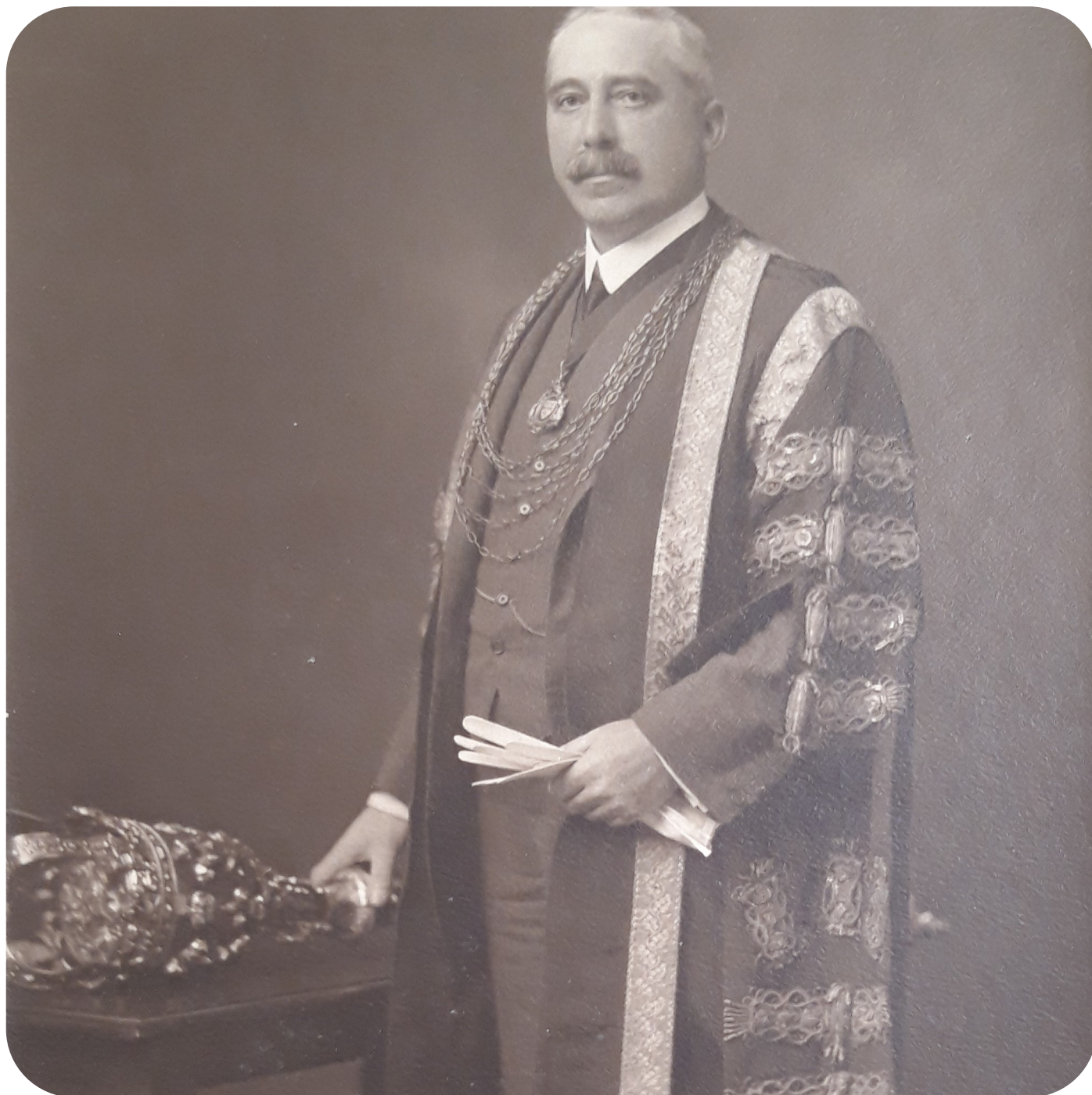
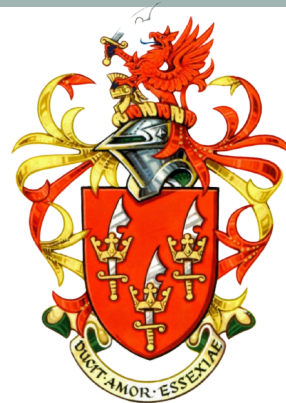

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Newsletter

Essex Society for Archaeology and History



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Copy for the next issue should be sent to the editor at the above address by no later than 16th February 2022.

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 is William Coats Hutton, Mayor of Colchester 1912-1913. © Colchester Borough Council Colchester Museums

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From the President

Nick Wickenden

The office of Presidency of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History is the highest accolade that can be bestowed on archaeologists and historians working in the county. Past Presidents include John Disney, John Horace Round, Frederic Chancellor and Henry Laver.

I am therefore immensely grateful and humbled to be elected for the next three years. My immediate predecessor, Nigel Brown, has been faced with – and successfully overcome – challenges that few Presidents will have had to cope with. Firstly, the amalgamation of Essex Congress with the Society, secondly COVID, and thirdly the relentless march forward of all things digital. The Society is continuing to publish the Essex Journal, whose new editor is Steve Pollington, and has also taken over and will host Congress' annual Symposium. Most members of Essex Congress have now joined the Society and will benefit from both organisations.

Secondly, of course, we have all been faced with the worldwide pandemic, whose arrival was something we have all joined Bill Gates in fearing but did little to prepare for. Such a pandemic is not, of course, new. The 'Spanish' Flu of 1919 caused more deaths worldwide, and the public then similarly embraced social distancing and face masks. For us, it has meant the cancellation of our events programme, although it is hoped to run most in 2022. It also meant the arrival for your Council and sub committees of the dreaded Zoom. Although rather soulless, it does have its benefits, particularly removing the need for people to travel across what is a very large county, and it is likely that we will combine in person and digital attendance at some meetings in future.

We have also embraced the digital world with our newsletter, which is now being published on-line under the new editorship of Victoria Rathmill. I would like to mention the Society's new website, and pay tribute to its creator, Martin Stuchfield. I have rarely seen such a simple-to-navigate site, which is simultaneously so packed full of features, including pdfs of past Transactions, Newsletters and Essex Journals for the benefit of our members.

Nigel has met these challenges with aplomb, and I would like to thank him for his tireless work over the past three years. I am pleased to say that he will continue to be involved, not least in assisting prepare a new long term strategy for the Society.

Perhaps I should say a little about myself. I am, at heart, primarily a finds person, and ran findsheds at Spong Hill for Catherine Hills, and Martin Biddle at Repton and St Albans amongst others.

I arrived in Essex, straight from university in late 1979, to work for Paul Drury's Chelmsford Excavation Committee (later the Archaeological Trust) helping write up and publish Paul's work in Chelmsford, but also at sites at Heybridge and Great Dunmow, as well as the Rodwells' site at Beauchamps, Wickford (the latter still unpublished). I was almost immediately prevailed upon by Vic Gray and Ray Powell to become ESAH's Secretary. I held the post for about 5 years, working alongside such luminaries as John Appleby, John Bensusan Butt and David Clarke.

