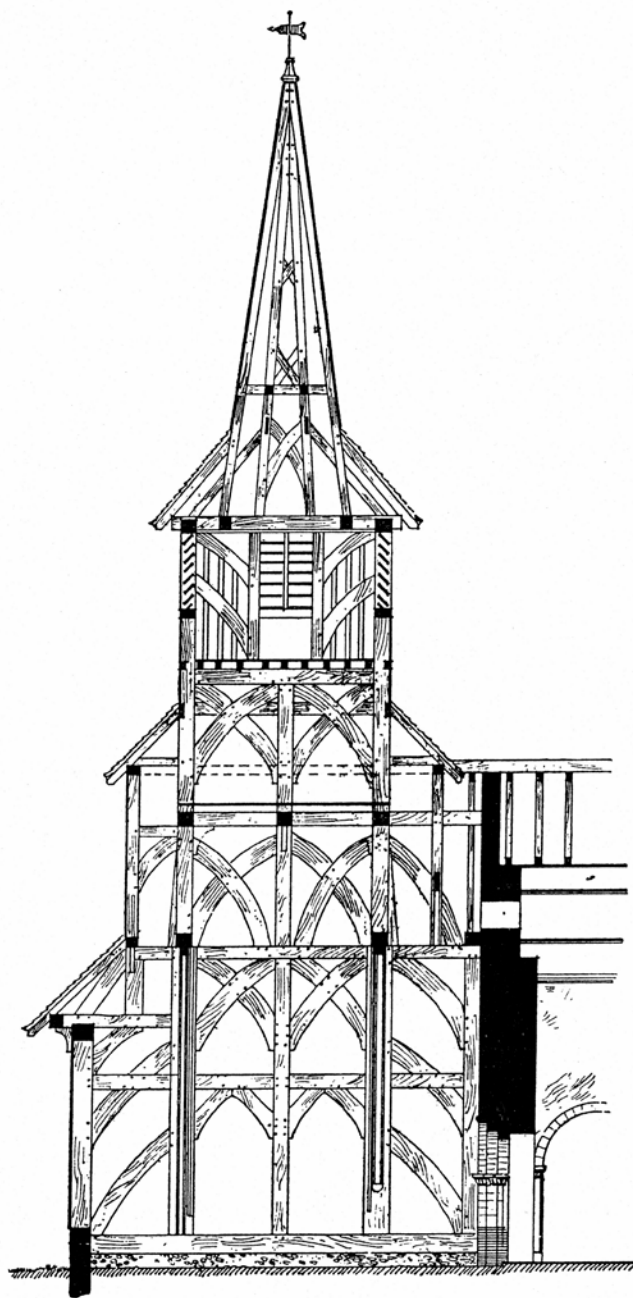


# Essex Archaeology and History News



**Winter 2006**

# THE ESSEX SOCIETY FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

NEWSLETTER 150

WINTER 2006

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**COPY FOR THE NEXT ISSUE SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS NO LATER THAN 2 MARCH 2007**

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

### Cover illustration:

Longitudinal section through the bell tower of the Priory Church of St Laurence, Blackmore Essex by Wykeham Chancellor, March 1899. Taken from The Essex Review No 30, April 1899, Vol. VIII. See the Book Review on page 6 for further information.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

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### ***The Gibberd Garden at Harlow***

The Gibberd Garden at Harlow, which takes its name from the architect, Sir Frederick Gibberd (1908-1984), who created it with considerable help from his second wife, Patricia, is now rated as one of the most important modern gardens in the country. It was constructed as a series of rooms, each with its own character, from small intimate spaces to large enclosed prospects.

It is, today, owned and run by a trust, which I have the honour to chair, and has thousands of visitors each year. The website ([www.thegibberd garden.co.uk](http://www.thegibberd garden.co.uk)) provides an opportunity to sample its attractions.

Sadly, Lady Gibberd died, aged 79 years, on 19<sup>th</sup> September last, cutting one of the most important links with the origins of modern Harlow. She not only played a key role in the making of the Garden: she acted as the guardian of her husband's master plan for the new town; was a founder member of Harlow Arts Trust; was instrumental in creating the unrivalled collection of modern sculptures that grace the Gibberd Garden and the town as a whole; and helped to shape the town's services, as an Epping Rural District Councillor in the 1950s and in the chair of Harlow Health Centres Trust in the 1980s and 1990s.

Lady Gibberd stood out as a leading personality – a fount of local knowledge and an expert on cultural and artistic issues. Her influence was of great importance as long as she lived. All future historians of Harlow and West Essex will have to take into account the Gibberd impact and that of Lady Gibberd will take its place beside that of her husband as of no mean significance.

### ***Quest to find the records of the Manor of North Weald***

The last issue of Essex Archaeology & History News (Summer 2006) carried an article by me on my quest to find the records of the Manor of North Weald. In this, I explained how I managed, after years of searching, to buy two of the missing court books (1793-1854 and 1855-84) at an auction but that many of the manorial records remained unaccounted for.

To my surprise and delight, the article produced a letter from fellow ESAH Council member, Robert Wager, a most assiduous collector of Essex books, saying that the third court book (1884-1933) was in his possession. He was kind enough to invite me to visit his home to view this book and his library – a thrilling experience for any lover of the county's history.

Furthermore, in view of my long standing interest in the history of North Weald and my possession of two of the court books, he agreed to let me have the third. Thus, after many years, Court Books A, B and C, as they are labelled, have been reunited. I have notified the National Archives Historical Manuscripts Commission accordingly.

However, this still leaves rental rolls 1694 and 1702, rental books, a terrier, a draft abstract of court rolls to 1778 to be located, if they are still in existence. I hope my partial success will encourage others to go after other missing historic archives. I shall be continuing my quest for the records of North Weald.

