

ESSEX HERITAGE NEWS

Spring 2017

SPECIAL MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF ESSEX HERITAGE TRUST



At the end of 2016 **Essex Heritage Trust** celebrated passing the total of £1m in grant awards made since we began in 1989. In that time we have helped over 460 projects protect our county's heritage. Looking back over those years at the projects that have been completed and the many people we have met from all corners of the county, everyone who has been involved can justly feel a great sense of achievement.

1989 was Essex Heritage Year. **Essex Heritage Trust** was formed with the initial purpose of raising £1m to support the protection of our heritage at a time of fast-moving change. It was formally launched in the Spring of 1990 at Cressing Temple, where our office is still located. 27 years later we are going from strength to strength. Our fund continues to grow through donations and wise investment. It is through the great support we have received from you, our Friends and supporters, that we have been able to do so much.

The project award that took the total of grants over £1m was one of £10,000 for the restoration of the bells of St Thomas' Church, Bradwell-on-Sea. The church (pictured above) launched an appeal to raise funds to refurbish its existing six bells and to add two new ones. In their appeal leaflet Bradwell say 'the sound of bells is not only the voice of the church but is the background to English village life'. In recognition of **Essex Heritage Trust's** grant one of the new bells will be inscribed with the words "GIFT OF ESSEX HERITAGE TRUST 2017" to record our £1m achievement as an encouragement to future generations of likeminded Essex folk.

See page 3 for a fuller report from the Bradwell project team

Grants Awarded

for the financial year 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016

St Margaret's Church, Woodham Mortimer	£ 1,000	**Epping Forest District Museum	£ 5,000
<i>Restoration of Weather-vane</i>		<i>Display case in the new Core Gallery</i>	
Rev Dr R W F Beaken	£ 1,000	**Little Baddow Village Hall	£ 1,100
<i>Publication—The Church of England & the Home Front 1914-1918 Civilians, Soldiers & Religion</i>		<i>Memorial copings on the Lychgate</i>	
**Essex Journal	£ 3,000	Saffron Walden Museum	£ 5,000
<i>Index of the first 50 volumes (1966-2015) of the Essex Journal</i>		<i>Archaeological analysis and interpretation of data from a geophysical survey of the Museum and Castle grounds</i>	
Colchester Art Society	£ 2,500	Victoria County History of Essex Trust	£3,000
<i>Creating online catalogue (68 works by 48 artists associated with CAS)</i>		<i>Research work Volume XIII Harwich & Dovercourt</i>	
St Mary the Virgin, Little Baddow	£ 2,000	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	£ 5,000
<i>12th Century Fresco restoration</i>		<i>External conservation of WW2 Pillboxes</i>	
St Andrew's Church, Shalford	£ 2,500	Ingatestone & Fryerning Parish Council	£ 2,500
<i>William Hill (1879) Organ restoration</i>		<i>Information boards at Fairfield pond & recreational ground</i>	
Elmdon Church	£ 2,500	**St Thomas' Church, Bradwell on Sea	£ 10,000
<i>Victorian boundary flint wall restoration</i>		<i>Bell restoration</i>	
Bocking Public Gardens	£ 3,000	Petre Chapel, Thorndon Country Park	£ 3,480
<i>Tree Identification project (information posts, lecterns and information boards)</i>		<i>Commissioning and installation of replica Gable Crosses</i>	
St Nicholas Church, Berden	£ 2,000		
<i>Organ restoration (late 18th century)</i>			

**** Featured in this Newsletter**



Lord Petre, KCVO

The Trustees would like to congratulate Lord Petre, Lord-Lieutenant of Essex and a Trustee of Essex Heritage Trust, upon his appointment as a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order by HM The Queen in her 2016 birthday honours. This appointment is a well-deserved honour in recognition of Lord Petre's loyal service over many years.



OBITUARY Richard (Rory) Watson

It is with great sadness that we report the death recently of Rory Watson aged 88. Rory had been with Essex Heritage Trust since its inception in October 1989 until he retired in November 2008. Rory's infectious enthusiasm as Managing Trustee drove projects forward and future generations will benefit from his input and dedication to the Trust.

