

# NEWSLETTER

SPRING • 2020



**The Essex Society  
for Archaeology & History**

FORMERLY THE ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## Contents

From the President.....	1
Hon. Membership Secretary's Notice.....	2
Neolithic site at Lawford.....	3
Place Services reveal discoveries in 2019.....	3
Council grants 2020.....	4
Memorials to Fellows.....	5
The Mills Archive.....	5
Rainham Bronze Age metalwork mystery: the Havering Hoard.....	6
15th Century immigration in the Ongar Hundred.....	8
Rev. Michael Tyson (1740-80) and trouble at Lambourne.....	9
A source used in Newcourt's <i>Repertorium</i> .....	10
Layers of London.....	10
Military pontoon bridges at the Tilbury/Gravesend crossing.....	12
Raymond Crawshay.....	14
St Giles Leper Hospital ruins, Maldon.....	15
The Victoria History of Essex.....	15
Society seeks representative for CBA East.....	15
Morant Lunch 2019.....	16
Council for British Archaeology's 2019 Annual General Meeting.....	17
An unusual listing.....	18
Beavers return to Essex.....	18
The last resting place of HMS Beagle.....	18
Essex seen from elsewhere.....	19
ESAH events 2020.....	20
Events in Essex.....	22
Edward Bawden 30 years on.....	23
Havering Hoard: a Bronze Age mystery.....	23
Book reviews.....	23
Free book offer.....	24

Editor: Zoe Quinn

Editor (future issues): Adrian Corder-Birch

Rustlings, Howe Drive, Halstead, Essex CO9 2QL

Email: [adrian@corder-birch.co.uk](mailto:adrian@corder-birch.co.uk)

Assistant Editor: Michael Leach

**Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor at the above address by no later than 15th April 2020**

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

The illustration on the front cover of the Havering Hoard is reproduced with kind permission of the Museum of London.



## From the President

Recently, while thinking about the archaeology and history of our County, immigration has been much on my mind. For various reasons over the last year I've been a frequent visitor to hospital. I've been treated by people from all over this country, Europe, south Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. It has been heartening to see and experience such diverse people working in close co-operation for the common good. Of course you don't have to be keenly aware of the news to know that immigration is not always seen favourably, nor is it always a comfortable experience. With the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush at Tilbury in 2018, an event that has come to symbolise post-war immigration; and the dreadful news of 39 people from Vietnam suffocated in the back of a lorry brought into this country through Purfleet, it might not surprise you to learn that our county has always been at the forefront of immigration.

It is not just the proximity of London and the presence of the Thames, but the whole nature of Essex. Situated just north of the Channel, at the narrow point of the southern North Sea and with a coast heavily indented with creeks and estuaries, Essex has been actively involved with immigration of various kinds for millennia. In a survey of 1575 of 'all the Ports, Creeks and Landing Places in England and Wales', Sussex had 29, Kent 18, Suffolk 17 and Norfolk 12. Essex had 135, more than every other county from the Channel to the Wash put together. The numerous landing places noted in the 1575 survey reflect our indented coast which also makes Essex susceptible to flooding.

2019 was the 60th anniversary of the publication of Hilda Grieve's *The Great Tide: the story of the 1953 flood disaster in Essex*. The flood happened in February and, on 3rd March of the same year, Essex County Council took the enlightened decision to prepare '...in book form, the complete story of the flood disaster in Essex and the steps taken to deal with it.' Anyone reading the book cannot fail to admire Grieve's great skill as a historian, her approach to go '...whenever practicable right back to the original source, often to the individual concerned, and by checking one report with another, has it been possible to reconcile apparent contradictions...' is a lesson to us all. Her book is a triumph of contemporary history.

This year is the 40th anniversary of the publication in *Antiquity* of Gordon Childe's short essay in which he made clear that his death, in 1957, from a fall in the Blue Mountains of his native Australia, was a deliberate choice not an accident. He had left his essay with his successor at the Institute of Archaeology, W.F. Grimes. Sealed in an envelope with a request that it not be published for 10 years, it was over 20 years before its publication which was prompted by a flurry of speculation, much of it published in *Antiquity*, in the late 70s over whether or not his death had been suicide. Childe was one of the greatest archaeologists of the 20th century and the publication of his essay made quite a stir in the archaeological world. I first read it while still a student in Southampton, and read it again recently. Difficult to be sure, after 40 years, but I don't think my reaction to it – now that I'm nearly the age Childe was when he wrote it – is particularly

different from what it was when I first read it as a young man. It is in many ways an interesting read, and a sad one; sad in both the modern sense and its older meaning of serious and sober. To quote Glyn Daniel's comment from the editorial of that issue, 'His essay is of the widest interest to scholars concerned with the aged and with aged scholars in particular'. It's worth looking up the article in *Antiquity* 54, 1980. You no doubt recall that our library has the complete run of *Antiquity*.

Assiduous readers of this newsletter will notice that my review of James Canton's latest book mentions 'Doggerland'. That name is taken from a landmark article by Bryony Coles: 'Doggerland: a speculative survey' published in 1998 in the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* (PPS) 64, pp.45-82. Coles' article noted a recent tendency to think in terms of a 'land bridge' from Britain to continental Europe rather than considering what is now the North Sea as a major inhabited territory. Her article addressed that issue and laid the foundations of some extraordinary research which, over the last 20 years, has transformed our understanding of that lost landscape. You can find it in our Library where there is a complete run of PPS from the first issue in 1935 which has a presidential address from Gordon Childe on the 'Changing methods and aims in Prehistory'.

I had thought that Coles was the first person to give it a name, 'Doggerland', after the Dogger Bank.

It turns out that, as with so much else in European prehistory, Childe preceded her with his own name for it. Recently, while browsing through his seminal work 'The Dawn of

European Civilization', I came across this: 'While much of the North Sea basin was still dryland or at least fen (Northsealand!)...'. From then on, he refers to the submerged land mass as 'Northsealand'. *The Dawn* went through 6 editions and revisions between its first publication in 1925 and its last in 1957. My copy is the 1957 version, our Library has the 1925 edition.

Nigel Brown

**Hon. Membership Secretary's  
Notice**

**REMINDER  
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

On 1st January all subscriptions for 2020 became due.

For members who have not already set up a standing order, please send £25.00 (associate/student £15.00, family £30.00) to the Hon. Membership Secretary, Martin Stuchfield, Pentlow Hall, Pentlow, Essex CO10 7SP. Please make cheques payable to the *Essex Society for Archaeology and History*'. Many thanks to all those members who have completed Gift Aid forms. Any U.K. tax-paying member can enable the Society to reclaim tax on their subscription. Complete and send in the form that can be obtained directly from [martinstuchfield@pentlowhall.uk](mailto:martinstuchfield@pentlowhall.uk).



## Neolithic site at Lawford

ESAH occasionally makes representations to Planning Authorities and the Planning Inspectorate, but only when major historical sites are under threat. In 2017, The Gladman Group, one of the UK's largest speculative developers, applied for planning permission for the erection of 110 dwellings off Grange Road, Lawford and made a new application on the same site in 2019. The location is in close proximity to the Neolithic site at Lawford, which is a Scheduled Monument. The Essex Society for Archaeology and History made representations against development close to this important historic site.