### ***The Morant Lunch 2006***

This year's Morant Lunch, which took place at the Bear Inn, Stock, marked the Fiftieth Anniversary of Morant Lunches and Dinners. It was also the best attended for a number of years, with 47 participants. Although it was a rather long session, we were compensated by

the conversation and an excellent after-dinner speech by Lord Petre, Lord Lieutenant of Essex. He talked about the varied character of the county and its many attractions from the standpoint of one who has long been most deeply committed. He was justly praised by our secretary, Michael Leach, who moved the vote of thanks.

When Stock is mentioned in my hearing, I always think of the local historian, the late Donald Jarvis, who published his first book on the village in 1934 and his last in 1994, both of which are in my local collection. He was President of the Billericay Archaeological & Historical Society; a Vice-President of the Friends of Historic Essex; a founder-member and later President of the Essex Society for Family History; county co-ordinator of Essex Local History Recorders, and a familiar figure at county historical meetings. He was also a parish councillor for more than twenty years.

When we drink a toast to Philip Morant, the doyen of Essex historians, we should remember that in the two volumes he published in 1768 he brought to fruition the efforts of a line of pioneering Essex historians and his legacy is the foundation on which many successors across the county have built – like the late Donald Jarvis in Stock.

### **William Herbert Dalton**

The Essex Field Club Newsletter No. 51 (September 2006) carries a fascinating article on the life of the Essex geologist William Herbert Dalton (1848-1929). This is by W. H. George, who has made the lives of undervalued Essex naturalists, geologists, fossil collectors, etc., his speciality.

William Herbert Dalton was, in his later years, an internationally known expert on oilfield exploration, but he worked previously on the Geological Survey of Britain and produced many articles on

his native Essex. Many were published in the *Essex Naturalist*.

In addition, he edited the *Essex Review* 1892-94 and contributed articles on such varied subjects as church music, Lord Petre's works, and 'popery in Essex'. He also compiled a catalogue of books, pamphlets, periodicals, manuscripts and scrap collections held by the Essex Archaeological Society and wrote for the Transactions.

Born in Foulness, the son of the Revd. Samuel Neale Dalton, who was Rector 1848-92, W. H. Dalton was associated with Essex for most of his life, despite a nomadic existence. He recorded three archaeological sites on Foulness and made other Essex discoveries. His name should certainly be remembered by all who are interested in the history and environment of the County, and Bill George is to be commended on an excellent article, which is well worth reading in full.

Stan Newens,  
October 2006

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT GREAT LEIGHS**

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This was held in the village hall on a warm afternoon on 17 June. Apart from the routine business, the meeting agreed to an increase in subscriptions from January 2007. This is the first increase since 1998 and is necessitated by three factors. Firstly expenses, particularly postal charges, have increased steadily over the last 9 years. Secondly there is increasing uncertainty about the level of grants likely to be available for publishing *Essex Archaeology and History*, and its continued publication is likely to require a larger contribution from the Society itself. Thirdly, though the

index (which is progressing well) will be largely funded from grants, the cost of its publication will need to be born by the Society. The index has had a long gestation, but is an essential tool for researchers and it is very important to publish it quickly when it has been completed. The new subscriptions from 2007 will be £9 for students and associates (currently £8); £20 for individual members (currently £18); £22 for family members (currently £20); and £25 for institutions (currently £22). Family membership covers all living at the same address. It is hoped that every member will agree that this modest increase is justified, and that the subscription still provides very good value for money.

Unfortunately the speaker, Anne Haward of the Round Tower Churches Society, was unable to attend, but David Andrews (of the ECC Historic Buildings Section) stood in for her at very short notice, and gave a very interesting and thoughtful talk on the subject. There are about 185 surviving round towers in England; 126 in Norfolk (with a further 30 now lost), 42 in Suffolk, 7 in Essex (one of which, Birchanger, is lost), 2 in Cambridgeshire, 3 in Sussex, 2 in Berkshire, all broadly in the East Anglian region. More may be discovered by excavation, but they are still unusual, both here and in Europe. There are a scattering in Italy and Germany, and a small number of round minarets in Iraq (Samara, for example, which is tapered).

Round towers have long fascinated antiquarians and have generated various fabulous explanations. The least likely was that they were former well shafts exposed by the Biblical flood. Others have suggested that they indicate a pre-Christian site but (unlike round churchyards) there seems to be no justification for this idea. They were also thought to be a defence against the

Vikings but, though church towers undoubtedly have had a defensive function in the past, none appear to be old enough. The Essex historian, Philip Morant, stated that they were believed to have been built by the Danes, 'according to their manner of architecture'. What is clear is that they have intrigued antiquarians for a very long time.

More recently, it has been suggested that round towers were built because of problems in forming quoins in flint rubble. This idea is unconvincing in Essex, where so much Roman brick was available, and commonly used, to form the corners of church buildings. Even if Roman brick was not used, churches such as Little Bardfield (of C11 date) show that corners can be constructed perfectly well in flint rubble without the use of ashlar. In the pre-Conquest parts of Hadstock, the window surrounds were formed in rubble. Originally, these buildings would have been covered externally in plaster.

Six round tower churches survive in Essex. South Ockendon was rigorously restored in the 1880s (and probably refaced with knapped flint) but its C12 date is revealed by a wonderfully decorated north door. Broomfield has a Norman nave with brick quoins. If brick was available for the body of the church, why was a square tower not built? The site is an ancient one, but the tower is later than the nave. Great Leighs has a spire (which improves the appearance of round towers). Though Pevsner thought that the spire was added in 1882, it seems likely that Frederic Chancellor's work was the restoration of an older one. The tower has original pilaster buttresses and, where unrestored, these are edged in brick or flint rubble. At Bardfield Saling there is a C14 window in the upper part of the tower, the same date as the main church which was consecrated by the bishop of Pisa in

1380. The tower has been assumed to be C14, but it seems likely that it is of earlier date. Lamarsh has a spire, with gablets half way up. This tower is unusual as it is still plastered, but there is a good reason for this – the upper part is built in timber studwork. The windows are Norman. Finally there is Pentlow, a largely Norman church with an apse at the east end. Structural evidence shows that this tower is later than the main church.