ST THOMAS' CHURCH BRADWELL ON SEA



The history of the bells of St Thomas', Bradwell-on-Sea, is fascinating. We have six bells in our tower and five date to 1744. But read this cutting from the Ipswich Journal of Saturday October 6th 1744:

THIS is to give Notice to all Lovers of Ringing, that on Tuesday the 9th of this Infant October, the Stonham Society of Ringers will be at Bradwell near the Sea in Essex, where all well Wifhers to that Noble Art, may hear good Ringing on the new Peal of Eight Bells, lately caft by Mr. Robert Catling, of London, and hung by Mr. John Williams, of Stonham in Suffolk. N.B. Mrs. Tinsley, of the Three Rabbits, is defir'd to prepare Beds for the above Society.

(Stonham is near Ipswich)

The present tenor is modern – 1948. Our bell frame is the original by John Williams, referred to above, and the inscription on the fifth bell is: “THEODORE ECCLESTON ESQR OF CROWFEILD (sic) IN SUFFOLK GAVE THIS FRAME + R.C. 1744”.

And where is Crowfield? – right next to Stonham.

So we have an 18th century eight-bell frame. We have five 18th century bells and one from the 20th century. We have proof that in 1744 the frame possessed eight bells, but what happened to the other three? We just don't know.

Another mystery is why Theodore Eccleston paid for our frame, and Stonham ringers came to ring our new bells in October 1744. We do know Eccleston was from a wealthy family (his father was a director of the East India Company) and that he was a competent bell ringer,

a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. But what was the connection with Bradwell? The rector of Bradwell from 1739 to 1746 was Henry Anstis. Eccleston knew Anstis - in his Will of 1753 he left “all my Angling rods” to him. We just don't know the relationship between the two.

So, we have space for eight bells. We have six bells in desperate need of refurbishment – nothing has been done to five of them for many, many years – we also have at the present count 14 ringers.

This all pointed to major fundraising to solve several problems at once – make sure our six bells continue to ring out, restore history to our eight bells, and provide for our enthusiastic band to continue the good work.

We applied to **Essex Heritage Trust** for a grant of £10,000 towards the total cost of over £60,000 and were very pleased with the offer of £5,000. **“However”, the letter went on, “this is a milestone for the Trust. It brings the total in grants awarded since the Trust's inception to over £1 million. In view of this, we are happy to increase the offer to £10,000 for one of the new bells, suitably inscribed”.**

We were pleased to accept this offer, with gratitude to the Trust. We now have all our funding pretty well in place and look forward to our eight bells ringing out this coming September.

So, “*all Lovers of Ringing*”, stay tuned.

Brian Clayden
Tower Captain

Have you got a
project
needing a
grant

Contact our office for information about assistance
with your heritage project.

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT MUSEUM

Core Gallery Central Case



We applied to **Essex Heritage Trust** to support us in our redisplay as part of our Heritage Lottery Funded redevelopment of Epping Forest District Museum in Waltham Abbey. We were granted £5,000 towards a case making up a key part of the display in our new Core Gallery. The £55,000 case is a very important part of our redisplay and the Core Gallery is at the heart of the entire project.

The Core Gallery aims to give visitors a real glimpse behind the scenes and show the workings of a museum with windows into the collections stores, including archaeology, costume and paintings. The gallery walls are lined with cases which are used to display small parts of our broader collections, enabling us to show many objects which may not make up part of a larger exhibition or thematic display. They also allow us to change parts of the exhibition regularly and work with community groups and volunteers who can choose objects from the collection or even showcase collections of their own in this space.

The central case within the Core Gallery performs a number of roles and provides an engaging centrepiece for the displays. A complex piece of bespoke engineering developed by Armour Systems Limited, the central case provides security, environmental control and interactivity.

The glass covered displays on the top of the case are secure places where we can monitor and control the environment for conservational purposes. These cases house archaeological finds from Waltham Abbey, dating

back to between 1180 and 1349 and believed to be those of a senior member of the clergy buried below the floor of the Chapter House. The unit also displays a stone carved head, part of a statue, also from the Chapter House and thought to be that of Edward III.

