

Colchester Archaeological Group



Vol. 51 2011



Ida McMaster at the top of Mount Bures, talking to Carenza Lewis (see pp.38-9).

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Colchester Archaeological Group

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Anna Moore

Although having been a member of the CAG committee for a number of years, it is only since becoming Chairman last year that I have fully appreciated quite what an active group we are. Our constitution states the aims of CAG are "to educate and to promote a knowledge of and interest in archaeology, both generally and with particular reference to Colchester and District." and I am confident that we have spent another year doing just that. It seems that there is a well developed thirst for knowledge of all things archaeological in Colchester, which is perhaps unsurprising, given the town's foundation and subsequent history.

We aim to provide something for everyone in pursuit of that interest, and seem to succeed, in so far as most of our activities are well supported. I am very pleased to note that attendances at the winter lectures increased to an average of 62 last season, peaking at 78 for one of the talks. The coach trips to the British Museum for their special exhibitions 'The Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead' and 'Treasures of Afghanistan' were fully sold out, as was the day out to Waltham Abbey. We also fitted two evening walks into the Summer Programme. A highlight of the summer's activities was a visit to Gestingthorpe to view the Roman site and museum, by kind invitation of Ashley Cooper and his father. I was particularly pleased that the residential weekend was revived, with a very interesting trip to Bath and the West Midlands. Finally, a study day on flint-knapping was held, with a professional knapper demonstrating the manufacture of stone tools.

The fieldwork team, under Don Goodman, has been very active, with three separate excavation sites open at various times throughout the year. The Tudor Hunting Lodge site at Wormingford has closed down after four years, but work continues on the nearby brick kiln site. We have also been heavily involved in the Wormingford Historic Landscape Project, on behalf of the Dedham Vale AONB and Managing a Masterpiece, and we have carried out a fieldwalk at Bures for the same organisation. On behalf of the trustees of Markshall, Coggeshall, the Group has supplied a Site Director and several excavators to help in the search for the footprint of the Jacobean mansion.

Don Goodman has decided to retire as co-ordinator of fieldwork and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his work in this capacity. He has been organising and directing excavations and fieldwalks for many years now and has done so with unfailing enthusiasm and commitment. During this time, the Group has enjoyed something of a 'golden age' of fieldwork, and many members have been introduced to the joys of digging under his guidance.

We maintain a close relationship with the Colchester Archaeological Trust and have been pleased to support their proposed development of the Army Education Centre as a Visitor Centre and new premises for CAT. The Roman circus has been the most exciting archaeological discovery in Colchester for many years and we look forward to seeing how it will be displayed and interpreted in the new centre.

EDITORIAL

Pat Brown

This year has seen the Group busily engaged in active (physical) archaeology, and this can leave little time for writing about what we have been doing. However, individual members have done some interesting and innovative things, such as experimenting with woad, as you can read. Next year we should be able to spend more time reflecting on and writing about the exciting work we have been doing, including the comprehensive landscape survey of Wormingford, location of one of our digs.

Don't forget that you can see the photos in glorious colour if you opt to have the CD version.

YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS CLUB

Report by Barbara Butler

Colchester Young Archaeologists are a group of more than 30 members with a waiting list hoping to join in January. Meetings usually begin with discussion of our favourite historical period and it is interesting to note how many are keen on the relatively recent World War II period.

Egypt was the theme of our January 2011 meeting, with some members and leaders disappearing under a "mummy" wrapping of toilet rolls, enthusiastically applied. The Roman invasion theme in February resulted in imaginative role play and group activities, which resulted in the young people thinking through the impact of the Roman army in Britain.

Archaeology from the air and studying maps in March was followed by visits to the Roman theatre remains and theatrical mask making in May. A study of the medieval churches and gleaning information about local people from monuments and gravestones was the June activity. This was followed by such a wet excursion to the Wormingford dig in July, that plan B was implemented and the finds washing and interpreting was very much enjoyed by the group.

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

Report by John Camp

The CBA year can be described as one of change and community archaeology.

The CBA has had its grant from the British Academy cut to £306,000 this year reducing to zero by 2015/6. This has meant a total reappraisal of its spending with some redundancies, including Don Henson, the Head of Education, who is leaving after 17 years. Whilst the CBA is looking for alternative funding and expanding its partnerships with other organisations, it is looking to grow substantially its membership base. If you are not already a member you can join for £29 which includes 6 issues of "British Archaeology", worth £27 alone. Their website is www.britarch.ac.uk.

Another change affects the regional organisation in our area. The Mid Anglia Region was formally wound up on 16 April and merged with the East Anglia, formerly covering Norfolk and Suffolk. This will give a stronger regional organisation for the benefit of both members and archaeology. The meeting was followed by a very informative tour of the earthworks that surround Anglesey Abbey. These include fish ponds, a flushing system for the Abbey drains and a partial moat.

The CBA has been focusing on community archaeology, nothing new to this group as we have participated in such activities for the past 4 years with the excavations at Wormingford. The Winter meeting in March had Carenza Lewis talking about her involvement with community archaeology and she has, as we know, been involved in the excavations at Mount Bures. The CBA itself has launched a series of bursaries with HLF aid to allow archaeologists and experienced volunteers to develop skills for a career by supporting archaeology groups and projects. An example is a placement with the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments in Scotland working on 18th & 19th Century settlements as well as working with schools.

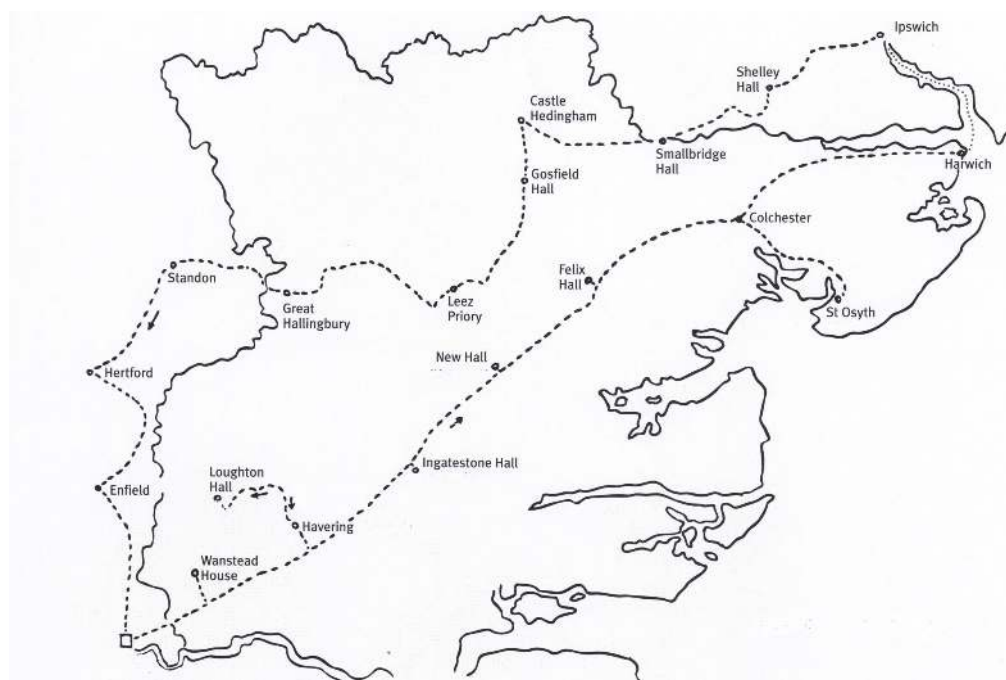
It remains to be seen how the CBA rises to the challenges of budget cuts and the threat to the historic environment posed by proposed changes in the planning laws.

THE 'PROGRESS' OF QUEEN ELIZABETH I IN 1561

The year 2011 marked the 450th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth I's journey through Essex, Suffolk, Hertfordshire and Middlesex. This journey has great local significance, as although the Queen visited Essex on a number of occasions, it is the only time that she is known to have visited Colchester, and, more importantly for Colchester Archaeological Group, she also visited Smallbridge Hall, on the Suffolk side of the River Stour opposite Wormingford. Whilst staying there, she may well have visited the Hunting Lodge on Lodge Hills, Wormingford, the foundations of which have been under excavation by Group members since 2007.

Both her grandfather Henry VII and her father Henry VIII left London on occasions during the summer months, taking a small number of household members with them and favouring monasteries and Royal Palaces for overnight accommodation, but Elizabeth elevated travel to a new dimension, planning journeys out of London every year of her 44-year reign. Some of these were for just a few days at a time, but the longest, in 1575, was for nearly four-and-a-half months. On 23 of these journeys she took the entire Court with her, and these are now known as 'progresses'. The precise reasons for these 'progresses' have been long debated. Some historians attribute them to the Queen's love of travel, desire for new places in which to hunt and an opportunity to avoid London in summer when the plague was at its height; on the other hand there were long periods in which the Queen did not travel, including many summers. Others say that it was a way of helping fund the Court by using the hospitality of the nobility; however the cost to the Exchequer was huge, which led to many complaints from members of the Privy Council, especially Lords Burghley and Walsingham. They have also been seen as opportunities for the Queen to make herself visible to the population at large; on the other hand, she visited less than half the English counties, so large numbers of the population would never have benefited. Whatever the reasons, one thing was paramount, and that was 'business as usual'. Uninterrupted government of the country was the highest priority, which is why the entire Court, including the Privy Council, accompanied the Queen. Up to 200 people could be involved, and the upheaval was enormous.

Much of what we now know about the 'progresses' is contained in the three volumes of 'The Progresses, Public Processions &c. of Queen Elizabeth I' by John Nichols, published in the early 1820's. Nichols was an antiquarian who amassed over 250 manuscripts and over 850 early printed books relating to the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, and although he is guilty of a number of errors, par-



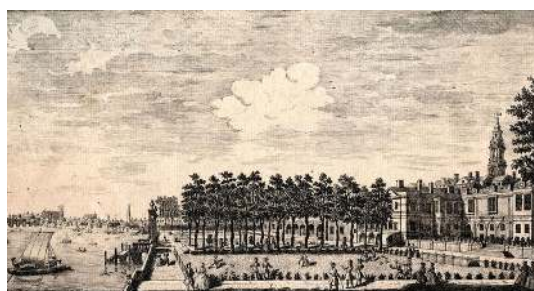
The route of the 1561 'progress'

ticularly in his knowledge of geography, his work is an invaluable source of information. For the 1561 'progress', we have the additional good fortune that the Royal Accounts for that year have survived. Thomas Weldon, Cofferer to the Royal Household, meticulously recorded the dates and places where the Queen stayed, how much was spent from the Privy Purse and the items on which the money was spent. This article is based on Weldon's Royal Accounts.

The 1561 'progress', the third undertaken since the Queen's accession in 1558 at the age of 25, was far more ambitious than the previous two. The first, in 1559, had visited Dartford, Cobham, Eltham, Nonsuch and Hampton Court, lasting 24 days. The second, in 1560, had visited Winchester, 'Basing' and Windsor, lasting 25 days. The third would visit 23 locations (*see Appendix A*), and last 68 Days. The journey started on Thursday 10th July 1561 at the London Charterhouse, where the Queen stayed for three nights with its owner, Lord North. She then went to Somerset House in the Strand for one night.



The London Charterhouse



Somerset House

On Monday 14th July she set out for Essex, heading for Havering Palace via Wanstead House. Nichols records a contemporary report that the roads through the City had been "renewed with fresh sand and gravel for her equipage". Houses were "hung with cloth of arras and rich carpets, and silk" and Cheapside was "hung with cloth of gold and silver, and velvets of all colours". The cavalcade consisted of firstly "serving men riding; then the Queen's Pensioners, Gentlemen, Knights, Lords, the Sergeant of Arms, the heralds in their coat armour; then the Lord Hunsdon (*the Lord Chamberlain*) bearing the sword; and then came the Queen's Grace, and her footmen richly habited; the Ladies and Gentlewomen followed; after all, the Lords and Knight's men in their master's liveries." The Queen was, of course, on horseback, along with the majority of the party. Some would, however, have been carried in wagons with wooden bench seats. Given the poor quality of the roads at the time, it would have been a very uncomfortable experience, so the preferred length of journey without a break was around 10 miles. After two nights at Havering Palace with John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, and one night at Pirgo, a former Royal Palace owned by her second cousin Lord John Grey, also located in Havering, the party travelled to Loughton Hall, to stay for one night with Sir Thomas Darcy, before returning to Havering Palace for a further night. On Sunday 19th July they travelled on to Ingatestone Hall, the seat of Sir William Petre, staying two nights.



Ingatestone Hall



New Hall

The next stop would be New Hall, Boreham (near Chelmsford). This was another Royal Palace, occupied at the time by the Duke of Sussex. The Queen stayed there for five nights, before travelling to Colchester via Felix Hall near Kelvedon, arriving in Colchester on Saturday 26th July. It is not certain where the Queen stayed in the town, but it was most likely to have been St John's Abbey, the home of Sir Thomas Lucas. The cost of entertaining the Queen whilst she stayed in the town was borne by the Corporation, as would also be the case at Harwich and Ipswich. The bonus for the towns was that they could petition the Queen for assistance with the local economy, especially with regard to harbours, market and industries, as well as adjudicating in local disputes. Curiously, Morant makes no mention of the visit, stating "The first years of her reign do not furnish us with any occurrences, particularly relating to this place." After staying for four nights in Colchester, the Queen left for one night at St. Osyth's Priory as the guest of Lord John Darcy, before returning to Colchester



St. John's Abbey Gatehouse



St Osyth's Priory

for a further night. Leaving Colchester again on Saturday 2nd August, the Queen travelled to Harwich. It is not known where she stayed in the town, although it was said to be "in the middle of the High Street". The Churchwarden's accounts show that on 31st July, Nicholas Panton of Ipswich was paid 15s "for settinge of y^e quenes maiestes gret armes of yngland apon y^e towne gates". Further payments were made on 3rd August "to y^e tromppetars 6s 8d and to them y^t dyd bare y^e bottells 6s 8d". After staying for three nights she left for Ipswich, almost certainly by boat, and thus avoiding an arduous road journey well in excess of 20 miles (although the majority of her party would have had to have made the trip via Manningtree). Once in Ipswich we again do not know where she stayed, but we do know how the town paid for the visit. The Borough records show that a special tax was levied on all citizens: "All the inhabitants of the towne shall be assessed to the costs and charges for the Entertainment of the Queen at her next coming to the towne....and such that shall not pay their assessment shall be disfranchised." The visit was not a wholly happy one. During her six-night stay in the town, the Queen "took a great dislike at the imprudent behaviour of many of the ministers and readers" with "little or no order observed in the public service, and few or none wearing the surplice. And the Bishop of Norwich himself was thought remiss, and winked at schismatics. But more particularly she was offended with the clergy's marriage". The upshot was an order dated 9th August 1561 "to forbid all resort of women to the lodgings of Cathedrals or Colleges".

