



Essex Industrial Archaeology Group

NEWSLETTER

Number 9

March 2016

Welcome to this edition of the Essex Industrial Archaeology Group's (EIAG) Newsletter. 2016 is now well underway and there are many events already arranged, so check them out below, put them in your diaries and support Essex's industrial heritage! Also we include information on a couple of lesser known Essex industries and more will follow in coming editions. If you have information on other lesser known industries, do let us know and we will publish information about them.

If you have any comments on the Newsletter generally or specific items in it, or wish to make a contribution to the next Newsletter, please contact us via our email address - essexiaq@gmail.com.

ESAH Industrial Visits 2016

The next visit of industrial interest is on Saturday 16th April at 2pm to **Great Dunmow Maltings and Museum**. The maltings is an outstanding survival of the early malting and brewing industry, the oldest parts dating from the 16th century. **This visit is already proving very popular, there being only a few places left, so book now if you want to go.**

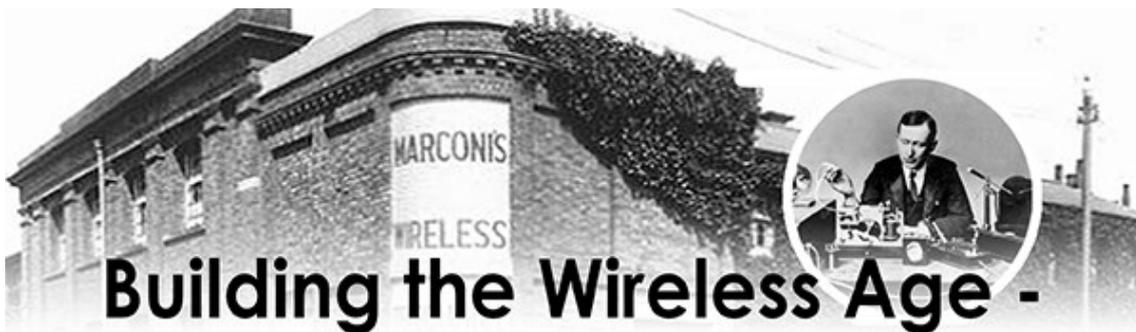
Other visits of industrial interest are:

* Thursday 12th May 10am to **Marriages Chelmer Mill**. A guided tour of the working flour mill built in 1899. (Max 15) **THIS VISIT IS ALREADY FULLY BOOKED AND HAS A LONG WAITING LIST**

* Wednesday 3rd August to **Essex Fire Museum, Grays**.

* This year's EIAG Annual Lecture will be on **Saturday 12th November at Chelmsford Museum**, and will be on the Lost Port of Gunfleet at Holland Haven.

Bookings can be made with Dr Graham Gould on 0208 556 1423 or email DrGEGould@aol.com



Building the Wireless Age - A Unique Marconi Exhibition

At The Original Marconi Wireless and Telegraphy Works in Hall St Chelmsford,
the World's first wireless factory which Marconi established in 1898.

Marconi Science WorX: Chelmsford Civic Society in collaboration with BBC Essex

Open 11th March to 29th May 2016

Every Sat. & Sun. 11.00am - 3.00pm Free entry

LATEST UPDATE!

Oyez Oyez - Tony Appleton, the Town Crier, will open the **Marconi Exhibition** to the public on Friday 11th March at 11.00 and Peter Turrall, Chairman of Marconi Veterans Association, will be there to show visitors around until midday and to answer any questions.

Tim Wander, curator, Marconi historian and author, will speak on '**Hall Street and Marconi: Building the Wireless Age**' on Fri 18th March at 7pm - tickets £5. Tim's book 'Marconi's Hall Street Works: The World's First Wireless Factory' is made possible by a grant from Essex Heritage Trust with proceeds from book sales going towards the exhibition.

Dave Monk, BBC Essex well-known broadcaster, will speak on '**The BBC and Me and his life behind the Mike!**' on Fri 25th March at 7pm - **FREE** but please book on Eventbrite.

