



## NEWSLETTER SPRING 2026

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Dear Friends and Donors

In keeping with our normal procedures, the Trustees met early in March to discuss the current project applications. This was the final meeting of the Trust's financial year and thirteen applications were appraised. The Trustees wish to extend their gratitude for your continuing support, which helps us to continue awarding grants and protecting the heritage of Essex.

Here listed are the projects for which a grant was awarded:

**Holy Trinity Pleshey PCC - Evaluation by excavation of the site of the Collegiate Church and College of Canons of Pleshey, Essex.**

The PCC of Holy Trinity Church in Pleshey have a planned project to evaluate the site of the former Collegiate Church and the College of Canons of Pleshey. An experienced archaeologist, Simon Coxall, has indicated that the site is much larger than the area covered by the existing church, and this project is to further excavate the site.

A team of archaeologists from Essex and Cambridge will be involved in the work, taking over three weeks to complete.

**The Trustees approved a grant of £2,500**

## **All Saints' Church, Rettendon – Restoration of Memorial**

There is a magnificent marble memorial in the church to Sir Edmund Humphrey, standing some 5.5 metres high, which is in good structural condition. The problem is that there is a roosting site for bats (apparently three different species!!) behind the memorial. The bats' urine and guano is having a damaging effect on the memorial, and there is also 300 years of ingrained surface dirt.

The project will entail cleaning and conserving the memorial and the marble pavement in front of it. The memorial will then be waxed to protect against damage from the bat excrement. It is hoped that the repairs can be carried out by early 2027, to mark the three hundred years since Sir Humphrey's death.

**The Trustees approved a grant of £5,000**



**All Saints' Church, Rettendon, Essex: Monument to Edmund Humphrey (d.1727)  
by Samuel Chandler.**

## Little Easton Church – Restoration of Monument

Little Easton church has some fine monuments, one of which, dating to c.1400, has suffered extensive damage due to damp affecting the porous clunch stone of which it is made. A detailed proposal of conservation has been prepared by London Stonemasons Ltd.

It is an important example of medieval stonework.



**The Trustees approved a grant of £6,000**

## New Hall School – Royal Coat of Arms Restoration



The Royal Coat of Arms at New Hall school adorns the entrance to the chapel, and the chapel is in regular use by members of the public, as well as by the school.

The Coat of Arms is now in rather poor condition with discolouration, damage and cracking, as well as cracks in the supporting brickwork. Some repair work was carried out in 1999, towards which Essex Heritage Trust made a grant at that time. The school has now engaged Cliveden Conservation Workshop to carry out these new necessary repairs.

**The Trustees approved a grant of £2,500**

**Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome – Exhibition – The First Great Escape**



Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome is a heritage site near Danbury that we have generously supported in the past, with funding for various projects.

This application is for a further exhibit, this time depicting the escape by airmen from Holzminden Prisoner of War Camp in 1918. The exhibit will be set out with objects, images and interpretations, showing how the men managed to escape despite having no tools or training.

**The Trustees approved a grant of £5,000**

**St Mary's Broomfield PCC – Publication - The Stained Glass of Rosemary Rutherford**

Rosemary Rutherford lived and worked in Essex for a large part of her artistic career. She was the daughter of the Revd John F Rutherford, vicar of Broomfield 1929-1956. Many of her stained glass windows are in Essex churches.

A blue plaque has recently been erected on St Leonard's Hall, Broomfield church. She is a largely unknown artist, but both her stained glass and her paintings are worthy of a wider audience, and greater promotion and publicity. Project Rutherford at the church was focussed on her *buon fresco* in the church tower, with the proviso that the life and works of Rosemary Rutherford be further promoted. This book goes towards this undertaking.

**The Trustees approved a grant of £3,000**

## **The Conservation Foundation's Heritage Trees Programme – Essex Mulberry Tree Heritage**

The Conservation Foundation's Heritage Tree Program carried out the Morus Londinium project in 2016, surveying mulberry trees (*Morus Nigra*) and associated heritage in the Greater London area within the M25. They are now seeking to expand the survey, ultimately to cover all regions of the British Isles. Essex had the first Roman capital, and mulberries were introduced by them, so it is a fitting place to expand the survey. Essex also has the only commercial mulberry orchard in the country (at Tiptree).

There are about 30 sites already identified in Essex. It is planned to engage with local residents and associations and with schools, to help research and uncover the history associated with the trees. The project will be overseen by Dr. Peter Coles, a historian, writer and photographer. The results will be published on the Morus Londinium website (<https://www.moruslondinium.org>) and across social media.

### **The Trustees approved a grant of £2,500**

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](http://www.essexheritagetrust.co.uk)

## **Essex Heritage Trust Annual Meeting**

This year's meeting will be held in September 2026.

Further details will be emailed to you during August. We hope you will be able to join us.

## **Volunteer Opportunities - Can you help us continue our work?**

We are keen to recruit two volunteers to help us manage the Trust. If you have some relevant experience this could be an ideal way to further your interest in preserving and promoting the County's heritage.

### **Background:**

Essex Heritage Trust was created in 1990 to award grants for projects which conserve, explain and make accessible the County's heritage. Since its founding the Trust has awarded over 600 grants totalling more than £1.5m. Trustees meet three times a year to discuss applications.

The Trust is inviting volunteers with a keen interest in the County's heritage to enable the Trust to continue to devote all its financial resources to awarding grants.

## **VACANCY - Volunteer Financial Administrator**

### **Purpose of role:**

To provide assistance to the Hon Treasurer and Trustees in managing the Trust's income and expenditure and financial records.

### **Main activities:**

Keeping financial records and helping prepare the annual accounts.

Managing the annual income and expenditure budget.

Collecting supporters' subscriptions and donations.

Managing the Trust's bank accounts.

Providing financial updates for the Trustees.

### **Commitment of time:**

Up to four hours per week, but flexible during the year following the grants cycle.

### **Location:**

The Trust's office is at Cressing Temple and the role is based there, but it should be possible to work from home for some of the time.

## **VACANCY - Volunteer Grants and Supporters Administrator**

### **Purpose of role:**

To assist the Managing Trustee in managing grants, promoting and encouraging support for the Trust.

### **Main activities:**

Advising enquirers on how to apply, timing and conditions of grants, and whether an application would be in line with the Trust's objects.

Processing applications through the stages of preliminary consideration by the Management Committee, discussion by the Trustees, notification of result, payment and follow-up of results.

Keeping records of grants and archiving appropriate material.

Regularly communicating with supporters and helping organise the Trust's Annual Meeting.

Producing promotional material and on-line communications to encourage applications for grants and to attract new supporters.

### **Commitment of time:**

Up to four hours per week, but flexible during the year following the grants cycle.

### **Location:**

The Trust's office is at Cressing Temple and the role is based there, but it should be possible to work from home for some of the time.

If you feel you can help with these important roles, please contact:  
Mrs Sharon Hill by email [mail@essexheritagetrust.co.uk](mailto:mail@essexheritagetrust.co.uk)

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