



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2025

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Dear Friends and Donors

Thank you for your continuing support of Essex Heritage Trust. The Trustees met recently to discuss various projects. This was the second meeting of the Trust's financial year and we discussed seven applications. Here are the projects for which we awarded a grant:

St John the Evangelist Church, Chelmsford



The project is to restore the clock face of the St John's Tower Clock. In July 2024 Essex Heritage Trust supported this church to improve its facilities and provide Heritage Information Boards.

The Trustees approved a grant of £5,000

University of Essex, Colchester

This is a pilot project to create an archive of interviews with volunteers in community organisations recording their histories and motivation in becoming involved, especially in an organisation's early days. Interviews are planned with volunteers from three organisations – The Outhouse, an LGBTQ+ support group, Healthwatch Essex and RAMA, which supports refugees and migrants. The interviews will concentrate on personal experiences.

The recordings will be added to ERO's online catalogue as a resource for researchers, along with transcripts.

This will be a valuable contribution to the recorded history of organisations at the centre of important recent social and cultural trends.

The Trustees approved a grant of £6,000

Holy Trinity Church, Colchester



The tower of Holy Trinity Church, right in the heart of the city, is the oldest surviving structure in Colchester, dating from c. 1000AD. It is currently closed and undergoing some repair works to the roof to ensure the building is watertight.

We are being asked to fund a specific heritage part of this large project, the relocation of the Gilbert Monument within the building.

The Trustees approved a grant of £5,000

Colchester Castle Museum, Colchester



Various intaglios from Colchester Museums' collection. Each found in various sites across Colchester. Left to right: The mythical hero Meleager, an ox and the Roman god Bonus Eventus (one of several gods of good fortune).

This project will use CT scanning to digitise selected Roman intaglios from Colchester's collections. Roman intaglios were often on gemstones and so small that the detail is invisible to the human eye.

The scanning will enable enlarged 3D replicas to be made for handling (eg in schools or museum sessions) and also holofan virtual displays. If successful, this approach could be widened to other fragile objects in the collection to enhance accessibility and interpretation.

The Trustees approved a grant of £4,000

The Cirdan Sailing Trust



Queen Galadriel is the flagship of The Cirdan Sailing Trust, which arranges sailing experiences for young people, often with special needs. The ship, a Baltic Trader, was built in 1937 and has been owned by the Trust since 1983. It is based in Maldon, accommodates groups of up to 16 people on voyages around the coast and will spend summer 2026 operating from Fambridge Marina.

This winter the programme of refurbishment covers repairs to the masts, and also the replacement of the port aft bulwarks and stanchions, the originals now being rotten. The starboard bulwarks were replaced last year.

The Trustees approved a grant of £10,000

St Mary's Church, Little Bromley



This Church is owned by The Church Conservation Trust. St Mary's is Listed Grade II*. The oldest artefacts in the church are the two medieval bells c1410 by Robert Burford of London. The bells are currently out of action due to misalignment of the tenor headstock. All the fittings from the 1890's now need renewal. Two 19c bells need tuning and extensive carpentry repairs are needed to the frame.

The bell restoration project costs have increased greatly since their application to us in 2024, when we made a promise of £2,500.

The Trustees approved a top-up grant of £7,500

Essex Heritage Trust Annual Meeting

This year's meeting was held on 11th September 2025 at our historic home Cressing Temple Barns.

Our guests enjoyed a self-tour of the Tudor walled garden followed by an excellent talk and slideshow about the restoration of the walled garden over the last 30 years.

The meeting also heard a report on the variety of projects the Trust has supported since it was founded in 1989. Essex Heritage Trust continues optimistically into its 37th year. Preserving, understanding and appreciating our heritage will always be important and will always be challenged by other priorities for time and money. We only have this one priority, which is why what we do will always be important.

Thank you to all those who attended, and we look forward to you joining us again next September at a different location.

Next round of applications

The Trustees' next meeting to consider grants will be in March 2026. The closing date for applications will be 27th January 2026. If you are working on or know of a project that might qualify, we would be interested to discuss it with you in good time for you to submit an application. To make an enquiry please contact Sharon Hill at mail@essexheritagetrust.co.uk

If you would like more information about the Trust and some longer reports written by successful applicants about the results of their projects, please visit our website at: www.essexheritagetrust.co.uk

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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