The planning applications were refused by the Local Planning Authority, namely Tendring District Council, but Gladman appealed against the refusal. A Planning Inspector has since dismissed the Gladman appeal, the main reasons being on-site and wider biodiversity and conservation interests, the effects on the local landscape character and upon the Scheduled Monument. The Inspector stated that potential harm to an irreplaceable heritage asset attracts weight against the proposal. The benefits of the scheme do not outweigh the harm to the setting of the Scheduled Monument. The dismissal of the appeal was reported to ESAH Council, at its meeting on 25th January 2020, to the delight of members. It was understood that local residents were '*overjoyed*' at the decision.

**Adrian Corder-Birch**

## Place Services reveal discoveries in 2019

2019 has been a good year archaeologically for Essex County Council's Place Services. Some of the highlights are described below:

The large-scale excavations at Beaulieu Park, Chelmsford are drawing to a close. They have recorded a multi-period landscape, with settlements from the later prehistoric period onwards.

Significant discoveries include the excavation of the brick kilns and clamps associated with the building of the Tudor palace at New Hall and features relating to the management and hunting of deer in the Deer Park.

Excavations at the Southend Airport Business Park has recovered an extensive Iron Age and Roman settlement, with Iron Age burials in a separate enclosure. At Nethermayne, Basildon, initial excavation has recorded a Roman cemetery (1st-2nd century) and extensive early Saxon activity, the excavations here are ongoing and all the indications are that there are more Roman features to be uncovered as the development proceeds.

Large-scale excavations at Bradwell Quarry are ongoing, recent finds have included a Roman cremation cemetery and a possible settlement. The quarry excavations have allowed the interpretation of a large swathe of medieval landscape, comprising farmsteads (both those that were abandoned in the 14th century and those that made it through to the post-medieval and modern period), linked by a network of fields and lanes.

Harlow continues to surprise, with the highlight of 2019 being the

discovery of a Roman villa on the eastern outskirts of the modern town. Following discussions with the developer this is to be preserved *in situ* within the development.

There has been a flurry of archaeological work in and around Burnham-on-Crouch which has established that the area was relatively densely settled in the Middle Iron Age and that salt-production had begun to be a feature of the local economy. To the south of Maldon excavations have established the longevity of the grid field-system so typical of the Maldon/Dengie area, with parts of it dating back to the Roman and Saxon periods.

Most of these sites will be published in *Essex Archaeology and History* in the coming years.

In addition, Place Services undertakes an annual programme of aerial photographic flights (funded by Historic England) which identify and record archaeological sites that are only visible from the air as crop-marks. The dry summer weather was good for the formation of cropmarks, new discoveries include a circular enclosure at Little Chesterford and ring-ditches and enclosures scattered across the County. The aerial photography programme continues into 2020.

Looking to 2020, trial-trenching and excavations on a landscape-scale are planned in Thurrock in advance of the Lower Thames Crossing. The Garden villages proposed for Essex will also be accompanied by large-scale archaeological fieldwork.

Maria Medleycott

## Council grants 2020

On the agenda for the ESAH Council that took place on 25th January 2020, were four requests for grants. The Essex Record Office ('ERO') were seeking assistance towards £11,600 needed to help with the preservation and cataloguing of the Sister Luard letters which are held at the ERO and available to researchers there. Kate Luard was a nurse who wrote and received many letters during her time as a nurse on the Western Front of the Great War.

The Thaxted Society have a second book on Thaxted history, the *Thaxted Cutlers* including articles on the Till, the Manor and the Church with three fold out maps and two historical maps sought funding for publication.

The Boxted Airfield Museum, who have already raised £1,900 towards the £5,500 they need, approached us for help with the conservation and showcasing of eight uniforms and their owners' stories related to the US 9th Air Force that operated from bases in Essex.

Finally Humphrey Repton's *Red Book* for the Stubbers estate in Ockendon, a rare and valuable historical record of this important designed landscape. It had previously been heavily damaged by smoke and fire in an unknown incident and the estimate to ensure its long-term preservation runs at £9,000. While they have already raised half the amount, a letter of support from ESAH was requested and we also contributed towards their fund.

In all, the Essex Society for Archaeology and History contributed £2,750 towards these projects.

Zoe Quinn



## Memorials to Fellows

The Society of Antiquaries newsletter *Salon* recently published the following memorials to three Essex fellows. The author, Philip Wise of Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service (and Honorary Curator of this Society), has kindly given us permission to reproduce them here.

**Alderman Henry Laver, FSA** (1829-1917) was described in his obituary in the *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society* as being 'A man of sterling character strong and resolute... [as well as being] an archaeologist of high repute...'. From 1878 to 1916 he was the Local Secretary for the Society, and was elected a Fellow in 1888. Again, from his obituary, 'It is said that he once remarked that he was prouder of his FSA than his medical degree or any other title or degree that could be conferred' (he was a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons). Henry Laver was one of the greatest benefactors of Colchester Castle Museum considerably adding to the collections. He was also a prolific writer on a variety of archaeological subjects and was a frequent contributor to the Society's Proceedings for 30 years from 1880 onwards.

**Dr Philip Guyon Laver, FSA** (1866-1941) was, like his father, a medical man who worked at the Essex County Hospital in Lexden Road, Colchester. In 1919 Philip Laver and Mortimer Wheeler FSA established that the 'vaults' under Colchester Castle were in fact the remains of the podium of the Temple of Claudius, as described by Tacitus. Later in 1924, with his brother H E Laver, he excavated the

Lexden Tumulus, located in a suburb west of Colchester, which is regarded as one of the best known and richest late Iron Age warrior burials in Britain. Laver built up a substantial collection of over 500 coins, tokens and medals, including 28 Iron Age coins, and on his death, this was bequeathed to Colchester Castle Museum.

**Alderman Sir William Gurney Benham, FSA** (1859-1944) was editor of the Essex County Standard for a remarkable 59 years. Gurney Benham was largely responsible in 1893 for the acquisition of the Joslin Collection of Roman antiquities for Colchester Castle Museum, probably the finest private collection of its type ever gathered from one locality in Britain. His tenure as Chairman of the Museum Committee saw the opening in 1929 of a branch museum of 'bygones' at Hollytrees in Castle Park in Colchester and the roofing over of part of the then ruined Colchester Castle in the early 1930s to create the museum as we know it today.

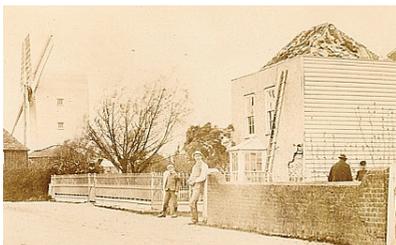
Philip Wise

## The Mills Archive

As reported in the November EIAG Newsletter (No. 31), EIAG with ESAH granted the Mills Archive £1,000 to fund their work on the Rex Wailes and Vincent Pargeter archives. As a condition of the grant, the Mills Archive are providing regular reports on progress with this project and here is one received earlier this month:

Three cataloguing volunteers continue to digitise some of the pictures in Rex's collection – use the following link to view them on our catalogue: <https://bit.ly/2pC3kYY>.

We have found some stunning images that tell all kinds of stories. The image below shows Went's Mill, Peldon, the Mill House after the Colchester Earthquake, 1884. Given to Rex Wailes in 1956 by Mrs E Went. The school boy with the black armband was her husband. His father had died shortly before and his brother (next to him) was running the business.



*Went's Mill and the Mill House at Peldon after the Colchester Earthquake of 1884*

The following files have been recently added to the catalogue:

Individual files on Rayleigh Windmill; Great Chishill mill; Greenstead Green mill, Halstead; Gardner's mill, Hatfield Peverel; Moreton post mill; St Osyth mill; Broxted post mill

Manuscript of *Toothill The Story of an Essex Windmill* by Paul Baker and correspondence regarding Rex Wailes' Essex Mills paper.

