

ESSEX SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

(Founded as the Essex Archaeological Society in 1852)



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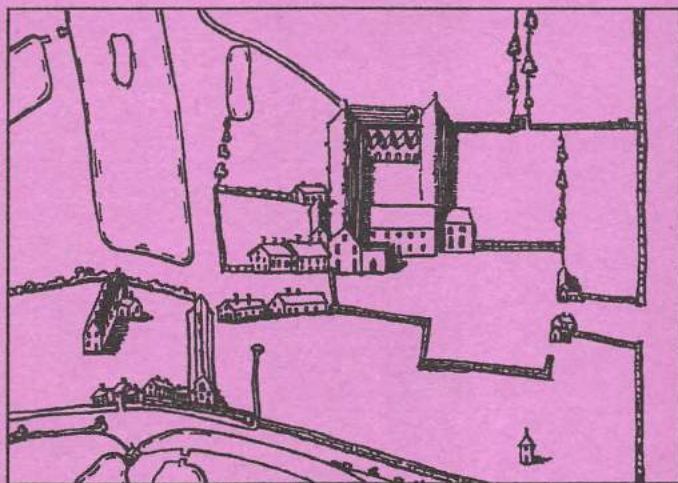
ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY NEWS

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Spring 2000

THE ESSEX SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY
NEWSLETTER 131
SPRING 2000

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COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS NO LATER THAN 23 JUNE 2000

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Society or its officers.

Cover illustration: Audley End, re-drawn from an eighteenth-century copy of a lost pre-1603 map showing the Abbey, cloisters and other monastic buildings (re-drawn by Roger Massey-Ryan)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have found the months since the appearance of the last Newsletter an especially busy period, as I am sure they have been for most members of the Society, particularly given the many events organised prior to and during the extended Christmas-New Year celebrations. However, before that in October I was pleased to attend my first Morant Dinner as President, held at the pleasant venue of Mulberry House, High Ongar. Those attending enjoyed a very satisfactory meal followed by an after dinner speech from Vic Gray, former Essex County Archivist. He took his theme from the many books which he has acquired over the years, notably some rediscovered after relegation to the attic, to provide a witty presentation about interesting Essex men and women, some known to him and others from before his time. This was the last event in a very successful 1999 programme for which the Society is grateful to the Programme Committee. The year 2000 programme has already begun and there was a good turn out for the first meeting on 19 February at County Hall. This took as its title "Educating Essex", which prompted the four speakers to give fascinating accounts of how different aspects of the education system have evolved in the county. In particular I derived pleasure from Beryl Board's account of how Father Smythe, Vicar of Stow Maries involved the great and good in his determined effort to establish a village school in the 1920's; a story meriting retelling to a wider audience, perhaps through the Society's Transactions.

The fourth Essex Placenames Seminar on 18 March was also very well attended. This is a further indication of the success of this survey, and deserving recognition of the hard work many volunteers have put into the project. The guest lecture, on Fieldwork and Fieldnames, was presented by Dr Della Hooke, Senior Lecturer at Birmingham University. She is a leading authority on the origin of placenames in general but her particular interest lies with the Saxon period. While the age of many names are traceable through maps and documents it was particularly fascinating to discover how, in some parts of her special study areas in the Midlands and West Country, many field names can be demonstrated through the use of surviving charters to have survived

from the Saxon period. Once again supporting local contributions provided a balanced day. Further details of both of these events are given elsewhere in the Newsletter.

In addition to the regular local society programme there are many special millennium events planned during the year. One of these is the History Fair at Cressing Temple on Sunday 11 June. This promises to be possibly the best yet, given the grant support confirmed to the organising committee from various sources, and the Society is intending to have a presence on the day. However, rather than organising its own special millennium events the Society is focussing on what might be appropriate to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of its foundation in two year's time. The first suggestion of a garden party was quickly reconsidered when the Secretary revealed that the official date for the inaugural meeting in 1852 was 12 December! This topic is the subject of Ray Powell's article in this Newsletter and I ask all those members to who can to hunt both memory and attics for anecdotes and other snippets of interest and respond to his request for information. Michael Leach has already provided one contribution to set you thinking, with his look at the Society 100 Years Ago (page 3).

One particular theme for myself over recent months has been the furthering of contacts with Europe. The 1999 Annual Conference of the European Archaeologists Association held last September, for the first time in England, at Bournemouth University, was an occasion to make contact and exchange ideas with archaeologists from many different national and institutional areas. It proved both interesting and beneficial to learn about projects in other countries and to see the approaches being used and developed. Also it provided an opportunity to demonstrate to others the organisation and range of heritage conservation projects being undertaken in Essex.

The County Council Heritage Conservation team, which I manage, has been endeavouring to build links and partnerships with various parts of Europe over recent years, and these are now beginning to bear fruit. In January we were informed that two heritage project bids made under the Interreg (i.e. inter-regional) IIc spatial planning programme had been successful, which means that the County Council is

now a partner in two two-year projects. These are supported by the European Regional Development Fund, which amongst its aims includes the encouragement of joint approaches to heritage management. Through the PLANARCH project archaeologists from Essex, Kent, Nord Pas de Calais (France), Wallonia, Ghent, Flanders and Holland will be coming together to share experience, academic knowledge and explore how archaeological sites can be better protected and investigated. There are a number of core strands to the project focused on the problems of wetland archaeological sites buried along the edges of estuaries, approaches to how major infrastructure projects are dealt with through the planning process, and the ways to share expertise in particular in the field of record management and development. The second project will focus on industrial sites, being an agreement for a feasibility study to develop a European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH), which would lead to the creation in England of a heritage trail linking sites of both national and local importance. I wrote about the richness of this county's industrial heritage in the last Newsletter. This has been demonstrated by John Boyes, who gave the 1997 Morant Lecture, and was further highlighted for the Society when the AGM at Langford provided an opportunity to visit both Langford Pumping Station and Beeleigh Mill. In the Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills the County has a site of international importance around which it would be possible to build involvement in this European project. It currently involves four partners from England and Wales, in addition to others from Holland, Belgium and Germany. The latter in particular has much experience in this area and the project leader is North Rhine Westphalia which has established a Ruhr Industrial Route embracing a range of monuments, museums, industrial settlements and landscapes. These are linked through a series of anchor points where interpretative displays are provided which act as signposts to other routes based upon local sites. Interestingly, in Germany rather than 'heritage' this is referred to as 'industrial culture', a difference of perspective which may be instructive when considering how industrial features in this country can be conserved, managed and presented to the public. This perspective is certainly reflected in some aspects of the management and presentation of the Ruhr sites. During a recent visit to Germany by

myself, Paul Gilman and County Councillor Chris Manning-Press to attend a launch and meetings to progress the project, we were able to visit a number of the Ruhr route sites, and see how these are managed in the broadest context. Many of these sites are not conserved merely as examples of interesting industrial heritage but also provide a focus for a range of other cultural activities. Those concerned for the future of 'Jumbo' at Colchester might look to the imaginative conversion of a former water tower, as part of the Aquarius Water Museum in Mulheim, Ruhr. Past and present meet in the museum, which through interactive displays now enlightens visitors on the history of water supply, water related environmental protection and the past and present of the industrial region of the Ruhr valley. On even grander scale is an extensive landscaped park around the former ironworks at Duisburg-Nord where the key industrial remains provide a focus for guided tours. Beyond this are additional attractions which include evening light displays, these attracting many thousands of visitors every year, the former engine house building with *in situ* steam engines but converted to incorporate a stage set, and former massive concrete storage bunkers adapted to provide climbers with practice training walls. For those sensitive about how heritage sites should be conserved and presented to the public it may be difficult to endorse some of these approaches or consider them appropriate for Essex. However, the visit certainly provided food for thought given the success at these and other sites in attracting visitors, and the increased awareness, understanding and appreciation resulting. Approaches such as these should not be dismissed out of hand since they provide imaginative ideas for sustainable reuse of our own industrial sites.

These issues and many more relating to the historic environment will be the subject of a Heritage Policy Review which the Government has requested be carried out over this summer. English Heritage has been commissioned to examine a number of specific policy issues and to prepare a report to be presented to Ministers in September. The report will include a long term vision for strengthening appreciation, conservation, management and use of the historic environment; an agenda for action over the next 10 years, and a broad, holistic and comprehensive

definition of the historic environment, fully integrated with other environmental concerns. Led by a Steering Group drawing membership from the principal heritage bodies and other interests, working groups will focus on five broad themes, these to include the condition of the historic environment, sustainability and economic and social growth, legislation and other protective instruments, public involvement and access, and tourism. It will involve wide ranging consultation with relevant organisations, and members of the Society will have an opportunity to comment through the public consultation planned via the English Heritage web site. It is my hope that the work carried out to record, protect and conserve the historic landscape developed by Essex County Council and other local authorities will not only be recognised, but measures recommended which will help to strengthen and develop existing services.

Many heritage projects have now benefited from the Heritage Lottery Fund, although it is recognised that Essex has to date been much less successful than many other counties. Members will therefore wish to congratulate Colchester Museum on its success in obtaining a major lottery grant which will enable extensive works to be undertaken at Hollytrees, including the installation of a new lift and revamping of displays. However, this will have a major impact upon the Society's use of the building since the museum's curator has now confirmed that Hollytrees will be closed to the public on 29 April and not reopened until July 2001. The library, a major asset of the Society which members use and appreciate, will not be available to ordinary members throughout this period. In the longer term, inserting the lift will permanently reduce the capacity of Library room 1 by four bays, while all books will have to be removed from this room during the period of works. While the Museum has undertaken to cover the costs relating to packing the books and removing them to storage, Member of Council are giving much thought to the implications of this activity. We will endeavour to keep you fully informed, and when further details of the arrangements for packing up the library are known there may well be a need for volunteers, a call to which I am sure members will wish to respond.

David Buckley

THE SOCIETY 100 YEARS AGO

After the General Meeting on 19 April 1900 at Colchester Castle, a large party proceeded "*by brake and by bicycle*" to West Bergholt. From here they traced "*an ancient rampart*" from the Bergholt Road down to the River Colne and on to Lexden Park where they were greeted by Sir Mountstuart Grant-Duff and entertained to tea. It is not clear from the printed account whether the party walked, or whether they traced the line of the earthworks from the nearest suitable road – but probably the latter, as crossing the railway and the Colne would have presented difficulties.

After tea, Mr H. Laver FSA read a paper. The earthworks were neither named nor dated. He disagreed with the view of the Rev. Henry Jenkins (of the Royal Archaeological Institute) who had suggested that it formed the eastern boundary of "British" Camulodunum. The argument, interestingly, hinged on a field name. Vent Field, according to the Rev. Jenkins, derived from "*venta*", a place where Britons convened. According to Mr Laver, vent ("*as any Essex person would know*") was a field in an angle between two or more roads. Went or wantz was a corruption of vent, "*due to the habit Essex people have of transposing the letters v and w.*"

The Rev. Jenkins had further backed his argument for the "British" origins of the earthworks by claiming that the gravel pit, known as King Coel's Kitchen, was the "British" theatre from which had emanated "*the ominous sounds*" recorded by Tacitus before the destruction of Roman Camulodunum. This might now seem a rather fanciful notion on which to base an argument!

The route of the embankment was described. It was in a fair condition from the Bergholt Road to beyond the railway, protected by field boundaries. Between Lodge Farm and the river Colne it was vestigial, and south of the river it had been destroyed by the rector of Lexden in 1826. The rector attracted some harsh criticism "*the same gentleman built the extremely ugly church and rectory house and from these we may quite understand that he had not sufficient taste*

to appreciate any beauty in the diversity and irregularities of the surface this mound produced". The bank was visible through Lexden Park but to the west "it is being levelled by the plough". There was speculation that the bank might have been a roadway but it was difficult to be sure with earthworks "as there has been very often so much obliterated by the plough and other agricultural operations."

Earthworks may have better protection in the 21st century but archaeological sites are still vulnerable to damage, both from farming and from the growth of towns. Doubtless there has been further loss of the Lexden bank over the last century. A sketch map of its condition in 1900 will be found on page 108 of Volume xiii of the Transactions (new series).

Michael Leach

NOTES FROM THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Closure of Hollytrees Library

Colchester Borough Council have been successful in their lottery bid for funds to improve Hollytrees Museum. This is good news for the Museum, but unfortunately it will mean closure of the Society's Library for about 15 months, from the end of this April to July 2001. The building will need to be completely emptied before building work can start, so all the Society's books will be in storage and completely inaccessible until the Museum reopens. This is a far longer period of closure than we had anticipated, and we are extremely sorry that members will not be able to have access to any books during this time. Future Newsletters will keep you up to date with progress at Hollytrees.

EDUCATING ESSEX

On Saturday afternoon, 19 February, members met at County Hall in Chelmsford for an afternoon of talks and discussion on education in the county from Tudor times to the twentieth century, chaired by Bob Wood. Quite apart from the history of schooling in Essex,

the afternoon opened up basic questions of what education is for, and clearly the answers varied from century to century.

Ian Mason started the proceedings by looking at The Education of Gentlemen and their Servants in Early Modern Essex, concentrating especially on the Petre family. The Petres had a strong interest in education, Sir William Petre refounding Exeter College, Oxford, and his daughter Dorothy founding Wadham College in her old age. Sir John Petre, William's son and heir, was educated at the Middle Temple in London, at a time when it was increasingly usual for the gentry to have some legal training. Judging by the Petre account books, John appears to have enjoyed his time in London. He made sure that his lutes were packed in his luggage and spent twenty shillings on a book of songs. He spent fourpence on a new desk, and paid sixpence to the man who took him to the top of St Paul's steeple; five shillings was paid to the man who read law to him. Education was not limited to the gentry, as John Bentley, John's personal servant at the Middle Temple and subsequently in charge of his household, was also highly educated; his will of 1597 referred to his songbooks, dictionaries, and divinity and law volumes, both in English and in Latin. The number of grammar schools, founded or refounded in Essex in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, made education available to an increasing number of boys. Essex also had its famous scholars and thinkers, such as John Locke who lived and wrote in the household of Sir Thomas and Damaris Masham at Otes in High Laver in the late seventeenth century.

Fiona Bengtsen turned our attention to the education of girls, taking as her subject, "An Accomplished Education." Private Female Schools, c.1791-1861. By the late eighteenth century, there was a growing demand among the middle class for their daughters to receive an education which would attract suitors and help them to marry. Most Essex towns and some villages had ladies' boarding schools in the first half of the nineteenth century; Billericay had three by the 1820s. Girls did not receive the classical education that the grammar schools offered their brothers, but were taught certain basic subjects, such as English and needlework, while others, such as music, dancing, writing and drawing, were charged as extras.

Girls were usually expected to bring their own cutlery, towels and sheets. The schools were cold, and many pupils suffered from chilblains. Mrs Bengtsen gave a detailed account of the Cromwell House school in Maldon, founded in 1784 by Catherine Wilmshurst, the wife of the Congregational minister. The school continued to flourish until the mid-nineteenth century, and attracted middle class pupils such as the daughters of a Raleigh chemist, a Stow Maries farmer, and a Heybridge shipowner. It also had pupils from outside the county. A prospectus of 1830 offered the additional inducement of salt-water baths, the subscription for which was charged as an extra. The girls were not expected to use their education; the emphasis was very much of gaining accomplishments and getting married.

Alan Maddock took us further into the nineteenth century by examining Elementary Education in the Saffron Walden Area, 1870-1900. He reminded us that Forster's Education Act of 1870 was the first to provide for the mass education of children by establishing School Boards in areas where there was no education provision. Education became compulsory, at least to the age of ten, in 1880, and free eleven years later, although schools were still allowed to charge fees if they wanted. Saffron Walden had a range of elementary schools by 1870: three National Society schools (Church of England) for infants, girls and boys; three British and Foreign Society schools (Nonconformist) for infants, girls and boys; two Workhouse schools; and a National Society school at Sewer's End. Altogether, there were 785 scholars on the roll in 1870, with 613 attending on the day of the return. Irregular attendance was a worry for the authorities, and was dealt with by the Attendance Committee from 1885, with parents being summoned before the committee prior to prosecution in the courts. Often it was the mothers who appeared before the committee, and one parent was prosecuted in court seventeen times. Prizes were given for good attendance. In the area round Saffron Walden, the Guardians of the Poor were responsible for elementary education. Although several villages had church or National Society schools, some of these were replaced by Board schools, as at Ashdon in 1878. Wendens Ambo did not get its Board school until 1881.

Beryl Board brought us up to date with Aspects of Education in the Twentieth Century. She stressed the value of the *Victoria County History* for the history of education: the general chapter on Schooling in Volume 2, the descriptions of schools in the topographical volumes, and the information given in the Bibliography and its Supplement (soon to be joined by Supplement 2). She looked first at how major centres had responded to the needs of education, such as West Ham which had established its School Board by 1871, and set up not only elementary schools, but special schools for the deaf, the mentally retarded, and for truants. West Ham was coping with 60,000 children in 1900. Colchester faced special problems through being a garrison town. Harlow New Town during the 1950s faced shortages of funds, labour and materials, and frequent revision of town plans, but thirty-four county schools were built between 1951 and 1979. A further problem was posed by the need to educate the children of those who came to build the New Town. In contrast to these large authorities, Mrs Board then turned to the National School at Stow Maries, rebuilt after the First World War largely as a result of the efforts of the rector, Father Smythe. He not only raised the funds by a combination of begging and bullying, but persuaded the parliamentary secretary, the Duchess of Athol, to open the new building in March 1927. Sir Philip Sassoon and local members of parliament also attended the opening, and the sermon was preached by the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral. The new school was an attractive building, with swings, gardens for horticulture, and baths, a facility which pupils did not have in their own homes. The emphasis was very much on the children being happy. Unfortunately, the school only had a short life, as it was requisitioned in 1939 and never reopened.

The afternoon brought out the sheer variety of educational experience in Essex. Many thanks to David Andrews and Pat Ryan for organising the afternoon, as well as to the speakers and chairman. All those present looked forward to the opening of the new Essex Record Office where further research will be carried out by both adults and children on schools and schooling in the county.

Jennifer Ward

VISIT TO LITTLE BRAXTED

On 18 September 1999, members assembled in the Norman parish church, with an apsidal chancel and the recently restored Victorian wall paintings by Rev. Ernest Geldart. From the pulpit, James Bettley described the life and achievements of Geldart, vividly illustrated by readings from his diaries.

Geldart had been staying in Willingale Doe (where he designed the west window), and visited Little Braxted early in 1881. He was not impressed by the church which had been restored by Ewan Christian in 1856, and noted "*not so small, and not so Norman as I expected...a huge stone pulpit and a small depressed altar*". In spite of this poor impression, he accepted the living after some hesitation, and remained rector there until his retirement due to ill health in 1900.

He came from a low church background, and one of the mysteries of his life is why he developed such strong high church convictions. In 1864, he was articled to the architect, Alfred Waterhouse, in Manchester, subsequently being posted to the London office. In 1871, he enrolled at King's College, London, to study theology, and attended St Mary Magdalene, Paddington – the leading ritualist Anglo-Catholic church at that time. After his ordination in 1875, he served as a curate in Plaistow, but his health was poor and, after a short term in a Surrey parish, he travelled widely in Australia, South America and Europe. On his return, he undertook some architectural work (the Willingale Doe window and work at Good Easter church are examples), then moving to Scotland as a missionary priest in the diocese of Argyll, where the high church was less persecuted.

Though he had initially rejected Little Braxted as too poor a living, he held his first service in April 1881 and immediately introduced high church practices. Thereafter, there was a whirlwind of change. In June he was shopping for a new organ, by July he had persuaded the churchwardens to restore the church, in August he rescued and reinstated the font. That autumn, he held a harvest festival (a novel idea at that

time) and celebrated the first round of his improvements to the church – new piscina, new chancel seating and imported choirboys. Two years later, the east window was reglazed in stained glass, and there were further improvements in 1884 – the addition of the north aisle and vestry, and new choir stalls, altar, chancel screen and reredos. A curious feature was a painted grandfather clock at the back of the nave. Sadly, this has recently been stolen from the church. The changes were not welcomed by some, and there was hostile correspondence in the press about his high church rituals. The bishop questioned the necessity of enlarging the church.

However, he was not deterred, and painted decorations on almost every internal surface were completed by the end of 1885. In spite of the controversy, the congregation steadily grew. However he had a major setback in 1887. Leaving the parish for a holiday, he was thrown from the cart and fractured his thigh. His prolonged two year convalescence proved very expensive in paying curates and locums. To add to his problems, he was threatened with prosecution for his high church rituals. He took on much architectural work at this time and, of necessity, began to charge fees. In spite of these difficulties, he continued to plan improvements to his own church, including the heightening of the steeple to take additional bells, more stained glass and a lychgate. None of these materialised, but he did extend the village school in 1890.

His financial problems were solved by his marriage in 1893, but his health remained poor and he retired to Surrey in 1900, where he continued his architectural practice. By the time of his death in 1928, some 57 Essex churches had been improved or extended to his designs, including Ardleigh (decorations), Rawreth (complete rebuild), and repairs at Stanford le Hope and Great Braxted.

James Bettley's place in the pulpit was then taken by John Walker who described the nearby mediaeval square timber framed kitchen (timber felling date between 1397 and 1417). Its survival was probably due to its later conversion into a dovecote, but its original use was apparent from its smoke blackened roof timbers. Detached kitchens were common in the middle ages, built thus to isolate the fire risk, as well

as the cooking smells, from the main house. Ironically, the Braxted kitchen had outlasted the building that it originally served. Judging from the 16th century Walker maps, rectangular kitchens were the norm in Essex, but very few of either shape have survived. However, it is possible that more may have survived by being converted to other uses, and it would be worth examining outbuildings elsewhere for smoke blackened timbers.

Members were then free to admire the superbly restored decorations in the church, as well as its other eccentric details – the chronogram on the rood beam (a Latin inscription whose Roman numeral letters add up to the year when it was installed), the “signal to stop” bell in the vestry, and the list of rectors with the Commonwealth incumbent recorded in red as “hereticus”. Of the nearby timber mediaeval kitchen, most of the original features had survived, including the upwardly curved tie beams (to raise them as far as possible from the central fire beneath) and the high level window openings on all four sides. The louvre at the apex has gone, leaving no obvious clues to how it was constructed. The imminent conversion of this building to offices may provide more information about its original internal layout. The party then inspected Geldart’s chapel, attached to the old rectory – and thence to tea!

Michael Leach

CENTURIATION

An article in the recent Kent Archaeological Society Newsletter re-examines the evidence for centuriation in the Hoo peninsular in the Thames estuary, triggered by enquiries from the Isle of Wight, and from Cesena in Italy. The latter is conducting a survey throughout Europe into Roman centuriation, or division, of agricultural land. Good examples apparently still survive in Italy, approximately 710 metres square, the same size that had been suggested for the centuriation of the Hoo peninsular, in a study published in 1952. The centuria was divided up into 100 units (hence centuriation), each unit being a two actus square and corresponding to the area that two teams of oxen could work in a day.

The road layout in the Hoo peninsular is approximately on a grid pattern, but though the article shows that centuriation can be demonstrated, this largely depends on which road is chosen, and where the measurement is taken – as the roads are not exactly parallel. In other words, it is possible to demonstrate a specific pattern by selecting the right data! Moreover, as one actus (or 120 roman feet) is only a fraction over seven mediaeval poles (1 pole is 16 ½ feet), it may be possible to make Roman dimensions fit on to what is really a mediaeval layout – particularly if certain landmarks are selectively ignored. Apparently, the University of East Anglia has recently done a computer analysis of the Hoo boundaries, and is convinced that there is evidence of centuriation. Very reasonably, the author of this article asks whether, if a comparative study using feet, poles and furlongs has been undertaken, these dimensions could be made to fit as well!

The author asks for a proper evaluation based on archaeological evidence of field boundaries dated by excavation. This would avoid the selective errors which make it too easy to impose a preconceived pattern on to the layout of ancient landscape.

Anyone wishing to study these articles in detail will find the original 1952 study by Michael Nightingale in *Archaeologia Cantiana* volume LXV, and the critical appraisal by Alan Ward in the Kent Archaeological Society Newsletter number 44.

Michael Leach

DATA PROTECTION ACT

In order to run the Society, it is necessary to keep paper and electronic records of members’ names and addresses. This Society uses a data processing firm, Orwell Data Services of 82, Fore Street, Ipswich, to store this basic information and to print the labels needed for mailing the Transactions, the Newsletter and other circulars in connection with the Society’s activities. Orwell Data Services are registered under the Data Protection Act and cannot disclose any information about our members to anyone else.

It is the Society’s policy to keep members’ names, addresses, telephone numbers and subscription status

only. This information is disclosed to no one, inside or outside the Society, other than those officers and members of Council who need it in order to run the organisation.

Members do have the right to refuse to allow any information about them to be stored on computer, and they should let me know if this is their wish. However, we hope that this note will reassure members that the very limited information held about them is secure and will not be used for any purpose other than the efficient running of the Society. Anyone requiring further details can contact me, or the Newsletter Editor.

Michael Leach

ESSEX FARM RECORDS AND THE CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL FIRE OF 1670

Apart from neglect, ignorance and damp, fire has always been, and still remains, a great threat to written archives. The disaster at the Norfolk Record Office in the summer of 1994 is a sharp reminder of this. A fascinating article in the recent volume CXVII of *Archaeologia Cantiana* describes the result of a fire in the Audit House at Canterbury Cathedral in 1670. References to the fire are scarce, and are mainly confined to notes of payments made to the individual who raised the alarm, and the fifty or sixty men involved in extinguishing it. Gaps in the earlier archives may be due to the fire, or to earlier or later losses. It is known, for example, that all the cathedral records were taken to London during the Commonwealth, and that not all were returned after the Restoration. A contemporary complained *'our very common seale, our registers & other books, together with our records & evidences of all sorts were seized and distracted; many of them irrevocably lost & the rest not retrived without much trouble & cost'*.

However, there is little doubt that the fire did considerable damage. A contemporary account noted

'a fire happened to ye place where ye records lay, whereby many of them were consumed, and ye rest much defaced'. There is also evidence of fire and water damage in a number of the surviving records. In addition, unsatisfactory repairs were done in 1950, with pages rebound in random order using acidic paper which has caused further deterioration.

The article describes the painstaking process of dismantling, de-acidifying, repairing and rebinding the pages in the correct sequence. There was also the challenge of boxes containing the loose pages from books which had come apart in the fire, and had never been sorted. Many had had their page numbers burnt off. Some were the mediaeval annual accounts of monastic farms in Kent and elsewhere, and detailed the tenants' expences which were offset against the rent. The net rent due was shown on an adjoining page. Fortunately, the mediaeval scribes made very few arithmetical errors, and these three figures proved invaluable in matching up consecutive pages! The physical pattern of the burn marks was also useful for sorting the sheets into their original sequence. Matching the handwriting was much less helpful. This was much less consistent and sometimes changed halfway through an account! Once restored to their original order, cleaning, conservation and rebinding were undertaken.

The relevance of this to Essex (apart from immense admiration for this painstaking restoration) is that the repaired volumes provide information that has not been available since 1670. Some of the priory farms were in Essex and the accounts provide evidence of topography, local history, buildings and agricultural practices which should be invaluable to local historians. The farm accounts span from 1485 to 1537 and cover the following Essex estates: Bocking in Mersea, Bocking Manor, Borley Manor, Borley Mill, Lalling Manor, Middleton Manor, Panfield Priory, Southchurch Manor, Stisted Bedelry and Stisted Manor. They are available in the cathedral library on microfilm (or the original if legibility demands) under the reference DCc/MA 107 – 127.

Michael Leach

A NOTE ON ERYNGO

"To the Colchester oyster, let me subjoin another thing which Colchester is famous for viz. the excellent sweetmeat made of Eryngo-roots". Thus wrote Philip Morant in his 1748 "History of Colchester". He claimed that eryngo was first made in Colchester "about the beginning of the last century" but Stanley Jermyn, in his 1974 "Flora of Essex", stated that it had been served at mayoral banquets as far back as the fifteenth century. It was an expensive commodity. In the mid seventeenth century, Sir John Barrington paid 10s 0d for 2 lbs of eryngo.

There is a full account of the properties of the sea holly, from which eryngo was made, in Culpeper's 1649 "Herbal". "The root grows eight or ten feet in length, set with circles on the upper part, cut smooth and without joints lower down, brownish on the outside and very white within, with a pith in the middle of a pleasant taste, but much more, being artificially preserved, and candied with sugar" Culpeper noted its medicinal value in treating obstructive jaundice, dropsy and urinary problems. He reported that, when candied, the roots were helpful for those wasted with long illness and "too much venery" and that they "were reckoned strengtheners of the parts of generation". It was also recommended for "lues venerea" (i.e. syphilis) and gonorrhoea.