On Monday 11th August the Queen left Ipswich en route for Smallbridge Hall, with a stop at Shelley Hall, the home of a distant relative, Sir Edmund Tilney. Smallbridge Hall had recently been rebuilt, and was the home of William Waldegrave (the third of that name) and his wife of about one year, Elizabeth Mildmay. William was only 21 or 22 years old at this time, and it is probably true to say that it was the location of the Hall that made it a chosen stopping-place, not the family. William's staunchly Catholic cousin Edward was, at this very time, confined in the Tower of London accused both of treason and for allowing Mass to be celebrated in his house. Local information about the visit to Smallbridge Hall has been provided in the main by the book 'Wormingford, an English Village' by Winifred Beaumont and Ann Taylor, a copy of which can be found in the CAG library. Indeed, this book provided the historical background for the CAG publication 'The Lost Tudor Hunting Lodge at Wormingford'. It is now an appropriate time to correct some of the errors contained in the book. Firstly, the Queen did not come to Smallbridge from Colchester. Secondly, the Queen did not travel with a dozen coaches (a Royal coach-builder would not be appointed until 1564). Thirdly, there was no second visit by the Queen in 1578/9.



Smallbridge Hall (the surviving Tudor Wing)



The Tudor Rose window in Church Hall, Wormingford

Queen Elizabeth did not give presents to her hosts, she bestowed favours, and there is a tradition that one of these favours was permission to install a stained-glass window of a Tudor Rose to commemorate the visit. There is one such window in Church Hall, Wormingford, a property acquired by the Waldegraves in 1578, which may have originally been installed at Smallbridge Hall. Miller Christy located a further eight similar (but not identical) windows in Essex in 1917, only one being in its likely original location.

As with the other houses in which she stayed, we have no knowledge of the Queen's entertainment whilst at Smallbridge Hall, but it is not unreasonable to suggest that she took part in, or observed, a deer hunt. The Waldegraves owned three deer parks in the vicinity of the Hall. Firstly, the medieval park belonging to Smallbridge Manor, on the Suffolk side of the River Stour. Secondly, the medieval park belonging to Wormingford Manor, behind Wormingford Hall. Thirdly, the probably Tudor park adjoining the River Stour on the Essex side. Hunting could have taken place in any of these parks, and it is in the latter park that the CAG excavations of a Hunting Lodge have taken place. The Queen stayed at Smallbridge Hall for three nights. The two full days spent there, Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th August, cost the Privy Purse £245 14s 2d (about £56,000 in today's money). Included in this figure was £13,300 for 'kitchen', £10,200 for 'stabling', £8,560 for 'buttery', £7,450 for 'poultry', £4,540 for 'rewards', £3,570 for 'wardrobe', £3,420 for 'steward's department', £2,030 for 'scullery', £1,280 for 'general expenses of the royal court', £454 for 'salt meats' and £204 for 'charity donations' (all in today's money). There are no Waldegrave family records to show how much they spent on entertaining the Queen and all the guests that they would have undoubtedly invited, but the figure is likely to have been substantial. The only other record of her stay is a letter written from Smallbridge by William Cecil, the Queen's Secretary, to Archbishop Parker, dated 12th August, in which he observes that "the Lady Katherine Grey is known to be big with child by the Earl of Hertford. She is committed to the Tower, and he sent for home."



Hedingham Castle



Gosfield Hall

Leaving Smallbridge on Thursday 14th August, the Queen travelled to Castle Hedingham, where she stayed for five nights, again with John De Vere, Earl of Oxford, before carrying on to Gosfield Hall to stay with Lady Maltravers. After two nights at Gosfield Hall, the Queen next stopped at Leez Priory, the home of Lord Rich. King Henry VIII had given Leez Priory to Rich, then his Lord Chancellor, after the Dissolution of the Monasteries, and Rich had made it his main home.



Leez Priory



Standon

After staying four nights, the Queen left Leez Priory on Monday 25th August, travelling west to Great Hallingbury (aka Hallingbury Morley) to spend two nights with Lord Morley. On the way back to London, the Royal Party stayed for three nights at Standon with Sir Ralph Sadleir, before an extended stop of seventeen days at Hertford Castle, another Royal Palace. After breaking the journey at Hatfield Palace, the final stop was for six days at Elsyng Palace, Enfield. The Queen and her retinue finally arrived back at St. James' Palace on Monday 22nd September. The 68 days on the road had cost the Privy Purse £8,257 8s 9¾d, approaching £2 million in today's money.



Hertford Castle



Hatfield Palace

There would be no 'progress' the following year. Much of the Queen's time was taken up with the 'problem' of her cousin and rival for the throne, Mary, Queen of Scots, and later in the year, Elizabeth contracted smallpox, which proved to be life-threatening. 'Progresses' resumed in 1564 and continued virtually every year until 1579. From then on they were very infrequent, as major affairs of state took precedence, including the trial and execution of Mary, Queen of Scots, war with Spain and the Spanish Armada, and the rebellion of the Earl of Essex. In the year 1600, when the Queen was aged 67, she decided to spend some days away from Nonsuch Palace, and her ministers tried to dissuade her. She is reported to have responded that "the old could stay behind if they wished, the young and able would go with her". There would be two further fully-fledged 'progresses' in 1601 and 1602, the last years of the Queen's life. The final journey appears to have been re-scheduled, as it is recorded that "notwithstanding her earnest affection to go her Progress, out of compassion for her entourage, she had agreed to take heed of the unseasonable weather".

SOURCES

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APPENDIX A - NOTES ON THE HOUSES VISITED (*ITALICS DENOTE TUDOR HOUSE DEMOLISHED*)

1. CHARTERHOUSE - Former Carthusian Monastery, built 1371. After the dissolution it was given to Lord North, who converted it into a Tudor Mansion. Bought in 1611 by Thomas Sutton, 'the richest commoner in England', who endowed it as a charitable school for boys and a home for elderly men. The school moved out in 1872, but the care home remains to this day.
2. SOMERSET HOUSE - *Tudor Mansion completed 1551. Re-constructed 1605 and re-named Denmark House. Demolished 1775. Current house built 1776-96, with Victorian wings added. Now houses the Courtauld Gallery and the Music Department of King's College, amongst others.*
3. WANSTEAD HOUSE - *Medieval Manor House acquired by Henry VII as a Royal Hunting Lodge, given to Lord Richard Rich (see Lee Priory) in 1543. Demolished and re-built as a grand Palladian Mansion in 1715. Demolished 1825.*
4. HAVERING PALACE - *A Royal Palace dating from the C13, with a newer block built in 1576/7. In poor condition by mid-C17 and bought by the Earl of Lindsey who restored it, re-naming it Havering House. A ruin by 1719, with no trace showing by 1819.*
5. PIRGO PALACE - *Acquired and re-built by Henry VIII in 1541. Given to Lord Grey by Elizabeth I in 1558. Demolished 1814. Re-built as Pirgo House in 1852, and demolished 1941.*
6. LOUGHTON HALL - *Owned by Mary Tudor in 1553. Demolished in 1878 and replaced by current Queen Anne-style building, now a care home.*
7. INGATESTONE HALL - Tudor Mansion, built 1539 and altered 1566 by Sir William Petre. New wing added around 1770. House still owned by the Petre family.
8. NEW HALL Tudor Mansion, acquired from Thomas Boleyn and re-built in brick by Henry VIII in 1517. He re-named it Beaulieu, but it reverted to New Hall in 1573, when Elizabeth I granted it to the Earl of Sussex. It was converted to a Catholic school in 1642, and remains so today.
9. FELIX HALL - *Given by Henry VIII to Sir Thomas Long in 1539. Demolished in 1710 by the then owners, the Abdy family, and re-built in classical style by 1715. Further extended in 1750 but restored to its 1715 proportions in 1939. Almost completely destroyed by fire in 1940.*
10. ST. JOHN'S ABBEY - *Former Benedictine Monastery, founded in 1086. The Gatehouse, the only surviving building, was built in the early C15. The Monastic buildings were converted to a house after the Dissolution, by persons unknown. In 1548, it was acquired by the Lucas family. The house was demolished in the late C17.*
11. ST. OSYTH'S PRIORY - Founded around 1120 as a priory for Austin Canons, becoming an Augustinian Abbey around 1200. Granted to Sir Thomas Darcy at the Dissolution, and converted to a mansion between 1553 and 1558.
12. HARWICH - *Unknown location*

APPENDIX A (cont.)

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 13. IPSWICH | - <i>Unknown location</i> |
| 14. SHELLEY HALL | - The remaining portion of an early Tudor mansion, built by Sir Philip Tilney around 1519. |
| 15. SMALLBRIDGE HALL | - South wing of a large mid-Tudor mansion, built between 1555 and 1560 by William (later Sir William) Waldegrave. House mostly demolished in early C18, but East and West wings rebuilt around 1874 and further restored in 1932. |
| 16. HEDINGHAM CASTLE | - Keep of Norman Castle, built around 1140 by Aubrey De Vere, whose son was created Earl of Oxford. This title became extinct in 1703 with the death of the 20th and last De Vere |
| 17. GOSFIELD HALL | - Originally a Tudor Mansion built in 1545 by Sir John Wentworth. Extensively remodelled in the C18, and restored in the second half of the C19 by the then owner, Samuel Courtauld. |
| 18. LEEZ PRIORY | - Originally an Augustinian Priory, built in 1220. Given to Sir Richard Rich at the Dissolution, who demolished it and built a Tudor Mansion. Greatly reduced in size in 1753. In 1995 it became the first country house in England granted a licence to conduct civil ceremonies. |
| 19. HALLINGBURY
MORLEY | - <i>A Tudor Mansion built in Great Hallingbury by the Morley family. Later renamed Hallingbury Place and demolished in 1823.</i> |
| 20. STANDON | - <i>A Tudor House, built by Sir Ralph Sadleir in 1546. Much altered in the C18 and C19; virtually nothing remains of the original house.</i> |
| 21. HERTFORD CASTLE | - <i>The Gatehouse, built around 1465, is all that remains of the original Norman Castle, which itself was converted into a Royal Palace by Henry VIII. After the death of Elizabeth I it ceased to be a Palace and became a ruin, before being demolished. The Gatehouse is now the home of Hertford Town Council.</i> |
| 22. HATFIELD PALACE | - <i>Medieval Bishop's Palace rebuilt in brick in 1480 by the Bishop of Ely. Acquired by Henry VIII in 1538 and granted to Princess Elizabeth in 1549. Acquired by the Cecil family in 1601 and mostly demolished when Hatfield House was built in 1611. Gatehouse and west range survive.</i> |
| 23. ELSYNG PALACE | - <i>Early Tudor Brick Mansion used by Henry VIII as a base for hunting. Partly demolished in 1608 and completely demolished in 1650's. Site re-discovered in 1960's by Enfield Archaeological Society.</i> |

MONEY TOKENS AND A TALE OF THOMAS RENOLDS OF COLCHESTER

Francis Nicholls

Seventeenth century money tokens have been described as money of necessity. They were however, technically an illegal currency. They were issued by traders in England, Wales and Ireland between 1648 and 1679

With a few exceptions, they measured from 14mm to 22mm in diameter and each token was valued at a farthing. They were made from copper or brass and were stamped with pictorial devices and wording appropriate to each individual trader.

The tokens resulted from an acute shortage of low denomination coins. The shortage had come about because it was felt to be below the dignity of a sovereign to issue coinage of any metal which was baser than silver. However, the value of silver had risen sharply during the mid 17C. This resulted in coins being made smaller and smaller in size and consequently inconvenient to use.

The need for small change had already been felt for some considerable time before the issue of tokens in 1648. The continuing reluctance of the monarchy and then the Commonwealth to use base metals for coins, forced traders to come up with some way of continuing with ordinary business. The government was forced to turn a blind eye to what was clearly an illegal but vital necessity.

Eventually, during the reign of Charles II, parliament voted for the introduction of farthings and halfpennies made of copper and at the same time made illegal the use of money tokens.

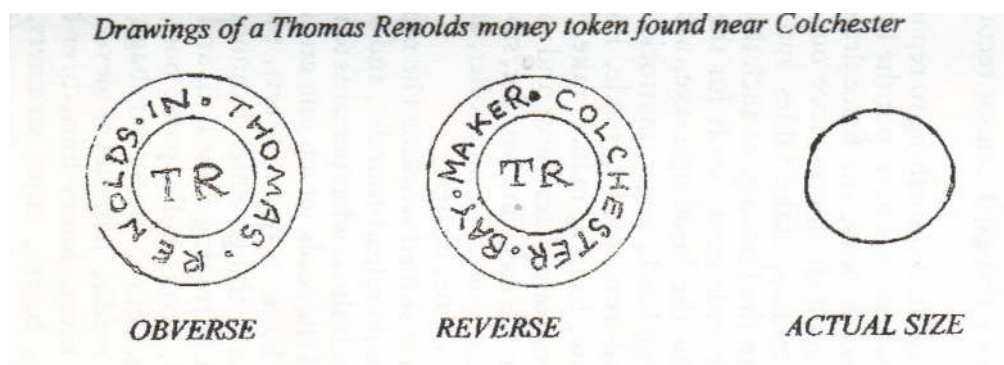
One local trader who issued money tokens was Thomas Renolds of Colchester. Thomas Renolds was a bay maker of considerable wealth. He lived in a 'good brick house without Eastate' and had acquired property in the local area including land at Peldon and houses in the St. Runwalds area. He was Mayor of Colchester in 1654.

However he appears to have been a man who was slow to part with his money! Records show that Thomas Renolds, bay maker of St James' parish had insisted on paying his Dutch weavers in kind instead of money. They eventually resorted to petitioning the Privy Council for relief from 'the oppression of their master'. Renolds however still continued to refuse to pay them proper money. A warrant was then issued and he was committed to the Fleet until such time that he paid double the amount of wages that he had defrauded his employees of, together with costs this he promptly paid.