Round towers in general are of early or uncertain date. A significant number are thought to be Saxon, with double splay windows, triangular window heads or shallow blind arcading. Those ascribed to a later date may have been rebuilt on an earlier base. All are small, about 1 rod (16 ½ feet) in diameter. Most do not have external doors, and so have a defensive look. Often the relationship to the church is uncertain; in Suffolk many seem originally to have been originally detached, and in Essex some may be later additions to earlier buildings.

There is an alternative explanation for the origins of round towers. Though not common in Europe, the greatest numbers are found in Germany in Alsace-Lorraine and Schleswig-Holstein. It seems possible that the tradition migrated across the North Sea into East Anglia. Great Leighs church is of particular interest in this context. The form of cross-hatching used on the Norman west doorway of its tower is unique in England, but is found in Schleswig-Holstein. Also it may be significant that three of Essex's round tower churches (Broomfield, South Ockendon and Great Leighs) shared the same patron, Geoffrey de Mandeville.

Towers, apart from their possibly defensive role, were for hanging bells and (by the later Middle Ages) for status. The simplest way of providing for bells was with a timber belfry, of which there

are about 100 in Essex, found mainly in churches without aisles in rural, remote parishes. Timber bell towers are also found and may reflect ample supplies of suitable timber. Surviving square masonry towers generally seem to have been added to existing church buildings, perhaps replacing earlier timber structures. Round towers may also have been additions, but characteristically are early in date, and belong to a particular period in time.

Members then went to examine the church in its remote setting, far from the village centre, and broke up into informal groups. Amongst other things, interest focussed on the round tower itself, a barrel organ, the series of rectors appointed by Lincoln College, Oxford, one of whom was doubtfully commemorated as having removed all the C14 heraldic glass from the east chancel window. The remarkable (and beautifully repaired) pews in the nave were much admired. Some of their shelves bore an annular scar, with a scribed central ring and three marks from fixing screws – possibly for candle holders.

Michael Leach

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## ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY 3RD SERIES INDEX

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Work has been progressing well on this project, which is being supported by the Society and by generous grants from the Hervey Benham Charitable Trust and the Friends of Historic Essex. Our indexer, Peter Gunn, has so far completed the indexing of Volumes 1-19 inclusive. He is just about to start the indexing of Volume 20. Members of the Publications Committee have been helping with the many minor questions that arise from

time to time, but there will still be much editing to be completed towards the end of the project. Volumes 24 to 30 are longer in terms of page length than the average, so there is still a considerable amount of work remaining! At present the index amounts to about 11,000 lines, but Peter guesses that the final length will be in the region of 14,000 to 15,000 lines. The main problem encountered by our indexer are the place names and terminology as expressed in successive volumes, for example the different spellings/designations of the same place. Careful study of OS maps can help solve most of these, and the Society has been fortunate in the gift of a set of OS maps from the family of the late John Hunter our former President. On problems of terminology in successive volumes, a cropmark can become an earthwork, which then becomes a ditch, then an enclosure and later a mound and eventually a putative hillfort. According to Peter, this is all part of the joys of indexing! We wish him well in his continuing endeavours on our behalf and look forward to the final index.

Chris Thornton

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## BOOK REVIEWS

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Victorian Kelvedon: The Photography of the Nichols Brothers, Graham H. Wheldon, & Roger V. Carter, (2005) pp. 74, £7.00 Feering & Kelvedon Local History Museum, Maldon Road, Kelvedon.

Most readers of this review will be aware of some fascinating photos of the Kelvedon district, dating from the 1860s, and the subject of this monograph. What they will not know is the history of their discovery, what we know of the two photographers, and a complete set of the 198 (yes, 198) distinct images held

as glass negatives by the Essex Record Office (ERO). It has been a long wait for such a book, but, believe me, the wait has been worth it. Anyone remotely interested in the subject must buy this volume. Cutting through 'an oral and anecdotal tradition that is fragmented and often erroneous' the authors provide an authoritative and fascinating account of what is so far known of the photographs and the photographers, including the site and identity of most of the photos, as well as a priceless, complete and indexed set of the images, most of which this reviewer had never seen before. In parallel ERO has cleaned and numbered the negatives which can now, through the wonder of scanning, be seen by all and, by the wonder of this index, be properly identified. If you are so daft as to wait till the book is out of print, your only comfort will be to buy volume 2 (pending) in which the authors will track down some additional images from these two pioneer photographers which are not held as ERO negatives and survive only as prints in a variety of places.

Tithe & other Records of Essex & Barking, Herbert Hope Lockwood (2006), pp. 158, ERO Publication 149.

If you are interested in Essex history but cannot tell a quitrent from a modus (no, not modem), let alone a bishop's terrier, this book is for you. In this, his last book, Bert Lockwood has provided a magisterial review of tithes in Essex, their origins, complexities, legal niceties and change over time, extensively illustrated by Essex examples and backed up by a formidable bibliography. This is then followed by what is surely a definitive account of the lavishly documented Barking tithes and their descent down to the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836. In doing this the author touches on a host of related issues, not

least the many strategies employed by clergy and landowners – after all, we are dealing with taxation, taxation so complex and lost in the past that disputes and devices were constant companions. This is not always an easy book: should local history be easy? But if you wish to see a seasoned historian, comfortable and clear as he weaves through an undergrowth of partial sources, seeking unwitting truths and passing them modestly on, do not miss this book. Not least among its uses is a chapter on the research potential of the Barking sources. Finally, full marks to the Essex Record Office and its helpers for publishing this important book with colour, clarity and style.

