9.30am – 4.30pm. £50.00.
- 21 July *The House Detectives*: 9.00am – 4.30pm. £50.00.
- 16 Aug. *Design in the Historic Environment*: 9.00am – 4.30pm. £50.00.
- 8 Sept. *Redundant Farm Buildings*: 9.00am – 4.30pm. £50.00.

For further information on all courses (except 18 June), or to book, telephone Pauline Hudspith on 01245 437672.

## Fairs and other Events

- 29 May Folk Festival: Churchfitters. Open 11 00am. Adults £12.50: Family ticket £27.00.
- 5 June Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Festival Players Theatre Company. Adults £14.00, Conc. £12.00. For tickets Tel: 01376 584453.
- 5 June British Swordsmanship Assn. Annual Meeting and Demonstration. 10.30am. Adults £3.50, Conc. £2.50, Family ticket £9.50.
- 11/12 June Hallmark Craft and Garden Show. 10.00am – 5pm. Enquiries to 01702 47730.
- 26 June VCM Car and Motorcycle Show. 10.30am – 5pm.
- 31 July *Discover Dowsing*. No need to book. 11am – 1pm. and 2 – 4 pm. £3.50.
- 31 July Medieval Banquet. 6.00pm. Tickets £52.50 per person, no concs. For tickets call 01376584453.
- 19/20/21 Aug. The Anglian Contemporary Art Fair. Over 30 galleries. Adults £4.00.
- 3–4 Sept. Hallmark's Antiques and Collectables Fair. 9.30am – 4.30 pm. Adults £3.00, Concs. £2.00. (enquire 01702 710383).
- 10/11 Sept. Guild of Essex Craftsmen's 6th Annual Fair. Annual Exhibition and sale of work. Proceeds to the Essex Air Ambulance. (contact Celia Reed 01277 356008)
- 24/25 Sept. Hallmark Craft and Garden Show. (details as for 11/12 June).

## Children's Summer Holiday Activity Days

- a) Archaeological digs every Tuesday in August;
- b) History days, meeting and talking to historical characters and joining in craft activities and games: Thurs. 4 Aug.: Anglo-Saxon: Thurs. 11 Aug.: Tudor: Thurs. 18 Aug.: Medieval: Thurs. 25 Aug.: Viking: Thurs. 1 Sept.: Roman.

# Places to Visit

## Colchester Museums

### CASTLE MUSEUM

**High Street Colchester**

**Tel: 01206 282939**

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

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

### 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.

### 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.

### CHELMSFORD & ESSEX MUSEUM

**and ESSEX REGIMENT MUSEUM**

**Oaklands Park, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford CM2 9AQ**

**Tel: 01245 615100. Fax: 01245 262428**

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

### Special Events and Exhibitions

- 9 April – 12 June *At Home with the Romans*.
- 25 June – 2 Oct. *I Spy Chelmsford* – research into Chelmsford's buildings and street furniture
- 16 July National Archaeology Day
- 8 Oct. – 6 Dec. *'Kismet McHardy'* – Chelmsford Sailors and the Sea.
- 10 Dec. – 15 Jan. Wildlife Photographer of the Year.

## 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 2.00-5.00pm. Cost of admission £1.00: discount tickets (retired etc.) 50p: children (18 and under) free.

### Special Exhibitions

19 Mar. - 2 May *Archaeological Finds from Essex.*

21 May - 30 Oct. *Fighting Napoleon 1789-1815. Walden at War.*

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## THE VESTRY HOUSE MUSEUM

Vestry Road, Walthamstow, London E17 9NH

Tel: (020) 8509 1917

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

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

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## 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.

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## THOMAS PLUME'S LIBRARY

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

It is open free for visits and reading from 2.00 to 4.00pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and from 10.00 am till noon on Saturdays. It is also open on the Saturday and Sunday Heritage Open Days 10/11 September and may be opened at other times by previous agreement with the Librarian. For reasons of safety there are not permitted to be more than about eight people together on the library floor at one time.

