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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 12th July 2024.

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: 1776 Engraving - Moulsham Hall

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From the President

Nick Wickenden

This will be my last Newsletter update as President. Gosh, three years go by so quickly. I have enjoyed finding out far more about the County's rich archaeological and historical legacy. More than that, it is the people who give up their time to organise events and talks, put up and 'man' stalls and promote societies.

Local societies are having a hard time of it. Firstly, finding and keeping committee members – people who are prepared to put in their leisure time on behalf of their members. Secondly, keeping membership up and active. We ourselves have not had any luck so far finding a replacement Treasurer to understudy Bill Abbott, who has been Treasurer for over 20 years, and has put in 40 years in total (so far !). It is a rewarding job, looking after substantial investments. Our funds not only pay for our publications (where other grant aid is not forthcoming) but also support a range of grants made for such things as publications, museum and Essex Record Office acquisitions and church restoration. So could the next Treasurer be you!

Membership is fairly static, but not what it was a generation ago. As an ageing population of the Society (if I may be so bold), we need to turn to social media to recruit a new generation. I am pleased that some of the younger staff at Colchester Archaeological Trust have offered their support here, and I thank them warmly. Event attendance is dwindling for all societies, but a new initiative to open up attendance to an event put on by one society to members of other local societies may be the way forward. It is obvious, why didn't it occur to people before !

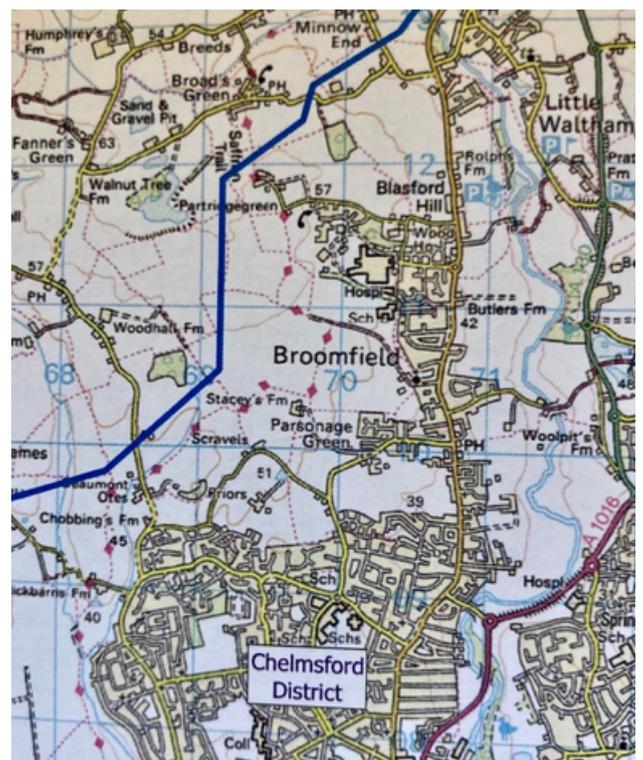
The County's rich industrial archaeological heritage will form the subject matter for our next Symposium later this year. It coincides with the publication, supported by the Society, of Andrew Phillips' magnum opus on the story of Paxmans, from WW1 until closure.

One of the highlights of the formal launch of the Chelmer Valley Landscape Group in October was the celebration of JA Baker, the celebrated Chelmsford resident and author of *The Peregrine*. I am pleased to say that Chelmsford Museum, in conjunction with the University Library at Wivenhoe Park, is holding a temporary exhibition about his life and work this year, including some of his original notebooks and manuscripts.

Philip Crummy will be known to most of you as the Director of Colchester Archaeological Trust. Philip retired in November last after serving as Director for 52 years. One of his first jobs in charge of the Lion Walk excavations was to show Mortimer Wheeler around ! I am sure members will want to echo my best wishes for Philip in his retirement.

One last issue I am keeping tabs on. The National Grid proposed line of pylons inland from Norwich to Tilbury. If this goes ahead, it will undoubtedly require one of the largest archaeological campaigns in the region. To choose just one site, a pylon (not to mention access roads) will be built in the field behind Broomfield Church known as Dragonsfoot, where a standing Roman building, possibly a temple, was pillaged in the Norman period, to source the tile and stone needed to build the Church.

I apologise that this has been a bit of a smorgasbord report, but there is so much happening in the county ! I hope you all have a good dry spring and summer.



Missing your Essex Journal?

It has come to our attention that not all members received the last copy of Essex Journal (Autumn 2023, Vol 58 no 2). If you have not received this, please contact Howard Brooks, who will be happy to post you a copy.

Help Required - Treasurer

Bill Abbott has served as our Hon Treasurer for over 20 years. We are looking for someone to work alongside Bill, with a view to taking over from him. Council have been discussing the possibility of splitting the role into separate functions, so the job may not be so onerous as you might imagine. We need people to step up and help Council. Bill is happy to meet and discuss this.

Newsletter from Kent and CBA

We receive digital copies of Newsletters from the above. If you would like to receive these, please contact Hon Secretary.

Seeking A Good Home

The following items, acquired for research, are no longer needed, and I am happy to donate them to anyone interested.

a) two original pamphlets (The Birth & Burning of the Image called St Michael and A Narrative of the Strange and Sudden Apparition of an Arch-Angel at the Old-Bayly) both printed in 1681, and part of a vitriolic dispute between the Rev. Jonathan Saunders, rector of Sandon, Essex, and Edmond Sherman, the churchwarden of All Saints Barking in London. This concerned Saunders' act of placing the effigy of an angel over the altar, as well as other "idolatrous" practices, in this London church where he seems to have spent most of his time as lecturer and curate. The row included a court appearance at the Old Bailey. Also included are modern copies of the other pamphlets issued during the dispute, the subject of an article written for the British Association for Local History. Nothing is known at present about whether Saunders' ritualistic practices extended to his Essex parish from which he appears to have been largely absent.

b) two original pamphlets both printed in 1778 (An Authentic Account of the Part taken by the Earl of Chatham and Another Account of a Transaction which passed in the Beginning of the Year 1778). This involved a dispute about the part played by Sir James Wright and his medical attendant, Dr Addington, in an attempt to replace Lord North's administration with a coalition led by the aged and seriously ill William Pitt (Lord Chatham) and the Earl of Bute. Sir James Wright of Ray House, Woodford Bridge, Essex, had retired as ambassador to Venice, and this was his only – and ill fated – venture into national politics. The dispute became public a few months after Chatham's death and An Authentic Account was written by (or for) Chatham's widow, Another Account being Wright's response which attempted to deny any responsibility for the actions of garrulous and indiscrete intermediary, Dr Addington.