Along one side of the central case are drawers which can be pulled out to show disparate small, and paper based objects. With their lockable glass covers they are secure places to display this material and by being in the drawers are not on constant display, limiting exposure to light and prolonging object life. As they are individual, removable units, changing the display is much easier and can happen much more regularly, allowing us to share more of our collections with visitors.

Along the other side of the central case there are brightly coloured places encouraging visitors, particularly children, to interact with objects from our handling collection. The colours reflect the colour scheme used throughout the redeveloped galleries and are set at low level to catch the eye of children, with a range of different objects from the collection they can touch.

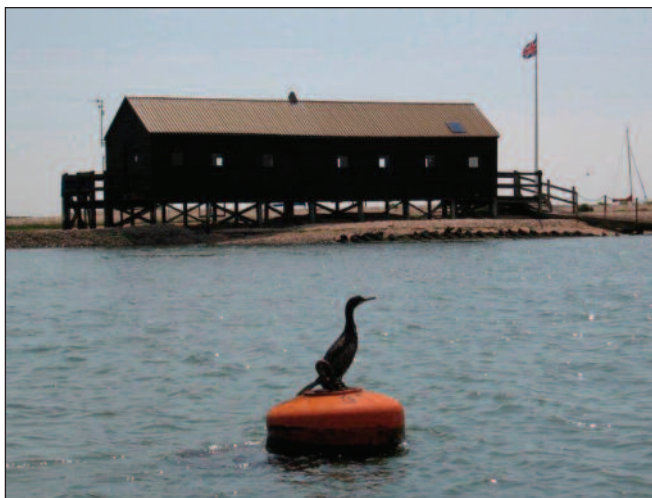
At the far end of the case there is an electrical supply and bespoke screen housing, allowing us to display a film showing the process of the reconstruction of the skull from the Chapter House burial, which was commissioned using a facial reconstruction expert. This led to the creation of the bronze bust that sits above the video, overlooking the burial, to complete this display.

Since reopening in mid-March 2016 we have welcomed 8771 visitors to the redeveloped museum and have had some great comments particularly about the Core Gallery which is already a firm favourite with visitors. We are extremely grateful to **Essex Heritage Trust**, without whose generous support we would not have been able to achieve our vision for the Core Gallery, with its key central display case, allowing us to securely redisplay some of our visitors' favourite objects and show them some less familiar ones, whilst regularly refreshing the displays.

Alex Hugo
Assistant Museum, Heritage & Culture Manager

THE PACKING SHED TRUST

Mersea Island



The Trust was formed in 1990 to preserve a Victorian oyster packing shed built on a small offshore island called Packing Marsh Island, some 800 metres from the main island of Mersea.

The Shed was originally used by the Tollesbury and Mersea Native Oyster Fishing Company, to sort, clean and pack oysters ready for transport by Thames barge down to the London markets. By 1904 the railway had arrived at Tollesbury; so the oysters were then transported on the old "Crab and Winkle Line".

The oystermen used the Shed for its original purpose until the end of the Second World War, but after that it was only used to store fishing gear and it started to deteriorate. By 1970 it was a rotting hulk and becoming an eyesore but it was an iconic structure, a relic of Mersea's oystering heritage.

In 1990 a group of islanders decided that this heritage should be preserved and the Packing Shed Trust was formed.

By 1992, after a lot of hard work, the restoration was complete and the Shed was opened as a village asset by the Chairman of the Tollesbury and Mersea Native Oyster Fishing Company, Richard Haward. Although the Company no longer use the Shed they are delighted that it has been restored to its former glory and is now available to visitors to learn of the fishing heritage of Mersea.

To raise funds for continual maintenance the Shed is used for a number of things.

There are 5 Open Days a year when visitors are taken over on the 2 Trust launches for a cream tea and a talk on the history and heritage of the Shed and its place in Mersea's oyster industry. The Shed is also hired out for family parties, wedding receptions, wakes, christening parties, art groups, scout groups and even once for a regimental dinner for the parachute regiment, complete with field kitchens, full dress uniform and ball gowns. That was certainly a sight to see!

The Trust launches were beginning to show their age, so it was decided to try and replace them, match funding any grants that could be obtained. The first launch was delivered in August 2016 and the second in March 2017 with financial assistance from **Essex Heritage Trust**.