ADDENDUM

Between submitting the article and the publication of the Bulletin the author and John Lay did a metal detector search of the levelled spoil heaps of the site of the hunting lodge in Wormingford. Amongst the finds was a C17 trade token (the only one found in 4 years of excavation).

It proved to be that of Thomas Renolds, baymaker of Colchester!



A WATCHING BRIEF IN PELDON CHURCHYARD

Don Goodman

Two group members, Denise Hardy and Don Goodman were asked to do a watching brief adjacent to the Bullock Family vault in Peldon churchyard. The vault had collapsed and was being assessed for repair by a builder. The object of the watching brief was to examine the backfill replaced at the time of building the vault and look for any finds of pottery etc. with special reference to any Saxon pottery as evidence of an earlier Saxon church on the site, referred to in the book "A Short History of The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Peldon" by the Revd. Anthony W. Gough, Dip.Th. (Rector of Peldon 1664-1971) The builders' first objective was to locate the entrance of the vault and we were to examine the spoil for finds. The entrance found was via a bricked up doorway to the east end of the vault. The doorway was then broken down to a depth of approx 4 feet, to enable the architect and builder to assess the damage and estimate the cost and method of repair.

FINDS WITHIN THE SPOIL REMOVED BY BUILDER

A large percentage of human bones, including two skulls, these to be re-interred by the Rector. Also found - nails, decayed wood, iron coffin handle, broken masonry, floor tile, glass, and pottery sherds (two Roman) No Saxon pottery was found.

INSIDE THE VAULT

When the vault was opened we were able to see three brick partitions running east/west. The partitions contained much rotted coffin material, and skeletons.

One coffin in the south partition of the vault had a highly decorated coffin plate on the lid, possibly made of copper or brass and maybe in the Rococo style.

The vault was flooded with approximately one foot of water above the remains, and it was assumed this was due to the vault being below the water table or the ingress of rain water through the damaged brick work above.

Interred in the vault, according to the church records, were the Bullock family listed below and indicated on the church grave plan as no 67.

67 Table top tomb, top and south panel broken.

Top: In this vault / lyes SARAH the wife of / SAMUEL BULLOCK of this parish / and four of their children who died / in their infancy / namely / SAMUEL LUFFE BULLOCK / AMMIRITT BULLOCK / RICHARD HARVEY BULLOCK / the other a still born child of which / affliction she languished and died / the 26 February 1777 / and in the 40 year of her age / (-) in this vault lieth / SAMUEL BULLOCK / son of / (broken)L BULLOCK of the above / (broken)AH BULLOCK his wife / died September 16th 1810 / aged 41 years / (broken) this vault also lieth / (-)AMUEL BULLOCK / (-)band to the above / (-)RAH BULLOCK / died Novr. 23rd 1814 / aged 78 years /

West end: In memory of the above / SARAH BULLOCK / *six lines of indistinct verse* /

North side: Firm as the earth the gospel stands / My Lord my hope my trust /

If I am found in Jesus hand / My soul can never be lost /

His honour is engaged to save / The meanest of his (—) / All that his heaven only (—) gave /

His hands see(-) reaper / Nor (-)death nor hell shall (—) / His favour (---) his (-) /

In the (——) love / They must for ever rest /

South side: Sacred to the memory of JANE the wife of / THOMAS GREEN and daughter of SAMUEL BULLOCK / of this parish who departed this life / October 26 1823 aged 56 years / *(Eight lines of indistinct verse follows)* /

CONCLUSION

Our observations revealed, from the large amount disarticulated bones and coffin material in the back fill around the vault, that the builders had little or no respect for earlier burials in the vicinity of the new vault they were building. Discussions are still taking place as to the best method of repair of the vault.

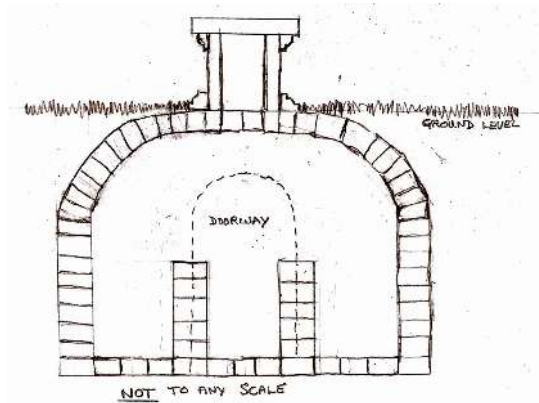
STATISTICS

Grid Ref. Peldon Church TL 9895 1677
Site Code PC10

Sketches: Carol Wheeldon & Don Goodman.
Photographs Don Goodman

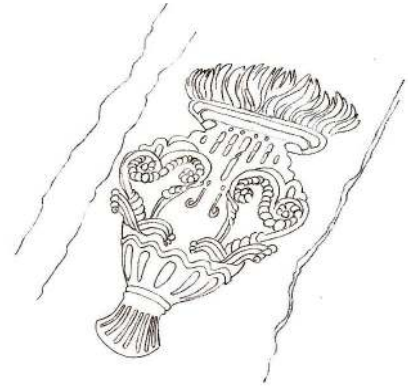
KEY TO SKETCHES AND PHOTOGRAPHS

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Sketch plan of vault, not to scale | (2) Sketch of coffin plate, not to scale |
| (3) Collapsed vault in church yard | (4) Broken down entrance at east end of vault |
| (5) Coffin plate | (6) Brickwork inside the vault |



1

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6



A SELECTION OF HALL WINDOWS IN MEDIEVAL ESSEX OPEN HALL HOUSES

Richard Shackle

Medieval houses in Essex usually consist of three parts, an open hall, service end and parlour end. The most important part was the open hall. It was a room of one or two bays open to the roof with a fire in the middle. The fire was just for heating; there was usually a separate detached kitchen outside for the cooking. The hall had two ends, the high end, where the head of the household sat on a bench attached to the wall. In front of the bench was a table, both the bench and the table were lighted by the hall window, which was positioned to illuminate the high table. The hall served many purposes. During the day the whole household ate in the hall, with the head of the household and his family on the bench at the high end and everyone else at benches and trestle tables further down the hall. At night the trestle tables and benches were folded away and most people slept on the hall floor in bedrolls, while the head of the household and his family slept in the parlour. The low end of the hall had two opposing doors with a space in between called the cross passage. The cross passage and indeed the hall itself were almost public space where anyone could come to discuss business with the people of the house. In some medieval houses, the cross passage became such a public space that they are now public rights of way (e.g. Coggeshall and Nayland). The room behind the high end of the hall was the parlour. This was a private room for the head of the household to discuss family or business matters. Beyond the cross passage was the service end, which usually consisted of two rooms, the buttery and the pantry for storing wet and dry foods.

We have already established that the hall windows, one on either side, were at the high end of the hall. Their purpose was not just illumination but also the control of smoke. Depending on where the wind was coming from the shutters of the hall windows could be adjusted to minimise the smoke in the hall. This smoke control by shutters can most clearly be seen in large hall windows such as those at Great Holts, Boreham and Water Hall, Little Baddow, where the shutter mechanisms are most complete.

We shall start by looking at a typical rural inline hall house, 2-4 Colne Park Road, White Colne (1). I have chosen it because it has a very standard medieval plan. Fig 1 shows the plan of the house with its parlour, two bay hall, cross passage and two service rooms. Fig 2 shows a long section of the same building. You can see that there are two hall windows, one on each side of the hall, close to the high end. At the high end of the hall there are two doors, the one on the left leads into the parlour, the one on the right leads to the stairs to the upper floor. Between the two doors on the studs are a series of carpenters' marks to help with the assembly of the building on site and two peg holes which formerly held the bench to the wall. At the low end of the hall there were two central doors giving access to the two service rooms. The stairs to the room over the service end was inside one of the service rooms but its position cannot now be determined.

15 London Road, Maldon (2) is one of a row of four tiny hall houses. These are renters, that is very small houses rented out to the lowest level in society who could afford their own homes. Each house consists of a small hall, an inner room and perhaps a leanto outshut at the rear. Fig 3 is a reconstruction of the front elevation of two of these houses. Fig 4 is the plan of two of these houses. The inner room was probably the parlour while the leanto may have been the service area. We think these buildings were dwellings but it is just possible that these were almshouses.

The evidence for the windows is the peg positions on the top plates, however I am convinced that the windows shown in the long section reconstruction are accurate although the actual number of window mullions is speculative. The original houses were single storied but later inserted floors and brick chimneys were put in.

Peacocks, Mount Bures is a small inline house (Figs 5 and 6). You can see that it had a two bay hall, small parlour and an even smaller service end. The service end is so small, that it probably consisted of one room and although I have shown the two standard service doors there may have been only one. The window positions are as found but again the number of window mullions is hypothetical as they have been replaced by modern windows. The house was single floored but later had an inserted floor and chimney.

Craig-Dhu, Church Street, Coggeshall is a small urban house with a compressed plan. There is evidence that it once was part of a row of houses with shops built by a speculator for rent. If we look at the plan (Fig 7), we can see that there is a small one bay hall and a cross wing. The cross wing contains an undershot cross passage to create a little more space in the hall. The ground floor of the cross wing has two rooms, the one at the front being a shop, the inner room being either a service room/parlour or perhaps it was the service room with the upper room (solar) being the parlour. It is likely that the staircase to the solar was in the inner room so that the shop had maximum selling space. If we look at the hall window (Fig 8) we can see that there are just three widely spaced diamond mullions.

Hampers, Little Maplestead was originally built as a rural inline hall house in the 14th century, later on in the 16th century the ends were cut off and replaced by cross wings. We are concerned here only with the original build. In Fig 9 we see the rear wall with the cross passage door and the hall window. In Fig 10 we see a detail of the hall window with five widely spaced mullion bars. By the 16th century open halls were becoming old fashioned, so an inserted floor was put in the open hall. The level of this inserted floor was about one foot below the top plate, so a new window had to be constructed so that the inserted floor did not show. The new window (Fig 11), probably put in after 1570, had ovolo mullions with glass set in lead frames. The thin diamond shaped bars between the ovolo mullions were to stop heavy weather blowing in the windows.

Yewtree Cottage, Messing, front elevation and plan (Figs 12 and 13) has an unusual plan. On the two drawings we have in the centre a two bay hall with evidence for a bench and draught screens at the high end and a cross passage at the low end. The particularly notable thing about the hall is the hall windows. The front window mullion bars are evenly spaced while ones at the rear are spaced in such a way that people sitting on the bench at the high end could see who was approaching the back door. Behind the high end there are two small rooms, the one to the rear with a stair trap to the upper floor may have been a service room, while the room at the front may have been a parlour. Beyond the cross passage is a rare form of cross wing, the front room is a shop with one door to the street and one door to the cross passage, the rear room is a kitchen with a stair trap to the upper floor and timber chimney at the rear. This timber chimney was later rebuilt in brick. Fig 14 shows the inline part of the front elevation, viewed from the interior, with the hall window having evenly spaced mullion bars. Fig 15 shows the inline part of the rear elevation, from the exterior, showing the offset spacing of the mullion bars. Fig 16 is an enlarged drawing of this window.

The Pink, Copford is an unjettied two storied inline hall of three bays. The hall is one large bay. The hall windows, although much cut about back and front, can be reconstructed. Fig 17 shows the front hall window. The evidence for the window is the spacing of the pegged mortices on the soffit (underside) of the top plate, the single surviving diamond mullion mortice and the length of the hall window shutter runner on the soffit of the hall window. At the low end the service bay is undershot to give more space in the hall.

Butlers Farm, Wrabness (3) was originally built as a straightforward inline hall house. Most of the service end is now missing but Fig 18 is a reconstruction of how the rear elevation may have looked. The two bay hall had an unusual hall window. The top of the window, instead of starting at the soffit of the top plate, starts about two foot lower down. This smaller window may have been put in to reduce draughts or to reduce construction costs. Fig 19 shows the inside of the hall window. At the level of the window head is a shutter runner timber with a rebate on its underside to take the shutter. This timber survived to become the support for the later inserted floor. Fig 20 is a reconstruction of the hall window from the outside.

Water Hall, Little Baddow is an inline rural hall house. It has a crown post roof with a half hipped end over the service end. Fig 21 shows a long section of the house from the inside, notice the short parlour, two bay hall and long service end. Detail of the hall window is not shown on this figure. Fig 22 shows the inside of the hall window as existing, note the surviving central shutter runner which still survives is not shown. Note also that the central upper mullion bar is wider than the others and has a rebate on either side to take the shutter. Fig 23 is a reconstruction drawing of the inside of the hall window. The central and lower shutter runners are restored as are the upper and lower shutters. The upper pair of shutters hinged on iron pintles which you can see on the left hand side of the drawing. These shutters were opened and closed by using a long pole. The lower shutters were opened and closed by sliding along the rebates in the shutter runners. This arrangement of shutters and runners was very common in all tall hall windows. It enabled the occupiers to close up to four shutters to control the smoke from the fire and of course they could control shutters on both sides of the hall to create the optimum conditions.

Great Holts, Boreham has an inline hall and parlour with a service cross wing. In Fig 24 we see the inside of the front wall of the hall. In Fig 25 we see a reconstruction of the inside face of the rear hall window. In the upper part of the window we see holes for the former iron pintles. In the centre of the window we see the surviving upper shutter runner with the shutter rebate shown in dotted outline.

Cobham Oak Cottage, Feering was built as an inline rural aisled hall (Fig 26). Later one end, probably the high end, was replaced by a cross wing. At some stage in the medieval period, while the house was still an open hall, they decided to remove the front aisle. They then made the front arcade wall the new front wall. We can tell this because they created a new hall window under the arcade plate (Fig 27). The top of the window is the arcade plate with a pegged dovetail joint on its upper face. On the soffit of the arcade plate you can see four rectangular mortices for the mullions. On the surviving right hand window jamb you can see two pegged mortices where middle and lower cross pieces were fixed. You can also see a trench mortice for a brace. This brace could have been to decorate the new front wall or

triangulate it. On the other hand it could just be a reused timber with brace trench in it.