In retrospect they were exciting and revolutionary times : at the Trust, Chris Going was preparing his magnum opus, on Roman Pottery from Chelmsford, and his fabric and form series remained unsurpassed for decades. We quantified 100% of the several hundred boxes of Roman pottery from the mansio excavations as a pilot study for English Heritage, probably the only time that will ever have been achieved. We had to wrestle with Shepherd Frere's Level 3 and Level 4 reports, as well as microfiche. On one such piece of plastic, Paul Drury invited the reader to contact us and claim a prize, though nobody ever did. The arrival in 1982 of an Apple IIE computer, accompanied by a seven inch disk drive, was a red letter day! It is now in the museum collections. Later on we even typeset two of the Trust's volumes – Kirsty Rodwells' Kelvedon, and Chris Going's Roman pottery – entirely ourselves. The setting out of columns for a table in picas and inches, and the coding to create bold and italic text will remain with me for a long time. How easy life is now by comparison! Simultaneously the Essex County Council County Unit was taking over responsibility for new excavations, as well as creating an unrivalled team of subject and period specialists, including Nigel Brown, Dave Buckley, Sue Tyler, Hilary Major, Robin Turner and Patrick Allen. Golden years indeed.

Under Paul Drury and his successor, Carol Cunningham, the Trust diversified into building and garden projects at Hill Hall and Audley End. Ultimately, however, the Trust unilaterally took the decision to close in early 1988 (I published a paper on its life in Bedwin 1996). By then I had transferred to Chelmsford Museum in late 1987 as its first Keeper of Archaeology before taking on the Museum management in the mid 1990s, whilst still retaining responsibility for archaeology. I retired from Chelmsford Museum in October 2019 having overseen a £5m extension and a Lottery funded redisplay at Oaklands, and the creation of a single store for all the museum's collections. I am also Chairman of Colchester Archaeological Trust and look forward to future collaborative work with Colchester Borough Council in interpreting the Roman Circus there, unique in Britain.

There are, of course, many important excavations carried out in both Chelmsford and elsewhere that languish unpublished, it is my ardent hope that these can slowly be brought to fruition. One of these, a ten year research excavation at Pleshey Castle by Steven Bassett for the University of Birmingham as well as the emergency recording of trenches in 1968 by Elizabeth and John Sellers, is nearing completion and will be published by the Society as an Occasional Paper. It has largely been the painstaking work of Patrick Allen, as well as many contributors working pro bono, and I am very grateful to him for his dogged perseverance which has resulted in identifying no fewer than 7 phases of three timber bridges before the brick bridge was built in the 1470s there.



A re-enactment of jousting at Pleshey. Bassett's trench lay parallel to the brick bridge.
The masonry foundation for one of the earlier timber bridges is exposed (later reused as a garderobe).

So, what to the next few years? Perhaps the biggest threat will be the intended decimation of funding for arts courses, including archaeology, in higher education. Sheffield's renowned Department of Archaeology is faced with closure. As I write, Colchester Library is about to lose its local history section to be relocated to the Record Office. The Society's library at the University is ever more an important resource to be cherished.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this to the sad passing of Stan Newens, and Ernie Black.

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Membership Renewals

Hon. Membership Secretary's Notice

On 1st January all subscriptions for 2021 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 UK 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

We welcome as new members..

David Boote of Chingford

Laura Dedman of Witham

Colin Fisk of Great Bookham, Surrey

Jancie Gooch of Rochford

William Grosvenor of Brent Eleigh, Suffolk

Jenepher Hawkins of Chelmsford

Robin Marchal of Broomfield

David Mears of Kesgrave, Suffolk

Brian Page of Wanstead

Paul Reed of Hastings, Sussex

Alison Shouksmith of Colchester

Edward Skinner of Mayland

John Symonds of Chelmsford

David Thomas of Goldhanger

Mill Mounds

By Michael Leach

Farries, in his monumental five volume work of Essex mills, identified 38 mills in the county which had been sited on mill mounds. Since he wrote, several more examples have been added from crop mark evidence and other archaeological investigations. Many mounds have been destroyed by ploughing or (more recently) by bulldozers, and are only known from archive sources, or identified by the ring ditches which once surrounded them. Internet searches suggest that the surviving mill mounds were usually between 15 and 30 m in diameter, and 1 to 2 m high, though a few were considerably higher. They are usually associated with a ring ditch, probably dug initially to mark out the edge of the circle, and then for providing the soil to build up the mound – though the large volume of the bigger ones suggests that additional soil would have been imported from elsewhere. It is difficult to distinguish between mounds that were constructed specifically for a windmill, and barrows which already existed and were used opportunistically by the millwright. Depending on the bias of the modern observer, it is likely that too many barrows have been identified as mill mounds, or – alternatively – the exact opposite! The Essex RCHM index lists 11 mill mounds, for example, some of which were not included on Farries's list. The gold standard for identifying them is either from evidence of a mill on an old map, or from archaeological evidence of the cross tree slot trenches, though this is less helpful for post medieval mills where the cross trees were raised off the ground on brick piers.

The reason for siting mills on mounds is uncertain, as the benefits gained from raising the height by a couple of metres (or less) would not seem to justify the considerable work involved in raising a new mound, or the delay necessary to allow the earth to consolidate before the mill could be built (possibly several years, depending on the soil used). Small mounds with a ditch of significant depth were often provided with a ramp on one or more sides to enable laden carts to reach the mill itself. The narrow causeway on the east side of the mill mound at High Laver is an example. However, some mill mounds were of considerable size and it is difficult to see how laden carts managed to access the mill. Stonards Hill at Epping, for example, which is about 5 metres high and very steep sided, was shown with a mill on its summit on Chapman & Andre's map of 1777, and has no visible ramp.

Other possible reasons for using mounds include the need to stabilise the mill by burying the mill post or its supporting cross trees in compacted earth, or to ensure that the timber structure was raised above the water table. As early mills were small, turbulence from nearby crops or other structures could have impaired their performance, and raising them on even a shallow mound might have been of benefit. Farries suggested that the degree of security provided by the surrounding ditch may have a secondary benefit from the construction of the mound. Whatever the perceived benefit of raising a mound, Farries noted that their use for new mills had been abandoned by about 1750.

Whatever the intention, it would clearly be advantageous to use a pre-existing mound on which to build a mill in order to save the trouble of construction, as well as the necessary interval for the ground to consolidate. Essex has a significant number of ancient barrows and has lost many more to ploughing or the bulldozer. Many served purposes other than burial, such as those sited along the alignment of Roman roads, presumably for surveying purposes. Even those no longer visible can leave crop mark evidence of their previous existence. Barrows were usually sited on high ground, or on a conspicuous point in the landscape, making them an eminently suitable site for a windmill.

