

# Essex Journal

SPRING 2007

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A REVIEW OF LOCAL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY



**'WAGING THE HOLY WAR'**

**R. MILLER CHRISTY**

**IN SEARCH OF ST. BOTOLPH**

**ESSEX BEACONS AND LOOK-OUTS**

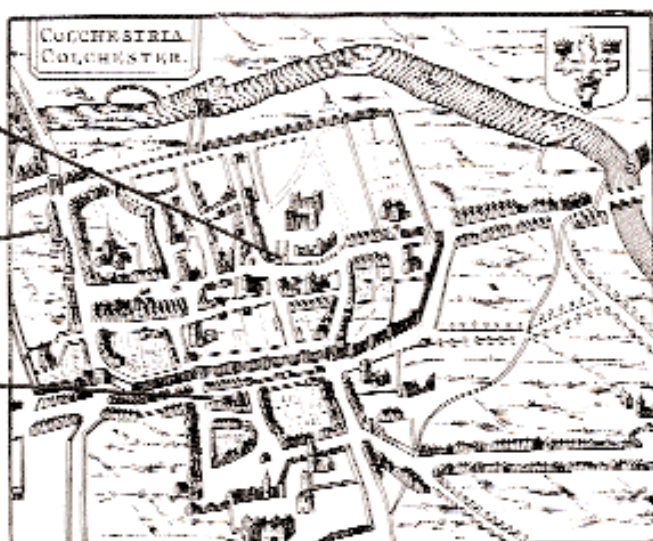
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# ESSEX JOURNAL

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EDITORIAL	2
OBITUARY: Sir John Ruggles-Brise, Bt., C.B., O.B.E., D.Univ., T.D.	3
CLOSURE OF THE COLCHESTER RECORD OFFICE	4
IN SEARCH OF ST. BOTOLPH: Archaeological Investigations in Hadstock Trevor Ennis	6
ESSEX BEACONS AND LOOK-OUTS: a Multi-Period Place-Names Study James Kemble	11
ESSEX LOCAL HISTORY RECORDERS' SCHEME	15
'WAGING THE HOLY WAR': the People's Fight to save Epping Forest Rita Sharp	16
R. MILLER CHRISTY: Essex Naturalist and Antiquary – Part IV (concluded) W. Raymond Powell	23
BOOK REVIEWS	27
FORTHCOMING EVENTS, PLACES TO VISIT and DIARY	30

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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 Dr. Maureen Scollen, M.A., Ph.D. and the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Geraldine Willden, M.A.A.T.

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Cover illustration: the late Sir John Ruggles-Brise.

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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 2007. 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

A year ago I wrote an editorial 'full of doom and gloom', as I was told, about the parlous financial state of the *Journal*, and expressing doubts about whether it could continue to publish. I explained that we were setting up a group, which in the event included our two active sponsors, the Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress and the Friends of Historic Essex and other well-wishers like Stan Newens, currently President of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History, to consider the viability of the various possible courses of action which might enable it to be saved, and also invited our readers' suggestions. In the course of the last year the group has held several meetings, and has considered all the alternatives I mentioned, so far as they were within our own powers to implement, and also various others.

We have received quite a number of letters from our readers with some of these and other possible alternative solutions put forward. It has of course always been obvious to all of us that the one infallible solution to our problems was an increase in the size of our subscribing readership, but this is an achievement which has, despite our perhaps faltering efforts, always eluded us. But it is one which is available in some measure to all readers who value the *Journal*, that is to seek to encourage their friends to subscribe. We hope very much that more of them will be minded to do so.

At our meetings an increasingly clear consensus for one course of action has emerged, and thanks to the goodwill of our friends, and in particular to our two sponsors for their financial support, we have been able to give effect to it. This is one of the possibilities that I outlined in my 'doom and gloom' editorial, that we should go down the path of desktop publishing. We are fully satisfied that under a suitable new editor more highly skilled than myself in the mysteries of information technology it will be possible to produce a new-style *Journal*, with a more up-to-date presentation and greater use of colour and, which is the greatest sticking-point to almost all those to whom we have spoken, fully maintaining the present quality of its content. We reckon that it will reduce costs by something like £1,000 an issue. For my part I shall be sorry to give up, but after 17 years as hon. Editor and at my age I fear my capacity for new ideas has passed and it is right for me to hand over to a new hon. editor more able than myself to bring the *Journal* into the present century.

We looked hard at two alternative solutions favoured by some. There would have been little gain in reducing the page size below the present A4, and the recent

change in postal rates has in fact diminished the attractions of such a change. Also, at our present circulation levels the cost of paper is a very modest part of our total expenditure, so the use of lower quality paper would not have been a significant saving, as well as lessening quality by tending to leave the outline of an illustration visible on its reverse page.

The new hon. Editor will be Neil Wiffen. Many of our readership will have met him at the Record Office where he is currently the Public Services Team Manager responsible for the search room and the document production team. He took a B.A. in History at the University of East Anglia in 1993, and in 2005 backed that up by completing an M.A. with distinction at the University of Essex in local and regional studies: his work on this course was supported by the Friends of Historic Essex. His special subject was the late 19th. cent. agricultural depression in the county. He comes from Broomfield, where he now lives, and after taking his U.E.A. degree he took a gap year travelling to New Zealand and then doing voluntary work in Norwich. He then had a six-week contract to help in the Norwich Library after its disastrous fire, but this in the event lasted out for five years, after which he joined the staff of the Record Office. He has taken a special part-time course in desk-top publishing to equip him for his work for the *Journal*. This will of course be honorary, and during working hours in the search room his obligations there must come first, though he will be happy to discuss the *Journal* in lunch breaks and in his own time. As hon. Editor he will not be representing either the Record Office or the County Council.

He will take over the editorial responsibility in time for the next, the autumn, issue, which we hope to publish a little earlier than hitherto, probably in the first half of October 2007. The launch of the first edition of the renewed *Journal* will be a major event, which we plan to take place at Ingtestone Hall on 26 October.

It will be of the greatest importance that, alongside and in conjunction with this launch, we do all that we can to encourage the host of new subscribers who will be needed if we are to establish a secure financial base for the renewed *Journal*. We have regularly found that there are many in the county interested in its life and its history who are part of the natural readership base which we need, but are unaware of the *Journal's* existence. Some, but by no means all, of these are members of the county's various historical and amenity societies, and we hope to bring the *Journal* to the notice of as many of these societies as

possible. But by no means all are members of such groups, and we hope that current subscribers will feel themselves able to do a little promotion of our new venture. It is the vigour and success of our new promotion that will make all the difference between the renewed *Journal* being a triumphant success and it being no more than the flatness of 'business as usual'.

★ ★ ★

## Stansted Airport Second Runway

The fear of this, as many of us see it, quite unnecessary project is with us again, threatening hundred of homes with destruction, blighting thousands, and if built likely, through all the consequent development and infrastructure, to destroy the beauty of well nigh a quarter of the county. What has Essex done to threaten its least spoiled parts with this appalling monster? The strong and well-reasoned opposition of most of the local authorities, the National Trust and of so many other bodies has been ignored and merely trifling changes made in the 'revised' proposals.

No doubt Uttlesford District Council will fight; perhaps the County Council, which has caved in to so much destruction and disorder of Essex' heritage, will for once do a little to support the resistance. But with the Government seemingly lined up, despite all it says about reducing carbon emissions and fighting climate change, to give the project full support, and no evidence that a prospective successor government will do better, there seems to be little that any of us can do to resist it except some form of civil disobedience.

★ ★ ★

It is a sad thing when local history societies have to close because they no longer have enough active members to sustain them, but these things must happen from time to time in a changing society. One which has lately folded up is the Seven Kings and Goodmayes Historical Society. The members agreed, on winding it up, to donate the modest funds it still held to support the *Essex Journal*. We are most grateful to Frank Turvey and his fellow-members for this much-appreciated help.

★ ★ ★

## Woodford Historical Society's 75th Anniversary

Happier news from and congratulations to one of the longest-established and most vigorous of the county's historical societies. It was started in a very unostentatious manner in 1932, but from

then on has grown in strength to become what it now is. It issues a very full news-letter packed with information about Woodford and its history, it has a creditable history of publishing its own booklets, and among its active membership are several like Peter Lawrence, its President, and Georgina Green who are ready speakers through the county and play an active role in local history matters outside their own patch. It is also, as I have myself found more than once, a valuable storehouse of local knowledge when this is needed to advance one's own field of research.

★ ★ ★

#### **Chelmsford Cathedral Festival**

The 2007 Festival is sadly likely to be the last of these festivals. The reasons are several: since the earliest years of the century the amount of commercial sponsorship money available has considerably diminished, and the hole has not been plugged. For some reason

the take-up of tickets in 2006 was unusually bad, and the cutback of assistance from the Borough Council seems likely to be the final nail in the coffin. Fortunately one generous person has personally guaranteed the 2007 Festival, and there is a slight chance that the Council will relent, so there are faint hopes that if the 2007 Festival is a conspicuous success some hope of future events of the kind may be saved.

But to achieve this, all who can must give the utmost support to the coming Festival.

★ ★ ★

Another major Essex house is on the market. This is Boreham House, with its superb tree-line formal canal approach from the old main road. But since the 1930s this has been owned by the Ford Motor Co., who have maintained it, at least externally, in a way that is beyond reproach. We may assume that, faced by serious financial problems, they are

reorganising and this house has become surplus to their requirements. So in a booming market for large houses, it is likely that after such a long period under business ownership it will return to being a private house.

★ ★ ★

Another Government project for, I gather, early legislation is the creation of a Coast Walk accessible to the public right round the coastline of Britain. The greater part of the Essex sea coast can be reached by determined walkers, but not the Hamford Water area between Dovercourt and Walton – though the waters are well known to Arthur Ransome enthusiasts. This as been noted as one of the most notable sections of private coastline left, and I am sure that there will be many who would welcome the opportunity to explore this other (I would suspect) fascinating land of saltings at the least comparable with the coast walk on the Dengie peninsula.

## **Obituary**

### **Col. Sir John Ruggles-Brise, Bt., C.B., O.B.E., D.Univ., T.D. (1908-2007)**

When Sir John died at Spains Hall on 20 February Essex lost its most distinguished personality of his generation. Devoted to his county, its welfare, history and traditions as he was, his constant endeavour was of service and pride in all of that which is best in Essex life. Of course in will be in Essex that he is best remembered for that, but in the wider aspects of British life his was an equally loyal presence. This will emerge from his life, which perhaps should briefly be recorded.

John Ruggles-Brise was born on 13 June 1908 at Brent Hall, close by the charming village of Finchingfield with which his family has been associated since 1760. His parents Sir Edward and Lady Ruggles-Brise (née Agatha Gurney of Keswick Hall, Norwich) were of prominent Essex and East Anglian lineage and presided at Spains Hall, their chief residence, until John inherited it, along with the baronetcy conferred on his father, after Sir Edward's early death in 1942. It was, as Shane Leslie wrote in his memoir (1938) of Sir Evelyn Ruggles-Brise, John's uncle, a Prison Commissioner and the founder of the Borstal system 'a goodly heritage'.

When only nine years old John was placed in a preparatory school at Reigate in Surrey where he was placed until going on to Eton following the family tradition in 1921. After Eton's rigours he went, still young, to Canada in 1927. There he was to gain his first insights into the realities of the wider world and practical working experience on an uncle's ranch in Alberta. Returning to Britain the following year, John took up a post in insurance in the City of London with the modest starting wage of £1 a week. He made good progress and by the outbreak of war in 1939 was a branch manager.

As for so many of his generation, the coming of war led to a dramatic change of his personal circumstances and opened new horizons. Foreseeing it he had enlisted in the Territorial Army as a gunner in the 54th Anti-Aircraft Regiment, which he was called to join in August 1939. It was to be a formative experience. The unit which he commanded was assigned to the defence of London during the blitz. In 1942 he was promoted to command the 180th Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, with whom he went successively to Dumbarton, Edinburgh and Aberdeen before returning south to Plymouth, where his batteries formed part of the seaport's air defences at the time of D-Day. He left the Army in Sept. 1945, and was awarded an O.B.E. (*mil*) for his services during the war. Serving on in the Terriers until 1950 he became an honorary colonel and was awarded the Territorial Decoration. The experience it had gained him in leadership and management was to stand him in good stead in his future roles.

His immediate task was to restore Spains Hall. The inevitable neglect of the war years had left the house and grounds in a parlous state. John often described to me the daunting task he faced. However by steady managerial purpose and strict financial discipline all was eventually put into good order.

After serving the county first as a Deputy Lieutenant and later as Vice-Lieutenant he was appointed as Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant in August 1959. John's high sense of duty, loyalty to the Crown and pride in the county were to find full and impressive expression in the various roles that engage the leadership skills and personal qualities of a Lord Lieutenant. Sir John served for the extraordinarily long period (for present times) of

20 years, not retiring from the Lieutenancy until 1978 when he was 70 years old. During that time he had made himself available for innumerable official and unofficial duties, events and occasions with conspicuous and unfailing alacrity. The demands on his personal time, his patience and his energies, were immense but he responded, as he always did, with charm and dignity. In his capable and willing hands the office was performed with rare distinction.

In the fields of Essex history and archaeology - subjects in which he took a close personal interest - his commitment and sincerity were manifest. His patronage to so many organisations working in these fields was eagerly sought and he responded in full measure.

In 1996 the Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress, of which John was Patron, published a collection of essays in his honour 'as a tribute to his life of service to the people and county of Essex'. In that book *Essex: full of profitable things* prominent Essex historians and authors contributed studies of Essex historical, biographical and cultural themes derived from the county's cherished heritage. It was an appropriate and generous gesture which gave John and his many friends and admirers much pleasure.

One of these essays described the foundation and development of Essex University at Wivenhoe Park, which provided an essential asset for the status and intellectual credentials of the county. It was an enterprise in which Sir John played a defining role as advocate and leading promoter. It was not easy and there were difficult episodes in the early years. In the end the university established itself as a national leader in several fields of research and teaching. In concluding this essay the author, in reference to John, wrote that he was perhaps 'the best person to pass judgment on this, and it is to be hoped that he approves of the institution with which he has been so closely associated'. He did.

In the local scene at Finchingfield John was a devoted churchwarden at St. John the Baptist and a diligent supporter of many aspects of village life. His familiar presence here and at other local villages in that delightful

'corn and copse' terrain was much enjoyed and will be remembered with pride and a considerable measure of genuine gratitude.

How, it might be asked, is this comfortable image of the man that he was to be associated with his high office and genuine eminence in the county? The answer is that it lay in his natural character and sense of humanity. In all of his personal dealings his consistent manner was that of a country gentleman whose engaging modesty and personal dignity charmed those who knew him. He had, of course, an innate ability to lead that had been finely honed in his varied experience. His integrity, sincerity and unfailing loyalty earned him the devotion of his many friends. Approachable, intelligent and inspirational, he was seen as 'the kindly squire'.

To the last and more difficult days of his life as his health began to fail, he never lost the natural qualities that made him so well respected and liked. Nor did he lose his interest in Essex and its people. Throughout that life he set a standard of commitment to duty and a caring responsibility for other people that those who cherish his memory will remember with admiration. It was always a pleasure to visit him at Spains and to explore with him the riches of his library and the beautiful gardens from which he derived much pride and enjoyment.

The above must perforce have much of the character of a formal tribute. But in the various areas of daily life in Essex in which he participated, people will be content to remember him as a leader and a friend. He was above all a British patriot and a champion of Essex in many of its public and social dimensions. He will long be remembered as such, and we shall be indeed fortunate if others of his kind arise among us.

Kenneth Neale

Note: For a fuller description of Sir John Ruggles-Brise's life see the biographical essay in *Essex: full of profitable things* (Leopard's Head Press 1996).

## The Closure of the Colchester Record Office

There was no reference to this in the autumn issue of the *Journal* for the very sufficient reason the no one, outside the secretive ranks of County Council members and senior officials, had any inkling that it was intended. The first that was heard was a leak in the Colchester *Essex County Standard* on 27 October, and this came to all concerned as a shock.

The proposal to centralise all archive services on the Record Office at Chelmsford had been suggested as a possibility in an internal study in 2002, but it was merely put forward as one possible economy along with several others and with no suggestion that it was in any way specially favoured. It was at that time mentioned in this sense to the Essex Archive Users' Group, and no doubt to numerous other bodies, but they all were opposed to it. The Users' Group were given an express assurance that they would be consulted if the suggestion were ever reactivated. In 2004, in quite different circumstances, and for reasons which did not apply to Colchester, the sub-office at Southend was closed.

But the Council's reaction to the October leak shows beyond question that the majority group on the

Council had already considered the matter and internally reached a firm decision. The assurance of consultation were, as is so often the case, completely worthless. A range of arguments for the closure, prepared almost parrot-fashion, and several of them suspect or even fallacious, were trotted out. They rested on the limited use of the Colchester office, with on average allegedly only five present (but it could only accommodate ten), the delightful, but quite incorrect, suggestion that all documents likely to be called for were available on line, and very suspect assessments of the ready availability of alternative shelving space.

It having so quickly become evident that the leak was real, and had caught the Council on the hop, an early and vigorous response was needed. The Friends of Historic Essex led by Maureen Scollan immediately did what they could to marshal the opposition, political and among users of the county's archives. A petition of 1,100 signatures was mounted and many letters of complaint were sent to councillors in advance of the date of 5 December, which had been set for the formal decision

by the Council. The Users' Group's next meeting was due on 28 November and they then met Councillor Jeremy Lucas for a vigorous meeting. Cllr. Lucas explained that the decision was to be taken in the light of the Council's obligation to make cuts of £130,000 p.a. in Heritage Services. He argued that centralisation in Chelmsford was best, with internet facilities used to spread access more widely. They hoped to find a location for a Heritage Centre in Colchester. Vic Gray and others complained about the breach of the promise of consultation, as well as pointing to the numerous users from the University and elsewhere who would be disadvantaged.

The Council decision on 5 December was a foregone conclusion: the whips were out, it is understood that there was no substantive discussion and the vote was (one dissident apart) entirely on party lines.

There is however a provision for a 'call-in' procedure before a scrutiny committee when the dissentients feel that a matter has not been adequately discussed, and representatives of the minority parties ensured that this was brought into play. This also includes the hearing of non-members of the Council as witnesses, and is held in public. The scrutiny committee meeting was called for 15 January. The limited numbers of outside witnesses called included Vic Gray and Andrew Phillips: though they were restricted to three minutes each, they ensured that the case for Colchester's retention was fully put. To make up for this enforced brevity, the Councillor making the case for the office's closure spoke for a full 30 minutes. Though this discussion was a small victory

for freedom of speech, the repeated majority decision was a foregone conclusion.

At the time of writing the Council decision to close the Office at the end of March seems firm and immutable.

It seems to us that the County Council can very justly be criticised for its breach of the promise of genuine consultation before a decision was taken, and for unseemly haste in its implementation.

On the inherent merits of the case there is an inescapable trade-off. On the one hand centralisation brings all the records together in one place for the convenience of students wishing to consult a wide range of different archives, and will usually, albeit often only in the long run, tend to be more economical: on the other hand family historical and ordinary users will not welcome longer and more expensive journeys to see those few documents which they have need to refer to, nor with present concerns about carbon emissions should public authorities lightly impose such burdens on them. The arguments on both sides are not dissimilar to those presently in the political arena about the comparative merits of centralised large hospitals and local district hospitals. Could all records be fully digitalised - probably hardly a realistic objective in the foreseeable future, if ever - a solution would be available. But the trade-off being as it now is, in a county of the size and population of Essex, it hardly seems desirable or acceptable that a town of the antiquity and size of Colchester should be denied the right to have a search room at which the archives of that part of the county should be accessible.