Pannels Ash, Pentlow is a large rural, medieval hall house with two cross wings and an open hall (Fig 28). The large hall window (Fig 29) does not have details such as iron pintles or shutter runners but there is evidence of one diamond mullion window bar. When an inserted floor was put in they created two smaller windows to light the new upper and lower windows. On the soffit of the top plate you can see that part of the shutter runner was cut way to fit in a smaller upper window. Just above the bottom window cill you can see two cut-outs in the window jambs. These must represent the new cill of new wide window to light the lower room.

The Stockwell Arms, West Stockwell Street, Colchester is an urban medieval complex consisting of a hall and two cross wings and a separate cross wing from another house. In the main house the two cross wings are 15th century while the hall is probably 14th century. Originally there was an inline 14th century house which in the 15th century had its end cut off and cross wings built instead. In Fig 30 you can see the possible full length of the front of the 14th century inline hall. Fig 31 shows the surviving front of the open hall and hall window, trapped between two cross wings. Fig 32 shows a reconstruction of the original hall and hall window. The cusped window heads are conjectural but probably quite close to the shape of the originals. Fig 33 shows the rear hall and hall window trapped between the two cross wings. Notice how narrow the rear hall window is compared to the front hall window. Fig 34 is a reconstruction of the rear hall wall and hall window. Fig 35 is a cross section of the 14th century roof.

I should like to thank all the owners and occupiers for allowing me to record and publish their buildings. All the buildings except one are private homes so please respect the privacy of the occupiers. The exception is the Stockwell Arms in Colchester which will reopen in a year or so as a restaurant and bar. Customers will be welcome to admire the two spectacular crown post roofs and other ancient timber framing.

References

- 1) Wherein I dwell: a history of Earls Colne houses from 1375
by Earls Colne W.E.A. branch, 1983
- 2) Vernacular Architecture Group, Spring meeting 2003, special supplement on Maldon
- 3) Colchester Archaeological Group Annual Bulletin, Vol 50, 2010 pp 8-22

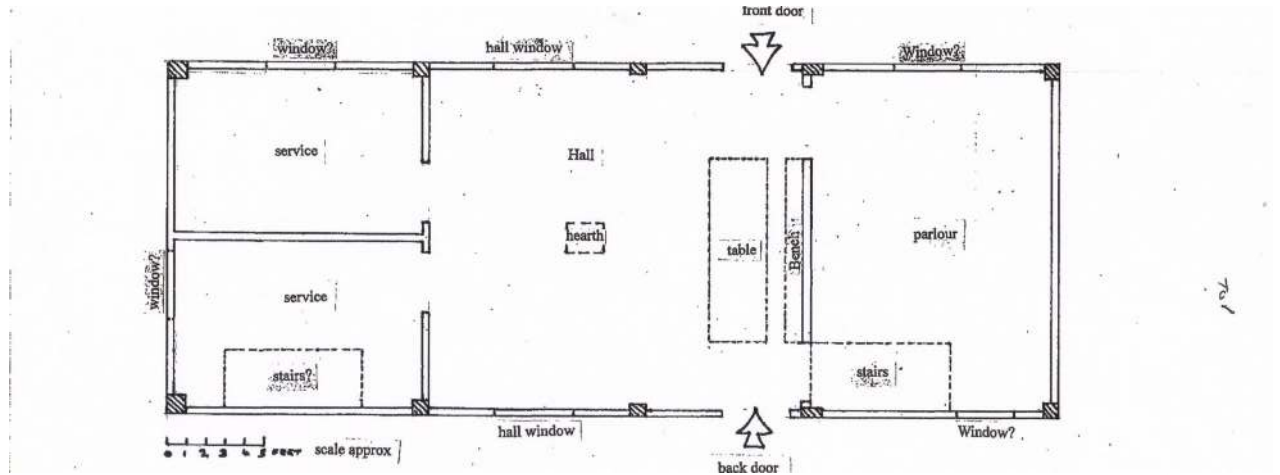


Fig 1, 2-4 Colne Park Road, White Colne plan

Fig 2, 2-4 Colne Park Road, White Colne long section

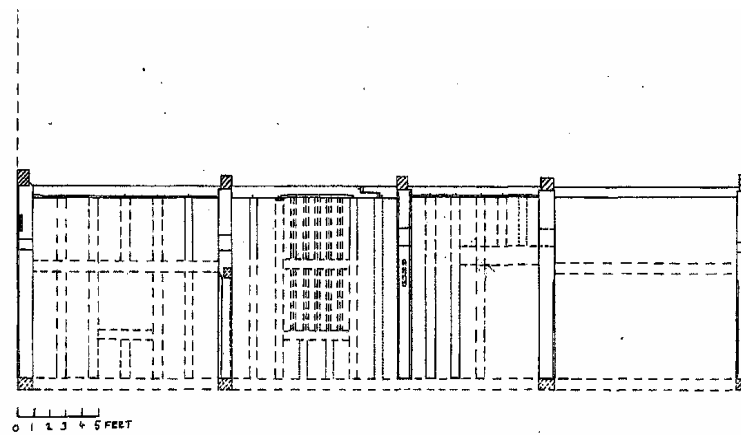
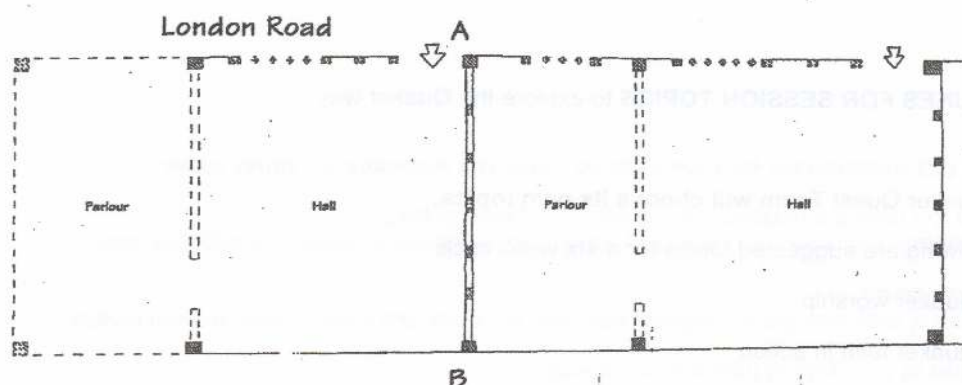


Fig 3, 15 London Road, Maldon plan



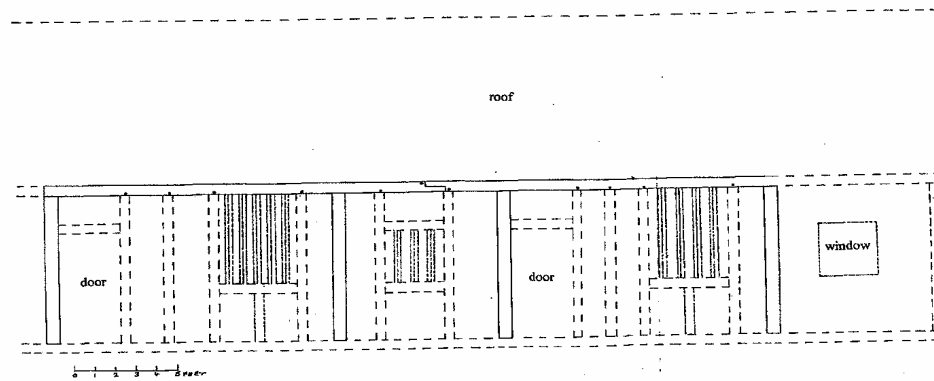
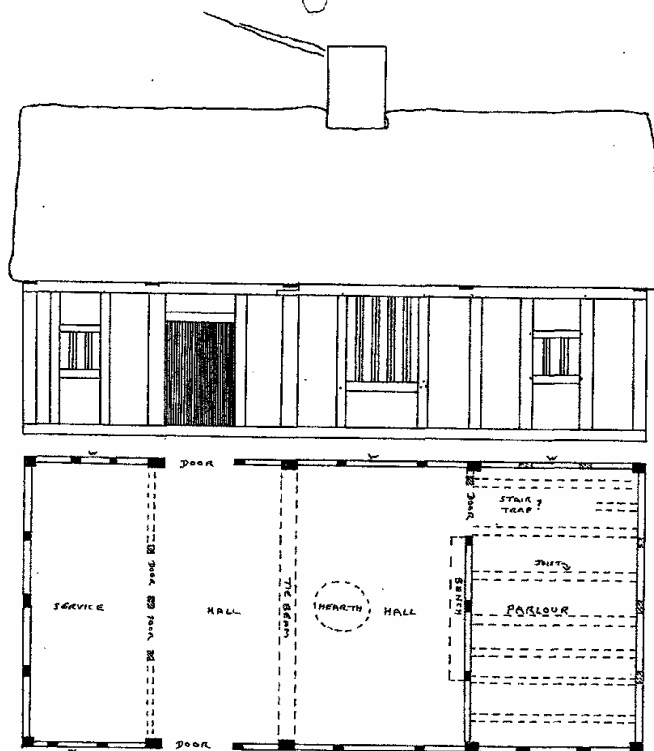


Fig 4, 15 London Road, Maldon front elevation

Fig 5 and 6, Peacocks, Mount Bures reconstruction of front elevation plan of house as originally built



PEACOCKS, COLCHESTER ROAD
MOUNT BURES, ESSEX
R. SHACKLE 9.3.1995
RECONSTRUCTION OF FRONT
ELEVATION.

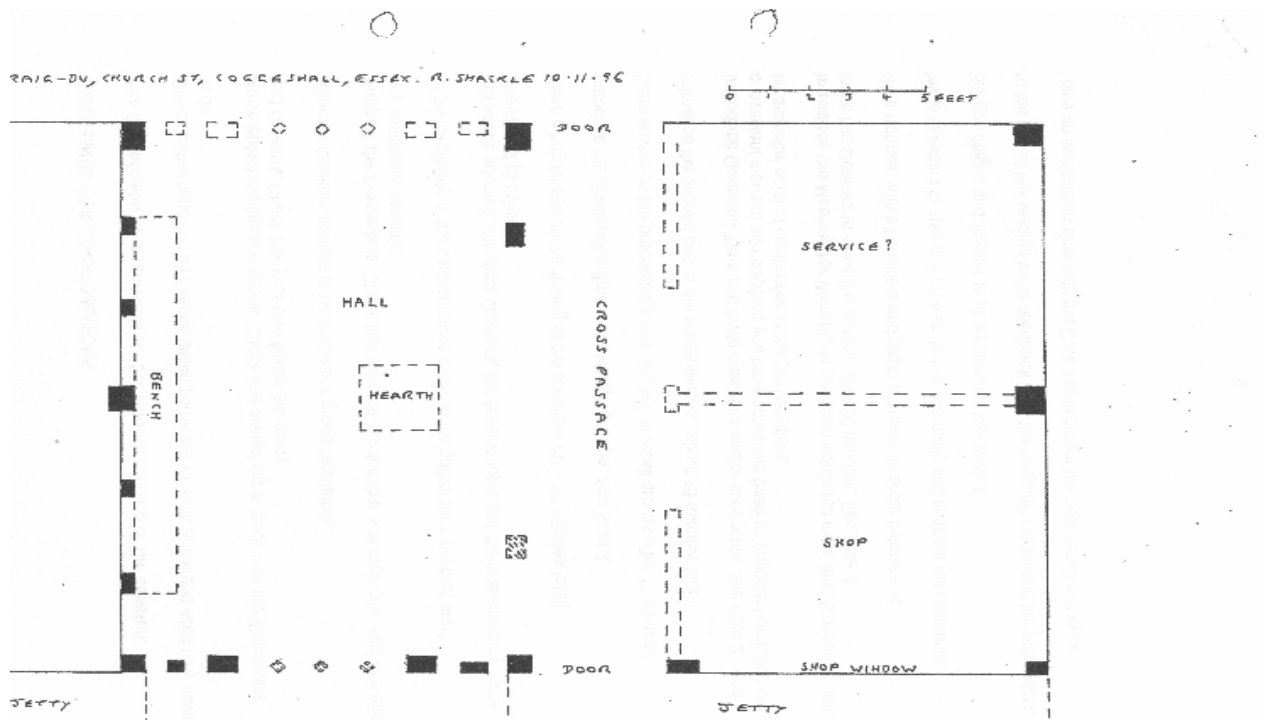
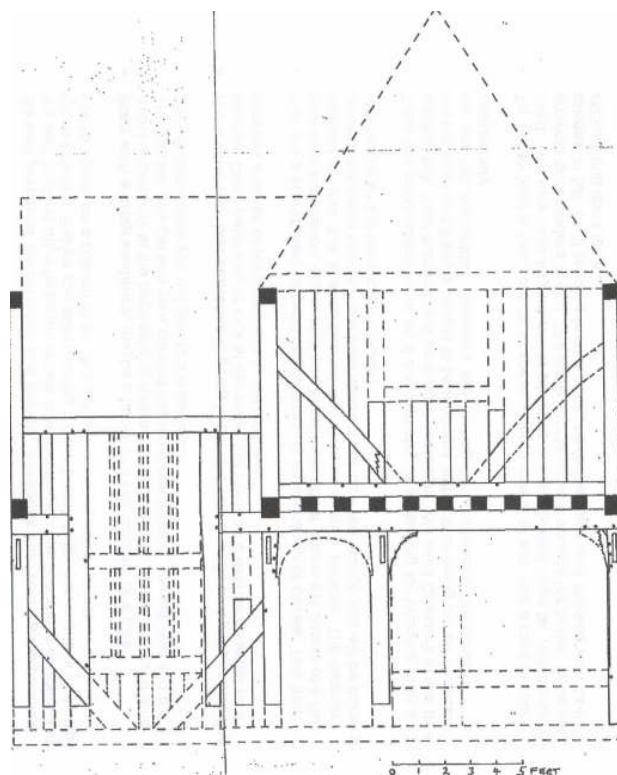


Fig 7, Craig- Dhu, Church Street, Coggeshall plan of house as originally built

(7)