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## COALHOUSE FORT

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

The Fort is closed in Winter but will be open again to the public on Easter Sunday 27 March and thereafter on the last Sunday in each month to 26 September and on Bank Holiday Mondays (plus occasional special events) from 11.00am to 5.00pm (last entry 4.00pm). Normal open day admission charges are adults (16-59) £3; senior citizens £2. Children under 16 are admitted free *but must be accompanied by a responsible adult.*

There will be special Halloween events on Fri. 28 and Sat. 29 October 7.00pm to 10.00 pm with grand fireworks display at 9.00. Admission charges adults £4, children £2.

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

## 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.

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### 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.

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### 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.

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UPMINSTER WINDMILL will be open from 2.00 to 5.00pm for guided tours on the following dates: 2 & 3 April, 23 & 24 April, 14 & 15 May, 5, 18 & 19 June, 2, 16 & 17 July, 6 & 7 Aug., 20 & 21 Aug., 3 & 4 Sept., 1 & 2 Oct.

UPMINSTER TITHE BARN, AGRICULTURAL & FOLK MUSEUM will be open from 10.00am to 5.00pm on 2 & 3 April, 7 & 8 May, 4 June, 5 June (Vintage Tractor & Barn Engine Display), 2 & 3 July, 6 & 7 Aug., 3 & 4 Sept., 17 & 18 Sept., (London Open House Weekend), 1 & 2 Oct.

It will also be open from 11.00am to 5.00pm. on Mon. 2 & Mon. 30 May (the two Bank Holidays), Sun. 17 July, Thurs 28 July, Tues 9 Aug., Thurs. 11 Aug., Tues 16 Aug., Sun 21 Aug.

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

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

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

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

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PURFLEET HERITAGE & MILITARY CENTRE: military museum also with relics of nearby Hornchurch Aerodrome of Battle of Britain fame.

Centurion Way (off A 1090), Purfleet. Occupies what was Magazine no. 5 of the Royal Gunpowder Magazine: this could hold up to 10,000 barrels of gunpowder for onward despatch to the Army and to Royal Navy and East India Co. vessels. This, together with the nearby Copper Hoop Store, a fine Clock Tower and sections of the encircling wall survive of this important military site.

Open April to October, Thursdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays 10.00am to 4.30pm. Shop, light refreshments available: car park; wheelchair access. Special events and exhibitions throughout year. Tel: 01708 866764/523409 10.00am.- 5.00pm. Website: [www.purfleet5.freemove.co.uk](http://www.purfleet5.freemove.co.uk)

# Historical Societies

## ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONGRESS 2005/6 Programme

- Sat. 14 May **Annual General Meeting** at St Margaret's Hall, Barking. 10.00 for 10.30am. Followed by a talk on and guided tour of the Church.
- Sat. 5 Nov. **Archaeological Symposium** at Southend.
- Sat. 25 Mar. 2006 **Local History Symposium – Essex and Water** at Christ Church, Chelmsford.

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 SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY 2005 Programme

- Fri. 6 May **Morant Lecture: East Saxon Christians and Pagans: the Prittlewell Discoveries** by Martin Welch, Institute of Archaeology.
- Sat. 11 June **Annual General Meeting: Market Hall, Horndon-on-the-Hill**, followed by a talk by Anne Padfield.
- Sat. 16 July **Afternoon (2.00pm.) visit to Rickling Hall.** (cost £5.00 to include tea).
- Wed. 17 Aug. **Evening (7.00pm.) visit to Ongar Castle Mound and Church.** Meet at Ongar public car park. (cost £5.50 to include refreshments).
- Sat. 24 Sept. **Afternoon (2.00pm) visit to Lawford Hall and Church.** Meet at Lawford Hall. (cost £5.00 to include tea).
- Sun. 16 Oct. **Morant Lunch at White Horse, Pleshey.** 12.30 for 1.00pm. Cost about £20.00.

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

## ESSEX SOCIETY FOR FAMILY HISTORY 2005 Programme - Chelmsford

Meetings are held monthly 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. Tutorials 12.30pm-1.30pm. Main meeting at 2.30pm., with a short break for tea, for which there is a charge of 30p.

