

ESSEX HERITAGE NEWS

Spring 2016

DAWN The Last Essex Tiller Gal



The Thames Sailing Barge Dawn was commissioned by James Keeble to be used to carry hay and straw from Maldon to London. She was built by Walter Cook at the very same yard where she can be found today, Cook's Yard, Hythe Quay, Maldon. She was launched in June 1897 into the berth where she now lies. It is a very rare occurrence for a barge, quay and yard still to be in existence. The Stackie was built to carry a 12ft haystack on its decks and a load of feed similar to sugar beet in the hold.

She was of an earlier type, being built tiller steered. For the stack work this was ideal as the skipper could be on the top with tiller lines and still see to steer. When she was "modernised" and converted to wheel steering the skipper then needed extra crew as he needed a look out man on the top of the

stack to shout down directions. She worked in trade until 1961, then as a charter barge. However by 1991 she needed major work. Eventually Dawn underwent a major rebuild in 2004 which saved her from a watery grave.

During this time there were not the funds to consider returning her to tiller steering. However, in 2013 it was looked at once again and fundraising began to carry out the work. With the support of the Trustees of **Essex Heritage Trust** the investigations into how to do this began.

The trail led to a tiny museum in Kent which strangely had the last known tiller from a barge. They didn't really know why and complained about how much room it took up! It came from Dawn's sister ship Eva Annie, a barge also built at Maldon by Cook's. This

meant that detailed measurements could be taken and a replica built with confidence.

Dawn was taken to St Osyth Yard to undergo the work. An Essex oak tree was used to construct the tiller and by December 2013 Dawn was tiller steered once again.

Thank you to all supporters of **Essex Heritage Trust** in helping to bring Dawn back to life.

You are most welcome to visit Dawn at Maldon, Essex.

For further details and the full history go to www.dawn1897.com

Helen Swift
Fundraising Co-ordinator
Dawn Sailing Barge Trust Ltd

Grants Awarded

for the financial year 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015

Beecroft Art Gallery <i>Costume display showcase</i>	£ 3,000	Jennifer Guthrie-Stevens <i>Plaque for William Wire at Colchester Castle</i>	£ 100
St Etheldreda's Church, White Notley <i>Organ restoration</i>	£ 5,000	High Ongar Parish Council <i>Finger Post</i>	£ 400
Tollesbury Sail Lofts <i>Restoration/ replacement of windows</i>	£ 5,000	Colchester Archaeological Trust <i>Roman Circus Display</i>	£ 6,400
St Peter & St Paul Church, St Osyth <i>Restoration of wall monument</i>	£ 3,000	St John the Baptist Church, Danbury <i>Green repairs</i>	£ 5,000
Pam Schomberg, Colchester in Bloom <i>Restoration of concrete wall panels</i>	£ 5,000	Saint Francis Hospice <i>Maintain and exhibit Pemberton Roses</i>	£ 4,000
Sible Hedingham Parish Council <i>Blue Plaque scheme (supplementary grant)</i>	£ 500	** Cressing Temple <i>Tudor Garden pathway</i>	£ 5,000
St Mary's Church, Great Canfield <i>Organ restoration</i>	£ 2,500	ECC (Essex Record Office) <i>Essex Sound & Video Archive project</i>	£ 5,000
The Susan Trust <i>Restoration works</i>	£ 5,000	** Holy Cross Church, Felsted <i>Restoration of clock face on tower</i>	£ 2,700
** The Maldon Society <i>Equipment for photographic archive collection</i>	£ 670	Silver End Heritage Society <i>Storage cabinets and display boards</i>	£ 5,000
Essex County Council <i>World War II Trails funding</i>	£ 4,500	Harlow Roman Temple <i>Digitise excavation archive</i>	£ 3,900

**** Featured in this Newsletter**



PROTECTING OUR HERITAGE

In association with The Royal Horticultural Society and Essex Police



ESSEX HERITAGE TRUST PRESENTS:

AN ESSENTIAL UPDATE ON HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HERITAGE ASSETS

To be held at:

RHS GARDEN HYDE HALL

CREEPHEDGE LANE, RETTENDON, CHELMSFORD. CM3 8ET

AT 2.00 PM ON TUESDAY 17TH MAY 2016

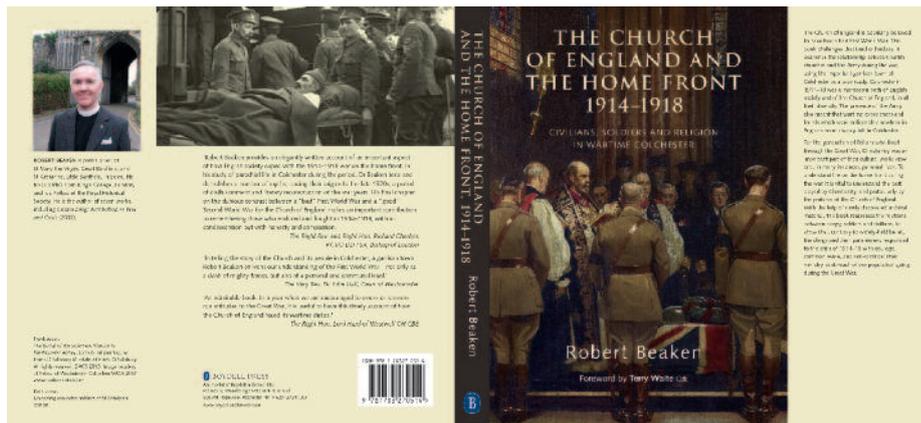
FREE PARKING, FREE ENTRY TO THE GARDEN & FREE GARDEN TOUR

The seminar and garden tour are free of charge and places are limited.

Please call us to book your place - early booking is advised



CIVILIANS, SOLDIERS AND RELIGION IN WARTIME COLCHESTER



For eight years it was my privilege to serve as vicar of a parish in Colchester. After a few months I began to notice the many First World War memorials around Colchester. I wondered how my predecessors amongst the clergy had coped during the 1914-18 war.

Slowly I started to build up a picture of both Colchester and its parish churches in 1914-18. It challenged what I might call the *Oh What a Lovely War* image of the Great War. I discovered that most people in England in 1914-18 had a reasonably accurate picture of the realities of trench warfare. Despite this, they widely supported the war as a sad necessity that simply had to be seen through to a victorious conclusion in order to defeat German militarism. We have forgotten just how horrified Britons were a century ago when they heard of brutalities committed by the invading German armies in Belgium and France. At the same time, I could find no evidence of demonization of the German in Colchester – just a gritty determination amongst the townsfolk to carry on.

The parish churches, with their organisations and societies, rallied round and supported the British war effort from the very start of the conflict. In Colchester, this meant ministering to the thousands of troops who passed through the town on their way to France, or to the wounded who returned to the town's military hospitals.

For the parish clergy, the Great War was a time of enormous pastoral opportunity and of corresponding stress. The clergy tried to visit all the families in their parishes who had someone killed or wounded in France, whether they were churchgoers or not. Sometimes the clergy found themselves ringing the same front door

bells on several occasions if more than one man from a family was killed. At the same time, the clergy had their own worries: several priests lost their own sons in the war; like everyone else they were short of sleep and food; from 1917 they were asked to take on extra work of 'national service' such as working on the land; and as inflation grew and their stipends remained unchanged, they often experienced money worries.

The Armistice on 11 November 1918 found the clergy of Colchester exhausted, thinly-spread, but not broken. Much the same is true of the laity, who had devoted themselves to caring for the troops in their town and their fellow townsfolk. They had responded to the unprecedented crisis of the Great War with common sense, determination and self-sacrifice. Peace Day celebrations were held in Colchester in the Summer of 1919 to mark the signing of the treaty of Versailles. Fairly soon after this memories of the Great War began to fade. Everyone wanted to get 'back to normal' in the early 1920s and to forget the sad years of 1914-18.

Rediscovering the story of Colchester's parish churches and their people during the Great War proved a fascinating challenge and took rather longer than I originally anticipated (I began my research in 1996). I hope my book will lead both historians and the general reader to revisit some of their attitudes to the Great War: the truth as it emerges may be quite different from many of the myths that have grown up over the past century, but it is far more interesting. I am enormously grateful to **Essex Heritage Trust** for their encouragement and generous support, which has made the publication of my research possible. The tale of the people and parishes of Colchester during the Great War is fascinating and deserves to be told.