Fig 8, Craig- Dhu, Church Street, Coggeshall front elevation with hall window



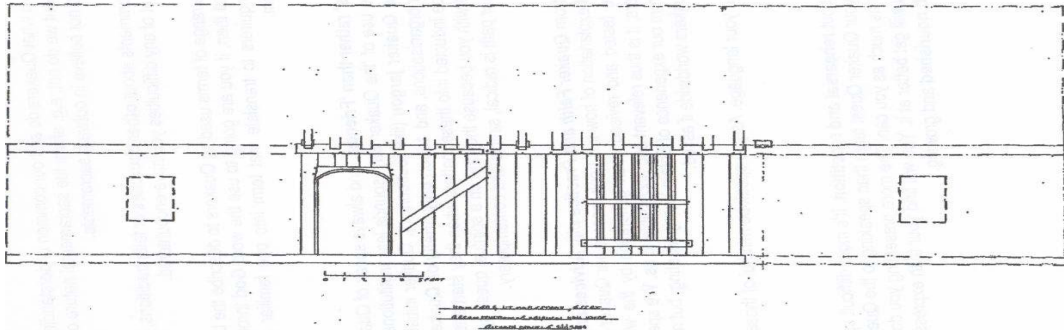
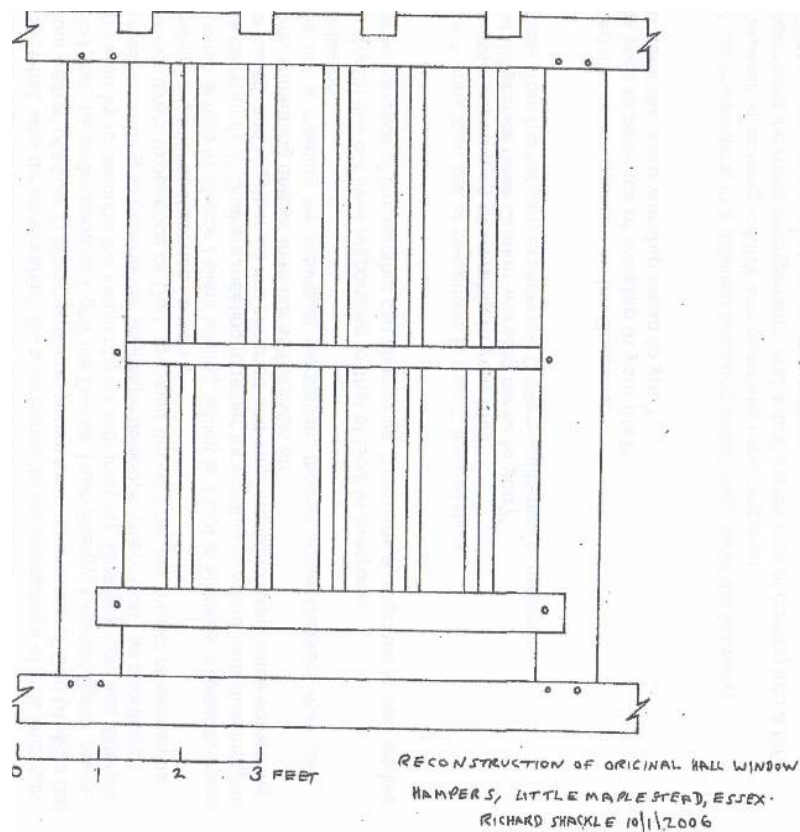


Fig 9, Hampers, Little Maplestead original inline house, rear elevation with cross passage door and hall window

Fig 10, Hampers, Little Maplestead
Original open hall window with five mullion bars



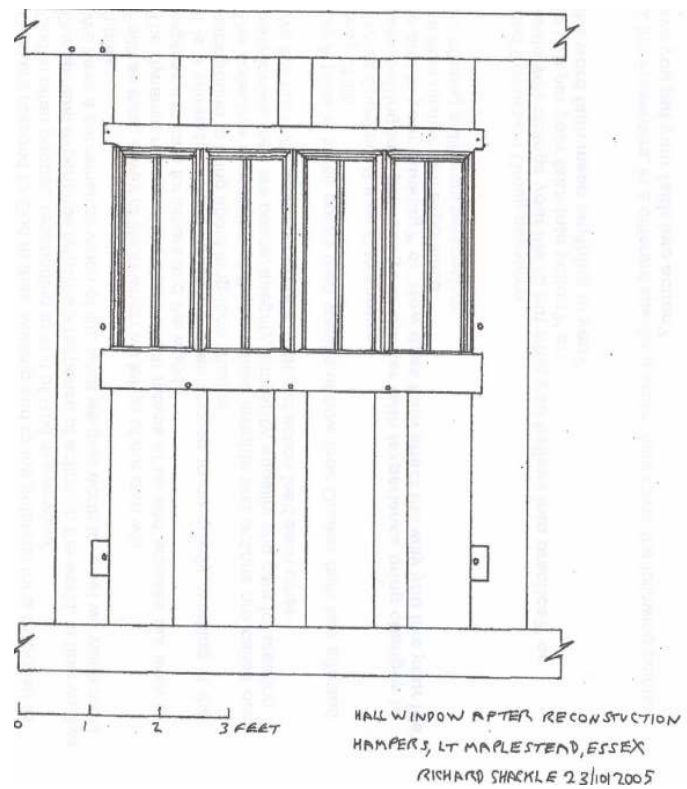
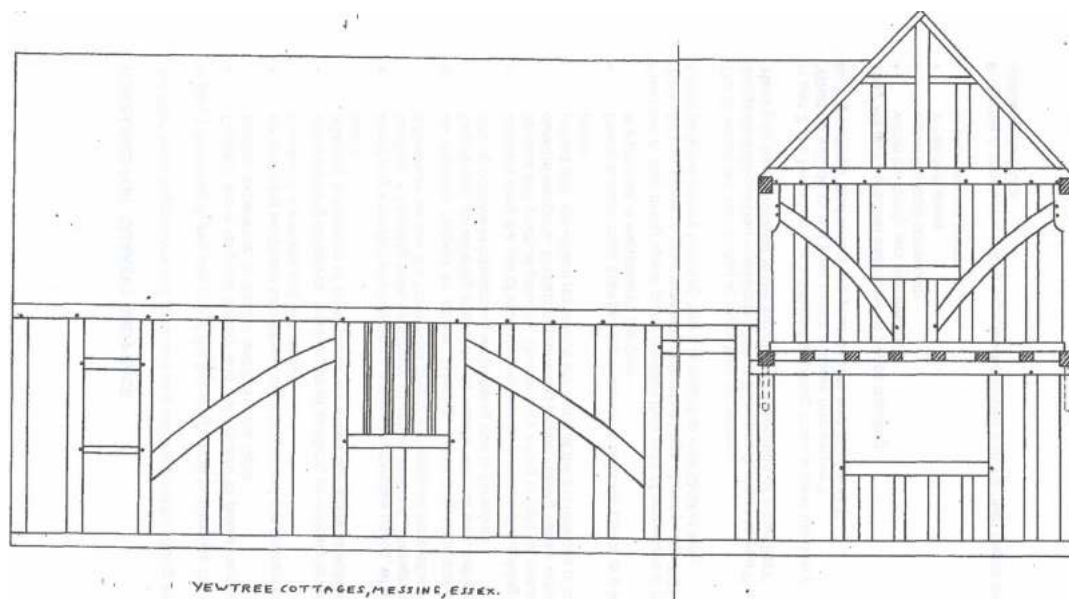
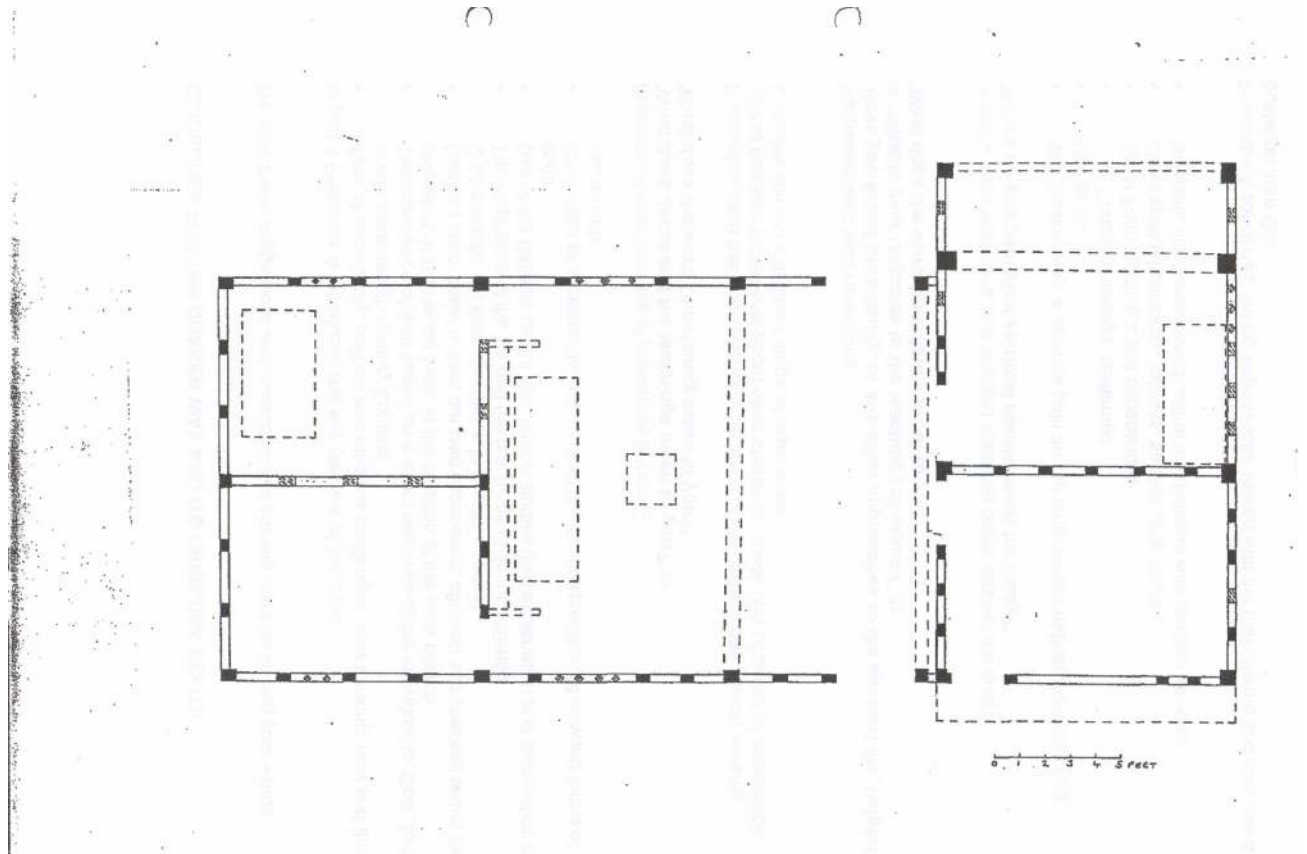


Fig 11, Hampers, Little Maplestead new window with ovolo mullions and leaded lights

Fig 12, Yewtree Cottage, Messing front elevation of medieval house

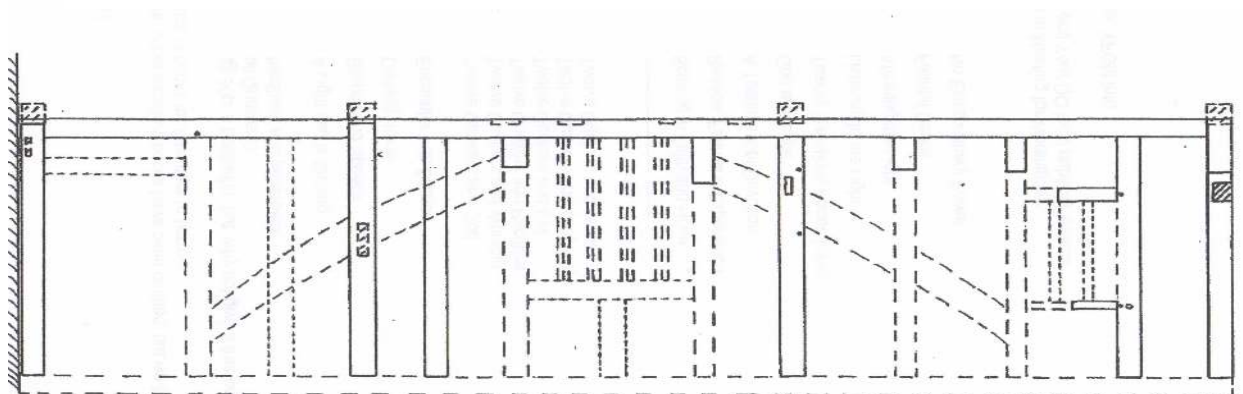




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Fig 13, Yewtree Cottage, Messing plan of medieval house

Fig 14, Yewtree Cottage, Messing inline part of house showing front elevation from inside with evenly spaced mullion bars