## Victoria County History of Essex

History is a record of the vast jigsaw of life, everything before. The agreement between the ECC and the University of Essex continues to run smoothly, although recent changes to University pay scales mean that staff costs have risen above the original core grant, and this is an issue that has to be addressed. Additional funding raised by the VCH Essex Appeal Fund has enabled the contracts of the two permanent staff Chris Thornton and Herbert Eiden to be increased during 2006/7, and to employ Shirley Durgan on a short contract to complete some of her work on the current Seaside Volume 11. Andrew Senter has also been employed on a temporary contract to work on the institutional histories of churches and chapels in the resorts and it is hoped that additional funds can be found to extend his work first to schools and colleges and later to hospitals and convalescent homes. However the Appeal Fund's reserves are declining.

A new website has been created and staff members have recently received training in its content management system. It is intended to work on this new website during the spring and early summer of 2007 to bring it up to a more professional standard and keep it regularly updated. News on this will be distributed when the site has been developed. A corporate sponsorship scheme backed by the University Research and Business Development Office is in preparation but its launch is pending the creation of the new website. Funding for Volume 11's chapter on seaside architecture has been found from a very welcome grant of over £10,000 by the Marc Fitch Fund. Dr. James Bettley has agreed to work on this chapter as a consultant for the VCH, and as of March we are in the first stages of agreeing his brief.

The County Editor has also been exploring the possibility of starting VCH work in other parts of the county, using trained volunteers, and hopes that this may be one avenue for expanding the Essex VCH now that core financial resources are so slim. The work of the Clacton VCH Group volunteers continues apace. During 2007 the Wartime Life in Clacton website should be completed as well as a hard copy educational pack for children. The Group have been undertaking a quite extensive oral history programme but have discovered that this generates a lot of work in terms of transcription and editing. They are also running a project to survey Clacton's WWII defences in conjunction with Fred Nash, the ECC military archaeologist, funded by £25,000 from the Local Heritage Initiative.

VCH members of staff also continue to teach for the University of Essex. In 2006/7 they have delivered a new 1st year B.A. on People and Places: communities in time (an Introduction to Local and Regional History) which has been taken by 16 under-graduates: it has been an enjoyable experience and further courses may be developed. The University has been giving further consideration to how to run the Local and Regional History Centre and its courses throughout Essex and some further new initiatives may develop. In the meantime staff members also continue to supervise and examine Ph.D research students on Essex topics and also on their specialities such as medieval social and economic history and landscape history. Potential students interested in undertaking supervised higher research in the Local and Regional History Centre are invited to contact the VCH County Editor informally in the first instance (ccthorn@essex.ac.uk).

# **In Search of St Botolph: Archaeological and Geophysical Investigation in fields to the east of St Botolph's Church, Hadstock, 2005**

**By Trevor Ennis**

## **Introduction**

Hadstock is a small village tucked away in a rural corner of north-west Essex, 6km from Saffron Walden. It has a large and beautiful church that dates back to at least the 11th century and is dedicated to St Botolph. The size and grandeur of the church has led villagers to ask why such an impressive structure should have been built in a small village like Hadstock. With unexplained lumps and bumps in the pasture field to its east, members of the Hadstock Society embarked on a mission to unravel this local mystery with the help of the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit.

Local historians believe that Hadstock is the site of the monastery founded at Icanho by St Botolph in 654 and recorded in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (Swanton 2000). According to the Tudor antiquary, John Leland, this monastery was destroyed by the Danes in 869 (*Collectanea* iii). The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle also records that in the year 1020 King Cnut founded a Minster Church to commemorate those Saxons and Danes who had perished in the Battle of Assandun. The hilly countryside between Hadstock and the near-by village of Ashdon is a possible location for this epic battle and St Botolph's, Hadstock, the most likely site for the Minster Church. Excavations within the church in 1974 (Rodwell 1976) revealed the existence of three periods of Anglo-Saxon church structure, though none that could be firmly linked with these historical events.

It was thought that the undulations in the pasture field might represent evidence of the site of St Botolph's monastery or be earthworks associated with a deserted part of the medieval village (Essex Historic Environment Record 4851). To find out more about these earthworks, and to see if they could shed further light on the historic origins of the church, members of the Hadstock Society organised a programme of archaeological and geophysical investigations during the autumn of 2005. The programme was organised under the Local Heritage Initiative scheme administered by the Countryside Agency and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund in association with the Nationwide Building Society.

The programme commenced with a geophysical survey of the pasture field by GSB Prospection Ltd (Report 2005/63) using both gradiometer and resistance techniques. Time allowed for an extension of the gradiometer survey part-way into the adjacent arable field. The survey revealed a range of potential archaeological features that are generally represented by the darker areas on the geophysical survey data plots (*Figs. 1 and 2*).

This was followed by the archaeological investigation opposite of some of the low upstanding earthworks in the pasture field and some of the potential features revealed by the geophysical survey. Seven trial trenches were cut by machine and cleaned and excavated by hand over a two week period in October. The excavation was undertaken by local villagers under the technical

supervision and guidance of members of the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit.

## **Public participation**

An essential element of the project was the local volunteer workforce, the majority of whom were drawn from Hadstock, but also came from Ashton, Clavering, Linton and Saffron Walden. In total 85 adults and more than 30 local children took part in the project. Volunteers undertook nearly all of the manual excavation, and the finds processing tasks such as washing, marking and bagging of artefacts. The children had the enjoyable task of extending the length of the two trenches in the arable field by the careful removal of the soft plough-soil. Nearly 100 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered in this operation, including one of the nicest finds from the excavation; the base of a Samian cup from Roman Gaul with the potter's name *Sacero* (AD 145-180) stamped upon it.

## **Fieldwork results**

The archaeological investigation corroborated the results of the geophysical survey and a sequence of multi-period remains dating to the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods, was revealed (*Fig. 3*). No archaeological features were present in Trench 3.

### *Roman*

In the arable field, possible linear features, aligned north-east/south-west and north-west/south-east, had been identified from the gradiometer survey (*Fig. 2*). The archaeological trenching confirmed that these were ditches forming part of a Roman field enclosure system broadly dating to the 1st and 2nd century AD. Within this agricultural landscape, it is possible that parallel ditches 25 and 43/45 delineate either side of an un-surfaced early Roman track-way leading down to the foot of the hill. Adjacent ditch 34 contained pottery that was slightly later in date, larger in size and less-abraded than finds recovered from the other Roman ditches. This suggests that it had not travelled far prior to deposition and may therefore indicate the presence of a near-by mid Roman occupation site. No Roman remains were identified in the trenches in the pasture field, but the recovery of residual sherds of Roman pottery from later features suggest that activity also took place in this vicinity.

The presence of Roman remains at Hadstock is not surprising given that it falls within the hinterland of the Roman fort and town at Great Chesterford, located only six kilometres to the west.

### *Saxon*

The archaeological investigation found no evidence of any Saxon structures and all the investigated earthworks appear to be of later date. However, one residual sherd of Middle Saxon (7th to 9th century) pottery was

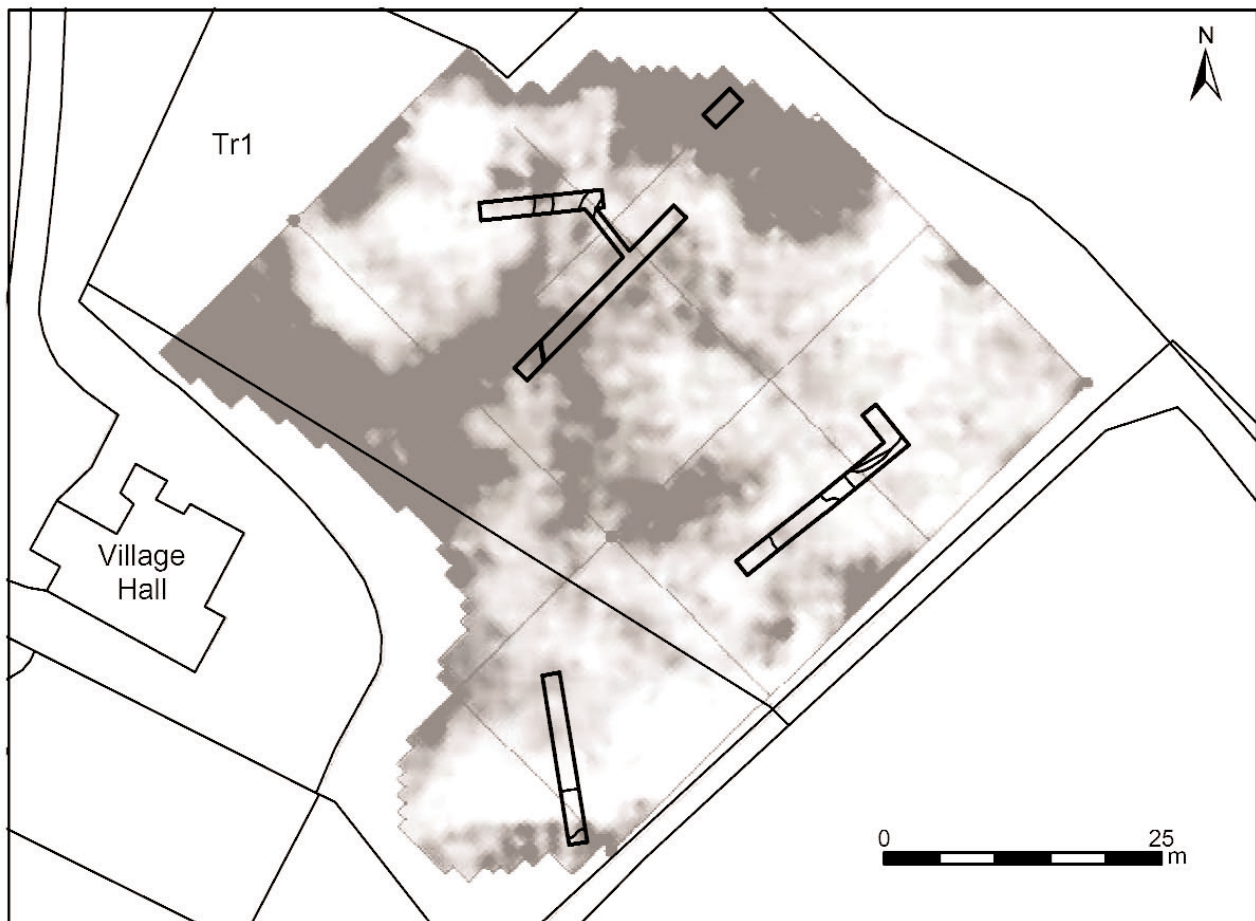


Fig.1. The pasture field with Resistance survey data plot

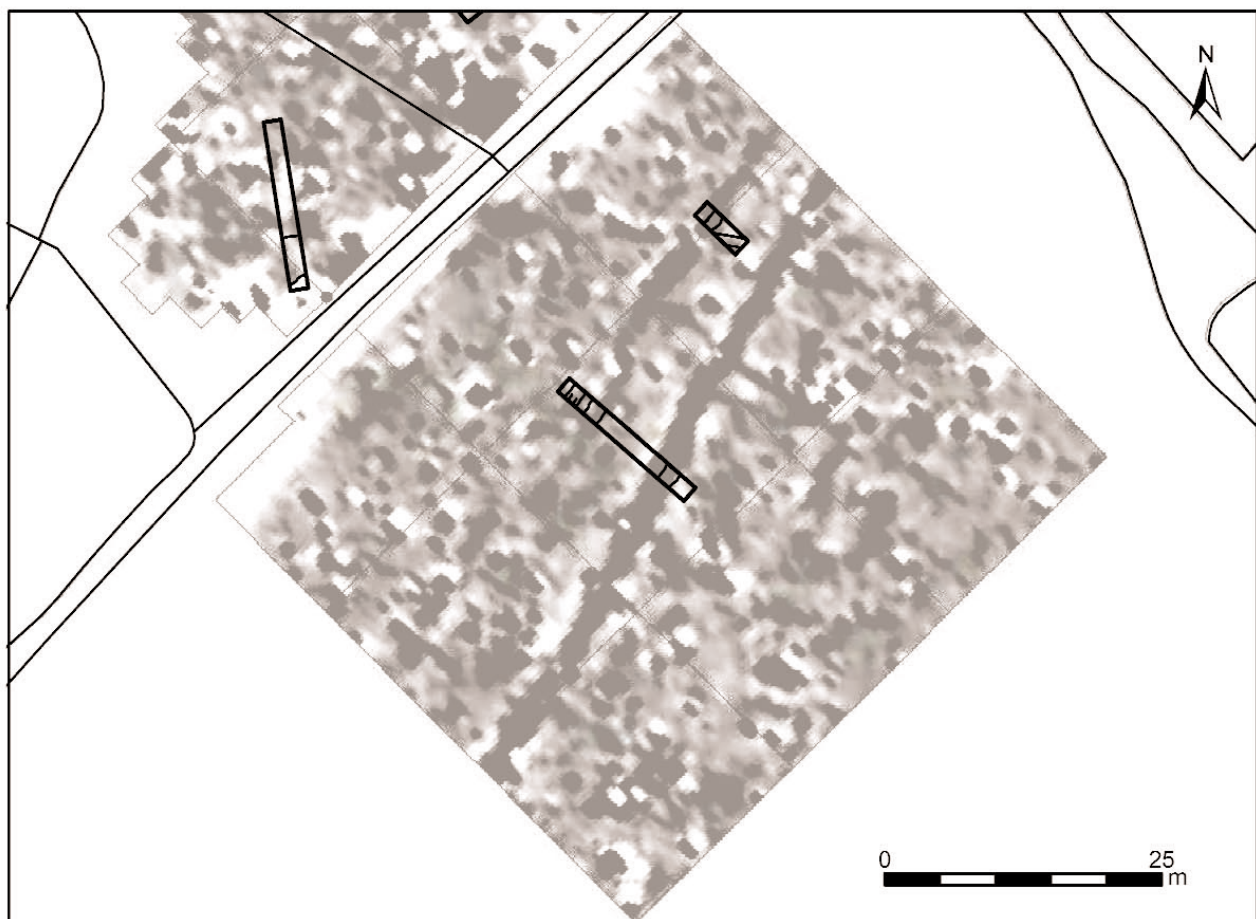


Fig.2. The arable field with Gradiometer survey data plot

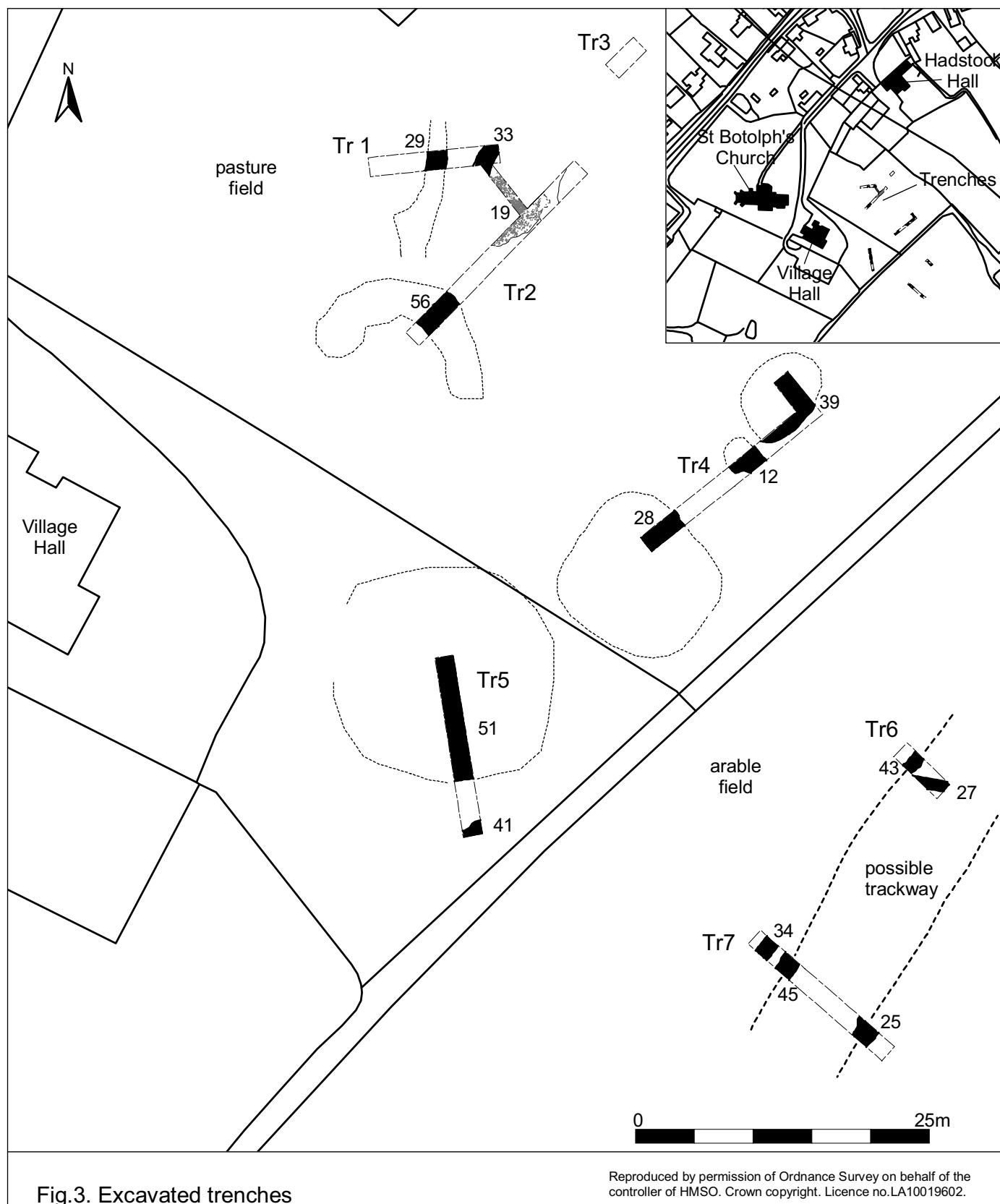


Fig.3. Excavated trenches

recovered from a later feature in the pasture field. Middle Saxon pottery is uncommon in Essex and the presence of even a single sherd may indicate some sort of Saxon activity in the area broadly contemporary with the time that St Botolph's monastery was in existence. If there was a Saxon monastery at Hadstock it is likely that this would have been located in the same area as the present-day church. Evidence from excavated contemporary monastic sites, such as Jarrow in Northumbria (Cramp 1969), suggests that other

monastic buildings would have been clustered near-by the church. Topographically, the most suitable location for the monastery would be on the rough terraced area occupied by the present church and the village hall. Alternatively, the monastic buildings may have been set out on the slope to the north of the church, which would have given ready access to an ancient spring (known as St Botolph's Holy Well) located in the north-west corner of the modern church yard. Although excavations in the nave and transepts of Hadstock church in 1974



Fig 4. Volunteers examining uncovered soil.

(Rodwell 1976) did not reveal a phase of Anglo-Saxon church that could be conclusively linked with the age of St Botolph, slight evidence of post-Roman occupation predating the structure was recovered. This evidence comprised animal bones, oyster shells, a single sherd of Saxon pottery and a possible hearth that included part of a Rhenish lava quern and a stone cresset lamp (Rodwell 1976, 59). Two further archaeological features of unknown date were recorded on the terraced area to the east of the village hall during a later watching brief (Andrews 1999), although a deep deposit of more modern material identified to the north of the village hall suggested an element of levelling perhaps associated with the construction of the hall in the 19th century.

#### *Medieval*

The artefactual evidence suggests that there was little or no activity in the pasture field until the 13th/14th century. At this time two large pits (12 and 39) found in Trench 4 were dug. These pits continued west of the trench and were visible as slight hollows in the field surface. It is likely that these represent the remains of medieval quarrying, but quite whether this was to exploit deposits of clay, flint or chalk is unclear. The pits were cut into the natural chalky boulder clay, but it was not possible to ascertain whether they penetrated more solid chalk deposits below. The quarrying activity might be associated with repair work to the church, much of which is believed to have taken place in the 13th and 14th centuries (Rodwell 1976, 71). Alternatively, and perhaps more likely, it may have been a source of material for construction and repair work at the local manor or in the village. In the medieval period the quarry pit field would have formed part of the Manor of Hadstock and, along with the Church, would have belonged to the Bishops of Ely. Three contemporary medieval layers were identified in Trench 2 (not illustrated). These sealed the top of a large chalk-filled feature, possibly a further quarry pit, and a band of chalk and flint rubble that might be the product of stockpiled quarried material.