Reverend Dr Robert Beaker
FSA Scot FRHistS



CRESSING TEMPLE

New brick pathway in the Tudor walled garden



Cressing Temple is best known for its vast medieval barns built by the Knights Templar in the 13th Century, but in the middle of the 16th century a Tudor brick mansion and walled garden had been added. The house was later demolished but the barns, granary, farmhouse and walled garden remain. The Tudor garden covers 0.63 acre. Its north wall touches the south east corner of the Wheat Barn and backing onto its west wall is a former dairy.

Evidence of the original garden layout included the base of a wide brick pavement running parallel to the eastern and south eastern boundaries and a retaining wall, 0.5m wide, which once supported a broad terrace and probably another brick pavement six feet from the east wall.

The garden is likely to have been ornamental in character, although no Tudor garden would have been purely for leisure purposes, and it would have contained a wide variety of herbs and vegetables to supply the needs of the Great House. Terraces of the kind found in this garden often had features such as pavilions, viewing platforms and summer-houses, although there is no particular evidence for these here. The size and wealth of the estate, the nature and extent of the paving

uncovered and the likely formality of the original design suggests the pavement may well have continued around the whole perimeter of the garden although subsequent cultivation and alteration of its purpose have obscured much of the original design. By the end of the 17th century the Tudor brick pavement had been covered with gravel and by the mid 18th century the garden had become a utilitarian kitchen garden.

With insufficient evidence to reconstruct the garden to its former design, Essex County Council, the current owners, decided on a recreation of a Tudor style garden to demonstrate the kinds of plants and gardening styles typical of the time. After careful research using documentary evidence and pictorial representations of gardening and gardens of the late medieval and early Tudor period, the current layout came into being and was opened in 1995.

It has the style of a formal pleasure garden, as might have been enjoyed by wealthy landowners in Elizabethan England.

A geometrical layout is defined by the herringbone brick paving, gravel paths, hedging and trelliswork. At the time of the recreation there was a large walnut tree and a mature apple standing in the north east corner of the garden but sadly both died and had to be removed. In their place is a timber framed structure built using the same construction techniques as the Templar barns, and a new bed for growing pumpkins and gourds.

The brick paving laid in the garden had never been continued to this corner, so a project was proposed to complete this section, matching as far as possible the herringbone design of the other paths. With the help of a generous grant from **Essex Heritage Trust** and funds raised by The Friends of Cressing Temple Gardens, the path was completed in May 2015 and opened at our annual Apple Day celebration in October.

The new paving has significantly improved access to the gardeners' shelter, provides a pleasant vantage point to view our pumpkin patch and has served to link this area to the garden as a whole. The Friends Group are extremely grateful to **Essex Heritage Trust** for their support and generosity, which made the completion of this project possible.

Rebecca Ashbey
Horticulturalist



HOLY CROSS CHURCH FELSTED

On May 27th the Felsted church tower clock frame fell to pieces during removal. It was returned in its completely original condition on the 8th July after repairs to the tower crack and removal of a jackdaw's nest. The clock bell cupola door was also replaced.

The clock was made in 1701, and it strikes over 1000 times a week. Church funds only provide for structural repair and the clock was considered purely decorative. It was not until some villagers complained, quite rightly, that they could not read the clock, that David Dempsey and I removed the box behind the clock face. We found the jackdaw's nest with daylight around the rotting woodwork and reported this to Rev Colin Taylor. Colin suggested that since no funding was immediately available, and because it is a community asset, that we approach the Parish Council.

Fund raising began with David Dempsey, who has "flower Power" with the P.C., getting their promise for funds from Tour de France camping on the playground, which would not cost the ratepayer anything. Their involvement gave us credibility when applying for grants.

At the July 7th 2014 event. Elizabeth B-S and Bill Miller persuaded over 30 cars to park at 27 Station Road, paying £10.00 each towards the clock renovation fund.