The beauty of these 2 new launches is that they can carry more passengers than the old ones, can land on the beach (as they are flat bottomed) and can accommodate wheelchair bound visitors thanks to the landing craft style bow which drops down for easy access. Comments received from such chair-bound people are always positive, saying they enjoy the boat ride and the chance to visit places normally excluded to them.

The generosity of **Essex Heritage Trust** has meant the historical Packing Shed is now open to everyone – able bodied, disabled and differently abled. Thank you.

Further details on the Packing Shed can be found on our website: www.packing-shed.org.uk

Alan Mogridge
Chair The Packing Shed Trust



LITTLE BADDOW



After the Great War the people of Little Baddow decided to commemorate their loss by making a gesture for the benefit of the whole community. Through voluntary donations the Old Hall was purchased and a memorial arch was added as an entrance. The building would be used by the community for concerts, dances and parties.

On 11th November 1922, Armistice Day was commemorated inside the hall with a special evening service and the unveiling of a wooden board containing names and photographs of the men from the village who had given their lives in the war.

Disaster struck in 1959 when fire destroyed the hall and the roll of honour board was lost. Fortunately the arch was saved and was relocated as a stand-alone structure in the grounds of the new and renamed Memorial Hall, where it stands today. However, Little Baddow had lost an important tribute to those who gave their lives during the Great War, and over time the significance of both the hall and the arch has dimmed.

In 2012, in readiness for the start of the 1914 – 1918 centenary commemorations, research into the Great War servicemen of Little Baddow and their families was started and information was gathered from the Little Baddow History Centre, the Parish Magazine, Local

Newspapers, the Essex Regiment Museum and many public archives. Descendants and other family members came forward and we were able to build a vivid picture of our village at the time of the Great War.

In 2014, with the permission and approval of the Parish Council, the Little Baddow War Memorial Steering Committee was formed with the dual objectives of raising awareness of the arch and its special significance in relation to the Great War and raising funds to have the roll of honour reinstated, this time in stone within the arch itself, while extending it to include those lost in World War II and subsequent hostile actions.

Fund-raising commenced in 2015. Invitations to contribute were distributed to individuals, groups and businesses in and around the village and to organisations hopefully empathetic to the project. Events were organised; coffee mornings, talks, film nights and even a Halloween Scarecrow Spooktacular. Responses were wonderfully enthusiastic and generous. Meanwhile, using our earlier research and other memorial plaques in the village, a comprehensive list of servicemen and civilians from the village who had lost their lives in both world wars was compiled.

With the help of **Essex Heritage Trust's** generous grant our target of £15,000 was reached in less than nine months and we were able to have the work completed in time for a rededication service on Armistice Day, 2016, just as the original dedication had been made on Armistice Day in 1922. Our rededication was conducted by our village clergy and attended by more than one hundred villagers and guests, including The Lord Petre JP, Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, Colonel Stephen P. Foakes TD DL Regimental President, Essex Yeomanry, Colonel Charles Thomas, County Colonel of the Royal Anglia and Essex Regiment, Ian Hook, Curator, Essex Regiment Chelmsford Museum, representatives of the Western Front Association, descendants of named servicemen, Scouts and Brownies. Just as in 1922, the WI served Refreshments to our village community in our Memorial Hall.

The completion of this project bears witness that 'At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them'.

Joanne Phillips

Secretary, Little Baddow War Memorial Steering Committee

ESSEX JOURNAL

Indexing of the first 50 volumes

The fiftieth volume of the *Essex Journal* (*EJ*) was reached when the Spring 2015 issue was published. By the time part 2 of volume 50 was posted out that autumn over 4,800 pages had been printed since 1966. While some volumes had individual index sheets produced for them, the majority had nothing and thus to find out what was in each issue meant a trawl – no index like those for the *Essex Review* and the *Transactions* of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History (ESAH). Thus it was decided that this major milestone would be marked by the creation of an index of the first 50 volumes to unlock all the research that had been published over half a century. A significant individual donation from an anonymous donor provided the beginnings of a fighting fund but further resources were required and thus a series of funding bids was made to various awarding bodies in the county, **Essex Heritage Trust** being one of them. Well over £12,000 would be needed, this being the amount quoted by Sue Vaughan, the indexer previously used by ESAH. **Essex Heritage Trust** very generously awarded £3,000 and this, with other awards and further generous donations, soon saw the target reached.