Large file of survey notes on Essex mills.

I have been truly amazed and touched by the response that people and groups like the Essex Society for Archaeology & History have made since we launched the fundraising appeal in the autumn. Thanks to your group's generous support, we have already received almost £15,000, and we continue to receive expressions of support.

You are also among the first to find out that we have been successful in winning a £10,000 grant from the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust to conserve some of the most badly damaged drawings in the collection. Again, this would not have been possible without your support, which helped to demonstrate the need and value of Rex's material.

**Elizabeth Bartram**

Director Programmes & Development  
The Mills Archive Trust

## **Rainham Bronze Age metalwork mystery: the Havering Hoard**

In 2018 archaeologists excavated 453 pieces of Bronze Age metalwork by the River Thames at Rainham, Havering. Most of the objects had been deliberately broken or damaged and have been dated to c.900-c.800 BC. This is one of the three largest collections of Bronze Age artefacts found in Britain and consists of 146 pieces of axe heads, 38 sword fragments, 40 pieces of daggers, knives and spearheads and more than 100 fragments of ingots. There are also bracelets and some woodworking tools not typical of the UK but more commonly found in continental Europe. They were buried in 4 separate pits in the southern ditch of a 60-metre square ditched and banked enclosure with a single entrance.

Archaeologists from Archaeological Solutions were conducting the excavation prior to planned gravel quarrying. The professional excavation has allowed for a scientific and



comprehensive process of extraction and conservation.

Interpretation around the display of the collection at the Museum of London Docklands will discuss why the metalwork was buried here. Did the smith hide his scrap in the ditch? Were the artefacts religious offerings? Were they buried due to their lost value after the introduction of iron? Or were they a hidden hoard of accumulated wealth?



*Image from museumoflondon.org.uk promoting the Havering Hoard*

The period they have been dated to is the Late Bronze Age (c1000-c700 BC), when the transition to the Iron Age was underway. So maybe the people who buried the artefacts simply looked on them as useless and without value.

Britain was an important source of tin for bronze making, so had been part of trade networks stretching round Europe and beyond for many hundreds of years. The enclosure in which they were buried would not have been an isolated site but would have witnessed movements of people and goods, especially being close to the river, an important trade route. Andrew Peachey, Specialist in Prehistory at Archaeological Solutions said, 'The location of the enclosure and hoards, overlooking the river Thames, made for a dramatic setting, especially as the sun rose and set, highlighting that in prehistory this

would have been a special location.' I have not seen the location and the landscape may have been very different three thousand years ago, but Rainham is known for its marshes by the Thames, hinting that perhaps the hoards were a votive offering. Could the enclosure be a temple or ceremonial centre? A number of studies have demonstrated that the depositing of artefacts in sites linked to water was a widespread custom in the Bronze Age. In particular, according to Dr Noémie Beck, Professor of Irish Studies at Concordia University 'From the Late Bronze Age, the ritual phenomenon developed considerably'. Offerings may have been cast into water so that they would not easily be recovered by humans, or can be interpreted as offerings to water deities. Dr Beck's article links the names of many rivers in Britain and Ireland to the Celtic word for goddess 'deva', for example there are four rivers called Dee in England and Scotland. The Romans called Bath 'Aqua Sulis', Sulis being the local Celtic goddess worshipped at the thermal springs. Visitors still throw coins into these springs today, and also fountains and wells, continuing a tradition of depositing valuable worked metal in watery sites.

The collection will be exhibited at the Museum of London Docklands as the centre piece of their major exhibition 'Havering Hoard: A Bronze Age Mystery' from 3rd April to 25th October 2020. See our Events section for more details.

**Lucy Jack**

Sources:

Guardian 21st October 2019 *Havering Hoard*; Museumoflondon.org.uk *Havering Hoard*; and Brewminate.com/goddesses-in-celtic-religion-water-goddesses

## 15th century immigration in the Ongar Hundred

There is nothing new in our long and troubled relationship with Europe and the movement of its citizens, even if the language has changed. To our medieval ancestors, 'strangers' and 'foreigners' were individuals from other parts of England, whereas 'aliens' were those from countries under a different ruler. 'Aliens' were not allowed to work or trade, but could apply for 'letters of protection' which enabled them to do so, usually for a limited period. There were two other possibilities for European settlers – firstly, to obtain 'letters of denization' which allowed them to buy and devise land (but not to inherit it, or to hold any office under the Crown) – and secondly by naturalisation through a private Act of Parliament.

Apart from those wealthy or influential enough to obtain naturalisation, additional restrictions were placed on those with letters of protection or denization during periods of heightened international tension.

Records of these procedures have survived in the National Archive at Kew, and now enable researchers to identify medieval settlers from Europe. These individuals were taxed at twice the rate of the indigenous population, so they can be identified from the payments recorded in contemporary tax returns. A recent national research project has created a medieval immigrant database, free for anyone to search, on [www.englishlandsimmigrants.com](http://www.englishlandsimmigrants.com).

Migrants might have been expected in a market town such as Chipping Ongar, but none appear on the

database. Instead there are a few scattered individuals in the surrounding countryside – Navestock, Lambourne, North Weald, Stapleford Tawney and Fyfield, most of these settlers identified in the 1440s from the double rate of tax they were obliged to pay. Some of the surnames suggest a country of origin, for example the Navestock resident Gylmyn Flemmyng probably came from the Low Countries. Unfortunately there is usually nothing to show how they were earning a living, or why they had settled here, apart from two cases.

One, a John without a surname, was working as a servant to Roger Spyce of Stapleford Tawney. The records provide much more detail about the other, namely Nicholas Touk of Stanford Rivers. He came from France, and in 1337 was granted letters of protection 'in consideration of services to Queen Isabella'. The record also notes that he was parson of Stanford Rivers, and this is confirmed in Newcourt's *Repertorium* which gives the induction of 'Nic. Touch, clericus' a decade earlier in 1326/7, presented by the church's patron, the recently crowned King Edward III.

Queen Isabella, daughter of the King of France, was the wife of King Edward II whose reign was dominated by the consequences of his infatuation with Piers Gaveston. Queen Isabella took an active political role in the reign of that unfortunate king. After retiring to the French court for a while, she returned to England in 1326/7, landing at Orford in Suffolk with a small French force to rally support for her son, the future Edward III. Her husband took flight west from London, but was captured and met his death under mysterious (and possibly gruesome) circumstances.



We will probably never know what part Nicholas Touk played in her affairs but, being French, he may have come to England in 1326/7 as part of the Queen's extensive household. Nothing more is known about Touk himself, though he probably died in 1348 when the next rector succeeded to the parish. But why had he been parson of Stanford Rivers for nearly 10 years before requiring letters of protection in 1337? The answer is almost certainly that 1337 marked the commencement of the Hundred Years War, with England making active preparations for a continental offensive and Essex effectively being put on a war footing to raise men, ships and supplies for the invasion. At such a time anyone with European origins could well have felt very vulnerable.