Jermyn commented dryly in 1974 that the sea holly was less common than formerly. Could it be that, like the Bengal tiger, it has been decimated by men's constant search for an aphrodisiac? Or is there a more mundane explanation, such as pollution or loss of habitat?

Perhaps the imminent 150th anniversary of the Society could be marked by the preparation of a new supply of eryngo, not sold in Colchester since the early years of this century. For anyone wishing to take up the challenge, recipes are to be found in Gerard's "Herbal" and in Volume II of the Essex VCH. And Jermyn noted that the sea holly was still plentiful in the Crabknowe Spit area of the Essex coast. Any offers?

ANOTHER SAINT

In 1514 John Ballard of Stanway, husbandman, bequeathed to his parish church, St. Albright's or St. Ethelbert's, three cattle to maintain four lights, one of which was the light before the statue of St. Erasmus.ⁱ Unlike some other obscure saints venerated in Essex, Erasmus or Elmo was not English. He was apparently a third-century Italian bishop and martyr, but his legend is a late, fictitious, compilation. According to that legend, Erasmus was a Syrian bishop who was tortured, transported to Italy, and finally died during the persecution under the Emperor Diocletian. A story that he had preached unafraid throughout a thunderstorm led to his becoming the patron saint of sailors, and to the light which plays round the mast-heads of ships during a storm being called after him St. Elmo's fire. His portrayal with his emblem, the sailors' windlass, led to a story that he had been martyred by having his intestines pulled out, and to his becoming the patron saint of those with stomach pains.ⁱⁱ

Erasmus was known in England from the 9th century,ⁱⁱⁱ but probably did not become popular until the 15th. He was then considered a powerful advocate; his devotees were offered reasonable prosperity, healing from disease, and protection from their enemies in this life, and above all a holy death and eternal salvation in the next.^{iv} There is nothing specific to sailors in that reputation, and the use of the term St. Elmo's fire in England appears to be 16th century.^v All the evidence I have found so far for his cult is from eastern England. Apart from the Stanway statue, there was a guild of St. Erasmus at Great Yarmouth, first recorded in 1479, and another at Ipswich, first recorded in 1487. There were other statues at Thwaite, Suffolk, and Stratton Strawless, Norfolk, and an altar at Faversham, Kent.^{vi} Was the cult really confined to eastern England, perhaps a 15th century import from the Continent, or is it just that more evidence has been published for saints' cults there than in the rest of England? Was Erasmus venerated in other Essex churches as well as Stanway?

- i ERO., D/ACR2, f. 3.
- ii Oxford Dictionary of Saints, 163-4.
- iii Butler's Lives of the Saints, ii. 454.
- iv E. Duffy, *The Stripping of Altars*, 177.
- v Compact Oxford English Dictionary (2nd ed.), s.v. *corposant*.
- vi Ibid. 155, 163, 402; Oxford Dictionary of Saints, 164.

Janet Cooper

THE HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

In two year's time, the Society will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its foundation. Plans are being made to mark this in various ways, including publishing a short history of the Society by Ray Powell. He would be pleased to hear from any members who have relevant information, or memories, or documents relating to the Society's past. If you think that you may be able to help in any way, he would be pleased to hear from you and can be contacted at 28 The Walnuts, Branksome Road, Norwich NR4 6SR, or by phone on 01603 455900.

THE JUNIOR INVESTIGATOR

In 1913, the young Mortimer Wheeler applied for this post on the staff of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). His autobiography, *"Still Digging"*, gives an entertaining insight into the working of the Royal Commission early in the 20th century.

He describes his first day's work, a frosty morning starting with a bicycle ride to Liverpool Street railway station. The Senior Investigator, Murray Kendall, was already on the platform, and greeted him with the observation "what a morning like this needs is a Little Reinforcement". There was an adjournment to the station refreshment room for two double whiskeys in milk (no licensing hours in those days!). He mentions that the station platform seemed rather unstable after this, but an hour or so later the

pair arrived at the cold and inhospitable station at Dunmow. Kendall considered the weather, and decided that a repeat dose of the "Little Reinforcement" was required before cycling on to Stebbing church.

On reaching the church, he began to feel rather nervous in spite of the whiskey. His training had been archaeological (an external MA at London University) and he knew very little about English mediaeval architecture. His untrained eye noted a lot of carved stonework and an array of decorative shields. Murray Kendall commented that the stone screen was a "stunner" and suggested that Mortimer Wheeler started by making notes on the heraldry. He was forced to reply "well, as a matter of fact, I don't know any heraldry.... of course, I'm anxious to learn". Kendall then suggested that he tackled the screen. Things were getting desperate and he "was obliged to reply "I'm awfully sorry, but I really don't know screens..... of course, I'm anxious to learn". Kendall pondered this reply for a few moments and then announced that perhaps a "Little Reinforcement" was needed. They left the church and headed for the Red Lion, which, in Wheeler's words, "gaped before us like a Behemoth."

That evening, writing to his wife from the White Hart at Braintree, he said "I shall never in my life make an archaeologist, I just simply can't stand the pace." However, in spite of his inauspicious start, he was one of the three probationers chosen for a permanent post on the Royal Commission, but not for long. Within a year, the war had come and he was commissioned into the Royal Artillery.

His autobiography entitled *"Still Digging"* and published by Michael Joseph in 1955, is well worth reading.

ESSEX PLACENAMES PROJECT

The Tithe/Enclosure records have now been completed for: Black Notley, Bulphan, Childerditch, Chipping Ongar, Chishall, Chrisshall, Cranham, Cressing, Downham, Easthorpe, Elmdon/Wendon Lofts, Faulkbourne, Fryerning, Foulness, Great

Baddow, Great Leighs, Great Warley, Greensted by Ongar, Heydon, Hutton, Ingatestone, Ingrave, Kelvedon Hatch, Little Bardfield, Little Bromley, Little Holland, Little Leighs, Maldon Saint Peter, Manuden, Mistley, Mountnessing, Norton Mandeville, Ockendon North and South, Rayne, Rettendon, Shelley, Shenfield, Strethall, White Notley, Woodham Ferrers and Woodham Mortimer.

We are seeking volunteers who would be willing to do occasional proof-reading spot checking of records against the originals prior to publication, and Records to record further parishes. Details from the Membership Secretary.

Mrs Pat Ryan will be running a Training Half-day in Chelmsford on Saturday morning 1st July 2000 to assist with the recording of the forms for the Essex Placenames Project. She will cover Tithe Records, Estate Maps and 18th and 17th Century documents. Please send your name to her at 60 Maldon Road, Danbury, CM3 4QL before 6th June.

James Kemble

ESSEX PLACENAMES PROJECT SEMINAR

At the Seminar on 18th March 2000 in Chelmsford, Dr Della Hooke read a paper entitled "Fieldnames and Landscape", drawing on her wide experience of early documents and field survey from Scotland to the West Country:

A large number of field names which are found in the Tithe Awards and Maps of about 1840 can be traced from Charter Bounds to date from the Anglo-Saxon period. Many are descriptive of topographical features such as hills, mounds, pits and tracks some of which can still be identified. Several different Old English terms apply to features for which we now have a diminished vocabulary. 'Ofen', 'dun', 'cruc', 'hlinc' may survive as 'Over', '-don', 'crook' and 'Ling-', all signifying a different sort of slope or elevation. Survival of ancient fieldnames is greatest in open fields probably because of the persistence of the records in Manor Courts.

When 'tun' and 'wick' appear in fieldnames consideration should be given as to whether there has been a deserted or transplanted settlement. 'Eccles' names suggest land has been added to an estate. The practice of marking trees on a boundary with a cross has given rise to names containing 'crystal', and 'Man' names (e.g. Manwood and Menmarsh) indicate common land, which may have been wooded and suitable for pigs.

It has been feasible to reconstruct ancient landscape from the compilation of fieldnames, using the names to define, wood, meadow, pasture, enclosed land, quarries or pits and land under cultivation and several examples of how this had been achieved were demonstrated.

Mr Toby Lyons gave a paper entitled "Stansted Mountfitchet and Neighbours", outlining the part played by the banking family the Goslings. Using 18th and 19th century estate maps he showed how it was necessary to buy up large numbers of small field strips from several owners in order to create integral fields.

Mr Bob Crump gave a paper on Foulness Island showing how the land was won from the sea by a series of innings from the 13th century onwards. Napoleonic Signal Stations and Semaphores are identified by fields called Signal Seven and Cynifer; these were identified from oral history gained from the oldest island ploughmen. Fields called Red Banks have a scatter of coloured material and some poorly baked bricks; further investigation is in hand to determine whether these were sites of salt production of holding points for bricks manufactured on the mainland.

James Kemble

BRING OUT YOUR DEAD!

Rituals for disposing of the dead are specific to each culture, regulated by religious beliefs, taboo and practical needs. Since Roman times at least, most western cultures have abhorred decomposing corpses, and swift disposal by burial or cremation has been the norm. Generally remains have been left undisturbed

after disposal, doubtless partly due to the Christian concept of the resurrection of the body.

Neolithic practices were very different, and bones from barrows or passage graves show that human remains were handled and re-organised long after the death of the individual. Victorian antiquarians thought that this showed disrespect for the dead – or cannibalism – but careful analysis shows that the bones were often rearranged in a deliberate way. This rearrangement presumably had some ritual function, which we can only guess at.

Archaeologists have postulated three forms of secondary funeral rites. Firstly, skeletal remains were reorganised after decomposition within the original tomb. Secondly, specific parts of skeletons were taken from the original burial place and deposited elsewhere, as shown, for example, by a marked deficiency of skulls and leg bones in some primary burial sites. Thirdly, some corpses were allowed to decompose elsewhere, after which the clean bones were collected up and placed in a communal chamber.

Mary Baxter, a human bones specialist writing in the December 1999 issue of *British Archaeology*, has made detailed studies of collections of Neolithic bones from various excavations. Her work confirms that all three methods were used, sometimes within the same tomb. The key was the presence, or absence, of the small bones of the hands and feet, which are the first parts to separate from a decomposing body. Sometimes these were present, but widely separated from the larger bones – suggesting rearrangement within the tomb after decomposition. Sometimes the number of small bones suggested more individuals than were represented by the large bones – suggesting that the larger bones had been deliberately removed. The absence of any small bones suggested that decomposition had taken place on a separate site. The pattern of reorganisation showed that this took place before decomposition was complete, not surprising as complete disarticulation can take up to 25 years in normal burials. Cut marks have been found on bones, suggesting deliberate separation of the components of the skeleton.

She found little evidence of weathering or scavenger tooth marks, indicating that corpses were not left

exposed in the open. It seems that the dead were either buried (and disinterred later), or wrapped, or exposed on sheltered sites until decomposition had gone far enough to allow the secondary rites to take place. Similar practices have been recorded by anthropologists. However the religious beliefs behind these Neolithic rituals will probably always remain obscure.

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT MUSEUM

Epping Forest District Museum is situated in Sun Street, Waltham Abbey. It collects, displays and exhibits material from the whole of the local authority area, encompassing the historic towns of Waltham Abbey, Epping and Chipping Ongar, the forest itself and the many villages in unspoilt countryside to the north east. The Museum's collection of some 15 -20,000 objects reflects this diversity. Items relating to natural history and geology are held by the Epping Forest Information Centre at High Beech.

Many of the highlights of the archaeological collection are now on permanent display in the Museum's new archaeological gallery. The most famous item is the Waltham Abbey Bible, recently returned to the town and dating from the 12th century. This Bible doubled up as a library catalogue, and contains a list of the books in the monastic library. If you are planning to see this, it is worth ringing the Museum first, as it is not always on display. Other highlights include a mammoth's tusk, found in the Lea Valley (a great hit with the children!), and materials from the Nazeing hoard, a collection of Saxon metalwork with some unique objects including a fish spear.

The Museum also has a good collection of paintings and drawings by local artists, including a large archive of the Loughton artist Walter Spradbery, famous for his depictions of Epping Forest, as well as posters for the London Underground. There is also a notable collection of work by Haydn Mackey, a lino printing pioneer, portrait maker and specialist in biting satirical cartoons. The Museum holds over

5,000 photographs of the district, from the 1870s to the present day.

The main collection covers social history, an all-encompassing title which covers the extensive police collection, war time memorabilia (including the back of a V2 rocket), Lady Buxton's bath chair, commemorative tea pots, costumes, the tools of various trades, agricultural relics, bottles, a host of medical paraphernalia and much more! The Museum frequently receives donations of this sort of material, and, in order to display as much as possible, there is an "Attic under the Stairs" where recent acquisitions are displayed. Though the Museum's collection is large, the majority of items come from Waltham Abbey, Epping, Loughton and Nazeing. The Museum would be interested in material from the more outlying areas, such as the Lavers and the Rodings.

The Museum hopes that this brief overview of the Museum's treasures will make you want to come and visit. It is open from 2 to 5pm from Friday to Monday and from 12noon to 5pm on Tuesday. If you would like any further information, please ring 01992 716882, or write to the Museum at 39-41 Sun Street, Waltham Abbey EN9 1EL.

BOOK REVIEWS

Images of England: Witham, Compiled by Janet Gyford, Tempus Publishing Ltd., 1999, £9.99

This collection of 230 archive pictures, chiefly photographs, illustrates nearly a 150 years of Witham's history. The earliest example dates to c.1840, a little sketch by Mrs Bramston, the vicar's wife, of the shops and houses on Chipping Hill labelled with their inhabitant's names in order to remind herself who lived where. The majority of these illustrations, over 200, have not been published before. Janet Gyford is the authority on post-medieval and modern Witham, and her captions give a wealth of fascinating information, including comments from Witham residents.

The illustrations range from Witham's buildings, including Chipping Hill, many of the shops along Newland Street and places now gone like Trafalgar Square and Paradise Row. There are people, at play

and work, and posed in their Sunday best for the camera. Also illustrated are major events in Witham's recent past including the Cromer Express rail-crash of 1905, the two World Wars and the closure of Crittall's factory.

Maria Medlycott

Pat Lewis, 'My Ancestor was a Freemason' £2.95 [+50p postage] Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London.

This new addition to the popular 'My Ancestor' series deals most comprehensively with where to find records of Freemasons and how to research Freemason ancestors. Written by a Vice-President of the Essex Family History Society, it will have particular interest to Essex readers.

Bridget Winstanley (Ed.) 'Looking Back over Four Hundred Millennia' Articles from Feering & Kelvedon Preservation Society Bulletins, 1 High Street, Kelvedon.

This large miscellany of articles, originally published over the period 1968-1999, show just how resourceful, creative and research-led this outstanding Essex society has been. From the Palaeolithic to modern planning procedures there is an article here covering every conceivable interest in local history.

Andrew Phillips

WANTED

Wanted: Volume 17 (1986) of Essex Archaeology and History. Please phone Mark Atkinson 01376 331431 (work number)

Wanted: Indexes for Volumes 17 and 25 of Essex Archaeological Society's Transactions (new series). Please phone Michael Leach 01277 363106

Wanted: Copies of Volume 27 (1996) of Essex Archaeology and History for overseas societies with whom we exchange publications. Please phone Michael Leach 01277 363106

HERITAGE INFORMATION AND RECORDS SECTION

Recent work and staffing

The Heritage Information and Records Section (HIR) is responsible for the maintenance of the Essex Heritage Conservation Record (EHCR) which provides the most complete and up-to-date database of the county's historic environment. It is the main source of information used in assessing the implications of development for the built heritage within the county. The EHCR also forms the basis of a wide range of work related to the protection and conservation of archaeological sites, historic buildings, parks and gardens, and for a variety of academic and private research. Following the Planning Division reorganisation in April 1999, Listed Buildings and Parks and Gardens now form part of the EHCR. The Historic Buildings Record was a relatively new creation and work has begun, following the appointment of a Historic Buildings Records Officer, Nigel Pratt, on upgrading this part of the EHCR. The archaeological records have also benefited from the creation of the new Section and efforts have concentrated on dealing with the backlog of information awaiting entry to the database. This has been boosted by the appointment of a temporary archaeological assistant, Carolyn Waller, who devotes most of her time to this work.

The following table illustrates the range of work carried out by HIR staff. Information comes to us from various sources. This information then has to be processed before being added to the database. A variety of users consult the EHCR, either by written or telephone enquiry, or by visiting the record in person. These users consist of colleagues within the Planning Division, Planning and Environmental consultants, students, private individuals, and professional colleagues within national organisations, such as English Heritage.

THE ESSEX HERITAGE CONSERVATION RECORD IN 1999

Information received by EHCR:	
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Fieldwork & finds reports, and site information	187
Scheduled Ancient Monument notifications	36
Listed Building notifications	31
National Mapping Programme records	111
Industrial records	110
World War II records	139
Backlog progress:	
EHCR records created	824
Records input to database	695
Amendments to records	8120
Use of EHCR:	
Written and telephone enquiries to EHCR	228
Visitors to EHCR	135

EHCR Progress and Development

The enhancement of the EHCR continues and Listed Buildings have been added to the Geographic Information System (GIS). This has been part-funded by the Planning Division's Environmental Policy Group who wish to see this information accessible on the GIS. Since starting in October all the 14,208 Listed Buildings have been digitised. The work was carried out by Debbie Knopp of the Field Archaeology Unit.

The Section's use of Information Technology continues to develop, for example GIS. The EHCR has been linked to GIS to enable users to select records of archaeological monuments and view their location on a digital map. The Listed Buildings from Essex are being added to the GIS and will also be linked to the EHCR in the same way. A more advanced use of GIS can be seen in the Stour Valley project where 3D software is allowing cropmark sites to be displayed and assessed in their landscape settings.

Place Names Survey

Archaeology Section staff continue to be involved with this project and about 11,000 records have been entered onto the database.

Aerial Survey

Funding has been obtained from the EH for summer and winter flying over Suffolk and Essex although the results from this summer were not as good as had been hoped owing to the climatic conditions being unconducive for cropmark formation. Hertfordshire County Council also funded aerial survey in their

area, where, conversely to the trend in Essex, a number of new cropmark sites were discovered on the boulder clay plateau.

World War II Defences

Fred Nash is currently working on the survey of defences in Southend-on-Sea, funded by the Borough Council. This work will continue into the next financial year and it is possible that the Council will finance a further stage, including production of a report. Fred is also working on a report of his survey of bombing decoys and in recent weeks this has attracted a great deal of media interest, resulting in several requests for television and radio interviews.

Essex Mapping Project

This project forms part of English Heritage's National Mapping Programme (NMP), involving mapping the county's archaeology from air photographs. Work is in progress in the north-west of the county but, as reported previously, the project is still experiencing problems in obtaining a regular supply of aerial photographs from the English Heritage air photographs library in Swindon. David Buckley recently attended a seminar arranged by English Heritage to discuss whether and how the NMP might be accelerated and progressed over the next few years.

Monuments Protection Programme

Susan Tyler is employed on an Additional Scheduling Project (ASP) funded by EH to prepare scheduling documentation for monuments in Essex, working on a class by class basis. Monument types currently being considered include redundant churches, and scheduling proposals are being progressed for All Saints', Great Stanway; St Mary the Virgin, Virley; St Peter's, Alresford. Scheduling proposals for the heavy anti-aircraft gun sites at Lippitts Hill and Little Oakley have been submitted to English Heritage's scheduling section. The contract for this work expires in August.

Historic Landscapes Characterisation Project

Essex and Hertfordshire will together form stage 2 of this regional project which will produce a GIS map of historic landscapes in East Anglia. Essex will administer the project, funded by EH, and Lynn Dyson Bruce has begun work in Hertfordshire, where

she is making good progress. She expects to move on to Essex in May.

SMR Manual Project

The work of the HIR was recognised nationally when English Heritage awarded the contract for a consultancy to prepare a manual of good practice for Sites and Monuments Records. This involved co-ordinating the input of a variety of contributors and preparing edited drafts for consultation by SMR staff. To date the manual has been well received and a final version should be published in the next few months.

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

The following courses are open to anyone interested. For further details, please contact the centre for Continuing Education, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ, or phone 01206 872519.

Short Daytime Courses

4 Tuesdays from 6 June 2000: "Fin de Siècle – the literature and culture of the 1890's". Tutor: Catherine Gunn. Venue: University of Essex

Residential Weekend Course

May 19 – 21, 2000: "Seaside holidays 1750 to 1950". Tutor: Peter Street. Venue: University of Essex
September 29 – 1 October, 2000: "Wivenhoe Park: Art and Nature". Tutor: Dr Neil Cox. Venue: Wivenhoe House Hotel

CRESSING CRAFT DAYS – MAY TO SEPTEMBER 2000

Historic Building Materials for Identification & Use – Tues. 27 June, 9am – 4.30pm. The day will consist of a series of illustrated lectures and walks around Cressing Temple examining the historic buildings there from the point of view of the materials of which they are constructed. As well as having a strictly historical approach, the day will address the problems of selecting and finding appropriate materials for the

repair of historic buildings. The day should be of interest to builders, surveyors, architects, planners, owners of historic buildings and also general interest. *Understanding Timber Framed Buildings* – Tuesday 4 July, 9am – 4.30pm. The day will consist of a series of illustrated talks by acknowledged national experts with guided tours of the buildings on the site and will afford a comprehensive introduction to timber framing. It will cover topics such as woodland management and timber conversion, tree ring dating, medieval carpentry and analysing and recording timber-framed buildings. It should be of wide general interest to those with an awareness of the historic build environment as well as being of specific value to owners of timber-framed buildings and those involved in their maintenance and repair.

Basic Maintenance of Historic Buildings – Tuesday 1 August, 9am – 4.30pm. The day will concentrate on repairing and maintaining historic buildings. Illustrated talks will cover topics such as window repair, under pinning, damp & the use of appropriate materials for historic buildings. There will also be demonstrations such as timber frame and joinery repairs, wattle and daub, thatching and riven lathe. This popular day course is held every year and is aimed at the owners of historic buildings.

The Practical History of Making Timbers for Buildings – Tuesday 29 August, 9am – 4.30pm. This day will afford the opportunity of in-depth study into the traditional conversion methods of timber to produce the individual components of a timber frame and its cladding. The day will be structured to include illustrated talks and practical demonstrations. This day will be of interest to builders, surveyors, architects, planners, owners of historic buildings and also general interest.

Crossing Conference – Essex Historic Towns, 30 Years of Conservation, Friday 8 & Saturday 9 September. The proposed format of the conference is a day of visits to Colchester, Maldon, Braintree and Saffron Walden, delegates dividing into two groups each visiting two of the towns, followed by a day of talks and discussion. Topics to be addressed by the conference will include understanding the essential character of the historic town centres and conservation areas. Balancing conservation, preservation and economic viability and infill and the problem of new design. This conference should be of

interest to planners, architects, conservation officers, historians and the general public.

For further information on any of the above courses please contact: Pauline Hudspith, Heritage Education Support Officer, Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1QH. Tel: 01245 437672, Email- pauline.hudspith@essexcc.gov.uk

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Heritage Open Days this year will be the weekend of 16 & 17 September.

This is a national event organised by the Civic Trust and it is when buildings normally shut to the public are open for visiting. Buildings open will include mills, townhalls, medieval and Georgian houses and churches.

GREETINGS FROM THE NEW EDITOR

It has been my pleasure to edit this newsletter with valuable assistance and advice from both Michael Leach and Paul Gilman.

Reading Michael's article on eryngo (page 9) reminded me about a folklore course in which we discussed the eryngo. The much quoted Shakespeare refers to eryngo in the Merry Wives of Windsor (Act V Scene V). Falstaff, disguised as Herne the Hunter, proclaims to Mistress Ford:

"My doe with the black scut! Let the sky rain potatoes; let it thunder to the tune of 'Green Sleeves'; hail kissing-comfits and snow eringoes; let there come a tempest of provocation. I will shelter me here."

Sally Gale

PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP - Subscriptions due on January 1st each year

Single Member - £18

Two members at one address - £20

Institutions - £20

Associate Member - £8

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Enquiries about delayed or missing publications and about the supply of recent back numbers should be addressed to the Secretary.

140th ANNIVERSARY APPEAL FOR THE PUBLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND

This FUND is still OPEN and will continue to be open for all the years we can foresee. It is now supporting publication of articles in each Volume of *Essex Archaeology and History*. Donations are placed into an INALIENABLE account which cannot be spent. It is the Interest thereon which is distributed by awards granted by our COUNCIL. As at 1 March 2000 the projected value of the fund stands at £20,598.

Donations payable to:

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Please enquire of Hon. Secretary for guidance.

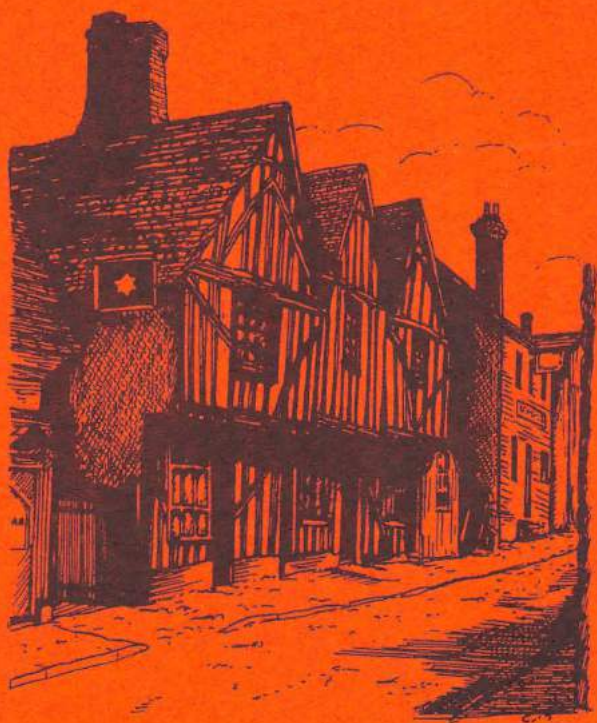
To: *W.A. Hewitt Esq. (Hon. Secretary to the Appeal), Oak Cottage, 51 Crossways, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex RM2 6AJ.*

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NEWSLETTER 132

SUMMER 2000

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**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS
NO LATER THAN 22 SEPTEMBER 2000**

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Society or its officers.

Cover illustration: 23-27 Bridge Street, Witham re-drawn from an early nineteenth century etching (re-drawn by Nick Nethercoat)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Having been given a timely reminder by the editor of the need to provide my piece for this newsletter I found myself making a start on it while returning from a visit to see Poundbury "village", the major extension to the west of Dorchester being built on the Duchy of Cornwall land by the Prince of Wales. I feel there is a relevance to Essex in this since this scheme develops ideas originally put forward in the Essex Design Guide in 1974 and developed by Essex County Council at Woodham Ferrers new town since that time. These relate to human scale, layout, local distinctiveness and the use of regional materials when developing new settlement. Poundbury arose from the Prince's desire, as expressed in 'A Vision of Britain' to see a programme for rescuing his future kingdom from concrete and alienation, and a wish to see developments built on 'a more intimate scale. The land at Poundbury, where the local council wanted to see houses built, offered an opportunity to illustrate these principles. Accordingly, the development incorporates features from existing ancient villages and market towns, including off street parking, open squares and market, and excludes many modern features such as visible TV aerials and telegraph poles. Six years since building commenced, there are currently 200 houses although it is planned that eventually there will be over 2,000 built in line with these ideas. There has been much professional criticism of the development, as there was when the Essex Design Guide first appeared (a new version was produced in 1997). It is easy to be overcritical, and I personally liked Poundbury preferring the end result to the extensive areas of poor quality new estates, which are the lot of many towns. However, there is a feeling that even within this type of development there should be a place for good modern building(s), reflecting what is a natural evolutionary process within any settlement. Certainly, I believe that any members who find themselves in that part of the country would find it worthwhile paying at least a brief visit to Poundbury to form their own opinion, the residents there are now well used to both media and public attention! And if your interest is more archaeological, the scheme lies in the shadow of Maiden Castle, of which it has fine views, and is adjacent to the other less well known hillfort of

Poundbury. Dorchester, the site of an important Roman town, has a fine museum and is pleasant to walk around, so there is plenty to fill a day out.

An event about which the Society should be pleased was its presence at this year's Millennium History Fair. This year the fair enjoyed fine weather which meant that once again this was well attended. In addition to a wide range of stalls there were specially produced plays by local schools about important Essex historic events, lectures and music and traditional food and drink (provided by CAMRA). The Society was well represented by its membership and I counted no less than five past presidents involved in a range of activities during the day. The Society's stand was well visited, quite a number of publications were sold, and considerable interest was expressed in the Society and its activities. I am particularly grateful to Michael Leach and Andrew Philips for their efforts in organising the Society's contribution to the event.