One of the problems faced by the mill builder was how to secure and stabilise the central post which supported the entire weight of the mill, and enabled the whole structure to be rotated into the wind. Late thirteenth century accounts for repairs to mills at Gamlingay, and Milton in Prittlewell suggest that the normal early medieval practice was to sink the lower end of the mill post into a pit. The Gamlingay evidence (noted by Oliver Rackham) listed the substantial labour charges for removing the old mill post (20 man days), and for installing a new post and ramming in clay to stabilise it (32 man days, as well as 6 man days for carting water to soften the clay). An earth-fast post would have been very vulnerable to rot, particular as early mills were open to the elements at ground level. The mill post at Gamlingay had to be replaced only after four decades, a major operation which would have required the complete dismantlement of the mill.

The support and stabilisation of the mill post was improved by the development of horizontal cross trees, embedded in slot trenches which now show up on aerial photographs as cruciform crop marks. At the excavation of an undated mill at Humberstone, the oak cross tree timbers, complete with the mortices at the four ends, were found intact in the waterlogged ground. These cross tree mortices suggest that diagonal struts or 'quarter bars', morticed at their top end into the mill post, were already in use, though the centre point of the cross trees did show marked signs of compression, indicating that the mill post had at least partly borne directly onto it. The post medieval practice was to leave a small gap at this point, so that the entire weight of the mill body was transferred through the quarter bars onto the outer part of the cross trees. Either way, this removed the need to bury the mill post in the earth, reducing the risk of rot and improving stability.

The final improvement in post mill technology was to raise the cross trees onto brick piers and to enclose the lower part of the mill to protect all the timberwork from the weather. Mill posts needed to be of a substantial section in order to be able to take the mortice cut-outs for the four quarter bars without substantially reducing its strength. Even so, this remained a vulnerable point for snapping under strain, and was usually reinforced in some way.

As no medieval mills have survived, a great deal of guesswork has surrounded their construction and operation. Farries himself was wary about conclusions based on very scanty evidence and noted that sometimes it was 'better to concede defeat than to bask on a mill mound of wishful thinking'.

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Robbery, ritual, or post-mortem revenge?

By Michael Leach

A retrospective examination of excavation records and reports of some of the early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries in east Kent shows that there was quite extensive contemporaneous re-opening of graves, with removal of specific grave goods, in particular swords from male interments and brooches from female ones. Usually the bones were jumbled up with the backfill (and some even removed) rather than the skeletal remains being replaced in the grave in seemly order. That some of these intrusions occurred fairly soon after burial is shown from evidence that some skeletons were still partly articulated at the time of disturbance, and therefore must have been dug up within a decade or two of death. In other instances, extension of one end of the grave cut suggests the need to provide sufficient space to lever off a coffin lid to gain access to the contents. It is suggested that robbery was unlikely to have been the motive, as valuable items of gold and silver were frequently returned to the grave with the backfill, and there seems to have been a clear intention to remove only specific objects such as swords (many of which would have already decayed badly, and been useless for practical purposes) and women's brooches. Perhaps these items were highly prized because they retained the most powerful link to each particular corpse. Most of the grave re-openings seem to have been very accurately made, suggesting that the cemeteries had some form of grave marking to indicate the position and identity of particular individuals. In a few instances post holes or kerb slots have been found, presumably to delineate an individual grave.. Another odd feature is that in some cases the disturbed burial was not immediately backfilled, allowing rain to wash in some top soil before the excavated earth was shovelled back.

There are other curious findings too. Grave re-opening only occurred in some of the C7 AD Kent cemeteries, and not necessarily in nearby ones. It was more usual in deep burials (thereby ruling out the possible explanation of plough damage). Robbery seems not have been the motive, as the earlier burials, where the grave goods would have been richer, were invariably spared. The practice had petered out by the end of the C7 AD. Similar features have been noted in European Merovingian cemeteries.

The Kent evidence is patchy, as many of the reopened graves were incidental findings on rescue digs and few have been subjected to a careful and detailed excavation. In particular, no proper sectioned excavations have been recorded. With so little written contemporary evidence about the beliefs and motives – or even the taboos – of cultures from the distant past, it is difficult to understand what was behind a practice that now seems so alien to us. The Swedish Research Council is running a three year project to collect together the scattered findings in an attempt to pool the evidence that has been uncovered across Europe. ("Interacting with the dead: belief and conflict in early medieval Europe AD 450-750" hosted by Stockholm University)

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The Colchester Neff

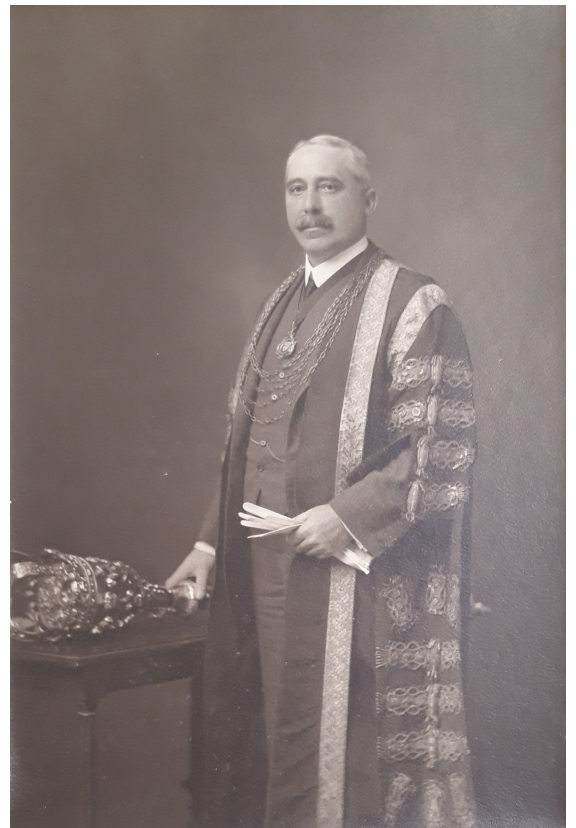
By Philip J. Wise

Amongst the more unusual items in the Colchester civic regalia is a neff, or silver table decoration, presented by William Coats Hutton in 1913 during his mayoral year. This spectacular object resides in a glass cabinet in Colchester Town Hall and occasionally may be seen on guided tours of the building. As it is so delicate, the 'Colchester Neff' was not removed from its glass case for this study.

A neff (originally nef) is an ornamental model ship or galleon, usually of silver, silver-gilt or gold, and made especially for the dinner table. They were often quite elaborate with masts, sails, rigging and various figures on board. The earliest examples were made in the late medieval period and include, for example, 'The Burghley Nef' made in Paris around 1527/8 in the collections of the V&A (M.60-1959). This contains a salt cellar relating to the original purpose of a neff which was to hold the spoon, knife, napkin and spices for the host at a banquet. The hull of the neff is hollow and the top of the ship opens to provide access. The production of neffs as a luxury item for the tables of the rich and powerful saw a revival during the late 19th century with Germany being the main centre of production.