**Michael Leach**

Sources:

[www.englishimmigrants.com](http://www.englishimmigrants.com)  
Newcourt, R 1710 *Repertorium Ecclesiasticum Parochiale Londinense*

## **Rev. Michael Tyson (1740-80) and trouble at Lambourne**

The advowson of Lambourne was purchased by the incumbent, Dr Thomas Tooke, for £400 in 1712. He died in 1721 and bequeathed it to his brother and his heirs. The Will also stipulated that, 50 years after his death, the advowson should pass to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. The last heir to benefit from the family inheritance was Tooke's nephew, Robert Tooke, who died in 1776, whereupon Corpus

Christi College considered that it was entitled to nominate his successor. The college chose its bursar, Michael Tyson, but this started a troublesome lawsuit brought by the sister of the last rector who claimed that the right was hers. A suit in Chancery ruled in favour of the college, but the Tooke family threatened a second lawsuit. The unfortunate Tyson, tired of the legal conflict and wishing to marry 'a most agreeable woman to whom he had been engaged for 10 years', entered into a composition with the disputants requiring the payment of 'a good round sum of money', and an undertaking not to take possession of the rectory house until Christmas 1778. Tyson, who had been married in July of that year, was in lodgings in Chigwell.

Tyson reached his agreement without the knowledge of the college who, understandably, were reluctant to reimburse him for the 'good, round sum of money' that he had paid. However, on Tyson's premature death of a 'putrid fever' on 3rd May 1780, the college relented and provisionally agreed to reimburse Tyson's widow. However the Tooke relatives, when the college acted to nominate Tyson's successor, threatened another lawsuit, and Corpus Christi withdrew their offer, doubtless anticipating further legal costs. But soon after, the Tookes decided (or perhaps were persuaded by the wise advice from their lawyer) to withdraw their claim. The college then reimbursed to his son the composition fee (some £60 or £70) that had been paid by Michael Tyson.

Tyson was a minor figure in the world of mid-18th century antiquaries, perhaps mainly connected to it through his friendship with Richard Gough whom he accompanied on a tour of

northern England and Scotland in 1776. Gough had a high opinion of him – he attended his funeral and, in his revision of Camden's *Britannia*, noted under the Lambourne entry 'at the foot of the bishop's tomb was laid, May 6th 1780, a friend to whose pencil and taste these sheets would have been much indebted, had he not been cut off in the early enjoyment of all his wishes'.

He wrote a few short antiquarian reports for the *Gentleman's Magazine* and *Archaeologia*, but none relate to Essex – hardly surprising as he only lived in the county for two years. He was an accomplished botanist but it was his skill as an engraver, artist and book illustrator that led to Gough's comment after his death. There is no monument to him in Lambourne church but his biographer leaves a vivid account of his appearance – he was of a 'black swarthy complexion & adult habit of body & of a short squat composition but extremely well compacted.'

#### Michael Leach

Sources:

BL Add MS 5886 (William Cole's account of antiquaries who received their education at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, undated)  
Masters, R & Lamb, J, *History of the College of Corpus Christi, Cambridge* (1831)  
Wright, T, *The History and Topography of the County of Essex* (1835)

## A source used in Newcourt's *Repertorium*

Richard Newcourt's second volume, published in 1710, covers the county of Essex. It was a formidable compilation,

and is still a useful reference work for local historians. Newcourt listed his sources in the wide margins of his book. Some of these were from printed works, some from ecclesiastical records to which Newcourt had access, and some were from private collections of manuscripts. Of the last, two main collections were extensively used by him. One of these belonged to an Essex clergyman, the Rev John Ouseley (1645-1708), who had borrowed (or acquired by default) part of the collection of MSS amassed by Thomas Jekyll of Bocking (1570-1653). The other collection used by Newcourt was that of William Grimes who, by 1691, was one of the six clerks appointed to the Rolls Chapel where he would have had access to records of the Court of Chancery. Like Ouseley, his acquisitions may not have been entirely above board. A House of Commons report in 1732 noted 'several Calendars or Indices relating to the Records in the Rolls Chapel were carried from the said Chapel by Mr William Grymes deceased, formerly a Clerk thereof, under Pretence that they had been made by him, and were therefore his property.'

#### Michael Leach

Sources:

'G.M.', *The New State of England*, London (1691)  
*Report from the Committee to view the Cottonian Library*, by order of the House of Commons (1732)

## Layers of London

Layers of London is a website of historical maps to view for free. The maps are cleverly matched exactly to the streets we know today and you can switch between maps so easily



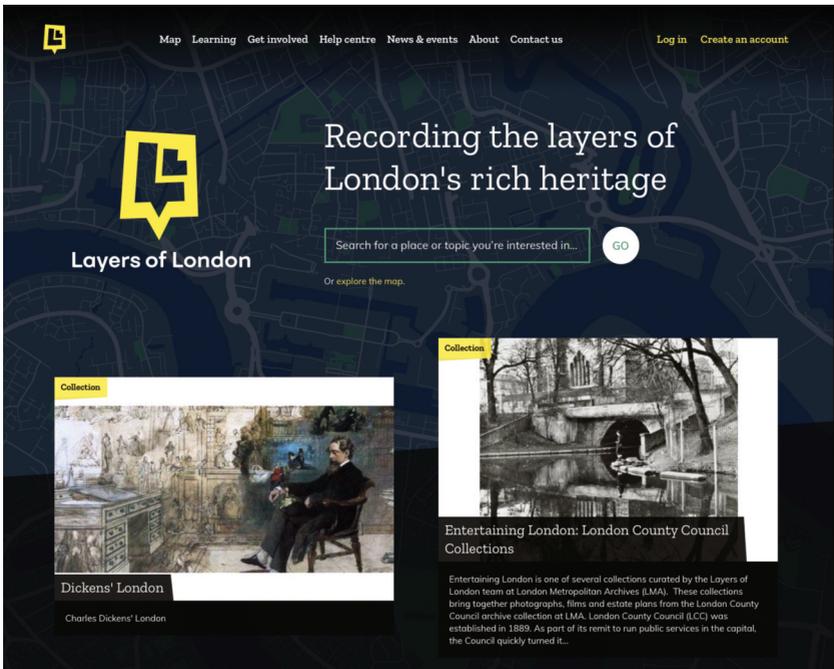
it makes it a joy to explore. The maps are supported by 'Collections' which bring together information related to the map and a specific topic so, as a user, you can either be looking for a very specific detail on a map at a certain date or a casual browser interested in a certain topic that may cover many places of London. Essex has recently been added to this website with the County of Essex in 1777 by John Chapman and Peter André.

The legend to the website allows you to hide and reveal each map with a simple click on the eye symbol.

There's Faithorne and Newcourt's map of London before the fire of 1666 and Ogilby and Morgan's map shortly after; maps by John Rocque and I found C. and J. Greenwood's 1858 map

particularly useful. You can also browse the bomb damage of 1945 to 1949 with 24,000 aerial shots taken by the RAF.

There are many collections already on the site with more being added every day by both professionals and volunteers. Indeed, the creators of the website are constantly looking for volunteers to help them populate the maps with even more information. You can delve into each marker for each collection and see information on the location, photos and all the sources and attributions you need to enjoy and inform your search. You can browse for Georgian Coffee houses, London Pubs, Punk London, and London Archaeology with articles from the London Archaeologist to name but a few. The collections have recently been



*Image of the homepage of Layers of London at layersoflondon.org*

updated with a History of Hackney. The current call for volunteers is to help mark Charles Booth's Poverty Map.

I have used it myself over the last few months and have seen the website progress dramatically. Initially I just wanted to find the streets my family had lived on but what I also found, thanks to these maps, was that my family had moved progressively to the outskirts of London, as the latest developments were being built out towards the east. New housing and close to the bucolic scenes of fields and meadows, away from the hubbub of central London, we would find it hard to imagine just standing on the same street today. The change of street names was not an issue. If I could find the one, it was overlaid on the new or vice versa.