Wright, doubtless badly burnt by this experience, did not venture again into politics. Having acquired a patent to manufacture artificial slates in 1779, he established a factory for manufacturing these on his Woodford Bridge estate, the subject of an article published in Essex Journal.

Michael Leach
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Library Committee Update

The Library Committee continues its work and a list of books recently acquired for our Library, either through gifts or purchase, are set out below. Remember if wish to suggest a book for acquisition, please contact the Committee's secretary Paul Sealey paulsealey@gmail.com In suggesting a book you might bear in mind the criteria that the Committee uses to guide its decisions which you can find in the February 2023 newsletter available on the ESAH website.

Recent Acquisitions

Jones, A.M. and M. J. Allen, M.J. (eds), 2023. *The Drowning of a Cornish Prehistoric Landscape: Tradition, Deposition and Social Responses to Sea Level Rise* (Prehistoric Society Research Paper 14) (London: Prehistoric Society).

ISBN: 9781789259230

Although this book is clearly concerned with the other side of the country, it is very pertinent to Essex. There are extensive areas of submerged prehistoric land surface around our coast and this book considers the long-term effects of climate change, rising sea levels, and responses to those changes. It presents a model for the drowning of the landscape, considers the loss of land, changing environment and wider social responses, including the context of Bronze Age settlement, barrows and metalwork deposition, all of which is relevant to our understanding of the later prehistory of Essex.

Dale, J. (ed.), 2023. *St Peter-on-the Wall: Landscape and Heritage on the Essex Coast* (London: University College London Press) ISBN: 9781800084353.

This book is an important contribution to the archaeology and history of Essex focussed on the chapel of St Peter on the Wall at Bradwell. It brings together a collection of papers from contributors across the arts, history, archaeology and social sciences which examine the history, archaeology and contemporary significance of the chapel in its landscape setting. It was reviewed in the autumn 2023 (vol 58 no2) of Essex Journal and will be reviewed in a future edition of Essex Archaeology and History.

Hadley, C. 2023. *The Road: A Story of Romans and Ways to the Past* (Harper Collins) ISBN: 9780008356699

This book is a contribution to the prominent literary genre known as 'new landscape writing' or 'wild writing' a genre in which the Essex landscape has been a frequent focus of attention. The author traces the line of the road from the Roman towns of Braughing in Hertfordshire to Great Chesterford in Essex. The book has much to say about the present and past landscape and draws upon a wide range of historical and archaeological data, some supplied by prominent members of our Society.

Burrows, T., 2023. *The Invention of Essex: The Making of an English County* (London: Profile Books) ISBN: 9781788166768

One of a number of recent books which have examined the psycho geography of Essex, it aims to go beyond the sensationalist headlines and caricatures of Essex, to examine aspects of the history, geography and sociology of Essex which contribute to its unique character.

McDermott, S., 2022. *The Puritan Ideology of Mobility: Corporatism, the Politics of Place and the Founding of New England Towns before 1650* (London: Anthem Press) ISBN: 9781785274732

This book presents the ideology of mobility which Puritan leaders developed to justify migration and town founding. New England towns were born as living "bodies politic" with a metaphysical basis in keeping with Christian corporatist theory. It contains material on migrants from Essex.

Gibson, M., 2022. *The Witches of St Osyth* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

The author, professor of English at the University of Exeter, has produced thoroughly researched academic book, which is at the same time an emotive, haunting story of a community torn apart, by a malign and destructive wave of misogynistic persecution in early modern England. She uses fresh archival sources, investigating not just the village itself, but also its neighbouring Elizabethan hamlets, combining landscape detective work, a reconstruction of lost spaces and authoritative interpretations readings of crucial documents.

Legge, M., 2022. *Death in the Iron Age of Eastern England: An Interdisciplinary Analysis of Human Remains from 800 BC - AD 60* (British Archaeological Reports, British Series 678) (Oxford: BAR Publishing).

This book explores the treatment of the non-cremated dead from 800BC - c.AD60 in what is now eastern England, including of course Essex. The research presented identifies large-scale patterns in post-mortem treatment, furthering existing debates around excarnation practices, inhumation traditions and the 'invisible dead'. Based on the study of complete inhumations, partial skeletal remains and disarticulated human bones, it presents a synthesis of the large quantity of excavated material now available largely derived through the rise of development-led archaeology. This book will be reviewed in a future edition of Essex Archaeology and History

Smith, A., Allen, M., Brindle, T., Fulford, M.G., Lodwick, L. and Rohnbogner, A., 2018. *New Visions of the Countryside of Roman Britain. Vol.3. Life and Death in the Countryside of Roman Britain* (Britannia Monograph 31) (London: Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies).

Six scholars have contributed to this great work of synthesis. It helps us put Essex finds and discoveries in a national context and to see the wood for the trees. A case in point is the distressing case of the old man who suffered from leprosy at West Thurrock. He was not alone. This study shows us that there were concentrations of the disease in the east Midlands and Gloucestershire regions. The book is the third volume in a trilogy devoted to the countryside of Roman Britain and the Society now has the complete set.

One of the great strengths of our library is its complete runs of many academic journals, copies of journals to which the library does not subscribe are not normally acquired for the library. However, we have acquired two issues of the Castle Studies Group Journal since they include important papers on Colchester castle:

Berridge, P.J., 2022. 'Colchester castle: some thoughts and observations', *Castle Studies Group Journal* 35 for 2021-22, 22-64.

Marshall, P.E., 2010. 'The internal arrangement of the donjon at Colchester', *Castle Studies Group Journal* 23 for 2009-10, 178-90.

Launch of the Chelmer Valley Landscape Group (CVLG)

By Nigel Brown

The landscape of the Chelmer valley is of great natural, historic and archaeological interest. It is in many ways of comparable quality to the Stour valley, though currently not as well known and appreciated as the Stour, which is focus of attention through its association with the work of Constable. The Chelmer valley has hitherto lacked association with such a prominent cultural figure; however, it is now increasingly recognised as the landscape of one of the greatest nature/landscape writers of the 20th century, J. A. Baker and as such a nationally significant cultural landscape.



Typical view of the Chelmer valley looking south toward the wooded hills of the Little Baddow/Danbury ridge, the river is marked by the cricket bat willows in the middle distance.