The dated medieval deposits in Trench 2 were sealed beneath an apparent flint surface (19) revealed directly below a shallow deposit of topsoil. The extent of the surface was investigated by the hand-excavation of a small trench linking Trenches 1 and 2. The surface measured roughly 6m by 6m and was located upon a slightly raised area in Trench 2 that sloped downwards towards Trench 1. The surface appeared to slope too much to be the base of an agricultural or domestic structure and may simply be a flattened spread of construction debris. No direct dating evidence was recovered from this surface, although deposits below it produced medieval pottery and those above it post-medieval and modern finds.

At the south-west end of Trench 2 a bank (56), in excess of 3m wide, composed of orange silty sand with chalk and flint, was partly revealed beneath a number of post-medieval deposits. The bank was over 0.4m high and appeared to correspond with part of a large semi-circular anomaly, in excess of 10m in diameter, identified by the resistance survey. No dating evidence was recovered from the bank. The function of the bank could not be determined within the limited area of the excavation trench. It is unlikely to be an *in situ* natural deposit, and might conceivably be the remains of a collapsed and robbed wall. As there are no structures depicted in this field on 19th century or later maps, the bank may be of some antiquity, perhaps contemporary with other medieval features within the field.

Most of the excavated medieval pottery dated to the High Middle Ages and spanned the 12th to 14th centuries. Hedingham ware, manufactured at Sible Hedingham 25km to the south-east of Hadstock, was the most frequently found type of pottery. Examples of decorated fine table wares and coarse kitchen wares were recovered. Also present in the assemblage were a few sherds of medieval coarse ware and sandy orange ware. The pottery probably represents a component of general domestic rubbish that was used to backfill and level the quarry pits after they had gone out of use.

### *Post-medieval/modern*

Large pits in Trench 4 (28) and Trench 5 (51) contained post-medieval brick and tile debris and appeared to demonstrate continued quarrying activity. Pit 28 extended beyond the trench and was part of a large sub-circular depression, over 12m in diameter, that was one of the earthworks deliberately targeted in the archaeological investigation. The location of this quarry pit corresponds with the position of a feature marked on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (c.1876), but not on later editions; suggesting it had been infilled by the end of the 19th century.

On the resistance survey plot a possible linear archaeological feature was recorded to the north of the semi-circular anomaly. The linear feature appeared to correspond with a narrow flint-filled track-way hollow (29) excavated in Trench 1 and which contained modern bricks. Interestingly, the northwards trajectory of the track-way led towards Hadstock Hall and its outbuildings, suggesting that later activity within the field was associated with Hall and village rather than the church. Modern artefacts, including 20th century pottery, were also recovered from a similarly aligned ditch (33) in Trench 1.

### **Conclusion**

This programme of geophysical and archaeological investigations has established the presence of a Roman field enclosure system and hinted at a possible near-by Roman occupation site. It has also shown that most of the earthworks in the pasture field are probably the result of quarrying and constructional activities dating from the High Middle Ages to the late Victorian period.

The investigation has once again demonstrated the value of local volunteer and professional collaboration in archaeological research and excavation, as well as providing a catalyst that brought together a wide

cross-section of local inhabitants to participate in an interesting and successful community project.

No firm evidence was found linking the site with the 7th-9th century monastery founded by St Botolph. However, the presence of one sherd of Middle Saxon pottery does hint that there may at least have been a Saxon presence in Hadstock at this time and gives at least a glimmer of hope to those who may wish to continue the search for St Botolph.

### **Acknowledgments**

The geophysical survey was undertaken by GSB Prospection Ltd. The archaeological investigation was undertaken by members of the Hadstock Society and local volunteers under the supervision and guidance of Trevor Ennis of Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit. The Hadstock Society processed the finds under the guidance of Phil McMichael of ECC FAU. Additional fieldwork assistance was received from Chris Down and Dave Smith of ECC FAU. The Samian pottery was identified by Steve Willis.

Thanks go to all the volunteers who took part in the excavation, processed the finds or provided much-needed refreshments. Particular thanks go to Crocky, Hamish and Rosamond of the Hadstock Society. Permission to excavate in the pasture field was kindly granted by Laura Corob and in the arable field by Thurlow Estates. The project was organised under the Local Heritage Initiative scheme administered by the Countryside Agency and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The illustrations courtesy of ECC Field Archaeology.

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(concluded on p. 29)



*Fig 5. Young volunteers working on site with trowel.*

# Essex Beacons and Look-Outs: A Multi-Period Place-Names Study

By James Kemble

Rapid communication across the country has been a key to early warning of attack, crowning of monarchs and such news of importance certainly since Roman times. Turrets on Hadrian's Wall built c.122 could be used to monitor potential raiding parties from the north, and southward 'expansions' of the earth rampart on the Antonine Wall, begun about 20 years later, about 18 ft. (5.5 m.) have been explained as possible signalling posts from the large quantity of burnt wood and turf at their bases<sup>1</sup>. Tower sites have been identified along the north-east coast of England dating from the Roman period, such as Goldsborough, Scarborough and Ravenscar in Yorkshire.

Being a maritime county facing the continent, Essex has needed a comprehensive system of communication beacons and look-out posts, certainly from Roman times and thereafter throughout the county's history. The Saxon Shore forts built in the third century from Brancaster on the north coast of Norfolk to Porchester in Hampshire (of which Bradwell-on-Sea is the Essex example) provided hubs for such early systems, but the look-out posts and signal stations such as excavated at Shadwell guarding the Thames east of the London city wall<sup>2</sup> and that recorded at Corton, Suffolk, measuring c.23 sq.m., but now collapsed into the sea<sup>3</sup> were integral parts of the system. The Shadwell tower had foundations measuring 7 sq.m., and is dated to the end of the third century. The earliest beacon site still extant is probably the Roman lighthouse tower at Dover, one out of two, which still stands as an octagonal structure overlooking the harbour and the English Channel.

A chance historical reference or a strategic hill-top with a good sight line may alert one to a former site. The Old English words for a 'beacon or signal station' and 'look-out house' are *(ge)be(a)con* and *tot-aern*. Clarification from *bece* 'beech-tree' and Middle English *beck* 'brook' requires some care. Place-name evidence is an underused further pointer to identifying sites. The archaeological evidence for beacons, signal towers and look-out posts in Essex is meagre but they are attested as being in regular strategic use up to at least the 19th. cent., and semaphore transmitted from hill-top to hill-top continued into the 20th. century.

It seems likely that the Saxons used a system of look-out posts and communication by beacons in their dealings with the Vikings, but the archaeological and historical evidence is tenuous<sup>4</sup>. A series of signal stations between Chichester and London based on topography and place-names is postulated along Stane Street which, though bearing a Saxon name, was constructed or improved by the Romans: it was still operational in the Saxon period and the siting of stations is evidenced by places as Tothill Wood in Surrey, Tooting now in south London and Tothill field, Westminster.<sup>5</sup>

The earliest Essex documentary references are provided by the Will of Aelfgar, ealdorman of Essex, dated 946 x 951 and that of Aelfflaed, widow of ealdorman Brihtnoth who died fighting the Danes at Maldon, dated 1000 x 1002. Aelfgar left the estate at *Totham* to Brihtnoth and his daughter for their lives and thereafter the woodland there to the religious community at Mersea for his daughter Aethelflaed<sup>6</sup>.

Here is 10th. century evidence for a Saxon *tot(e)*, look-out place, of which a likely site is Beacon Hill which rises to 272 ft. 82 m. (TL858127). Close by to the east on the 150m. contour are Totham Hill, in 1419 *Tothamhell*, and to the west Beacon fields (TL855128).

The foundation charter dated 1062 of Waltham Abbey, a gift of King Harold, gives the bounds of Upminster Hall which include a point *beccengare*<sup>8/9</sup>. The bounds seem mostly to follow those of the present ecclesiastical parish. *Beccengare* is identified with the triangle of land between Hall Lane and Warley Road north-west of Beacon Farm (TQ562903). In the Tithe Award of 1842 this is identified as part of Mill Common, on the 1875 Ordnance Survey map Upminster Common. The persistence of the name 'Beacon Farm' gives credence to the former site of a beacon here which, from the Charter, must date at least from Saxon times. The spot is still identifiable on the ground. Within 2 miles north-east (near Warley barracks) was the beacon marked on Norden's 16th. cent. map, suggesting that *beccengare* had gone out of use by then.

The site of the Saxon moot of the Hundred of Becontree (in Domesday Book *Beuentreu*) is now hard to identify. Before the Liberty of Havering was separated from this hundred in 1465 by Edward IV, the centre must have been about Becontree Heath. The map by Chapman & Andre surveyed in 1774 pinpoints *Bentry Heath* immediately east of Valence House (TQ483865). Though development from a personal name, *Beohha*, is possible here, a perhaps more probable origin from *beacen-treow* renders identification of a beacon as the meeting-place<sup>10</sup>. Since the structures were called 'beacontrees' the presence of some notable oak or similar tree is unnecessary. A rallying-point near the middle of the Hundred would be equally convenient both for the monthly moot and for a beacon signal.

In the medieval period beacons erected on high points or as sea marks consisted of stacks of wood which were fired in times of need. The need to keep open the sea connections of the English wool merchants with Flanders and the wine trade with Gascony was imperilled by the French and called for early warning of attack. It was in 1372 that the word was defined in England in an ordinance written in Latin '*signum per ignem* on hills and high places called *beknes*'. In and after the reign of King Edward III (1327-77) pitch boxes were built and at times of impending crises were manned by watchmen and by horsemen called *hobbelars*, who could carry at speed messages during daytime, while beacons could be lit at night<sup>11</sup>. Thus the sites of beacons also acted as look-outs. The responsibility for erecting and maintaining beacons as sea-marks was usually delegated by the King to the Lord High Admiral. A tax *beconagium* was levied by the county sheriff on each hundred for the maintenance of beacons<sup>12</sup>.

In the 16th cent. English sea-power was again threatened by Spanish and French forces. Now it was the English throne itself that was at stake. The system of mustering men at short notice in one place was revised and increased in frequency; beacon sites often doubled as muster points. In 1569 the Privy Council ordered a general muster of all able-bodied men over the age of 16.

It was the inter-communicating system of message transfer which gave report of the approach of the Spanish Armada in 1588<sup>13</sup>. Though the system was admired by adversaries in the 16th cent. as making a successful unopposed landing in England a formidable risk, in practice, such was the delay in reporting messages then that it was three days after the Armada had been dispersed, partly by the English navy and partly by the weather, that Queen Elizabeth gave her now famous speech to her troops assembled at Tilbury Fort. During Elizabeth's reign the responsibility for erecting and maintaining beacons was passed to the Corporation of Trinity House at Deptford. It is of interest that Christopher Saxton's mapping of England and Wales c.1570-80 almost certainly made use of triangulation survey from the already-established beacon points.

Church towers were used in which fires were lit, as at Monken Hadley, Herts., and Great Wakering in Essex. Such towers were used in times of need as look-out posts. Some public-spirited individuals also lit beacons from their housetops as did Mr. Maitland of Old Loughton Hall from his cupola 'from the hospitable desire to direct night-overtaken travellers to a place of safety when the roads were in a deplorable wild and insecure state', continuing what apparently had been a long tradition<sup>14</sup>.

But many beacons were ephemeral structures, consisting of a single pillar or a vertical oak post supported by another placed diagonally against it, topped by a platform on which was a fire-basket. In some the basket could be lowered to recharge it or there were ladder rungs on the post. Such structures are illustrated on Ogilby's road map of 1675 at Stanway Beacon End, *le Bekyn* in 1414 (TL957248). Morgan and Ogilby's map of Essex of 1678 shows more ubiquitous triangular structures from which a plume of flame or smoke issues at South Benfleet, West Tilbury, Harwich, Walton, Foulness, Langdon Hills and West Thurrock. Archaeological evidence of their former existence may consist only of a wood-ash residue, charcoal (which may be datable), one or more post-holes and possibly a surrounding ditch and bank. Stone towers were built such as is illustrated at Great Totham on Norden's map of 1594 (probably sited on Beacon Hill, TL860126).

An early signal site is documented at Beckney, in Domesday Book *Bacheneia*, 'beacon island' in Ashingdon marshes in the River Crouch (TQ845956). Across the river to the north is visible Beacon Hill in Cold Norton (TL844003). 5 km. east is Beacon Hill in Canewdon at 100 ft. (30 m.) a veritable peak above the surrounding fen (TQ894946). If Plumberow Mount in Hockley, *Plumberga* in 1086 (TQ840938) is a signal mound as suggested, all three are within sightline of each other<sup>15</sup>.

On a high ridge overlooking Cobbin's Brook in Epping parish (now designated a public ridgeway, Forest Way) above 145 ft. (105 m.) is another beacon site at Bacons field, in 1386 *le Bekyn* (TL445060). The land falls sharply away towards Harlow and south across the brook towards Ongar. It is a part of a line of beacon sites on the west of the county within the great curve of the Rivers Stort and Lea. To the north is Bacon End in Great Canfield (TL604189) on the 80ft. (24m.) contour, and *Totegroue* identified with *Totgrove Spring*, *Tattle field* and *Toteland* with Tot Lane in Birchanger (TL505234) of the 13th cent. Though Reaney<sup>16</sup> identifies these with a personal name *Tota*, the 100 ft. hill

overlooking the River Stort is a vantage point for a look-out. In Stanford Rivers (TL516024) *Toote Hill*, documented in 1611, rising to 340ft. (103m.) could be sighted from the Epping beacon. This vantage point overlooks a tributary of the River Roding to the south, the main river on the east, which ran through the middle of the territory of *Hrotha's people*, though the late date precludes assumption of a Saxon tot(e) here. On the borders of the parishes of Kelvedon Hatch and Navestock is Beacon Hill, in 1450 *Bekynghill*, (TQ560989) standing on a ridge at 310 ft. (95m.) which was visible from *Toote Hill*.

Estuary and sea-mark beacons can be identified at several points along the coast, not always easily dated. At the mouth of the River Colne in St. Osyth is *Beacon Hill*, 56ft. (17m.) (TM094147) and *Beacon fields* so named in 1814<sup>17</sup>. On the opposite (west) side of the estuary at Fingringhoe Wick is Beacon Hard, in 1428 *le Bekene*, remembered in *Beacon fields* in the 19th cent. Tithe Award (TM048197). Given that this may have been the wharf for the building of Roman Colchester, *Colonia*, there may have been a Roman station on this geographically strategic site<sup>18</sup>.

At the entrance to New England Creek in the Thames estuary marking the passage through the Maplin sands *Orwell Beacon* is shown on Emanuel Bowen's map of 1759. Of 16th cent. date is *Shoebeacon* alias *Show* alias *Horns* or *Shears* (*Essex Review*, i.42) and *Whittaker Beacon* off Foulness as shown on John Morgan's map of 1693. Further west up the Thames in Thurrock is *Beacon Hill* shown in Chapman & Andre's map surveyed in 1774 (TQ560785). This must surely be a cross-river signalling post towards Dartford which linked the Kent signal system to Essex and the north<sup>19</sup>.

The threat of invasion by Napoleon around 1800 has left visible evidence in the Martello Towers along the coast such as at St. Osyth and Clacton. The signalling system from the coastal look-outs across the county was repaired and renewed. Field-names denote now 'lost' sites. In Foulness, the parish guarding the estuaries both of the Thames and the Crouch, is a field called *Semifer* (at TR020914) in sight of *Signal Seven* Asplin's Head and Court End *Signal House*, all part of that defensive system<sup>20</sup>. On Ballingdon Hill 290ft. (88m). in Bulmer parish overlooking the River Stour was a beacon (TL845384) and about 2 miles north-east of Tendring church was, still extant until about 1900 and for which the 'tumulus' marked on the Ordnance Survey map may be the site, another linking with the Walton station<sup>21</sup>.

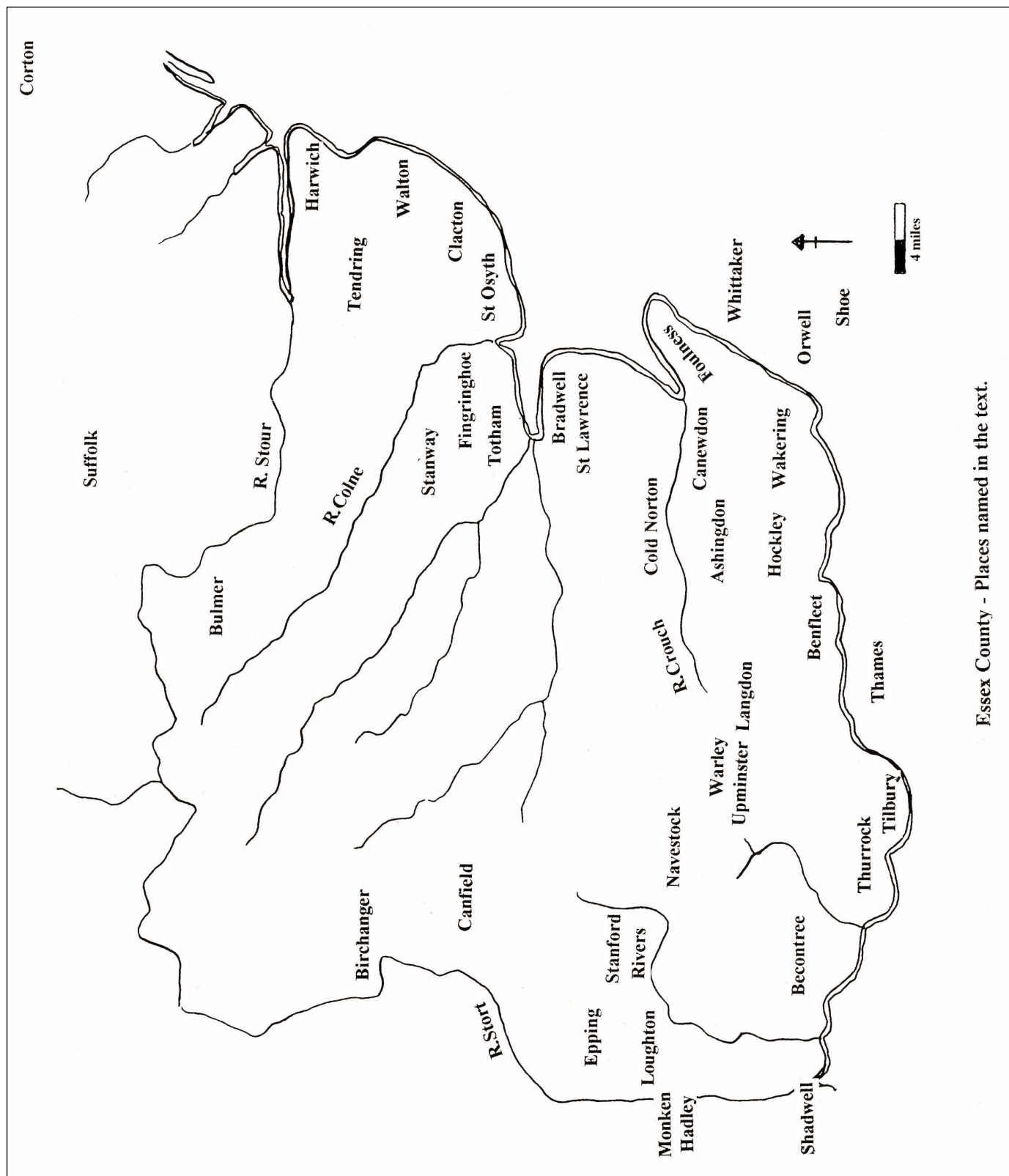
To create a system of signal- and look-out posts, intercommunicating sight-lines were essential. Place-names evidence linked with the study of topography can help to fill gaps in the historical archive to complete those sight-lines. Dating of these sites from archaeological evidence may be difficult but *terminus ante quem* construction may be ascribed when dated references to place-names are available.