I could not resist looking for the island that is now my home and no longer separate from the land in the 1777 map of the County of Essex. Tracing the road back to civilisation, I found a place called Snoreham that I never knew existed. It is now part of Latchingdon, the name forgotten, but we drive through it every day.

The website has been developed by the Institute of Historical Research, they have partnered with the British Library, The London Metropolitan Archives, Historic England, the National Archives and MOLA to build the maps. They have also turned to local groups such as the Friends of Hackney Archives to build out on specific collections. Volunteers are also welcome to contribute under the Creative Commons license.

If you are interested in maps, of London in particular but the 1777 map of Essex too, not only is this tool a fantastic resource that is actively updated with new maps and

information as we speak, but you can also zoom in closer and more clearly than you could with a magnifying glass on your desk. It's definitely a website to bookmark. You will find it at [layersoflondon.org](http://layersoflondon.org).

Zoe Quinn

## **Military pontoon bridges at the Tilbury/Gravesend crossing**

Though there has been a passenger ferry here 'from time immemorial', there had been, since the 16th century, concerns about its inadequacy for mass troop movements between Kent and Essex in times of emergency. This difficulty became acute during the Civil War, and a Royalist newsletter of May 1648 refers to 'a bridge of Boats making between Kent & Essex for their mutuall passage to assist each other'. It is not clear if this was a literal chain of boats across the estuary, or merely the active provision of a substantial number of ferry boats on either side of the river, but it could well have been of great assistance to the 3,000/4,000 survivors of the Royalist uprising who fled to Colchester after their defeat at Maidstone in early June.

Plans for a river crossing were again put in place in 1778 when a military ferry called 'the Communication' was established, six drop-ended troop barges warped by hawser across the Thames. After a period of disuse it was re-activated during the French Revolution but, because it was unpopular with local shipping, it was replaced by barges which were to be towed across by sailing ship or rowing boats. Though plans for a



tunnel were proposed in 1798, nothing came of this and presumably 'the Communication' (as it was still called) was abandoned when the war with France ended in 1815 at Waterloo.

Concerns about possible invasion were reawakened towards the end of the 19th century and the 1880's London Defence Scheme envisaged a pontoon bridge to be put in place across the Thames in order to facilitate troop movements at times of threat, and to provide easy communication between the 'mobilisation stations' at Brentwood and Wrotham. By the turn of the century, about 42,000 feet of iron chain and an assortment of anchors and shackles had been stored at Tilbury Fort, and Messrs Cory and Son were being paid an annual retainer to provide the required barges when necessary. However no provision for stockpiling the necessary timber for the roadway was made, and there were disagreements amongst the military about the need for, or the practicality of, this crossing. By 1907, after reassurances about the capability of the Royal Navy to deal with the invasion threat, Cory's contract was terminated and the stores at Tilbury Fort dispersed.

The position changed again in 1914, and in October the War Office warned the Port of London Authority (PLA) of its intention to construct a pontoon bridge across the Thames. This was completed within a month and consisted of 67 barges, tethered by cables to anchors or mooring screws upstream and downstream. It was 833 yards long and carried two 8 foot timber carriageways with kerbs and guardrails, capable of taking vehicles and field artillery, as well as marching troops. A 716 foot central section was

left open to allow shipping to pass up and down river, and there were tugs, barges and timber on standby to fill the gap at short notice when needed. Six spare barges were also provided to replace any damaged by Thames shipping, a necessary precaution as there were several serious collisions, one of which carried away twenty of the barges. The central gap was subsequently widened to 800 feet to reduce the risks of damage.

The military sceptics were probably justified, as the bridge appears to have been rarely used. The need to complete the central gap – a two to three hours operation (and perhaps more in the dark, or in bad weather) – must have been a major disincentive, and would also have been a considerable inconvenience to shipping (controlled by the PLA through the harbour master at Gravesend). The bridge was dismantled in October 1918; the timber was bought by the PLA for its own use, and the barges were reconditioned for sale.

The idea of a pontoon bridge at this point had a brief renaissance in August 1941 but was swiftly abandoned, apparently due to a shortage of materials. Inconvenience to shipping, as well as its vulnerability to air attack, may have been other factors taken into account.

**Michael Leach**

Sources:

Jones, Whitney R D,  
*Thomas Rainsborowe (c.1610-1648):  
Civil War Seaman, Siegemaster and  
Radical*, Boydell Press (2005)  
Smith, V., 'The military pontoon bridge  
between Gravesend & Tilbury in the  
Great War' in *Archaeologia Cantiana*,  
CXL (2019), pp.298-308

## Raymond Crawshay

Born in 1885, he was the son of an enthusiastic collector of palaeoliths and 'eoliths' from the North Downs in Kent. Raymond, at the age of three, picked up a worked flint from the drive of their home, and presented it to his father. As an adult he took to motor car racing and was one of the few to lap the Brooklands circuit at 100 mph before the First World War. In the 1920s he was instrumental in setting up the Shellhaven refinery in Essex, and later was owner and manager of the Southminster gas works. When the gas industry was nationalised, he retired to a houseboat in Maldon, and worked as a clock and watch repairer in a shed on the quayside.

When his father died in 1924, Raymond inherited his collection of worked flint, as well as the 'eoliths' which are now recognised as natural artefacts. These were offered for sale by auction in London in 1929 and were purchased by agents of Sir Henry Welcome to add to his eclectic and rapidly expanding collection, crammed into a warehouse in Willesden. After Sir Henry's death in 1936, the non-medical items were disposed of, and most of the Crawshay flints went to the British Museum.

**Michael Leach**

Source: *Kent Archaeological Society Newsletter*, 112 (Winter 2019)



*Ruins of St Giles Leper Hospital at Maldon*



## St Giles Leper Hospital ruins, Maldon

[Following the recent news that St Giles' Leper hospital had once again been vandalised and the site would now be closed to the public for the foreseeable and indefinite future, it was a serendipitous moment when an email arrived on the editor's desk unrelated to the above incident but directly concerning the location].

Two medieval historians from University College London have been awarded a grant from the university's Centre for Critical Heritage Studies to develop a walking route around the ruins of the medieval leper hospital in Maldon. The St Giles ruins, Maldon's only Scheduled Monument, are a unique survival within Essex and the site is one of only a small number of medieval hospitals to survive nationally. Recent decades have seen a reassessment of the treatment of lepers and the role of leper hospitals in medieval society. Through the development of this route Dr Johanna Dale and Dr Antonio Sennis aim both to demonstrate the way in which the hospital was closely connected to the town and other local institutions in the medieval period, and also to raise the profile of this important site in the modern day. Two public walks will run in May 2020. Exact dates and times are still to be confirmed but if you are interested in participating then please get in touch: johanna.dale@ucl.ac.uk.

**Johanna Dale**

British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow  
History Department  
Univeristy College London

## The Victoria History of Essex

The launch of the latest 'short' by the Victoria History of Essex has taken place. It is titled, *Harwich, Dovercourt and Parkeston in the 19th century* by Andrew Senter. Copies are available from the VCH Essex County Editor at the Essex Record Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford CM2 6YT for £14.00 per copy for collection in person, or an additional £2 for postage and packing.

Collection arrangements or enquiries to c.c.thornton@btinternet.com. Cheques payable to Victoria County History of Essex Trust.