The CVLG was formed on the initiative of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History (ESAH) to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the attention generated by the 50th anniversary of J. A. Baker's great work 'The Peregrine'. ESAH contacted a wide range of organisations with an interest in the valley landscape, including Parish Councils and Conservation Societies, Local Authorities, University of Essex and the National Trust and Essex Wildlife Trust, both of the latter have reserves in the area. The approach was met with considerable interest, and development of the group began. Unfortunately, the pandemic intervened, slowing and disrupting development. Following the pandemic it took a while to revitalise the group, but CVLG was formally launched last October at a successful event held in Little Baddow.

Our President Nick Wickenden chaired the launch, which included short talks on the River by William Marriage and Roy Chandler (Chelmer Canal trust and Essex Waterways), the natural landscape by Darren Tansley (Essex Wildlife Trust), J.A. Baker and the cultural landscape by James Canton (Essex University), and the historic landscape by me. The event was well attended by representatives of many of the bodies with an interest in the valley landscape including the appropriate cabinet members from the Local Authorities relevant to the valley (Chelmsford, Maldon, Braintree and Essex County Council). The attendees reported that they found the event interesting, thought provoking and enjoyable.



The historic settlement pattern in the valley was dispersed, Culverts Fm, a medieval manorial site is in the centre, with a group of agricultural buildings to the right and another group of buildings on the skyline, cricket bat willows in the foreground.

CVLG brings together representatives of a wide variety of organisations with an interest in the conservation and management of the Chelmer valley landscape, and its purpose is to:

- to encourage conservation, management, and enhancement of the valley's natural and historic environment.
- to help maintain, explain and develop the cultural significance of the valley's landscape.
- to help manage and facilitate public engagement with the valley landscape.

The long-term aim is to secure some kind of designated status for the valley.

Following its successful launch, CVLG will aim to get itself more firmly established and consider ways it can help with practical action to enhance understanding conservation and management of the Chelmer Valley

Review: Celebrating Historic Stebbing edited by Graham Joliffe

by Dr Jane Pearson

This book celebrates Stebbing Local History Society's 25 years of existence and as Professor Poos writes on p 43 'to foster and sustain a vibrant local historical society is no small thing'. The society's committee has assembled a varied and engaging collection of short and well-illustrated papers. The first five chapters deal with the setting up of the society and its archive of documents and recordings. The remaining chapters cover a wide range of subjects from competent studies of particular buildings such as the White Hart and the Town Mill to a woman's engagement with a circular knitting machine in the 1920s and the imposition of the parish council in 1894. Prof Poos describes his ongoing work of layering computer-generated maps such as those produced by Google Earth with early OS maps and manorial extents of Stebbing to discover some enduring landscape secrets. There is also a transcription of a seventh-century document relating to the Kingdom of the East Saxons.

Some local history studies can seem static but one of the great features of this book is the way it reveals a constant movement of its population with some local families deciding to challenge the perils of agricultural depression by moving out and changing jobs while others moved in from other localities such as Cornwall. The sheer pleasure to be had from engaging with local history is also satisfyingly demonstrated.

Review: Patrick Denney Colchester Reflections Amberley Publishing 2022

by Dr Jane Pearson

Patrick Denney intends this collection of nearly 200 photographs to stimulate the reader's imagination and enable a transport back in time for those familiar with the streets and buildings of Colchester. To this end he has 'merged' the old and the modern photograph so that one half of each image is sepia with horses and trams and the other is in colour with cars and modern buildings. The commentary points out what can be seen then and now and gives information on the dates of demolitions and road widening schemes. The split-image effect is undoubtedly clever, but some will find it a gimmicky distraction. The book does not indicate where the original photographs are to be found for those wishing to engage their imagination in the usual way.

Rev. Anthony Holbrook (c. 1676–1749), a minor Essex antiquary

By Michael Leach

Anthony Holbrook, rector of Little Waltham from 1709 until his death in 1749, is a largely forgotten member of the antiquarian circle that connected the early Essex topographers Thomas & Nicholas Jekyll, to John Ouseley, William Holman and Phillip Morant. His part may have stemmed from his marriage to one of Ouseley's daughters and his subsequent responsibility, as one of the administrators of his father-in-law's estate, for a substantial collection of manuscripts. It is not clear if Holbrook was interested in historical matters before Ouseley's death in 1708, but he soon became involved, not only as a seller and a buyer of MSS, but also as a correspondent with other antiquaries, in particular the Essex historian, William Holman. This note will explore his involvement, as well as looking at other aspects of Holbrook's life.

Holbrook's family, education and career

Various sources name Holbrook's father as John, rector of Edmond in the diocese of Lichfield, though this identification is confused by both Oxford and Cambridge universities claiming him as a graduate. The balance of probability is that he graduated BA from Oriel College, Oxford in January 1660/1, and MA in 1665. He was ordained deacon and priest in September 1667 and the following day was instituted rector of Edmond where he remained till his death and burial there in July 1699. He married twice, firstly to Catherine Stanton (d.1673) and secondly to Elizabeth Hewitt (d.1709).

John Holbrook's son, Anthony, was born on or before 1676 (if he had been ordained at the canonical age of 23 years old or older) either at Ashton or Lichfield, according to different sources. He attended school at Newport, Shropshire, was admitted as a pensioner to Sidney Sussex College Cambridge in 1694 and was ordained deacon at Lichfield in September 1699 (and presumably priest shortly afterwards). He may have acted as curate elsewhere before his institution at Panfield in Essex in March 1705. His publications of 1715 and 1718 indicate that he subsequently acted as chaplain to the Rt Hon Richard Lord Lumley, who had been the Whig MP for Arundel until his elevation to the House of Lords in 1715. The Lumley seats were in West Sussex and Durham, but Holbrook's responsibilities were presumably in the London house which Lumley would have required when Parliament was sitting, as well as for his duties as Lord of the Bedchamber to the Prince of Wales.

Anthony Holbrook married twice. His first wife was Dorothy, the second daughter of Reverend John Ouseley (1645-1708) This took place in 1705, two months after his institution as rector of Panfield of which Ouseley owned the advowson. Four years later he added Little Waltham to this living, holding both parishes till his resignation of Panfield in 1726. His first wife died in September 1722, and three years later he married Mrs Elizabeth Moseley at St Andrew's Holborn, London. When Holbrook made his will in 1733 he mentioned one son, William, from this second marriage.

Holbrook as antiquarian

For the development of Holbrook's antiquarian interests, his marriage in 1705 to John Ouseley's daughter must have been significant. Ouseley was a collector of manuscripts – and not always a scrupulous one, as will be shown – and provided useful information to bishop Gibson for his 1695 revision of Camden's *Britannia*, and to Richard Newcourt, compiler of the two volumes of *Repertorium Ecclesiasticum Parochialae Londinense*. A substantial part of Ouseley's collection was either loaned, or acquired by default, from Nicholas Jekyll whose grandfather Thomas Jekyll (1570-1653) had collected, organised and indexed a vast amount of material for his planned - but never published- history of the county of Essex.