The donor of the 'Colchester Nef', the Conservative politician William Coats Hutton (1864-1926) was born in Scotland. Hutton was Mayor of Colchester in the municipal year 1912-13 and again in 1914-15, being re-elected a few months after the outbreak of the Great War. He was a JP, and in the 1911 Census was described as being of 'private means' and 'a retired African merchant'. After his two terms as mayor, Hutton became an alderman and was a member of the Colchester Museum and Muniment Committee from 1916 to 1926. In 1923 he paid for the lifting and transport of the North Hill Mosaic to Colchester Castle Museum where it has been on display ever since. His wife Ethel was also very active in the community, including founding the Colchester War Work Department at the beginning of the Great War to produce garments and bandages for the military. The Huttons lived at Lexden Manor, Colchester and later at Lexden Grange, although William was only to live in his new home for six weeks before he suffered a stroke and died on 26 April 1926.

The 'Colchester Neff' is in the form of a Tudor warship with Rococo-style decoration. The ship has three masts, all fully rigged with billowing sails, a high stern and a prow decorated with a dragon figurehead which conceals the catch mechanism to open the neff. There is a single line of nine cannons projecting through open gun ports and a further six cannons mounted on the ship's decks. As well as twelve figures visible on deck there are a further three in the rigging. One side of the hull is decorated with a group of cherubs engaged in various activities: one plays a lyre, another blows a conch shell, a third holds a bundle of arrows and a fourth the reins of two horses. The stern of the ship is decorated with an imaginary shield of arms with lion supporters. The rudder is in the form of a fish. The ship sits on four wheels, each partially concealed by a fish, which, as in other examples of this revival period, allows the neff to be rolled from one end of the table to the other. The 'Colchester Neff' measures 75cm (10½ inches) high.



The flags and sails of the neff are decorated with heraldic imagery. One of the flags bears a raven, the symbol of Colchester's portreeve, a medieval borough official, whilst one of the sails displays the Colchester borough arms. The other arms are imaginary and the motto 'Confide recte agens', or 'Have the confidence to do what is right' has no obvious association with either the Hutton family or Colchester. Of most significance is the inscription on one of the ship's sails which reads, 'Presented to Colchester Corporation by W. Coats Hutton, Mayor 1912-1913, November 1913'.

As well as this dedicatory inscription, the neff has a second inscription and five stamped marks on the starboard side of the hull which enable its history to be revealed. The inscription reads, 'H. N. Veitch, Goldsmith, London' and is accompanied by his monogram 'H.N.V'. The other four marks, from left to right, are the initials 'B.H.M.', a horseshoe-shaped mark, '9.25' and the letter 'S'. The initials 'B.H.M.' are those of Berthold Hermann Muller, another London firm who imported the 'Colchester Neff' into England. The 'horseshoe' mark is an import mark used by the London Assay Office between 1906 and 1998 on foreign silver. The numbers '9.25' indicate that the piece is made of silver of Sterling Standard and the 'S' is the date letter used in 1913.



Henry Newton Veitch was born c. 1860 and in the 1911 Census is recorded as living at 22, Old Burlington Street in London's West End and described as being in business with his wife as a 'dealer in old silver' and as an 'author'. In 1911 Veitch wrote an article for *The Art Journal* on 'Old English Silver' and, previously, in 1908 had published a book on 'Sheffield Plate, its History, Manufacture and Art' (George Bell & Sons). Veitch may be regarded as the retailer of the 'Colchester Neff'.

Berthold Hermann Muller appears in the 1911 Census as an 'antique dealer' of Onda House, Warwick Road, Ealing, London. (Later, during the Great War, Muller would anglicise his name to Miller.) Muller worked very closely with the firm of Ludwig Neresheimer & Co. of Hanau, a town in Hesse, near Frankfurt-am-Main in central Germany. Neresheimer manufactured a wide range of highly decorative objects like neffs, tankards, coconut and nautilus cups, and other sumptuous sideboard pieces. Hanau silver was mainly imported into Britain in the decades either side of 1900, and the 'Colchester Neff' is one of a number of items which survive today.

It would be interesting to know when the 'Colchester Neff' was last used for its intended purpose. Presumably this might have been at one of the annual Oyster Feasts where, at least in the early 20th century, the mayor entertained the male elite of the town and guests of national importance at a lavish banquet.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the Colchester Town Serjeant Paul Lind for suggesting the 'Colchester Neff' as a subject of study.

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Illustrations

The Colchester Neff
William Coats Hutton, Mayor of Colchester 1912-1913
Both © Colchester Borough Council, Colchester Museums.

Drowned Essex and Doggerland

By Maria Medlycott

A recent conference (6-7th May 2021) hosted by the Society of Antiquaries showcasing the work of the ERC Europe's Lost Frontier Project has highlighted that the Essex coast as we know it is a relatively recent geological feature. The Europe's Lost Frontiers Project looks at new data on the geomorphology, environment and archaeology of the Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene landscape off the coasts off the United Kingdom and north west Europe. This includes the area known as Doggerland, named for its highest point, the Dogger Bank. This land bridge with the Continent formed a wide undulating plain, with low hills and an extensive network of rivers, streams and lakes. Recent seismic surveys have allowed the mapping of many of these features. It has also enabled the mapping of the gradual inundation of the area as a consequence of the melting of the Ice Sheets at the end of the last Ice Age.



Map of Doggerland

For Essex the mouth of what would subsequently be the Thames Estuary in 19,000BP opened onto a huge river running from north-south bringing the meltwaters of the northern icesheets, and fed by numerous tributaries which drained Doggerland itself, before it exited through the Dover Straits into the English Channel.

By 10,000BP in the Mesolithic the land bridge had narrowed, with a spur of the English Channel extending as far north as Harwich, and flooding of the remaining land would have come from both the south as well as the north. The areas of the Thames and Blackwater Estuaries were still dryland at this period.

Cores taken from the sea-floor have identified the bedrock as chalk, overlain by superficial deposits, including end moraines relating to the furthest extent of the ice in the various preceding Ice Ages. The cores have recovered peat deposits, both sandy and stony beaches, estuarine alluvium and brackish mud-flats, allowing the mapping of specific habitats and landscapes. The cores also demonstrate that this was not a static environment with changes occurring as the temperatures and sea-levels fluctuate as well as a consequence of erosion and deposition over the main millennia that the cores record. Pollen and diatom analysis add further detail to the overall landscape picture, and its changes over time.



Drowned forest at Rainham



Footlong piece of moorlog (it is possible to see the remnants of reeds within the peat)

It is possible to pick up bits of Doggerland on the Essex foreshore, where it can be found washed ashore as moorlog or cobble size pieces of smoothed and rounded peat. If these are broken apart they are found to be made of layers of compressed vegetable matter, including reeds and twigs, and occasionally faunal remains and manmade artefacts. Even more evocative are the incidences of submerged land-surfaces and forests that are revealed at low tides, there are notable Essex examples of a submerged land-surface at The Stumble in the Blackwater Estuary near Goldhanger and there are the remnants of a drowned forest on the foreshore at Rainham near the RSPB reserve. More rarely actual manmade artefacts are recovered, either dredged up in nets by trawlers or as at Clacton where the replenishing of the sand on the beach involved the shifting of dredged materials from offshore onto the beach, a process which scooped up a surprising number of Late palaeolithic artefacts and dumped them on the modern beach. The results of the study of these artefacts were summarised by Rachel Bynoe in her paper Submerged landscapes off East Anglia on Day 2 of the Conference.