**Adrian Corder-Birch**

## Society seeks representative for CBA East

In 2012 the Council for British Archaeology (CBA), which represents archaeological groups from across the country, carried out a reorganisation of the boundaries of its network of regional groups. The former Mid Anglia and East Anglia groups were merged to create a new group, CBA East, covering the counties of Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. In order to organise the activities of the group a new Committee was established with representatives from each county in the region. ESAH were invited to nominate someone to give representation from Essex and I agreed to take on the role. After 9 years my time as a committee member has clearly long expired and I need to stand down at the next AGM (at least for one year) and Council is seeking a replacement.

The group aims to involve people in archaeology and to promote the care and appreciation of the historic environment across the region for the benefit of present and future generations. Representatives aim to achieve this by using funding from the subscriptions of members and through such activities as:

- Holding regular committee meetings
- Organising an annual AGM
- Maintaining a website and periodic newsletter
- Liaising with other archaeological groups and societies
- Arranging conferences and events for members and others
- Encouraging participation in training opportunities
- Deciding on the allocation of small grants to local projects

Recent events organised have included a conference highlighting recent excavation and research in the region as a part of the celebration of 75 years since the CBA was founded, guided walking tours of Roman Caister-by-Norwich and of Medieval Norwich, and a visit to excavations on the line of the new A14 in Hunstanton. Essex organised a member visit to Cressing Temple in October 2018 and will be hosting the 2020 AGM on 16th May at Chelmsford Museum.

Participation in the organisation of CBA East activities is not too demanding. I am happy to speak to any member who would like to become the Essex representative or contact the Secretary so that a nomination can be endorsed by Council in time for the CBA AGM.

**Dave Buckley**

## **Morant Lunch 2019**

The Morant Lunch was held last year at the Top Meadows Golf Club in North Ockendon. A convivial lunch was followed by a talk from Jane Pearson on *19th century Witchcraft in Essex* which considered two case studies from Easthorpe and Sible Hedingham. This year's lunch will be very different the venue moves from a rural part of the south-west to an urban part of north-east Essex, to the Colchester Archaeological Trust's base. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Marconi's first radio transmission, we will be entertained with songs that were sung by Dame Nellie Melba.

Travelling from my home down to North Ockendon was a reminder of the remarkable variety of our county's landscapes, and the complexity of its modern administration; we passed in and out of the administrative county, Thurrock unitary and the London Borough of Havering. The journey took us from the Chelmer valley through urban Brentwood into the intricate network of lanes and woods of the wooded hills south of the town, passing the site of Miss Willmott's garden (venue for our first excursion in the 2020 programme) to arrive at Top Meadows. From there, commanding views could be had across Bulphan and Orsett Fen to the woods of Langdon Hills. After lunch, to drop someone at the station, we passed close to Stubbers, in the grounds of which the first Yucca to bloom in England flowered in 1604. As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, the Society's Council recently considered a request for a grant to help pay for conservation of Humphry Repton's Red Book for the Stubbers estate.

**Nigel Brown**



## Council for British Archaeology's 2019 Annual General Meeting

The CBA's AGM was held on Friday, 22nd November 2019 in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries of London at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. [The CBA first started here in 1944]

The precursor to this meeting was a guided tour of the London Mithraeum (Temple of Mithras) which is located below the Bloomberg Space in Walbrook, beside Bank station. The guided tours were led by MoLA for CBA members only attending the AGM. Normally it is free flow and the booklet gives you the information. The foyer of the building is an exhibition space with changing displays and a permanent wall display of the finds from the archaeological excavations of the Temple. The staircase leading down towards the

Temple has all the levels and periods of occupation etched into the walls. Before you get to the entrance of the Temple, there are several interactive displays to play around with. Entry to the Temple is timed as they have to reset the experience after each group has exited, but this is usually pretty quick. It is amazing to see the temple, considering it dates to the 3rd century AD, and the fact it has been moved and moved back again. Entry is free and you receive a booklet with the history of the Temple on entry, also free.

After the Temple tour, it was a quick dash to Piccadilly for the AGM. On arrival there were refreshments of tea, coffee and biscuits. The AGM covered the replacement of the Articles of Association of the company, revised membership and subscription rates (which were increased by 5% across the board to compensate for inflation over two years) Dr Mike Heyworth, MBE



*The Marconi Radio Room on board the Titanic*

Director is standing down and all the usual issues that occur at AGMs.

Following the AGM was the Marsh Awards, these were various awards in the field of archaeology, nominated by members. There then followed a drinks reception to celebrate the award winners.

Following on from the reception was the Beatrice de Cardi lecture, delivered by Richard Osgood, Senior Archaeologist within the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, entitled *The Healing Bones: archaeology as wellbeing*. This then concluded a full programme of the AGM.

**Paul Sainsbury**

## An unusual listing

A skateboard park in Hornchurch, known as The Rom, was listed Grade II in 2014 for its cultural importance, and as one of the best surviving examples of its kind in the country. It was built in 1978 to the design of Adrian Rolt of G Force who were leaders in this field, and constructed by Skate Park Construction Ltd using a pressurised spray concrete technique called Shotcrete imported from the US. The bowl was lined with marbelite resin.

**Michael Leach**

Source: *The SPAB Magazine* (Winter 2019)

## Beavers return to Essex

Beavers, absent from Essex since the Middle Ages, have recently been released into a four hectare enclosure on the Spains Hall estate at

Finchingfield. Within nine weeks, they had created as many dams, and had significantly improved the water quality when compared with nearby streams. The damming has already raised the water table for the benefit of other wild life, and should slow the flow of water towards Finchingfield and reduce the risk of flooding. The project is being closely monitored by Natural England and the Environment Agency. In addition, research is being carried out by Salford University to establish how far downstream it is possible to detect beaver DNA.

**Michael Leach**

Source: *Essex Wildlife*, issue 109 (Summer/Autumn 2019)

## The last resting place of HMS Beagle

This vessel, best known for carrying Charles Darwin on his famous voyage to South America in 1831-6, was decommissioned by the Royal Navy in 1845 and moored on the River Roach. After complaints from local oystermen that it was interfering with their activities, she was moved ashore where she rested until being sold for scrap in 1870 for £525. Presumably she was no longer seaworthy and her superstructure would have been dismantled *in situ*.

A geophysical survey in 2004 located a possible site near Paglesham, and in August 2019 archaeologists returned to the possible site in search of further evidence.

**Michael Leach**

Source: *The Times newspaper* (14th August 2019)



## Essex seen from elsewhere

- a) Heritage Lottery Grants have been offered to Langford Museum of Power (£948,000) for a re-launch and new displays, and to Becontree Estate (£448,000) as part of the centenary celebration as one of the largest 'cottage estates' for servicemen returning from the First World War;
- b) HLF grants have also been received for repairs to Dagenham church (£190,000), and for the Fanshawe collection of some 50 portraits and the three centuries of family papers which are housed at Valence House Museum, Barking (£336,900);
- c) The most surprising HLF grant was for £9,800 to create one of the smallest museums in the country, a listed K6 telephone box at Clifftown, Southend-on-Sea;
- d) A surprising survival came to light in Hatfield Heath through a planning application to demolish the majority of the abandoned and overgrown buildings erected as a World War II prisoner-of-war camp. Some contemporary graffiti art remained in one of the structures. The planning application is for 26 new houses but it is proposed to retain a few of the wartime units and the water tower, suitably repaired. Approval has been recommended, subject to



*St Mary's church, Mundon in the care of the Friends of Friendless Churches*

a S106 legal obligation to cover the long-term maintenance arrangements for the retained buildings. However, at the time of writing, approval had not been forthcoming, and the applicant had submitted an appeal for non-determination; and

- e) St Mary's church, Mundon, in the care of the Friends of Friendless Churches ('FoFC'), has been the subject of extensive repairs and underpinning as a result of subsidence. However movement has continued, and the nave is slowly being crushed between the inward movement of chancel from one side, and of the tower from the other. Attempts to remedy movement of this building date back to at least 1600 when an oak framed skirt was wrapped round the bell tower to steady the structure. FoFC are considering what to do next.