The joke clock run by Robert Stone, Anita Miller, Terry Rees and Eddie Kelly, made from Tour de France bicycle parts, collected well over £100.00. Together they provided an encouraging start of £463.19.

The Felsted Events Committee gave a major donation which made the whole thing viable, and cheques kept arriving at the Vicarage, including a large one from Kate and David Martin. Linsell's was the most successful collection point for smaller donations in the collection ows, with over £100.00 raised. Thanks to all who helped to have the clock face renovated we raised altogether £3,571.00.

This enabled us with guidance from Jon Tredwell to apply for four grants. The Rev Colin Taylor, provided various information and authorisation for the whole thing. Our treasurer Ian Butler, somehow managed to persuade the bank to accept bucket loads of coppers and continues to look after the account.

We were delighted to hear from Stansted Airport Community Trust and **Essex Heritage Trust** that their



trustees had approved our applications. Both were very helpful during the necessary procedures, and during the work that followed **Essex Heritage Trust** covered the inevitable increase in cost of scaffolding and Stansted Airport Community Trust allowed us to include the renewal of the Cupola door. The target sum was £7,547.00 plus vat, but the vat amounting to £1,509.00 will be recovered by our "Gift Aid" accountant Ian Shaw, "who treads where others fear to follow".

Finally, on Wednesday 15th July 2015 at 11.45 am, some forty local and generous people attended the start up of the Felsted Church Tower Clock. At 11.55, tower keeper David Dempsey started moving the clock hands over the quarter of an hour, towards the allotted time of Mid Day. The movement was purposely erratic to excite the crowd. The beautiful clock struck twelve to cheers led by Rev Colin Taylor. He thanked the good people of Felsted whose many and generous donations enabled this important improvement to the village centre.

Mr George Bellingham-Smith
Tower Keeper



BOCKING PUBLIC GARDENS

Tree Identification Project



Mr Sydney Courtauld and Mrs Sarah Lucy Courtauld donated what was then part of the gardens of their Bocking Place home to the townspeople of Braintree and Bocking in November 1888. They wanted to provide, free of charge, a place of safety, a tranquil green space and a unique Victorian garden, where trees and flowers could be enjoyed in peace and quiet and where children could play.

The Public Gardens comprise 2.5 hectares (5 acres) containing over 250 trees, many of special interest, alongside shrubs and formal and mixed flowerbeds of great variety. Native tree species nestle beside the rare and special Blue Atlas Cedar, three Deodars, a Wellingtonia and a Lucombe Oak. Recent plantings include a Wollemi Pine and a disease-resistant Elm.

Thanks to a generous grant from the **Essex Heritage Trust** the Trustees of the Public Gardens have been able to create an educational resource for schools, children and adults – the Tree Identification Project.

Some 80 trees in the Gardens have been singled out, either because they are in some way unusual, or they are planted in memory of someone. If a tree is not mentioned it is because there are others in the garden that are of the same species.

Soon after entering the Gardens, to the North of the Garden's Coffeehouse, the Memorial Oak tree is to be found and underneath is a display board with a list of

the significant trees and a map to find each one. The map is divided into Grid Squares 10 metres x 10 metres and marked with letters East to West and numbers South to North. For example, the Memorial Oak is in Square L6.

The significant trees are marked with a stake near-by, and the stake has a tear drop shaped label on the top, giving its number on the Gardens Tree List, the common name of the tree, the Latin Name, and a QR code which can be scanned with a Smartphone, as well as the **Essex Heritage Trust** logo.

Some of the trees are grouped and their labels are on "lecterns", with the label pointing towards the tree and the distance in metres at the tip. These can be scanned in the same way as the individual trees and take one to the page of that particular tree on the Braintree & Bocking Public Gardens web site www.bb garden.co.uk, where there is a description of the tree, some points of interest about the species and photographs of the tree through the seasons. On a separate linked page is a short obituary of the person the tree was planted to commemorate. Members of Braintree Camera Club have provided the photographs.

For those who do not have a Smartphone, a booklet can be purchased from the Garden's Coffeehouse or Braintree Museum for £5, which gives exactly the same information and is in the form of a guided tour of the trees in the Gardens.