Old Heath Past & Present, Patrick Denney (2006) pp. 96. FRT publications, 13 Abbotts Road, Colchester.

The author, who knows the district so well, and has researched it so thoroughly, has brought together a fascinating collection of photos, mostly of yesterday, but with a few 'then and now' comparisons, prefaced by a sharp historical introduction and captioned from personal knowledge, to produce a very complete view of the rise of this Colchester suburb. Chapter headings follow the familiar path of 'Scenes from the Past', 'Schooldays', 'Church & Chapel', 'Occupations and Trade', 'Wartime' and 'Events and Leisure'. The book is co-authored (and co-produced) by the present vicar of the parish, Father Richard Tillbrook.

The Bell Tower at Blackmore, Andrew Smith (2004), pp 32, published author.

Essex, that home to timber-framed history, is blessed with a great deal of impressive timber in its churches. Noteworthy are over 100 timber belfries and the ten central Essex churches with wooden bell towers built outside the

western wall of the nave. Of these the finest is probably at Blackmore and Andrew Smith has provided this up-to-date account of its history and on-going discussion of its architectural relationship with the other central Essex bell towers. The book climaxes with the 2004 findings of dendrochronology that the tower was constructed about 1400, a far earlier date than hitherto expected.

Blackmore: A Short History, Andrew Smith (2006), pp 36, published author

The same author has now written a short, lively and informed history of Blackmore, anchored on the role through the centuries of its church, which began around 1160 as an Augustinian Priory, recent research having shown that its magnificent bell tower significantly pre-dated the Reformation. Under Henry VIII, so early as 1525, the contents and land of Blackmore Priory were granted to Cardinal Wolsey to help finance his proposed Cardinal College, Oxford. Wolsey's fall saw the late abbey pass to the Smythe family who dominated the area for five generations. The church was in a very decayed state when rescued by the Victorians in 1877, followed by major restoration (with additions) in the Edwardian period. Today its wooden bell tower is a national treasure, probably being looked after as well as even since being built in 1400.

Andrew Phillips

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## AN EARLY BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ESSEX HISTORIANS

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Suffolk Record Office has several volumes of notes collected by the Suffolk antiquarian, Sir Richard Gipps (1659-1708). Judging by their numbering, as well as a comparison with the description by the Historical Manuscripts



Commission in 1891, the collection is now incomplete, and the fate of the missing part or parts is not known. The three surviving volumes contain entries in several different hands, and cover a wide range of antiquarian and archaeological interests of mainly Suffolk relevance. However there is some material covering other counties and, during a recent unrelated search, the following undated entry was noted (apparently in Sir Richard's hand):

*Essex*

*The History of Waltham Abbey by Dr Fuller printed in Folio att ye end of his Church History.*

*A Survey of ye County of Essex in a thin Folio MS by John Norden now in ye Library of Sir Edmd Turner*

*A description of Harwich & Dovercourt by Silas Taylour MS.*

*Mr John Ouseley Rector of Pantfield, a person admirably well versed in ye History of Our Nation hath spent many years in collecting ye Antiquities of Essex wherein he hath been much assisted by Mr Nich Zeakill of Castle Heningham.*

*'Tis said yt Mr Strangeman of Hadley Castle in Suffolk hath writt ye Antiquities of Essex, it still remains in MS but in whose hands is not known.*

*John Smith of Nibley in Essex (whom Sir Will Dugdale in his preface to his Baronage so highly commends) wrote 3 vol. of ye Antiquities of Essex*

Most of this information is not new. 'The History of Waltham Abbey' by Thomas Fuller (1608-1661) was published in 1655. 'The Description of Essex' by John Norden (1548-?1625) was printed by the Camden Society in 1840 from the manuscript which was, by that time, in the ownership of the Marquess of Salisbury. The account of Harwich by Silas Taylor (1624-1678) was edited,

and added to, by Samuel Dale before its publication in 1730. John Ouseley (1645-1708) was a friend of Richard Newcourt who used some of his material in the compilation of the '*Repertorium*'. Ouseley ceased to be rector of Panfield in 1694, which may help to establish the date of this note by Gipps. The misnamed Nich Zeakill was Nicholas Jekyll who had inherited part of the vast antiquarian collection of his grandfather, Thomas Jekyll of Bocking (1570-1652). James Strangman (d.?1595) was another antiquarian, one volume of whose notes (mainly related to monastic foundations) was noted by Morant to be in the Cottonian Library.

However the reference to John Smith of Nibley (in Gloucestershire) is puzzling. It seems most likely that he was the John Smith who was born in Leicestershire in 1568, and served as steward to the Berkeley family in Gloucestershire for some four decades till his death in 1640. He spent part of each year in London in connection with his duties as steward, but appears to have had no connections at all with Essex. Dugdale in the introduction to his *Baronage* refers to the 'special industry of a worthy gentleman, lately deceased' who had compiled a history of the Berkeley family of Berkeley castle, Gloucestershire. A marginal note identifies this worthy as 'John Smith of Nibley Esq.' A volume of Dugdale's diaries and letters, published in 1827, contains a footnote describing Mr Smith of Nibley as 'the celebrated Gloucestershire antiquary whose very minute and well digested Lives of the Berkleys were published.....in 1821. He was Steward to the Berkleys, and acquired an ample fortune, justly earned.'

It is improbable that John Smith of Nibley would have had either reason or opportunity to write three volumes of Essex history, particularly as neither he

nor any of his family seem to have had links with Essex. Perhaps Sir Richard Gipps had learnt about the unpublished Berkeley manuscript written by John Smith and, for some reason, mistakenly believed that it was concerned with Essex.