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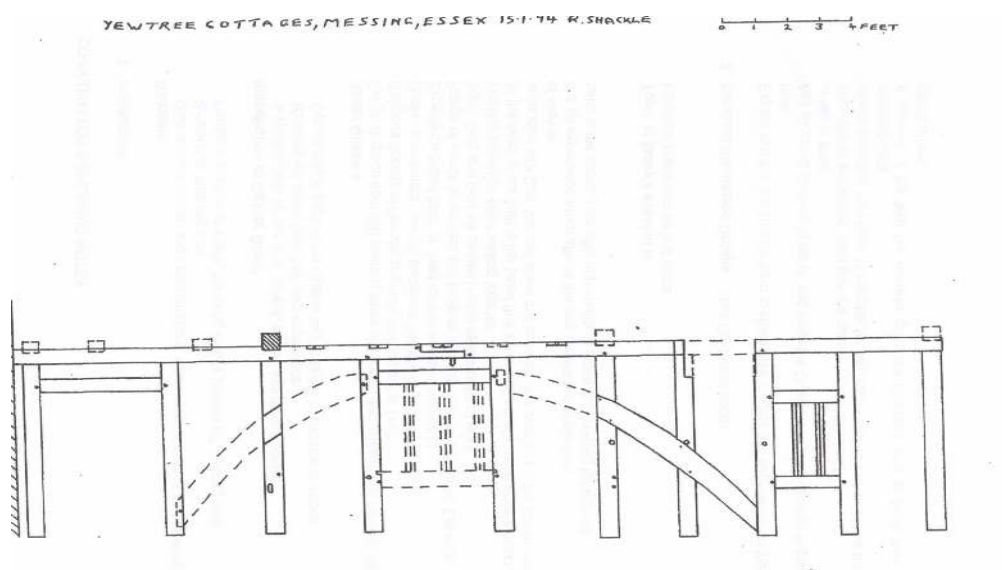
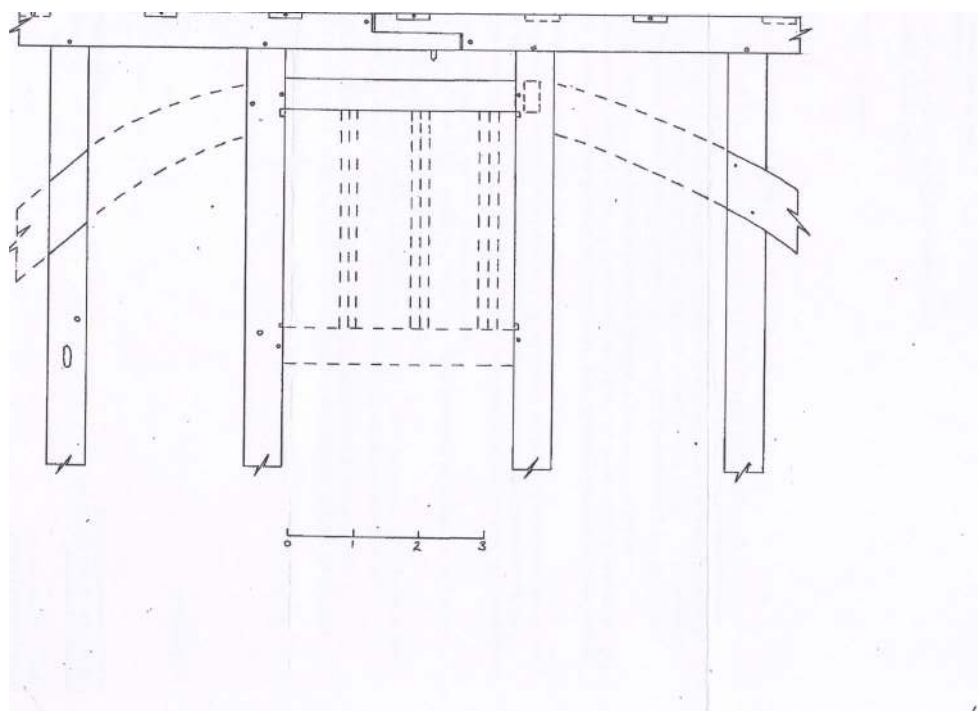


Fig 15, Yewtree Cottage, Messing inline part of house showing rear elevation from exterior with offset mullion bars

Fig 16, Yewtree Cottage, Messing detail drawing of rear hall window



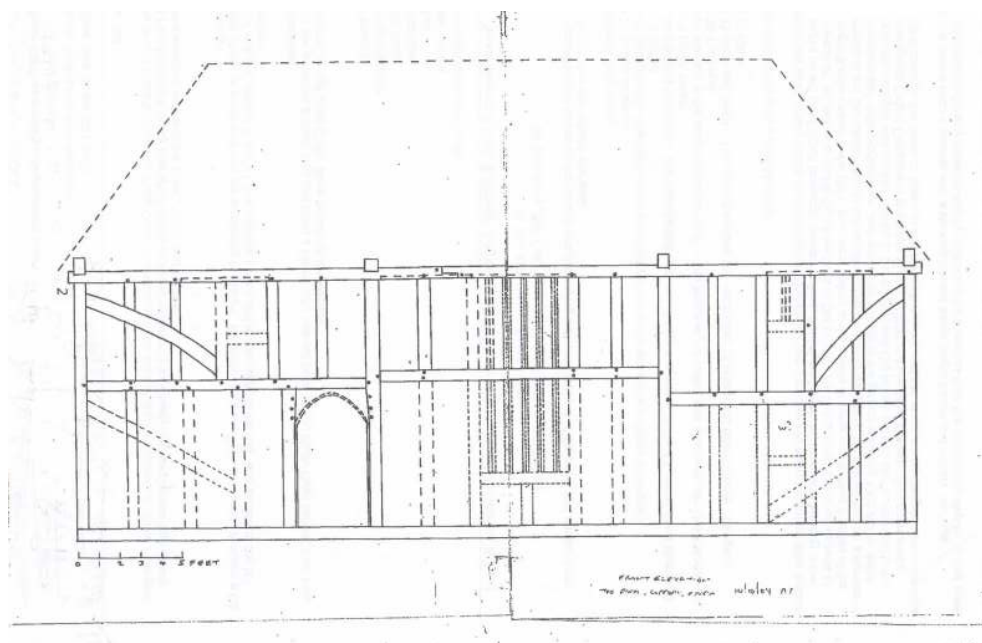
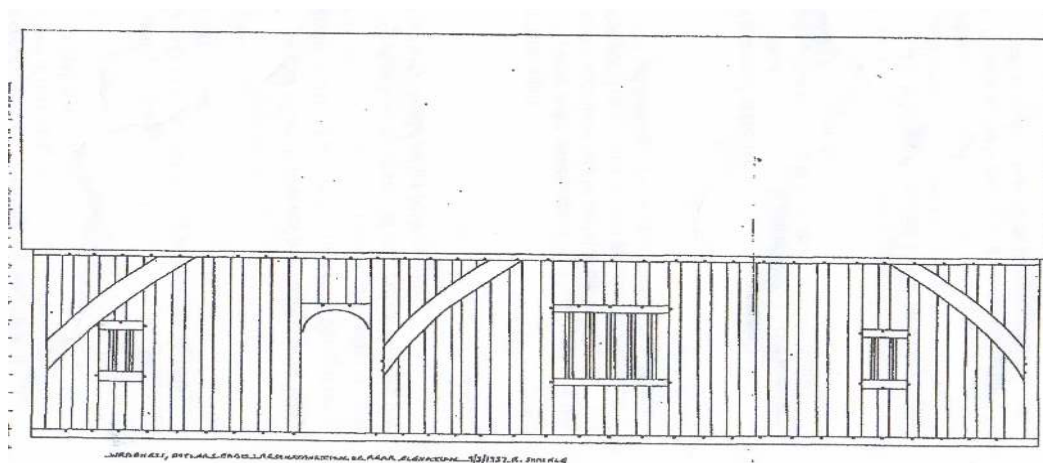


Fig 17, The Pink, Copford front elevation of house

Fig 18, Butlers farm, Wrabness reconstruction of rear elevation



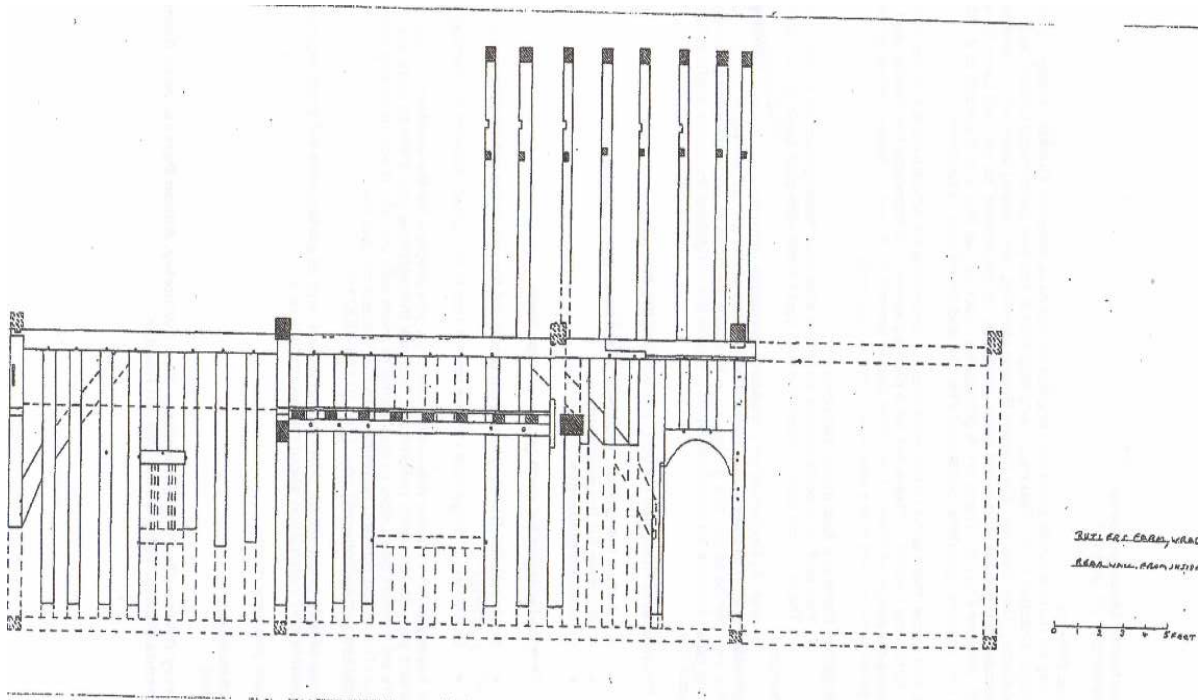
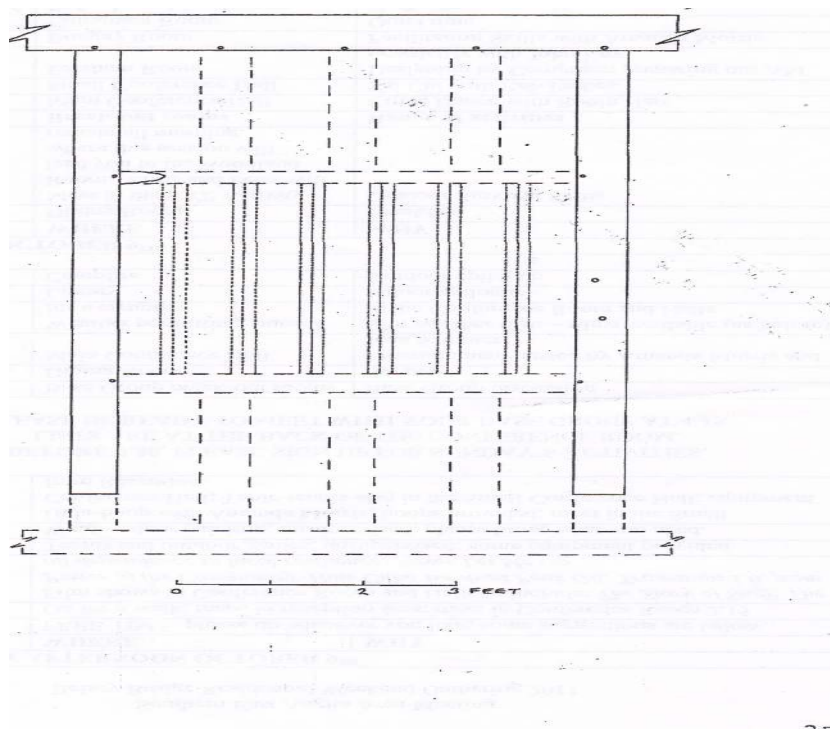


Fig 19, Butlers Farm, Wrabness
interior view of hall window showing shutter runner at top of window

Fig 20, Butlers Farm, Wrabness reconstruction of hall window from outside



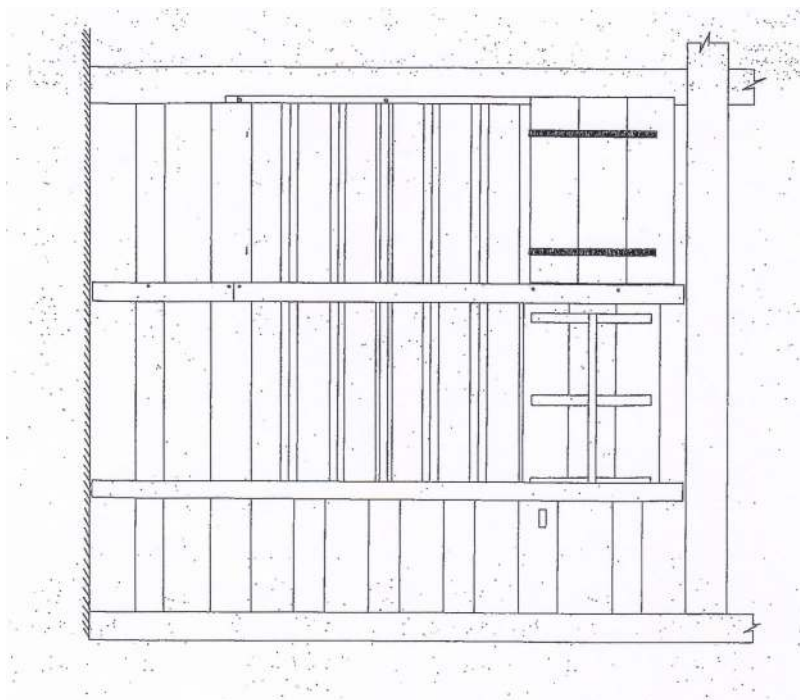
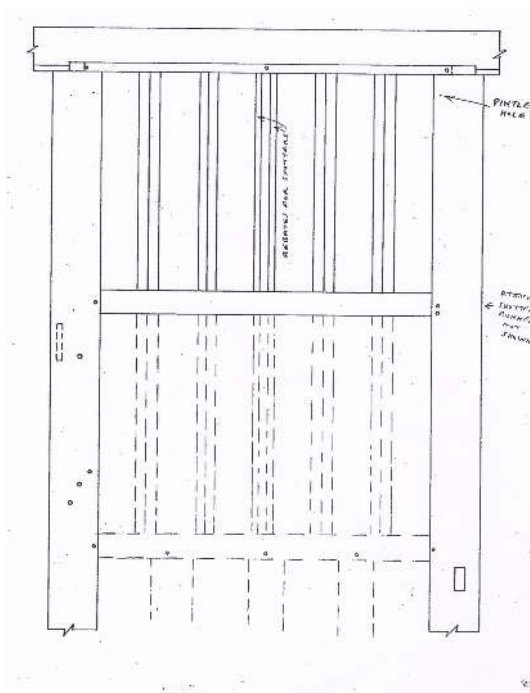


