



Essex Industrial Archaeology Group

# NEWSLETTER

Number 4

April 2015

## Welcome ...

... to the fourth Newsletter for the Essex Industrial Archaeology Group (EIAG). This will be a bumper edition as so much seems to be happening on the industrial archaeology and heritage scene in Essex at present, the most exciting of which is the Industrial Heritage Fair the EIAG is holding in October. As well as news from Essex, this edition also features news from the wider East Anglia region and from Europe!

If you have any comments on the Newsletter generally or the items in it, or wish to make a contribution to the next Newsletter, please contact us on our new email address - [essexiaq@gmail.com](mailto:essexiaq@gmail.com).

## Next Visit

The next visit in the ESAH programme of industrial interest is a guided tour of

### **Beeleigh Mill on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 2:00 pm**

Beeleigh Steam Mill, at Langford near Maldon, is a highly significant surviving example of 1840s milling technology. The virtually complete Wentworth compound beam engine remains attached to the unique iron-riveted elephant boiler. In the adjoining room is a cast iron corn mill on the circular principle favoured by millers into the C19th. Alongside the mill are the remains of the docks in which barges from the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation could be loaded and unloaded. There will also be a guided tour of the C12th St Giles Church, Langford where refreshments will be served.

Bookings can be made with Dr Graham Gould 0208 556 1423 or [DrGEGould@aol.com](mailto:DrGEGould@aol.com)

## Other EIAG/ESAH events in 2015

The Essex Society for Archaeology & History in its programme of visits and talks for 2015 includes the following of industrial interest as suggested by members of the EIAG:

- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Bata Reminiscence and Resource Centre, company village and factory site, East Tilbury – *many people have already signed up for this visit, so if you want to go do get your application to Graham Gould as soon as possible to avoid disappointment!*
- Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September – Museum of Power, Langford, Maldon
- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November – EIAG Annual meeting and lecture by Keith Falconer, former Head of Industrial Archaeology at English Heritage and Chairman of the Association for Industrial Archaeology, Chelmsford Museum

**The Industrial Heritage Fair on 10<sup>th</sup> October at Braintree District Museum has now been confirmed and further details of the groups which will be exhibiting, talks etc. will appear in future EIAG newsletters.**

## **Other events in Essex**

### **Bata Reminiscence and Resource Centre**

**Next Open Day  
Wednesday 15th April, 2015  
11a.m. - 1p.m.  
and  
4p.m. - 7p.m.  
at  
East Tilbury Library**

More details on their website at:

<http://www.batamemories.org.uk/MAIN/ENG/00-EN-Pages/00-EN-HOME.html>

### **International Marconi Day**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2015  
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Admission Free  
At Sandford Mill, Chelmsford**

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS) will be at Sandford Mill operating GX0MWT on Saturday 25th April as an 'Award Station' as part of International Marconi Day. A full programme of activities is planned for both radio aspects and public visitors at Sandford Mill.

On the first floor Colin Page, G0TRM and his team will be demonstrating the impressive Morse Key display with the opportunity for the youngsters to try their hand. The Morse punched paper tape sending and decoding process always proves to be a big hit with potential junior CW operators.

During the day there will be several presentations in the Barn on the museum site. At 2:15 pm radio communications historian Dr Elizabeth Bruton, will give a talk on Marconi. This includes details about the vital wartime contribution made by the Marconi Company during World War One. It will include a local element: a signals interception station located at the Hall Street works in Chelmsford. CARS Vice President John Bowen, G8DET will be giving three presentations titled "Saving Lives at Sea - up to and including the RMS Lusitania" at 11am, 1pm and 3.30pm.

More details can be found on the CARS website at: <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/>



**Original Marconi Hut from Writtle now exhibited at Sandford Mill**

**Alderford Mill, Alderford Street, Sible Hedingham**

**Open Days 2015**

The Friends of Alderford Mill operate this watermill, which is owned by Essex County Council. It will be open on the following days from 2pm to 5pm:

12 <sup>th</sup> April	Milling Day
9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> May	National Mills Weekend with the Mills on Air Radio on site on both days. A Mills in Art theme has also been arranged for this weekend to include a national competition.
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Milling Day
12 <sup>th</sup> July	Children's Day – to include finding objects around the Mill identified by photographs.
9 <sup>th</sup> August	Milling Day and Tea on the Lawn at Searles, Alderford Street. Searles is opposite the Mill and was formerly the Miller's house then known as The Mill House.
13 <sup>th</sup> September	Open Day
11 <sup>th</sup> October	Milling Day
22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Christmas Craft Fair

You are invited to visit this historic watermill, on the banks of the River Colne, dating from the eighteenth century. Refreshments will be served and admission is free, but you may wish to make a donation towards the upkeep of the mill. Free parking is available nearby. Following the successful restoration and installation of the mill stones last year, it is intended that corn will be milled during open days using power from the mill's water wheel. Friends of Alderford Mill will be available to answer questions and an excellent guide book is for sale. You and your friends and relations are invited to visit and explore this magnificent watermill, which is an important part of Essex and Sible Hedingham's heritage.