We shall probably never know how Gipps gathered the material for his bibliography. However, comparison of his list with the bibliography in a slightly later edition of Gibson's edition of Camden's *Britannia* shows very close similarities with almost identical phrasing, strongly suggesting that one had borrowed from the other, or that both had used the same source. For example, *Britannia* described Ousely as 'a person exceedingly well vers'd in the Histories of this Nation, spent many years in collecting the Antiquities of Essex, which, at his death, he left in manuscript'. The main significant difference in the *Britannia* account is the omission of Jekyll; neither is there any reference to John Smith, either under Essex or Gloucestershire.

Michael Leach

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## ESSEX PLACE-NAMES SEMINAR

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The 10th Annual Essex Place-names Seminar, hosted by Maldon Archaeological & Historical Group, took place on 18th November. The paper by Local Recorder Mr Roger Kennel traced the silting of the Gunfleet estuary, formerly the estuary of Holland River north of Clacton, clearly shown on Speed's map of 1627. The creation of the sea wall north of Little Holland Hall in the 19th century claimed sea marsh for pasture, but destroyed the estuary. The artificially-created modern sluiced outfall of the river marks the southern end of the former estuary, Sandy Point the northern end.

Mr Derek Punchard illustrated his talk on Maldon Street names deriving Cromwell Hill from Old English *crumb*, crooked, and North Street, formerly Dagger Lane, a dangerous haunt, and Spital Road from the leper hospital founded by Henry II. In Market Hill once stood the butter market, and in Chequers Lane stood an inn of that name.

Mr Edward Martin of Suffolk Archaeological Service gave the Guest lecture on "Historic Field Systems in the East Anglian Landscape". Using geology, field patterns, enclosed and open field systems and records of land use, he showed that Norfolk and north Suffolk had a distinctly different character from Essex and south Suffolk, the line of demarcation approximately along the Gipping valley (Ipswich-Bury St Edmunds). The northern region,

unenclosed, was predominantly flat clay which was best used for pasture, while the southern, enclosed early, was developed from ancient woodland into arable. Tyes (derived from Old English teag, small enclosure) are rare or absent in the north, but in the south by the 13th century were greens of common pasture. Ploughing practices are essentially distinct, in the south stetch-ploughing leaving insignificant ridges, in the north more similar to Midland wide-ridge and furrow. Early post medieval buildings show significantly different carpentry practices between the two regions.

Whether such differences can trace their origin to the Viking settlement of the 9th and 10th centuries or from Frankish influences, or even earlier diversity dating from the Iron Age make for interesting further research projects.

James Kemble.

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## VISIT TO PANFIELD HALL

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Members visited this very interesting house (with a complex constructional history) on 22 July. It had been in the same family (though not necessarily through the male line) from Domesday till 1611. One heiress, Alice Langham, married John Cotton at the end of the C15, and it was probably this couple who began re-building the hall in brick. There was further re-building to the east in brick in the mid C16, and the tower at the east end (with a leaded ogee cap) was added by a C17 owner, Richard FitzSymonds, whose coat of arms is placed over the door. In 1671 the house was taxed on 15 fireplaces, indicating that it was considerably larger than the present building. It was occupied by tenants from the C18 to the C20, having been acquired by Guy's Hospital in the early part of the C18. At some point the house was much reduced in size

(perhaps after Morant's time, as he described it as a 'large building, partly old and partly new'), and was modified with the insertion of internal partitions and new chimneys. Morant described a fireplace with carved initials  $C^G_F$  in the dining room, but this has disappeared, and it is not clear which room he was referring to. John Newman took on the tenancy in 1854, and his descendant bought the freehold in 1930 when it was sold by Guy's. A descendant of his, Mr R G Newman, is the present owner. Several additions have been made in the C20.

The outside of the house shows its complex constructional history. The west half of the main core contains the original full height hall constructed about 1500, with some contemporary brickwork (with burnt header diaper decoration) visible on the north side. There is a large blocked round headed window on this side, positioned towards the west, suggesting that this was the high end of the hall, though internal evidence seems to contradict this conclusion. The plinth on either side of this window is capped with moulded brick, and has a course of square stones laid diamond-wise. To the east of this, the wall has been rebuilt, and two windows inserted, presumably when the floor was inserted to split the full height hall. Further east is the floored hall built in the mid C16, with a small truncated C16/17 extension which originally extended considerably further to the north. This short wing must pre-date Richard FitzSymond's addition of the C17, as a window on the east side is blocked by the north wall of his tower.

The south elevation has a massive chimney stack, surmounted by three highly ornamental shafts. These have been rebuilt with bricks made by the Bulmer Brick Co. to match those that were taken down. Such ornamental shafts are unusual for the mid C16, and

here they only serve two fireplaces. The adjoining window has ovolo moulded mullions. Further west is the back of the original full height hall, rebuilt in C18 brickwork. The west end is timber framed with brick infill (but not structurally related to the roof above) all in re-used material, and repaired in the C20. An earlier building may have extended further west where there is now a swimming pool.

We entered the house through the FitzSymonds tower. Beyond it, the mid C16 hall has been partitioned to provide an in-line east-west corridor, though two moulded bridging joists, with lamb's tongue stops typical of this period, still span the original width of the hall. The staircase in the north extension is modern, though it contains much re-used C17 material. There is a doorway with moulded brick jambs where the corridor enters the area of the former full height hall of circa 1500. At the north end of the corridor is an elaborately moulded beam at first floor level; the list description suggests that this is a relic of a low end gallery, but – given the position of hall window described above - it could also be part of a high end dais beam. Upstairs the very high quality of the carpentry of the hammer beam roof, the serpentine wind braces and the perforated ridge piece, was admired. The east gable in the attic room contained a window (now re-glazed) which had been blocked when the barrel vault roof of the adjoining mid C16 hall was constructed. Presumably, if there had been an earlier cross wing here, its eaves line would have been below the bottom of this window.