Those of you who visited the excavations of the Roman burials at Stanway, Colchester, will know the kind of imaginative ways in which Philip Crummy has used technology to present the results of the Colchester Archaeological Trust's work but at this year's Morant Lecture at Colchester Castle, the audience for his talk on Colchester Castle and the Temple of Claudius experienced a *tour de force*. Having apologised for his technical limitations and after expressing admiration for those speakers adept at using dual projection, he proceeded to co-ordinate the traditional use of slides with PowerPoint projection and a link to two roving video cameras. One outside the castle served to highlight phases of construction for the medieval keep and one in the basement focussed on the foundations provided by the Claudian Temple. There was a good turnout and all came away suitably impressed by both the style and content of the evening. Clearly, this was an insight into how future presentations may well be developed.

I have in the past highlighted various aspects of the developing regional identity of government and how important it is for the historic environment services and others involved in the region's heritage to link to these new agencies and bodies. In many respects the

local authority archaeologists in the East of England have been at the forefront of trying to relate to these new structures and raise the profile of heritage issues in their work. It was therefore pleasing to attend the launch of two regional documents in Cambridge on 25 May. One was the second part of a regional research framework for the region (Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2: research agenda and strategy EAA Occasional Paper 8) and a statement/strategy produced by the ALGAO East of England Region Committee – *Taking a lead in safeguarding the historic environment of the East of England*. This sets out the background of local authority historic environment services in the region, and a strategy for addressing some of the key issues for these services. It is hoped that this document will facilitate liaison with the regional cultural and environmental agencies and assist in the formulation and implementation of their policies.

This year's AGM, held at Nazeing, was well attended and a pleasant day. We were welcomed by the Nazeing History Workshop Group, and on everyone's behalf I thank them for their hospitality in hosting the meeting. Three of their members gave very interesting talks embracing the whole history of Nazeing followed by guided walks to see their village and Nazeing Park. I am sure that many of us present were surprised to hear the wealth of information, which has been researched about this part of West Essex. In addition to the usual business of the AGM, of particular importance was one item relating to the future of the Society library. I outlined the background to the closure of the Hollytrees library in my last President's piece, and a letter circulated with the AGM papers set out the discussions we have had about finding a new home which have focussed on the Library of the Essex University at Colchester. Council has given much thought to this issue and there was welcome endorsement from all present at the AGM of the present course of action. Subject to the registration of an acceptable agreement, it could be possible to move the library directly to a new home at the University in the autumn.

The AGM saw significant changes in the officers of the Society. Owen Bedwin, as editor of *Essex Archaeology and History* has over many years given

the Society an outstanding reputation for the quality of its transactions also Paul Gilman (as editor of the *Newsletter*) and James Kemble (Membership Secretary) also stood down. The Society have been fortunate in having these officers in post for a long period since stability is a great help in the presentation of the Society for which these posts are particularly important. Therefore, on everyone's behalf I acknowledge the great debt we owe them for all their hard work and we also wish their successors well in their new role.

David Buckley

WILLIAM CHAPMAN WALLER (1850-1917)

William Chapman Waller was a leading member of the Essex Archaeological Society from 1891 to his death in 1917. He contributed many papers to the Society's Transactions and was its Auditor, Subscriptions Secretary and Treasurer for several years.

Born in Hackney in 1850, Waller moved in 1874 to Loughton, Essex, where he already had relatives. A graduate of University College, Oxford, he entered Inner Temple as a student and was called to the Bar in 1895 at the age of 45 years. He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1892.

Waller's house in Ash Green in Loughton overlooked Epping Forest in whose history and conservation he showed a keen interest. He was an active member of the Essex Field Club and read several papers at the Club's meetings, including ones on Old Loughton Hall, the Epping Hunt, Monk Wood and Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge.

St John's church in Loughton (where Waller and many of his family are buried) played an important part in his life. From 1889 to 1900, he contributed articles on the history of Loughton to the church magazine. Each time an article was published, he asked the printer to pull off a further 12 copies on large paper. On the completion of the series these were bound up as volumes containing 230 pages. He

subsequently gave copies to the British Museum, the Bodleian Library at Oxford, Cambridge University Library, the Guildhall Library in the City of London, the Society of Antiquaries and Harvard College, USA. The remaining copies were to have a nomadic ownership. Guildhall Library still has number 6, and the Essex Record Office has number 12, probably one of the nomadic volumes. The book includes a history of the manor and parish of Loughton from the earliest times, a detailed genealogical and topographical survey of the district, and details of the wills of some notable Loughton residents. Waller used many sources for his researches including the Assize Rolls and the Rolls of the Court of Attachments (one of the Forest courts). The book remains the most comprehensive and scholarly work on the history of Loughton, and is quoted extensively in volume 4 of the Victoria County History.

A lengthy obituary appeared in the Society's Transactions in 1917. This refers to Waller's systematic collections of hundreds of Essex field names transcribed from the tithe awards. Between 1900 and 1902, he contributed papers on "Ship Money in Essex 1630-1640", "the Tiltey Abbey records at Easton Lodge" and "the extinct Wroth family of Loughton". An important paper appeared in 1903 on the famous Wardstaff of the Hundred of Ongar with his translation and editing of the original manuscript. Waller's interest in Essex was widespread, with studies on the Court Rolls of the manors of Wethersfield and Wivenhoe in the critical reign of Richard II, a fourteenth century pluralist (Richard de Drax, rector of Harlow) and (for the Huguenot Society) papers on the registers of the Dutch church at Colchester (1645-1728), and the history of the French church at Thorpe-le-Soken (1648-1726). He contributed similar articles to the Essex Review.

Essex Record Office has a substantial collection of Waller's personal papers, including some of the notebooks used in the preparation of his books and articles. His classical and legal training is evident in the detail, often with lengthy transcriptions of MSS in Latin.

Waller inherited his house at Ash Green from his aunt, and during his lifetime he purchased other land

and property in the parish. He was involved in various local charities and societies, and from 1891 to 1899 was President of the Mutual Labor-Aid Society, one of the early mutual insurance societies, which paid unemployment benefit. He was appointed a JP in 1909, sitting on the Epping bench.

Richard Morris

(Author's note: I am presently gathering information on William Chapman Waller and his family with a view to publishing a short memoir on him. If any members have any information (other than what is in the Society's publications) I would be very pleased to hear from them. I can be contacted by phone on 020 8508 4974, or fax on 020 8508 6296.)

RELOCATION OF THE LIBRARY

Members will be aware that the Society's Library at Hollytrees is closed until further notice due to major building works in the museum. Any books still on loan must be returned as soon as possible. Please contact the Librarian, Andrew Phillips, on 01026 546775 if you have a book that should be returned.

A note sent out with the AGM papers explained that the Library at Hollytrees has become desperately overcrowded. Returning there when building work has been completed is not an option, unless we are prepared to regularly dispose of books to make room for newly acquired journals and books. Council's decision to keep the collection intact and to start negotiations for alternative accommodation at the University of Essex library was agreed unanimously at the recent AGM at Nazeing. The Society's Library would be deposited on permanent loan, but will retain its separate identity. Initially it will be housed in a basement area (currently used for storage) with reading desks for members, available during normal library hours, and with a computer terminal linked to the main university catalogue. As with other private collections, access by university members will be limited to senior staff. It is planned that members of the Society will be able to borrow books, but the usual university tariff for late returns will apply!

University policy is not to loan journals but it may be possible to provide a dedicated photocopier to overcome this difficulty. The University will electronically catalogue our collection (an estimated two year task) and this should become accessible through the Internet. Members will have the right to use the main University library. Much detail is yet to be decided, but this arrangement will provide many advantages for members and allow our Library to continue to grow. It will also make the Library available to members much sooner than would be the case if we returned to Hollytrees. There will doubtless be some nostalgia over the loss of our traditional premises, but the University offers many additional advantages. More details will appear in the next Newsletter.

Michael Leach

By the time this newsletter is printed the library will have moved. A. Phillips - July 2000

THORNDON PARK & THE EIGHTH LORD PETRE

In 1732, at the age of 18, Thorndon and Ingatestone Halls were assigned to the eighth Lord Peter. The energetic new proprietor initiated major improvements to both house and park at Thorndon. There was a major remodelling of the Tudor Hall by Giacomo Leoni, construction of extensive stables and "stoves" (hot houses) to the east and demolition of the Tudor gatehouse and West Horndon parish church to the south. He also built – and possibly designed – a new church in a hexagonal churchyard for the combined parishes of West Horndon and Ingrave.

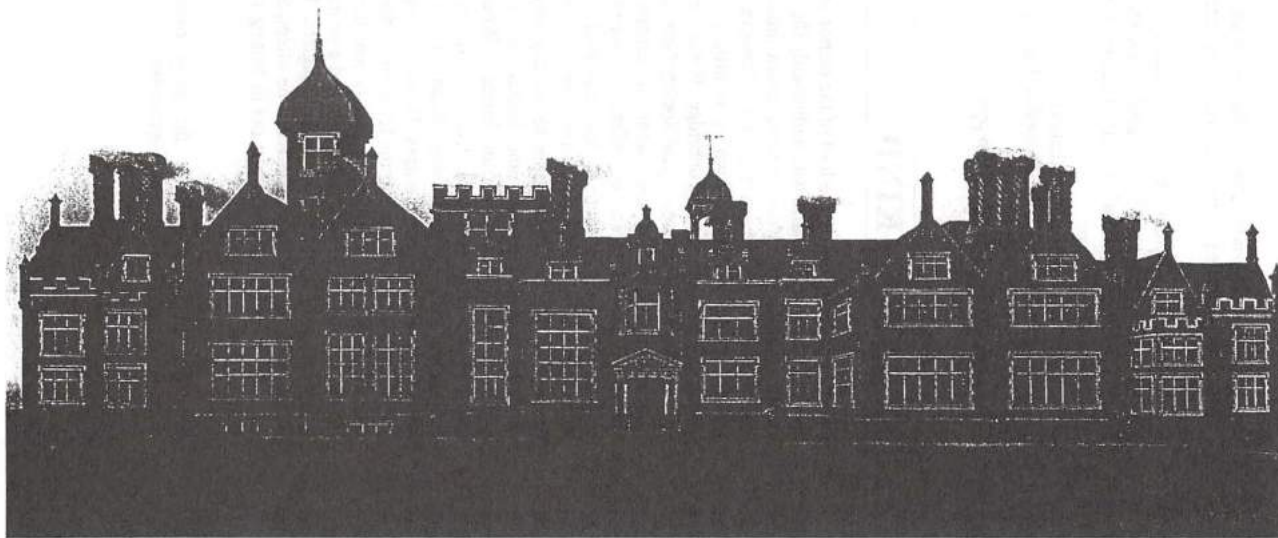
He was also a highly knowledgeable gardener and plantsman, probably familiar with the work of Le Nôtre in France. A highly elaborate plan, drawn up by Bourginion for the adjoining park, is preserved in the Essex Record Office. Nothing is known about this French surveyor, neither is it clear if he was the designer, or merely the draughtsman of Lord Peter's plans. There has always been some doubt about how much of the plan was carried out as the drawing is annotated "*this scheme was not carried into effect*".

There is, however, ample evidence that a great deal was done. Part of the evidence comes from the contemporary accounts of Peter Collinson and Horace Walpole. Collinson described the planting of the grand avenue as "*a Herculean task*". Elms, 40 to 60 feet in height, were drawn by teams of 20 horses to form the "platoons" (groups of 9 trees planted in a raised square bed). Several of these "platoons" survived into the 1860s and were shown on the 6" Ordnance Survey map. Collinson listed nearly 5000 trees planted in May 1740, described a 10 foot wide lawn roller weighing 11,000 pounds and visited the semi derelict "stoves" some years after Lord Petre's death. The *London Evening Post* of 17-19 April 1736 described an attack on Lord Petre's labourers (who were suspected of being Irish at a time when anti Irish feelings were running high) and mentions that the men were employed in digging canals and laying gravel paths.

With Lord Petre's premature death in 1742 from smallpox, all work ceased. When his infant son succeeded to the title, he rebuilt the Hall on a new site to the north and the park was redesigned by "Capability" Brown on much less formal lines. The highly formal gardens around the old Hall were abandoned and reverted to woodland. The only obvious relics today of the eighth Lord's works are the Octagon plantation, the mounds on either side of the new Hall and the ziggurat at the northern end of old Hall lake (whose outline is much softened by time and Mr Brown). However, closer examination on the ground reveals other features in the woodland, almost certainly dating from the eighth Lord's grand plan.

Firstly, in grassland just to the north of the wood covering the old Hall site is a shallow depression, almost certainly the remains of a large polygonal basin which marked the southern end of the grand avenue.

Secondly, two dams survive in the Menagerie Plantation. The southern one has been partly reconstructed with modern rubble and a steel conduit. The northern one was breached long ago, but its banks are visible with a substantial lime tree at each end. The size and symmetrical position of these trees suggest they are part of his scheme.



In 1573 John Petre bought a large 15th century brick house at West Horndon and over the next twenty years set about a major rebuilding programme that transformed it into a classic Elizabethan mansion as shown in this painting. The house was 270 feet long with multiple gables, towers and tall, ornate chimneys. The many large windows afforded fine views over Petre's large estates across the south Essex plain towards the Thames estuary. Fashionable though they might be, all these windows did not necessarily make for comfort. Writing of this fashion, Francis Bacon commented "You shall sometimes have fair houses so full of glass, that one cannot tell where to become out of the sun or cold". The house was demolished in the mid 18th century but appears on one of the Walker maps and detailed building accounts survive. These and other sources have been used to guide this reconstruction, which gives a good idea of how impressive this great house must have been at the end of the 16th century.

A reconstruction of Thorndon Old Hall by Frank Gardiner. This illustration can be seen on page 69 of 'Splendid and Permanent Pageants: Archaeological and historical reconstruction pictures of Essex', compiled by Nigel Brown, 2000, Essex County Council.

Thirdly, there is another small breached dam, well to the south of the old Hall lake, probably related to a complex serpentine water garden shown on the Bourginion plan.

Fourthly, there are interesting structures in the linear woodland flanking the stream running Southeast from Rookery Wood. The stream itself is conduited for about 150 yards, in a substantial arched channel built of Tudor bricks dating from two different periods. One eighteenth century brick was noted in the arch, apparently in its original position. This conduit has collapsed at intervals, but where it survives intact, it is covered with about 12 feet of backfill. Presumably this was done to level off the steep stream valley where the grand avenue crossed it, as well as to provide a more level floor for the formal gardens shown here on the Bourginion plan.

The conduit ends in the back of a domed structure described as a "possible ice house". However, it seems highly unlikely that an icehouse would be designed with a stream flowing through it. The structure is about 8 feet high, with the dome built of eighteenth century brick, with much conglomerate and re-used worked freestone internally. The re-used building material could have come from the demolished church and gatehouse, or from the old hall itself, which was being extensively remodelled at this time. The back of the structure is buried under the backfill covering the end of the conduit. The front has collapsed, but probably had an arched opening, perhaps with a sill at the base over which the stream tumbled. On the Bourginion plan, a small structure is shown at the top end of a polygonal pool roughly in this position. It seems likely that the "possible icehouse" is in fact a grotto, or nymphaeum, popular in early eighteenth century gardens, and the only architectural feature to have survived from Lord Petre's elaborate garden plan.

The purpose of this note is to add to the evidence that suggests that much of Lord Petre's grand plan for the park was completed, and to stimulate further investigation of this site which has lain largely undisturbed since his death in 1742.

Michael Leach

Sources:

- a) C. V. Collis "*Thorndon Park – Phoenix of an Age*" (1994) unpublished dissertation, Architectural Association
- b) Sir George Clutton & Colin Mackay "*Old Thorndon Hall, Essex: A History and Reconstruction of its Park and Garden*" (1970) Garden History Society Occasional Paper
- c) Pat Ryan, personal communication
- d) J. Ward "*History of Old Thorndon Hall*" (1972) ECC
- e) Bourginion plan at ERO: D/DP P23

HERIOT IN KIND

Heriot, a payment due to the lord of the manor on the death of a copyhold tenant, was traditionally the "best beast". I had assumed that in more recent times this was commuted for a cash payment. However this was not always so, as is shown by an article on the manor of Rusthall, near Tunbridge Wells, in the Spring 2000 Kent Archaeological Society Newsletter. In the early years of the twentieth century, its eccentric lord devoted considerable energy to maintaining and extracting his manorial dues. Amongst other things, this involved a weekly scrutiny of the local newspaper to identify recently deceased manorial tenants, and instructions to his agents to demand payment of heriot. Wherever possible, he insisted on a live animal, as the alternative cash payment was fixed at a level unchanged since the middle ages. Despite references to "shackles of feudalism" in the local press, the lord was successful in claiming live heriots into the mid 1920s. In 1908, for example, he collected a yeomanry charger, a pony and a sow with three piglets. There was an acrimonious exchange when he attempted to seize a fox terrier, which turned out to belong to the dead tenant's housekeeper!

Was live heriot unusual in the early twentieth century, and are there any Essex examples?

Michael Leach

ESSEX WILLS BENEFICIARIES INDEX

This little known index may be of considerable use to local as well as family historians. Currently it covers Essex wills proved between 1675 and 1858 and indexes anyone whose surname is different from that of the testator – including beneficiaries (with the relationship to the testator, if stated), tenants, occupiers of adjoining land, executors and trustees. Unfortunately, it does not cover witnesses, as in the nineteenth century these were usually solicitors' clerks and thought to be of little interest. It was not initially appreciated that the names of seventeenth century witnesses were of considerably more interest, but in the interest of consistency it was decided not to include the names of any witnesses in the indexes.

To use the index, simply send a stamped addressed envelope and the name that you are interested in. If the name is a common one, it would be wise to qualify it with an area or date. You will receive a printout listing all indexed references to the name supplied. Up to this point, there is no charge. After this, the Essex Record Office references will be supplied at £1 for each name, with a one off handling charge of £3. For those not having easy reference to the ERO, extracts from the relevant wills can be supplied at £5 each.

The service is available from Mrs Thora Broughton, 43 Pertwee Drive, Chelmsford CM2 8DY.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ESPIONAGE: THE SANCTUARY REVISITED

The February 2000 issue of *British Archaeology*, in a fascinating piece of archaeological detection, re-examines the story of the Avebury Sanctuary. The destruction of this double stone Neolithic circle in 1723 and 1724 was described by the contemporary antiquary, William Stukeley. The site then remained undisturbed until Maud and Ben Cunnington's excavations in 1930, when the original positions of

the stones were marked with concrete blocks. The dig revealed other features – six concentric rings of postholes, a collection of artefacts and animal bones, and the skeleton of an adolescent buried with a Beaker pot adjacent to a small megalith. The holes were then backfilled and a report written.

However, problems of interpretation remained. What was the function of such a large number of postholes? Maud Cunnington suggested a ceremonial arrangement of timber posts, possibly carved, coloured or decorated in some way. A few years later, Stuart Piggott suggested that there had been three successive roofed buildings, each larger than its predecessor, with the final construction enclosing the inner stone circle. Other sites have been discovered since, but Avebury and Woodhenge (also excavated by the Cunningtons) remain the most important and the problem of their interpretation remains. The original printed reports have their limitations, and modern archaeologists were frustrated by the lack of a full site archive – until a recent discovery in Devizes museum.

The museum library contains the diary of the Avebury dig foreman, Willy Young. This runs to 88 volumes of anecdote, personal notes and detailed site records. The first entry relating to the Avebury dig in 1930 would be familiar to any modern archaeologist – *"rain prevented us from digging"*. Unfortunately it does not provide an account from the start of the dig as, in order to save money, he was only employed after the labourers had uncovered the first holes. He described 162 excavated pits which proved difficult to relate to those shown on the published site plan, but eventually clarified by a single decorated potsherd common to both accounts. Young's diary gives far more detail about pit fills and artefacts than the published account, as well as evidence suggesting how the pits were originally dug. It lists visitors, including a party from the Wiltshire Archaeological Society. The skeleton had just been found, but Maud Cunnington ordered it to be covered up before the visitors arrived, so that they would not be distracted from the serious archaeology.

The entries also reveal that Young was being paid to write the diary by the Cunnington's arch rival, Alexander Keiller, who was extremely piqued not to

be digging the Sanctuary himself. Relations between the two were so bad that the Cunningtons refused to allow Keiller on site. It is clear that Keiller studied Young's diary closely, and the bound volumes contain annotations in the former's hand. It is ironical that the feud between these two rivals resulted in the keeping of a detailed site record, which is now proving invaluable to modern archaeologists.

Young's diary was hard to reconcile with the printed account. There were more postholes, and the layout shown at the centre of the site was different. Young gives an account of his disagreement with Piggott's explanation of the double posthole, and believed from site evidence that both had been dug at the same time. Piggott had maintained that the second adjacent hole had been dug later to take a replacement post after the decay of the original.

The new evidence from Young's diary showed that it was necessary to have another look at the original site. A limited excavation carried out last summer by Mike Pitts confirmed and expanded Young's view. The redundant holes had been carefully packed with rammed chalk and levelled off, and the work was so skilfully done that it was difficult to distinguish fill from undisturbed natural. In places, the 1930 excavation had not removed all the original fill which was so clean that backfilling must have occurred soon after the original hole was dug. There were no signs of timber staining or decay. It seems therefore that this was not a site with a permanent timber structure, but one on which there was continuous activity with frequent erection and removal of posts, with careful backfilling of the redundant holes.

It is natural to think of a site developing in phases, but it appears that there was a continuous cycle of building and dismantling on this important Neolithic site. It suggests that we may need to re-examine other sites and be more cautious about adopting too rigid an interpretation of phased development. More information about the Sanctuary, and other new research at Stonehenge and Avebury will appear in "Hengeworld" by Mike Pitts, to be published later this year by Century.

Michael Leach

CECIL HEWETT AND HISTORIC CARPENTRY: HIS LEGACY TO CURRENT RESEARCH INTO TIMBER-FRAMED BUILDINGS

Conference in Memory of Cecil Hewett 22nd May 1999

Most readers will be aware that the carpentry historian Cecil A. Hewett died in July 1998. England's largest gathering of vernacular architecture enthusiasts took place at Cressing Temple in Essex on 22nd May 1999, when about two hundred people attended a conference held to honour Hewett and his work, and to raise money for a memorial to him. It is thanks to his work that the two great timber-framed barns at Cressing are now known to have been erected in the thirteenth century, during the tenure of the Knights Templar. The beautiful site therefore provided a most appropriate setting for the conference.

In the Barley Barn, the earlier of the two, the conference chairman, Peter Richards, welcomed the delegates and, in particular, the guests of honour: Hewett's widow, Pat, and their son, Cecil (their other son, Richard, was indisposed). While head of the Conservation Section of Essex County Council, Richards had appointed Hewett to the section, thus giving him the opportunity to examine many more Essex buildings than would otherwise have been possible.

The first speaker was Adrian Gibson, who had worked alongside Hewett from the 1960s. He talked of Hewett's early exploration of Essex from his childhood home at Laindon, and of the influence of his father, a coachbuilder. Hewett developed his skills in the arts and crafts in colleges at Chelmsford and Swansea, before becoming an art teacher. Examples of his work were on display during the conference. His great contribution was the

elucidation of past technology. Drawings such as those of the timber frame of the tower at Navestock Church, Essex, show his gift for depicting a complex structure. His drawings remain to us—essentially beautifully wrought sketches, which allowed him, as a working schoolmaster, to record far more buildings than would have been possible with measured drawings. Perhaps the most masterly is that of the Chapter House of York Minster.

It was Hewett's work on the Cressing barns that made the greatest impact. In 1961, backed by the Essex historian A. C. (Gus) Edwards, he wrote that the dates of c.1500 generally attributed to the barns became 'ludicrous' when logic was applied, and that both actually dated from the thirteenth century. Although supported by radiocarbon dating (carried out by Professors Berger and Horn of California), his theory initially produced a 'thunderous silence' in the academic world. He expanded his research into the essential framing of aisled halls and realized that mediaeval carpenters had been constantly striving to improve their methods, especially ways of making scarf joints, and that buildings could thus be dated regardless of features such as mouldings. Gradually, Hewett's ideas gained acceptance, S. E. Rigold declaring that he was 'not our master but our leader'.

In 1967 Hewett visited Massachusetts and fostered his friendship with Abbott Cummings, who later quoted his work on East Anglian houses. In 1972 he left teaching to join the Historic Buildings Division of the Greater London Council, to mutual benefit, transferring to Essex County Council in 1974. 1980 saw the publication of his book *English Historic Carpentry*, but in the same year he suffered a stroke. He retained his knowledge but experienced the frustration of being unable to communicate it. Gradually, his willpower enabled him to resume his studies, travelling by bus to towns he found interesting. In April 1998 came long-overdue recognition from the academic world, when he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Technology by Anglia Polytechnic University.

The second speaker, Ian Tyers, a dendrochronologist at the University of Sheffield, regarded Hewett's major achievement as the establishment of a typology, as important in architectural history as in

archaeology. With any typology there is the danger of circularity, but timber has the fortunate ability to provide an independent date, through dendrochronology ('dendro') or tree-ring dating. Tyers, in a masterly analysis, compared dates published by Hewett with dendro dates for the same buildings. Of 170 buildings dated by Hewett in *English Historic Carpentry*, only 33 have dendro dates published in *Vernacular Architecture*, but these are sufficient to show that Hewett was fundamentally right in his datings, though often just five to twenty years too early. There are a few exceptions, such as the Navestock tower, where he was led astray by excessive reliance on carbon dating. Hundreds more buildings examined by Hewett await dendro dating, and Tyers remarked that such work would be a fantastic memorial to the man.

After coffee, Dave Stenning, a conservation officer with Essex County Council, observed that Hewett's special contribution had become a part of history. He had reminded Stenning of Palladio investigating the ruins of ancient Rome. He ordered a long lost world and introduced a meaningful, if arcane, vocabulary. Concentrating on large buildings of uncomplicated plan form, he achieved his breakthrough in the barns at Coggeshall and Cressing, realizing that notched lap joints belonged to an early phase of carpentry. The following phases proved traceable in cathedral roofs. His special skill was his ability to identify a truly significant building. His drawings of timber frames are works of art and his axonometric views of one or two bays are particularly effective.

Carbon dating was a false (but partly helpful) dawn. Dendro is different. It has refined datings but shown that Hewett was basically correct. If he had a weakness it was in assuming a single line of development; failing to recognize that particular examples could be in advance of, or behind, the times. Nevertheless, he correctly determined the order of developments as carpentry passed through what he saw as its early period of excellence and its long decline under the 'withering blast of the Renaissance'. Stenning was grateful that, through Hewett, he had discovered a life-enhancing interest.

John Walker, although long involved in the study of vernacular buildings, had known Hewett only since

his stroke, but felt that all students of the subject stood upon his shoulders. Hewett introduced terminology, such as 'reversed assembly', which is now common parlance, and developed a chronology which is almost universally accepted. Complementing the contribution of Ian Tyers, Walker considered all the dendro-dated twelfth- and thirteenth-century aisled and base-cruck buildings, whether or not published by Hewett, to see whether Hewett's typology was correct. Like Tyers, he showed that Hewett's theories were fully substantiated by dendro dates, though there was a much greater overlap of styles than Hewett thought. For instance, there were three or four decades of overlap between archaic carpentry and the later form, with the passing brace lingering on into the fourteenth century. However, the course of development of scarf joints is clear. An exception to Hewett's general reliability occurs with reversed assembly, thought by him to be a very early feature, whereas its earliest dated use in arcade plates was in 1245.

Richard Bond, of English Heritage, was interested in an aspect of Hewett's work that was often overlooked: the methods of assembly of buildings such as the Cressing barns. Hewett expressed his ideas in conjectural drawings of the erection of barns, houses and belfries. Bond's own research began with the small late-fourteenth- or fifteenth-century barn at Great Tomkyns, Upminster, Essex. His rapidly shown series of drawings was reminiscent of time-lapse photography and effectively illustrated the sequence of assembly of self-supporting sections of the frame which he had deduced from examination of the joints and carpenters' marks. He showed that there was no evidence that complete walls or non-cruck frames were reared, as sometimes suggested by Hewett, but that each timber was positioned separately.

After lunch, speakers continued to illustrate the breadth of Hewett's studies. Adrian Gibson returned to tell delegates of Hewett's particular interest in the construction of doors, ranging from the main door of Hadstock Church in Essex, where he agreed with the reputed late-Anglo-Saxon date, to the late-mediaeval doors of the Cambridge colleges, the subject of one of his last papers.