Ouseley, who had been in poor health for some years, aggravated by alcoholism, died intestate and in debt in January 1708/9. His wife declined administration, and this task was allocated to Holbrook and a fellow creditor, Thomas Cracherood, about whom nothing is known. Holbrook, who assumed responsibility for realising his father-in-law's manuscript assets to settle his debts, must already have had links with the antiquarian circle as, soon after Ouseley's death, he was corresponding with Humphrey Wanley, agent for the earl of Oxford. Holbrook explained that ownership of many of Ouseley's manuscripts was claimed by Nicholas Jekyll who, he thought, might be willing to 'part with them for a valuable consideration'. It seems unlikely that Jekyll consented. In later correspondence with the Essex historian, William Holman, he indicated that, though willing to loan MSS belonging to Holman, he did want them returned. In another letter to Wanley, Holbrook explained that another batch of Ouseley MSS were being held by the Stamp Office as security for 'a person who went off'. The fate of these is not known but, considering his financial difficulties, one has to wonder if that 'person' was not Ouseley himself.

Holbrook must have had a difficult, and time-consuming, job in distinguishing what had belonged to his father-in-law and what had been loaned by Nicholas Jekyll, in order to decide what to sell, or what to acquire for himself. There is no doubt that Holbrook became a collector in his own right, as well as a seller of manuscripts. Whatever Wanley purchased from him would have disappeared into the vast collection of Harleian MSS which are now in the British Library. Fifteen years later Holbrook was still selling manuscripts to Wanley, but it is impossible to establish how these had been acquired. These included a) lands given & exchanged by H. VIII and Ed. VI. b) a terrier of lands and endowments of Trinity College Cambridge and Christ Church College, Oxford' c) the original statutes of both these colleges. d) account of the Rectories, Manors Lands etc granted or exchanged by the Crown from 37 H VIII to 2 Edw VI, copied by Mr Ralph Starkey from an authentic register in the Augmentation Office.

Holbrook's task seems to have been complicated by Ouseley's poor record keeping. Some books had been loaned to William Holman without making it clear that they belonged to Nicholas Jekyll. At an unknown date, Ouseley had lent a copy of a Visitation of Staffordshire to Samuel Stebbing, the Somerset Herald. In 1719 Stebbing was forced to sell his collection to pay off debts. Ouseley's copy was included in the sale, and efforts by the Norfolk antiquary, Peter le Neve, to obtain its return appear to have been rebuffed by the new owner.

On two occasions in February 1710/11, Holbrook lent a total of 33 Ouseley's manuscripts to William Holman, half of which can be identified with some confidence as the Jekyll MSS which were listed by Holman in an inventory of 1715 (see 'What happened to the Jekyll MSS' in Essex Journal, Iv, no:1) On at least two occasions Holbrook sold MSS to Holman, the transactions being carefully noted in the handwriting of that very thorough record keeper. At an unknown date Holman paid Holbrook a guinea for extracts from Letters Patent, and the surprisingly large sum of £8 4s for a transcript of Essex Domesday in November 1719.

Holbrook as a historian

Though he never published any historical work, it would be wrong to dismiss Holbrook as merely a dealer in manuscripts. His surviving correspondence with Holman, written between February 1711 and May 1716, shows that he was not only lending manuscripts and books to the Essex historian, but was providing him with genealogical material and transcripts of monumental inscriptions. In 1716 he sent Holman a short history that he had written of his own parish – now lost, unfortunately. He corresponded with other antiquaries, such as John Anstis, Garter King of Arms, Samuel Dale, botanist and antiquary of Bocking, and Rev. Thomas Cox, author and antiquary of Broomfield. He also, along with others, did his best to encourage Holman to publish some of his completed parish histories.

Holman as a writer of theological works

In the absence of diaries or personal letters it is impossible, after nearly three centuries, to form a picture of the man himself. His published works (such as No Security for Protestants under a Popish Prince; a sermon preach'd August the 1st 1715 being the day of His Majesty's happy Accession to the Throne) suggest anti-Jacobite views and loyalty to the Hanoverian succession. A published sermon (Christian Essays upon the Immorality of Uncleaness and Duelling) and an open letter on the immorality of fornication could be interpreted as moralistic, though equally they may reflect conventional contemporary theological thinking

Holbrook's will and death

Holbrook was buried in his own parish of Little Waltham on 5 June 1749. His will, with a codicil attached to the front of the document, both written in his own hand, left his wife as the principal legatee. He wished to be buried 'most frugally ... over against the north window of the vestry'. If this had been in its customary position on the north side of the chancel, it would have been obliterated by the construction of Frederick Chancellor's substantial organ chamber in the 1883 restoration. Though his son William was to inherit his books and manuscripts, details of neither can now be traced.

Conclusion

Though relatively little is known about Holbrook's contribution as an antiquary, it is clear that he did form an important link between the assiduous Essex historian, William Holman, and the huge MSS collections of Nicholas Jekyll and the more modest ones of his father-in-law, John Ouseley. Surviving letters suggest that he was supportive of Holman's efforts to publish a history of Essex, and that he corresponded with a wider circle of contemporary antiquaries.

Essex seen from Elsewhere

By Michael Leach

i) St Nicholas, Little Wigborough. This C15 church was damaged in the 1884 earthquake, and the upper part of the tower was subsequently reconstructed. In January 2022, the appearance of alarming cracks persuaded the diocese to propose closure, but strong protests led to a postponement and the quest for a new owner. The National Trust, who owns the marsh adjacent to the church, are said to be interested, as well as the owner of the nearby Copt Hall. It is not known what has become of the fragment of Zeppelin which crashed near the church in 1916, and was hung from the tower arch. According to the RCHM volume of 1922 the nave walls were heightened in the C19 (?after the earthquake) but it was noted that visible cracks remained in the walls.

Source: *Friends of Friendless Churches Magazine*, May 2023

ii) Malthouse in Colchester Road, Colchester. Though I cannot identify this building, Colchestrians may be able to do so. Apparently moved from another site, it is now the subject of a delisting application (though surely it is very unusual for a building to retain its listing after being dismantled and re-erected?). Though much altered it is said to retain its 'panel and pier' construction, and is a good example of a small rural C19 Essex malting.