**Michael Leach**

Sources: *Ancient Monuments Society Newsletter* (Spring 2019, Summer 2019 and Autumn 2019)

## ESAH events 2020

Please find the Booking form for ESAH's programme of events in 2020 included with this edition of the newsletter. As you know, we arrange sometimes exclusive or more extensive tours and this comes with an important amount of organisation. Unfortunately, the slightly earlier release of the Winter edition of the newsletter did not time well with that of the finalised calendar

of events and a number of members have been asking us why they did not get their booking forms.

The Society's Council was informed of the problem and took the decision to circulate the booking forms by email to all our members with an email address on file. We hope you received it but please feel free to contact [martinstuchfield@pentlowhall.uk](mailto:martinstuchfield@pentlowhall.uk) if you did not receive a copy.

Email is a part of the developing digital strategy the Society has been working towards over the last few years and, with the adoption of *Essex Journal* in 2021, it seems an opportune time to produce an electronic newsletter to reflect the growing trend.

### Wednesday, 18th March

Visit to Miss Willmott's garden at Warley Place near Brentwood. Miss Willmott (1858-1934) was described by Gertrude Jekyll as 'the greatest living woman gardener'. She served on a number of RHS committees as the only female, winning the RHS Medal of Honour in 1907, and was the first woman elected to the Linnaean Society. Her 50-acre garden in Essex drew visitors from around Europe with its 100,000 plant and tree species and its one-acre Alpine Valley. Daffodils were her passion and she had over 600 different species, which she protected from thieves, with booby traps and a revolver.

The garden is now derelict and is a nature reserve cared for by Essex Wildlife Trust. The daffodils still bloom there in spring and we hope – global warming notwithstanding – to visit the garden at the height of its wild beauty. We will take a guided tour led by a local volunteer.



### **Saturday, 25th April 2020**

The annual Morant Lecture, remembering the Society's pride in the important Essex historian, Philip Morant (1700-70). The lecture this year is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Marconi's first radio broadcast. Our speaker will be Tim Wander, a historian well-known for publishing on the history and career of Marconi. The lecture will be held at Chelmsford Museum which has many Marconi-related exhibits.

### **Friday, 22nd May 2020**

The Warner Textile Archive at Braintree holds England's second largest collection of flat textiles and includes paper designs, photographs, ledgers, hand-woven silks and printed textiles to celebrate the rich industrial history of Warner & Sons, once a local firm which grew to global significance. The building in which the collection is housed is the original Grade II listed textile mill. We will enjoy a guided tour of the archive with time allowed to browse the collection.

### **Saturday, 27th June 2020**

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Special Collections room of the Albert Sloman Library at the University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester. Following the formal business we will hear from several researchers who have enjoyed using the ESAH library collection for their research. The Society is keen to make members aware of the library which has been painstakingly collected and cared for over 170 years by a succession of honorary librarians. There are many gems in the collection which concentrates on Essex archaeology and history. The collection is housed in purpose-built modern and comfortable accommodation at the university library.

### **Wednesday, 15th July 2020**

A tour of Colchester Museum with a difference. Rather than a tour of the fabric and history of the building and collection we are fortunate on this occasion to have engaged Dr Paul Sealey, for many years Curator of



*The interior of Colchester Castle Museum*

Archaeology at Colchester Museum, to talk to us about some of his favourite exhibits, ranging from the earliest cauldron from prehistoric Britain to a hoard of silver coins buried for safekeeping by the Jewish community of medieval Colchester.

**Saturday, 22 August 2020**

The Epping Ongar Railway is a heritage railway running from Loughton via Epping to Ongar. Not long ago it was the final section of London Underground's Central line; now it is run by a small number of paid staff and a team of volunteers. We will enjoy a tour which includes a talk on the history of the railway and a tour of the engine sheds followed by a trip on a steam locomotive between North Weald and Ongar.

**Sunday, 20 September 2020**

This event is a walking tour of a small area of Colchester led by Dr Jane Pearson whose book (co-researched with Maria Rayner) *Prostitution in Victorian Colchester* was published in 2018. Jane will walk the group from the riverside at Castle Park, where a number of the town's prostitutes ended their lives, up Maidenburgh Street where there were a number of Victorian brothels and into High Street and Head Street where prostitutes went to spend their earnings, to shoplift and to pick pockets.

**Sunday, 11 October 2020**

The Annual Morant lunch is a second opportunity to honour Philip Morant's contribution to the county's history. It will be held at Colchester's Roman Circus House and entertainment will be provided by Dee Mardi who will sing, among other items, the song that

Dame Nellie Melba provided for Marconi's first radio transmission 100 years ago.

**Saturday, 7th November 2020**

The annual Archaeological and Historical Symposium (formerly run by Essex Congress) will be held at the United Reformed Church, Chelmsford. Three archaeologists and three local historians will present short papers based on their current research.

**Saturday, 7 November 2020**

ELAG Annual meeting at Chelmsford Museum.

## Events in Essex

### Field of the British Isles

Antony Gormley's exhibition of 40,000 clay characters is on display at the FirstSite Gallery in Southend-on-Sea.

Entry is free but donations are requested.

## Essex Record Office: Impact of science across Essex

**Saturday, 7th March 2020**

9.30a.m. to 4.00p.m.

£30 including a buffet lunch and refreshments

The Essex Record Office has arranged a full day of talks on the impact of science across Essex. Brewing, gas supply, textiles, fibre optics and technological developments in archaeological research will be covered in seven talks by six different speakers. More information can be found at [essexrecordoffice.co.uk](http://essexrecordoffice.co.uk).



## Edward Bawden 30 years on

'From the President' in the autumn/winter 2018 newsletter featured Essex artists. Readers might like to know that Chelmsford Museum is holding exhibition of Edward Bawden' work marking the 30th anniversary of his death. Bawden was the central figure of the 'Bardfield Artists' and an important part of his work was book illustration, the Chelmsford Exhibition concentrates on that aspect of his art, entry is free and the exhibition is open until 1st March.

Nigel Brown

## Havering Hoard: a Bronze Age mystery

3rd April to 25th October 2020  
Museum of London Docklands

A free exhibition but advance booking is recommended. Tickets through the website can be booked by timeslot every hour from 10.00a.m. to 5.00p.m. (final entry is between 4.00 and 5.00p.m.). For further information please contact the Museum of London Docklands Box Office team on 020 7001 9846 or at [museumoflondon.org.uk](http://museumoflondon.org.uk).

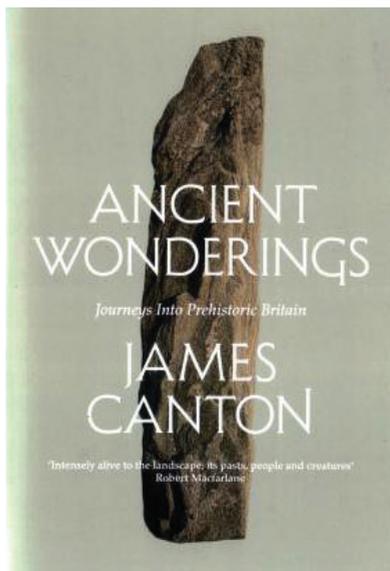
## Book reviews

James Canton. *Ancient Wonderings: Journeys into Prehistoric Britain* (William Collins, London, £16.00) 2017. ISBN: 978-0-00-817520-7. 344pp.