Now that a map of the area exists the project intends to identify areas which may have attracted human settlement, such as on the edge of lakes or by tidal estuaries, in order to focus subsequent studies.

The conference is available to watch on the Society of Antiquaries YouTube channel

Day 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSBHeCsOCro>

Day 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PowzNQ3u-RE>

Essex seen from elsewhere

By Michael Leach

a) New listing: Nunn's Bridge, Coggeshall, an elegant late C19 bridge, was built by Henry 'Dick' Nunn, an early advocate of countryside rights of way (Grade II).

b) St Mary's Church, Walthamstow. An NLHF grant of £1,674,400 towards extension, re-ordering and repairs should enable the start of an £8million project this year. The London 5: East 'Pevsner' notes that much of the architectural history of this medieval church is hidden under a thick coat of render and numerous later alterations. It will be interesting to see what comes to light during this work. The church is also noted for its impressive collection of monuments.

c) United Reformed Church, Hatfield Heath. This striking, but previously unlisted, building of 1875, very conspicuous on the fringe of Hatfield Heath, has recently been listed Grade II. Unusually, all the interior fittings (gallery, pews, organ, raised pulpit) have survived. The architect was Thomas Lewis Banks who was responsible for a number of other chapels, including one at Newcastle on Tyne, now listed Grade II*.

d) 4 Silver Street, Maldon. Investigations by Tim Howson, Maldon's conservation officer, have revealed that the twin gables of this apparently Victorian building mask two medieval cross wings. Within the original building are fragments of a tiled open hearth, and evidence of fixing points for a wall hanging at the high end of the hall.

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Ancient Monuments Society Newsletter, Spring 2021

Ancient Monuments Society Newsletter, Summer 2021

Bees and Barrows

By Nigel Brown

Barrow construction seems to have been a characteristic feature of much of the Bronze Age involving quite a lot of effort, and often involving the stripping of turf, which in some places, Denmark and other parts of southern Scandinavia for instance, could result in the removal of turf from considerable areas. Thinking about the business of taking off turf to create barrows, it's an apparently unproductive thing to do; but in the first instance it would be visually striking, a mound where previously there wasn't one, and bare soil where there'd previously been green pasture. Nature abhors a vacuum and the soil won't be bare for long. If you take off turf, and with it a good bit of topsoil, the exposed subsoil will be less fertile, that and the removal of a lot of the grass, favours wildflowers, so what grows back will be much more flowery than what was there before. So, in a while there'd be a barrow surrounded by flowery meadow; we'd like the look of it, but at the time, in a world with less artificial colour in it that we are used to, it would have been really quite striking, perhaps perceived as a blessing in itself. Whilst we like the look of flowers, bees really love them, if you have more flowers there'll be more bees. From bees you can get honey, and if you are living in a world where the answer to the question, what's for dinner? is, very often, porridge, then having a good supply of honey to put in your porridge will be very important. The constant supply of sugar that we now have is a reminder of how significant the sweet taste of honey must have been. Of course, the other thing that bees produce is wax useful for all sorts of things including in some instances bronze casting. So if you do the right thing by the ancestors/spirits/gods and build barrows, they'll do the right thing by you, and Bob's your uncle, you find yourself sitting in a nice flowery meadow, eating porridge flavoured with honey and with a side line in wax production. All of which sounds a bit of a just so story and so neat it's probably too simplistic, to be quite true, but I can't help thinking there's something in it.

James, 1st Earl Waldegrave and Agent '101'

By Michael Leach

James Waldegrave, the builder of Navestock Hall and the creator of its surrounding park at Navestock in Essex, had been brought up and educated (in France) as a Roman Catholic, and was raised to the peerage as a baron by James II. Towards the end of the second decade of the eighteenth century, he realised that his religion was an absolute bar to his political ambitions. Abjuring the family faith, he subscribed to the necessary oaths and took his seat in the House of Lords, scandalising his Catholic friends and relatives who included his uncle, the Duke of Berwick, an intimate of the court at Versailles. Waldegrave's first diplomatic post sent him to Vienna in 1725 where he became friendly with Francois de Bussy, the secretary to the French ambassador. By 1728 Bussy had become chargé d'affaires and was borrowing money from Waldegrave – whether this was incidental, or a piece of shrewd calculation on Waldegrave's part, is not clear, but it was an obligation that he was to usefully exploit when their paths crossed again some years later.

In 1730 Waldegrave was posted as ambassador to the court of Versailles, and an extensive correspondence – some in cypher – between him and Lord Newcastle, his boss in London, has survived, though the most confidential letters were kept separate by Newcastle from other Foreign Office records, and eventually found their way into the British Museum. Waldegrave's Roman Catholic background, the presence of his uncle at Versailles, as well as the machinations of the Young Pretender and exiled Jacobites there (on whom he was tasked to keep a vigilant eye) indicate Waldegrave's high position of trust with the British government, and its confidence that he could not be 'turned'. In 1733 he received instructions from his master, Lord Newcastle, that Bussy had returned from his Vienna posting to the ministry of foreign affairs in Paris, suggesting that he was 'very indigent, and one ... who might be gained if proper application was made to him'.

This presented some difficulties, as Bussy deliberately avoided Waldegrave for eight months, fearful that he was seeking a return of the money lent to him in Vienna. Waldegrave eventually cornered him at Versailles 'in such a moment that he could not avoid me' and reassured him that the loan was 'of no consequence'. The two men agreed to meet to exchange information, though Bussy was nervous of being seen in Waldegrave's company at court, and suggested a secret assignation at night in the Tuileries gardens.

At an early meeting, Bussy (by then codenamed '101') accepted 300 French gold louis (about £240) in exchange for information about secret French negotiations to end the Polish war of succession, and other diplomatic matters. He was able to reassure Waldegrave that, at that time, France had no intention of assisting the plans of the Young Pretender to seize the British throne, and that the French ministry of foreign affairs had failed to crack the British cypher.

Within a couple of years, the two men were meeting regularly in secret at night in the park at Versailles, though Waldegrave was baulking at his long, and sometimes fruitless, waits in the dark for Bussy to turn up, as well as the latter's insatiable demands for money which were overstretching his budget. Bussy had been granted a pension of £2000 p.a. by the British government but was pressing for another up-front payment of £2300. This was agreed, but was to be paid in tranches according to the information that he was able to provide. Waldegrave himself estimated that, between 1735 and 1740, Bussy had been secretly paid some £5500 over and above his pension. By 1739 Waldegrave was thoroughly disillusioned about Bussy, commenting 'there is not a more brazen-faced wretch' and felt obliged to recruit another spy to keep an eye on him.