Though Kitchen<sup>22</sup> found 63 multi-period beacon and look-out sites in Sussex, he identified only 26 in Essex, a similarly maritime county, using historical references<sup>23</sup>. This study both identifies more precisely the sites of individual beacons and locates a further 17 by the use of place-name and other evidence. Additionally it provides some evidence for the likely operational dates of these signalling stations. Further identifications are probable as the Essex Place-names Project continues to recover more place- and field-names.

## Beacons and Look-out Sites in Essex

Ashingdon	<i>Bacheneia</i>	DB.1086	TQ845946
	<i>Becken</i>	1246	
Becontree*	<i>Beuentreu</i>	DB.1086	TQ483865
Benfleet, South		Morgan & Ogilby's map 1678	TQ7786
Birchanger	<i>Totegrove, Toteland</i>	c.1200	TL505234
Bradwell-on-Sea*	<i>Othona</i>	5th. cent.: 1672	TM032082
Bulmer, Ballingdon Hill	<i>Emsbury Mill</i>	19th. cent.	TQ895946
Canewdon	<i>Beacon Hill</i>	map, 1594	TQ895946
Canfield, Great	<i>Bacon End</i>	Morant (history; 1768)	TL604189
Cold Norton	<i>Beacon Hill</i>	1672	TL844003
Danbury*		1645, 1803.	TL7705
Dengie, church*		1672	TL790016
Epping	<i>le Bekyn</i>	1386	TL45060
	<i>Bacons Field</i>	19th. cent	
Fobbing		14th.cent.	TQ7184
Foulness	<i>Signal 7</i>	M. & O.'s map 1678	TR020914
	<i>Semifer</i>	19th. cent.	
Fingringhoe*	<i>le Bekene</i>	1428	TM048197
	<i>Fyringho'</i>	Beacon 1592	
	<i>Beacon Fields</i>	19th. cent	
Good Easter		'Napoleonic'	TL6212
Gunfleet*		1672. Morgan map 1693	TM2516
Harwich*	<i>Beacon Hill</i>	OS. M.& O.'s map 1678	TM259267
Hockley	<i>Plumberga</i>	DB.1086	TQ840938
Langdon*		M.& O.'s map 1678	TQ6886
Littlebury, Broom*		1803	TL4938
Loughton, Old Hall		1836	TQ440963
Navestock	<i>Bekynghill</i>	1450	TQ560989
Ongar Park*		'Napoleonic'	TL5002
Orwell	<i>Orwell Beacon</i>	Bowen's map 1760	TQ999880
Rayleigh*		1628	TQ8090
Saffron Walden (Sewards End)		1803	TL570384
St. Lawrence*	<i>Beacon Hill</i>	1672: Chapman & A.'s map 1777	TM965050
St. Osyth	<i>Beacon Hill</i>	OS. 1805	TM095147
Shoe Beacon	<i>Show</i>	16th. cent.	TR0385
Shoebury*	<i>Shouberry</i>	14th. cent.	TQ9384
Stanford Rivers	<i>Toote Hill</i>	1611	TL516024
Stanway*	<i>le Bekyn</i>	1414	TL957248
		Saxton's map 1576;	
		Morgan & O's map 1678	
Tendring	<i>'tumulus'</i>	OS 1875	TM156249
Tilbury, West*	<i>Gun Hill?</i>	14th. cent.: M.& O's map 1678	TQ6577
Thurrock, West		Morgan & O's map 1678	TQ5778
Totham, Great	<i>Totham</i>	will, 10th.cent.: Norden's map 1594	TL860126
Upminster	<i>Beccengare</i>	Charter 1062	TQ562903
Wakering, Gt., church*		1672	TQ950876
Walton*		Norden map 1594;	
		Morgan & O's map 1678	TM265235
Warley		Norden map 16th. cent.	TQ595917
Wethersfield*		'Napoleonic'	TL7131
Whitaker	<i>Whittaker Beacon</i>	Morgan's map 1693	TR110980
Wigborough*		'Napoleonic'	TL9615

\* listed by F. Kitchen : 'The Ghastly War Flame: the Beacon System in Essex' (1988)



Essex County - Places named in the text.

The author wishes to thank the staff of the Essex Record Office, Dr.Owen Bedwin and Mr. Bob Crump for assistance in locating documents and references.

Volunteers for The Essex Place-names Project record place-names from historic documents and maps and submit them for recording on a central county database. This is periodically updated and is available at [www.essex.ac.uk/history/esah/essexplacenames](http://www.essex.ac.uk/history/esah/essexplacenames). Those interested in the Project are invited to contact the Project Co-ordinator through the Essex Record Office, Chelmsford (01245 244644) (<http://unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk>).

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## Essex Local History Recorders' Scheme

History is a record of the vast jigsaw of life, everything before the present moment. It is available to us as nature and artefacts, and of the latter, writings particularly. From these we form our ideas of the past, the accuracy of which is related to the quality and extent of these sources.

Our interest in history may be to satisfy our curiosity about the past or to predict the present or future. Humans play a very large part in all that happens and are interested in themselves in a personal and family way, living conditions, leisure activities, and local, national and international affairs. On the whole we are predictable. Nature, too, despite everything, is usually predictable. Computers, with their ability to process masses of information, are of great value in predicting the weather, hurricanes and the prices of shares on the stock market (i.e. how much people are prepared to pay for them). This capacity can only increase.

But all this depends, as we have said, on the quality and the extent of the information. Were interested particularly in our rulers, politicians, sportsmen and women and in celebrities. All this is slanted towards gossip issues. We are interested in crime and in its gory details, and in war and negative issues. We create, and are, what we think. To improve, we must think positively.

All this slants the information we hold. Only a few people, for better or worse, find themselves having their every (or nearly every) action recorded. For that great majority of us who are not celebrities, even today we find ourselves recorded but little, and of these few tend to be preserved. Many things that are of likely to be of interest in a positive way to posterity are not recorded at all. How often, walking round somewhere we reckon to know quite well, are we taken aback by these new buildings, these growing trees, some gap, this or that modest but visually significant change that we have not registered. These things need to be recorded permanently and the availability of this knowledge may be of enormous value to future historians.

Donald Jarvis, an Essex historian living in Stock, undertook a review of the historical associations in Essex and formed a view that there was a need for a local history recorder in every parish in the county. Under the umbrella of the then Essex Community Council the formation of the Essex Local History Recorder Scheme was agreed on 12 March 1981, and recorders were appointed for each rural parish in the county. The idea was that each recorder should take an active interest in his or her own parish, become aware of its history and a reference point for the locality. They should make regular reports to form a record for future reference.

Some ten years later Donald Jarvis became blind and unable to continue running the scheme. Jean Aberdour took over. When she died suddenly in 1997 I, her husband, took over, and now wish to retire as co-ordinator. The scheme had gradually bedded down, concentrating in the more rural areas. There is a great problem getting officers for the branches, and many are without a recorder. Tendring and Uttlesford remain vigorous and effective. Scattered branches remain active elsewhere. Recently Epping failed, through inability to find a new chairman.

I have no doubt that the scheme is a valuable part of Essex life, and needs new vigour so that every parish has an active recorder. But since the demise of the Essex Community Council it has been, as it were, without roots. Where there are vigorous local historical societies or community groups these are natural homes: perhaps indeed alternative foci serving the same purpose. Perhaps elsewhere it should be a role for the Parish Council, but these are so meagrely funded. None welcome the task of reporting regularly, even if infrequently. And what other local voluntary groups should or might be interested – students of historical buildings, railway and canal enthusiasts, metal detectors?

Ken Aberdour

## Your Contributors

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# ‘Waging the Holy War’: the People’s Fight to save Epping Forest

By Rita M. Sharp

## Introduction

Those iconic symbols of the 19th century, ‘expansion’ and ‘progress’ had played a pre-eminent role in the loss of vast areas of Britain’s countryside. This all consuming primacy of human needs over the natural world had at first provoked little opposition, with only a few openly questioning the desolation wrought by ‘whole woods cut clear to the ground’. Historically, little has been written about the endeavours of these Victorians, the ‘eco warriors’ of their day, but amongst them was a group battling to save what remained of the ancient Forest of Essex, a battle which still resonates with the passion which imbued their cause. Amongst its leading campaigners were the Commons Preservation Society (CPS) formed in 1865 to ‘resist encroachments into open spaces’.<sup>1</sup> They were joined in 1871 by the Corporation of the City of London whose financial and legal resources were to become one of the decisive factors in the final outcome.<sup>2</sup>

Accounts of the campaign have focused mainly on these organisations, the parliamentary battles and those who gave them voice.<sup>3</sup> There were, however, other voices mostly unnamed and largely ignored by historians. These belonged to the people of London’s ‘East-End’ whose own efforts to save their Forest not only helped raise the profile of the campaign but also gave it the necessary oxygen of publicity. It is upon their contribution that this paper will focus.

★ ★ ★

On the 9 June 1865 a letter identified only by the initials W.W. appeared in the *Times*:

Sir, Thousands of Londoners, will be, like myself heartily glad that Epping Forest has been started as a subject of discussion . . . for of all of the delightful places of resort in the neighbourhood of our great city there is none more delightful than the ancient forest of Essex. That we should be deprived of it is an outrage . . . from time immemorial . . . the forest has been free to all comers . . . but what is the case now . . . a large part has been . . . enclosed and still larger portions are now in process of enclosure . . . A real forest within 10 miles of London is worth fighting for . . .

This call to save the Forest was timely – Epping was not just any tranche of woodland, it was one of the last surviving fragments of the great Forest of Essex which had, in Roman times, covered East Anglia from the Thames to the Wash, from the valley of the Lea to the Essex coast, covering wholly or in part some twenty-one parishes.<sup>4</sup> But it was not only its historical associations that compelled attention it was also its unique position for of all European capitals it was only London that possessed a virgin forest actually touching its boundary.<sup>5</sup> By the mid nineteenth century Epping could still lay claim to some 6,000 acres its conservation aided by the Crown’s forestal rights, an expedient devised to maintain deer numbers for the royal hunt. This gave protection to woodland important for the

welfare of the deer (the King’s right of vert and venison). But with increasing maintenance costs and ‘the sovereign ceasing to visit for sporting purposes’ it was decided to offer these rights for sale to the lords of the various manors within the forest. In 1851 Parliament passed into law the legislation thought necessary for this purpose. As an inducement to buy they were given freedom to do as they pleased with the land, if they refused the rights would be offered to outsiders. As the *Times* noted in a retrospective judgement:

the consequence of this action was not only to remove the safeguard of the Crown’s rights but give a false impression that the effect of their acquisition by a lord was to enable him to enclose against all comers. Hence the rapid strides made by the encroaching fences from 1851. . .<sup>6</sup>

For those gentry landowners who harboured entrepreneurial ambitions the timing could not have been better as demand for land, already high, was further exacerbated by the rapidly expanding railways. It was little wonder as Shaw Lefevre of the CPS grimly observed that ‘greedy hands were laid upon this tempting prey’.<sup>7</sup> Throughout the following twenty years 3,000 acres of the Forest were surrounded by fences, and in some areas trees axed in preparation for development. The rights of commoners to gather wood and graze cattle over the enclosed land held since ‘time immemorial’, were simply ignored. The authority for this indiscriminate plundering of the Forest was, to say the least, questionable:

who had sold the land over which the people had rights ?  
If the crown had rights over the Forest it only held those rights in trust for the people.<sup>8</sup>

But both the Commissioners who had negotiated the sale and those who had benefited from their largesse had either failed to recognise the significance of such questions or simply chosen to ignore them. It was to prove to be a costly oversight.

But for the time being cushioned by positions of authority the landowning gentry could easily dismiss such concerns. Indeed they seemed impregnable for underpinning their confidence was the stance of the Government. Two days before W.W.’s impassioned letter had appeared, Gladstone had been publicly challenged over the issue:

It seems there is an opinion entertained by persons whose opinions command respect that the lords of the several manors included within the precincts of Epping Forest are entitled to call for enclosure of the portions of the forest in which they are respectively interested whenever they please...if I do not mistake, Mr Gladstone gave his adhesion to that view the last time the subject was debated in Parliament; notwithstanding which I venture to entirely to dissent from it. <sup>9</sup>

But in spite of growing opposition the progressive destruction of Epping was, in general, deemed of little

importance. The utilitarian spirit of the age judging it scarcely less than sinful that its thousands of acres should not be put to some 'useful' purpose. With such a triumvirate of forces ranged against it there seemed little likelihood that the Forest could survive. But then from a completely unexpected source came a catalyst which was to change everything.

In the beginning the loss of trees and Forest land by scattered and relatively small enclosures had aroused only localised opposition. That is until the Rev Whitaker Maitland, lord of the manor of Loughton, capitalised on his family's purchase of forestal rights and fenced over 1,000 acres at the heart of the wildest and most beautiful part of the Forest. He then added insult to injury by commencing to fell the trees in preparation for building and development. The sheer magnitude of the land grab focused attention as no other had done on gentry acquisitiveness and its consequences for the Forest. Although some compensation was paid for the loss of commoner's rights it did little to quell the rising tide of anger and resentment. A resentment intensified by the apparent injustice of what was taking place, 'the whole affair was illegal because the rights of the people had not been considered and they could not be bartered away.'<sup>10</sup>

It was little wonder then that it was in Loughton that the first overt acts of direct confrontation took place between people and landowner. In defence of his commoner's rights a labourer named Willingale together with others broke down some of Maitland's fences and was prosecuted.<sup>11</sup> The case generated both local and national publicity with Maitland targeted as the arch exponent of enclosure - the rich man who rode roughshod over the poor. As the full implications of what was happening became public, support to save the Forest began to increase. At an open air meeting organised by the East London Committee of the CPS 'to protest against the enclosure of a considerable portion of Epping Forest', calls were made for those who claimed to be Englishmen to stand up for the rights of the people:

... (it was) anything but patriotic on the part of the Rev Mr Maitland, the lord of the manor to attempt to enclose . . . They were not worthy the name of Englishmen if they did not resist this oppression by every means in their power . . . it was not only the rich that had the rights - the poor had rights also and if the rich put up fences where they had no right to do so the poor would be justified in pulling them down again. . .<sup>12</sup>

This powerful speech touched a raw nerve, with some in the audience signalling their willingness to administer a people's justice. But those on the platform, perhaps fearful of alienating public opinion, proposed a less radical course. They 'did not advise such action at present until some legal steps had been taken'.<sup>13</sup> Although for the moment this was accepted it was clear that something new and fundamental had entered the campaign - the notion of direct action by the people themselves. It would take four more years for this to be realised - four more years before frustration at legal and constitutional failures finally overrode all appeals for restraint.

By 1871 in spite of all the protest meetings, 'motions in parliament, three select committees of inquiry, an address to the Crown and a long correspondence between the treasury and the Metropolitan Board of Works' the campaign had only succeeded in slowing the

loss of Forest land.<sup>14</sup> In April a parliamentary motion for reserving the unenclosed parts of Epping Forest was introduced. But this resolution was opposed by the government with Gladstone, supported by Robert Lowe his Chancellor, remaining obdurate. He reiterated his stance that Epping 'was the property of the Crown and . . . the public had no right whatever to it'.<sup>15</sup> Adding, perhaps in an attempt to mollify his critics, that 1,000 acres of the Forest had been put aside as a recreation ground for the people. But this olive branch had little effect - parliament, perhaps more in tune with changing public sentiment, inflicted a defeat on the government by a majority of more than two to one.<sup>16</sup>

A victory of some consequence, or so it was thought, but the result was significant only for the complete lack of any government response. This was interpreted by some as a signal to continue erecting enclosure fences. Thus barely eight weeks later Lord Cowley seized his opportunity and enclosed an area of the Forest known as Wanstead Flats. This flagrant act served to fuel still further the anger and resentment throughout London's 'East-End' - an anger and resentment which found support in the national press. The *Illustrated London News* viewed it as a 'downright robbery of the public estate' encouraged 'by the wilful neglect of Her Majesty's government. . .'.<sup>17</sup> A *Times* correspondent writing under the pseudonym of 'East-End' even questioned the viability of the democratic process itself:

'If this means anything it is that the government will permit the enclosure of the Forest and the destruction of the timber in the face of a decided vote of the representatives of the people'.<sup>18</sup>

If Maitland had provided the first catalyst Lord Cowley was providing the second and overarching all was the intransigence of the government. The response of the *Daily News* to the whole affair was uncompromising:

The apathy of the Government on the Epping Forest enclosure question is most provoking to anyone who cares one fig for public health and public rights. It is not enough that 3,000 acres should have been filched from our Eastern Airing Ground further down in the forest to make rich men richer and for the benefit of a few capitalists, but now . . . a slice is being taken off the most accessible portions of open ground in the neighbourhood, the playground of hundreds of children and the recreation ground of thousands of smoke dried toilers in our parish . . . Parliament has passed a resolution declaring that Epping Forest shall be preserved . . . (yet) eighteen acres of Wanstead Flats were enclosed last week . . .<sup>19</sup>

But in spite of such passionate protest and burgeoning public support the inexorable destruction of the Forest still continued. Yet on the horizon a new and powerful campaigner was about to enter the fray:

... As the imperial government will not act the Municipal Government of the City of London has already acted . . . they have given notice requiring the removal of the fences and will test the matter if necessary in a court of law . . .<sup>20</sup>

The Corporation of the City of London had been brought into conflict with Cowley quite by chance. They owned a cemetery with rights of common attached

'whereby they had an interest at law in resisting and abating enclosures in the Forest'. Although their entry gave a new and dynamic edge to the campaign it did little to dampen the calls for a more radical line of attack, indeed:

'during the last fortnight the agitation in the east-end consequent upon Lord Cowley's enclosure . . . has become intense'.<sup>21</sup>

Threats were made 'that the palings which no-one had any right to erect would be pulled down'.<sup>22</sup> Notices appeared calling for a huge protest meeting to be held in the early evening of Saturday, 8 July on Wanstead Flats. The combination of these two events implied it would not simply be another protest meeting but a focus for action – Lord Cowley's 'obnoxious rails' would not be standing on Sunday morning. For those in authority alarm bells began ringing. In parliament the Home Secretary was asked if he knew that the people had been 'advised to take the law into their own hands'. His response was reassuring – the remarks referred to had been made by 'a single individual said in a jocular spirit' and he had been advised by the chairman of that particular meeting that it had 'not been approved of by the assembly'. He added that of course the usual precautions would be taken. But his relaxed attitude was at distinct odds with the anarchic mood of the east-enders. Speculation was rife that something above and beyond anything yet witnessed would take place. 'Will they do it, they say they are going to pull down the fences'.<sup>23</sup> Disturbingly, there also seemed to be an impetus for an even more radical response:

there was an evident undercurrent of feeling that the spirit of destruction now that it had been exorcised from Paris might have found a congenial resting place in the east of London.<sup>24</sup>

The reference to Paris carried with it intimations of something far more alarming than the pulling down of fences. In March a spontaneous attempt had been made by the people of Paris to set up their own government. Known as the Paris Commune it was brutally suppressed amid much violence and bloodshed. These events which had been widely reported in the British press were now being linked in the public mind with the huge protest meeting on Wanstead Flats. The potential for a very serious situation developing was being openly touted. Then it was learned that a review of the 'highly trained . . . soldiery of Essex' was not only going to be held on the same day on another part of the Flats, but that it also overlapped the same time period. Was this mere coincidence or an indication of very real anxiety on the part of the authorities? Whatever the explanation the result was that the soldiers would be strategically placed should events begin to spiral beyond the control of the police. But then at the very 'last minute' it was announced that the venue for the protest meeting had been changed from Wanstead Flats to the grounds of West Ham Hall, adjoining Forest Gate railway station. The official explanation given was that it was simply an expediency because of the review taking place. Notice of this change was accompanied by very 'extensive circulated hand bills' requesting the people to 'refrain from any act of violence'. By 6 p.m the hour fixed for the meeting, several thousand persons 'principally of the working class' had arrived in the neighbourhood of Forest Gate.<sup>25</sup> Most showed

'great reluctance' to enter West Ham Grounds by strolling onto the Flats ostensibly to watch the troop review. After much persuasion, however they were finally 'induced' to attend the meeting at its rearranged site. Several wagonettes entered the grounds bearing the gentlemen who were to address the meeting. The speakers took up their positions with Sir Antonio Brady taking the chair.<sup>26</sup> He then introduced Mr Wingfield Baker, M.P for South Essex who urged the necessity of maintaining order and to trust the legislature to secure their rights. His speech was heard relatively quietly until he advocated the necessity of 'keeping the palings inviolate so as not to imperil the good cause'. At this point he was met with such a storm of hisses and persistent interruptions that it became impossible for him to proceed. There was a call for the meeting to adjourn to the original meeting place of Wanstead Flats. This provoked a scene of 'frightful' uproar with the occupants of the Chairman's wagon taking sides for and against the proposition. The cry was 'to the Flats' and nothing but the Flats would do, 'they are our own.' 'Whose fault is it we have to meet at all.'<sup>27</sup> A Dr. Alexander stepped forward saying that as he was the original promoter of the meeting he advocated that 'it should be adjourned forthwith to the Flats'. But this failed to quieten the crowds and with the mayhem continuing it was decided to put his proposal to the vote. Almost every hand shot up in favour and it was announced that 'the Flats had it'. The carts containing the speakers were seized before and behind and dragged upwards of a mile over the rough and dusty roads by hundreds of men in turns, accompanied by a running crowd of some thousands more 'huzzaing' all the way'. The police did nothing to interfere, simply providing an escort to the mass exodus. Upon reaching the Flats the meeting settled once more into the usual pattern of speeches and resolutions, the chairman observing that the east Londoners could not have paid him a greater compliment than in inviting him to take the chair. During the course of his speech he asked them to trust the legislature and:

if they were sufficiently firm in the assertion of their rights it would be accepted by the government whose apathy in the matter they censured. He trusted that nothing illegal would be done because that would be merely playing into the hands of the "enemy".<sup>28</sup>

But by this time appeals 'for nothing illegal to be done' seemed to be unnecessary. The only signs of dissent being the groans and hisses whenever the names of Lowe, Gladstone, or Ayrton were mentioned.<sup>29</sup> As the meeting drew to its close the huge crowds began drifting away, the police, satisfied that any threat of disorder was over, also began leaving. This left a few individuals lingering about enclosures near the *Forester's Arms* not far from where the meeting had been held and some distance from Cowley's fences. And it was here that at about nine in the evening an incident took place, which according to one report, was probably the signal for action. A man sitting on one of the enclosure railings was pushed by another, the fence wobbled and in a moment half a dozen hands had brought it to the ground. A dozen laid hold of the next, it gave way. The sound of the breaking of the fences sounded like a continuation of the rifle firing heard at the Review, attracting hundreds more people from all parts of the Flats and out of the adjacent public houses. Seeing what was happening they all joined in or 'lent their assistance'.