Tim Tatton-Brown spoke of Hewett's pioneering studies of cathedral carpentry, which had shown as false the idea that few early roofs survived on English cathedrals. Tatton-Brown, a freelance archaeologist and architectural historian, first met Hewett in 1973, when working on the London waterfront excavations. Meeting him opened up a new world to Tatton-Brown, and they subsequently co-operated in the study of several cathedrals. It was appropriate that this conference should take place just after the demise of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England which, Tatton-Brown felt, had stagnated after the Second World War. Hewett, on the other hand, like Charles Darwin, had produced ideas so fresh that they had been incapable of digestion by many. It was unimportant that some of his datings were wrong; that his drawings were not measured: he was a genius. In the future, his work should be supplemented by the production of detailed and accurate drawings.

David Andrews, an archaeologist with Essex County Council's Historic Buildings and Design Section, looked at Hewett's work on timber belfries. He was sure that, in his youth, Hewett would have stood in awe of the timbers of the bell tower at Laidon. Some of his earliest publications were studies of such belfries. Their carpentry is related to the cathedral work mentioned by Tatton-Brown, and they are feats of engineering comparable to the great barns. Dendro has given dates for five of these structures, the most significant being that for the tower at Navestock, constructed with passing braces and notched lap joints. Hewett at first, in 1964, was inclined to think it later than the adjacent mid-thirteenth-century south aisle, but by 1982 had accepted one of the more mischievous results of carbon dating, a date of 1193 ± 60 . Dendro has recently produced a date of 1365-82, indicating that archaic features continued in use where an archaic type of building was erected.

Another lesser-known area of Hewett's interest was highlighted by Julian Munby, of the Oxford Archaeological Unit. Hewett put carpentry back on the agenda of mediaeval studies and produced a pioneering article on the early windmill. Transport technology, too, had been largely absent from the literature, its study thought to be the province of

fools. Early vehicles, like mill machinery, were made largely of timber, but in both cases the use of iron was necessary where there were moving parts. The coach appeared in the sixteenth century and its direct descent from mediaeval farm waggons can be traced through surviving early examples and drawings. All bear substantial similarities to Hewett's model of a farm waggon which was on display throughout the day. There were changes in body style but the basic technology remained unchanged through possibly two millennia.

Peter Richards then invited contributions from the floor. Discussion ranged over such topics as whether timber-framed buildings were erected on plinth walls or subsequently underpinned, the relationship of early door construction to Anglo-Saxon boatbuilding, and whether there was a place for trained amateurs in dendrochronology. In conclusion, Richards remarked that the conference had discussed and confirmed the truth of Hewett's work. He thanked all who had taken part. Russ Craig thanked Peter Richards, the four bodies organizing the conference and, above all, the steering committee and its chairman, John Walker.

Finally, a bench was dedicated to Hewett's memory by County Councillors Joan Lyons and Chris Manning-Press. The front of the top rail bears the inscription 1926 - Cecil Hewett - 1998, and on the back are the words *Artist, Craftsman & Carpentry Historian*. A second memorial will be provided in the form of an addition to the permanent exhibition in the Wheat Barn, to explain who Hewett was and the importance of his work. It is hoped that the conference papers will be published in a volume which will also contain many of Hewett's drawings.

Alan Bayford

ANOTHER ESSEX SIGHTING OF ST ERASMUS

As a follow up to Janet Cooper's note on St Erasmus in the last Newsletter, there is a bequest of 12d in the

1503 will of Henry Love of Chelmsford to the light of "*Saint Rasmus*", apparently in Chelmsford parish church. For those with strong stomachs (no pun intended!) a sixteenth century stained glass window depicting his martyrdom is still to be found in the church of St Botolph's at Lullingstone in Kent.

Sources:

1. EAS Transactions, new series, XXI p. 250 [1934]
2. Archaeologia Cantiana LXXXVI p. 49 [1971]

Michael Leach

VISIT TO BELCHAMP HALL & BELCHAMP WALTER CHURCH

The Society visited these two buildings – set close together at some distance from the village – on 8 April 2000. Members were very grateful to be shown round the house by the present owners, who also gave them freedom of the garden and provided tea. The Hall was built in about 1720 on the site of an earlier building of which nothing survives, though there is some re-used sixteenth century panelling inside the house. The main façade is in yellow brick with red brick quoins and window surrounds, and very fine rubbed brick pilasters. The architect may have been Robert Taylor (father of the much more famous Sir Robert Taylor), a Woodbridge mason and builder who executed a fine marble tomb in the neighbouring church. A nineteenth two storey bay was noted on the west side, with a wing of the same period connecting the 1720 house to two bays at the back built in much earlier brickwork. The garden contained an early raised terrace walk with flint and stone follies at each end, one with the appropriate punning Latin text "*Fortuna mea in bello campo*".

Members then moved down to the church, whose massive fifteenth century tower dominates the view from the house. A timber framed south porch dates from the same period. Inside there was speculation about what had happened to the font which appeared to have had its upper part amputated, with curious scratched patterns and graffiti on the cut-down rim.

The south door, with an elaborate rear frame unique in Essex, is attributed to the fourteenth century by Cecil Hewett. The wide high nave roof of the trussed rafter type seemed to be of surprisingly poor workmanship, considering its span. The other striking features were i) the mutilated but highly ornate fourteenth century cusped arch on the north wall, possibly originally leading into a chantry chapel ii) various wall paintings of the same period and iii) the fine marble monument to various members of the Raymond family, signed "*Robert Taylor, sen*".

The church was visited by the Society nearly a century ago on 4 June 1908. Those familiar with the energy of our predecessors will not be surprised to learn that Ballington Hall, all three Belchamp churches as well as the one at Pentlow, were visited on the same day with the President, Frederick Chancellor reading papers at each! It is interesting his comment on the nave roof – "*it has evidently been reconstructed, as I cannot think that the present arrangement of the principles with queen trusses is original*". He too concluded that the font had been cut down, but did not comment on the scratched decorations on its rim. There was no mention of the wall paintings, presumably still hidden under whitewash at that time. In 1908 the church was well covered in ivy which "*has been allowed to grow rampant, not only over the porch but over other parts of the church, so that I am afraid that many points of interest are hidden*".

Today the ivy has gone, and the wall paintings, sensitively restored, are atmospheric in a different way.

Michael Leach

DEVELOPMENT OF MALTINGS ON THE ESSEX/HERTS BORDER

This is the title of an article in Volume XXII of *Industrial Archaeology Review* written by Tony Crosby. The area was noted for its light free-draining soil without too much rain, ideal growing conditions

for barley. The growth of the industry in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was driven by the demands of the London brewers who gradually replaced the small scale brewing in pubs and alehouses. Large scale production of malt required the means of transporting the finished product – so it is not surprising that the largest maltings are found on the Rivers Lea and Stort, and on the London/Cambridge railway at Sawbridgeworth.

Malt making involved a series of processes. Grain from a store was soaked in a tank of water to start germination, and then spread out in wooden framed "*couches*" which were used as a unit of measurement for the malt tax introduced in 1697. With the abolition of this tax in 1880, the wet grain was placed in heaps before being spread out on the growing floor, where regular turning and control of ventilation and temperature were essential. At the right moment the grain was dried in a kiln to arrest germination, and to give flavour and colour to the final product. For the dark beers favoured in the eighteenth century the intense heat produced by burning straw, or faggots of hornbeam, was necessary but this fuel was slowly replaced by coal.

In the seventeenth century most small towns – and even rural areas – had small scale maltings, usually one or two storey timber framed buildings, with louvres and shutters for ventilation. The kiln was usually conical, often within the building and built of timber lined with lathe and plaster. By the eighteenth century, more sophisticated structures began to appear in towns, with lucams (for hoisting grain sacks) and external conical kilns. Large scale production became feasible with the River Lea Navigation Act of 1739, the turnpiking of the Bishops Stortford to London road in 1744 and the River Stort Navigation Act of 1766. By the early nineteenth century larger maltings were developed in Harlow, Sawbridgeworth and Bishops Stortford. These were often brick built and of two storeys with external brick pyramidal kilns. By the later nineteenth century, rail had become the dominant form of transport and many of the large concerns had their own sidings for loading malt, and for receiving coal and coke. Though these fuels predominated, one Sawbridgeworth malting was still using hornbeam faggots until the 1960s. The final development was

the vast pneumatic malthouse of 1896 at Sawbridgeworth which introduced mechanical means of turning and moving the grain. By this time, most – but not all – of the small scale maltings were out of business.

Michael Leach

REVISING PEVSNER'S ESSEX

Nikolaus Pevsner's "*Essex*" was first published in 1954, and revised in 1965. Much has changed over the intervening decades. One of our members, Dr James Bettley, an architectural historian who is well known for his studies of the Essex architect/rector Ernest Geldart, has been appointed to undertake a further revision. This will include corrections and, more importantly, new information from research on the buildings originally described, as well as descriptions of places and new developments not seen by Pevsner. The new volume will exclude the area of Essex now in Greater London which will be covered by a new volume on East London.

Dr Bettley would welcome any information from members. This can include corrections, new information from more recent research about dates and architects, or suggestions for buildings – both ancient and modern – which might be worth including. Please provide as much detail as you can, including the source of your information wherever possible and (if it is a building or development new to Pevsner) either a clear description of its position, or a six figure map reference.

Please contact Dr Bettley either in writing at The Old Vicarage, Great Totham, Maldon, Essex CM9 8NP, or by e-mail on j.bettley@britishlibrary.net.

COPPED HALL

The AGM of the Epping Forest Centenary Trust was held at Copped Hall this year, giving a rare chance for a tour of the gardens and grounds (not the house itself which is still a roofless shell and remains

closed).

The grounds rather resemble those of Little Easton Hall a couple of years ago: after fifty years of neglect, deliberate destruction and vandalism, they need every sort of attention. But it is well worth the trouble, which the Copped Hall Trust, set up in 1993, is now taking, to restore them. This involves extensive clearing of undergrowth and sycamore thickets, felling of trees planted commercially in the 1950's (at that time many fine specimen trees were sold as timber), and the assembling of scattered masonry and statuary.

There was a house from early medieval times, which came into royal hands at the Dissolution. Henry VIII used to visit Copped Hall (there is still a yew walk associated with him), and Mary Tudor lived there for a time. But it was falling into disrepair, and after the grant of the estate by Elizabeth to Thomas Heneage in 1564, a grand new mansion was built on a site some 250 yards from the present house. Nothing remains of this late Tudor building, though some of the outlines of its gardens can be identified.

The estate passed eventually to the Conyers family, who demolished the Heneage house and by 1758 had completed the building which stands today. The grounds they re-planned then included a walled garden of four acres (recently cleared). The Hall was considerably embellished in the later 19th century by the Wythes family (railwaymen), who bought the estate in 1869, and added an elaborate terraced architectural garden, some features of which survive, including an outstandingly elaborate summer house. The last Copped Hall – in truth no architectural gem – was accidentally burnt out in 1917, and for decades thereafter was the home of pigeons and other wildlife (as I saw when I shot there in the 1960s and as indeed it still is). The estate only narrowly escaped wholesale development ten years ago, and was saved by purchase by the present Trust with some help from Epping Forest District Council. The rural character of the surrounding land has been safeguarded thanks to purchase of nearly 1000 acres of the estate by the Corporation of London, the owners of Epping Forest itself. Restoration plans include, as the next major scheme, the re-roofing of the Hall, if resources permit.

The Trust at present conducts periodic walks round the grounds (forthcoming ones at 10.45 on October 15, November 19 and December 10), and there is an open day on September 10 at 11 a.m.

Waltham Abbey Historical Society has published an excellent short history, by Raymond Cassidy, who gave a talk following the AGM about some of the personalities and events associated with Copped Hall.

Paul Buxton

ESSEX PLACE-NAMES PROJECT

Over 20,000 place-names are now on the computer database recording names from the Essex tithe awards and other maps and documents. Booklets containing parts of the database are being published and made available from the Essex Record Office bookshop.

Recorders (no previous experience necessary) are needed to record names from maps and documents of their parish. Details from the Project Co-ordinator, 27 Tor Bryan, Ingatestone CM4 93Z, enclosing a large stamped self-addressed envelope.

James Kemble

HERITAGE INFORMATION AND RECORDS SECTION

People

As reported previously, Lynn Dyson-Bruce has been appointed as Historic Landscapes Officer to carry out this project to research, characterise and produce a digital map of Historic Landscapes in Essex and Hertfordshire. From December until early June, Lynn worked in Hertfordshire and has almost completed the project there. She has now moved to Essex and is familiarising herself with the county and

the development of the Essex landscape. This work forms the second phase of the Historic Landscape Characterisation of East Anglia, the first of which (Suffolk County) was completed in 1999.

The HIR section has had to say farewell to two members of staff. Carolyn Waller, who was working on a temporary contract, concentrating on the EHCR backlog, has joined Clywd Powys Archaeological Trust. David Strachan, who has worked on the National Mapping Programme (NMP) and aerial survey since 1993, is returning to Scotland, taking up a post as archaeologist with Perth and Kinross unitary authority. Susan Tyler has been appointed as David's replacement. Susan has substantial experience in aerial survey and post-reconnaissance and previously worked on the NMP in Hertfordshire. She is currently working on the Monuments Protection Programme in Essex (see below).

Essex Heritage Conservation Record Progress February to April 2000:

	Totals
Information received by EHCR:	
Fieldwork reports and information	54
Scheduled Ancient Monument notifications	7
Finds report	3
National Mapping Programme records	17
Backlog progress:	
EHCR records created	95
Records input to database	394
Amendments to records	4978
USE OF EHCR:	
Written & telephone enquiries	75
Visitors to the EHCR	29

Historic Buildings Data Enhancement

The programme to enhance the listed building records held on the EHCR continues. To date, summary descriptions have been created and building type thesaurus terms added and amended for 7,200 listed buildings in Basildon, Braintree, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Harlow, Maldon, Tendring, and Rochford districts. This process brings the listed building records into line with the nationally agreed data standards and makes it possible to conduct sophisticated searches on specific building types. In

addition, historic and related names have also been added to the database allowing searches to be made, for example, under a particular architect's name producing a list of locations and dates for the buildings he was responsible for in the County.

The section have also been liaising with English Heritage and the Heritage software designers, Exegesis, and other local authorities to further increase and develop the listed building sections of the Heritage Conservation Record database. Once complete, the modifications will form part of the nationally used Exegesis Sites and Monuments Record database system and enable even more detailed information to be held by the Heritage Conservation Record system.

Projects - Buildings at Risk Register

The annually produced *Historic Buildings at Risk Register* for Essex is now available for 1999/2000. Containing details of buildings known to be 'at risk' through neglect and disrepair, or vulnerable to becoming so, the aim of the *Register* is to increase public awareness and involvement in the conservation of the historic built environment in the County.

Following the recent staff and organisational changes within the Heritage Conservation branch, there has been a slightly longer delay than usual between the preparation of this *Register* and the last edition. However, progress can still be seen to have been made with 40 buildings deemed to be 'no longer at risk' and removed from the 1999/2000 *Register*. The *Register*, of course, addresses a moving target with 32 buildings designated as 'newly at risk' since 1998. Nevertheless, it is encouraging that the overall number of buildings at risk in 1999/2000 *Register* has fallen by 12 and now stands at 192.

Broken down further, it can be seen that: 84 (43%) of the buildings 'at risk' are domestic; 48 (25%) are agricultural, a majority of which are barns; 17 (9%) are ecclesiastical, comprising mainly redundant churches; 15 (8%) are former industrial buildings, and 13 (7%) are commercial premises, mostly shops; while the miscellaneous category includes, *inter alia*, structures such as walls and street furniture.

Geo-referencing of Early Ordnance Survey Maps

The latest EHCR enhancement project is to rectify digital images of historical six inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps so they are easy to use within the ArcView Geographical Information System (GIS) software package. The project involves using ER Mapper software to convert the scanned copies of the first four editions of the OS maps to the National Grid. The project is still in the early stages, and only the first edition (from the 1880's) has been geo-referenced. The work is being carried out by Debbie Knopp of the Field Archaeology Unit. For the final result the map sheets of each edition will be seamlessly 'stitched' together and held on the Planning Division Network so they can be added into ArcView projects. This work will be particularly useful in identifying archaeological and historic sites that are shown on the historical mapping. In many cases, these sites have now disappeared following the significant changes to the Essex landscape during the 20th century. District Councils are making a contribution to the costs of the work to enable the historical maps to be used in conjunction with modern landline data to identify potentially contaminated land.

Essex Mapping Project

Work in continuing on this project although some delay has been experienced as a result of delays in the supply of photographic loans from the NMR. Recent months have seen the completion of map sheets in the Stansted area. However, the soil types of the Boulder Clay of this part of the county do not readily lead to the development of cropmarks over archaeological sites except in the driest summers. In consequence relatively few sites are recorded on these clays, and the distribution of sites mapped does not necessarily reflect the real density of buried archaeological features. This has been clearly demonstrated at in the vicinity of Stansted Airport, where excavations have been carried out in the 1980s and at the present time. The aerial photographs of the 1940s show an additional enclosure adjacent to one excavated in the earlier project, but not identified at that time, but which is the subject of the current excavations. However, the latter have also located at least two other enclosures containing probable settlement in the immediate vicinity, which do not appear on any of the photography assessed for the

NMP project. Two new rectangular enclosures were also identified further north, at Ugley, recorded in survey by the RCHME in 1996.

The Stour Valley Project.

A report has been produced on the methodology and results of this landscape archaeology project, which is based on a Geographic Information System. The report concentrates on the variety and diversity of enclosures, which appear along the Stour valley. These included a number of elongated enclosures, interpreted as long barrows, and two cursus monuments, in addition to numerous circular ring-ditches which are all that survive of prehistoric burial mounds. Copies of the report have been distributed within English Heritage (who have funded the project) and reported to the Aerial Archaeology Research Group via both their newsletter and website.

Aerial Survey

A single flight has been carried out to record an excavation at Hadleigh in Suffolk. The flight was funded by the Suffolk County Council Field Archaeology Unit and recorded the excavation of two prehistoric burial mounds. A meeting was recently held at the English Heritage offices in Swindon regarding the future of "local" or "regional flyers", including the work being carried out in Essex. It was announced that in future years, it will be possible for aerial survey grants to be made for two or three year projects rather than single year grants.

Monuments Protection Programme (MPP)

The Additional Scheduling Project funded by EH and undertaken by Susan Tyler of HIR continues to progress. The category of monument currently being assessed is the parish church. Site visits have been made to ten ruined churches identified as potentially of national importance and scheduling proposals have been prepared for five of these: St Peter's Church, Alresford; All Saints Church, Stanway; Little Holland Church; St Mary's Church, Virley and Little Henny Church. The church fabric at Stanway clearly shows several rebuilds; the nave walls include 13th century material from the original church; the tower is primarily 15th century and 17th century brickwork blocks the arcade in the north nave wall. At St. Mary's Church, Virley the church dates back to the

13th century with later windows inserted when the church underwent modifications in the 14th and 15th centuries. The churches at Alresford, Little Henny and Little Holland appear to have even earlier origins: St Peter's certainly dating from the 12th century.

The next category of monument to be looked at will be World War II Bombing Decoys. An initial scheduling list of some seven sites has been drawn up and site visits have commenced.

World War Two Defences Survey

Fred Nash has been concentrating on the survey of defences in Southend, funded by the Borough Council. Anti tank obstacles were placed all round the coast, with an original total of 1,804 anti-tank blocks, of which two survive, and every road to the sea had a road barrier. Overall, there are more surviving sites than originally thought, with some interesting examples such as a Mulberry Harbour caisson offshore which is only accessible at very low tides. A particularly interesting area is the Old Ranges, Shoeburyness. During the war, the coastal artillery school guns were augmented by a battery of 6-inch naval guns. Visits to the Public Record Office have resulted in the discovery of contemporary documentation detailing the layout of the Old Ranges in 1942. This includes gun and searchlight specifications and a 'History of Works' covering the development of the battery. Just one part of the borough remains to be completed, the New Ranges, Shoeburyness. Fred and Paul Gilman recently met with John Schofield and Deborah Porter of English Heritage at Wakes Colne to look at the possibility of preserving an area of defences attached to a conservation area. English Heritage is looking for sites that contain representative examples of different defence structures. The area around Wakes Colne is a particularly good example as it has several different types of pillbox, spigot mortars, anti-tank cylinders and road blocks still extant. Future work this year will include the defences of the Eastern Command line south of Colchester, funded by Colchester Borough Council.

Paul Gilman

THE SUTTON HOO SOCIETY

North Sea Communities: Evidence for Dark Age Trade and Communication – Saturday 28th October 2000, 9.45am – 5.15pm. A Conference hosted by BT at the John Bray Lecture Theatre, Adastral Park, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich (on the A12 between Woodbridge and Ipswich). Sutton Hoo Society Members £10, Non-Members £12 and Full-time Students £10. For more details and booking form contact: S. Salmond, Tailor's House, Bawdsey, Woodbridge IP12 3AJ or telephone 01394 411288 or visit the Sutton Hoo Society web site www.suttonhoo.org

CRESSING CRAFT DAYS – SEPTEMBER 2000 TO MAY 2001

Cressing Conference – Essex Historic Towns, 30 Years of Conservation, Friday 8 & Saturday 9 September. The proposed format of the conference is a day of visits to Colchester, Maldon, Braintree and Saffron Walden, delegates dividing into two groups each visiting two of the towns, followed by a day of talks and discussion. Topics to be addressed by the conference will include understanding the essential character of the historic town centres and conservation areas. Balancing conservation, preservation and economic viability and infill and the problem of new design. This conference should be of interest to planners, architects, conservation officers, historians and the general public.

Lime Mortar & Conservation Brickwork - 25-27 September 2000- Cost £195 A three-day hands-on practical course to encourage the greater use of lime mortar and correct brickwork details.

Lime Mortar & Conservation Brickwork Lecture - Friday 27 September 2-4pm, Cost 40

Timber Frame Repairs - 2-4 October 2000, Cost £195 A three-day hands-on course helping to repair a medieval timber framed farmhouse.

Timber Frame Repairs Lecture - 4 October 2000 2-4pm, Cost £40

Wattle & Daub - Thursday 5 October 2000, Cost £75 One-day hands-on course about the traditional material used for infilling panels in timber framed buildings.

Lime Plaster - Friday 6 October 2000 - Cost £75 One-day hands-on practical course, an introduction to the art & craft of lime plasters.

Come all week! Timber Frame Repair, Wattle & Daub & Lime Plaster courses for the special price of £300.

Architectural Leadwork – 16-17 November 2000, Cost £140 This is a two day advanced lead course covering sand casting hopper heads and astragal collars, working from the drawing to the finished product.

Historic Joinery Lecture - 2-4pm 17 November 2000, Cost £40

Repair & Conservation of Historic Joinery – 15-16 February 2001, Cost £140 Two-day hands-on practical course on the repair of windows and doors.

Rubbed & Gauged Brickwork - 7-9 March 2001, Cost £195 Three-day hands-on practical course covering this very specialised area of the bricklayers trade.

Rubbed & Gauged Brickwork Tour - 8.30am - 4.30pm 9 March 2001, Cost £90 One day guided tour to show examples of rubbed & gauged brickwork.

Flint Walling -26/27 April 2001, Cost £140 This is a two-day hands-on course covering repair and new work.

Fling Walling Lecture - 2-4pm 27 April 2001, Cost £40

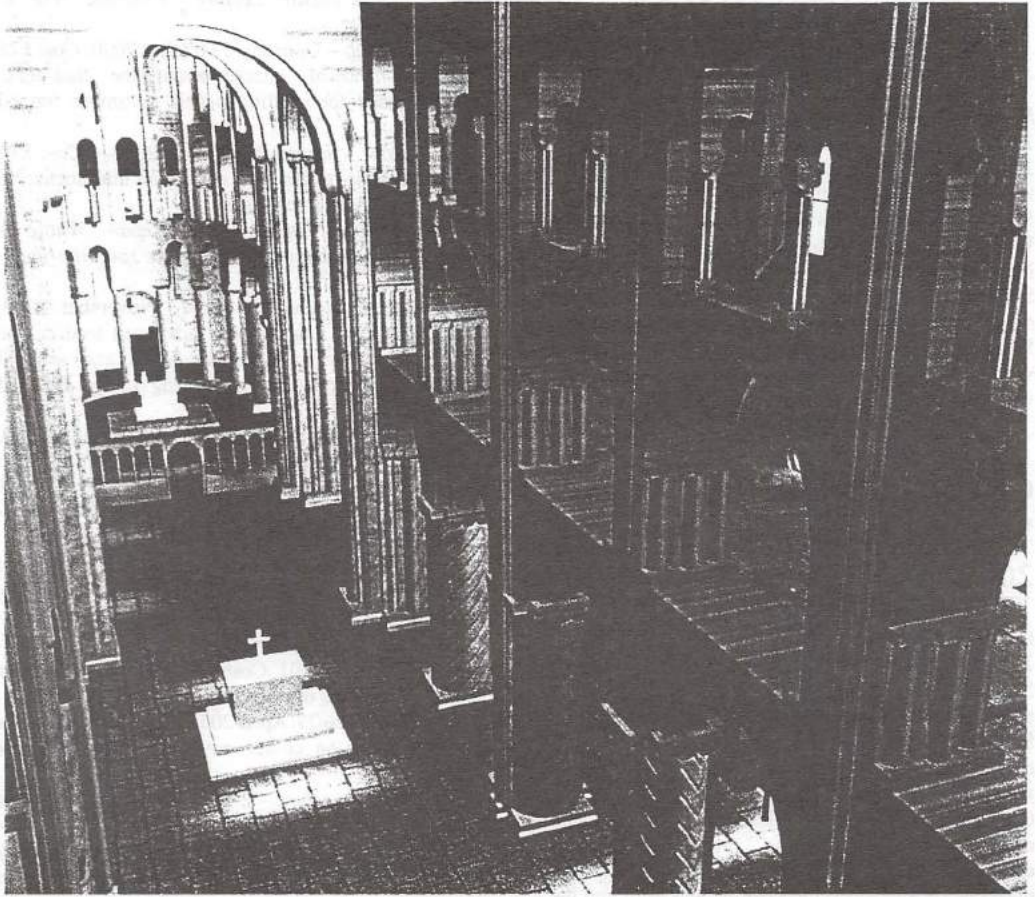
Clay Lump - 17/18 May 2001, Cost £140 Two-day hands-on course constructing a small outbuilding in clay lump.

Thatch -25 May 2001, Cost £75 One day hands-on course showing how to thatch our clay lump building.

Come to both clay lump and thatch courses for the special price of £185

For further information please contact, Pauline Hudspith, Heritage Conservation, Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1QH. Tel: 01245 437672, Email-pauline.hudspith@essexcc.gov.uk

Concessions available for students, those unemployed or retired



Internal view of the Norman church at Waltham Abbey. From the west, beyond the nave and the chancel arches can be seen the solid drum apse columns, between the central columns can be seen the altar in the added eastern chapel.

A reconstruction by John Carter from information supplied by Peter Huggins of the Waltham Abbey Historical Society. This illustration can be seen on page 58 of 'Splendid and Permanent Pageants: Archaeological and historical reconstruction pictures of Essex', compiled by Nigel Brown, 2000, Essex County Council.

BOOK REVIEW

Splendid and Permanent Pageants: Archaeological and historical reconstruction pictures of Essex, Compiled by Nigel Brown, 2000, Essex County Council: Planning Department, £15 (87 pages, 117 colour plates).

'Splendid and permanent pageants' is essentially a compilation of many of the archaeological and historical reconstruction paintings and drawings, which illustrate the history and changing landscape of Essex. Essex has a greater number of such illustrations than any other county in Britain, commissioned by Local Authorities and related bodies (notably Essex County Council, Colchester Borough Council, the Colchester Archaeological Trust and Southend Borough Council) as well as a few notable private individuals. Indeed it was in Essex where the late great Alan Sorrell started his career with four paintings for Southend Central Library in the 1930s (the title of the present book is taken from a quote by Sorrell describing the role of reconstruction paintings).

'Splendid and permanent pageants' illustrates the counties past from the first Neolithic farming communities more than 5,000 years ago through to the 20th century plot-lands in Basildon. The reconstructions are grouped by period and accompanied by explanatory text giving a resume of the archaeological knowledge for the period. In addition the captions for the pictures not only explain what they are about but in some cases also the artist's and excavator's motives for commissioning the painting or subsequent re-interpretation of the site. The illustrations range from 1930s murals, traditional oils and watercolours to the latest computer-generated graphics.

In conclusion this book is a must have for anyone interested in the archaeology and history of Essex or the development of archaeological interpretation during this century. Put in on your Christmas list.

Maria Medlycott

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Heritage Open Days this year will be the weekend of 16 & 17 September.

This is a national event organised by the Civic Trust and it is when buildings normally shut to the public are open for visiting. Buildings open will include mills, townhalls, medieval and Georgian houses and churches.