It is ironical that Waldegrave's standing in the French court was such that Cardinal Fleury, the prime minister, sought his opinion on Bussy's character and probity. Waldegrave, apprehensive that his agent had been unmasked by the French, replied cautiously that they 'had served together in Vienna, and that he seemed very honest'. Though he was later to give a very entertaining description of this encounter, all was well and Bussy continued to provide useful information without the knowledge of the French foreign ministry. There was a hiatus for most of 1737 and early 1738 when, on account of his excellent English, he was sent to London to negotiate with Horace Walpole senior, and from March 1740 when he was sent back to England as minister plenipotentiary. He tried to squeeze more money out of Walpole who described him as 'a slippery gentleman ... who has not the opportunities of being so well informed now as he had'.

In the early part of 1739 Waldegrave had been pressing him about an alliance between France and Spain, about the movements of French and Irish troops, and for any insight into the level of support which the Young Pretender might expect for his invasion of Scotland and England. By the summer of 1740 Waldegrave was descending into the illness which was to kill him and in October he returned to Navestock Hall where he died the following year at the age of 56.

Both George II and Walpole had held a very high opinion of him. He was said to be most skilful in patiently foiling an adversary 'without disobliging him'. As far as intelligence-gathering was concerned, he 'particularly distinguished himself by obtaining secret information in times of emergency.' His gathering of intelligence has been claimed in the past to be the single most important factor in undermining the success of the rebellion led by the Young Pretender in 1745. As for agent '101', Bussy left London in the summer of 1743 but remained, for the time being, in the pay of the British government. In February 1744, he demanded – and received - £2000 in English banknotes for information about France's proposed invasion of England, but this source of income ended abruptly the following month when Britain declared war on France. By 1749 the ministry of foreign affairs in Paris had realised that Bussy was 'an intriguer, a bad man, and (that he was) greatly suspected of having been gained by England'.

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Letter post in C17 Essex

By Michael Leach

Due to its development in a rather haphazard way, it is not easy to uncover the early history of the Post Office. Letter transmission in the Middle Ages was informally arranged through servants, friends or carriers. Periodically (usually at times of crisis) official routes were set up with the provision of relay horses for the post boy at 'posts' or 'stages' at 10 or 15 mile intervals along the road. By the reign of Elizabeth, five permanently established and regularly used strategic routes had been established to link London with (i) Dover, for access to boats across the Channel (ii) Falmouth in Cornwall, for reporting naval movements in the Channel (iii) Milford Haven for boats to S. Ireland (iv) Holyhead for the Dublin connection and (v) Berwick-upon-Tweed for access to Scotland. Opinions vary about how open to public use these government routes were, and to what extent cross posts to connect to outlying towns had been developed. Carriers would still have continued to provide a service for private letters, and merchants made their own informal arrangements when necessary.

Essex first comes into clear view in 1625 when the government ordered the establishment of a sixth post road from London to Harwich, in order to connect with the sea link to Holland. By the early 1670s there was a daily post on this route, and 'pacquet boats' twice a week each way to Holland. This road was provided with stages at Brentwood, Ingatestone, Chelmsford, Witham, Colchester and Harwich. By 1677 additional stages at Romford and Kelvedon had been provided, probably to serve local need, as well as to feed the new cross routes which had been established. The postmasters at each stage were almost invariably inn keepers as they already possessed the necessary stabling, and had long provided travellers with horses for hire, as well as guides if required. In the early decades of the seventeenth century it is not clear how open to public use the official postal routes were, due to government concerns about rebellious communications, and in 1637 the post was restricted to official business only.

Right through this century, and well into the next, the Post Office responded very slowly to growing public demand. The Crown, ever suspicious of private communications, saw the main function of the Post Office to be the provision of funds for the Treasury without the need for parliamentary approval. Its profits were also sapped by prodigious incomes for those nominally in charge of the service, and a useful source of 'pensions' for Royal favourites - some of the latter continued to be paid to their descendants well into the nineteenth century! In addition, progress was impeded by the considerable political turmoil of the times. There were long standing disagreements about post holders during the Civil War and the subsequent Commonwealth. At the Restoration in 1660 numerous postmasters, seen as Parliamentary placemen, were deprived of their posts and sought legal redress. In spite of attempts to establish a Post Office monopoly in 1657 (re-enacted at the Restoration in 1660), carriers and other private competitors flourished in the resulting chaos, sometimes leading to violent confrontations on the road.

The post boys were expected to travel on the main routes at 7 miles an hour (and 5 in the winter months) but a combination of poor horses and atrocious road conditions often reduced this to 3 or 4 mph. The speed of the mail was further impaired by the lack of cross country roads connecting the six post roads, resulting in all long-distance letters having to go into London and out again, causing further delays, as well as additional expense because the charge was based on the total mileage travelled. This centralised arrangement suited the government very well, as letters were regularly opened and examined for subversive content in the London office - in fact there was an entire department devoted to this purpose. Postage was normally paid by the recipient who was generally responsible for collection from the nearest postmaster, though some enterprising individuals seem to have organised local delivery and collection for which they charged an additional penny. Some entrepreneurs also established their own private by-roads to neighbouring market towns. By 1677 there were official by-roads from i) Chelmsford to Saffron Walden via Dunmow and Thaxted ii) Kelvedon to Braintree iii) Kelvedon to Maldon and iv) Colchester to Bures, Sudbury, Melford and Lavenham. It is not known when these routes were established, but they may have been created before the Restoration by the notable Post Office pioneer, Thomas Witherings (1600-1651) who was buried at Hornchurch, and was memorialised there as 'postmaster of Great Britaine and foreign partes, second to none for unfathomed poliscy (sic) unparalleled sagacious and divining genius'.

By 1690 public demand had outstripped the sloth-like development of the Post Office, and the system was in disarray. Financial controls were poor, and there was nothing to stop postmasters from keeping the by-road payments on those routes which had been adopted by the Post Office – or taking a pre-payment and destroying the letter. There was a thriving black market in cross posts to avoid the expense and delay of letters having to go into London and out again. In addition, road conditions had been improved and, from 1685, the post boy on his weary nag was being overtaken by the 6-horse stage coach which offered quicker and cheaper (though illegal) competition. One commentator noted that ‘the [coach] drivers’ pockets [were] stuffed with letters & packets, and he was a moderate man indeed if he had not a bagful besides’. The long-established carriers also continued to take illicit letters which had no relation to the goods they were carrying. It is far from clear how the public chose which arrangement to use for sending their letters, and it was not till the Post Office Act of 1711 that some sort of order was re-established.

