



NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2026

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CRESSING TEMPLE BRAINTREE ESSEX CM77 8PD

Dear Friends and Donors

In keeping with our normal procedures, the Trustees met early in July to discuss the current project applications. This was the first meeting of the Trust's financial year and five 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:

St Mary's Church, Great Bentley – Bell restoration



Bells, Tenor & Treble

The current building is mainly constructed from iron puddingstone. The nave and chancel date to circa 1130-40, with an extension, crenellated tower and porch added in 14th century, although the porch was redone in the 18th century.

The bells date from 1683 to 1938, and there are now 8. They require removal and retuning plus replacement pulleys, bearings, ropes and strengthening of the bell frame.

The bells are rung regularly by an active band of ringers and visitors, as well as for teaching. The church has a regular congregation and special services and events are held throughout the year.

The Trustees approved a grant of £6,000. This partly provides for payment of VAT now that the government's Listed Places of Worship scheme has been closed.

Sturmer Local History Group - Publication

The group have spent ten years compiling information about the history of Sturmer and have now completed a 100-page book "Spotlights on the History of Sturmer".

They plan to print it this year and circulate a free copy to every household in the village. It is a good example of how a local group can help strengthen a sense of community by involving local people in exploring the past.

The Trustees approved a grant of £250

Little Yeldham, Tilbury Juxta Clare & Ovington Parish Council – The Pump House, North End



The Pump house is a thatched wooden structure in the centre of North End dating back to approximately 1850. Currently it houses a bench and a discontinued water pump. It is central to North End and a focal point for the village.

The roof needs re-thatching and some restoration work is required to the structure.

The Trustees approved a grant of £3,500 for work to the wooden structure.

Epping Forest District Museum – Acquisition of Coins



The grant is to acquire from the current owners a hoard of 24 coins, composed of 20 silver Roman Denarii, one silver Cunobelin, an Iron Age coin and one silver radiate found whilst metal detecting with permission in Nazeing, Essex.

The coins depict various Roman symbols and motifs, such as the head of Apollo, the helmeted bust of Mars and the heads of some Caesars such as Augustus, Tiberius, Gaius and Nero.

Epping Museum is keen to acquire and display them.

The Trustees approved a grant of £1,500

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

Essex Heritage Trust Annual Meeting

This year's meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd September 2026 at Boreham House, Main Road, Boreham, Chelmsford. CM3 3HY
Invitations will be emailed to you shortly. We hope you will be able to join us.

Festival of Essex Archaeology & Heritage

Did you see us at Cressing Temple Barns on 23rd July?

Over 1,400 people attended this free event to bring the county's past to life through a programme of family activities, museum exhibitions, archaeological organisations, societies, re-enactment groups and falconry displays.



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