CRESSING TEMPLE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL OPEN DAY

Sunday 20 August 2000 11am – 4pm. Come along and see the excavation of a Late Iron Age and roman farmstead in progress. Admission to the excavation in Dovehouse Field is free.

CBA MID-ANGLIA AUTUMN CONFERENCE

Saturday 7 October 2000, 10.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. The CBA Mid-Anglia in conjunction with the Brain Valley Archaeological Society are holding a one day conference at the Town Hall Centre, Braintree. The conference will seek to explore the many and varied aspects of the Roman Settlements that have been excavated in Essex particularly over the last twenty years. This conference coincides with the creation of a temporary exhibition on Roman Braintree at Braintree Museum.

The ticket price of £5.00 includes admission to the Braintree Museum to view the Roman display. Early booking is recommended.

For further details please contact either:
The Brain Valley Archaeological Society, 9 Valley Road, Braintree CM7 9BJ
Or the CBA Mid-Anglia, Mr D. Hills, 24 Kingfisher Close, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire, AL4 8JJ

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

The following courses are open to anyone interested. For further details, please contact the centre for Continuing Education, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ, or phone 01206 872519.

Day Schools

9 September 2000, 10.45 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. "The Decline and Fall of Roman Britain." Tutor Neil Faulkner. Venue: Colchester Castle Museum, Ryegate Street, Colchester.

16 September 2000, 10.00 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. "The Madding Crowd: urban housing in medieval East Anglia." Tutor Leigh Alston. Venue: Cressing Temple.

30 September 2000, 10.45 a.m. – 4.30 p.m. "Social and Industrial History of East Anglia." Tutor: Robert Malster. Venue: the Old town Hall Hadleigh, Suffolk.

Residential Weekend Course

13 - 15 October 2000: "Ancient Crafts: how did they do that?" Tutor: Tony Rook. Venue: Wivenhoe House Hotel

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

The last few years have been very difficult ones for the Essex V.C.H., so it is wonderful to be able to report that the future of the project is now secure for at least the next five years. After several months of negotiations, a quadripartite agreement between the University of Essex, the Essex County Council, the Institute of Historical Research (University of London), and the Essex V.C.H. committee was signed in June. The agreement will run for five years in the first instance, but all parties hope that it will be renewed. The staff of the Essex V.C.H. will be transferred from the Institute of Historical Research to the University of Essex, where they will join the History Department. The County Council will continue to provide the bulk of the funding for the project, but the Essex V.C.H. Appeal committee will

continue to make a relatively small but vitally important annual contribution to the funds. Essex University will provide accommodation and administrative support, and will bridge the small gap between the V.C.H.'s anticipated income and expenditure.

The staff will move to the University's campus at Wivenhoe Park in late September, but will retain a foothold in Chelmsford in the University's room at the Essex Record Office. In due course we will probably do a small amount of teaching in the University's Local History Centre, but our main task will be to continue, and speed up, the production of V.C.H. volumes. We are all looking forward to working with the members of the University History Department in encouraging the development of Local History in Essex.

Despite all the negotiations and the excitement of the transfer to Essex University, we have found some time for research and writing. The Second Supplement to the Bibliography will go to the printers early in August for publication (we hope!) by the end of this year. That volume, of course, is mainly the work of Beryl Board, assisted by Pam Studd. I am extremely grateful to them, and to the volunteers who have helped with the exacting task of proof-reading. The whole of Volume X (the first of two volumes on Lexden Hundred) including the introductory pages and the illustrations, should be in draft by the end of September, but there may be delays in the central V.C.H. offices in London (where a lot of editorial work has piled up during the protracted negotiations with the Heritage Lottery) before the histories are approved for typesetting.

Janet Cooper - July 2000

FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you for the positive feedback that I have received for my first issue as Editor. There is however a note of caution to be made to anyone that may want to follow the suggestion to try and make candied eryngo. It has been brought to my attention that it is illegal to dig up any wild plant and that we should be protecting this rare species.

PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP - Subscriptions due on January 1st each year

Single Member - £18

Two members at one address - £20

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Enquiries about delayed or missing publications and about the supply of recent back numbers should be addressed to the Secretary.

140th ANNIVERSARY APPEAL FOR THE PUBLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND

This FUND is still OPEN and will continue to be open for the all the years we can foresee. It is now supporting publication of articles in each Volume of *Essex Archaeology and History*. Donations are placed into an INALIENABLE account which cannot be spent. It is the Interest thereon which is distributed by awards granted by our COUNCIL. As at 25 July 2000 the projected value of the fund stands at £20,973.

Donations payable to: The Essex Society for Archaeology and History

By: Cash/Cheques; Gift Aid Schemes; "In Memoriam" Donations; Bequests by Wills

Donations of acceptable books

Please enquire of Hon. Secretary for guidance.

To: *W.A. Hewitt Esq. (Hon. Secretary to the Appeal), Oak Cottage, 51 Crossways, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex RM2 6AJ.*

DATA PROTECTION ACT

In order to run the Society it is necessary to keep paper and electronic records of members' names and addresses. This Society uses a data processing firm, Orwell Data Services of 82, Fore Street, Ipswich, to store this basic information and to print the labels needed for mailing the Transactions, the Newsletter and other circulars in connection with the Society's activities. Orwell Data Services are registered under the Data Protection Act and cannot disclose any information about our members to anyone else.

It is the Society's policy to keep members' names, addresses, telephone numbers and subscription status only. This information is disclosed to no one, inside or outside the Society, other than those officers and members of Council who need it in order to run the organisation.

Members do have the right to refuse to allow any information about them to be stored on computer, and they should let me know if this is their wish. However, we hope that this note will reassure members that the very limited information held about them is secure and will not be used for any purpose other than the efficient running of the Society. Anyone requiring further details can contact me, or the Newsletter Editor.

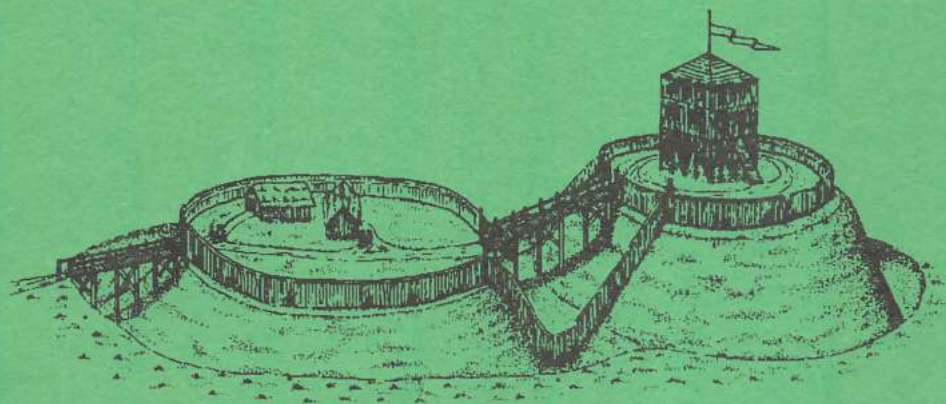
Michael Leach

THE ESSEX SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 132

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Essex Archaeology and History News



Autumn 2000

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**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS
NO LATER THAN 19 JANUARY 2001**

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Society or its officers.

*Cover illustration: Reconstruction of the Bures Mount re-drawn from Ida McMaster's book about the village.
(re-drawn by Ian Bell)*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I last contributed to the Newsletter the issue of a new home for the Society's library was a topic at the forefront of Council members' minds. Discussion of the options made it clear that a move to the University of Essex appeared to provide the best solution and members at the AGM endorsed further investigation of this course of action by Council. Since that time things have moved on apace and a large part of the library is now installed in its new premises within the Albert Sloman Library at the University of Essex in Colchester. I am sure that many of you will be sad that the familiar surroundings of the library at Hollytrees for quiet study and meetings will no longer exist, although the Society will maintain its links with the Museum and has an agreement for the continued use of the facilities at Hollytrees for meetings once the works there have been completed. However, the new home for the library is a secure one, arrangements for its use by members have been established, and there is scope for future development. Given these advantages I am sure that members will soon come to appreciate the benefits of the new location and elsewhere in the newsletter our Secretary explains more fully the arrangements for use of the library. It therefore only remains for me to acknowledge that the success of the move is very much down to the efforts of Andrew Philips working with volunteers, Colchester Museum and University Library staff for which I wish to record the thanks of the society. Andrew also kindly agreed to be our speaker for this years Morant Dinner and those present were treated to a stimulating presentation, prompted by the current Simon Schama History of Britain BBC2 series, on the dumping down of history. This year the dinner was held at Whispers, in Halstead, and the enjoyment of the occasion was further enhanced by an explanation by John Walker of the possible origins of this particularly fine timber framed hall building.

In my position as Head of Heritage Conservation for Essex County Council I get a good overview of archaeological activity across the county. It is clear that this year has seen an exceptional level of archaeological fieldwork carried out, this by both the County Council Field Archaeology Unit (FAU) and other contracting organisations. For the FAU

the larger projects include the excavation of Iron Age, Roman and Medieval sites on the line of the new A130 road south of Chelmsford and investigation of multi-period cropmarks in advance of quarrying at St Osyth, while preparations are currently underway for large scale excavation in advance of development at Maltings Lane, Witham. In Colchester the Colchester Archaeological Trust programme has included the excavation of Roman occupation at Abbeyfield and Head Street. Other contractor organisations are carrying out evaluation of sites on the soon to start A120 from Stansted to Braintree, and there has been very extensive area excavation of prehistoric and later sites in advance of new car parking at Stansted Airport. Reports about much of the current work will soon appear in the Essex Chronicle supplement Essex Past and Present (mid November) so please look out for it, or alternatively send an SAE to Roger Massey-Ryan, at the Heritage Conservation Branch and a copy of the supplement will be sent to you. The ability to have projects organised on this scale, with the work of contracting archaeological units being paid for by the developer, is very much down to the introduction in 1990 of Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: "Archaeology and Planning" (PPG 16). Whilst the implementation of this advice raises many issues and not everyone agrees with all of the changes brought about as a consequence, it cannot be denied that it has provided solutions to a lot of the financial difficulties which many will remember archaeology experienced in the past. The result is a substantial increase in the level of archaeological fieldwork, post excavation and publication, which is being undertaken. It is therefore instructive to compare the English approach to what is taking place elsewhere in Northern Europe. I have mentioned in a previous newsletter two European projects under the Interreg programme in which the Heritage Conservation Branch is a partner. One of these, PLANARCH, involves archaeologists from Essex and Kent, Nord Pas de Calais in France, Wallonia, and East Flanders in Belgium, and Holland. It aims to encourage joint approaches to heritage management and seminars and site visits held to date have demonstrated the diversity of approaches taken in the partner countries. It has been a salutary lesson to go visit Belgium and find that there they have many development projects where both government and private financial support for archaeology is minimal, and University departments and others are endeavouring to carry

out rescue excavation in conditions comparable to this country in the 1970s.

The scale of some of these development projects is huge, the ultimate example I have seen being the expansion of the port facilities at Antwerp which includes excavations for vast new docks and extensive land takes where related port facilities are to be constructed. The scale of destruction is massive removing not only the present landscape (including many fields, farms and an entire village) but also deeply buried earlier landscapes of both medieval and prehistoric date. Sadly the archaeological fund programme linked to this is extremely limited. The approach here contrasts significantly with that followed across Kent for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link where there has been a major archaeological programme funded by the developers. In France the situation is also much better there being a well-organised state service which has established procedures for the evaluation and excavation of threatened sites. In the proximity of Lille in northern France our site tours included visits to a number of very large regeneration projects, in an area which had suffered from the collapse of major coal based industries. Here up to 10% sampling of the areas for archaeological features was taking place followed by area excavation of the many sites located. Holland too has a well organised state service which has ensured a multi-million pound archaeological programme in advance of construction of the BETA Rail route from Rotterdam to Germany. Having recently adopted the Valetta Convention the organisation of archaeology in Holland is changing and a system similar to that in England is being introduced so that contracting for work will become the standard pattern. In Essex the PLANARCH project is particularly contributing to a survey project along the Essex coast which is also being funded by English Heritage. This has produced interesting results which are likely to be reported in a future editions of the newsletter. The PLANARCH project will run for two years, until the end of 2001, and publicity material is currently being produced, including leaflets, an exhibition and special publications. The partners already feel that the success achieved merits the development of a much longer-term association and they will be looking to secure further funding to continue the partnership.

Members of the Society are well aware that there is a great and growing public interest in all aspects of the historic environment (archaeology, buildings and the wider historic landscape). However, while this concern was not initially very high on the government's agenda, there is at national level a growing recognition of the importance and relevance of the country's heritage. Consequently earlier this year the Government commissioned English Heritage to co-ordinate a wide-ranging review of policies relating to all aspects of the historic environment. Hundreds of organisations and individuals responded to the consultation papers which were circulated in July and an outcome is awaited early in the New Year when Government are due to respond to the final report submitted to them by English Heritage. Whatever the outcome public support for the historic environment was clearly demonstrated in a MORI poll commissioned as part of the review process. Over 95% of respondents identified the importance of education about the past at all levels as a means of providing both children and adults. A total of 76% acknowledged that their lives were enriched by the heritage, while 88% agreed that there should be public funding to preserve the heritage. The same percentage believed that heritage is important for creating jobs and boosting the economy. While we all know how easy it is to dismiss statistics, establishing that this kind of support exists has an important value when those involved in the heritage field argue the case for greater support for their work.

In Essex the County Council continues to actively support conservation of the historic environment through the work of its own specialist staff. The recently published Essex Approach 2000 includes a number of key policies to which heritage services contribute: creating a thriving economy in a sustainable environment, providing opportunities for lifelong learning and creative leisure; and making communities safe, caring and healthy. The environment programme outlined in this document includes a specific responsibility on the part of the authority to help to conserve the county's landscape and historic heritage and this underpins development of activity in these specialist areas in partnership with others. A Heritage Strategy for the county is currently being prepared, the various themes of which will aim to guide the development of heritage activity over the coming years. It will

form part of the Council's overall Cultural Strategy which in turn will provide a contribution to the emerging regional cultural strategy. Part of the work for this Heritage Strategy will include a consultation exercise to which I hope the Society will be able to contribute.

David Buckley

VISIT TO LATTON PRIORY, WYNTERS COTTAGE & WYNTERS ARMOURIE

Members of the Society visited Latton Priory, near Harlow, on 12 August. The last Society visit there took place in June 1938 when it was noted that *"very little was known about it"*. The current position is broadly the same. It was founded about 1200 (the first documentary reference dates from 1244) and dedicated to St John the Baptist. It was a very small house – supporting only one prior and two canons. All that remains today is the 14th century crossing of the priory church with fragments of the north and south transepts and nave walls, incorporated into a barn. Some of the barn roof timbers (much renewed with later sawn softwood) appear to be of 16th century date, suggesting that conversion to agricultural use took place soon after the Dissolution. The VCH refers to a crude drawing of 1616 in the ERO showing a three-stage tower with a pyramidal roof. One member came with a set of prints of various dates, showing that the presbytery and south transept were standing intact in the early 18th century, although the nave had already been truncated to its present length by that date. The tower had also disappeared and the crossing appeared to be roofed in its present form.

A blocked door in the east wall of the north transept indicates that there was a north chapel, of which nothing remains above ground. The crossing piers and arches are in clunch (unusual at this early date), with the capitals cut from a harder stone. Externally, on the north west angle of the south transept, are the remains of a spiral staircase, possibly the night stair from the dormitory above. It was suggested that what is marked as a north aisle

on the RCHME plan may have been a north cloister, as there is no sign of an arcade arch in the stump of nave wall remaining. The southeast buttress of the south transept aroused considerable interest. Largely brick built, the fabric is identical, both in size and quality, to the Coggeshall bricks of the early 13th century. The bricks are regular and excellently made, with sharp, straight arrises, reduced cores and tiny gritty inclusions (quite different from the Waltham Abbey "great bricks" in use only a few miles to the west). This was a new and unexpected find.

The party then moved on to Wynters Cottage in Magdalen Laver. John Walker explained that this two bay 16th century yeoman's house was typical of those often seen sketched on Walker maps. It is unusual to find one of these largely unaltered, as they were usually incorporated into larger buildings at a later date. The east bay had had a floor from the outset, with one room above and one below. The west bay contained a small hall, open to the roof, and against the west wall is evidence of the original timber framed chimney. There is a contemporary lean-to at the east end (not originally opening into the house and presumably used for storage). At the west end it always abutted another building, with which it may not have been connected. The main structure is of rather knotty oak (hedgerow oak rather than oak from a managed woodland) and there is a mixture of elm and oak in the floor that was inserted into the hall bay in the 17th century. The present brick chimney post-dates the insertion of this floor.

Finally, Wynters Armourie (formerly called Winters) was visited, a large house whose present appearance dates from the 17th century. It conceals a complicated constructional history. Built on a moated site, the earliest part was a 14th century aisled hall with evidence surviving of the base cruck forming the centre truss of the open hall. Full cruck frames are rare in eastern England (and unknown in Essex) but the base cruck employed two large curved timbers joined by a tie beam to achieve a wider span than was possible with straight timbers. Only two other base crucks are known in Essex, one at Great Dunmow, the other at Wakes Colne. John Walker explained the complex series of alterations to the original structure, with first the narrowing and heightening of the aisles in the late middle ages (a not uncommon change), followed by

the insertion of a chimney stack in the 16th century. Then the east service end was rebuilt as a crosswing in the late 16th or early 17th century and a spacious kitchen wing was added on the north side (larger than the whole of Wynters Cottage!). The final main change was the addition of an upper room on top of the west bay of the old open hall. Until the 20th century there was no upstairs connection between the two ends of the house – a common arrangement in houses of this sort, necessitating two staircases. When acquired by the FitzGerald in the 1930s, the house was in a ruinous state, and a rope had to be put round the house at ground sill level to pull the building together. Unfortunately the original roof was destroyed by fire in the 1950s. The owners of both houses (and the barn at Latton) generously allowed members access to the interior of their properties, for which the Society is very grateful.

Michael Leach

THE ORIGINS OF THE COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

Large numbers of voluntary and charitable societies were set up in the early part of the 19th century, as well as numerous "learned" societies embracing such topics as science, literature, philosophy, history and archaeology. A book by Philippa Levine traces, amongst other things, the origins, growth and development of the Victorian county archaeological societies. The Archaeological Association was formed in 1843 and, though split by a bitter feud within two years, is seen as the chief stimulus for establishing county societies. The ground had been prepared by the numerous printing clubs that had already been set up, such as the Surtees Society in 1834 and the better known Camden Society in 1838. These were established to publish previously unedited and inaccessible manuscripts in exchange for an annual subscription. There were unsuccessful attempts to set up such a club in Essex. Some, such as the Parker Society, were astonishingly successful. Established to publish *"the best works of the Fathers and early writers of the Reformed English Church"*, it published 54 volumes between 1840 and 1853 and

had a membership of over 7000. It did, however, have strong religious overtones with strong support from the Established Church, and saw itself as a *"bulwark against Popish error"*. Few new printing clubs were formed after 1840. The establishment of the Public Record Office and the Historical Manuscripts Commission greatly reduced the need for such voluntary organisations, whose editors were unpaid and of very variable ability.

Large numbers of county archaeological societies were founded in the 1840s and 1850s. The earliest was the Warwickshire Natural History and Archaeological Society in 1836. There was an overlap of membership between the printing clubs and the county societies, but whereas the former merely produced a printed volume in exchange for an annual subscription, the latter had a strong social element from the outset. There were meetings, excursions, displays of collections of artifacts and so on, uniting a network of individuals with broadly similar interests. The county societies saw themselves as having an educational function too, and the Essex Archaeological Society in its first *Transactions* gave instructions about the proper way to do brass rubbings, and contained a plea for scaled drawings rather than picturesque sketches. To some, they even fulfilled a divine plan. In 1857, the Bishop of Oxford stated that *"there was far more than the gratification of a somewhat idle curiosity when archaeologists ransacked the dust of antiquity; they were carrying out the great plan of the Creator and Ruler of the world"*.

A religious undercurrent (and it was exclusively that of the Established Church) ran through the county societies. Many of their early volumes devoted much space to church architecture, stimulated by the ecclesiastical movement's emphasis on the appropriateness of Gothic architecture to reformed Anglicanism. Membership of the Church of England was even a condition for joining some of the more specialised organisations like the Cambridge Camden Society. Not surprisingly, a significant proportion of the members of the newly formed county societies were clergyman (33% of our Society in 1852). They were an educated group, having a particular interest in church architecture, as well as being the custodians of the church and parish records. Not infrequently they had served their time as junior fellows in an Oxbridge college before preferment to a rural

parish, where they looked for an opportunity for intellectual stimulation. Generally, members of the county societies came from a class where education was an unquestioned right, and ample free time was taken for granted. The Architectural, Archaeological and Historical Society of Chester attempted – by differential subscription rates – to gain members from “*the large class of young men who were engaged in the shops and offices... as well as the industrious and intelligent artisan*”. They had little success. Apart from the cost and lack of free time, class consciousness and the social form of the society’s gatherings would have deterred all but the most determined.

County societies, then as now, depended on the voluntary efforts and altruism of individuals. Dishonesty was rare but occasionally occurred. In 1854 the treasurer of the Surrey Archaeological Society resigned after being found to be embezzling the society’s funds, and the London and Middlesex society had similar problems with its honorary secretary in 1857. Bitter feuds (such as the one which split the Archaeological Association in 1845) sometimes arose, but the norm was a harmonious devotion to the pursuit of local archaeology and history. Indeed, many societies (including Essex) had a clause in their constitutions prohibiting discussion of “*matters of political and religious controversy*”.

Some of the headaches experienced by the officers running the societies would be familiar to their modern counterparts. The overdue annual subscription was a frequent problem, particularly as this was usually the society’s only form of income. Financing the annual journal was fraught with difficulties, and many societies (including Essex) only published intermittently in their early years. Some members clearly adopted a “no journal, no subscription” policy which would be familiar to membership secretaries today!

Philippa Levine’s book discusses the development of county archaeological societies in detail. She also looks at the development of the professional (usually university-based) archaeologist and historian during the Victorian era, and the gulf which grew between the amateur and the professional. The first holder (from 1851 to 1865) of the Disney Chair of Archaeology at Cambridge University was the Rev. J. H. Marsden, rector of

Great Oakley in Essex. He was also a residential canon at Manchester Cathedral, chaplain to the Bishop of Manchester and rural dean of the Harwich deanery. It is inconceivable that his distinguished, but almost exclusively clerical, background would have qualified him for the professorial chair half a century later.

Reference: Levine, Philippa, *The Amateur and the Professional: Antiquarians, Historians & Archaeologists in Victorian England* (1986) Cambridge University Press

Michael Leach

ROOKWOOD HALL BARNs AT ABBESS RODING – AN UNRECORDED MALTING?

Every year, on a September weekend, the Civic Trust organises free entry to buildings not normally open to the public (or for which a charge is normally made). Many of these buildings are in private ownership and include windmills, redundant churches, chapels, city halls, breweries – even a directory enquiry call centre! On average, a million people visit over 2000 properties which is surprising as, unless you are a member of the Civic Trust or a reader of The Guardian newspaper, there is little publicity.

Two members of the Society (neither of them timber building experts) met by chance to see the two barns open on this September weekend at Rookwood Hall, Abbess Roding, and spent an hour trying to decipher these buildings. The only guidance was the RCHM’s succinct note “*two barns east of the house are timber framed and weather boarded and were built probably in the early 16th century. The larger barn is of seven bays with two porches, and both have original roofs with tie beams and octagonal king posts. The smaller barn has original windows with mullion bars set diagonally.*”

The larger barn had been repaired recently, a fine regular confidant piece of carpentry in excellent and

original condition. There was ornamental detail at the bases of the octagonal king posts, and unexplained notches on the principal rafters above the level of the elegant windbraces – perhaps also ornamental. The main posts had boldly cut carpenters' Roman numerals.

From the outside, the smaller barn looked much less promising, being clad entirely in corrugated iron and black plastic sheeting. There was a collapsed porch, and parts of a lean-to aisle in very perilous condition. The lower half of the long back wall was 18th or early 19th century brickwork and some of the missing internal structural timbers had been crudely replaced with nailed softwood. The surviving windbraces were much less elegant than in the larger barn, and the octagonal king posts were not ornamented. However, in spite of its poor condition, there was much of interest to be seen in the gloom. The windows with diagonally set mullion bars (now blocked on the outside) were at high level, just under the eaves, and their position suggested that the lean-to aisle was a later addition. Indeed, the aisle timbers were rough and some were clearly re-used. Much of the inside of the barn was plastered directly on to the weatherboarding, with the assistance of a few vertical lathes. Half way up the main posts were massive mortices, still containing sawn-off tenons, indicating that the building originally had a substantial upper floor. This – with the internal plaster and the regular high level mullioned windows – raises the possibility that this building could have been a malting. The southernmost bay was a later build (possibly contemporary with the construction of the aisle) and the penultimate bay (i.e. the end bay of the original building) had charred rafters with the collar purlin ending abruptly in mid bay. This may indicate either accidental fire damage, or, if this was a malting, the position of the kiln.

There is some documentary evidence for a malting at Rookwood Hall. The Abbess Roding non-conformist church book contains a history of the congregation, established in about 1698 by a minister who was convalescing at Rookwood Hall. The account states that he persuaded the "*wealthy owner*" of the hall to convert for worship "*an old malt office..... a rude pile not indulged with Episcopal Consecration.*" This sizeable rural congregation (noted as having 500 Presbyterian hearers in the Evans list of 1716-18) continued to

meet in the Rookwood Hall premises until it built its own chapel elsewhere in the parish in about 1730.

Volume 5 of Essex VCH mentions two barns at Rookwood Hall, the smaller of which "*is said by local tradition to have been the original meeting place of the Presbyterians who later built the church that formerly stood beside Anchor House*". The observation of features suggesting that this barn was in fact a malting would strengthen this attribution. It is also interesting that the church book suggests that it had fallen into disuse by the 1698. Could this have been due to the introduction of the Malt Tax in 1697? If, as appears likely, the upper floor was an integral part of the original structure, it may have been built as a malting – rather than a barn – in the early sixteenth century.

Michael Leach

ESSEX BIOGRAPHICAL

The Dictionary of National Biography, known familiarly as the DNB, has been an essential aid to historical studies in this country ever since its first number appeared in 1885. It will quite soon, in 2004, be published in a revised form, with all its original articles re-edited, many of them entirely re-written, and some 25,000 new lives added. The New DNB is the product of an extraordinary editorial enterprise, planned and launched by the late Colin Matthew, whose sudden and early death last year was a saddening loss to scholarship, but whose talents will be worthily commemorated in a great work of reference.

The original Dictionary, continued in decennial volumes up to 1980 (and subsequently at five year intervals) contains some 36,000 lives, and there will probably be more than 60,000 in the New DNB. The decision to augment the original, rather than to revise it selectively, means that the coverage of the new work will be very wide, ranging over the territory of the United Kingdom from pre-Roman times to the end of the twentieth century, and from abbesses, chiromancers and chroniclers through politicians and preachers to saints, sinners, and a wide variety of zealots.

It is, however, a **national** dictionary, and in every locality there will be names which some readers will confidently seek, but fail to find. The Contents pages of the *Essex Review*, for instance, would readily produce examples. Andrew Clark, an indefatigable contributor, is justly included in the New DNB as a scholar, but C.F.D. Sparling, a learned and discriminating local writer, is not. Every county has its own roll call, and the DNB, despite its many merits, can never encompass them all. The New DNB, however, does point to new opportunities for local enterprise. A dictionary of Cumbrian biography, supplementing, and to some extent drawing on, the New DNB, has already been proposed, and is being promoted by the University of Lancaster and the Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society. It is to be based, like the New DNB, on a data-bank, and envisages both conventional publication and the maintenance of a web-site.

It seems timely and worthwhile to consider something similar in Essex. There is a great deal of material available, and, as far as we can tell at present, data-banks are indefinitely expandable. In the earliest periods, it is likely (but not certain) that the New DNB will have gathered up practically everyone, but thereafter the field is open. Our own *Transactions* and the *Essex Review* would be obvious places to start, but the entries in the older local biographies, such as *Essex Leaders* (1895), and W.T. Pike's *Essex in the Twentieth Century* (1909) should be gratefully incorporated, assimilated and surpassed. There is much to discuss, beginning with criteria and continuing with finance, but it seems to me that the sooner we start the debate the better. This Newsletter could provide an admirable forum until the editor begs us to move elsewhere.