# SAVE THE FOREST.

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## WORKING MEN! ATTEND BY THOUSANDS

AT THE

## OPEN AIR MEETING

TO BE HELD ON

## WANSTEAD FLATS,

Opposite Chesnut Walk,

On Saturday, July 8th, 1871,

## TO PROTEST AGAINST THE ENCLOSURES

That have been made in all parts of the

## FOREST.

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The Chair will be taken at Six o'clock, by

## SIR ANTONIO BRADY, J.P., F.G.S.

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*W. G. SMITH, Secretary,*

*Rose Cottage, Odessa Road, Forest Gate, E.*

*G. Harmer, Printer, "Courier" Office, West Ham.*

In a minute there were fifty pulling energetically, then a hundred, then hundreds. For twenty minutes the crowd tugged and pulled till the whole of the fence forming three sides of the enclosure collapsed. In this way some hundreds of yards of fence were destroyed and the whole of the ground opened. A solitary constable galloped along the Ilford road after the departing police and managed to bring back some fifteen or twenty mounted men at full speed but they could do nothing – the fences were already down. The mounted officers leapt their horses over the broken enclosure palings and rode straight

at a body of men who were attempting to flatten the few rails still standing. One young man (later named as Henry Rennie) was apparently ridden down by an inspector and while on the ground was pinioned by some foot police. The crowd turned back crying ‘they mustn’t have him’ but the efforts of the small body of mounted police who charged about on all sides stopped any attempt at rescue. The prisoner was handcuffed and marched off, but the crowd followed with the intention of freeing him. The police, aware of the threat, suddenly formed a line and charged the oncoming mob. This held them in check for some minutes allowing the prisoner to be hurried off towards Ilford. Thwarted in their attempts at rescue the huge numbers of people gradually melted away. The only other arrest during this day’s tumultuous events was a boy caught throwing stones at the police. Given the enormity of what had taken place the tally of arrests was, to say the least, surprising. But perhaps more importantly there had been no sign of any attempt to replicate the Paris tragedy.<sup>30</sup> But concern remained that further disturbances might erupt at any time and, during the night and throughout the following day, the police both mounted and on foot patrolled the Flats. But the intervention of an English summer with rain ‘falling at intervals’ deterred any further protests or large gathering.

It was clear that for a short time on Saturday night the police had been caught completely off guard. Although they had a ‘pretty strong force’ in reserve it was in the wrong place, near Cowley’s enclosures, expecting these to be the object of any attack. In Parliament the whole affair was played down, Mr Bruce, Secretary of State for the Home Office, told the House that:

a disorderly mob . . . applied themselves to destroy a large portion of the rails . . . but he could not connect this outrage with the proceedings of the meeting which were perfectly orderly. . .<sup>31</sup>

But however hard the government tried to minimise the enormity of the incident, the events on Wanstead Flats were to have important repercussions throughout the following weeks and months. One of the first occurred less than a week later when, at a meeting held at the home of Sir Antonio Brady, an organisation was formed ‘to promote the preservation of the Forest for its people’. Known as the *Forest Fund* their collaboration with the Corporation of the City of London was to bring together two formidable campaigning opponents of enclosure. Another consequence was the wider acceptance of the implicit militancy of the struggle:

the Corporation of the City of London . . . (on) behalf of the public interest . . . have engaged in a legal contest with Earl Cowley, the lord of the manor to arrest the felling of timber and the enclosure of land. How the litigation will end no-one can say but the representatives

of the Corporation announce the readiness of that body to bear any amount of expense in *waging the holy war* . . .<sup>32</sup> (my italics)

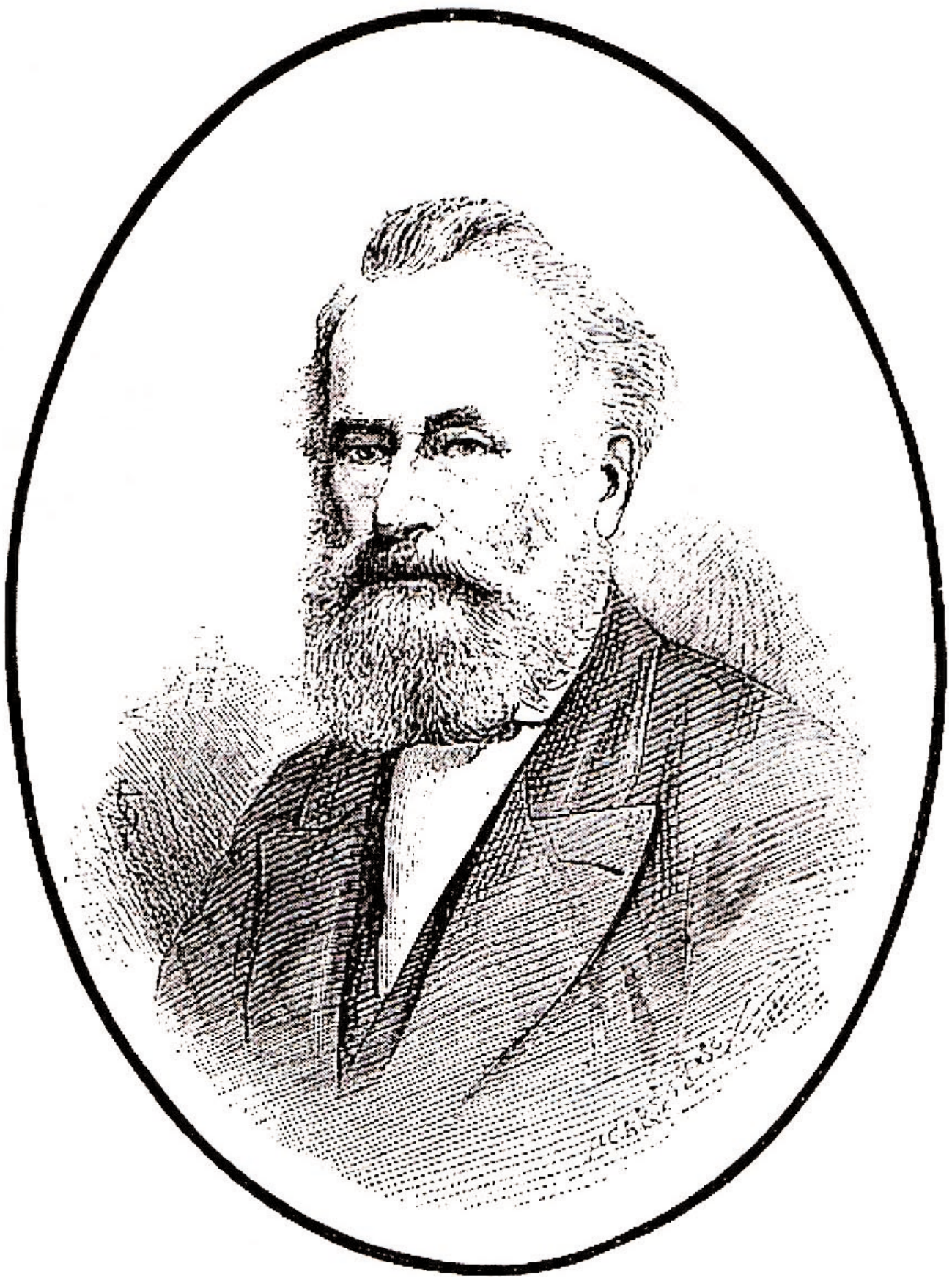
These nuances of militarism continued:

Epping Forest will be saved to the people and what is more the thousands of acres filched away from them may be recovered if the east-end stands to its guns . . . we are glad to see that Shoreditch, Hackney and the neighbouring parishes keep alive this momentous question and that sinews of war as well as speeches are forthcoming . . .<sup>33</sup>

It was against this backdrop that the Corporation began its legal action against the ‘enclosers and spoilers of the land’ on 14 August 1871. In October the *Forest Fund* organised a demonstration in Stratford town hall ‘on behalf of the fund being raised for the purpose of protesting the rights of the public as regards Epping Forest’. Energy and optimism suffused the proceedings with the large hall being so filled as ‘scarcely to admit of standing room for the working population of the district’. Clearly, the dramatic scenes on Wanstead Flats were still reverberating as the Chairman recalled the last time he had had the pleasure of meeting his constituents in that district was on that memorable occasion. He continued that as then the object was the one expressed by the motto which met their eyes when coming in the door **SAVE THE FOREST** (Applause).<sup>34</sup> Then news was given to the meeting of a successful injunction to halt the ploughing of Bush Wood ‘so delightful and dear to the people of East London’. These were heady and intoxicating times but still the question remained. Could they save the Forest? The answer to that question would not be known for many months, even years, but when it came it would be an extraordinary denouement.

During the following three years the campaigning continued apace but with no clear sign of victory. Then in November 1874 the Corporation of the City of London after painstaking and lengthy preparation of their case, heard the judgement of Sir George Jessel, Master of the Rolls. His unequivocal verdict was that ‘all enclosures made within twenty years of the filing of the Bill – that is since 14 August 1851 – were **ILLEGAL**. An astonishing victory had been won. At Loughton the annual midnight ceremony of lopping boughs became the venue for great rejoicing.<sup>35</sup> Roman candles, squibs and crackers together with vociferous cheering accompanied the speeches. Then a bonfire was deliberately lit ‘within an enclosure which the lords of the manor have made’. One speaker after congratulating them on the success of all their efforts noting that although the enclosures were still in place ‘earnestly entreated them to refrain from any unlawful act whatever’. In fact he was confident that the time was not far distant when the ‘obnoxious fences would be removed by the law of the land’.<sup>36</sup> But legal wrangling and continuing government hesitancy ensured that three years later many were still in place.

The wheels of justice were turning far too slowly for some and in January 1878 George Burney<sup>37</sup> together with ‘one hundred followers’ provided themselves with axes and ropes and set about implementing the Master of the Rolls’ judgement by removing the fences. Despite the fact that the police had received ‘an intimation’ that the enclosures were about to be destroyed they were, for



**Sir Antonio Brady J.P., F.G.S.,**

, 'in the battle for the rescue of Epping Forest...an active and doughty champion'. Appointed Verderer under the Epping Forest Act 1878 a post he held until his death in 1881

whatever reason, 'powerless to prevent it' and merely took the names of a few of the ringleaders. Indeed their reluctance to intervene allowed the public staging of a theatrical but very moving final act:

We are informed that one of the leaders of this lawless band went to every piece of land after the fence was removed and declared 'that it was thrown open for ever'.<sup>38</sup>

But then the full majesty of the law swung into action. Injunctions were granted to restrain Burney and his 'lawless band' from doing 'further injury' and heavy fines imposed. But in spite of its being condemned as an 'outrageous act' such had been its impact that it was credited as having 'materially influenced' the government to ignore advice that these enclosures should remain.<sup>39</sup> Later that same year Parliament passed the Epping Forest Act without opposition. It was triumph of almost unimaginable proportions:

The effect of the settlement is to restore nearly the whole of . . . (the lost three thousand acres) . . . of the forest, to abate the fences which shut out the public from their former haunts and to reinstate nature in its sylvan throne . . .<sup>40</sup>

On 6 May 1882 Queen Victoria visited Epping to dedicate 'this beautiful forest to the use and enjoyment of my people for all time'. It is today the largest public open space in the vicinity of London and Essex – in fact it is claimed that it is the largest open space near any capital city in the world that has never been ploughed or cultivated.<sup>41</sup>

In 1878 a *Times* editorial had noted that 'the fate of the Forest . . . has been a constant struggle between the people of the East-End of London and the lords of the manors . . .'<sup>42</sup> With their contribution at least recognised by their contemporaries it is perhaps fitting, therefore, that the final word should be left with them as they raised their glasses to those:

. . . unnamed and unknown multitude of village HAMPDENS who have seldom failed to come forward when they have been needed and to suffer for their rash courage . . .<sup>43</sup>

As indeed to all those who 'waged the holy war' against seemingly impossible odds to save Epping Forest for the people.

## References

1. The brainchild of G.Shaw Lefevre, M.P who hosted its inaugural meeting on 19 July 1865. Its members included John Stuart Mill, Sir Charles Dilke and Octavia Hill.
2. In that year another organisation The Forest Fund was launched to raise money in support of the fight against the 'enclosers and spoilers of the Forest'. Richard Morris in his pamphlet *The Forest Fund 1871-1878* describes the significance of the part played by its hon. secretary W.G.Smith in the campaign.
3. For accounts of the campaign see for example Edward North Buxton *Epping Forest* (1897). William Addison *Epping Forest Its Literary and Historical Associations* (Dent 1945) Alfred Leutscher *Epping Forest* (David & Charles 1974).
4. Kelly's Directory 1882. Throughout its history it has also been known as 'the Forest of Essex' and the Royal Forest of Waltham 'where kings had their palaces and hunting lodges.'
5. This was at Stratford *The Times* 2 Aug 1878.
6. 'Epping Forest an Account of its Rescue From Enclosure', *The Times* 4 May 1882.
7. G.Shaw Lefevre 'The Rescue of Epping Forest' *Contemporary Review* December 1878, 34, p.50.
8. *The Times* 23 April 1867. This question was posed at a meeting convened by the CPS to protest against the enclosures.

9. Letter to *The Times* 7 June 1865. Gladstone at this time was not yet prime minister but leader in the House of Commons.
10. *The Times* 23 April 1867.
11. Accounts of this event have been much distorted and romanticised. For an even handed assessment see Percy Thompson 'The Willingales of Loughton: To Whom Do We Owe Epping Forest?' *Essex Naturalist* Vol.XXI pp.157-169.
12. *The Times* 23 April 1867.
13. Ibid.
14. *The Times* 2 Aug 1878.
15. *Illustrated London News* 6 May 1871.
16. *The Times* editorial of 29 April 1871 published a long critique of the Government's attitude.
17. *Illustrated London News* 15 July 1871.
18. *The Times* Friday 16 June 1871.
19. *The Daily News* 24 June 1871, quoted in Winston G Ramsey with Reginald L Fowkes *Epping Forest Then and Now*, p.41(London 1986).
20. Ibid.
21. *Essex County Standard* 14 July 1871.
22. *Woodford Times* 15 July 1871.
23. *Stratford Express* 15 July 1871.
24. Ibid.
25. The following description of events has been taken from reports and comments appearing in the *Stratford Express* and *Woodford Times* 15 July 1871 and the *Essex County Standard* 14 July 1871.
26. His effective involvement with the campaign began at this point. He became a trustee of the Forest Fund and for the next seven years was actively engaged in the struggle. Richard Morris *The Verderers and Courts of Waltham Forest in the County of Essex 1250-2000* pp.139-141.  
See the *D.N.B.* vol.6, which gives the full range of Brady's diverse interests from palaeontology to 'church work of all kinds'.
27. *Stratford Express* 15 July 1871.
28. Ibid.
29. Ayrton, in his role as Commissioner of Works had attracted condemnation with his proposal that 5,000 acres of Epping Forest should be abandoned to the Lords of the Manor. The unpopularity of these ministers was to continue. At the Royal Court Theatre in 1873 a burlesque *The Happy Land* lampooned their 'incompetence and parsimony'. *The Times* 8 March 1873.
30. The boy was released without charge. Court appearances followed the arrest of Henry Rennie, and were reported in *Stratford Express* 15 and 22 July, *The Essex County Standard* 21 and 28 July and the *Woodford Times* 22 July. Arcane legal arguments delayed judgement but he was eventually fined £1.13s. 6d including costs.
31. *The Times* 11 July 1871.
32. *Essex County Standard* 4 August 1871. In fact their legal expenses were to amount to about £256,275 equivalent to some £8 million at 1985 prices op. cit *Epping Forest Then & Now* p.58.
33. *Daily Telegraph* 27 Oct 1871 quoted in ibid., p.44.
34. *The Times* 4 Oct 1871, *Essex County Standard* 6 Oct 1871
35. This was a ritual performed for 'some centuries' acknowledging the right of the poor to cut and gather wood throughout the winter months.
36. *The Times* 13 Nov 1874, *Stratford Express* 14 Nov 1874.
37. A long time and prominent campaigner; he had given a robust performance before a House of Commons Select Committee on the Royal Forests (Essex) Copies of these proceedings were published on 9 June 1863.
38. *The Woodford Times* 19 Jan 1878.
39. Reports of the fines appeared in *Woodford Times* 26 January 1878. The expenses were roughly estimated to be about £10,000. A considerable part of this was repaid by the Corporation of London on the grounds that the destruction of the fences had been a significant factor in convincing the government that they should be removed. See William Richard Fisher *The Forest of Essex*, (London 1887) pp.367-8.
40. Op.cit., Lefevre *Rescue of Epping Forest* p.45.
41. [http://www.healecycles.demon.co.uk/epping/epping\\_forest\\_history.htm](http://www.healecycles.demon.co.uk/epping/epping_forest_history.htm)
42. *The Times* 2 August 1878.
43. Editorial, *The Times* 11 Dec 1874.

The Illustration 'Save the Forest' taken from *Epping Forest Then and Now* and appear by permission of its editor Winston G Ramsey

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank John Stradling, librarian of Loughton Local Studies Library, and Richard Morris, O.B.E., present Verderer of Epping Forest, who have given generously of their time in answering my requests for information.