It is possible that close examination of original letters might provide more evidence of how the system worked in Essex, but at the time of writing ERO was closed due to coronavirus, and the two volumes of the letters of John Ray (1627-1705) were the only available evidence to hand. Published by the Ray Society and chosen primarily for their botanical interest, these letters must represent only a fraction of his total correspondence. It is clear that even the botanical letters are an incomplete series, as often the answer to an enquiry, or the enquiry itself, is missing from the publication. But most were dated, and where the reply records the date of the letter which it is answering, it is possible to get an idea of the speed of delivery. In addition, from 1660 all letters travelling through the London office were stamped with a dated ‘Bishop’ mark on arrival there, and these post marks are recorded in the second of the Ray volumes. The resulting evidence shows that most letters from Black Notley took 2 to 3 days to reach London, though in some cases they made it on the same day! Ray sent, or received, letters which had made complicated journeys far from the main post roads – to mid Wales for example – but only occasionally is it possible to establish how long these took. In 1694 a letter from Cardigan to Black Notley took 8 days, and in 1699 another took 4 days from Oxford to the same destination.

A few other clues can be gleaned. As already mentioned, a by-post had been established between Braintree and Kelvedon by 1677, and Ray’s letters show – rather surprisingly – that the post boy was collecting as well as delivering mail, apparently directly to his house in Black Notley. Some days he ‘neglected to call’, particularly if there was no letter to deliver. On occasions Ray used the carrier who ran from Braintree to London once a week, or a stage coach on the same route.

In 1680 a sophisticated ‘Penny Post’ was set up to provide a collection and delivery service within London. As the city’s streets were not numbered until compelled to do so by an Act of 1767, letters had to be provided with explicit addresses – one sent by Ray to John Aubrey in 1692 carried the instruction ‘at the Tobacco-roll & Sugar loaf, at the upper end of Maiden-head lane, opposite to the gap in great Russell street, London’ and another, three years later, (also to Aubrey) was directed to ‘Mr Bridgemans in great Lincoln Inn feilds near the Ld Powis house, a large sun Dyal upon it’.

The London Penny Post which was set up by an entrepreneur in 1680 was in defiance of the Post Office monopoly. Though rapidly crushed through the courts, it was soon re-established by the Post Office, and by 1692 had been extended well beyond the city limits, reaching out to Epping and Chipping Ongar as a foot post, though – in spite of its name – the charge would have been two pence, and possibly an extra penny for delivery. The Ongar penny postman, Caleb Baxter, lived in the town as his two children were baptised there, and one assumes that he must have been dealing with a significant amount of mail from this small rural town to justify his employment. Presumably he walked to Brentwood or Romford, picking up and delivering letters en route.

In spite of the difficulties provided by the cumbersome organisation of the Post Office and its unofficial privately organised alternatives, it is clear that, following the Restoration, there was an explosion of letter writing which must have been somewhat akin to the internet revolution of recent decades for the exchange of ideas and gathering of information. The letters published by the Ray Society, dating from 1659 up to his death in 1705, are probably only a fraction of the original total written or received by Ray. They amount to 275 written by him (as well as another 300 or so, only known from brief abstracts from another source) and 130 incoming letters from his correspondents. Ray’s Braintree friend and colleague, Samuel Dale (1659-1738), also maintained a copious correspondence with the intellectual world of the Metropolis, and this pattern must have been replicated by educated individuals all over Essex by the end of the seventeenth century.

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Reading unopened letters

By Michael Leach

Until the introduction of the universal penny post in 1840, letter post was charged per sheet, normally paid by the recipient. As the rate included any cover or envelope that was used, most letters were written on a single piece of paper, leaving a blank area for the address which was visible after carefully folding and securing the sheet with sealing wax. Some letters were never opened, perhaps due to an inadequate address or refusal by the recipient to pay the delivery charge, and the recent find of several hundred such letters in a trunk at The Hague posed a challenge to historians as it was not possible to open them without badly damaging the paper on which they were written. However, thanks to developments pioneered in medical technology, these can now be read, without opening, by the use of Xray microtomography. The same technique has been used successfully for reading the contents of brittle tightly rolled papyrus scrolls.

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University Archaeology: a short cut

By Nigel Brown

Regular readers may recall that in my president's piece in the last newsletter I mentioned in passing proposed cuts to the funding of university archaeological courses. The link below provides a short cut to a letter, signed by a wide range of leading archaeologists, which appeared in The Times and which sets out the issues rather well, and succinctly summaries the value (in all sense of that word) of university based archaeology.

<https://new.archaeologyuk.org/news/cba-responds-to-uk-government-announcement-on-post-18-education>

In fact, the title of this piece might have been better as 'a short sighted cut'; the proponents of this budget cut seem to have little idea of the value of archaeology or the wide-ranging damaging effects of their proposal. Dire effects are already beginning to be felt and you may have seen reports in the national press Sheffield University Archaeology Department, an internationally renowned institution is now well on the road to closure.

Nuclear Options

By Nigel Brown

The April edition of *Antiquity* (volume 9, no. 380) has a striking frontispiece, a collage painting by the artist Aki Sahoko it shows, a large shell midden dating from the early and middle Jomon periods (about 4,000 -2,500BC). It was produced as part of archaeological work in response to the earthquake and tsunami which resulted in the Fukushima nuclear disaster. Many archaeological sites have been investigated as part of the recovery and reconstruction programme. The investigation of shell middens in Fukushima province has been used as a focus for local people, archaeologists and artists to explore how prehistoric life can inform present day resilience and renewal. Archaeology is increasingly used in all kinds of social and personal recovery projects and in this country the archaeological programme known as 'Operation Nightingale' working with military veterans is well known (Everill et al 2020) but there are a number of other therapeutic initiatives underway (Witcher 2021, 580-83).

Fortunately, locally here in Essex we have never suffered a nuclear disaster, but nuclear power has had its impacts. The current proposals for a new power station at Bradwell alongside the old decommissioned one have, in part, been the inspiration for a major new book on the archaeology and history of the area currently being prepared under the editorship of Johanna Dale. Back in the 1980s Bradwell was one of the locations considered for below ground storage of nuclear waste, and the company involved Nirex commissioned an extensive borehole survey. The proposal came to nothing, probably just as well since our coastline is low lying and over the centuries prone to quite drastic change.

However, the information from the borehole survey was not wasted. The late Tony Wilkinson and Peter Murphy then conducting an extensive archaeological survey of the Essex coast on behalf of Essex County Council, funded by English Heritage(now Historic England) used the information from the boreholes to help them construct a clear understanding of the developmental sequence of our coast (Wilkinson and Murphy 1985). Shell middens, rather like those in Japan, are a feature of the Mesolithic in parts of Scotland and Denmark. We lack such features, but shell beach ridges or cheniers have been a recurrent feature of the Essex coast since at least the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. Many ancient examples lie buried beneath the silts of the eastern Dengie peninsula and Foulness archipelago, and contemporary ones can be seen at various locations around the Essex coast. The largest examples in Britain, extending for around 20 hectares are off Foulness (Corke 1986), but probably the best known is at Bradwell itself, running south from Sales Point.