Prof. G.H. Martin

ESSEX GASWORKS GAZETTEER

The planned removal of all remaining gasholders over the next five years – and the sale of these sites for re-development – will result in the loss of the visible evidence of an extensive industry present in most Essex towns since the nineteenth century. As far as Essex is concerned, it began in 1817 in a

chemist's shop in Colchester High Street where gas was manufactured for lighting the shop and the adjoining street. Initially gas was only used in public buildings and for street lighting, as there was apprehension about its explosive properties, as well as dislike of the smell of the early unpurified supply. Lighting was achieved by burning the gas in a fish tail jet, producing a smoky, rather yellow flame. Demand grew slowly through the century with improved methods of purification, and acceptance that this was a safe and convenient form of illumination. The invention of the gas mantle in the late 1880s gave a cleaner, much brighter light. This, with the introduction of the gas cooker at about the same time, led to rapid increases in demand, and the beginning of mass production with the take over of many of the small companies and the closure of their works. Many sites were retained for gasholders until recently, and some are still used as pipe terminals. The remaining gasholders, including the two giants near the Essex Record Office, will soon be dismantled.

Many small companies survived for a long time, as they were incorporated by Act of Parliament which allowed them a monopoly of supply in their area. One such was the Barking Gas Company which existed for over 40 years in the shadow of the vast Beckton works of the Gas Light & Coke Company (the largest works in Europe at that time). Others, such as the works at Billericay, had a curious history. An iron foundry in Laidon Road, presumably making gas for its own use, supplied the adjoining area from 1842. This arrangement continued until the formation of the Billericay Gas Company in 1892. This company was voluntarily wound up in 1897 and the works was sold to a private individual who maintained the supply until selling out to the Grays & Tilbury Gas Company in 1913. Surprisingly the site (or part of it) is still owned by Transco (the distribution arm of British Gas) and is used as a gas pipe terminal.

Michael Williams from Nottingham has asked for help in compiling an Essex gasworks gazetteer. He would like the following basic information (and its source) for all gas works known to have existed in Essex a) date of formation and name of company b) major subsequent changes (viz. Act of Parliament, change in company name or ownership, with dates) c) means of coal supply (viz. railway siding, canal, river) d) number of gasholders (and date) e) date of

closure f) 6 figure OS grid reference of site(s) and f) present use of site (viz. gasholder, pipe terminal, housing). Essex towns and villages known to have had gas works are: Barking, Beckton, Billericay, Braintree, Brentwood, Brightlingsea, Burnham on Crouch, Canvey Island, Chelmsford, Clacton on Sea, Coggeshall, Colchester, Earls Colne, Epping, Grays Thurrock, Great Bardfield, Great Dunmow, Halstead, Harlow, Harwich, Haverhill, Ilford, Ingatestone, Kelvedon, Laindon, Lea Bridge, Leigh on Sea, Maldon, Newport, North Woolwich, Ongar, Rayleigh, Rochford, Romford, Saffron Walden, Shoeburyness, Southminster, Southend on Sea, Stanford Le Hope, Thaxted, Waltham Cross, Warley Wood, West Ham, Witham, Wivenhoe, Woodford.

Any information (and its source) would be much appreciated and can be sent direct to Michael Williams at 2 Oakfield Road, Wollaton, Nottingham NG8 2SQ

Michael Leach

THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY – GREAT NEWS!

In the last Newsletter, we reported that plans to move the Society's Library from Hollytrees to the Albert Sloman Library at the University of Essex had been approved at the AGM. Intensive but friendly negotiations with the University over the summer have secured a permanent home there for our Library, with numerous additional advantages for our members, not least of which will be free access to the books in the University Library itself. Members will be pleased to know that it has a very extensive history section.

The move from Hollytrees in August went far more smoothly than our Librarian dared to hope! Our books are now on shelves in a quiet basement area in the University Library, separate from the main collection. Minor improvements are in hand to upgrade the facilities for readers, including the installation of a computer terminal to access the main University Library catalogue. Everything should be ready for our members to use our Library from 9 October 2000.

This is a tremendous opportunity for members of the Society. Our collection will be more accessible than at Hollytrees (you will no longer be turned out for the lunch hour!) and the whole University Library – and its expert staff – will be at our disposal. The History Department has a strong interest in local and regional history and the University plans to expand this. Our move will give us the opportunity to be involved in this development. The staff of the Victoria County History, with whom we already have strong links, have also just moved to the campus.

We are very keen for members to make the most of these opportunities, and strongly encourage you to apply for a free reader's ticket as soon as possible and to visit the Library to see what is on offer. Do not be intimidated – the staff are very friendly and eager to help! There is ample pay-and-display visitor parking, and there are buses from Wivenhoe and Colchester North railway stations, as well as a frequent service from the main Colchester bus station.

Apply now for your free reader's ticket to Mr Robert Butler, Librarian, Albert Sloman Library, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ, stating that you are a member of the Society and enclosing a stamped self addressed envelope. You will be sent full instructions on how to use the Library, and how to access our collection. Opening hours are from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, and the same hours on Saturdays during the university term. Photocopying facilities are available. Books (but not journals) may be borrowed under the usual University Library rules, and fines will be exacted for overdue returns! If you have any difficulties or queries, or would like an organised visit to the Library, please contact the Hon Librarian or the Hon Secretary.

Library report postscript

Photocopying: The University Library has open access to photocopiers on the ground floor reception area. Members will be able to use this facility. However, as photocopying necessitates forcing bound volumes flat, members are asked to be very careful how they do this. Please do not attempt to copy older volumes with vulnerable spines, particularly those with leather bindings.

Loan of journals: University Library policy is not to loan journals – it is frustrating for other users, and losses are irreplaceable. However, the Society is aware that members have traditionally enjoyed this right from our own Library. It has been agreed that, in special circumstances only, journal loans from the Society's Library will be allowed for a very limited period. Prior application in writing to the Librarian of the Albert Sloman Library, indicating why the loan is required, is essential.

Bequests to the Society

The Society benefits occasionally from bequests from members. These are usually monetary, but may also be in the form of books, documents or other artefacts. All bequests are very welcome in a small organisation like ours, enabling us to expand our activities beyond the usual restraints of subscription income. Members requiring any further information should contact the Honorary Secretary.

Michael Leach

THE RETIREMENT OF DR. BRIAN QUINTRELL

Brian Quintrell's name and work are known to all serious historians of seventeenth-century Essex and, indeed, of early modern England. His research on the workings of the Divisional Committee for Southern Essex in the Civil War period, on the government of the county between 1603 and 1642 and his edition of the Lieutenantcy papers are the necessary starting points for those seriously engaged with the study of the county's history in its most exciting period. This is quite apart from his fundamental work on Lancashire in the same period, on Bishop Bridgeman, on the Book of Orders and on the appointment of Bishop Juxon as Lord Treasurer in 1636. No one has done more to make the history of his native county clear and of significance to early modern historians throughout the world.

Brian Quintrell retired from his post as a lecturer in the Modern History Department of Liverpool University at the end of August 2000. He was known there as a committed colleague, as an inspiring teacher and an inspired supervisor of

postgraduates undertaking research. The qualities that endeared him to successive generations of Essex-based historians – a profoundly helpful approach to those less well-informed than he is, an infinite capacity for taking pains with students, an exceptional gift for discovering recondite sources and an enviable gift for expounding his findings in clear English – were always evident in his work there. It is no surprise that his students and fellow historians are organising one of the most important seventeenth-century seminars of the year to express their respect for him.

Essex has been very fortunate in producing a historian of such gifts. It is to be hoped that, now he has retired, he will be able to turn more freely to the major historical issues that have attracted his attention since the early-1960s and to write on them to all our benefits.

Christopher Thompson

AMERICAN RESEARCH ON ESSEX HISTORY

Essex has long been fortunate in the quality of the historical research undertaken on its past. The intrinsic interest of the county's history as well as the organisation of its archives have undoubtedly been a major factor in this process. In addition, we have enjoyed the benefits of attracting extremely able American historians to the study of our county.

It is sometimes difficult to keep track of their interests. Fortunately, the North American Conference on British Studies publishes lists of the seminar papers given at its meetings. These provide information on those with current research interests of importance to local historians here.

In October 1999, M.L. Ellison-Murphree of Auburn University delivered a paper at Tucson in Arizona on the witchhunts of 1645-47 in the eastern counties of England which, one suspects, must have covered those held at Chelmsford in 1645. At almost the same time, Laura Youngblut of the University of Dayton was analysing the ways in which the migrants from the Low Countries were meeting their social responsibilities to the poor in Elizabethan Colchester in a seminar paper given in Chicago. More recently, Alana Cain Scott of

Moorhead State University gave a paper in Santa Barbara, California last spring on Stephen Marshall, the Vicar of Finchfield from 1625 to 1650, as a Moderate Puritan facing the problems of conformity under Archbishop Laud in the 1630s. It would be interesting to know how, if at all, her conclusions differ from those of Dr. Tom Webster.

Christopher Thompson

SOME THOUGHTS ON 'CENTURIATION'

I was interested to read in the last-but-one Newsletter the summary of Alan Ward's latest critical review of an aspect of Kentish archaeology. It is not that long ago that Essex and Hertfordshire examples were often being cited by the proponents of regular systems of early Roman land allotment in Britain - Kent, in the form of the late Michael Nightingale's ideas, was rather a late comer by comparison. The whole issue is an interesting aspect of the social history of Roman Archaeology in Britain, not least as an illustration of how an bright idea can become a fact without there being added anything as boring as good supporting evidence.

Haverfield, in our *Transaction New Series* volume 15, set out his ideas. There were discussions in subsequent years, unresolved in the absence of any clear demonstration of the practice of centuriation having survived into the Claudian period, by Sharpe (*English Historical Review* 33, 1918), Coles (*Essex Naturalist* 26, 1939) and Margary (*Sussex Archaeol Collections* 81, 1940). Applebaum, in his contribution to the *Agrarian History of England and Wales* (1972, p.97-102) gathered all of it together. The matter was unresolved as I said, because no one has yet answered the question of why centuriation (for a definition see p.310 of the third edition of the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*) should be employed in this particular province, which was only organised post AD43.

Instead interest in Essex shifted away to discussions of the possibility of regular layout, not necessarily Roman, of the landscape: cf. the 1970s work by Rodwell and Drury, reviewed by Rippon in *Essex Archaeology and History* 22. Again Essex was in advance of other areas; by the Nineties the matter

was no longer discussed here, though it still remains a live issue elsewhere (see the paper on a Norfolk co-axial landscape by Hinton in *Landscape History* 19, 1998).

Perhaps because of all these dead ends, there is now a lack of interest also in the overall theme of Roman land-holding in Britain, perhaps because it is seen as a historical question and because the areas like Essex where the matter has been most discussed are also those with the fewest inscriptions on stone. There has been no real follow-up to the ideas set out in the 1960's and 70's by C.E. Stevens and Applebaum; in the *Proceedings of the Writtle Conference*, Going instead summarises - very well - and critiques the landscape work from Haverfield onwards (in Bedwin (ed.) 1996, p.100-01).

There has been some unfair criticism of archaeologists' intentions (e.g. Peterson taking Essex to task in the 1998 proceedings of the Theoretical Roman Archaeology Conference), but my former colleagues in the Field Archaeology Unit have produced (in last year's Chignall Roman Villa volume) and will continue to produce (e.g. in the forthcoming Great Holts Farm report) ideas on a large scale about site planning and landscape relationships in the early centuries AD. If you can forgive me for a bit of boosterism, Essex not Kent - is the place to look for serious work on regular layouts.

Colin Wallace

ESSEX PLACE-NAMES PROJECT SEMINAR, 2001.

The 5th annual seminar will take place on Saturday afternoon 17th March 2001 in Chelmsford. The Guest Speaker will be Mr. David Hall, MA, FSA, Director of the Cambridge Archaeology Fenland Project who will speak on "Names and the Landscape". Additional papers will be given by local Recorders.

Tickets at £5 each are available from the Project Co-ordinator, 27 Tor Bryan, Ingatstone Essex CM4 9JZ by cheque payable to "ESAH". Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your application.

James Kemble.

ESSEX PLACE-NAMES PROJECT.

At the time of writing, 23 parish booklets have been published containing details of Tithe, Enclosure and other place-names. These are available from the Essex Record Office bookshop. A further 7 booklets are in advanced stage of publication and will shortly be available.

Over 20,000 place-names are contained on the database with further additions being currently made. Links are being developed with Essex University. Recorders are needed to record details of their own or near-by parishes and to carry out investigation of names which have potential for historical and archaeological significance. Please send for details and Guidance Forms to the Project Co-ordinator, 27 Tor Bryan, Ingatestone, Essex CM4 9JZ, enclosing a large stamped self-addressed envelope.

Recently completed Tithe records now being input onto the database include Boreham (Mrs. B.R. Freake), Lawford (Mr. & Mrs. H. Brooks), Little Chesterford (K. Kilford) and West Hanningfield (Mr. & Mrs. K. Moore).

James Kemble.

BOOK REVIEWS

'High Easter through the 20th century', Derek Bircher, pp 158. (High Easter Parish Council).

Our member Derek Bircher is both the author and driving force behind this enterprising contribution to the Millennium. Drawing on oral history and then on his own remarkable sequence of diaries, Derek has produced a commentary on the 20th century which is as much a historical source book as a historical narrative. The community contribution is also evident in a range of photographs, poems and diary entries provided by other villagers.

Andrew Phillips

'A brief History of the Labour Party in the Eastern Region', Stan Newens, pp 18. (published by author).

This is a pioneer publication and labour of love (pardon the pun) from an Eastern Region Labour Party stalwart and surely it's most informed historian. An outline chronological history is backed up by short biographies of many of the party's pioneers.

Andrew Phillips

'Essex Events', Ian Yearsley, price £14.99

Essex Events, the latest book by the prolific and proficient popular writer on Essex local history Ian Yearsley, is a series of pictures, mostly photographs, of 'events'. As would be expected from this author and the publisher, Phillimore, the book is well produced and presented. The events in question are mostly of the first half of the 20th Century and late 19th century although some earlier events are briefly touched on in the sections on 'War' and 'Flood'. As the author acknowledges in his introduction, the book is largely concerned with disasters. This is probably inevitable since the book is essentially about things which made the news in the past and disasters tend to dominate news. The book is organised into 12 chapters with titles like 'War', 'Crime', 'Railway Disasters' etc., the last two are rather lighter 'Special Occasions' and 'Miscellaneous' which seem to form a version of the famous 'And Finally...' section of the television news.

The book is full of interest and the images are often striking. A picture of a road accident in 1936 in Leigh shows a double decker bus advertising 'Reids Special Stout' in someone's front garden, with a wedding car complete with ribbons lightly crumpled against a tree, and what appear to be two rather bemused milkmen (presumably the bus driver and conductor). The whole scene looks like it should be from an Ealing Comedy rather than real life. I was particularly interested in the photograph (No.38) of Moat Farm Clavering. I had come across this very image on a postcard which had been reused as a bookmark in a copy of Moncrief and Burhl's *Essex* which I bought a few years ago. Nothing in the card's caption or the mundane message regarding trains and times written on it, gave any clue why this picture of a fairly

unremarkable Essex Farm with a rather scruffy dog in the foreground should appear on a postcard. Yearsley's book reveals it is the scene of a remarkable tale of murder and subterfuge.

Inevitably there are some criticisms to be made. The view from Ashingdon Churchyard is said to show the site of the battle of Assandune, without any hint that the weight of scholarly opinion currently favours Ashdon in north west Essex as the site of this battle. Similarly the picture of Ashingdon Church confidently labels it as built '...by King Canute in 1020...' despite the fact that no part of the structure appears to be earlier than about 1300.

Nonetheless, the book is enjoyable and ideal for browsing. In writing a review which will appear in the newsletter rather late in the year, it is fairly common to conclude by suggesting that the book would be an ideal Christmas present. However, I'm not sure that a book with the subtitle 'Death, Disaster, War and Weather' can really be recommended as a Christmas gift.

Nigel Brown

CRICKET BAT WILLOWS

Essex, with Suffolk and Norfolk, provides suitable conditions for a specialised timber crop, the bat willow. This upright willow has changed the aspect of the countryside where it is grown, usually along the riverside meadows once kept for hay, but now used as willow plantations. The trees are noticeable in north Essex along the banks of the Stour, Colne, Chelmer and Blackwater and even along smaller streams, as the Roman river at Great Tey, the Domsey brook near Easthorpe and the Ter river near Hatfield Peverel. In fact, the route of minor watercourses can be detected from a distance by the silvery-grey tops of these willows, with their sharply-ascending branches. <1>

As fast-growing timber the tree is a useful crop for the farmer on land not otherwise easily cultivated. It can reach a girth of five feet (1.60m.) in twelve years and is then ready for felling. <2> Trees were felled during the winter and sawn into 28 inch lengths which were split, following the natural grain of the wood, then stacked in the open air for up to a year, with a further three months in drying-sheds

before their manufacture. <3> It has been estimated that about three dozen bats could be made from one tree. <4>

Probably a native tree, in 1949 Essex was its most important county of cultivation, <5> though, strangely, the cricket bat makers were mainly in Sussex, Cambridgeshire and a few other counties where 'locally grown and Essex willows' were used. <6> However, in 1855 there was one wood turner and bat maker in Chelmsford; others were then in Kent, at Tonbridge and Sevenoaks. <7> By 1882 two bat makers worked in Chelmsford and in 1895 one of these, Joseph Crick, was still working in Duke Street. <8> Chelmsford was still described as a centre of the craft in 1949. <9>

As a lightweight timber, the bat willow was suited to making 10 artificial limbs, and also polo balls; <10> for the former use it is probably now superseded by plastics. It is still used in the manufacture of Sussex trug baskets for gardeners.

References

1. H. L. Edlin, *Woodland Crafts in Britain*, (1949) p.103.
2. *Ibid.*
3. *Ibid.*, and N. Wymer, *English Country Crafts*, (1946) p.92.
4. Wymer, *op.cit.* p.92.
5. Edlin, *op.cit.* p.102.
6. Wymer, p.91.
7. Kelly's Directories.
8. *Ibid.*
9. Edlin, p.103.
10. *Ibid.*

Angela Green.

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CENTRE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

This has recently changed its name (formerly the Centre for Continuing Education) but has exactly the same function and excellent range of courses. The following may be of specific interest to members, and applications should be made to the Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Essex,

Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ, or by telephone on 01206 872519.

ANNUAL CERTIFICATE COURSES

Certificate in Local History: this excellent course has been redesigned, and is now a one year part time course over 30 weeks, with one evening a week at the Essex Record Office in Chelmsford and two Saturday schools and a summer school at the University. It provides a structured training in the research and writing of local history, as well as giving students a thorough background knowledge of the major developments in the history of Essex from 1500 to the twentieth century.

Certificate in British Archaeology: this course runs over two years with 25 evening meetings a year at the University. It covers the archaeology of the British Isles from pre-history to the sixteenth century.

DAY SCHOOLS

16 January 2001, 1 - 3pm "Histories of House and Home" (ten sessions) Tutor: Jane Pearson. Venue: University of Essex

9 January 2001, 2 - 4pm "Local History - local and community life" (ten sessions) Tutor: Patrick Denney. Venue: Essex Record Office, Chelmsford

10 January 2001, 7.30 - 9.30pm "Introduction to Archaeology" (ten sessions) Tutor: Howard Brooks. Venue: Moulsham High School, Chelmsford

11 January 2001, 7.30 - 9.30pm "Local History - sources and methods" (ten sessions) Tutor: Patrick Denney. Venue: Essex Record Office, Chelmsford

8 January 2001, 7 - 9pm "Studying an Eighteenth Village" (ten sessions) Tutor: Jane Pearson. Venue: Wilson Marriage Centre, Colchester

16 January 2001, 7 - 9pm "The Anglo-Saxons in Eastern England" (ten sessions) Tutor: Pat Brown. Venue: Tendring Technical College, Thorpe-le-Soken

Michael Leach

Newsletter may be a good place to swap such addresses. Here are the first two tasters.

Firstly the British Library catalogue of printed books can be accessed freely on <http://www.portico.bl.uk/welcome.html> and is useful for author searches as well as general enquiries.

Secondly the first edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey can be found on <http://www.landmark-information.co.uk>. This is also free and can be printed out on your PC's printer. Though the definition is not brilliant, I have found it very useful. If searching a coastal parish, do not be put off by a blank page as I was - scrolling north or west will bring you back to dry land!

Please let us have addresses that you have found useful so that we can pass them on to others.

Michael Leach

REVISING PEVSNER'S ESSEX

Nikolaus Pevsner's "*Essex*" was first published in 1954, and revised in 1965. Much has changed over the intervening decades. One of our members, Dr James Bettley, an architectural historian who is well known for his studies of the Essex architect/rector Ernest Geldart, has been appointed to undertake a further revision. This will include corrections and, more importantly, new information from research on the buildings originally described, as well as descriptions of places and new developments not seen by Pevsner. The new volume will exclude the area of Essex now in Greater London which will be covered by a new volume on East London. It is very pleasing to report that the Essex Heritage Trust has made a generous grant of £5000 towards the cost of this undertaking, for which the editor is extremely grateful.

Dr Bettley would welcome any information from members. This can include corrections, new information from more recent research about dates and architects, or suggestions for buildings - both ancient and modern - which might be worth including. Please provide as much detail as you can,

USEFUL WEBSITES

There are probably a great many websites useful to archaeologists and local historians, and this

including the source of your information wherever possible and (if it is a building or development new to Pevsner) either a clear description of its position, or a six figure map reference.

Please send any relevant information for the new "Pevsner" to Dr James Bettley, either in writing to The Old Vicarage, Great Totham, Maldon, Essex CM9 8NP, or by e-mail on j.bettley@britishlibrary.net.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Older readers, brought up in the tradition of Victorian narrative poetry, will doubtless remember from schooldays struggling to learn by heart the following piece by Thomas Babington Macaulay (about 430 lines of it!)

Lars Porsena of Clusium
By the nine Gods he swore
That the proud House of Tarquin
Should suffer wrong no more.
By the nine Gods he swore it,
And named a trysting day,
And bade his messengers ride forth,
East and west and south and north,
To summon his array.

East and west and south and north
His messengers rode fast,
And tower and town and cottage
Have heard the trumpet's blast.
Shame on the false Etruscan
Who lingers in his home,
When Porsena of Clusium
Is on the march for Rome.

The horsemen and the footmen
Are pouring in amain
From many a stately market place;
From many a fruitful plain;
From many a lonely hamlet,
Which hid by beech and pine,
Like an eagle's nest, hangs on the west
Of the purple Apennines.

I had long forgotten these words. However in the Chelmsford reference library I recently found, in the back of *The Essex Foxhounds* by R. F. Ball and

T. Gilbey (published in 1896), a long narrative poem which had a strongly familiar ring to it. It is titled *Matching Green: A Lay made about the Year 1883: With Apologies to Lord Macaulay*. It would be interesting to know who wrote it, and why. Many names are worked into the poem, mostly of local gentry but also of a few hunt servants. One footnote recalls a long forgotten practice, "during the winter months, the curfew tolls every evening in Harlow". Space will not permit a full reprint, but the first three stanzas will give the flavour.

Sir Henry Selwyn Ibbetson,
An anxious face he wore,
As he watched the crowds that gathered
On Matching Green once more,
An anxious face he wore,
Upon the opening day,
For scores of horsemen had come forth,
From east and west and south and north,
All eager for the fray.

East and west and south and north,
Have Thompson's cards gone out,
And Harlow, Chelmsford, Ongar,
Have noised the meets about.
Shame on the lazy sportsman
Who lingers in his bed,
When the Essex huntsman and his hounds
To Matching Green have sped.

Now grooms and second horsemen,
Are pouring in amain,
From many a distant parish
Up many a muddy lane.
By many a famous covert
Where 'neath the farmers' care
At even shade the cubs have played
In the still summer air.

Any information on the origins of this poem, or its author, would be welcome.

Michael Leach

NOTES FROM THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

After ten years, and not before time, I am giving up the job of Programme Secretary. It has been a rewarding experience, a constant stimulus to seek out lesser-known corners of the county and to devise interesting itineraries. It has had its moments, with equipment failures and members of the party lost between one site and the other, but it has been gratifying that the activities remain popular, so much so that in recent years we have sometimes had to put a limit on numbers. I am particularly grateful to those who have worked hard to make the events a success, especially June Beardsley and Pat Ryan in their role as successive Excursions Secretaries, and Janet Cooper as chairman of the Committee.

The new Programme Secretary is John Walker, who led the recent visit to Wynter's Armourie and Latton Priory. John is a former government statistician and a leading authority on timber-framed buildings. His success in running the Essex Architectural Research Society for many years means that the programme is in good hands. The card for 2001 should be issued soon after the appearance of the Newsletter. Visits next year include Feeringbury, Gestingthorpe Hall, the Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Mills and St. Osyth. Finally, if members have ideas for events please let John or other members of the Committee know.

David Andrews

THE INTERACTIVE DISPLAY AT SOUTHEND MUSEUM

Unfortunately the display wasn't completed, but if it had I'm sure it would have been much more interesting. The first thing that caught my eye was a jigsaw puzzle on a table. This was of Southend's coat of arms and was quite challenging.

The second thing I did was a computer programme on the history of Southend. This wasn't finished so it was quite hard to decide if I liked it or not but it would be very useful for the locals.

I did have a great time on a video microscope looking at objects such as seed heads, bugs, butterflies, rocks, money & other things like snake

tails. This is the thing I think most children will be queuing up for. This is because you can see all the features that you don't usually see.

There were glass cases with things from the 1st and 2nd World Wars. Some of the things were gas masks. I have never seen a real one so I found it fascinating, and I'm sure it will be for other children. Last but not least, there was another display about Victorian gadgets. This wasn't finished either but I am sure it will be great when it is.

Overall I would give it 7/10.

Eleanor Andrews

CRESSING CRAFT DAYS TO MAY 2001

Lime Plaster Day – 29 January 2001, Cost £75. A hands-on introduction to the art and craft of lime plaster.

Limewash – 30 January 2001, Cost £75. An introduction to limewash with demonstration and practical sessions.

Repair & Conservation of Historic Joinery – 15-16 February 2001, Cost £140 Two-day hands-on practical course on the repair of windows and doors.

Rubbed & Gauged Brickwork - 7-9 March 2001, Cost £195 Three-day hands-on practical course covering this very specialised area of the bricklayers trade.

Rubbed & Gauged Brickwork Tour - 8.30am - 4.30pm 9 March 2001, Cost £90 One day guided tour to show examples of rubbed & gauged brickwork.

Flint Walling - 26/27 April 2001, Cost £140 This is a two-day hands-on course covering repair and new work.

Fling Walling Lecture - 2-4pm 27 April 2001, Cost £40

For further information please contact, Pauline Hudspith, Heritage Conservation, Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1QH. Tel: 01245 437672, Email: pauline.hudspith@essexcc.gov.uk

Concessions available for students, those unemployed or retired

CALL FOR PAPERS

LONDON ON GUARD THE DEFENCE OF THE LONDON REGION DURING THE 19th & 20th CENTURIES

A Conference to be held at the Imperial War Museum on Saturday 16th February 2002, organised by the CBA-Mid Anglia Group in association with the Imperial War Museum.

Over the last two centuries the area of south-east England around London has been fortified on various occasions to defend the capital against both the threat of invasion and air attack. The aim of this conference is to draw together the ongoing surveys and studies of the defence installations within this region. The main focus of the conference will be the 20th century. Speakers are asked to make a 25 minute presentation, which should be illustrated by slides, overheads or video. For further details contact – the conference organiser, Bruce Watson, Museum of London Archaeology Service, Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4 4AB, tel. 020 7410 2200, fax 020 7410 2201, E-mail brucew@molas.org.uk

Mark Atkinson

JOHN CONSTABLE RETURNS TO ESSEX

.....or at least his painting of Wivenhoe Park, which normally resides in the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. Wivenhoe Park is now the home of the University of Essex campus, but much of the historic park survives and is easily recognisable in Constable's painting. The exhibition, at the University Gallery on the main campus, explores Constable's approach to painting nature and has borrowed other works by the artist, as well as portraits and letters relating to his marriage. It is open from 11am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and from 2pm to 5pm on Saturdays, from 20 September to 16 December 2000. Admission is free. Telephone Jessica Kenny on 01206 872074 if you need any further information.

Michael Leach

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE - HELP NEEDED

The Society's programme, which arranges lectures and visits to places of architectural, archaeological and historical interest, is the lifeblood of the Society - providing opportunities both to learn and to meet fellow enthusiasts. These events are organised by the Programme Committee which is keen to recruit new members with ideas for future programmes. Any member of the Society can join this committee, the only qualification being enthusiasm for finding interesting lecturers, or places to visit. If you would like to be involved in any way - from generating ideas to the practical aspects of organising outings, please contact the Hon Secretary, or ring John Walker, chairman of the Committee on 01473 829774.