Members enjoyed tea, sandwiches and cake in the present dining room, and the owners were warmly thanked for their hospitality. After tea, the party visited the rigorously restored nearby church whose pulpit was once occupied by the Rev.

John Ouseley, the early Essex historian who provided material for Gibson's edition of Camden's *Britannia*, as well as for Richard Newcourt's *Repertorium*. Interesting features in the church include the nave roof and belfry, the south porch, and the south door with vertical external battens, all probably of C15 date. The pierced tracery of the pulpit is said to have come from Panfield Hall.

Michael Leach

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## 'BATAVILLE' AT EAST TILBURY

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At first site, a link between East Tilbury and Czechoslovakia seems improbable. However anyone getting lost in East Tilbury may find themselves passing an unusual, if shabby, area of housing which is reminiscent of (but rather more attractive than) the Crittal village at Silver End – flat roofed housing in the style of the C20 'modern movement'. It was built in 1932 by the Bata shoe company which had already built a model self-contained town for its workers at Zlin in Czechoslovakia, in the belief that a happy workforce was a more productive workforce. One of the Bata brothers installed his office in a lift, so that he could check what was going on any of the 16 floors without having to leave his desk.

Czech architects oversaw the East Tilbury town which was based on the Zlin blueprint, though it only reached a quarter of its intended final size. The central shoe factory was surrounded by spaciouly laid-out housing on a grid pattern, with ample green space. The houses are not in straight lines, but staggered to provide each garden with a greater degree of privacy. The town was provided with shops, a cinema, sports facilities, and even its own newspaper.

Residents who failed to keep their gardens up to scratch would receive warning letters from the management. It was a single industry town and there was no other work locally. Employees who lost their jobs also lost their homes. East Tilbury was only one of a series of such factories and towns scattered across the world but, with globalisation and cheaper labour in developing countries, the work has now gone to the places to which Bata used to export. The Tilbury factory finally ceased production last year.

Zlin also no longer makes shoes, and has had to attract new industries, a business centre and a university. The 16 storey former Bata head office now houses the local authority and a museum but, presumably, the 'office in the lift' is no more. East Tilbury faces a similar challenge and is expected to grow and change under Thames Gateway plans, though the architects have stated that they will respect the original principles on which the town was laid out. Doubtless some green space will be lost but the main factory building is listed, so a new use will need to be found for it. In the meantime, for those interested in C20 urban utopias, it is well worth a visit. Indeed it may well become a pleasant refuge from C21 post-modernism.

Michael Leach

Source: *The Guardian* 19/6/06

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## MODEL FARM AT LAWFORD HALL

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We are grateful to Dr James Bettley for supplying further information about the model farm at Lawford Hall, described in the Spring Newsletter after a visit by Society members. It was indeed

designed by an architect, W Lewis Baker. An agricultural engineer, J L Baker of Hargrave Kimbolton (possibly a relation of the architect) was consulted, and Mr Hawkins of Monks Eleigh was the contractor. The total cost was £3255, and the main material was 'good red bricks made by the proprietor on the spot'. The buildings provided accommodation for seventy head of cattle, twelve cart-horses with two or three nags and two colts, sixty pigs, one hundred pigeons, two hundred fowl and fifty duck, as well as a residence for the bailiff. The buildings were fully described in *Building News*, 31 October 1879, page 522, with a bird's eye view showing a train in the background, running on the line towards Manningtree. The accompanying plan of the model farm shows a 'horse wheel room', but it is not in the apsidal end of the long barn. These farm buildings are a remarkable survival and deserve to be listed. There is certainly nothing comparable in Essex.

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## VISIT TO HYLANDS HOUSE, CHELMSFORD

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Members of the Society visited Hylands on Wednesday evening, 23 August, to see the completed restoration. We were taken round by Nick Wickenden who told us the history of the house and showed us the restoration work of the last ten years. Hylands was built for Sir John Comyns about 1728. This was a red brick Queen Anne style house which is embedded in the present building. In the late eighteenth century, Cornelius Kortwright called in Humphry Repton to advise on the house and grounds. The 'Red Book' for Hylands has been lost, but it appears that Repton added a portico and a one storey east wing, and covered the original brick with white stucco. His work on the park included

the Serpentine Lake, and a walled kitchen and flower garden. The next owner, Pierre Labouchère, added a west wing to make the building symmetrical, and the stable block. Major changes were made by the Birmingham ironmaster, John Attwood, who acquired the property in 1839; he heightened the whole building and enlarged the portico. The house continued to be lived in by various owners till the 1960s, but then fell into decay until Chelmsford Borough Council decided on the restoration. Hylands has been made smaller, but the principal rooms on the ground floor have been sumptuously restored, the entrance hall in the neo-classical style of circa 1825, the drawing room, dining room and banqueting hall in the style of about twenty years later.

Many thanks to Ann Newman and Pat Ryan for arranging the visit, and to Nick Wickenden for giving us a most enjoyable and informative evening.

Jenny Ward

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## **VISIT TO EDWINS HALL, WOODHAM FERRERS**

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Members visited on 23 September 2006. Two previous visits are recorded. The first was on 26 September 1899; the short report in the *Transactions* was illustrated with a watercolour by A B Bamford. The second visit (by an astonishing total of 200 members!) was on 16 September 1926, and resulted in a longer article by R C Fowler on the ownership and descent of the manor. Both reports said little about the building itself, apart from suggesting that Edwin Sandys (bishop of Worcester 1559-70, bishop of London 1570-77, and archbishop of York 1577-88) built the main part of the surviving house. He had acquired the manor through his first

marriage to his cousin Mary in 1540. He was appointed master of St Catherine's college, Cambridge and vice-chancellor of the university, but was deprived of the mastership due to his married status by Queen Mary. He went into exile in 1554 to Antwerp, and then to Strasburg where his wife and son died. He returned to England in 1559, remarried, and was appointed bishop of Worcester in the same year. His second wife, Cicely (or Cecile) Willford (or Wilsford) came from Kent. This might explain some unexpected - but typically Kentish - structural features to be found in the rebuilt hall. The Sandys ownership seems to have ended in the mid C17, and subsequently the house was reduced in size (perhaps to make it more suitable for tenant farmers), and various alterations and additions have been made up to the present time. The ornamental plaster in the dining room, and the panelling (said to have been brought from Fremnells, a house inundated by Hanningfield reservoir) have been lost.