Source: *Heritage Now*, Summer 2023

Bronze Galore

By Nigel Brown

You may have seen the recent report on BBC East of the fine Late Bronze Age (LBA) hoard of axes and other objects recently recovered by a metal detectorist from Shalford (pictures and a short note on the hoard can be found on the BBC website <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-68293004>), this is an example of the success of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) <https://finds.org.uk/> The PAS was established in 1997 and records finds made by metal detectorists. The quantity of LBA metalwork recovered from Essex is remarkable, a study published in the latest issue of the Proceedings of Prehistoric Society (PPS- our Society has a complete run of PPS in its Library) which examines Bronze Age finds reported to the PAS between 1997 and 2021, shows that just under 50% of all LBA metal objects recorded during that period come from Essex and Kent (Griffeths, 2023, 191). That statistic reinforces a pattern that was already well known, the concentration of LBA metal finds either side of the Thames estuary has been recognised for a hundred years or more.

Our transactions Essex Archaeology and History (EAH) has regularly reported on finds of Bronze Age metalwork. For instance a hoard from High Easter (Cuddeford and Sealey 2000), which is also a good example of co-operation between a professional archaeologist Paul Sealey and metal detectorist Mike Cuddeford (Mike Cuddeford's work features in an exhibition in Cambridge https://maa.cam.ac.uk/whats_on celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the publication of Cyril Fox's book *The Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, though you'll need to be quick to see it, it finishes on April 14th). At the risk of blowing my own trumpet the publication of the Vange Hoard (Brown 1998) is also worth a look, it has a consideration of the recovery of Bronze Age hoards in Essex prior to the establishment of the PAS, based on a gazetteer compiled by Paul Sealey (if you don't have copies of the relevant volumes of EAH to hand you can of course access them via our website).

Part of the reason for the great concentration of LBA metalwork in Essex and Kent is the huge estuarine complex of the Greater Thames Estuary, stretching from what was then the Wantsum channel separating Thanet from Kent, up through the numerous creeks and estuaries of the Essex coast to the Stour and Orwell estuaries. During the LBA contacts between Britain and continental Europe were particularly intense (Brown 2018), and much of the metal utilised here originated from mainland Europe and the nature of our coastline facilitated water borne contact.

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Why do we need so many old books?

By Michael Leach

This was the provocative title of an excellent annual Plume Library lecture given by Dr David Pearson some years ago. He posed this question in the light of the modern practice of digitising old books, seen as a solution to the challenges faced by librarians needing to make shelf space for their ever-expanding collections. Getting rid of apparently little used books is an easy solution and, judging by the number of discarded volumes now on my own bookshelves, much resorted to by Essex County library service.

His lecture focussed on the importance of keeping old books because of the additional clues which can be gleaned from them, but are lost in digitisation. These included clues about their popularity or usefulness (or neither!) from the amount of wear on their pages and bindings. This was brought home to me recently on purchasing a brief and derivative history of Essex, compiled by George Worley and published in 1915. This is now never referenced in historical articles, even though my ex-Essex County library volume shows considerable signs of wear in spite of being substantially rebound at an unknown date in county council buckram. Though forgotten now, it had clearly been a very popular work in its day. In addition, past readers had added bits of themselves in the form of coffee stains, candle wax, pencilled notes and inexplicable smudges, and the various official hieroglyphics on the spine and endpapers which spoke of a sequence of changing library classification systems.

Though librarians would frown, most historians delight in the notes or corrections added by past readers. My own copy of Newcourt's 1711 Repertorium has many additions in ink in several different hands (none of which I have been able to identify) – and, though the added information is often invaluable, some of the marginal and interlinear notes would be unreadable if digitised. Readers' additions come in a variety of forms.. A 1741 Bible, with poorly formed pencilled copies of the capital letters on the title page, was clearly used by a child practising his or her letters. The named clergyman who once owned my 1817 copy of The Book of Homilies had marked sections which he regarded as particularly important or relevant to his theological views. More tantalising are faint mirror-writing ink marks, clearly made when another book was closed on a recently written, but unblotted, sheet of paper. Recently I was looking at a digitised C17 manuscript which had been written - and scanned - on the recto side only. Each scan included a tiny strip of the facing verso sheet showing ghostly evidence of pencil marks. These proved to be extensive, but barely legible, explanatory notes in a nineteenth century hand, clearly not seen as important or relevant to the digitiser.

End papers and paste downs, frequently missed by digitisers, often have information about previous owners (such as bookplates or signatures, sometimes dated) and their random notes, as well as booksellers' labels and their pricing hieroglyphics. My 1886 run of Walter Scott's Waverley Novels was originally stocked by A J Gombridge & Co of Bombay and that hot moist climate may explain the spectacular brittleness of its pages which snap like poppadoms under the finger of the unwary reader.

Evidence of past repairs is also of interest – gummed postage stamps, or the perforated strip around the edge of the printed sheet, were sometimes used for repairing torn pages, and can provide useful dating evidence. Scrap paper, and even bits of illuminated medieval parchment, were used by bookbinders in the past, though these only come to light when books begin to fall apart. Old bookmarks or half completed notes on loose scraps of paper are also quite common. Occasionally more unexpected intrusions are sometimes found, such as a few examples in the London Library with embedded fragments of shrapnel from the Luftwaffe's visit in the Second World War. This incident had mainly caused damage in the 'Theology' section, now (and possibly then) shelved at the very top of the building, nearest to both bombs and Heaven!

I recently came across a fascinating investigation by an artist, scientist and historian of science, which took gleaning information from old books to a different level, using an extremely dilapidated bilingual 1735 copy of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, printed in Latin and English. Perhaps inspired by the forensic adage that anyone at the scene of a crime scene will leave some trace of themselves, they dismantled the book and pressed its pages onto enriched agar plates. To their surprise, incubation grew several hundred bacterial colonies, of which 25 were chosen for DNA/RNA identification.

Paper in this period had a significant rag content, some of which could have come from the clothes of the dead or dying, and there was some concern that dangerous pathogens might have survived. Fortunately none were grown, probably because the cultures were not incubated at body temperature due to health and safety concerns. Even though most of the bacteria responsible for human disease do not survive dehydration, and usually have a short life outside a living host, the risks of awakening a pathogen had to be taken seriously. In contrast many harmless human skin bacteria (commensals) can lie dormant for long periods, and only becoming active when humidity permits. They are also less choosy about optimum incubation temperatures.

Six of the identified bacteria were normal human commensals, presumably shed by users of the book. It was noticeable that there was a significantly denser growth from the areas of Latin text, perhaps caused by the finger of the struggling reader marking the place while checking against the English translation. One of these, *Staphylococcus hominis*, feeds on the secretion of apocrine sweat glands. It is tempting to think that the book was an educational aid, and that the sweat glands of an anxious pupil anticipating the magisterial cane would have been overactive! Other isolates are pigment producing, and may explain some of the staining in old books. The particularly strong smell of others must also have a bacterial origin. My own copy of Newcourt's *Repertorium* is very pungent, with extremely marked discolouration of some of its pages – it is doubtless a bacterial feasting ground.