Michael Leach

BACK NUMBERS OF THE TRANSACTION AND THE NEWSLETTER

Limited numbers of some back numbers (particularly later volumes of the New Series) of the Transactions are still available from the Hon Librarian. However with the loss of storage space at Hollytrees, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the Society to keep these, and it may become necessary to dispose of all old stock. If you wish to fill any gaps in your runs, please contact the Hon Librarian as soon as possible. This may be your last chance to fill those annoying gaps!

Also available (and definitely to be disposed of in the near future) are back numbers of the Newsletter. These can be obtained at a nominal charge to cover postage from the Hon Librarian. But please act soon to avoid disappointment!

Michael Leach

PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP - Subscriptions due on January 1st each year

Single Member - £18

Two members at one address - £20

Institutions - £20

Associate Member - £8

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Enquiries about delayed or missing publications and about the supply of recent back numbers should be addressed to the Secretary.

140th ANNIVERSARY APPEAL FOR THE PUBLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND

This FUND is still OPEN and will continue to be open for all the years we can foresee. It is now supporting publication of articles in each Volume of *Essex Archaeology and History*. Donations are placed into an INALIENABLE account which cannot be spent. It is the Interest thereon which is distributed by awards granted by our COUNCIL. As at 10 November 2000 the projected value of the fund stands at £20,973.

Donations payable to: The Essex Society for Archaeology and History

By: Cash/Cheques; Gift Aid Schemes; "In Memoriam" Donations; Bequests by Wills

Donations of acceptable books

Please enquire of Hon. Secretary for guidance.

To: *W.A. Hewitt Esq. (Hon. Secretary to the Appeal), Oak Cottage, 51 Crossways, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex RM2 6AJ.*

DATA PROTECTION ACT

In order to run the Society it is necessary to keep paper and electronic records of members' names and addresses. This Society uses a data processing firm, Orwell Data Services of 82, Fore Street, Ipswich, to store this basic information and to print the labels needed for mailing the Transactions, the Newsletter and other circulars in connection with the Society's activities. Orwell Data Services are registered under the Data Protection Act and cannot disclose any information about our members to anyone else.

It is the Society's policy to keep members' names, addresses, telephone numbers and subscription status only. This information is disclosed to no one, inside or outside the Society, other than those officers and members of Council who need it in order to run the organisation.

Members do have the right to refuse to allow any information about them to be stored on computer, and they should let me know if this is their wish. However, we hope that this note will reassure members that the very limited information held about them is secure and will not be used for any purpose other than the efficient running of the Society. Anyone requiring further details can contact me, or the Newsletter Editor.

Michael Leach

THE ESSEX SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 133

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Essex Archaeology and History News



Spring 2001

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**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS
NO LATER THAN 22 JUNE 2001**

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Society or its officers.

Cover illustration: Saxon Maldon c. AD1000. Artwork from one of three panels commissioned by Maldon District Council, under the Maldon Conservation Area Partnership Scheme, for display in Friars Gate. Designed by Roger Massey-Ryan, the panels depict imaginative reconstruction scenes of: Saxon Maldon, The Maldon Friary circa 1293 and The Elizabethan "Harris" family mansion circa 1570".

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It seems to be no time at all since we were all anticipating the start of the new millennium and planning for the many special events which were proposed during the course of 2001. Now it's all over and it is possible to take stock.

The year was a particularly active one for the Society with the usual full annual programme of events supplemented by involvement with such occasions as the Millennium History Fair. It also saw the long anticipated move of the library from Hollytrees, where it has resided for over seventy years, to a new home at the University of Essex. Following such a significant change for the Society it is pleasing to be able to record that recent reports to Council and our various other committees have indicated a healthy state of affairs not only for the library but also in respect of forthcoming events, publications and the current state of the accounts. This is all due to the efforts of all these officers and active members who carry out so much of the organisation, but in particular it is thanks to the person responsible for managing our finances, Dick Fuller. It is with sadness therefore that I report that, due to illness, he is temporarily unable to act as Treasurer. I am sure that you will all wish to join me in wishing him a speedy recovery. In the meantime the Society is fortunate in having Bill Hewitt to act as Temporary Treasurer, he has a considerable knowledge of our business and we are extremely grateful to him for offering his services.

As I write the hours of daylight are getting longer and with spring almost upon us those amongst us who enjoy the outdoors can barely wait for the ground to become dry enough to get out into the garden or to go further afield. However, at the present time even the pleasures of getting out and walking the dog are curtailed as we enter into the third week of the foot and mouth epidemic. First identified at Brentwood this is now having disastrous consequences for farming across the British Isles, but two further cases from Essex have significance for those with an interest in the archaeology and history of the county. The outbreak at Blue House Farm, which is owned and managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust, has meant the loss of over 600 sheep. This is an extensive area of unspoilt grazing marsh which retains earthwork features related to both salt marsh

reclamation and earlier forms of stock control, as shown by a recent survey commissioned by the County Council from the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (now part of English Heritage) as one of a series of grazing marsh surveys. Areas like these were formally extensive around the coast and estuaries of Essex, but now only a few survive (e.g. Old Hall Marsh, part of Hadleigh Marsh and Tollesbury Wick) and are recognised to be of considerable importance in providing ideal conditions for diverse communities of plants and insects together with large numbers of wildfowl and other wild life. Without the regular grazing by livestock the ideal conditions cannot be maintained. Equally devastating is the loss of all the animals on the County Council Country Park at Marsh Farm, Woodham Ferrers, which will see the visitor facilities without animals and closed for up to eighteen months. Taken together Blue House Farm and Marsh Farm represent a remarkable area of historic landscape, not so much because they preserve historic features (although they do) but because they preserve the *patterns* of grazing marsh, seawalls, saltmarsh and creeks that represent the traditional landscape of the Essex coast. Marsh farm has proved to be of exceptional educational value, providing an opportunity for thousands, particularly school children, to see and learn about the needs of farm animals. This is important in an age when few children are able to experience what a working farm is like, for how else can they appreciate the function of many of the sites excavated and recorded by archaeologists or understand the original purpose of the many now abandoned or converted historic farm buildings, and their landscape setting, which we take so much care to conserve in Essex. Let us hope the outbreak will soon be over so that all our farms can return to a normal routine and the rest of us can again enjoy the varied pleasures of our countryside.

Readers who want to learn more about the surveys of grazing marsh and other recent archaeological work on the Essex coast should come to the Greater Thames Estuary day conference on May 19th at Thurrock Museum. I also give the usual reminder to remember to look at the Societies own programme of events. This has already started well with two well-attended seminar sessions.

The first of these was "History in Danger" organised with the Essex branch of the Historical

Association. The four guest speakers contributions under the chairmanship of Ian Mason stimulated a lively discussion on the theme of history teaching, or lack of it, in schools today (see page 3). It was clear from a number of the audiences comments that the quality of their own history teachers determined for some a life long interest, but in others the opposite. Certainly I was very fortunate in having a number of good history teachers and one in particular, Joan Beck. She was not only a good history teacher but had an infectious enthusiasm for her subject not contained by school hours. This included helping the organisation of an active weekend geography-history school field club, providing an introduction to local archaeology society work and taking a group of us off (with a press-ganged male teacher to keep an eye on us!) to dig on a hill fort in North Wales. In addition to all this she was an active member, and chair, of the local branch of the Historical Association while also finding the time to write a book on the Tudors for a well known series on the History of Cheshire. Little did I expect in those days that this teachers influence would lead to a lifetime career in archaeology.

The second was the annual Place-names project seminar (see page 6). This years guest speaker was David Hall who is admired for the years of work which he spent organising the Fenland Archaeological Survey which is published as a series of volumes in the East Anglian Archaeology series. It was natural therefore for him to take as his theme the Landscape and Place-names of the Fens; this supplemented by reference to his more recent work in Northamptonshire. The pattern was also followed of having contributions from two project members provided this year by Pat Ryan and Fiona Bengsten. It is worth noting that both of these seminars were held in Committee Room 1 of County Hall courtesy of Essex County Council. The Council has recently consulted the Society on a discussion paper on the governance and management of partnerships and specifically sought a view on the partnership arrangements, which are seen to exist with our Society. Our Secretary has responded with a positive acknowledgement of the various ways in which our partnership is currently expressed, a recognition of the value placed upon it and our wish to see it maintained in the future.

I hope that you were able to visit the Chelmsford Museum in Oaklands Park to see the exhibition Past Imagination – Archaeological and Historical Reconstruction. This was a rare opportunity to see the original works of various artists who have used reconstruction to fire the imagination through archaeological and historical reconstruction paintings in a way that summary evidence, drawings and photography often cannot. It included the original of one of my all time favourites, this by Peter Frost of St Botolphs Priory, Colchester, with monks making their way to church through the winter snow. Also it included several works by Alan Sorrell, a pioneer and still acknowledged as one of the best to contribute in this field.

David Buckley

MARGARET JONES

As the Newsletter goes to press news has arrived of the death of Margaret Jones. Margaret's contributions to the archaeology of Essex through her long years of endeavour at Mucking are unparalleled. Her final years were dogged by ill health first of her husband Tom and then herself, but her contributions to Essex archaeology will not be forgotten. A full obituary will appear in due course.

Nigel Brown

WILLIAM CHAPMAN WALLER - A NEW BIOGRAPHY

In last summer's Newsletter, Richard Morris contributed a synopsis of the life of William Chapman Waller, a leading member of the Essex Archaeological Society from 1891 until his death in 1917. After 12 months of research, assisted by some interesting notes from members in response to the Newsletter item, a biography of Waller has just been published.

The book quotes extensively from Waller's work and assesses his contribution to recording the history of Loughton and Essex. It includes many photographs and drawings of Loughton and Epping

Forest, some of which have not been published before.

The book has been printed by the Lavenham Press and can be obtained from the Loughton & District Historical Society, 7 Staples Road, Loughton IG10 1HP, from the author and from local bookshops, price £7-50. It is hoped that a full review of this book will appear in the Society's Transactions in due course.

The book can also be obtained from the Essex Record Office bookshop, as well as from bookshops in Epping, Theydon Bois, Loughton, Woodford Green and Chingford?

HISTORY IN DANGER

The Society held a joint meeting with the Historical Association on 3 February 2001 to discuss the state of history teaching in schools, which has increasingly focussed on modern history. Universities have expressed concern that their first year history students lack a basic historical framework. National discussion of this problem started with a letter to the *Times* in 1999, lamenting the withdrawal of the 'A' level Anglo-Saxon history exam.

Ian Mason, Archive Education Officer at the ERO, referred to a recent study by Osprey (a publisher of historical textbooks - perhaps not without bias!) showing that 9% of a sample of 11 to 18 year olds believed that Queen Victoria reigned at the time of the Spanish Armada. However, he pointed out that this meant that 91% did *not*, and that worries about educational standards are nothing new! On the positive side, there had been a huge growth in interest in family history, and websites, television programmes and magazines dedicated to various aspects of history were flourishing.

Rosamund McKitterick, Professor of History at Cambridge University, expressed her concern about the narrowing curriculum at GCSE and A level. She felt that the resulting lack of historical perspective could increase our insularity, and adversely affect our attitude to European politics. As we are surrounded by mediaeval artefacts, this period of history was excellent for teaching historical skills. This country is noted internationally for the excellence of its research

into the mediaeval period, and there is a wealth of new books. Schools seemed to be unaware of these riches. She was concerned about the lack of curiosity shown by her students in anything other than modern history, and felt that this was due to schools' failure to stimulate interest in the more distant past.

Jerome Freeman, Principal Subject Officer for History at the Qualification and Curriculum Authority, explained his interest in history teaching and curriculum content. His view was more optimistic than Professor McKitterick's. History was now a compulsory curriculum subject up to the age of 14, and increasing numbers of youngsters were opting to continue with the subject after that age. OFSTED reports showed a steady improvement in the quality of history teaching since 1990, and he hoped that these improvements would soon be reflected in the university student intake.

Luke Abbott, Senior Advisor in Curriculum Development for Essex County Council, reinforced Jerome Freeman's message, and demonstrated by mime that there are many different ways of teaching history. He felt that, after swinging from one extreme to the other, history teaching had now achieved the right balance between learning the facts, and acquiring the skills of interpretation and analysis. Time will show if the upbeat conclusion of this seminar, ably chaired by our member Bob Wood, is justified.

Michael Leach

THE LAY OF MATCHING GREEN

A small excerpt of this lengthy poem - extolling the exploits of the Essex Foxhounds at their Matching Green meet in 1883 - was published in the last Newsletter, with a plea for information about its author, and the circumstances of its composition. The response has been most helpful.

Colchester Local Studies library has a copy of "Matching Green." Inside the front cover is a handwritten note from Theydon Grove, Epping, dated 18 June 1915. "*Dear Mr Waller, I am sending you a copy of Matching Green, Fred*

Green produced it and is very pleased you should have it. Love please to Mrs Waller and I remain yours sincerely, [Janie?] M. Green." Fred Green's exact role in "producing" the poem is unclear, but he was an active member of the Essex Foxhounds. It seemed likely that the recipient was William C. Waller, the Loughton historian, as there are other books of his in the collection.

Richard Morris, author of the recently published biography of W. C. Waller, provided the rest of the story from "Leaves from a Hunting Diary" by H. B. Ferburgh, printed in two volumes in 1900. This gives an exhaustive, highly detailed and enthusiastic account of most of the hunt meets of the previous 40 years. On the title page are four lines from "Matching Green", giving R. Y. Bevan as the author. Matching Green was the site of the first meet of each season and Bevan's poem seems to have been an enthusiastic celebration of this.

Roland Yorke Bevan made his debut with the Essex Hounds at the High Ongar meet on 29 February 1880. Nicknamed Roly, he was subsequently dubbed the Poet Laureate of the Hunt, and his war cry from the saddle was "Essex for ever!" In 1887 he wrote he wrote on the occasion of the funeral of Hervey Foster who had been seriously injured several years earlier after a fall from his hunter, "Pilgrim".

Untrampled let the grass this Spring revive;
No breath of Spring can bring us back our dead,
On "Pilgrim" once a victor, he is now
The lone pilgrimage compelled to tread.

Another lengthy contribution to the hunt anthology was a piece entitled "A description of the first day upon which the Frost Fiend laid his cruel grip on the land". The first two verses will suffice to give the flavour of this.

There were fifty horsemen vainly waited,
Booted and spurred for the fray;
There were thirty ladies' bright eyes fated
To fill with tears that day.

There were eighty nags, fit, strong, and supple
Ready to go for dear life
There were trim little bitches - twenty couple,
All keen and sharp as a knife.

The final contribution found was in "The Essex Foxhounds" by R. F. Ball and T. Gilbey, printed in 1896. This was untitled but was dedicated to "Charles Ernest Green on his giving up the Essex Hounds - April 1893". C. E. Green, a nephew of Fred Green, was a well known Essex cricketer in his day, as well as a keen follower of the hunt. This lengthy poem starts with a lament for the close of the hunting season.

Tis when the summer slowly dies,
In short'ning days, neath dark'ning skies,
When Nature tells that time is near
That brings us to the closing year,
Then is the season most lament,
The "winter of their discontent".

Very little biographical information about Bevan has been found. He was a very keen hunt follower and Hunt Secretary for many years. He was described as one of the hardest riders of the hunt, and "*kind hearted and generous to a degree*". Yerburch also noted "*had he possessed a long enough purse, (he) would have made a most excellent Master of Hounds, for he had the tact of an MP.*" His address was given as Egg Hall, Epping and St Stephen's Club, Westminster.

I am extremely grateful to Dudley Diaper, Local Studies librarian at Colchester, and Richard Morris of Loughton for providing the information for this report.

Michael Leach

VISIT TO MOYNS PARK

The last Society visit to Moyns Park was on 8 September 1878. The account, printed in the Transactions, focused mainly on the contents and a display of deeds in the library. Recent alterations, and the opportunity to dendro-date structural timbers, have revealed much new information about the complex history of this building. The Society's attempt to see the house in September was thwarted by the petrol crisis and the postponed visit took place on 25 November 2000, a wet and grey Saturday afternoon.

Built on a complex moated site of 13th or 14th century origins, the existing house forms a half U around a courtyard containing two magnificent

mulberry trees. The courtyard is closed on the south east by a pair of 1950's glazed bird cages with elaborate lead roofs. The earliest part of the building is the inner part of the south west wing, built as a self contained lodging in about 1540. Two decades later, this was extended with a gabled cross wing, providing another self contained lodging - an arrangement very similar to "sets" of rooms in an Oxbridge college. This wing was remodelled between 1575 and 1585 with the addition on the outer side of a connecting gallery corridor, extensively glazed and looking out over what was probably a newly formed garden. At the same time, the north east wing on the other side of the courtyard was rebuilt and another glazed first floor gallery was constructed, with service rooms beneath. The surviving detached building outside the courtyard was probably a brewhouse rather than a kitchen, as there is no smoke blackening of the roof timbers. It seems likely that the north west wing was rebuilt or refurbished at this time, but all traces of this were removed in the major reconstruction of the 1590's.

By this time, the owner of the house was Sir Thomas Gent, a career lawyer of increasing influence and wealth at the court of Elizabeth I. Morant said of him *"this man was a very considerable person in his time, and he may be truly styled the glory and ornament of his family."* He became Baron of the Exchequer in 1587/88 and his grand courtly ambitions are revealed in the next phase of building. Just after 1590 he embarked on a total rebuild of the north west wing, on a scale which dwarfs the surviving earlier wings. The crude way in which the timbers linking the south west wing were amputated suggests that his ambition was to rebuild the whole house on the same monumental scale. The grand new north west wing was to contain hall, screens passage, service room and kitchen at ground floor level, with a grand chamber and withdrawing room above. However, within a few years Gent was dead, and the structural evidence shows that the shell was incomplete and without internal fittings at the time of his death. The screens passage and gallery above had not been built, and the hall ceiling (still plain oak floor beams and joists to this day) had not received the ornate plasterwork that was doubtless intended for it. Though his son completed the external shell and roof at the west end, ambition, or money, had dwindled, and the workmanship was

much inferior to his father's. Apart from some modest 17th century panelling in the hall, the empty shell was left unfinished, with the family living in the adjoining wings. Over the next three centuries, the empty Tudor shell was gradually colonised and altered to meet changing domestic needs. The vast great chamber and the adjoining withdrawing room were divided up to form a series of unheated bedrooms. One substantial Tudor fireplace, intended to heat the great chamber, was blanked off, and the other survives incongruously amongst the vitriolite of a 20th century bathroom.

The second floor of this grand building was originally intended to be a gallery running the full length of the house. For a time it was used for storing agricultural produce, and was only partitioned off to form bedrooms in the 20th century, when central heating made it feasible to use this space. Recently all the partitions have been stripped out, revealing the curious original paired roof trusses, and the profile of the intended four-cant ceiling. When we visited it was a charnel house of early 20th century plumbing fittings, but the possibility of completing Sir Thomas Gent's original plan for a full length gallery was an exciting and challenging prospect.

Sir Thomas Gent's son also encased the outer part of the earlier north east wing with a modest two storey brick structure with mullioned windows and an arched loggia facing onto the moat. There were some window alterations in the 18th and 19th centuries, but there was little internal change until the invention of central heating made it possible to occupy Sir Thomas's main block.

The Society is very grateful to Baron Bentinck and his staff for making this visit possible, and to Paul Drury for his expert and entertaining guidance.

Michael Leach

THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

This is to remind members that our Library - formerly housed in Hollytrees - is now installed in the Albert Sloman Library at the University of Essex campus at Wivenhoe Park, Colchester. If you have not yet applied for a reader's ticket - which entitles you to use the University Library as well as our own collection - please write to Mr

Robert Butler, Librarian, Albert Sloman Library, university of Colchester, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ. Members wishing to use the Society's Library, which is in a separate area not open to university students, should show their reader's ticket to a member of staff at the main desk on the ground floor. You will then be shown where to go. The opening hours for our Library are 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday; and, in term time only, the same times on Saturdays. Please inform a member of staff when you have finished.

The Albert Sloman Library may be contacted by telephone on 01206 873187 during working hours. Those who have the Internet can access the University Library catalogue directly, and search for the book they want - and its shelf mark - from their home PC! The address is www.essex.ac.uk. Click on "library" and follow the instructions. Most books in the university collection can be borrowed on a reader's ticket.

There are frequent buses to the University from the town centre. Those arriving by train at Colchester North railway station may do better to catch a bus to the town centre, and pick up a university bus from there. There are direct buses from Colchester North, but they are not very frequent. For those travelling by car, there is a well signposted pay and display car park for visitors. Please let me, or our Librarian, know if you have any difficulties or observations relating to the new Library arrangements.

Michael Leach

ESSEX PLACE-NAMES PROJECT

Parish Place-names booklets are now available from the Essex Record Office bookshop for the following parishes: Black Notley, Boreham, Bulphan, Childerditch, Chipping Ongar, Chishill, Cranham, Cressing, Doddington, Downham, Easthorpe, Elmdon / Wendon Lofts, Faulkbourne, Foulness, Fryerning, Gt Baddow, Gt Leighs, Greensted by Ongar, Heydon, Hutton, Ingatestone, Ingrave, Kelvedon Hatch, Lt Bardfield, Lt Bromley, Lt Holland, Lt Leighs, Maldon St Peter, Manuden, Mistley, Mountnessing, North Ockendon, Norton Mandeville, Rayne, Rettendon,

Shelley, South Ockendon, Strethall, West Hanningfield, White Notley, Woodham Ferrers, Woodham Mortimer and Writtle.

Recorders are needed to record further parishes.

James Kemble

PLACE-NAMES SEMINAR

The 5th Annual Place-names Seminar was held on 17th March in Chelmsford. Mrs Fiona Bengsten who had researched Manuden gave a paper on "People in the Manuden Landscape" in which she traced several families from the Tithe Award to the 1810 estate map and earlier documents identifying owners over several generations to their landholdings and explained some curious field names such as 'Goblets'. Mrs Pat Ryan traced the origin of the tithe-named 'Ashe's Farm', an extant 15th century house in Cressing parish, to 'Algors' documented in 1258 from close-study of copyhold land and ownership using Quit-rents and Court Rolls.

The Guest Lecture was given by Dr David Hall, MA, FSA, formerly Field Officer for the Cambridge Fenland Project. Fieldwalking has shown occupation of the fens since at least the Bronze Age. He discussed the 3-field system which was necessarily long-lived when open-fields were in operation, and how documents such as the Terriers show acreages of tenants strip-by-strip. Evidence of ridge-and-furrow may be detectable for many years on heavy soils even when ploughed out. Documentary reference to 'flat ridges' implies under-soil drainage. In Essex evidence of ridge-and-furrow persists in Hatfield Forest.

James Kemble

BRONZE AGE TECHNOLOGY - AN UPDATE

The December issue of *British Archaeology* contains an interesting article by Paul Budd, a specialist in archaeometallurgy at Durham University, on the prehistoric development of bronze. The earliest man made copper objects date

from about 7000 BC and came from Mesopotamia and Anatolia. They were probably made from naturally occurring metallic copper. From about 4500 BC, copper was obtained from mined ore in Bulgaria and Serbia. Heating these rich copper oxide or copper carbonate ores with charcoal produced a good yield of copper which could be cast into a variety of useful objects. The metal could take a reasonable cutting edge, was flexible enough not to shatter on impact, and could be recycled easily when the implement had worn out.

Within about 1000 years, the rich Balkan deposits were exhausted. New deposits were found in sub Alpine Europe and in the Near East, but these were in the form of copper sulphide. Manufacture from this ore required a two-stage process, with oxidation in an oxygen rich fire followed by reduction with charcoal to metallic copper. By chance, the sub Alpine ores were contaminated with variable amounts of arsenic, resulting in a silvery coloured alloy with better mechanical properties than pure copper. The metallurgists became quite sophisticated, and deliberately used different alloys (of between 1% and 7% arsenic) for different applications. As some of the ores contained 30% arsenic, this required skilled manipulation in adjusting the mix of ores - plus, probably, scrap copper - to achieve an alloy with the desired arsenic content.

Metallurgy was late coming to Britain, not arriving until about 2500 to 2000 BC. Once it had arrived, it developed rapidly, and by about 2000 BC, the harder and tougher alloy of copper and tin - normally termed bronze - was being produced, and it rapidly displaced the inferior arsenic bronze. It is probably not true to say that the copper tin bronze was invented in Britain, as it is found at an earlier date in Anatolia. But British bronze was of a higher and more consistent quality, with a tin content between 8% and 12%. It is not yet clear where this expertise came from, though a link with the Beaker culture has been suspected for a long time. It now seems probable that one centre of the arsenical copper manufacture was in south west Ireland. Extensive prehistoric copper workings have been excavated on Ross Island, County Kerry. The miners' camp, dating from about 2500 BC, revealed numerous worked flints and early Beaker sherds, suggesting a link between the Beaker culture and skill in metallurgy. Many of the early

arsenic bronze objects found in England, Wales and Scotland have the arsenic/antimony/silver impurities which are typical of the ore from South West Ireland. Within a few centuries, metal making had spread to Cheshire and North and Central Wales, and the relatively copper rich local ores were being modified by the addition of arsenic rich ores to achieve the desired alloy. It seems that there was considerable sophistication in choosing an alloy with suitable properties for its intended end use.

The earliest copper/tin bronze of about 2000 BC contains significant traces of nickel, as well as a lead isotope found only in ore exposed to uranium. This highly individual fingerprint confirms that the earliest bronze is made with Cornish tin. However no traces of bronze manufacture - or the wealth that would go with it - have been found in Cornwall, and it is likely that the unprocessed ore was exported to the sophisticated bronze making centres in south west Ireland. It is of interest to note that the only other significant source of tin available in the Bronze Age was in Afghanistan, so that Cornish tin would have been of major importance for the new technology.

Michael Leach

ESSEX ELSEWHERE

There is an article by Tony Baxter entitled "Gosfield Hall donkey gin and beam water pump" in the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society Newsletter no. 105 (January 2000). This gives brief details of the installation to supply water to the hall near Braintree. Partial restoration took place in 1981 of the 19th century machinery, which had replaced an earlier 17th or 18th century installation.

UNHEALTHY ESSEX PARISHES - MEDICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY?

Dr John Pell (1611 - 1685) was, variously, a mathematician, a diplomat and clergyman of two Essex parishes. John Aubrey, in his "Brief Lives" recorded some typically idiosyncratic observations about him. He noted that Gilbert Sheldon, Bishop

of London, gave him *"the scurvey parsonage of Lanedon cum Baseldon in the infamous and unhealthy (aguish) Hundreds of Essex (they call it kill priest sarcastically) and King Charles II gave him the parsonage of Fobbing, 4 miles distant. At Fobbing seven curates died within the first ten years; in sixteen years, six that had been his curates in Lanedon are dead; besides those that went away from both places, and the death of his wife, servants and grandchildren."* When Pell complained about the unhealthiness of his parishes, the Bishop replied *"I did not intend that you should live there."*

Aubrey had more than a passing interest in the emoluments of the clergy, as he himself was seeking a rich living at this time to resolve his own desperate financial circumstances. He comments with feeling on Pell's situation. *"Now by this time you doubt not that this great learned man (Pell had been professor of mathematics at Amsterdam in 1643, and later at Breda in 1646) famous both at home and abroad, has obtained some considerable dignity in the Church. You ought not in modestie ghesse at less than a Deanery. Why, truly, he is stak't to this poor preferment yet. For though the two parishes (i.e. Laindon and Fobbing) are large, he clears not above 3 score pounds per annum (hardly four score) and lives in an obscure lodging in Jernyn Street - wanting not only books but his proper MSS which are many."* There were many - over 40 volumes of mathematical tracts and notes have survived in the British Library, as well as several volumes of his diplomatic reports written from Switzerland.

Some interesting points can be gleaned from this. By the mid 17th century it is clear that Essex already had a reputation as an unhealthy county. The post-Restoration value of many livings was barely enough to support their clergy - at this time, £50 per annum was considered an inadequate stipend, and about half the clergy in the Diocese of Canterbury occupied livings worth less than £60 per annum. Pluralism and non-residence were acceptable, and even sanctioned by the Bishop himself. Aubrey's notes imply that Pell employed curates to run both his Essex parishes for him.