The house stands centrally within a square moated enclosure, and is now reached by a bridge on the south side built in the 1970s. There is a second outer moat which encloses a much larger irregular sub-triangular area. The eastern part of the outer moat has recently been cleared by mechanical digger, and a mix of broken concrete, brickyard waste, a large blue coping brick and worked freestone window sections (possibly from a church building) were found in the bank. This may have been imported rubble used to strengthen the bank, or possibly from demolished parts of the house.

The south front, three storeys high in red brick with blue header diaper patterning, was clearly built to impress. The diaper patterning (on the first two floors only) is complex, with diamonds, squares and

rhomboids, and is much more typical of Kentish practice for this period. Several courses of tiles in the brickwork above the front door represents the 'good honest repair' policy advocated by the SPAB, and probably date from the 1920s.

The top storey has no patterning, and the red bricks from which it is built may be slightly different. This may be the result of a different batch of bricks, or may represent a change of plan, or a slightly later addition to provide extra space. A moulded brick string course runs above the upper windows in the shallow parapet concealing the double pile tiled roof. The east end is timber framed above the ground floor brickwork, and may mark the demolition line of the larger original building. All the internal walls are of substantial timber framing, forming large square panels, rather than the close studding typical of Essex buildings. These are infilled with staves morticed and tenoned into the upper and lower beams, or into the arched brace. One side of the staves had laths nailed across to take plaster, while the other side was infilled with daub supported by vertical rods tied back to the laths, and held in a 'V' groove cut into the top of the lower beam. This too is more suggestive of Kent than Essex practice. The west gable of the main range was timber framed with evidence of a large window to the attic chamber that also had access to the attic area of the porch. The main roof was of side purlin form with wind braces, but it was impossible to see the structure of the double pile roof.

The interior of the kitchen, in the north west corner of the house, now has exposed brick walls. These are of late C17 or early C18 date. The chimney however is older, and might be a remaining fragment of the earlier house, though its bricks are more or less contemporary with the Sandys rebuild.

Various brick outbuildings on the north side date from C18, C19 and C20. Though reduced in size and much altered, it remains a complex and fascinating high status building.

The afternoon finished with a visit to the parish church where the link with the Sandys family continued. In the chancel is the monument to Cecile Sandys, wife of the archbishop of York, erected in 1619 after her death in 1610. It is described by Pevsner as an unusual design in alabaster, with an 'exceptional and enchanting' background behind the figure, with the whole area of the pediment carved into an arbour of roses - a truly memorable monument. The demolition or collapse of the early C16 west tower has resulted in the timber belfry being constructed against the west wall of the aisle, supported on a tie beam, rather than on wooden posts as in earlier belfries. Remnants of wall paintings remain above the chancel arch, depicting Christ flanked by angels, with the mouth of Hell in the south corner. This has been the subject of a recent restoration but, to the dismay of many of the congregation, remains (as described by Pevsner) hardly recognisable.

We are extremely grateful to our host, Sharon Hutton-Mason for generously opening her house to us, and for the enthusiastic guidance of local historian Stephen Nunn.

Michael Leach and Brenda Watkin

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## **GIDEA PARK AND THE GARDEN SUBURB MOVEMENT**

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This Newsletter has described the purpose-built communities of Silver End and East Thurrock in Essex, both built by industrialists to house their workers in

the late 1920s or early 1930s. Both were prompted by idealism, though perhaps with an element of self-interest, as doubtless well housed workers were happy and productive workers. There were plenty of C19 precedents for similar provision, such as Saltaire which was begun by Sir Titus Salt in 1851. Port Sunlight (for Lever's, the soap manufacturers) and Bourneville (for the Cadbury's chocolate factory) date from a few decades later.

Apart from a few enlightened industrialists, the unplanned provision of housing was in the hands of the speculative builder throughout the C19. His activities were described in 1910 as '*uncertain, unscientific, uneconomical, unsocial and inartistic*'. Clearly there was a need for better housing as well as great concern about the unhealthy nature of many city dwellings. One of the most influential writers was Ebenezer Howard (1850-1928), a shorthand writer in the Houses of Parliament. He advocated a solution for both the unhealthy overcrowding of cities, and the depopulation of the countryside, by the construction of new towns, containing a balanced mix of housing, schools, shops, community centres and industry to ensure that residents had employment, as well as all the essential services. These were to be called 'garden cities' and would be surrounded by countryside. His seminal book was published in 1898, with the better known second edition of 1902 renamed 'Garden Cities of Tomorrow'. His ideas had a profound influence on town planning through much of the C20. The post Second World War new towns and the concept of the Green Belt, for example, clearly stem from Howard's ideas.

The first practical steps to realise these ideas were at Letchworth in 1903, but growth was slow due to the difficulty of attracting industry to this pioneering

project. In 1907 Dame Henrietta Barnett established the Hampstead Garden Suburb. The masterplan was drawn up by Parker and Unwin, the architects of Letchworth, with the central core of public buildings designed by Edwin Lutyens in 1908. Unlike Letchworth, it was never intended to establish industrial development in this middle class suburb, but the spacious layout, the agreeable design of the housing, and the generous planting of the open spaces, have made it a benchmark for civilised urban design.