Further information is available from: [www.alderfordmill.org.uk](http://www.alderfordmill.org.uk) or Brian Mills on 01787-460069.

## Home Front Legacy 1914:1918 project.

The Council for British Archaeology (CBA) is working with Historic England and heritage bodies across the UK to encourage everyone with an interest in the First World War to record their local places. Using the Home Front Legacy online resource area and app everyone can go out in the field and help to record sites, structures and buildings, and submit their findings to the Historic Environment Record to help preserve our stories and protect surviving remains for future generations.

A series of day schools for the Home Front Legacy (HFL) project is being run in each of the CBA regions, for local community group members, national and local stakeholders to find out how to use the HFL recording toolkit and online App.

The first of these is for the CBA East region, on 25 April 2015 at the Royal Gunpowder Mills, Beaulieu Drive, Waltham Abbey, EN9 1JX hosted with CBA East and Historic England.

Booking is via the CBA and HFL website to eventbrite for online booking - <http://www.homefrontlegacy.org.uk/wp/project/recording-workshops/>

## News from around Essex

### Report on the Essex Congress Symposium on Transport by Jane Giffould

Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015, was the date for the Essex Congress Symposium with theme of Transport, held in Chelmsford. This involved 4 lectures on the following topics: Aviation – Stow Maries; Road – Buses; Road – Bicycles; Rail – Ongar-Epping line. The aim was to look at the historic connotations of these topics including their effect on Essex. Mid-point between Buses and Bicycles there was a delicious buffet lunch. Between Aviation and Buses there were breaks. All breaks gave a chance to chat and discuss points with other attendees and the speakers. People were so into their discussions that it took quite a while to herd them back to their seats!

#### Aviation – Stow Maries

In this presentation we toured a local World War 1 aviation site that retains a lot of its former buildings and is still an active airfield. It has currently received a large grant to restore a large part of it to provide a museum with the buildings in working order. Halstead History group had visited there last year and so to me the presentation was adding on to what I had already seen. One day I must fly in there and test the bacon butties which another pilot has assured me are good!

#### Road – Buses

The presentation showed some former bus stations as the archaeological side, however it was more about the bus routes with examples of the buses on them.

#### Road – Bicycles

There was a bit of a history of bicycles with video-clips going back to the '30s when the railways were promoting themselves to help people get out of town to go cycling in the countryside.

#### Rail – Ongar-Epping line

Although no longer part of the main railway this has been privatised and remains an active line with historical and archaeological content. It was interesting to see the refurbishment of

various sections of this line. One hopes that the society will continue to develop the line back to its former usage.

Overall it was an interesting day where one could see the importance of transport in developing Essex and relating it to surrounding areas. It gave us examples of the archaeology of transport around Essex showing how there is so much there and as we know there is so much more around the county.

## **COLNE VALLEY RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

In the February edition of the Newsletter it was announced that the CVR had been awarded a development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. However, the CVR have recently issued the following press release regarding the future of their heritage railway:



### **The Colne Valley Railway announces 2015 will be its last year on the Castle Hedingham site**

The Colne Valley Railway Preservation Society, a registered charity, has announced that 2015 will be its last year on the current site at Castle Hedingham and is looking to move to an alternative location in 2016. The owner of the site has decided that the Railway no longer forms part of his plans for the site, which has necessitated the decision to look for another site.

The Charity's aim remains to develop a museum complete with demonstration railway portraying the history of the original Colne Valley & Halstead Railway and its effect on the communities of the upper Colne Valley.

The Charity would like to hear from anyone that can assist in the search for a new site or offer any other assistance at this time and stress that we will be operating normally throughout the year, with the first operating days over the Easter Holiday.

Paul Lemon, Chairman of the Colne Valley Railway Preservation Society said: "We are extremely disappointed at this turn of events but fully understand the land owners position. We have the equipment, artefacts and skills to develop a first class attraction and we are optimistic we can find a site as good as or better than the site at Castle Hedingham in as short a time as possible. We trust all our customers will bear with us during this transition".

#### **About the Colne Valley Railway Preservation Society**

The Society was first formed in 1974 and has recently converted to a registered charity. The Society is the team of volunteers who have operated, maintained and developed the Railway over the last 40 years. The railway requires around 15 volunteers to run each operating day drawn from the membership of over 400 people. Membership is open to all and everyone operating the railway is fully trained to do so.

### **About the Colne Valley & Halstead Railway**

The original Colne Valley & Halstead Railway was built by the local community itself after the area was ignored by the big Victorian railway companies and the preserved current day Colne Valley Railway celebrates that tradition. Since its inception in 1974, the current Colne Valley Railway has specialised in visits by schools (around 50 schools a year) and specialist hospices, as well as welcoming local families and enthusiasts.