James Canton is a stalwart of the University of Essex where he teaches 'Wild Writing' and is himself a fine exponent of that vibrant cotemporary

literary genre. Readers of this newsletter may well be familiar with his earlier book *Out of Essex: Re-imagining a Literary Landscape*. As the Preface to his latest volume states, Ancient Wonderings 'Was born of a certain obsessive desire to understand the ancient world'. The book comprises eight chapters each of which describes journeys around Britain to look at sites, landscapes, museums and visit people to explore '...ever deeper into time past.' as he puts it, borrowing a phrase from T.S. Eliot.

The journeys mostly explore the prehistoric past from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age, but some chapters are concerned with later periods. The first and third chapters 'Stone' and 'Roman Road' consider the Roman period though the first deals with Pictish lands beyond the Empire's boundary. The sixth chapter 'Peddars Way' merges an account of a walk along a Roman road with an imaginative consideration



of Bronze Age journeys. 'Roman road' is an account of journeys through the Essex countryside around the author's home village of Little Maplestead, searching for the line of a Roman road. The places he describes will be familiar to many readers of this newsletter, as indeed will some of the people, Harold and Ashley Cooper for instance. During the course of the chapter the author borrows Jack Lindsay's *The Discovery of Britain: A Guide to Archaeology* from Halstead Library. A book I remember being enthralled by and borrowing a number of times from Southend Library in the late 1960s when I was first becoming interested in archaeology.

Canton has a facility for evoking the nature of landscape, its plants, animals, physical character and atmosphere. For instance the paragraphs on pp.102-3 and p.106 capture with great skill an Essex landscape, which although describing a walk through north Essex fields, reflect very closely what I encounter during regular walks in central Essex. Other chapters (Doggerland, Mummies I and Mummies II) of the book are much concerned with the Inner Hebrides whose landscape he captures every bit as well as our familiar local scene. In part Canton travels all that way so that he could '...really stand on Mesolithic lands.' Though of course you needn't travel quite so far to do that, at various points around the Essex coast, at low tide it's possible to walk out onto the now submerged Neolithic/Mesolithic land-surface, a remnant of Doggerland.

The two 'Mummies' chapters, and the last two chapters of the book 'Gold' and 'Forging On' really delve into the 'Bronze Age'. 'Gold' and 'Forging On' are particularly concerned with visiting, museums, objects and people. One of the many impressive things about this book is the way that the author has really got to grips with the complexities of contemporary archaeology and its specialist publications. Not only is 'Ancient Wonderings' well written it is also well designed with an attractive type face and evocative pictures and map extracts. I particularly liked the section dividers, which as an end note describes were adapted from the symbols used for tumuli on the old Ordnance Survey six-inch maps. The book is a subtle expression of humanity through a personal description of encounters with archaeology, nature landscape and people.

**Nigel Brown**

## **Free book offer**

*Essex Review*, vol 5 (1896), bound in red cloth and formerly owned by the Southend-on-Sea Antiquarian and Historical Society. Sound condition. Free to a new home, or swap for a later volume. Please telephone Michael Leach on 01277 363106.

For the latest news and information about the Essex Society for Archaeology and History go to our blog, [www.esah160.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.esah160.blogspot.co.uk) or follow us on Twitter, @ESAH160 or visit our website: [ESAH1852.org.uk](http://ESAH1852.org.uk).

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Subscriptions are due on 1st January each year as follows:

Single Member – £25

Family Membership – £30

Student – £15

Associate Member – £15

Institutions – £25

Associate Institutions – £15

## **NAMES AND ADDRESSES**

Secretary

Howard Brooks

13 Greenacres

Mile End

Colchester CO4 5DX

essexarchaeology@hotmail.com

Membership Secretary

Martin Stuchfield

Pentlow Hall

Pentlow

Essex CO10 7SP

martinstuchfield@pentlowhall.uk

Librarian

Dr Jane Pearson

drjanepearson@hotmail.com

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

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## **THE SOCIETY'S PUBLICATION AND RESEARCH FUND (PRF)**

This Endowment Fund supports the publication of articles in the *Transactions* of the Society as well as Occasional Papers. It is also available to support research consistent with the Society's objectives. As an endowment fund, only the interest earned from it can be used to provide such support. The amount of the Fund is in excess of £50,000 and we continue to seek further donations into this.

Donations for this Fund, or to the Society's General Fund where the capital can also be used in support of the Society's objectives, are welcome.

Donations should be made payable to the 'Essex Society for Archaeology and History' and could attract Gift Aid.

Please address enquiries to the Hon. Treasurer, Bill Abbott at 13 Sovereign Crescent, Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3UZ or bill.abbott@btinternet.com.

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## **DATA PROTECTION ACT**

In order to run the Society it is necessary to keep paper and electronic records of members' names and addresses. 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.

**Howard Brooks**

## PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2020

### **Wednesday, 18th March**

Miss Willmott's garden, Great Warley. Miss Willmott was an outstanding gardener, the first woman invited to serve on an RHS committee.

### **Saturday, 25th April**

Annual Morant Lecture at Chelmsford Museum. Tim Wander will deliver a lecture to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Marconi's first radio transmission.

### **Friday, 22nd May**

Warner's Textile Archive, Braintree. A pre-booked tour of the archive with an opportunity to examine the archive store which is England's second largest collection of flat textiles.

### **Saturday, 27th June**

Annual General Meeting at University of Essex library and a visit to the ESAH Library.

### **Wednesday, 15th July**

Colchester Museum. Dr Paul Sealey will pick his favourite exhibits in the museum and explain their provenance and significance.

### **Saturday, 22nd August**

Epping Ongar Railway. A talk on the history of the railway and a tour of the engine sheds followed by a trip on a steam locomotive between North Weald and Ongar.

### **Sunday, 20th September**

Walking tour of Colchester's Victorian red-light district.

### **Sunday, 11th October**

Annual Morant Lunch. This event to celebrate the county's famous historian will be held at Colchester's Roman Circus House.

### **Saturday, 7th November**

Annual Symposium at Chelmsford. This event involves talks by three archaeologists and three historians.

### **Saturday, 14th November**

EIAG Annual meeting at Chelmsford including a talk.

Further details of all events and availability are available from either Howard Brooks (Hon. Secretary) at 13 Greenacres, Mile End, Colchester, Essex CO4 5DX – [essexarchaeology@hotmail.com](mailto:essexarchaeology@hotmail.com) or Jane Pearson (Hon. Programme Secretary) at Cob Cottage, The Street, Great Tey, Colchester, Essex CO6 1JS – [drjanepearson@hotmail.com](mailto:drjanepearson@hotmail.com). All events to be booked at least 10 days prior to the event. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for each event, for maps and other instructions if you do not want these by email. Cheques should be made payable to the *Essex Society for Archaeology and History*.

**The visits on the Society's programme are open to members and associate members only. The Society can accept no liability for loss or injury sustained by members attending any of its programmed events. Members are asked to take care when visiting old buildings or sites and to alert others to any obvious risks. Please respect the privacy of those who invite us into their homes.**