Sue Vaughan was chosen because she had already worked with ESAH and had a good grasp of the place and personal names associated with Essex. Her brief was to copy the formatting of the most recent ESAH index so that researchers moving from one index to the other will be able to do so seamlessly. I asked Sue for an update and she writes:

‘So far I have completed indexing the first 20 volumes of the *Essex Journal* (1966–1985). That means 2,725 pages resulting in a draft index consisting of 11,562 entries (that is both main headings and sub entries). I use a specialist indexing software called Macrex which does many things but primarily it sorts and stores the entries. My usual practice is to convert that file into an RTF file when the inputting is complete and then do the final editing and layout in Word.

A large indexing project like this, where you are dealing with many different authors, throws up lots of queries most of which revolve around people. I find I constantly have to refer back to previous journals to find out if (for example) the Fred Smith referred to in Volume 6 is the same Fred Smith referred to in Volume 17. If so, fine, if not then the two Fred Smiths have to be differentiated



in some way – either by date or domicile. Sometimes individuals are referred to by their title and sometimes by their name. It can be difficult at times to discern precisely which member of the de Vere family is being referred to if the reference is simply to ‘the Earl of Oxford’ and the context of the reference is not closely dated. I find a quick trawl of the Internet can provide me with vital dates and details of individuals, which can often solve the problem. What did we do before Wikipedia?’

The intention will be to upload the finished index to the *EJ* website to allow free access and searches to be undertaken on-line but hard copies will also be provided to those who would like them. I myself do like a paper index to flick through. Currently we do not have a finish date for the index, let alone the production of a printed version, but I do hope that it will be done and dusted by early summer 2018. The checking and typesetting of the final index will all be undertaken in-house by the Editorial Board so it is dependent on our time and availability. That said, we are very pleased with the progress to date and just seeing the draft index is very encouraging and we do want to crack on with it. And just think, if it hadn’t been for the generosity of all our funders we wouldn’t be where we are today. Thank you very much **Essex Heritage Trust**.

Neil Wiffen

Honorary Editor, *Essex Journal*

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To subscribe please see: <http://www.essexjournal.co.uk>



Income and expenditure may be summarised as follows:	2015/16 £000	2014/15 £000
Income from investments	60	57
Subscriptions, Donations and Legacy received	5	8
Aggregate income	65	65
Less: Administrative cost	12	9
Available for grants	53	56
Grants (Net)	50	70
Net Income/Deficit for the year	3	-14
Realised and Unrealised Net losses/gains on investments	-67	64
Decrease/Increase in the value of the Trust's fund	-64	50
Value of the Trust's funds - at the beginning of the year	1,568	1,518
- at the end of the year	1,504	1,568

The Trust's grant distribution policy (subject to the performance of the Trust's investments) continues to be that an aggregate amount of up to £60,000 be set aside for grants each year. Whilst income alone may not achieve the desired target, the value of the Trust's investments continues to show positive growth, and with this in mind, the Trustees propose to continue to distribute grants up to £60,000 per annum, looking to the total return on the Trust's investments including valuation gains.

Copies of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016, from which the above information has been extracted, have been subject to examination by an independent qualified accountant. Copies of the accounts may be obtained, on request, from the Trust office.

Peter J Mamelok DL FCA, Honorary Treasurer

Be a Friend of Essex Heritage Trust

Since 1990, our members' generous support and financial contribution to the Trust has enabled us to award over 460 grants, totalling over £1,000,000.00.

It is clear that you are helping to preserve our rich and diverse heritage and making it accessible for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of Essex and our many visitors.

With your help we can continue to ensure that valuable buildings, artefacts, objects or areas of great beauty are not spoilt or lost forever.

If you wish to become a Friend on an annual basis (£25) or become a Life Friend (£250), take out Corporate membership (£150 per year) or make a Gift Aid donation, please contact our Administrator at the office or visit the website.

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