### **For further information, images and interviews, please contact:**

Sally Halls, Office Manager at Colne Valley Railway on 01787-461174 or [info@colnevalleyrailway.co.uk](mailto:info@colnevalleyrailway.co.uk)

### **Additional information for the specialist railway press**

The land owner has contracted the Society to handle the disposal of all his railway assets, which will be by a series of competitive tenders over the coming year. Most items will not be available for release until early 2016. To register for the tenders, please email the office manager on the details above.

## **MARCONI HALL STREET FACTORY**



Continuing with the developing news on the Marconi Hall Street factory in Chelmsford, the following has recently been received from the Marconi Heritage Group:

### **Note on status of campaign to save Marconi Hall Street factory**

There is very good news in the ongoing campaign to get a sustainable and viable presentation of Marconi Heritage content in the original Marconi factory in Hall Street in Chelmsford. As the first wireless factory in the world it is of international significance and can therefore justify support as a site of special heritage interest. Many of you will be aware of the recent considerable media interest in this initiative.

Although the whole building has been subject to a successful planning application for residential development negotiations with the owners are underway with a view to acquiring the ground floor for the creation of a community/heritage asset, and the Marconi Heritage Group is working with the Moulsham and Central Chelmsford Community Trust to get this underway and to raise finance for this opportunity. We are convinced that a successful application can be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund but we have to find matching funding and initially pay the costs to set up a trust body to carry out the necessary work - the full amount required for purchase and fitting-out is of the order of £1.5 million. To start us off we need a fighting fund of a few thousand, and then go after substantial contributions to the full amount.

We are therefore planning on launching both national and worldwide appeals for support, as

from the earliest days the Marconi companies traded in an international market, and setting up an online crowd-funding site to collect donations. We are a currently a small group and will need additional help with the back-office work in running the appeals and the trust, so both those local boots-on-the-ground and those able to use the internet are invited to contact us through our website <[www.marconih heritage.org](http://www.marconih heritage.org)> or by personal means to give us an idea of what support we can get.

With your help we can be confident of gaining a facility to ensure the deserved and continued recognition of the work of our founder coupled with that of the many thousands who served in the companies as researchers, skilled tradesmen, professional engineers and operators, which laid the foundations of the modern world.

## **East of England Region Industrial Archaeology Conference**

The programme and booking details have now been announced for this year's East of England Region Industrial Archaeology Conference (EERIAC). It will be held on:

**Saturday 6th June 2015**

**at**

**Denver Village Hall, 24 Sluice Road, Denver, Norfolk PE38 0DY**



The programme for the day is as follows:

10.00am Registration, tea, coffee, view displays

10.30am A review of industries in the Denver area

11.15am A history of Fen drainage - Peter Filby

12.00 noon EERIAC AGM.

12.30pm Lunch break. Food available at Denver Bell inn, café at windmill, and Jenyns Arms on far side of sluice.

1.45pm Re-assemble in car park at Denver windmill for short visit, then drive to car park near Denver Sluice for walking tour around the 5 sluices and 2 locks led by Dan Pollard, Environment Agency (duration approx. 90 minutes).  
Optional visit to Salters Lode Sluice, approx. 500m away.

4.00pm approx. Close of conference.

To book places on the conference at £10 per person, please contact *Carol Haines on 01603 867825, or write to EERIAC, 5 Hoynors, Danbury, Essex, CM3 4RL, or email EIAG at [essexiaq@gmail.com](mailto:essexiaq@gmail.com) for a booking form to be emailed to you.*

Denver Sluice is on the European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) Industrious East regional route, which includes Essex as part of East Anglia. On the subject of ERIH here are the dates of the next ERIH meetings:

### **European Route of Industrial Heritage Meetings 2015**

**Wednesday June 10th, Bursledon Brickworks, near Southampton**

**Thursday September 10th, National Brewery Centre and Claymills Victorian Pumping Station, Burton upon Trent**

Themes for the meetings have yet to be finalised, but the programme for each meeting will include a presentation about and a tour of the host site.

If you would like further details about these meetings please email EIAG at [essexiaq@gmail.com](mailto:essexiaq@gmail.com)

In 2015, the ERIH Annual Conference will be held on 21-23rd October in Pilsen, Czech Republic – keep an eye on the ERIH website - <http://www.erih.net/topmenu/about-erih.html> for details of the conference theme and the call for papers.

## **Finally, further news from Europe**

This year an idea originally launched by volunteers and voluntary associations back in 1998 became a reality, backed by the Council of Europe and the EU, and a number of Europe-wide industrial associations including ERIH. The **European Industrial and Technical Heritage Year** (EITHY) was launched on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2015 in Brussels and full details of the aims of the year and the events associated with it, including our own Industrial Heritage Fair, can be found on the EITHY website at: <http://industrialheritage2015.eu/>



**European Industrial and Technical Heritage Year**