Today, the Gardens provide the only area of open space and outdoor leisure with facilities in the Town Centre. Thanks to the Tree Identification Project funded by the **Essex Heritage Trust** visitors to the Gardens can learn more about the trees by scanning the labels on a stake or on a lectern and accessing the Garden's web-site. It is to be hoped that the scheme will be used by community groups for treasure hunts, orienteering, and quizzes.

The Gardens are open every day of the year, except Christmas day, from 0830 to dusk.

Tony Dunn
Volunteer Fundraiser

THE MALDON SOCIETY

Equipment for photographic archive collection

The Maldon Society was founded in October 1957 and now, well over 50 years later, continues to thrive. The original aim of the Society was to promote and preserve the historical heritage of this unique town of Maldon. This objective is still our driving force today. We are a non-profit making organisation consisting of, currently, 74 members, with an Executive Committee of seven.

Over the years we have provided and been responsible for the following:

- Several Blue Plaques around the Town
- The setting up of a website giving a good range of local information (www.maldonsoc.org)
- The assembling of a photographic archive display in the Maeldune Heritage Centre in the heart of the Town
- The liaising with Town and District Councils regarding planning applications
- The holding of monthly public meetings with talks on a wide variety of subjects relevant to Maldon and the area
- The provision of an updated Town map outside All Saints Church in the High Street.
- And many more activities.....

Our monthly public meetings are generally popular and well attended, having been advertised around the town with bright orange posters, as well as notices in local papers and magazines, the website etc. The subjects for the illustrated talks are diverse but usually Essex or Maldon based. This year's programme contains such titles as "Memories of Maldon, reminiscences from local residents", "Postcards of Maldon in the 1st World War" and "The history of Salt workings in the Blackwater Estuary". Until recently we did not have our own projector or screen but had to borrow from other organisations. Now, with the generous assistance of the **Essex Heritage Trust** we have purchased our own – and with our new larger screen, the illustrated talks are even more enjoyable!

In part of the Maeldune Heritage Centre, just off the High Street, we have the Maldon Society Photographic Archive display, of which we are very proud! Over recent years we have been given, or loaned, hundreds of photographs and drawings of Maldon, past and present.

This material is scanned, put onto discs, and then displayed via a media centre on a wide screen TV and shown as a continuously changing display. There is written information available giving details and the origins of the pictures.

Members of the committee do the scanning and have been using their own personal equipment. However, following our grant application and its acceptance, we have been able to buy two new up-to date scanners which have been put to immediate use. The Society continues to be offered new collections of photographs which we are delighted to display to all those visitors and residents of Maldon who call in to the Heritage Centre. The **Essex Heritage Trust's** plaque is now displayed adjacent to our photographic exhibits.

As a Society, we are extremely grateful for the funding for both our meetings equipment and for the two new photographic scanners.

Wendy Howell
Secretary



Income and expenditure may be summarised as follows:	2014/15 £'000	2013/14 £'000
Income from investments	57	60
Subscriptions, Donations and Legacy received	8	5
Aggregate income	65	65
Less: Administrative costs	9	18
Available for grants	56	47
Grants (Net)	70	44
Net Deficit/Income for the year	- 14	3
Realised and Unrealised gains less losses on investments	64	58
Increase in the value of the Trust's funds	50	61
Value of the Trust's funds - at the beginning of the year	1,518	1,457
- at the end of the year	1,568	1,518

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 2015, 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 400 grants, totalling over £900,000.

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.

Trustees

Chairman: Mr J Douglas-Hughes OBE DL **Managing Trustee:** Mr B J Moody

Honorary Treasurer: Mr P J Mamelok DL FCA

Lord Petre, HM Lord Lieutenant of Essex

Councillor N Hume, Chairman, Essex County Council,

Dr J Bettley JP DL FSA Mrs S Brice Mr M F Pertwee Mr R H Wollaston

Councillor K Twitchen OBE

Address: Cressing Temple, Braintree, Essex, CM77 8PD **Telephone:** 01376 585794
Fax: 03330 133991 **Email:** mail@essexheritagetrust.co.uk **Registered Charity No:** 802317