Some of the other bacterial isolates that were found in the Ovid volume are commonly found in soil, and are extremely resistant to dehydration, They must form a significant component of normal house dust. One unexpected find was *Bacillus altitudinis*, originally only known from high altitude air samples. It was suggested initially that this might have been added to the book when the artist travelled to the US with it, but the micro-organism has since been found at ground level. It is likely that human activities have caused widespread dissemination of microorganisms, some of which are probably still waiting to be identified. One exotic example, found in the Ovid volume, *Dietzia timorensis*, was first found in soil under mahogany trees in East Timor, but is now known to be much more widespread.

The artist made some strikingly beautiful silkscreen prints from colour photographs of some of the cultures, their source being suggested by the ghostly impressions of the letterpress printing on the original pages. Though this approach to book archaeology is unlikely to get the approval of the Society's librarian, it provides an intriguing insight into an aspect of our books which we know very little about.

I am very grateful to Sarah Craske, Charlotte Sleight and the late Simon Park for sharing their work and for permission to use some of their findings

The Families of John Mildmay of Chelmsford and Cretingham

By Peter Wynn

The Mildmays were an influential family in Chelmsford during the seventeenth century. John who is the subject of this article was a son of Thomas Mildmay, the mercer and his wife Agnes, née Read. Whilst previous published work on the Mildmays have given fairly full details of the descendants of his brothers, Thomas the auditor, William of Springfield Barnes and Sir Walter of Apethorpe, less information has been provided about John's descendants.

The Chelmsford parish register recorded that John, son of Thomas the elder, mercer, married Margaret Swanell, servant to his father on 17 July 1541. This marriage was noted by Kimber and Johnson but I have not found it in other published accounts of the family. The Chelmsford register showed the following children of the marriage:

Thomas baptised 15 January 1544/5 (presumably died before October 1550)

Thomasine baptised 25 June 1546

Christopher baptised 20 February 1548

Alice baptised 4 August 1549

Thomas baptised 28 October 1550

Jone baptised 2 July 1555

John's wife Margaret was buried at Chelmsford 20 July 1556.

Children referred to in John's will made at Cretingham in Suffolk 29 March 1580 were Thomas (identified as John's eldest son), John, Thomasine, Robert, Marian and another Thomas (identified as his younger son). Reference was also made to a deceased son, Humphrey. Bequests to John and Robert had to wait until they were 26 years old and that to Marian until she was 23 years old. Provision was made for schooling of the younger Thomas. The testator's daughter, Thomasine, had sons, Anthony and Thomas, who were also named in the will.

It is apparent, from the extra children listed in John Mildmay's will, that he had been re-married. It is unclear whether this was once or twice. The Herald's Visitation of Essex in 1612, included in Metcalfe, recorded John's wife as Jane Browne, née Allington, the widow of Thomas Browne. However the Visitation of Cambridgeshire indicated that Thomas Browne's widow married a Henry Mildmay. The 1634 Visitation of Essex showed John's wife as Frances Raynbow of Ipswich.

Thomas, the elder son of John, had died in 1601. His will showed he had been married to Olive, daughter of Edmund and Sibill Nuttall. Children identified in his will were Walter, Marie [Mary] his eldest daughter, Olive his youngest daughter and other daughters, Thomazine [Thomasine] and Elizabeth. Supervisors of the execution of his will were his brothers Robert and Thomas stated to be of Grays Inn.

The 1612 Visitation of Essex showed that John Mildmay's daughter, Thomasine, had married John Boddie from Portsmouth. Boddie's will of 1591 provided no family details. It was proved by Thomasine Boddie. She was probably buried at Chelmsford on 24 December 1614. [It is difficult to interpret the forename as Thomasine.] Her will proved 17 January 1614/15 mentioned her sons Anthony and Thomas, daughters Katherine and Christian and brother Robert of the City of London. The 1634 Visitation showed this Robert being of Terling and his wife as Joanne, daughter of Sir Richard Deane. Richard Deane was Lord Mayor of London in 1626. The Visitation also recorded Marian as being married to Andrew Atwood of Wiltshire.

A study by John Bennett Boddie indicated that Mary Mildmay, the daughter of Thomas and Olive had married her cousin, Thomas Boddie. Thomas Boddie was buried at Fryerning on 28 March 1627. Although his widow, Mary, requested in her will that she should be buried close to him, I have not been able to find a record of her burial in the Fryerning register. Thomas Boddie and Mary had three children: Robert, John and Ann. Ann married Richard Haeward and John married Mary Haeward. Robert Boddie and his brother in law, Richard Haeward, are recorded by Hotten as being among those who emigrated to Virginia in 1635 aboard the ship Safety. The ages of the emigrants are recorded, allowing years of birth of 1616 for Robert and 1602 for Richard to be estimated. John Bennett Boddie speculated that Richard Haeward returned to Britain. John Boddie remained in Britain. He married Mary Haeward and was buried at Fryerning 11 August 1640.

The following records of children of John and Mary (née Haeward) have been found at Fryerning:

Maria baptised 28 May 1635

Christiana baptised 27 November 1636

Elizabeth baptised 22 March 1637/8 and buried 22 March 1637/8

John Bennett Boddie also listed William and Margaret Boddie as children of the marriage, but I have been unable to locate their baptisms within the register.

Thomas the Younger Mildmay, then stated to be of Clerkenwell, made his will in 1613. He identified his nephew William as his next heir at law but looked on William to reclaim himself from drinking, swearing and playing whereunto he had been formerly much given!