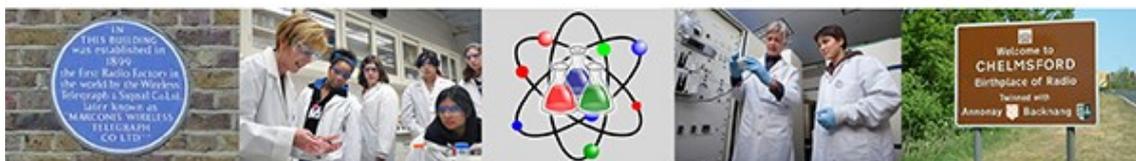
Ray Clark, broadcaster and author - Friday 1st April at 7.00 - '**All at Sea**' - the exciting story of offshore radio - 'Radio Caroline' the true story of the boat that rockedn - **FREE** but please book on Eventbrite.

ADVANCE NOTICE: In May there will be a **BIG BBC ESSEX WEEKEND** and a double event by Prof. Danielle George with permanent static displays throughout March, April and May courtesy of The International Marconi Museum, Bologna, Essex Record Office, Tim Wander and much more.

To book tickets please visit www.chelmsfordcivicsociety.eventbrite.com - proceeds from tickets and books will pay for setting up the exhibition.

www.facebook.com/marconiscienceworx

info@chelmsfordcivicsociety.co.uk



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The next Open Day at the Bata Heritage Centre will be on **Wednesday 13 April** at East Tilbury library. Details of how to find the library are on our old website (<http://www.batamemories.org.uk/MAIN/ENG/00-EN-Pages/18-Contact.html>). We are reverting back to the 'old' opening hours for this event and so we will be open for business from 1000am to 400pm with no closure for lunch.

It is hoped that many of you will be able to come along and catch up with 'old friends' and see what we are doing to try and continue to raise the profile of the Bata name and this organisation. As well as ours, there will be displays from the Essex Records Office and the Essex Cultural Diversity Project. This project will aim to add to and enhance the current stories, materials and artefacts within the Thurrock Museum to tell the story of the many diverse communities that worked, settled and then dispersed from the area which will, of course, include workers at Bata, East Tilbury.

Braintree District Museum's 2016 Spring Talk Programme

On Tuesday 19 April at 2pm Valerie and Jeff Wise will be exploring **the history and development of windmills**, their many uses, how they work, how to mill grain and the dangers for millers. The speakers have gained hands-on experience through volunteering at Heckington Mill in Lincolnshire, and will also cover Bocking, Stock, Finchingfield, Thaxted and other Braintree mills. To add to the experience, attendees will get the chance to try some bread made with flour milled at the 13th Century Abbey Mill in Coggeshall.

Tickets for each talk are £3 and include light refreshments. To book a place on any of the talks, or for more information, please call the museum on 01376 328868 or email info@braintreemuseum.co.uk.

Alderford Mill, Sible Hedingham

OPENING TIMES FOR ALDERFORD MILL, ALDERFORD STREET, SIBLE HEDINGHAM CO9 3HX FOR 2016

The Friends of Alderford Mill (FOAM) has provided details of their 2016 programme of opening times, which are from 2pm to 5pm on the following dates:

Sunday, 10th April

Sunday 15th May

and thereafter every second Sunday in the month until the end of the season on 9th October, when a craft fair will be held.

Visitors will be able to explore the historic mill building from the top floor with the storage bins, to the stone floor and see the water wheel on the ground floor. Subject to there being sufficient water in the river, the water wheel will be in operation and on some opening days during the summer corn will be ground in the traditional way. FOAM invites you, your friends and relatives to visit and explore this magnificent water mill on the River Colne, which is an important part of our heritage. Admission to the mill is free but visitors may wish to make a donation towards its upkeep. There is free car parking nearby and refreshments will be available. For further details please see the website: www.alderfordmill.org

East of England Regional Industrial Archaeology Conference

This year's EERIAC event will be held on

**Saturday 11th June 2016 at the Shuttleworth House and Collection,
Old Warden, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, SG18 9EA**

The day's programme starts at 9:30 with talks and presentations during the morning and after lunch there will be tours of the collections. The formal programme ends at 3:35 and the cost is £18.50. Please see the attached flyer and booking form for further details or contact Robin Chandler at robin.chandler@outlook.com or on 07850 686820.