These developments are well known. What is much less well known is that Essex was also an early pioneer in this field with the creation of the 'Romford Garden Suburb' in 1910. In 1897 Herbert Raphael bought the Gidea Park estate and by 1904 had given the west edge to Romford as a town park. He also laid out an 80 acre golf course on the eastern side. He was also interested in the idea of the garden suburb, and was already a shareholder of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Company. With two other HGSC shareholders, he formed Gidea Park Ltd to build a garden suburb on the remaining 360 acres of his estate. The Great Eastern Railway was persuaded to build a new station (initially called Squirrels Heath and Gidea Park) to serve the new community. In July 1910 the foundation stone for an exhibition of houses and cottages was laid by the president of the Local Government Board; this was to form the nucleus of the Romford Garden Suburb with houses costing £500, and cottages £350. The objects of the exhibition were '*to demonstrate to housing and town planning authorities, to builders, and to the public generally, the improvement in modern housing and building, due to the advance of scientific knowledge, the revival of arts and crafts, and the progress of the garden suburb*



*movement, and in so doing to assist in raising the standard of housing, not only in the outer metropolis, but in the whole of Britain*'. Eminent writers (including H G Wells, Arnold Bennett and Thomas Hardy), artists, playwrights and other worthies were approached for their views on what was best and what was worst about contemporary housing, and about 160 architects entered the competition, with each designing one or more model houses or cottages. Several of these names are still well known – Clough Williams-Ellis (of Portmeirion fame), M H Baillie Scott, Philip Tilden and C R Ashbee. The houses were built to the north of Gidea Park station, and many of them were furnished (and some provided with completed gardens) before being open to the public in 1911. A handsome and detailed exhibition catalogue was published; the views of the eminent were printed (many in facsimile holograph), and each house was illustrated with engraved illustrations and plans, and a descriptive account written by the architect responsible. Favourable terms were offered to those interested in purchase.

Subsequent growth was slow. It was never completed as planned, and time and commercial pressures diluted the guiding principles of the original concept. Eastern Avenue cut a swathe across the northern part in the 1920s, and the golf course was enlarged. Another 100 houses were built at this time. In 1934 Gidea Park Ltd held further competition, and more plots were sold, mainly along Eastern Avenue. However this was really little more than ribbon development, and the concept of the garden suburb had effectively been abandoned.

Michael Leach

#### Sources:

anon, 1997 reprint 'The Hundred Best Houses: the Book of the House and Cottage Exhibition' Gidea Park & District Civic Society

1968, typescript notes on Romford Garden Suburb produced by Gidea Park & District Civic Society

Powell, W R, 1978 Essex VCH volume vii

Hitchcock H-R, 1958 'Architecture, Nineteenth & Twentieth Centuries' Penguin

Pevsner, N, 1949 'Pioneers of Modern Design' Pelican

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## OXFORD UNIVERSITY CONTINUING EDUCATION

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The following courses may be of interest to members.

5-7 January 2007: The Villa in the C19 and C20

20-21 January 2007: Late Mediaeval Handwriting

17 March 2007: Records of the Old Poor Law

24 March 2007: Ancient Plants and Woodlands

13-15 April 2007: Mediaeval English Childhood

19 May 2007: The Local Church

Further details may be had from Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA, telephone 01865 270368, or e-mail [ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk)

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## TRANSPORT NEEDED

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John Boyes is a long-standing member of the Society who lives in Chingford. In 1977 he published 'Canals of Eastern England' and he is now keen to update this. However, he no longer drives and wonders if anyone would be willing to take him to ERO in order to continue his research. Any offers of help to assist with this important work should be sent to the Editor or Deputy Editor, please.

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## STUDY DAY ON VICTORIAN GARDENS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE 28th APRIL, 2007

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A Study Day arranged by the Essex Gardens Trust in collaboration with The Essex Society of Archaeology and History on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2007

"Victorian Gardens, Public and Private"  
Speakers Hazel Conway, "The Victorian Park Movement" Anne Wilkinson, "The Victorian Amateur Gardeners and their Gardens" Patrick Denney on "Victorian Colchester" and a short introductory talk by Ian Balham on "Colchester Castle

Park" followed by his guided tours of the Park during the lunch break.

The Methodist Church Hall, Colchester  
Coffee and Registration 9:45 a.m. Close of day 4:00 p.m. Cost £10:00

Michael Leach

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## HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, ESSEX BRANCH MEETINGS 2007

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Meetings will be held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford. Members and visitors are asked to arrive 15 minutes before the meetings at County Hall for security reasons.

SATURDAY 13 January 2007, 2.30p.m.  
James Bettley, architectural historian, currently revising Essex Pevsner: *Essex Architects from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the 20<sup>th</sup> century*.

SATURDAY 3 February 2007, 2.30p.m.  
Members' Meeting – short talks by members

SATURDAY 3 March 2007, 2.30p.m.  
Dr Chris Thornton, Victoria County History of Essex, Univ. of Essex: *Wartime Life in Clacton and the Clacton VCH Group project for schools* [Illustrated]

FRIDAY 13 April 2007, 7.30p.m.  
Emeritus Prof. Peter Marshall: *Imperial Rule? Colonial Liberty? Civil War? Aspects of the American Conflict 1763-1783*.

Visitors and prospective members warmly welcome - a £2 donation is requested.

Shirley Durgan

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

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**APPEAL FOR THE PUBLICATION AND RESEARCH FUND (PRF)**

This fund replaced the Publications Development Fund in 2004. It supports the publication of articles in each Volume of *Essex Archaeology and History* as well as Occasional Papers. 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 December 2005 the projected value of the fund stands at £33,671.

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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.

Michael Leach

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