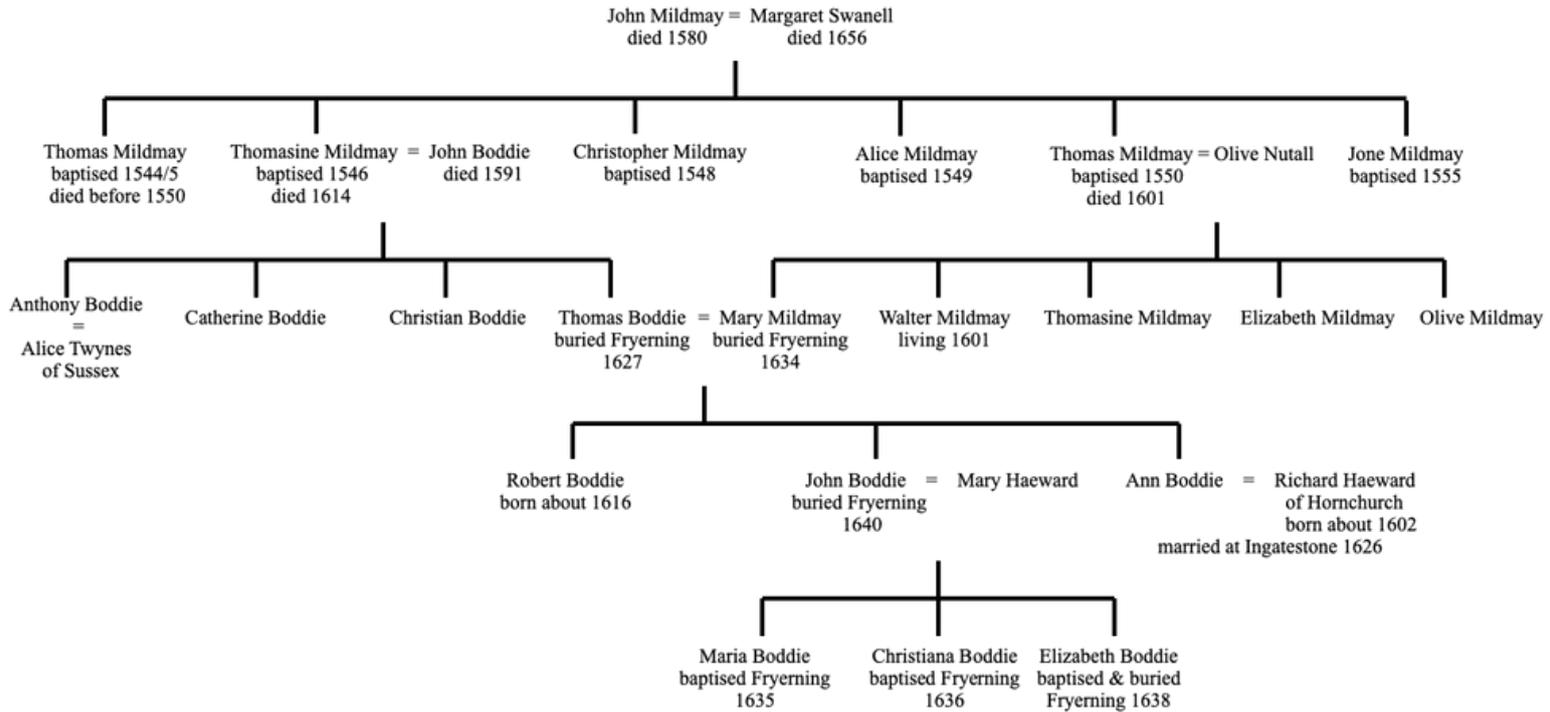
John, the son identified in the 1580 will was shown in the 1634 Visitation as being of Prittlewell and as having had a son, William of Woodham Walter. John of Prittlewell had died by 1597 as in that year a marriage licence was issued for his widow, Emma, to marry George Burghley, Rector of St. Lawrence. The William of Woodham Walter is probably the debauched character of Thomas the Younger's 1613 will. He appears to have married Anne Joselyn at St. Gregory by St, Paul, London on 14 May 1619. Two children of Mr Willam and Mrs Anne Mildmay were subsequently baptised at Terling: Anne Mildmay on 20 March 1619/20 and Robert Mildmay on 8 March 1620/21.

A pre-nuptual settlement, dated 3 October 1644, indicates that the latter Robert married Elizabeth Mildmay, daughter of [the then late] Sir Henry and Lady Amy Mildmay of Graces, Little Baddow. He subsequently married Cicily Haynes, née Mildmay, the daughter of Humphrey Mildmay of Danbury on 11 February 1661/2 at St. Botolph, Aldersgate.

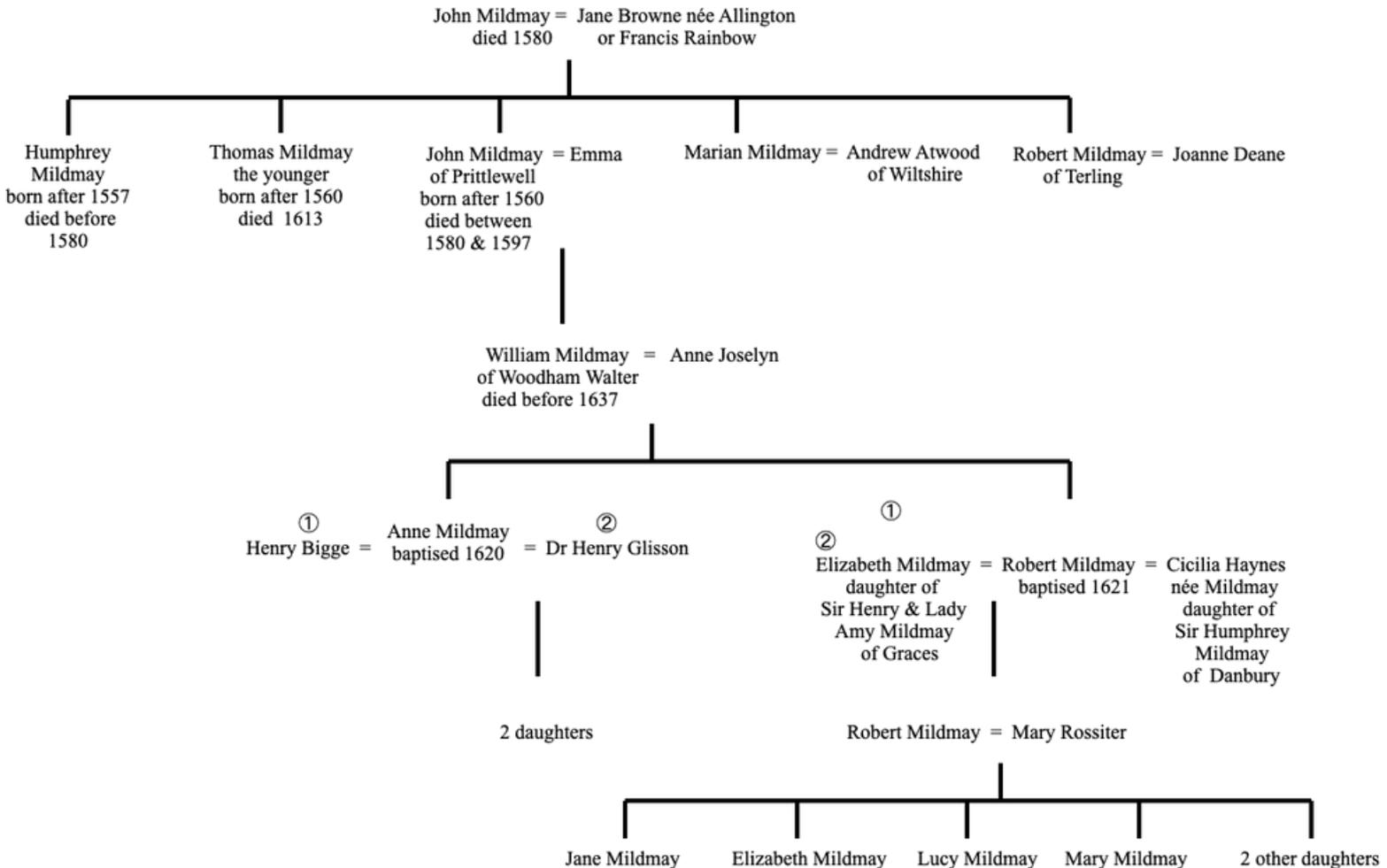
Anne, the sister of this Robert, married Henry Bigge of Cressing Temple at Terling on 13 June 1637. However she soon was widowed and was re-married to Henry Glisson at Fairstead on 27 June 1638. The Licence for the 1637 marriage stated that it was with the consent of her uncle Robert Mildmay [he was actually her great uncle]. That Robert's 1646 will contained a bequest to 'Anne Gliston wife of Henry Gliston Doctor of Phizick.' This confirms the suggestion I made in an earlier article (Winter 2017 Newsletter) that Henry Glisson may have been the brother of fellow physician, Dr. Francis Glisson. The will of Dr. Francis Glisson indicated that Henry had two daughters but did not give their names.