# R. Miller Christy, Essex Naturalist and Antiquary – Part IV

by W. Raymond Powell

The life of Robert Miller Christy (1861-1928) is being published in *Essex Journal* in four parts. Parts I, II and III have described his early life at home in Chignal St. James (Essex); his schooldays at Bootham, York (1874-7); his months in Brighton (1878-9); his employment at Gibson's bank at Saffron Walden (1880-82); his holiday at St. Moritz in Switzerland (1882-3); his visits to Canada and USA (1883-4 and 1887); his later life in Essex and London; and his Non-Essex Publications. This final article deals with Essex publications, and with some occasional papers.

## The Trade Signs of Essex

*The Trade Signs of Essex* (1887) is an ambitious and useful compilation, which could have been improved by more careful editing.<sup>1</sup> The Preface (p.vii), dated 1 February 1887, states that 'according to the list given in the last edition of the *Essex Post Office Directory* there are now existing in the county no less than 1,355 inns and public houses. The signs of all of these have been classified ... and treated of in turn.' It should, however, be noted that the 1886 edition of the *Essex P.O. Directory* lists no fewer than 44 public houses not mentioned by Miller Christy.<sup>2</sup>

*The Trade Signs of Essex* has an Introduction, followed by 9 topical chapters, a Glossary of Heraldry, and an Index. The chapters often overlap: this was inevitable, but might have been better managed. The frequent reference to trade signs outside Essex (e.g. pp. 2, 3, 7, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 31, 132, 151, 153, 155) is otiose. It is also derivative, being based on earlier publications, particularly Larwood and Hotten's *History of Sign Boards* (1867).<sup>3</sup>

Miller Christy suggests the origin of various strange or misleading signs. Many 'Ship' signs in the county, as at Stock, are far from the sea (p.23), and it is likely that some were originally 'Sheep'. The 'Monks Head' at Newhall in Boreham (122) represents General Monck, Duke of Albemarle. The 'Ferryman' at Willingale Doe (123) is far from a ferry, and probably refers to an owner who had been a ferryman elsewhere. The 'Ship and Shovel' (144), at Barking and also at Dagenham, was probably connected with Admiral Sir Clowdesley Shovell (1650-1707).<sup>4</sup> The 'Peter Boat' at Leigh (145) refers to a fishing boat, recorded there from 1645.<sup>5</sup>

## The Birds of Essex

*The Birds of Essex* (1890) is based largely on Miller Christy's observations during the previous fifteen years, as reported in his Diaries.<sup>6</sup> Further information was supplied by G.P. Hope of Upminster, F. Kerry of Harwich, Dr. Henry Laver of Colchester, Walter R. Sackett of Orsett, and others.<sup>7</sup> E.A. Fitch (President, Essex Field Club), gave much help while the book was in the press. Among professional taxidermists giving information were Joseph Travis of Saffron Walden., Henry Ambrose of Colchester and Thomas Stacey of Dunmow.<sup>8</sup>

The book includes 'Biographies of the Principal Essex Ornithologists' and 'Notices of the Chief Essex Bird Collections'. Tables of 'The Arrivals at Epping (1828-

45)' and 'At Wrabness (1818-30)' are reprinted from articles by Henry Doubleday and Revett Sheppard. J.E. Harting's study of 'Hawks and Hawking in the Olden Time' is followed by an article on 'Wild-Fowl Decoys and Wild-Fowling.'

A 'Catalogue of the Birds of Essex' (pp.72-279), is arranged under Orders and their Subordinate Families.

Miller Christy's personal observations are quoted for most years, and for many different birds. Early in August 1875 he saw a Turtle Dove's nest being used by a Wood Pigeon (p.214). In Ongar Park Wood in 1877 a gamekeeper showed him a couple of old Carrion Crows and two young ones taken from a nest, also two Hooded Crows in the keeper's 'larder' (p.134). In December 1878 Christy saw a Brent Goose at Chignal (p.194). At Saffron Walden in 1880 the first Swallow appeared on 15 April and the last on 17 November (p.108).

## Essex Field Club

Miller Christy was an original member, in 1880, of the Essex Field Club. Between 1881 and 1930 twenty-five articles from his pen appeared in the Club's journal, known from 1887 as *Essex Naturalist*, and he was joint-editor of volumes 18 and 19, covering the years 1914-21. He served as president of the club for three years, 1905-7. While most of his articles in the club's journal are brief, the following are substantial. 'The Genus *Primula* in Essex' (*Trans. EFC* iii (1884), pp.148-211). 'Essex as a Wine-producing County' (*EN* xi (1900) pp.34-48, (a useful pioneer study)). Two articles provide a biography of the Braintree naturalist 'Benjamin Allen' (1663-1738) (xvi. (1912), pp.145-75; xvii (1914), pp.1-14). Another concerns the Braintree botanist, 'Samuel Dale (1659-1739) and his Family' (xix (1921), pp.49-71). 'The Mid-Essex Windrush and Whirlwind of 27 Oct. 1916', (xviii (1918), pp.135-45) is mentioned in Christy's Diary.<sup>9</sup> An obituary of Miller Christy appears in *EN* xxii (1930), p.110.

## Linnean Society

Miller Christy was elected as a Fellow of the Linnean Society on 20 June 1889, as 'a gentleman attached to the study of Natural History, especially Ornithology, Botany and Conchology'.<sup>10</sup> He had previously read at least two papers at meetings of the Society. One of them, 'The Methodic Habits of Insects when visiting Flowers', read on 1 March 1883, was published in the Society's *Journal* (xvii (1884), pp.186-94). Later papers included '*Primula Elatior* in Britain: its Distribution, Peculiarities, Hybrids and Allies' (*Journal* xxxiii (1897-8); and 'The Pollination of British *Primulas*' (xli (1922-4)). An obituary of MC appears in the Society's *Proceedings*.<sup>11</sup>

In September 1902 Miller Christy became involved in a dispute with the Linnean Society.<sup>12</sup> Being short of money he had delayed the payment of his annual subscription. The Society, according to its rule, therefore withheld the publications to which he was entitled. This, he claimed, broke the contract between them, and in any case he should have been sent a reminder of his arrears. He eventually paid his subscription on 20 January 1903.

## Essex Archaeological Society

Miller Christy was elected to the Council of the Essex Archaeological Society on 21 March 1895, for his 'knowledge of the county and his literary capabilities'.<sup>13</sup> According to his obituary he had joined the Society in 1888.<sup>14</sup> But printed membership lists always give the year as 1895.<sup>15</sup>

Between 1884 and 1930 thirty-one articles by Miller Christy appeared in the *Transactions* of the Essex Archaeological Society (*EAT*).<sup>16</sup> Several of them formed a series entitled 'Some interesting Essex Brasses.' In compiling that series Christy was assisted by W.W. Porteous and E.B. Smith. William Wade Porteous (1872-1963) was born in Saffron Walden. He and Miller Christy met when both were clerks in Gibson's Bank in that town. He began brass-rubbing in 1884, and between 1893 and 1913 collaborated with Christy in recording over 300 brasses. E. Bertram Smith was Miller Christy's cousin.<sup>17</sup>

Of Miller Christy's articles in *EAT* unconcerned with brasses, about half are brief notes. Among substantial items are three articles on coffin slabs.<sup>18</sup> In 'Early Domestic ... Wall-Paintings recently found ...' Christy was assisted by Guy Maynard.<sup>19</sup> 'The Excavation of ... a Medieval Pottery at Mill Green, Ingatestone' was a Report to the Morant Club by Christy and F.W. Reader.<sup>20</sup> 'Roman Roads in Essex', a serial article from Christy's later years, remained the fullest treatment of the subject until 1963.<sup>21</sup> An obituary of Miller Christy, by W.G. Benham, appears in *EAT*.<sup>22</sup>

## Essex Review

Miller Christy was one of the small group of antiquaries who backed the launching of *Essex Review* (*ER*) in 1892. From the first he regularly contributed to its pages, and until 1898 the *Review* was printed by his own firm, Hayman, Christy & Lilly of London. In 1902, when a company was formed to buy *ER* from the widow of the original publisher, he became one of the directors. Between 1892 and 1928 Miller Christy published 43 items in *ER*. Eight of them related to monumental brasses, including 6 in which Christy was assisted by W.W. Porteous. Eighteen of the items were substantial, notably the following.

'Some old Roothing Farmhouses' deals with four buildings, in three parishes.<sup>23</sup> 'The Rev. John Ouseley (1645-1708) an Early Historian of Essex' was rector of Panfield. Although he published nothing, his research was valuable to later historians, including Morant.<sup>24</sup> 'The Progresses of Queen Elizabeth through Essex' corrects and amplifies earlier publications. It shows that the houses the Queen visited 'belonged for the most part to "new" people ... descended from those who had made themselves useful to the Queen's father.'<sup>25</sup> 'Where in Essex are Froissart's "Bondelay" and "Behode"?' relates to Richard II's arrest of his uncle, the Duke of Gloucester, in 1397.<sup>26</sup> This follows earlier writers in identifying "Behode" with Brentwood. It suggests that 'Bondelay' means 'le chemin de bon delay', i.e. the road across the Roding at Leaden Wash in Leaden Roding, which was subject to flooding.

'Some old Essex Words and Phrases' contains a list of words collected by Miller Christy, mainly in Chignal, Roxwell, and Writtle between 1875 and 1882.<sup>27</sup> 'The two Chignals' is a historical study of Chignal St. James, Christy's native parish, and the neighbouring Chignal Smealey.<sup>28</sup> 'A Perambulation of the Parish of Chignal St. James in 1797' includes a full transcript.<sup>29</sup> 'Zepps that

passed in the Night' contains Miller Christy's observations of Zeppelin raids, 1916-17, in Essex and London.<sup>30</sup> 'Early Essex Railway Stations' treats Boreham House (Private) Station as well as Ingatestone, Chelmsford and Witham.<sup>31</sup>

## Dictionary of National Biography

Between 1895 and 1900 Miller Christy published six articles in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. Three related to North America. Thomas Douglas, Earl of Selkirk (1771-1820) founded Scottish colonies in Canada. William G. Strutt (1762-1848), Governor of Quebec (Canada), had Essex connexions. So did James H. Tuke (1819-96), Quaker, who promoted Irish emigration to U.S.A. and Canada.<sup>32</sup> Henry Doubleday (1808-75), of Epping, was a Quaker naturalist. Joseph Strutt (1749-1802), of Chelmsford, was an author, artist, and antiquary. John Ellis (1789-1862) M.P. and chairman of the Midland Railway, was a Quaker.

## Victoria County History of Essex

Miller Christy's contributions to the *Victoria County History of Essex* are of great and permanent value. Volume I (1903, ed. H. Arthur Doubleday and William Page) includes, under 'Natural History' MC's article on 'Aves' (Birds) (pp.232-53), containing an Introduction (pp.232-7) followed by notes on 287 species. It refers to Miller Christy's *Birds of Essex* (see above).

*VCH Essex II* (1907, ed. William Page and J. Horace Round), contains, as its main feature, a section on 'Industries' by MC (pp.355-500). MC himself wrote many of the sub-sections. These are arranged in three groups. The first group comprises 'Industries (chiefly ancient) now wholly or mainly extinct.' These total 35, including 'Saffron Culture' (pp.359-66), and 'Woollen Industry' (pp.380-404). In the second group are 'Old Industries which still exist.' There are 22 of them, of which the longest are 'Gathering of Shellfish' (pp.439-45) and 'The Silk Industry' (pp.462-9 with C. Fell Smith).

The groups of Industries are enriched by Miller Christy's personal memories. One of the last places in Essex where Hop-Growing survived was 'at Tye Hall, Roxwell, where the hop-ground ... (which I remember well) was last used in 1883.'<sup>33</sup> 'In April 1881, I saw an old cheese-press, in good condition, and another in pieces, standing by the roadside at Great Sampford, but both have since disappeared.'<sup>34</sup> 'I remember seeing Mr. Townsend, proprietor of the Rochford 'potash', or his man, pay 5d a bushel for good dry wood-ashes ...' 'As to the methods of manufacture followed by one Essex potash-maker, I have ... a fairly good recollection. I was able also, a year or two since, to obtain information from several old men who had been engaged in the industry in their youth.'<sup>35</sup> 'The [straw] hats were shaped on blocks made up of plaster, cement, or wood. I have one intended for making a lady's hat or bonnet ...' <sup>36</sup> In 1901 Mr. Reginald Christy, of Boyton Hall, Roxwell, grew about 14 acres [of coriander] and 10 acres also in the following year.<sup>37</sup> Under 'Charcoal-burning' are two photographs taken by MC in Writtle Highwoods: "Cordwood" being piled in "Coal-Hearth" before burning', and 'Essex Charcoal-Burner (Samuel Collard) and his hut'.<sup>38</sup> 'Among general fruit-orchards planted in the island parts of the county, four, about 8 acres in extent, planted by the writer's grandfather, M. James Christy, at Broomfield in 1826, were almost or quite the earliest. The trees were for the most part apple



and pear, with currant and gooseberry bushes below. These orchards still exist.<sup>39</sup>

### Occasional Papers

Miller Christy published many articles in periodicals.<sup>40</sup> Some 20 of them have been identified, in a dozen journals. Natural history items include 'A Scheme for Mapping the Distribution of Vertebrate Animals.'<sup>41</sup> Archaeology appears in an article 'On Deneholes', the mysterious excavations in the chalk of south Essex.<sup>42</sup> Monumental brasses figure in various general articles.<sup>43</sup> 'Brasses Illustrative of Elizabethan Costume', is followed by 'Some Essex Brasses Illustrative of Stuart Costume.'<sup>44</sup> Here, as elsewhere, Miller Christy was assisted in compiling all these articles on brasses by W.W. Porteous and E.B. Smith.<sup>45</sup>

'About Rockall' refers to the small island between Great Britain and Iceland.<sup>46</sup> 'Queen Elizabeth's visit to Tilbury in 1588', is notable as Miller Christy's one contribution to the *English Historical Review*.<sup>47</sup> 'A History of Banks and Banking in Essex' draws on his personal experience.<sup>48</sup> So does 'Mr Tuke's Fund, the story of a Good Work.'<sup>49</sup>

### Summary and Conclusion

Miller Christy died on 25 January 1928 at the Middlesex hospital, London, after an operation. His life and work are assessed in several obituaries. The brief account in *Essex Naturalist* deals almost entirely with his services to the *Essex Field Club*.<sup>50</sup> The *Essex Review*'s fuller obituary was almost certainly written by the editor, Charlotte Fell Smith, Christy's cousin.<sup>51</sup> While reviewing Christy's part in launching the *Review* (1892), his directorship of that journal, and his many publications there, it quotes from the *Essex County Standard* tributes by Dr Philip Laver and W. Gurney Benham. Laver says that Christy was 'a "live wire" in Essex Archaeology, always abounding in hope for success, eager in activity ... spared himself in no way ... with his cheerful manner he will be sadly missed.' Gurney Benham says that 'no one amongst his contemporaries had a more thorough knowledge of the

county or had been more zealous in spreading sound knowledge ... about its ancient history and its modern resources.'

Gurney Benham also wrote Christy's obituary for the Essex Archaeological Society's *Transactions*.<sup>52</sup> This opens with a judicious assessment, stressing his wide knowledge of both archaeology and natural history, his unusual powers of observation, his enthusiastic and tireless research, and considerable scholarship, his clear forcible, and vivid writing. He was an incalculable loss to the Essex Archaeological Society and to the County of Essex, to which he was devoted.

The remainder of Benham's memoir summarizes Christy's life, noting that when seized with his fatal illness he had been engaged on a history of the Red Lion inn at Colchester.

Miller Christy was buried on 28 January 1928 at Chignal St James. The Essex Archaeology Society was represented by Dr Philip Laver 'in the unavoidable absence of the hon. Secretary' [G. Montagu Benton].<sup>53</sup>

Miller Christy's obituaries are fairly accurate,<sup>54</sup> but they do not discuss his status among writers on his chosen subjects, which must now be considered. As an Essex naturalist he was outstanding in his generation, and ranks high among those of all periods. His *Birds of Essex* and *History of the Mineral Waters and Medicinal Springs of Essex* are especially notable. In these books, as in many of his writings, he benefited from, and properly acknowledged the help of others.

Miller Christy also ranks high as an Essex historian and topographer, as appears in his edition of *Durrant's Handbook of Essex*, his edition of the 'Industries' in the *VCH of Essex*, and in such articles as 'Essex as a Wine-Producing County', 'Some Old Essex Farmhouses', 'Queen Elizabeth's Visit to Tilbury in 1588', and 'A History of Banks and Banking in Essex.' As an authority on the Monumental Brasses of Essex, Miller Christy had no equals, and his work was not superseded until 2003.<sup>55</sup> As an archaeologist his writing was wide rather than deep. Among notable items are those on 'Roman Roads in Essex'; 'Early Decorative Wall-Paintings recently found in Essex'; and 'Some sunken trackways near Saffron Walden.'<sup>56</sup>

From his schooldays, Miller Christy was ready and able to shoulder administration. Besides being a leader of the Essex Field Club, and of the Essex Archaeological Society, and a director at the *Essex Review*, he was a founder of the Morant Club, established in 1910 to investigate Essex archaeology, especially through excavation. Christy was for most of the club's existence its joint honorary secretary.<sup>57</sup> In 1910 it excavated Lexden Mount, at Colchester, under the direction of Henry Laver and F.W. Reader.<sup>58</sup> Alfred W. Clapham, later a distinguished archaeologist, excavated Barking Abbey in 1911; St. Clement's church, West Thurrock in 1912; and Little Dunmow priory in 1914.<sup>59</sup> Miller Christy and F.W. Reader excavated a mysterious Mound at Chadwell St. Mary in 1913;<sup>60</sup> and a Medieval Pottery at Mill Green, Ingatestone in 1914.<sup>61</sup> In 1920 R.E. Mortimer Wheeler excavated an insula of Roman Colchester in Castle Park. He and Miller Christy were then joint honorary secretaries of the Morant Club.<sup>62</sup> In 1921 Christy himself excavated the top of Pleshey Castle. He and Frank Lambert were then joint secretaries.<sup>63</sup> In August 1925 Miller Christy and W.H. Dalton 'late hon. Secretaries of the Morant Club,' reported on 'Two Large Groups of Marsh Mounds on the Essex coast.'<sup>64</sup>

The Morant Club had been dissolved on 19 March 1925 'owing to the unfortunate difficulties in which they found themselves.' At the same time it was agreed that the balance of its funds should be divided equally between the Essex Archaeological Society and the Essex Field Club. In due course the EAS received £30 from the Morant Club, which was earmarked for excavations.<sup>65</sup>

Miller Christy's interest in the wider world produced a substantial edition, for the Hakluyt Society, of 'The Voyages of Luke Fox and Thomas James in search of a North-West Passage' (1894). His article on 'Mr Tuke's Fund' (1893) is partly based on his experiences in North America, and also sheds light on his Quaker connexions. His 'Catalogue of the Bryant and May Museum of Fire-Making Appliances' (1926, 1928), reflects a lifelong interest.

Miller Christy's Diaries, though covering most of his life, tell us little about his personal affairs. Hardly any of his letters survive, and none of his accounts. Until the First World War he was fairly affluent, and in 1912-13 was able to build the substantial Broomwood Lodge. But after retiring from business about 1918 he seems to have been less comfortably off, and occasionally undertook paid assignments.<sup>66</sup>

Miller Christy did not find a place in *Who's Who*, nor in the *DNB*, unlike his cousin Charlotte. And unlike many less distinguished archaeologists from Essex, he did not become a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He was somewhat aggressive, and set upon his own way. This appears in his correspondence with the Linnean Society, quoted above, and in a letter from J.H. Round to the General Editor of the *Victoria County Histories*: 'You may be alarmed to hear ... that Miller Christy has obtained ... leave to search the records of Colchester for his *VCH* paper on Essex Industries, which he must think too short. Won't he be cut *up* if he is cut *down*.'<sup>67</sup> Such qualities, and perhaps, a lack of emotional intelligence, may have tended to discourage friends or patrons. He did not marry, and seems to have had no women friends except his cousin Charlotte. But in spite of these limitations, he was an admirable man who deserves to be honoured as one of the finest Essex scholars of his day.