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Pea growing and pea picking in Essex

By Michael Leach

Judging by an Iron Age pit excavated at North Shoebury in 1981 – where nearly 2000 pea seeds were recovered – this crop has a long history in Essex. More recently peas (usually spelt ‘pease’ until the nineteenth century) have been grown for at least 300 years as part of normal crop rotation, and were mainly used for animal feed, or for the production of dried peas. In 1748 Pehr Kalm, on his tours of Essex and Hertfordshire, noted field peas being cultivated on the ground without supporting sticks. They were sown either by broadcasting by hand, or in drills, and were rolled when they reached about 4 inches in height in April. After harvesting, the whole plants were stacked in farmyards in a similar way to haystacks, thatched with wheat straw but with the additional protection of an encircling dead hedge of blackthorn to deter hungry cattle. These stacks were threshed when convenient, and a variety called ‘Maple’ was specifically grown for fattening pigs.

Later in the century Arthur Young also commented on pea growing as a rotation crop, but rather unfavourably, noting it to leave the ‘foulest stubble’ in terms of weed growth. He mentioned a new dwarf variety called ‘Prolific’, but elsewhere (under woodland management) gave the value of the produce of 260 bundles of pea sticks. This suggests that some of the non-dwarf varieties of field peas were being grown and required this form of support.

Green peas in the pod for human consumption obviously required a different approach. Charles Vancouver, writing in 1795, noted the planting of white hotspur peas in south west Essex for ‘podding for the London market’. These required prompt picking and despatch to be suitable for eating, and the normal practice was for the farmer to sell the unpicked crop for about £5 an acre to a London agent who was then responsible for the picking, although the haulm was usually reserved for the farmer to feed to his animals.

In the mid nineteenth century, according to Mrs Beeton, green peas for podding were mainly cultivated by market gardeners in the vicinity of large towns. Presumably the growers arranged the picking and transport of their own crops. Mrs Beeton named a number of grey varieties, as well as white ones including the golden hotspur. Her recommendation to boil ‘young’ peas for 10 to 15 minutes (and old ones for half an hour, with the addition of a small piece of soda!) suggests that they were picked at a much later stage than Mr Birds Eye would now consider reasonable.

W.W. Glenny writing for the Essex VCH at the turn of the twentieth century, reported an arrangement for picking that was similar to that outlined by Vancouver, noting that the purchaser of the standing crop usually recruited and despatched his own pickers from the East End of London. It was a considerable, if short-lived, harvest in early July, with the Great Eastern Railway delivering over 11,000 tons annually to its Bishopsgate yard, mainly from Essex. On a single day in July 1899, 950 tons of peas which had arrived overnight had been distributed to the London markets and dealers by early the following morning.

With the recent concern about the shortage of labour for seasonal harvesting, it is of some interest to look back a century to the very different problems caused by the pea picking season in Essex reported by George Cuttle – not at all the scenario provided by Vancouver and Glenny. Though writing in the 1930s, he was looking back to the early years of the twentieth century. His concern was that lessons should be learnt from the way that the poor laws had worked – or failed to work – in the last decades before their abolition, and his report covered workhouses, outdoor relief, and the wide range of problems created by poverty, from unemployment to inadequate housing, and from mental health to vagrancy.

Several pages are devoted to the problems created by the annual invasion of pea pickers. Glenny’s comment that the pickers were selected in advance seems to have been ignored by the large numbers who descended on Essex in the hope of picking up casual work – numbers far in excess of the available employment. Those who failed to find jobs – and who were often accompanied by wives and children – ended up needing out-relief in lodging houses, or admission to the casual wards of the local workhouses which were often stretched well beyond their capacity to cope, or even to provide the most basic requirements. Sometimes very large numbers were involved. In 1904, for example, the rector of Doddington reported that 900 potential pickers had arrived that summer and wondered if the police should be given powers to restrict the numbers coming into his parish.

An additional concern was the lack of accommodation for those lucky enough to find work. Cuttle reported that some farmers – having sold on their crop before harvest – felt no responsibility at all for providing accommodation for somebody else's work force. Some men, and their families, had to sleep in hedgerows or ditches, or under piles of pea haulm, and they rarely had cooking or sanitary arrangements, or even a supply of drinking water. Local byelaws were only applicable where there was some form of basic shelter but, if nothing at all was provided, there was little that the local authority could do, though some agreed to provide water bowzers to ensure that the workers had a clean supply of water. Various charities, such as the Church Army and Church of England Pea-Pickers Mission, tried to assist by providing food and hot drinks, but such help was variable and unpredictable. Given the difficult circumstances the pea-pickers found themselves in, it is not surprising that there were outbreaks of poaching, and that violent assaults broke out. Pickers were paid on a piece work basis, and it was not unknown for one individual's work to be stolen at the end of the day before he was able to have it checked in – not a recipe for harmonious working relationships!

Cuttle, whose book was published in 1934, gives the impression that these problems had still not been solved. He also noted that many of the pickers, when the pea season was finished, moved on to fruit orchards or to the Kent hop gardens. The latter were noted for their good provision of 'material and spiritual comforts', whereas in Essex the workers were 'treated more as wild animals'. The big difference was that in Kent it was the farmers themselves who organised the picking, kiln drying and packing of the hops, and it was very much in their interest to provide decent basic accommodation for their workers who developed a loyalty to their employer and often came back to the same farm, year after year, well into the 1960s.

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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.

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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 a 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 Howard Brooks or Victoria Rathmill.

Programme of Meetings 2021

Saturday 6th November

Annual Archaeology & Local History Symposium - See details below.

Saturday 13th November

Essex Industrial Archaeology Group (E.I.A.G). Annual meeting at Chelmsford. Speaker: Dr Catherine Pearson - the Frederick Roberts archive of industrial history - Marconi and Hoffmann.

Please note: Covid regulations may force the cancellation or postponement of these events.

The visits on the Society's programme are open to members and associate members only. The Society can accept not 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.

It is very important that the Society can keep in communication with you regularly. Quite apart from the present crisis, but also in the future when news will be distributed electronically. **If you have an email address will you please email it to our Membership Secretary, Martin Stuchfield, at martinstuchfield@pentlowhall.uk**

Annual Archaeology & Local History Symposium

Christ Church URC, New London Road, Chelmsford, CM2 0AW.

Saturday 6th November 2021. 10am-4.30pm

There will be three talks on local history and three on local archaeology with lunch and refreshment breaks.

Provisional speakers;

Georgina Bailey: on the 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' Taylor Family

David Appleby: 'And your petitioners shall pray' the Civil War Petitions Project

Martin Astell: Registers, Residents, Radio-recent projects at the ERO

Confirmed speakers;

Sophia Adams: Bronze Age hoard from Havering

Andrew Greef: Oxford Archaeology - a Cressing site possibly connected with Boudicca

Jake Streatfield-James: Cotswold Archaeology - a Roman site at Harlow

Tickets cost £10 which includes a sandwich lunch and tea or coffee.

To book email Howard Brooks on howard000brooks@gmail.com

Prior payment is preferred but you may pay on the day. Send cheques payable to ESAH to Howard Brooks, ESAH Hon Secretary, 13 Greenacres, Mile End, Colchester, CO4 5DX. You can also pay by bank transfer by contacting Howard directly.