- Sat. 21 May *Ice Houses and the Ice Trade* by Ron Martin.
- Sat. 18 June *Life as a British Soldier 1750-1920* by Ken Divall.
- Sat. 16 July *Dr. Williams' Library* by Alan Rushton.
- Sat. 17 Sept. **Annual General Meeting (2.00pm)**
- Sat. 15 Oct. *What to do when stuck* by George Smith.
- Sat. 19 Nov. *Local Registration: Chelmsford Registry Office.*
- Sat. 10 Dec. *A light-hearted look at cemeteries* by Michael Ashby.

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

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

**Annual Study Days** this year on Wed. 4 May, starting at Shenfield church at 10.30am. (cost £7.50 members, £10.00 non-members) and Sat. 1 Oct., joining a coach at Ingatestone Station car-park at 10.00am prompt for a visit to medieval and Georgian churches in Essex' London boroughs (cost £15 members, £17.50 non-members; early booking essential). Lunches not included. Applications to Mrs Marion Scantlebury, Parvilles, Hatfield Heath, Bishops Stortford, Herts. CM22 7AT (Tel: 01279 731228).

## THE FRIENDS OF HISTORIC ESSEX

- Sat. 16 July **Annual General Meeting** at Copt Hall, Epping. 2.30pm.

For details of membership please see back page.

## ESSEX SENIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2005 Programme

- Tues. 3 May *Witchcraft in Essex* by Dr Mark Curteis.
- Tues. 7 June *The Victoria County History 'Clacton at War' project* by Shirley Durgan.
- Tues. 6 Sept. *Heraldry* by Myra Wilkins.
- Tues. 4 Oct. *Black Travellers in 19th Cent. Africa* by Dr David Killingray.
- Tues. 1 Nov. *The Castles of Edward I* by Neil Whiffen.

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 GARDENS TRUST 2005 Programme

- Wed. 11 May **Evening (7.00pm.) visit to Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford** followed by supper at Waterfront Restaurant.
- Sat. 11 June **Afternoon (2.00pm.) visit to Glen Chantry, Wickham Bishops**, with talk by Sue and Wol Staines. (cost £3.50 – tea available extra).
- Sat. 9 July **Early afternoon visit to Bridge End Garden, Saffron Walden: teatime visit to Little Becketts, Arkesden.** (cost £4.50 each – latter inc. tea).

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

## THE FRIENDS OF THOMAS PLUME'S LIBRARY 2005/6 Programme

- Sat. 21 May **Annual General Meeting** at Beeleigh Abbey (by kind permission of Christopher Foyle). 7.30pm.
- Sat./Sun 10/11 Sept. **Heritage Open Days** 10.00am - 12 noon (Sat. only) 2.00pm-4.00pm (both days).
- 2006
- Sat. 11 Feb. **Plume Feast: Maldon United Reformed Church.** 7.30pm. Admission Free.

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.

## HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION Essex Branch 2005/6 Programme

- Fri. 7 Sept. **Short Annual General Meeting (7.30pm)** followed by *Perkin Warbeck* by Dr. Ann Wroe, of *The Economist*.
- Sat. 1 Oct. *The Persecution of Roman Catholics in the Reign of Elizabeth I* by Mrs. Elizabeth Underwood (postponed from April 2005).
- Sat. 5 Nov. *James VI and I, the Gunpowder Plot and the Religious Tensions of Early Stuart England* by Dr. David Smith, Selwyn College, Cambridge.
- Sat. 3 Dec. *Trafalgar to Waterloo* by Lt. Cdr. David Harris (formerly Commanding Officer, H.M.S. Victory).
- 2006
- Sat. 7 Jan. **Members' Meeting** (at our Chairman's House: 6.00-8.00pm).
- Sat. 5 Feb. *Daily Life in Ancient Egypt* by Dr. Miriam Stead, Essex Record Office **(at the Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford).**
- Sat. 5 March **to be announced (at the Record Office, as above).**

All meetings, unless otherwise stated, are at 2.30pm and in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford. Could those attending meetings in this Committee Room please arrange to arrive at the Atrium 15 mins. early for security reasons.

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

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



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to the Hon. Membership Secretary:

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