#### Acknowledgements

The acknowledgements made in Part I of this article also apply to Part IV. This article has been put on e-mail by Helen Coghill, and has been read in proof by my wife Avril. Their continuing help is much appreciated

#### References

- 1 *The Trade Signs of Essex* was published jointly by Edmund Durrant & Co. of Chelmsford, and Griffiths, Farran, Okeden & Welsh of London.
- 2 The previous edition of the *Essex P.O. Directory* had been dated 1882.
- 3 See *Trade Signs of Essex*, pp.v, vi.
- 4 See *Oxford DNB*.
- 5 See *OED*: 'Peter' is a dialect reference to St. Peter's occupation as a fisherman.
- 6 *The Birds of Essex* was published jointly by Edmund Durrant & Co., the Essex Field Club, and Simkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co. of London. It was printed by Hayman, Christy & Lilly of London, Miller Christy's own firm.
- 7 Sackett's *List of Essex Birds* is preserved in Newham L.B. Research Centre, Plaistow. It includes some information later than 1890.
- 8 Cf. *Kelly's Dir. Essex* (1886), s.v. 'Bird Stuffers & Preservers.'
- 9 On 11 Nov. 1916, Christy went to Writtle to see the damage caused by the Whirlwind.
- 10 *Linn. Soc. Proceedings*, 1927-8, p.112: Obit. of MC.

- 11 Ibid.
- 12 Linnean Soc. Files, MC Letters 22 Sept. 1902 - 20 Jan. 1903, kindly provided by the Society.
- 13 *EAT* NS v (1895), p.185.
- 14 Op. cit. NS xix (1930), p.139.
- 15 E.g. NS xiv (1918).
- 16 Op. cit. NS ii (1884) and every vol. from vi (1896) to xix (1930).
- 17 Inf. Kindly provided by Nancy Edwards and Martin Stuchfield. See also *ER* below.
- 18 *EAT* NS vii (1900), 369-95; viii (1903), pp.1-7 (with E. Bertram Smith); xii (1913), pp.315-22.
- 19 Op. cit. xii (1913), pp.22-7.
- 20 Op. cit. xiv (1918), pp.49-64.
- 21 Op. cit. xv (1921), pp.190-209; xvi (1923), pp.127-30; xvii (1926), pp.83-100; pp.179-93; pp.226-41. For comments on this account see *VCH Essex*, iii (1963), p.24.
- 22 *EAT* NS xix (1930), p.138.
- 23 *ER* xii (1903), pp.129-44; xiii (1904), pp.92-101; pp.226-37. These articles are quoted in *An Anthology of Essex* (1911), p.65.
- 24 *ER* xxi (1912), pp.132-41.
- 25 xxvi (1917), pp.115-29; pp.181-97.
- 26 xxxi (1922), pp.138-46; xxxii (1923), pp.31-2.
- 27 xxxi (1922), pp.194-212; xxxii (1923), p.334.
- 28 xxxii (1923), pp.57-65; pp.138-43.
- 29 xxxvi (1927), pp.60-71.
- 30 xxxv (1926), pp.57-72; pp.111-19.
- 31 xxxiv (1925), p.146.
- 32 Cf. MC 'Mr Tuke's Fund', *Friends' Quarterly Jnl.* xxxvii (1893), pp.134-56.
- 33 *VCH Essex* II, p.369.
- 34 Op. cit. p.371.
- 35 pp.373-4.
- 36 pp.378-9.
- 37 p.425. R.W. Christy was MC's cousin.
- 38 Fp. 450.
- 39 p.477.
- 40 *Linnean Soc. Proceedings*, 1927-8, p.112 (MC obituary) states that he wrote articles on Natural History subjects in *The Field*, *Zoologist*, *Journal of Botany*, *New Phytologist*, *Journal of Ecology*, *Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society* and *Jnl. of Conchology*.
- 41 *Zoologist* 3rd ser. xvii (1893), pp.401-8.
- 42 *Reliquary*, i (1895), pp.65-82.
- 43 Op. cit. v (1899), p.9; vii (1901), p.73; viii (1903), p.145; xiv (1908), p.39, p.124; *Trans. Mon. Brass Soc.* Iii (1900); iv (1900).
- 44 *Antiquary*, Jan. 1902 and Aug. 1903.
- 45 See above under Essex Archaeological Society.
- 46 *Yachtsman* 2 May 1895.
- 47 *EHR* xxiv (1919), pp.43-61. See also *Bibliog. of British History*, (1959, ed. Conyers Read), no.3364.
- 48 *Jnl. Bankers' Inst.* (1906), pp.319-30.
- 49 *Friends' Quarterly Jnl.* xxvii (1893), pp.134-68.
- 50 *EN* xxii (1930), pp.110-12.
- 51 *ER* xxxvii (1928), pp.58-62.
- 52 *EAT* NS xix (1930), pp.138-40.
- 53 The President, George B. Beaumont, was seriously ill, and died in May 1928: op. cit. pp.137-8.
- 54 It should, however, be noted that none of the obituaries gives an accurate account of Christy's visits to Canada and U.S.A., as is provided by his Diaries.
- 55 Cf. William Lack, H. Martin Stuchfield, and Phillip Whittemore, *The Monumental Brasses of Essex* (2 vols. 2003).
- 56 The First two are in *EAT*: NS xv, xvi, xvii (1921, 1923, 1926; xii (1913). The last is in *EN* xxii (1930).
- 57 For the Morant Club see: Indexes to *EAT* NS xii (1911) to xviii (1928); *EN* xxii (1930), p.10. The club's reports were published in *EAT*.
- 58 *EAT* NS xii (1911), pp.186-92.
- 59 Ibid. 69-87; xiii (1915), 53-60; 285-92. For Sir Alfred Clapham (1883-1950) see *Oxford DNB*.
- 60 *EAT* NS xiii (1915), pp.218-23.
- 61 *EAT* NS xiv (1918), pp.49-64.
- 62 *EAT* NS xvi (1923), pp.7-41. For (Sir) R.E. Mortimer Wheeler (1890-1976) see *Oxford DNB*.
- 63 *EAT* NS xvi (1923), pp.180-204.
- 64 *EAT* NS xviii (1926), pp.27-56.
- 65 Ibid. 135, 158. When the Morant Club was dissolved, its joint hon. Secretaries were Philip Laver and G. Montagu Benton, and the chairman was Horace Wilmer.
- 66 This probably included his history of the Blue Inn, Long Melford (Suff.), as well as his work for Bryant & May.
- 67 Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London Univ., VCH Records, J.H. Round Letters, 8 Oct. 1905.

# Book Reviews

**EAST ANGLIAN ARCHAEOLOGY. Vol. III. The Early Anglo-Saxon Cemetery and Later Saxon Settlement at Springfield Lyons.** By Susan Tyler and Hilary Major. *Heritage Cons. Essex County Council.* 2005. ISBN 1 85281 2443. 221 pp., 118 illus. (pp. bk.).

This report is the second of three dealing with the excavations of the multi-period crop marks at Springfield, near Chelmsford, part of a long-term project by the Essex County Council Archaeological Service from 1979-1991. The report falls into two parts separated chronologically by about 200 years. The first concerns the almost total excavation of an early Anglo-Saxon mixed-rite cemetery, partly superimposed on a circular late Bronze Age enclosure. Later the site was re-occupied by a late Saxon settlement.

In both respects this is an important addition to the relatively modest number of published cemeteries and settlements of the Saxon period in Essex, particularly as both are sufficiently complete to be used as reliable comparators with real value as social documents. Situated in central Essex, on a gravel terrace penetrating the clay region above the River Chelmer, the cemetery looks both to Great Chesterford and the Cambridge sites to the north-west, and to the settlement and cemeteries of Mucking on the lowest terrace overlooking the Thames.

The authors show convincingly that the rites of inhumation and cremation co-existed, and that, in general terms, there were designated areas for both rites, and that 'family groups' can be identified among them. Although the Bronze Age enclosure ditch is apparently respected by the regular arrangement of the large number of inhumations within it, suggesting that this must have existed as a visible feature at the time, the earliest group of burials that form the nucleus of the cemetery actually straddles the ditch on the south-west side. These are the only ones to do so; the recorded depth of these burials is not more than elsewhere; perhaps the silted-up ditch was not so clear at this point. In all, a total of 143 cremations and 114 inhumations, with a possible further 25, were excavated. The authors suggest that an extension to the cemetery is possible to the north-west, where there is a concentration of cremations at the edge of the excavated area. The negative trenches beyond this could limit the extent but still allow for a further considerable number of cremations. Nevertheless, this is one of the most complete cemeteries to have been excavated and published in the region. Although on a smaller scale, the plan of the cemetery recalls that of Spong Hill, Norfolk, in particular where an inhumation element can be seen to be in a well-defined area with the larger number of cremations mainly beyond, a situation which I believe will be found to be common when more mixed cemeteries are extensively excavated.

An interesting observation was made that many of the cremation urns were very soft when first uncovered and had to be left to dry out, a state that I observed at Lackford cemetery, but is not often noted otherwise. At West Stow, close to Lackford, the pottery from the settlement never exhibited this state, which suggests that at least a significant number of pots were made especially for use as cremation urns. It is worth noting

that the size of this cemetery (c.80m. x 100m.) is close to Mucking II at 150m. x 50m., and possibly even a little larger. Within the broader material culture, Springfield Lyons has affinities with Great Chesterford with small long brooches, but lacks the great square-headed brooches and wrist clasps which feature largely in Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. There is some commonality with cruciforms, but only one annular brooch, to mention a few of the complexities of the relationships of Essex and East Anglia proper.

The second part of the report details the complete late Saxon settlement overlying the Early Saxon cemetery with sixteen buildings and associated pits and boundaries ranging over three phases centering on the 10th cent. Two post-built halls and one of post-in-slot construction form the framework of the three proposed phases, a possible 'tower' in phase I and a post mill. Subsidiary buildings form a continuous chain of replacement over several centuries, the main buildings moving over time and the non-domestic structures largely rebuilt, as required, on the same location. The archaeological evidence is happily supplemented by a fine analysis of the documentary evidence linking the settlement to the Domesday Survey.

As a minor comment, only one correction could be made, Bergh Apton is in Norfolk, not Suffolk (p.112). This is a well crafted volume, with the highest standards of presentation, draughtmanship and research: an important contribution to Anglo-Saxon studies, underlining the need for full-scale excavation of cemeteries to advance the study of Anglo-Saxon society.

Stanley Ward

★ ★ ★

**OIL PAINTINGS IN PUBLIC OWNERSHIP IN ESSEX.** *The Public Catalogue Foundation.* 2006 ISBN 1-904931-14-6 (hardback, £35.00), 1-904931-15-4 (paperback, £20.00). 334 pp., over 2,100 colour ill. Available from [www.thepcf.org.uk](http://www.thepcf.org.uk) or by telephoning 08701 283566.

A letter published in the *Daily Telegraph* on 1 January 2007 lamented the lack of a public art gallery in Chelmsford, concluding, 'No wonder Essex has such a poor reputation'. Well, towards the end of 2006 something had already happened to do something about that the reputation of 'our poor and culturally blighted county': the publication of the Public Catalogue Foundation's volume on Essex. The PCF is an admirable organisation that has taken upon itself – because no one else seems willing to do it – the task of cataloguing one of the country's greatest cultural assets, namely oil paintings in public ownership. Some volumes are devoted to individual museums and galleries (such as the Fitzwilliam in Cambridge) who really ought to be able to do it for themselves, but others – and this is the project's greatest strength – are devoted to whole counties. Local coordinators are found (in Essex's case, Julia Abel Smith) who scour the county, looking not just in the obvious places with many paintings, such as the Chelmsford and Colchester museums, but the less obvious ones, such as village halls and public libraries,

that might have just one or two hanging on their walls. The only criterion is that the medium should be oil, otherwise the catalogue is absolutely non-judgemental and all-inclusive. All paintings are illustrated in colour, mostly with thumbnail size reproductions, but with the occasional larger detail.

So, what does the catalogue tell us about the county with such a poor reputation? To play the numbers game, it tells us that Essex has 2,135 paintings in 59 public collections, compared with some 1,800 paintings in 40 collections in Suffolk, which may surprise some. Quantity is obviously not the same as quality, and we might look enviously at Suffolk's Constables and Gainsboroughs (although we can boast some of those too); but 650 paintings by Alfred Munnings, at Castle House, Dedham, is a collection any county might be proud of, and one which tends to get overlooked. The catalogue confirms the importance of the North-West Essex artists associated with Great Bardfield, with 65 of their paintings to be found in the Fry Art Gallery and a good representation (e.g. those by John Aldridge) in Chelmsford and elsewhere; disappointing for some, there is nothing here by Edward Bawden or Eric Ravilious, who worked almost exclusively in other media. Other artists firmly rooted in Essex – Lynton Lamb, for example – are well represented. Although the north of the county is now generally thought to be the most picturesque part, the Thames has also attracted a large number of artists over the years, and the one place depicted more than any other in these pages is Leigh-on-Sea – although this may be a reflection on Southend Museums' collecting policy. More exotic, and showing that there is nothing narrowly provincial about this catalogue, is the University of Essex's Collection of Latin American Art.

But the chief delight of this volume is the wonderful range of pictures to be found within it. In Maldon, for example, can be seen a portrait of a private in the Portsmouth Royal Marine Light Infantry, 1900; a painting of a barge; Beeleigh Abbey before restoration in 1912, and a signal box before demolition in 1982; an exquisite portrait of an Elizabethan lady now ascribed, with the help of Sir Roy Strong, to Robert Peake; and the Plume Library's somewhat eccentric collection of portraits of kings and other worthies. Talking of worthies, there are the usual portraits of mayors, councillors and lords lieutenant, none of them of the first rank as works of art but good enough, of their time, to make one regret the County Council's decision to switch to portrait photographs of its chairmen; and, at the other end of the scale, the collection of portraits of their employees commissioned by Crittall's in the 1920s.

One could go on for ever, and the inescapable conclusion is that anyone interested in paintings, or Essex, will want to own a copy of this book. It is beautifully produced, and full of unexpected delights, not least the cover, which reproduces a cheerful painting by Lucy Castle, mainly pink and orange, of Southend's Kursaal. For such a huge undertaking, it is remarkably free of errors, although for the record it should be noted that the church on p. 219 is not Greensted but Fyfield. If I had a quarrel with the PCF, it would be that although there is an index of artists, there is no index of subjects, and the appeal of the book to a local readership would be greatly enhanced by being able to find quickly individual locations and sitters depicted. Tilbury, for example, features on six pages between pp. 53 and 291, but there is no easy way of tracking them down.

The catalogue rightly draws attention to the great riches which the county possesses. It also, in the foreword by Fred Hohler, the PCF's founder and chairman, draws attention to the fact that although in public ownership, only a small proportion of the paintings are on public display. This is a national problem, by no means confined to Essex. But when one looks at the dear old Beecroft Art Gallery in Southend, with its wonderful collection housed since 1951 in an old hotel that was intended to be a temporary home until something permanent could be built, and fifty years later is still there but shored up with massive timbers to prevent it slipping into the Thames, one does wonder whether, after all, the author of that letter to the *Telegraph* was not right, and we do deserve our reputation as philistines. Perhaps the publication of this wonderful catalogue will lead to the establishment of a permanent gallery that will display more of the county's artistic treasures in the manner they deserve.

James Bettley

★ ★ ★

**THE ESSEX & SUFFOLK STOUR: a History.**  
By Sean O'Dell. *Tempus*. 2006. ISBN 0 7524 3911 1.  
128 pp. many illust. (black & white). £12.99.

John Constable made the Stour Navigation a iconic part of our national heritage, so Mr. O'Dell has done us all a great service in opening it all up and showing us the can of worms inside – the canalised river's history – how it worked and how it came to fail. In doing so he revealed that, in defiance of all the laws of logical probability, the body of Commissioners of the Navigation as reconstituted under Act of Parliament in 1780 included two brothers of one great artist, Gainsborough, and the father of another in Golding Constable.

In view of resistance from millers and frontage landowners, the waterway, authorised by Act in 1705, was never given a satisfactory towpath fully on one side of the river, so where it switched sides the hauliers and their horses had to cross over with it, using their boats as it were as a moving bridge. This was always a huge burden to users. For a while the Navigation, facing little competition, prospered modestly, but as the railways came the range of bulk goods, on which it relied, came to tail off. Local business men like the Constables supervised its management honestly but with little enterprise: in particular money was not put aside for improvements. Hence this original defect was never righted, and a belated effort in the 1860s to introduce steam barges to offset it was hardly energetic. The Navigation continued to serve one or two local factories, but by the 1930s it was neither used nor maintained. But in 1968 the River Stour Trust was formed, and with the help of the Millennium Commission it has by now restored much of the waterway to public use.

Mr. O'Dell's book is much to be commended as a research achievement, bringing together so much technical and commercial information on this modest project. I should wish to be able to praise it in other respects, but it is in unattractively small type, the editing and proof-reading are poor (the well-known name Cubitt is spelt in three different ways) and the many illustrations, though informative and good – with such a setting how could they be bad – lose much through having to be in black-and-white.

M.B.

**THE SALT INDUSTRY.** By Andrew and Annalise Fielding. *Shire Publications*, Princes Risborough, Bucks. HP27 9AA. 2006 ISBN 0 7478 0648.9. 56pp. 71pp. colour and 27pp. b&w ill. £5.99.

A great deal of research has been undertaken and published by Essex historians into the background of the Red Hills round the Essex marshes, and on the continuing operation of the Maldon Crystal Salt Co., but it is always valuable to relate these to developments in the country at large. This little book sets the Essex scene into this national perspective. The authors, both archaeologists, deal with the extraction and refining of sea salt, follow this up with the later mining of rock salt in Cheshire and Worcestershire and elsewhere, consider its effects on the landscape in a succinct way without too much technical detail. There is a historical note on the salt tax. Transport is crucial to the industry, from the old salt ways enabling it to be distributed to non-salt-producing areas through to the modern techniques it uses.

As is standard with Shire publications, there is a glossary, a list of further reading which includes the publications of the Colchester Archaeological Group, and places to visit. The book is well illustrated and is a valuable introduction to the industry.

John Boyes

★ ★ ★

**ESSEX RAILWAY HERITAGE: the County's railway buildings and their history.** By Peter Kay. *The Author*. 2006. ISBN 078 1 899890 40 8 72 pp. Many b&w illustrations. £9.95 from the author at 6C Park Road, Wivenhoe CO7 9NB (tel: 01206 824951).

Mr Kay is a most knowledgeable authority on Essex railways with numerous previous books to his name. This book is the offspring of his work to assist Dr Bettley in producing his new and eagerly awaited Pevsner, so substantial as to warrant this separate and exceptionally well-illustrated production. It is nearly entirely devoted to the buildings (stations, offices, depots, railwaymen's estates, bridges, signal boxes and much else) of what became the Great Eastern: the LTSR receives much less attention, no doubt because Mr Kay had more fully covered it in his other works.

Some of the earliest buildings, by Bruff and others, survive, notably the great bridges and viaducts, but changes in the pattern of railway services and the ravages of time have destroyed, or irreparably changed, most of them. When the Great Eastern at length in the 1880's became a moderately successful line under Lord Claud Hamilton's chairmanship John Wilson was Civil

(concluded from p.10)

ECC Field Archaeology Unit 2004 *Earthworks to the east of the Church of St Botolph, Hadstock, Essex: Contour Survey.* ECC report p.306.

GSB Prospection Ltd 2005 Geophysical Survey Report 2005/63: Hadstock, Essex. Report for the Hadstock Society

Engineer, and Neville Ashbee soon joined his staff as architect: both served the railway for long stints until the First World War put a stop to improvements, and Ashbee's Domestic Revival style dominated its building works all these years.

This book has really superb illustrations, and many of them. These in themselves are sufficient to make of it a treasure.

M.B.