St John Mildmay said that the Parliamentary Captain John Mildmay, commander of the Vanguard, who was killed in action against the Dutch in 1652/3 was a grandson of John Mildmay of Cretingham. I have not been able to find evidence to support that assertion.

John Mildmay 1st Family



John Mildmay 2nd Family (possibly 3rd)



Sources

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- Chelmsford (ERO D/P 94/1/1, 94/1/2 & 94/1/3)
- Fairstead (ERO D/P 210/1/1)
- Little Baddow (ERO D/P 35/1/1)
- St. Gregory by St Paul (LMA P69/GRE/A/MS10231)
- St. Botolph, Aldersgate (LMA P69/BOT1/A/001/MS03854/001)
- Terling (ERO D/P 299/1/3)
- Woodham Walter (ERO D/P 101/1/1)

Wills (spellings as in archive catalogues)

- Boddy, John 1591 (TNA PROB 11/78/13)
- Boddy, Mary of Fryerning 1634 (ERO D/ABW 52/225)
- Boddy, Thomasine of Woodham Ferrers 1614/15 (ERO D/ABW 7/145)
- Mildmaye or Mildmay, John of Cretingham 1580 (TNA PROB 11/62/283)
- Mildmay, Robert of Terling 1646 (ERO D/ACW 14/159)
- Mildemay, Thomas of Framlingham 1601 (TNA PROB 11/97/265)
- Mildemay or Mildemaye, Thomas of St. James, Clerkenwell 1613 (TNA PROB 11/122/689)

Other Archival Material

- Pre-nupual settlement between (i) Robert Myldmay senior of Terling, (ii) Lady Amy Myldmay, widow & eldest son Henry of Graces and (iii) Robert Myldmay junior of Terling (ERO D/DPI 23)

ESAH Events for 2024

We have arranged a number of events for this year. Details given as TBC here will be updated ASAP, possibly in the same post as the next Essex Journal. We are very happy to receive expressions of interest for those events which are not yet finalised. We will send details of parking, etc, to those who book.

Friday 26th April, 2:30pm. Time TBC. Southend Museums £10.

Talk on Prittlewell Prince, then see the Prittlewell Prince exhibition. Refreshments provided.

Saturday 11th May, 11:00am. Walking tour of Harwich, £10.

Includes several historic sites: Christopher Jones' house, the treadwheel crane, and the town gaol.

Please note: this tour may not be suitable for those with mobility issues.

Saturday 29th June, 9am-6pm. Coach trip to Silchester Roman town, £30.

Guided tour of town by Professor Mike Fulford, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Reading. This trip is organised by Friends of Colchester Archaeological Trust, and ESAH members are warmly invited. Coach will depart from opposite Greyfairs (top of East Hill, Colchester) at 9am, and return approx 6pm. There will be rest stops on both journeys. Payment: cheque please payable to **Friends of CAT**, sent to HB.

Wednesday 10th July, 2:30pm. Philip Morant Day - a tale of two churches

Christopher Thompson & Adam Scott will take us around Aldham Church and Church House Farm, where we will have a talk on Morant. Tea & Cakes afterwards.

Monday 29th August, Time TBC. Guided tour of the Bata factory in East Tilbury. £5

The Bata Heritage Centre presents the history of the British Bata Shoe Co Ltd., and its fascinating industrial and architectural heritage.

Wednesday 18th September, 2pm. Talk & tour of famous wooden church at Greenstead. £10

Saturday 2nd November, 10am-4pm. Annual Archaeology & History Symposium, £10.

Includes lunch and tea/coffee. At Roman Circus House, Colchester. There will be a post-medieval and industrial theme to this year's programme. Speakers include: Andrew Phillips, Peter Jones, and Tim Murphy

Please email/write to the Excursions Secretary to book (howard000brooks@gmail.com). **Payment: Online as before.** Let us know if you require account details. Please give event reference and number of bookings (e.g. HAR 2). Alternatively: send a cheque to Hon Sec's Colchester address.

PLEASE NOTE: If you pay online you must tell us otherwise we won't be expecting you. June 29th event has different pay details as above.

The visits on the Society's programme are open to members and associate members only. Non-members attending may not be covered by insurance.

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.

Membership

Subscriptions are due 1st January each year as follows:

Single Member - £25

Family Membership - £30

Student - £15

Associate Member - £15

Institutions - £25

Associate Institutions - £25

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The Society's Publication and Research Fund (PRF)

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

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

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

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

DATA PROTECTION ACT

In order to run the Society it is necessary to keep paper and electronic records of members' names and addresses. It is the Society's policy to keep members' names, addresses, telephone numbers and subscription status only. This information is disclosed to no one, inside or outside the Society, other than those officers and members of Council who need it in order to run the organisation.

Members do have the right to refuse to allow any information about them to be stored on 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.