Fig 21, Water Hall, Little Baddow long section of house from inside

Fig 22, Water Hall, Little Baddow hall window from inside as existing



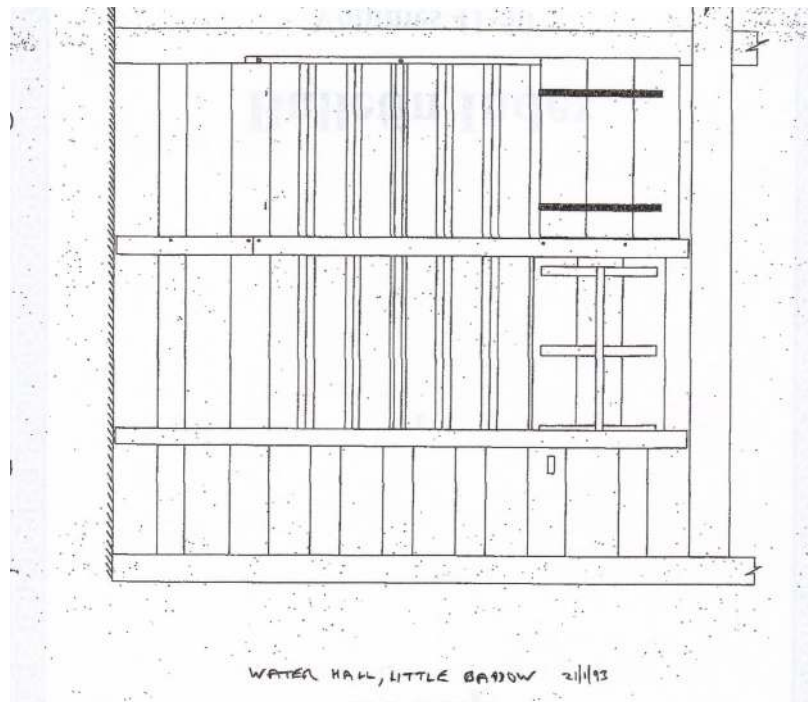
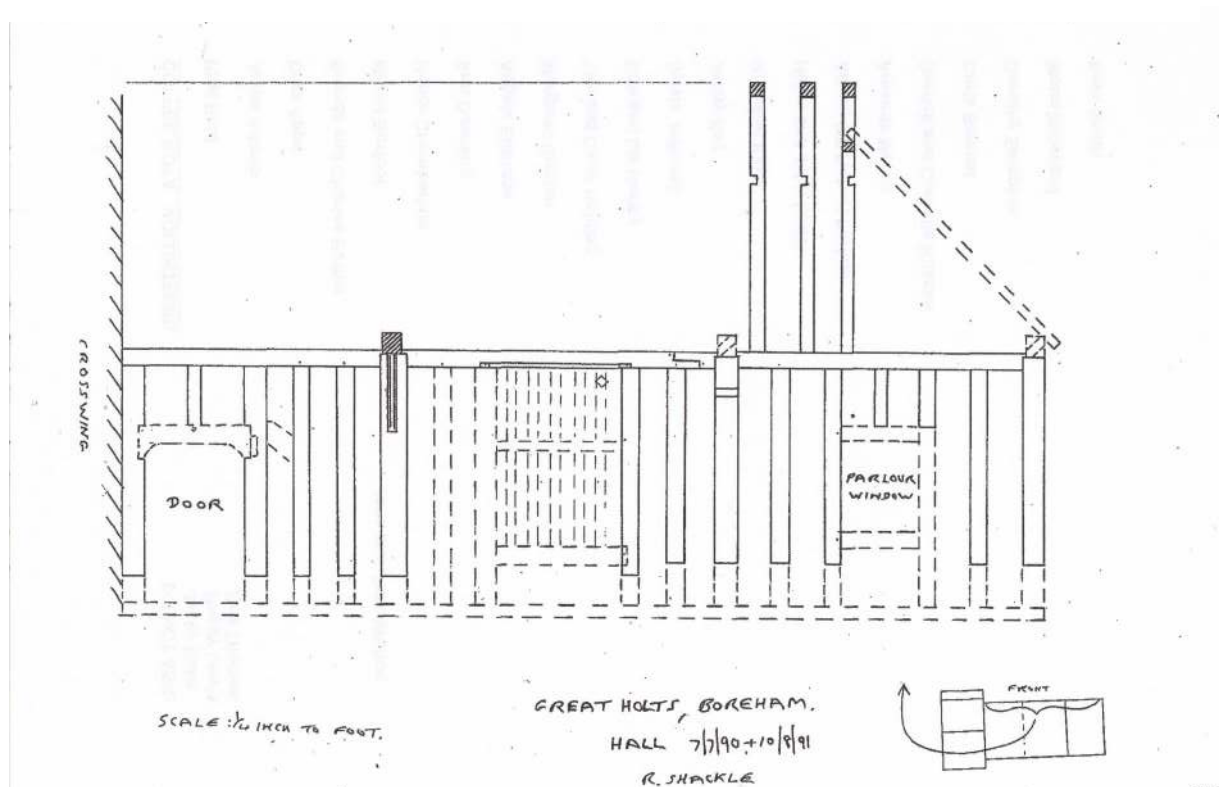


Fig 23, Water Hall, Little Baddow reconstruction of hall window from inside showing hinged and sliding shutters

Fig 24, Great Holts, Boreham inside view of front wall of hall



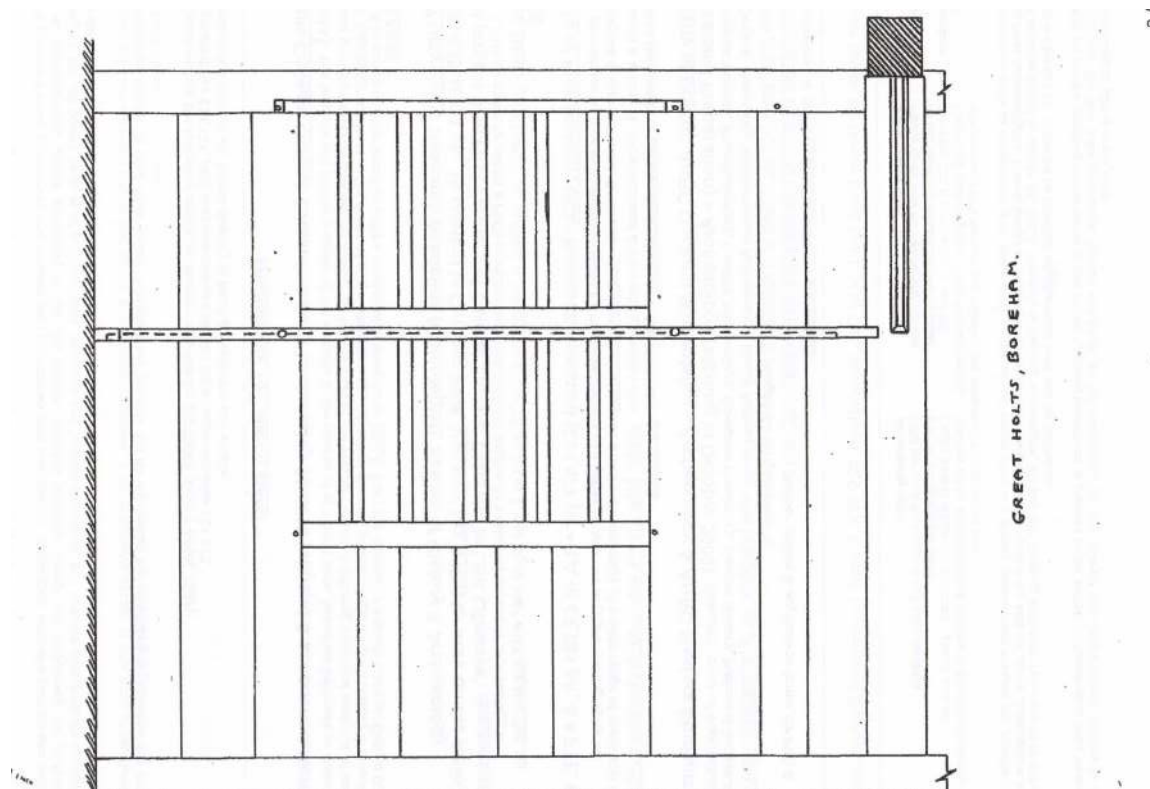
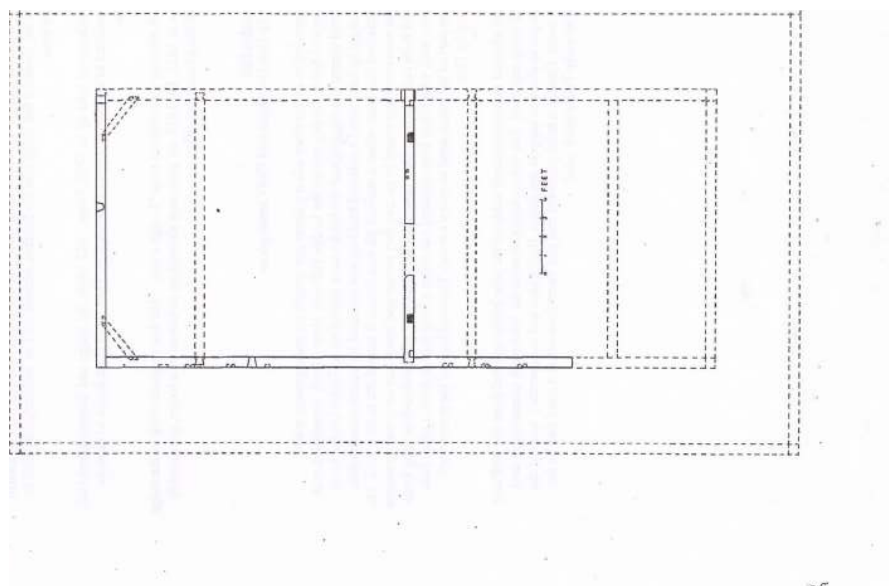


Fig 25, Great Holts, Boreham reconstruction of inside face of hall window with shutter runner and holes for iron pintles

Fig 26, Cobham Oak Cottage, Feering plan of aisled hall, partly conjectural



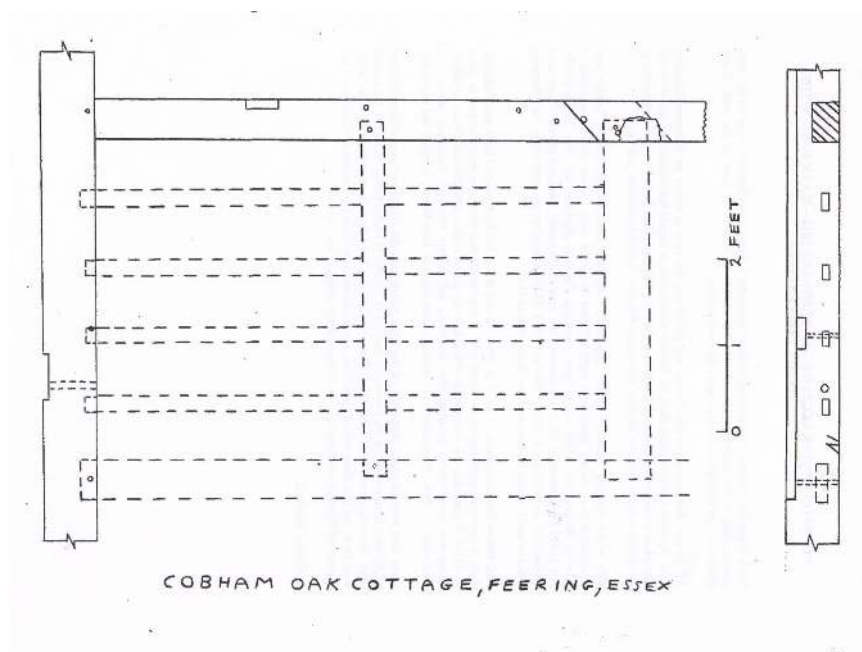
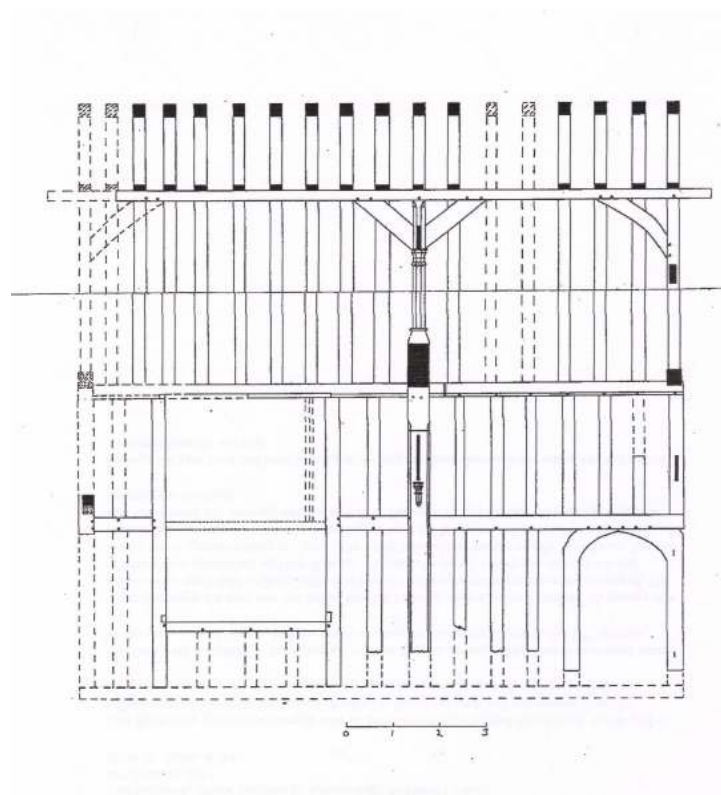