★ ★ ★

**'THAT PRECIOUS LEGACY': Ralph Vaughan Williams and Essex Folksong.** By Sue Cubbin. *Essex Record Office (Publication no.151)*. 2006. 64 pp. Many ill. Paper-bound. £5.99 from ERO.

This is a valuable summary of Vaughan Williams' work, principally in 1903/4 and in and near Ingrave, assisted by Georgiana Heatley, in the recording of Essex folk songs sung by Charles Potiphar and others, together with shorter notes about other collectors. The appendices include a table of the songs collected, and words and music of 29 of them. The Friends of Historic Essex assisted in its publication.

M.B.

★ ★ ★

#### OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED OR NOTED

(These may or may not be the subjects of later reviews)

**THE WARS OF THE ROSES: a field guide and compendium.** by Peter Bramley. *Sutton*. 2007 ISBN 978 0 7509 4101 3 274 pp. many ill.

**SHOEBURYNESSE: a History.** by Judith Williams. *Phillimore*. 2006 ISBN 1 86077 435 0 £15.99.

**ESSEX: READY FOR ANYTHING.** by Michael Foley. *Sutton*. 2006 ISBN 0 7509 4413 7 £12.99.

**ROMFORD PUBS.** by Patricia Pound. *Tempus*. 2006 ISBN 0 7524 3841 7 £12.99.

**FRIENDLY INVASION; Memories of Operation Bolero.** by Henry Buckton. *Phillimore*. 2007 ISBN 1 86177 433 4 £9.99. (includes memories of U.S. troops in Chelmsford and elsewhere before D-Day).

Leland, J. – 'Jervaulx Chronicle' in *Collectanea* iii.

Rodwell, W. 1976 'The Archaeological Investigation of Hadstock Church, Essex', *Antiquaries J.*, LVI, part 1, pp.55-71/

Swanton, M. (Trans. and Ed.) 2000 *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*. London: Phoenix.

# Forthcoming Events and Further Studies

## 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/>).

There will be an **Open Evening** on Wed. 24 May at Essex University, Wivenhoe Park (Room 5NW.3.1) for those interested in the above from 6.30-8.00pm.

### 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)

### CRESSING TEMPLE

Cressing Temple is open to the public from March to October from 10.00am to 5.00pm. (last admission 4.00pm.) every day except Saturdays, when it is normally closed for special events. The great early 13th. cent. Wheat and Barley Barns are the great attraction, but there is much else. Ample free parking; well-stocked gift shop; Templars' Tearoom serves hot and cold food daily, and roasts on Sunday. For price of entry tel: 01376.484903/584453 or consult website [www.cressingtemple@essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.cressingtemple@essexcc.gov.uk)

There will be a wide range of events for adults and children during the summer months, of which those noted below are only a few. For fuller information on the programme consult as above.

### Historical Talks and Day Schools:

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Tues. 22 May   | <i>Herbs and Herbals in Medieval and Tudor Gardens</i> (includes tour of medieval walled garden). 7.30pm. £5.00 (£4.00 conc.) Booking essential.   |
| Sat. 26 May    | <i>The Knights Templar and the Legacy of the Crusading Orders.</i> Day School 9.00am-4.45pm. £30.00. inc. lunch. Booking: please contact Katie Seabright at County Hall (Tel: 01245 437672 or Email: <a href="mailto:katie.seabright@essexcc.gov.uk">katie.seabright@essexcc.gov.uk</a> ). |
| Sun. 3 June    | <i>Table Delights of the Medieval Kitchen.</i> 10.00am-5.00pm. Watch re-enactment and (weather permitting) display of falconry. £3.50 (£2.50 conc.)  |
| Tues. 26 June  | <i>Renaissance Grottoes and Water Features.</i> 7.30pm. £5.00 (£4.00 conc.). Booking essential.  |
| Tues. 11 Sept. | <i>Falconry</i> with Mike Simmons. 7.30pm. £5.00 (£4.00 conc.). Pre-booking essential with Cressing Temple.  |

### Traditional Building Skills, Conservation etc.

Unless otherwise indicated, please contact Katie Seabright at County Hall (tel. no. and email address as above) to book or for further details:

- |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 9- 11 May                       | <i>Timber Frame Repairs:</i> 3-day hands-on course. £205.00.   |
| 24-25 May                       | <i>Wattle and Daub:</i> 2-day course. £150.00.   |
| Tues. 19 June                   | <i>Renewable Energy and Historic Buildings.</i> Day Study Course. £80.00, inc. lunch.  |
| 20-22 June                      | <i>Flint Walling:</i> 3-day practical course. £205.00.   |
| Sat. 30 June-<br>Sun. 1 July    | <i>Historic Homes Show 2007.</i> Shop window of specialists and demonstrations in traditional materials and skills: advice point. £3.50 (£2.50 conc.).   |
| Tues. 24 July                   | <i>Paints and Finishes for Historic Buildings.</i> Day Study Course. £80.00, inc. lunch.   |
| Sat. 28 July                    | <i>Digging Out the Facts: a Tribute to Adrian Gibson.</i> A day school presented by Essex Historical Buildings Group and Herts & Essex Architectural Research Soc. in memory of Adrian Gibson, M.B.E. £20.00, (lunch extra £7.50). To book telephone 01371 830416. |
| Sun. 29 July                    | <i>Discover Dowsing.</i> 11.00am-1.00pm or 2.00-4.00pm. Pre-booking with Cressing Temple advised.  |
| Thurs. 9 Aug.                   | <i>Bat Walk and Talk</i> Sylvia & Roger Jiggins look at our resident bat population. 8pm. £7.50. Pre-booking with Cressing Temple essential.   |
| Thurs. 16 Aug.                  | <i>19th. cent. Day.</i> Day School on Victorian architecture. £80.00, inc. lunch.  |
| 5-7 Sept.                       | <i>Lime Mortar and Conservation Brickwork:</i> 3-day course. £235.00.  |
| Thurs. 20 Sept.                 | <i>Architectural Details.</i> Day School £80.00, inc. lunch.   |
| Wed. 10 Oct.                    | <i>Conservation Brickwork.</i> Morning Lecture 9.45am. £50.00  |
| Wed. 7 Nov.                     | <i>Lime Specification.</i> Morning Lecture. 9.45am. £50.00.  |
| 19 Oct. or<br>16 Nov. or 7 Dec. | <i>Owner's Lime Plaster Course.</i> One-day course: no experience needed. £95.00.  |

### Childrens' Archaeological Dig

Every Tuesday in school holidays (31 July- 28 Aug. inc) at 9.00am, 11.00am and 1.30pm.

### Other Events

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Sat. 9-Sun.10 June             | Hallmark Craft Show.   |
| Sun. 8 July                    | Royal Philharmonic Orchestra with Colne Philharmonic Orchestra. 4.00pm.                                    |
| Mon. 9 July                    | <i>As You Like It.</i> Shakespeare's play. 7.30pm in the Barley Barn.                                      |
| Sun. 26-<br>Mon.27 Aug.        | <i>Guild of Essex Craftsmen craft event.</i> 10.30am-5.30pm. Admission £2.50.                              |
| Sat. 8 -Sun.9 Sept.            | Hallmark Antiques and Collectors' Fair.  |
| Sat. 24 Nov.--<br>Sun. 25 Nov. | Christmas Food and Craft Show. 10.30am-5.00pm. (Sat), 10.30am- 4.30pm.(Sun). £2.50 adults, £1.50 children. |

#### Other ECC (Hist. Buildings & Conservation) Events

- Wed. 11 July *Conservation of Essex' Maritime Past. Brightlingsea. Morning Lecture and afternoon trip (for 12 only) on Pioneer, an Essex oyster smack. £40.00 for lecture only.*
- Tues. 9 Oct. *Sustaining Utopia: garden cities, model villages and conservation. Study day at Silver End. £55.00, inc. lunch.*
- Wed. 17 Oct. *Caring for the Parish Church. Day of lectures at Writtle College. £20.00, inc. light lunch.*

Corporate or team building days and hands-on courses in traditional building skills may also be arranged.

For details or bookings please contact Katie Seabright (Tel: 01245 437672).

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#### CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL FESTIVAL.

(see note on p.3)

Events will include:

- Sat. 12 May New Hall; Chelmsford's Royal Palace. 11.00am. New Hall Chapel. (cost £8.00). Tony Tuckwell: New Hall's historian talks on its history.
- Wed. 16 May The Petres: English Catholic Loyalists. 3.00pm. Ingatestone Hall. (cost £8.00). Lord Petre talks on his ancestors.

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#### ESSEX RECORD OFFICE EVENTS

at the Record Office, Wharf Rd., Chelmsford (Tel: 01245 244620) unless otherwise indicated. Booking essential. (e-mail: ero.searchroom@essexcc.gov.uk)

- Wed. 23 May *Mapping Essex* 2.00pm-3.30pm.
- Fri. 25 May *Walking with Walker: Chelmsford.* 2.00 pm.
- Wed. 13 June *Following the Threads: Braintree, its silk industry and the Warner Textile Archive.* 2.00pm. Braintree.

#### WEA ESSEX FEDERATION

- Wed. 9 May Jane Benham Lecture: Peter and Rita Phillips on board sailing barge *Thalassa* on barges and their experiences on board. 10.00 for 10.30am-noon. £5.00 (please send sae) from Kevin Bruce, 29 Mill Road, Tillingham CM0 7SY.

**Essex WEA Summer School.** Wilson Marriage Centre, Colchester. Mon. 9 -Wed. 11 July. 10.00am-3.30pm. Subjects:

- The Atlantic Slave Trade to Abolition:* tutor Ann Greenslade.
- Exploring the English Language:* tutor Dr. Rosemary Williams.
- Exploring the Countryside:* tutor Fred Boot
- William Blake:* tutors Graham Slimming and Colin Padgett.

**Autumn One-day School:** Feering Community Centre. Sat. 24 Nov. 11.00am- 3.30pm. Subjects:

- The Indian Uprising:* tutor Michael Bloomfield.
- A Beginner's Guide to the world of the Atom:* tutor Roger Bawden.
- 'All Things Kern':* the music of Jerome Kern: tutor Cecil Gleaves.

#### ESSEX PLACE-NAMES SEMINAR

(For details please see p.33)

## Museums and Places to Visit

#### CHELMSFORD & ESSEX MUSEUM

##### and ESSEX REGIMENT MUSEUM

Oaklands Park, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford CM2 9AQ

Tel: 01245 615100. Fax: 01245 262428

Open Monnday to Saturday 10.00am-5.00pm, and on Sundays 2.00pm-5.00pm. Admission free.

#### Special Exhibitions

- 28 Apr. - 8 July *A Journey through Time.*
- 14 July - 14 Oct. *Scouts: 21st World Jamboree:* an exhibition to coincide with the Jamboree in Hylands Park.
- 20 Oct. - 16 Dec. *Victorians.*

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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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#### 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

- 20 Jan. - 3 June *Blades: a Cutting Edge Exhibition.*
- June - Sept. *Essex: 100 Years in Photographs*

### Southend Museums

#### CENTRAL MUSEUM

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

Tel: 01702 215131

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

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

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

#### PRITTLEWELL PRIORY MUSEUM

Priory Park, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea

Tel: 01702 342878

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

#### BEECROFT ART GALLERY

Station Road, Westcliff

Tel: 01702 347418

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

## 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 £5.10 adults, £3.30 concessions, family tickets and group available at cheaper rates.

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

### HOLLYTREES. High Street, Colchester Tel: 01206 282940

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

### NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM All Saints Church, High Street, Colchester Tel: 01206 282941

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

### TYMPERLEYS CLOCK MUSEUM Trinity Street, Colchester Tel: 01206 282943

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

### BRAINTREE DISTRICT MUSEUM Manor Street, Braintree Tel: 01376 325266

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

### THE VESTRY HOUSE MUSEUM Vestry Road, Walthamstow, London E17 9NH Tel: (020) 8509 1917

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

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

### 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.

This year it will be open from 11.00am-5.00pm on Easter and other Bank Holiday Mondays, and on the last Sundays in each month from March to November: it will also be open on Sun. 3 June and Sun. 21 Sept. Normal open day admission charges are adults £3: senior citizens £2. Children under 10 are admitted free *but must be accompanied by a responsible adult.*

It will also be open for Hallowe'en and for other special events. Contact point for visits by parties etc.: Ken Levy (Tel: 01375 677764; email: kenle@tiscali.co.uk). The Coalhouse Fort website is [www.coalhousefort.co.uk](http://www.coalhousefort.co.uk).

## INGATESTONE HALL

16th century mansion, set in 11 acres of grounds,  
containing Petre family furniture  
and memorabilia

tea room  
plants for sale

gift shop  
free parking

### 2007 SEASON

The House and Gardens are open

1.00-6.00pm on

**SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS  
& BANK HOLIDAYS**

from 7 April to 30 September plus

1 to 31 August **ONLY**

**WEDNESDAY,  
THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS**

### ADMISSION

Adults	£4.00
Pensioners & Students	£3.50
Children (5-16)	£2.00
Under 5s	FREE

For parties of 16 or more, the above prices are  
reduced by 50p per head

No dogs (except guide dogs)

PICNIC AREA in Car Park Meadow

**GUIDED TOURS** for groups, by prior arrangement  
**ONLY**, are available at other times.

**SCHOOL PARTY VISITS** are similarly available  
outside normal opening hours. Visits generally last from  
10.00am-2.30pm and cost £3 per head (£75 minimum).

Programme of other events: details from the Estate Office.

HALL LANE, INGATESTONE, ESSEX CM4 9NR  
Telephone: 01277 353010 Fax: 01245 248979

**UPMINSTER WINDMILL** will be open for guided tours in 2007 from 2.00pm to 5.00pm on the following days: May 5/6 & 12/13, June 2/3 & 16/17, July 7/8 & 21/22, Aug. 4/5 & 18/19, Sept. 1/2 & 15/16, Oct. 6/7.

**UPMINSTER TITHE BARN, AGRICULTURAL & FOLK MUSEUM** will be open from 10.30am to 5.30pm on the following days: May 5, 6, 7 & 28, June 2 & 3, July 1, 7, 8, 21, 22 & 29, Aug. 4, 5, 11 & 12, Sept. 1, 2, 15 & 16, Oct. 6 & 7.

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

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

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

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

# County Historical and similar Societies

## ESSEX SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

### 2007 Programme

- Fri. 23 May Morant Lecture. *Marketing the Essex Seaside: a Retrospect* by Mrs. Shirley Durgan. 7.15pm. Methodist Church, Maidenburgh St., Colchester.
- Sat. 17 June Annual General Meeting (2.30p.m.): Dowsett Room, Langdon Visitors' Centre & Nature Reserve, followed by a talk by Colin Stratford on *The Plotlands*, followed by a guided tour of The Haven Plotland Museum. (cost £6.00 to include tea).
- Sat. 7 July Afternoon (2.30p.m.) visit to Stanley Hall, Pebmarsh (cost £6.00 to include tea).
- Sat. 11 Aug. Afternoon (2.30p.m.) visit to Copped Hall (cost £7.00).
- Sat. 22 Sept. Afternoon (1.30pm) visit to Old Leigh. Meet at Leigh-on-Sea Heritage Centre. (cost £6.00 to include tea).
- Sat. 17 Nov. 11th annual **Essex Place-names Seminar**: *The origins of Landscape in Essex and East Anglia* by Dr. Stephen Rippon of Exeter University. 2.30pm. Thames-side Centre, Grays. Tickets £5.50 (payable to E.S.A.H.) plus s.a.e. from Project Co-ordinator, Dr. James Kemble, 27 Tor Bryan Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9JZ.

For 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

### 2007 Programme - Chelmsford

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

- Sat. 21 April *Circus Life and Circus Families* by Robert Bartrop.
- Sat. 19 May *Sold, Separated or Divorced* by Ian Waller.
- Sat. 16 June *The Charles Booth Archive for Family Historians* by Sue Donnelly, archivist at L.S.E. (to be confirmed).
- Sat. 21 July *Frosts, freezes and fairs* by Ian Currie.
- Sat. 18 Aug. No meeting.
- Sat. 15 Sept. Annual General Meeting followed by *Forbidden Love* by Fred Feather.
- Sat. 20 Oct. *500 Years in the same Parish* by Chris Pond.
- Sat. 17 Nov. Guild of One Name Studies (all day session).
- Sat. 15 Dec. *Seeing it through their Songs* with Michael Gandy.

In addition to the meetings at Chelmsford the North-West Essex Branch holds monthly meetings at Bell Cottage, South Rd., Saffron Walden 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.

Further information from Eric Probert, Programme Secretary, 62 Sidmouth Road, Chelmsford CM1 6LS (Tel: 01245 259914 – Email: ericdprobert@blueyonder.co.uk).

## ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONGRESS

### 2007 Programme

- Sat. 19 May **Annual General Meeting** at St. Barnabas Hall, Thorley (by kind invitation of the Bishops Stortford Historical Society). 10.00 for 10.30am.
- Sat. 3 Nov. **Archaeological Symposium** at Saffron Walden.

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

## THE FRIENDS OF HISTORIC ESSEX

- Sat. 14 July **2007 Annual General Meeting** at The Maltings, Mill Lane, Great Dunmow. 2.00pm.

For details of membership please see back page.

## ESSEX SENIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### 2007 Programme

- Tues. 1 May *Time Team Revisited: the lost centuries of St. Osyth* by Chris Thornton.
- Tues. 12 June *The Clerke family of Wethersfield* by Temma Berg.
- Tues. 4 Sept. *The lost cities of Angkor Wat: Travels in Cambodia* by Miriam Stead.
- Tues. 2 Oct. *William Byrd* by Sandra Tuppen.
- Tues. 8 Nov. *Cartularies to Court Rolls: medieval documents in E.R.O.* by Katharine Schofield.

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

## THE FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES

### 2007 Events

- Wed. 3 May First Study Day visiting Lambourne, Waltham Abbey and other nearby churches.
- Tues. 15 May Annual General Meeting. Terling church 3.00pm.
- Thurs. 7 June Visit to Copped Hall 2.00pm. Tickets £20.00 to include refreshments.
- Sat. 8 Sept. **Ride and Stride** round Essex churches.
- Sat. 6 Oct. Second Study Day: area to be notified.
- Wed. 17 Oct. Autumn Fair at Reid Rooms, Margaret Roding: opens 10.30am.

Annual minimum membership subscription: £15.00 individual, £25.00 family. Hon. Membership Secretary: Keith Gardner, Pink Cottage, Curtis Mill Green, Stapleford Tawney, Essex RM4 1RT (Tel: 01708 688576 – Email: keith.gardner@care4free.net). Information about Study Days from Marion Scantlebury (Tel: 01279 731228 – Email: scant@parvilles.fsnet.co.uk).

## ESSEX GARDENS TRUST

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

## THE FRIENDS OF THOMAS PLUME'S LIBRARY

### 2007 Programme

- Sat. 19 May **Annual General Meeting**, followed by talk by Dr. Bronwen Cook on the history of the port of Maldon. The Octagon, St. Mary's Church, Maldon. 7.30pm.
- Sat/Sun 8/9 Sept. **Heritage Open Days** Sat. 10.00am-12 noon and 2.00pm-4.00 pm.: Sun. 2.00pm-4.00pm.

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, Mrs. Mary Wells, 34 Beeleigh Road, Maldon CM9 5QH (Tel. 01621 841057).

## WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

### 2007 Programme

- Mon. 14 May Rudge Memorial Lecture: *The Roman Circus at Colchester* an illustrated talk by Dr. Philip Crummy, Colchester Archaeological Trust (8.00pm at the Assembly Hall, Woodford County High School). For further details please telephone: 020 8989 9294
- Sun. 5-Sat. 11 Aug.; Sun. 12 – Sat. 19 Aug.; Sun. 19 – Sat. 25 Aug. Training Digs at Copped Hall, Epping. Details from Pauline Dalton, Rossleigh, Epping Road, Epping CM16 5HW (Tel: 01992 613725 – Email: PMD2@ukonline.co.uk).

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

*You will:*

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

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

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

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