Essex Railways – Thematic Surveys

In EIAG's Newsletter no.8, January 2016, mention was made of the Thematic Surveys of Essex's railways which have so far been completed and published. We failed to mention the following two volumes both published in 2011:

- "The Lost Railways of the Blackwater & Crouch Estuaries - Woodham Ferrers to Maldon branch line and the Witham to Maldon branch line".
- "The Railways of the Blackwater & Crouch Estuaries - Shenfield to Southminster line".

The EIAG Committee are currently in negotiation with Essex County Council about undertaking further such surveys, especially of former lines on which buildings and structures may be at risk. If any members are interested in helping with these surveys, please do contact us at essexiag@gmail.com.

Lesser Known Essex Industries

EVANS ELECTROSELENIUM LIMITED

Halstead and District Local History Society are holding an exhibition relating to this former Halstead Company on Saturday and Sunday, 24th and 25th September 2016 from 10am to 4.30pm in the Council Chamber of Halstead Town Council Offices, The Mill House, The Causeway, Halstead. Evans Electro selenium Limited, which used the trade name of EEL, was founded by Arthur Evans, M.B.E., in 1939 at Harlow and later moved to Halstead. EEL was primarily engaged in making photo-electric cells and a range of scientific instruments used in medicine and industry. EEL equipment was used in all parts of the World for such

diverse applications as analysing body serum, determining the qualities of paper, measuring the percentage of elements contained in unidentified solutions and solids.

The company was known as and became part of the following companies

Evans Electroselenium (at Harlow) 1939 -1952

Evans Electroselenium Limited (EEL) (at Halstead) 1952-1973

Corning Medical Limited 1973-1985

Ciba Corning Diagnostics Limited 1985-1996

Chiron Diagnostics Limited 1996-1999

Bayer Diagnostics Limited 1999-2007

Siemens Medical Solutions Diagnostic Manufacturing Limited 2007-2008

Everyone is welcome and entry to the exhibition is free. Donations if desired can be given to Halstead Heritage Museum. The museum, which is located in the same building, will also be open and contains some items of industrial interest, including items from the Tortoise Foundry and Courtaulds Textile Mill.

Adrian Corder-Birch

The Mica Industry in Stansted Mountfitchet (Summarised from Ralph Phillips' booklet of June 2015)

Arthur and Edward Berkley ran a small manufacturing company in Stoke Newington, but needed to move out of London for larger premises to meet increasing demand. In early 1898, they sought permission for the conversion of the old milk factory near Stansted Mountfitchet railway station into a factory for The Mica Insulation Company, employing 50 people. The factory became known as The Empire Works, Elms Farm, Church Street, Stansted. Elms Farm Cottage, renamed Bridge Cottage, was the Foreman's residence and possibly company offices. They produced Micanite, laminated mica made of fine mica lamellae (splittings) bonded together with agents such as shellac or silicone. These were then used to make mica insulators for electrical apparatus.

In 1899 they advertised for more staff, thus: '*Respectable girls wanted for light business. Aged 14 and above*'. By May 1899 they employed over 100 staff and the workshops were in a two storey barn, which was eventually demolished in the 1990s.

The Micanite and Insulating Company, as it was then known, moved to Walthamstow in 1902, but Mr A.S.H. Dyer in partnership with Mr Young formed Dyer & Young Ltd., Commutator Manufacturers, and reopened the Empire Works at Elms Farm in 1903. The business finally closed in 1931 when the factory buildings and equipment were sold by auction.

Tony Crosby

Two industrial heritage websites of interest:

Grace's Guide - http://www.gracesguide.co.uk/Main_Page in which just Colchester gets a mention! and

Gooseygoo - <http://www.gooseygoo.co.uk/> in which the East Anglia Railway Museum and the Museum of Power get a mention.

Not obvious names for Industrial Heritage websites, but potentially of much interest and usefulness. Do contribute to them if you wish and promote Essex's industrial heritage.