What of Dr John Pell? A child prodigy, he obtained his Cambridge BA at the age of 17. Three years later, as well as Hebrew, Latin and Greek, he was

said to have mastered Arabic, Italian, French, Spanish, and High and Low Dutch. He returned from his Dutch professorships in 1652 and was appointed by Cromwell to lecture in mathematics. Two years later he was sent as Cromwell's political agent to Switzerland in an unsuccessful attempt to separate the protestant cantons from France, and to establish a protestant league headed by England. Somehow he obtained Royal favour and, after the Restoration, was presented to the living of Fobbing by Charles II. In 1661 he introduced, with William Sancroft, a scheme for the reform of the calendar. In 1663 he was one of the first fellows elected to the Royal Society, and became domestic chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury. His hopes for a bishopric never materialised, and he became insolvent, appearing before the King's Bench on two occasions. In 1682, when utterly destitute, he was put up in the College of Physicians. His health rapidly declined. He held both Essex livings till his death in poverty in 1685, though it seems likely that his parishioners saw very little of him. According to the DNB, *"though his mathematical reputation was great, he accomplished little, and left nothing of note."* He published many books on various aspects of mathematics, compiled the first table of antilogarithms (and then lost it), and invented the division sign which is still in use today.

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Michael Leach

ESSEX BOOK AWARDS

The County Libraries Service and the Friends of Historic Essex, who are joint sponsors of the biennial Essex Book Awards, have decided to defer the next competition for these Awards from 2002 until 2003. Their impression, and also that of the Essex Record Office, from their knowledge of the number and quality of potentially eligible books published in 2000 and, to date, 2001 is that these would not warrant the setting-up of a competition this year. It may well be that this is an

understandable consequence of the numbers and merits of books specially published in 1998 and 1999 for the millennium market.

Both the Libraries Service and the Friends remain firm in their support for, and belief in, the value of the Awards. They intend to put in hand early next year the arrangements for a competition for books published in the three years 2000, 2001 and 2002. These will be judged early in 2003 and the Awards presented some time in the spring of that year. Would publishers of books already published, or still to be published, please note this decision. But there is no reason why they should not, if they wish, even now notify Michael Beale of the Friends (The Laurels, The Street, Great Waltham, Chelmsford, CM3 1DE (tel. 01245.360344)) or Sheila Pengelly of the County Libraries Service (at County Libraries Headquarters, Goldlay Gardens, Chelmsford, CM2 0EW) of books which they wish to enter.

Michael Beale

THE BOURCHIER AND THE MORANT DINNER

The Morant Dinner last October was held in the historic setting of the hammer-beamed hall of the former Bouchier college of chantry priests in Halstead High Street (Clark 1918). The Bouchiers were one of the great medieval families of Essex. Their origins before the 14th century are not entirely clear. The first to make his mark was Sir John Bouchier, a Justice of the Common Pleas, who probably acquired what was to become the family seat, Stanstead Hall near Halstead. His son Robert, the first lord, was also a lawyer, but more successful, becoming the first lay Chancellor of England in 1340. Like so many other people, however, he died in the Black Death of 1349. John, the second lord (1329-1400), did not follow in the family tradition: he was a soldier and saw active service with the Black Prince in the Hundred Years War. His military career suffered an interruption from 1371-78 when he was captured by a Breton lord and held to ransom for 8000 francs (Jones 1995). The Bouchiers supported the Yorkists in the Wars of the Roses, and were rewarded with the title of the earldom of Essex,

though their enjoyment of this honour was brief as the family died out in the 16th century.

The Essex estates of the Bouchiers were numerous, but today few monuments or buildings survive to testify to their former greatness. Bouchiers Hall in Tollesbury may be the house where John, the second lord, was born in 1329. It is a timber-framed aisled hall of great age which may well date from before that time. Stanstead Hall, Halstead, is now a Tudor and 19th-century mansion, though we know John Bouchier had the moat dug in 1380, and stone foundations to the rear of the house may belong to a gatehouse built by the Bouchiers. (When the Society visited a few years ago, we thought these remains were unlikely to represent a chapel as is sometimes claimed). The Wealden type houses incorporated in the King's Head development in Maldon may be an example of the Bouchier family engaging in speculative development in the town's High Street (Andrews and Stenning 1996). In Halstead church, a chantry was established to enable masses to be said for the souls of Robert and John Bouchier. This was unusually well endowed and wealthy, as the surviving building incorporated in what is now Whispers Wine Bar shows.

Of the chantry chapel in Halstead church, all that survives today are a fine canopied tomb to Sir John Bouchier, another tomb which is in fact a composite made up of parts from two tombs, a wooden shield which was attached to the arm of one of the Bouchier effigies, and a memorial brass. Recently, the floor in the church was lowered slightly when the two front rows of pews in the nave were removed. This uncovered the top of a vault beneath the south arcade between the nave and aisle which had been broken through and filled with rubble on a previous occasion. The vault was built of small thin bricks of a sort which have not previously been recognised as a distinct type, but which new discoveries are showing to be 14th to early 15th century in date and to be a forerunner of the Tudor bricks of the 15th century. Clearly the vault was built to accommodate one of the Bouchiers. In addition, a small fragment of stone tracery indicative of a quatrefoil pattern was found in the top of the fill of the vault. It must have belonged to a screen or monument in the Bouchier chapel and hints at its former magnificence.

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David Andrews

POTTERY KILN FIRING

During the recent meeting of the Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP) at Writtle a visit to the Harlow Museum was arranged. The Museum Officer, Chris Lydamore, felt that it was an opportunity to build and fire a pottery kiln to coincide with their visit and also give the opportunity for the general public to see a replica ancient kiln fired. A working potter, Andrew Macdonald, who has a deep interest in reproducing Roman pottery, was also invited to demonstrate throwing and decorating pots during the visit. His proved a most enlightening and interesting exhibition.

The kiln was built in the museum's grounds by Chris Lydamore completely unaided and required approximately 70 working hours. It was a single flued updraught kiln with an internal floor. The central pedestal was built of 19th century soft red house bricks and supported fire bars made from mild steel which in turn supported a layer of old thin peg tiles acting as a 'floor' on which the pottery was to be stacked. These protected the pottery charge from contact with the flames but allowed sufficient air through to provide the necessary draught.

The kiln oven was built by sinking a circular pit about 75 cm in diameter into the ground to a depth of 50 cm with a narrow flue opening in to a rectangular stokehole. The above ground superstructure, 40 cm high, was made by stacking the excavated turves around the edges of the pit with loose soil banked against them to prevent any loss of draught and to insulate the turf wall. The

pedestal and the interior surfaces were plastered with a coating of wet clay obtained during the construction phase. The kiln was covered with plastic film sheeting and allowed to dry out slowly. It was pre-fired on the 31st August using a small fire to test draught and to harden the interior surfaces. The fuel used was offcuts of both hard and soft wood from Harlow Council's carpentry shop, which had the advantage of being extremely dry.

The kiln was carefully loaded (largely with pottery provided by local schoolchildren in the form of platters with additional globular vessels being made by a local amateur potter, Norman Sewell, and Chris Lydamore, (this pottery had been allowed to air dry for some weeks)) on the morning of the 2nd September and the pottery, some 300 pots in all was covered with a layer, 10-15 cm thick, of dock leaves and grass. This in turn was sealed by a layer of puddled clay to prevent any upsurge of uncontrollable heat, which might result in overfired pots. Only a small gap at the rear of the kiln was left open to provide an exit space for the rising heat when firing. The top of the kiln was otherwise left open and no attempt was made to provide a chimney as such.

The firing commenced at 11.00 hrs Saturday 2nd September with an extremely small fire of wood off-cuts to provide only enough heat to create a gentle draught and to slowly dry any remaining excess water from the pottery. At the time of the SGRP visit at 15.00 hrs warm air was just beginning to circulate. The firing continued late into the evening with increasing amounts of fuel being added to the fire. At its peak, reached at 23.00 hrs, the clay lining laid over the organic material was glowing red. This has been preserved and may be considered as 'dome waste' which is often found on Romano-British kiln sites. The fire was then allowed to die down naturally and the oven cooled slowly but with sufficient air entering the oven to produce an oxidised finish to the pots. The vessels were unloaded at 9.30 hrs on Sunday 3rd September. Little damage to the oven linings and structure was noted and the oven was still sufficiently warm to allow for an immediate second firing with a consequent saving on fuel if required. Seager cones inserted amongst the pottery before firing and which melt at pre-determined temperatures suggest a temperature in excess of

1050 °C at the front of the oven above the fire and a temperature of 900 °C towards the rear of the oven were reached. No underfired pottery was found and it is presumed no cold spots occurred during the firing with the pottery being evenly fired

Approximately 100 kilos weight of wood was used (subject to checking). A 'waster' rate of roughly 3% was observed which may be considered very low but it must be realised that a rough 'raku' type of modern potting clay extremely resistant to heat was used for the childrens' pots.

Chris Lydamore and Bernard Barr

*Subsequent attempts to fire the kiln in October-November 2000 were defeated by the wet weather resulting in both the stokehole and kiln filling with water and becoming the home of three ducks. The deliberately built in drainage pipes from the kiln eventually worked to drain the stokehole but water still accumulates during spells of heavy rain.

**Attempts to repair the kiln and carry out a reduction firing (to produce grey wares) is now planned for the Spring 2001. Contact Harlow Museum (tel. 01279 454959) for further details. Visitors are welcome during these events.

SAFFRON WALDEN MUSEUM

Saffron Walden Museum has the distinction of being among the oldest purpose-built museums in England. The Museum was built in 1835 to house the collections of Saffron Walden Natural History Society and to provide facilities for other learned societies flourishing in the town at the time. However, during the course of the nineteenth century, the Natural History Society's collections expanded and took over the entire premises. The Natural History Society later reformed itself as Saffron Walden Museum Society, which today retains ownership of the buildings and collections, while the Museum Service is operated by Uttlesford District Council and serves the Uttlesford District of North-West Essex.

From its inception, the Trustees intended that the Museum should "gratify the inclination of all who value natural history" and illustrate the "Arts,

Manufactures and Habits of Different Nations". Objects and specimens from all over the world were acquired, forming the core of wide-ranging collections which now number some 170,000 items. Outstanding among these are the ethnography collection, which reflects nineteenth-century cultures from around the world, as viewed by early travellers, collectors and colonists, and the collection of ceramics and glass, predominantly English but including some Chinese and European imports. In an area where a large number of timber-framed buildings survive, the collections contain many examples of architectural fittings, furniture and objects in wood, notably a rare Tudor bed.

The natural history collections are also extensive in scope. Although collecting now focuses on specimens and records relevant to North-West Essex, there are important historic collections of herbaria, insects and more exotic specimens. One of the most popular exhibits is Wallace the lion, born in Edinburgh in 1816 and star attraction in the menagerie of George Wombwell, who came from Saffron Walden. Likewise the geology displays are chiefly concerned with rocks, minerals and fossils of Essex and Cambridgeshire, but include some fine mineral specimens collected in the nineteenth century from Cornwall and elsewhere.

The collections of local archaeology, displayed on the ground floor, have grown steadily over the museum's 166-year history and are soon to be further enriched by the finds and records from current excavations at Stansted Airport and other developments in the district. Finds currently on display cover all periods from the Palaeolithic to post-medieval. The Museum's logo is based on a silver-gilt pendant from a Viking necklace, discovered in 1876 during the excavation of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery in Saffron Walden. There is an array of objects from Roman sites such as Great Chesterford walled town and temple, a hoard of bronze bowls from Sturmer and examples of local and imported pottery and glassware from burials, including the only surviving artefacts from the wealthy burials excavated at Bartlow Hills in 1837. An iron augur, a heckle for combing wool and weaving tools are among finds from the Saxon settlement excavated at Wicken Bonhunt. A rare medieval hat from Little Sampford Church can be compared with an accurate replica, made and

presented by the Middle Essex Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers as a Millennium project. On the first floor, the Museum's small collections of Egyptology and classical Greek and Cypriot artefacts are displayed.

The Local History gallery reflects more recent history of the town and district, where textile manufacture, agriculture and malting were formerly the dominant industries. Cultivation of the saffron crocus from about 1400 to 1700 gave the town its name. Local building materials and tools are featured, including a pargetter's stamp bearing a saffron crocus design. Other exhibits include the town's mace from the reign of James II, and a self-portrait of Henry Winstanley, clerk of the works at Charles II's palace at Audley End and builder of the first Eddystone lighthouse. Further displays of social history on the first floor show toys and a selection of the Museum's collections of textiles and costumes, among them an embroidered glove believed to have belonged to Mary Queen of Scots. Not on display, but available for research by appointment, is the collection of local documents and historic photographs.

History is also to be found right outside the Museum, where the remains of the twelfth-century keep of Walden Castle still provide an imposing presence. A wealth of other historic buildings, a turf maze, the fifteenth-century church of St Mary and the Victorian Bridge End Gardens all lie within a few minutes walk of the Museum.

Saffron Walden Museum is open Monday - Saturday 10 am - 5 pm and 2 pm - 5 pm Sunday (winter closing 4.30 pm Nov-Feb). Admission £1, Concessions 50p, Children free. Season ticket £3 (£1.50 Concessions). Parking for visitors and access for disabled visitors. Further enquiries: Saffron Walden Museum, Museum Street, Saffron Walden, CB10 1JL, tel. 01799 510333.

ESSEX LOCAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

*Have you got stuck with your research?
Do you need help to find new sources?
Are you having difficulty in writing up your findings?*

If you are actively involved in local history research, you may have any - or all! - of these problems. The chance to discuss your difficulties with an informal group of like minded people is likely to be helpful. And you may well have information that could be useful to others.

With this in mind, the Essex Local History Workshop has been set up with the active support of the Essex Record Office, the Friends of Historic Essex and Essex University History Department. The only qualifications required are enthusiasm and involvement in local history research. Meetings are informal, but structured so that everyone has the chance to share their particular problem. Members are encouraged to report on their progress and, in due course, to produce a written account of their research with the help of the group.

The Essex Local History Workshop has arranged meetings at the Essex Record Office on June 11, August 13, October 14 and December 10 at 7pm. Anyone interested is most welcome to attend and there is no charge!

TANNING

An article in Industrial Archaeology Review Volume XXII No. 2 by Helen Gomersall indicates that there have been few studies on tanning. Like malting, this was a small scale local industry found in many small towns across the country until the 19th century. Then it was rapidly concentrated on a few major centres. Most of these large scale tanneries have now vanished unrecorded. The article details the industrial remains of tanning in Leeds, but gives some general background on the subject as well.

Tanning consists of two main processes. Firstly the outer hair covered layer and the inner fatty layer are stripped off, often after the application of lime. Secondly the prepared hide is steeped for a long period in a series of tubs or pits containing an increasingly strong tannin rich fluid. This was traditionally prepared from ground-up oak bark, though the legislation also allowed the use of ash bark, and something called tapwort. The process was lengthy, up to 9 months for a light leather, and a year or more for a heavier one. By the 19th century there was a shortage of oak bark, and the

need to speed up the very lengthy process stimulated the import of barks with a higher tannin content. Chemical tanning (involving various combinations of alum, salt, flour, fat, and animal and bird dung) had been used for many centuries to produce softer, paler leathers. These agents were largely replaced by chromium sulphate or chromium oxide in the large scale tanneries of the later 19th century. Combined with the use of rotating drums, this method took only a few hours to complete and must have made the lengthy traditional methods completely uneconomical.

From the 16th century leather production was subject to government legislation, both for taxation and for quality control. There was a steady growth in leather production up to the end of the Napoleonic Wars when there was a dramatic drop in demand. The government responded by removing all duties and controlling legislation in the 1830's, and though the industry recovered it was rapidly concentrated on a few urban centres. By the mid century, 75% of all men employed in tanning lived in and around Leeds.

The traditional small scale tannery required a good supply of soft water and, preferably, a sloping site so that the tanks could be drained by gravity. Covered areas for preparation, drying and storage of hides would have been necessary. Some form of bark crushing mill would have been required, sometimes a horse driven edge runner mill. Buildings were probably insubstantial and could easily be converted to other uses, leaving little evidence of their original function. Tubs or timber lined pits were used for steeping, and these can leave archaeological evidence. The surviving inventory of John Waylett of Writtle, dating from the late 17th century, gives a glimpse of the wealth of a local tanner. There was over £450 worth of hides in his yard. Bark was listed, together with "haire shorte & longe" and a "parcell of homes" - by-products for which there was a market. Some equipment is described - 4 "shoots" (i.e. troughs), 2 "wheelebarrows", 4 "skeps" (?tanning vessels), 2 beams (presumably for weighing), working knives and a grindstone.

According to the Essex VCH, most Essex towns had tanneries in the early 1800's. The 1851 census showed 99 men occupied as tanners in the county. By 1902 only two firms survived - Messrs Hugh

Brown of 52 High Street, Halstead and Messrs John Dixon of Moulsham Street, Chelmsford. The latter occupied a site used for tanning for at least two centuries, and was still producing high quality oak tanned leather by the lengthy traditional process. Have any physical remains of these tanneries survived? The SMR records a number of sites in Essex, but does not include either of them.

Michael Leach

*Anyone wishing to experience the olfactory horrors of a mediaeval tannery is advised to go to Fez in Morocco. Visitors are offered nosegays on arrival in an unsuccessful attempt to mask the stench. There is a large open area with numerous steeping vats containing leather in all stages of tanning. This is one craft where historical recreation is definitely not advised if you wish to retain any friends!

FREE BOOKCASES!

Much of the surplus furniture from the old Hollytrees Library has been sold, though a few items - including the old operating table from Library 1 - have been retained for the refurbished museum. However three very substantial oak bookcases in Library 2 (approximately 7 feet high and 10 feet wide) need a new home. The cost of removal was more than their estimated value at auction. If any member needs such a bookcase - and can organise the challenge of its removal from Hollytrees - please contact me or the Hon Librarian.

Michael Leach

BOOKS AND JOURNALS MISSING FROM THE LIBRARY

One of the benefits of the Library move has been the opportunity to check the stock. Unfortunately, over the years, a number of books and journals have been lost, many of which will be extremely difficult to replace. A few of these are listed below, and if any member is able to find or donate any of them, the Hon Librarian would be extremely pleased to hear from you.

*The Saxon Shore**The Roman Forts of the Saxon Shore**The Archaeology of Roman Suffolk**Proceedings of Cambridge Antiquarian Society*
Vols. 49 - 52 (and volumes for 1990 & 1993)*Chester Archaeological Society Vol. 68**Journal of British Archaeological Association for 1982*

Two former members, with unreturned library books, have moved from their last known addresses and cannot be contacted. Any member who knows the present whereabouts of David Cockle and Michael de Bootman is asked to contact the Hon Librarian.

Michael Leach

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

Our move to the University of Essex was successfully completed in September 2000, and we are now settled in our new offices. Our address is: Department of History, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ. We have no single 'enquiries' telephone number, but there is an 'enquiries' email address: ychistory@essex.ac.uk. Our individual telephone numbers are: Janet Cooper 01206-872653, Chris Thornton 01206-873761, and Shirley Durgan 01206-872314; if we are not in, please leave a message on our answerphone. We also have individual email addresses: jmcooper@essex.ac.uk, ccthorn@essex.ac.uk, and sdurgan@essex.ac.uk.

The *Second Supplement to the Bibliography* was published in December - just in time for the 2000 date on its title pages. It will be the last of our published volumes of bibliography. Since we started planning it in 1987 the increasing number of library catalogues available on the internet has made any more printed bibliographies more or less redundant.

Volume X, containing the histories of Aldham, West Bergholt, Birch, Boxted, Mount Bures, Chappel, Earls Colne, Colne Engaine, Wakes Colne, White Colne, Copford, Dedham, East Donyland, Easthorpe, Fordham, Great and Little

Horkesley, Langham, Stanway, Wivenhoe, and Wormingford, went to press at the end of January. We hope it will be published in September.

We are now starting preliminary work on two volumes. Volume XI will cover the remaining parishes in Lexden hundred: Coggeshall, Feering, Inworth, Marks Hall, Messing, and the Teys. The market town of Coggeshall, with its medieval abbey and its many early timber-framed buildings, promises to be particularly interesting. The other volume will go ahead if the large bid now being prepared by the central V.C.H. for submission to the Heritage Lottery is successful. The extra money available for Essex under the scheme would pay for two additional assistant editors and enable us to write the histories of the coastal parishes of Clacton, Frinton and Walton. All three became seaside resorts in the 19th and 20th centuries, but they developed in different ways, and comparing and contrasting them should make a fascinating study. Great and Little Holland would also be covered, as would Kirby-le-Soken and Thorpe-le-Soken, which with Walton formed an important medieval estate belonging to St. Paul's cathedral.

Janet Cooper

THE STUDY OF ROMANO- BRITISH FUNERARY PRACTICE: DEAD OR ALIVE?

Death, burial and bodies fascinate me. Probably it's because my first excavation was on a cemetery site; admittedly, it was a medieval cemetery, but my excitement would have been the same even if it were Roman. Fortunately, I am able to devote some of my working time to my interest, engaged as I am in the analysis of the Roman pottery from Elms Farm, Heybridge. This site was extensively excavated in 1993-5 by Essex County Council, which is also undertaking the analysis funded by English Heritage. Eight Roman and around twenty late Iron Age burials were uncovered during the excavation, along with a number of deposits yielding pyre debris. So, as the Elms Farm representative, I attended this two-day conference held last November at Museum of London and Society of Antiquities armed with burning

questions. Were the Elms Farm burials special, or just normal? Did these burials fit any wider patterns? Could any of the delegates help with the interpretation of our more interesting features?

The first speaker, Richard Reece is always interesting, and this paper was no exception. He began controversially by saying that, without the Roman conquest, burials in Britain would be invisible. While it has become unfashionable to talk about population change, there must have been population movement in early Roman Britain. Artefacts in burials may show differences in a population, and the distribution of artefacts (and even bone sizes) may show where people came from. But we cannot rely on people wearing artefacts, like brooches, in the 'normal way', so such studies should be approached with caution. Finally, Richard Reece made a plea to bone specialists that bone reports must not be confined to the back of the report, but included with the other details of each burial. Bone reports must tell readers about the individuals who were buried. It is not enough to know that there were signs of trauma on an individual's vertebrae, but rather that such a person had been engaged in heavy labour.

Focusing on cultural identity, John Pearce considered the impact that the Roman occupation had on indigenous burial practices in early Roman Britain. Before we can examine any differences between Roman and 'native' practices, we must first establish the Roman 'norm'. This is by no means straightforward. Burials in Italy are regionally diverse and variable. To what extent do perceptions of the afterlife determine the nature of burials? Again, there is no easy answer: Roman sources that can be used to reconstruct views of the afterlife are varied, and indigenous sources are paltry and removed in time from early Roman Britain.

How could science assist the analysis of Roman cemeteries? This was a question that Martin Evison answered, as he highlighted a range of underused scientific methods to get the most from skeletal evidence, such as stable isotope analysis for diet and disease. DNA is the great panacea, potentially revealing a lot of information. While DNA decays with time, infinitesimal amounts may be enough to conduct tests. That's good news for really old skeletons. Finally Martin Evison suggested that

barriers to genetic flow are topographic, and not cultural or ethnic. Thus, in Roman Britain, populations may have become biologically mixed rapidly. Improved communication led to economical prosperity, which in turn led to population movement towards economically good areas and ultimately to increased gene flow.

The session entitled 'Recent work on cemeteries in the London region' was generally disappointing. Work on some of the sites was in progress, and papers given were little more than lists of some of the more interesting features. Perhaps the eminent delegates overawed the speakers in this session, but one disturbing aspect to come through was the separation of data retrieval, analysis and interpretation into three distinct operations. Some of the speakers in this session effectively prefaced their papers with, 'I'm a field archaeologist, so I can't offer any interpretation on my site'. This view was inexplicably held by Bruno Barber, who wrote the recent monograph, *The Eastern Cemetery of Roman London*. How could he manage to dig a site, analyse it and write it up, but *still* offer no interpretation? I wondered whether some people interpret without realising that they're actually doing it. Bruno Barber's main point was somewhat more cogent. Traditional forms of publishing were too expensive, with too much emphasis placed on the data itself, rather than explaining what it means. Readers are surely interested in the people of the past, rather than dry facts. Dissemination to a wider audience (i.e. the interested public) is just not happening. Perhaps, popular books should be the norm, if only to subsidise publication of the full report.

Andrew Fitzpatrick began the following day's session at the Society of Antiquaries by summarising the regionally diverse evidence of Iron Age funerary practices. He inevitably focused on the large, rich, aristocratic burials of south-eastern England. Developing John Creighton's theory that, during the time of Augustus, the sons of British chieftains went to Rome to return as Romans, Andrew Fitzpatrick suggested that the returning 'Romans' had been personally 'dusted with the authority of Augustus' and, as such, were irreplaceable. Their burials large, monumental burials, strongly impacting on the landscape, were, for all intents and purposes, Roman, and not indigenous. There could be no transference of this

authority to successors through possessions, which were necessarily interred with the deceased. Later, I described the 'Event Pit' to Andrew Fitzpatrick. An ordinary looking pit found at Elms Farm, this contained a collection of pottery dating to the end of the first century BC. Some of this pottery was very burnt, having been placed around a pyre. Some of the vessels were imported from Italy, including amphoras and a platter found very rarely in Britain. Andrew Fitzpatrick said simply, 'You've got a dead Roman'.

Jacqueline McKinley went through the practicalities of cremation burials and technical aspects of pyre building and use. Simon Esmonde Cleary gave a lively paper, focusing on human remains found in wells. He made a plea for excavators to face up to the evidence: if human remains were found in temples, burials, and rivers, then excavators would have little hesitation in assigning a ritualistic interpretation. Why is evidence from wells not interpreted in similar ways?

Echoing Richard Reece, Rebecca Gowland claimed that the marginalization of skeletal evidence in published reports was leading to a poor understanding of the full context. In short, academic divisions are potentially misinforming readers.

The final discussion was surprisingly lively, considering that it came at the end of two days of gruelling academic sparring. Cemeteries cannot be sampled; they must be dug in their entirety. Only then can differences in the population be spotted and observations compared to other cemeteries. This left me wondering what to do with the burials at Heybridge, since the two dozen or so burials must be a fraction of the total number. Can't we infer anything from them? Delegates felt the need for fully published and integrated funerary data. One delegate suggested that data was more important than interpretation. This hardly makes for exciting reading, and it surely isn't what archaeologists want. Don't we want to find out how people lived in the past, rather than record for its own sake? I also wonder where data stops and interpretation begins. Anyway, the discussion moved away from funerary practice and to publishing. Delegates acknowledged that more information could be published electronically,

allowing the data to be interrogated, while freeing up the paper report for a synthesis, but no one wants to see their reports consigned to the computer.

So, did I have my questions answered? Well, Andrew Fitzpatrick's view on the 'Event Pit' was interesting, but generally, I felt that my scale was wrong. This conference was concerned with the big picture. It was interested in cemeteries, not burials; populations not people. The conference seemed to be saying to me, 'go back to your site, get some more burials, and then we'll talk'. If only.

Edward Biddulph

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX CENTRE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

The following day school may be of interest to members.

30 June 2001 "*Granaries & Guildhalls*". Tutor: Anne Padfield. Venue: The Guildhall, Hadleigh. (Suffolk)

For more details contact the centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Essex, Wivenhoe park, Colchester CO4 3SQ, tel. 01206 872519, email CLL@essex.ac.uk

CRESSING CRAFT DAYS

Historic Roofing Details & Materials Tuesday 26 June, 9am - 4.30pm at Cressing Temple. Cost £35, including lunch.

Interiors of Historic Buildings Tuesday 24 July, 9am - 4.30pm at Cressing Temple. Cost £35, including lunch.

Basic Maintenance of Historic Buildings Tuesday 21 August, 9am - 4.30pm at Cressing Temple. Cost £35, including lunch.

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For further details contact Pauline Hudspith, Heritage Conservation, Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH, tel. 01245 437672, e-mail pauline.hudspith@essexcc.gov.uk

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To: W.A. Hewitt Esq. (Hon. Secretary to the Appeal), Oak Cottage, 51 Crossways, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex RM2 6AJ.

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In order to run the Society it is necessary to keep paper and electronic records of members' names and addresses. This Society uses a data processing firm, Orwell Data Services of 82, Fore Street, Ipswich, to store this basic information and to print the labels needed for mailing the Transactions, the Newsletter and other circulars in connection with the Society's activities. Orwell Data Services are registered under the Data Protection Act and cannot disclose any information about our members to anyone else.

It is the Society's policy to keep members' names, addresses, telephone numbers and subscription status only. This information is disclosed to no one, inside or outside the Society, other than those officers and members of Council who need it in order to run the organisation.

Members do have the right to refuse to allow any information about them to be stored on computer, and they should let me know if this is their wish. However, we hope that this note will reassure members that the very limited information held about them is secure and will not be used for any purpose other than the efficient running of the Society. Anyone requiring further details can contact me, or the Newsletter Editor.

Michael Leach

THE ESSEX SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

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