Fig 27, Cobham Oak Cottage, Feering new hall window created under arcade plate

Fig 28, Pannels Ash, Pentlow cross section of former open hall



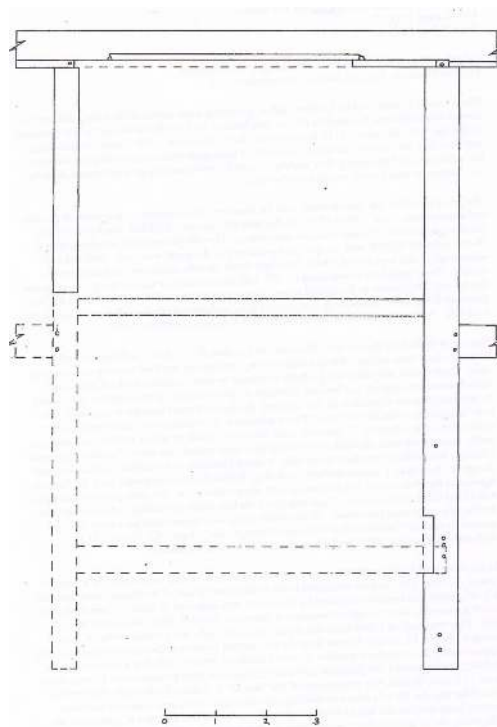
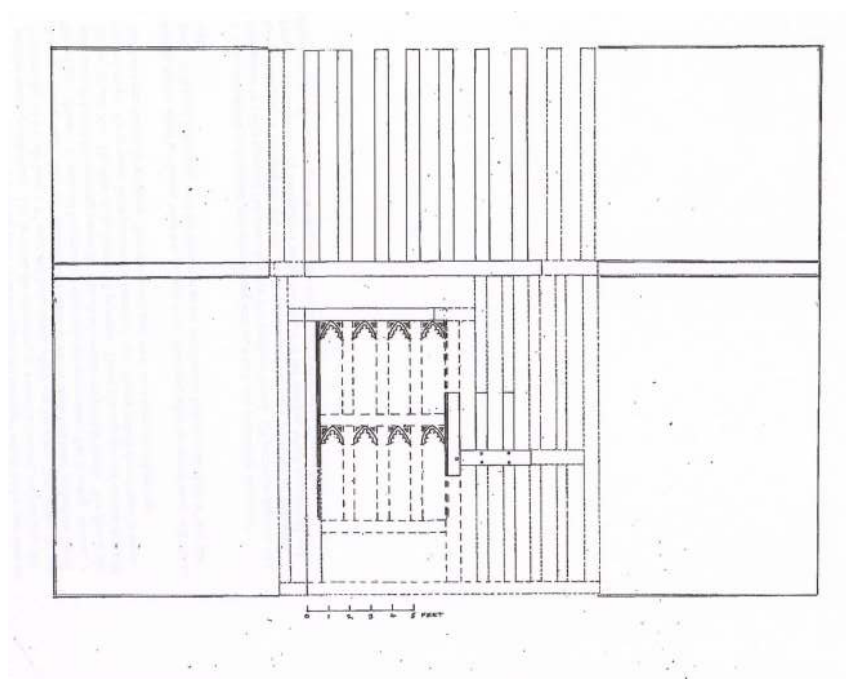


Fig 29, Pannels Ash, Pentlow
large hall window with evidence for later alterations

Fig 30, Stockwell Arms, West Stockwell street, Colchester
possible full length of 14th century inline hall



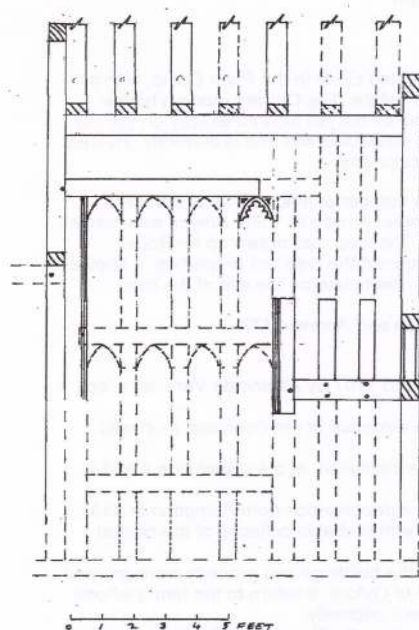
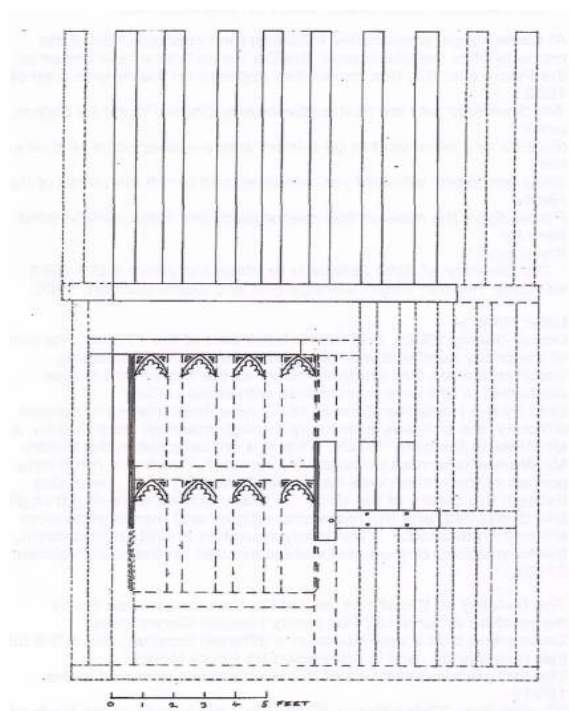


Fig 31, Stockwell Arms, West Stockwell street, Colchester
surviving front wall of open hall and hall window

Fig 32, Stockwell Arms, West Stockwell Street, Colchester
reconstruction of front wall open hall and hall window



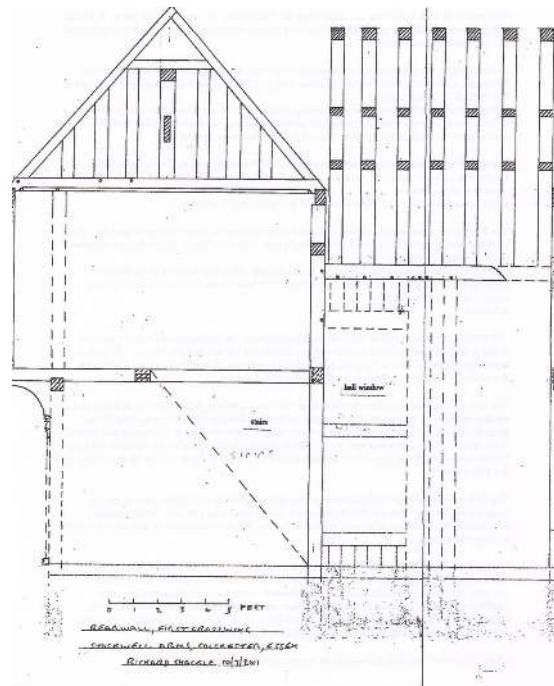
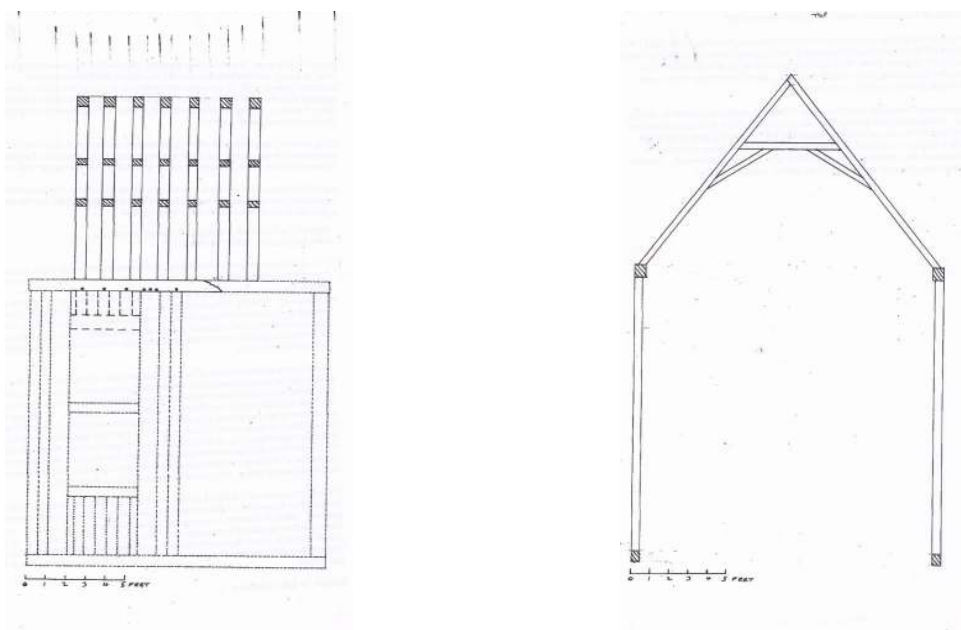


Fig 33, Stockwell Arms, West Stockwell Street, Colchester
surviving rear wall of open hall and hall window

Fig 34, Stockwell Arms, West Stockwell Street, Colchester reconstruction of rear wall of open hall and hall window

Fig 35, Stockwell Arms, West Stockwell street, Colchester cross section of open hall showing early roof



DYEING WITH WOAD

E Mead

History and Biology of Woad

Woad (*Isatis tinctoria*) is a plant native to the Mediterranean, originating in Turkey and the Middle East, from where it spread into Europe. It belongs to the family Cruciferae, as do broccoli, cabbage and rape seed. It is a biennial plant and in the first year it forms a low-growing cluster of leaves like spinach. The leaves are harvested for dye production at this stage, and in the first year only, because they have little or no colour when they reach the second year.

As early as the Neolithic, 5 to 10,000 years ago, woad seeds were stored for future use. Blue-coloured fibre, presumed to be linen or hemp dyed with woad, was found in the French cave of l'Adaouste, Bouches-du-Rhone (see Barber - Prehistoric Textiles).

Woad and indigo were used by the Ancient Egyptians and dyes have been found on cloth of about 2500 BC. and on later mummy wrappings, though they were apparently not in common use until 300 BC. Linen is a difficult fibre to dye, so colour was used sparingly, mainly in the border of fabrics. Blue-dyed textiles were found in the Halstatt chieftain burial sites of Hochdorf and Hohmichele, Bavaria (800 to 400 BC).

An Iron Age grave (circa 1st century AD) at Lonne Hede, close to Varde, Denmark, was found to contain a young girl wearing a blue dress, comprising a blue blouse and skirt, with edgings and borders in intricate blue and red patterns. The blue colour is said to come from woad.

A box of woad seeds was also included in the 9th century (835 AD) Osbjerg royal ship burial in Norway. The queen was dressed in a red dress of wool-muslin decorated with silk but the second woman was dressed in a blue twill woollen dress dyed with woad.

The use of woad as a body paint by the Ancient Britons seems to have been based on mistranslations of Pliny and Caesar - various experiments have been done to paint a woad paste onto skin to colour it, with only poor results.

The Chemistry of Woad

Woad leaves contain a form of indicant. With an alkali (such as the liquid obtained from soaking wood ash in water) this can be broken down to give indigo white, which may then be treated by fermentation to give the well known blue shade when exposed to the air. As an historical re-enactor at Kentwell Hall in Suffolk I have used woad to dye wool for the past few years, having learnt much from Jill Goodwin's book 'A Dyer's Manual', where she recounts her experiments with woad in the early 1960s. However, I had never dyed with it using her so-called Ancient Method - involving home-made wood ash liquor and a stale urine fermentation vat. This summer I resolved to have a go!

Experimental Archaeology?

Woad grows like a weed in my garden so obtaining a good quantity was no problem. First the woad leaves were picked, torn up and scalded with boiling water before being left for 40 minutes to steep.



The sherry-coloured liquid was then drained off and the leaves squeezed to extract all the dye.

Next enough wood ash liquor was added to turn the solution dark green. The mixture was then whisked for 5 minutes to aerate it, at which point a blue foam appeared on the surface. This liquor was then added to a container half filled with stale urine to which a cupful of bran had been added.

The wool to be dyed was added and the lid put on. The whole container was then left in a haybox to maintain the heat and aid fermentation for two weeks. The wool was taken out and 'aired' on several successive days: shaken in the air to encourage the chemical reaction with the air which creates the blue colour. After that it was a deeper blue and ready for washing. The dye gave good even colour, though not as bright a blue as I have achieved by other methods. I am still waiting for the lingering odour to disperse!

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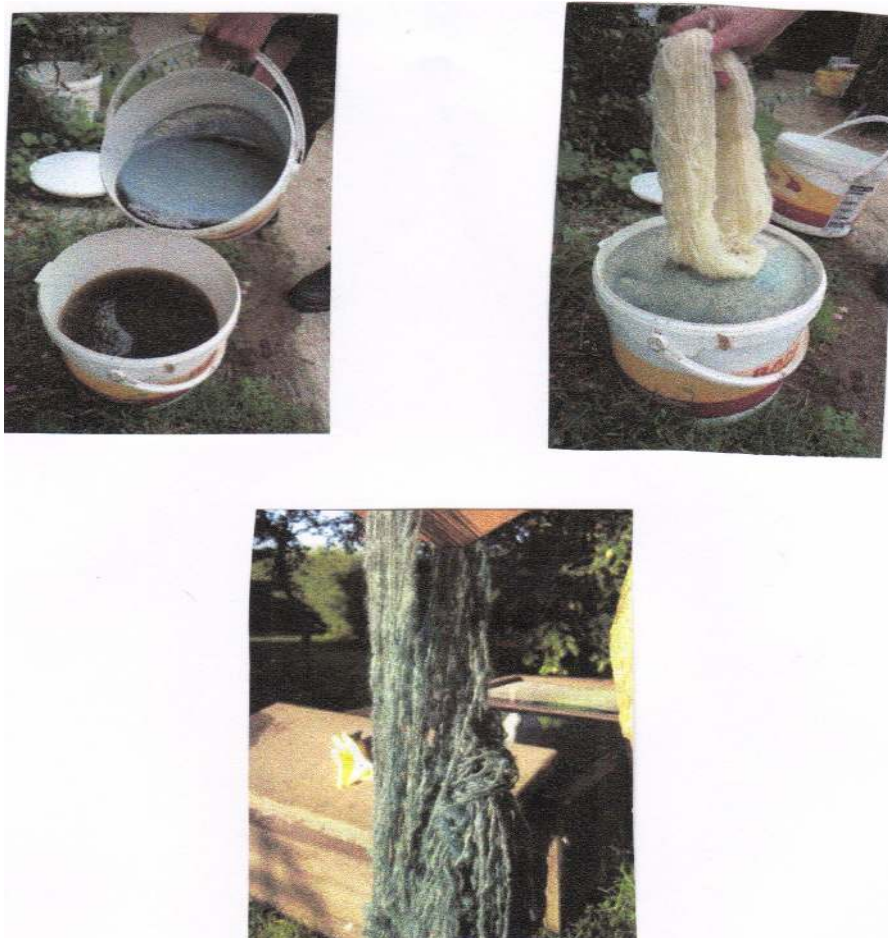
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(The CD version of the Bulletin will show these photographs in colour)



IDA MCMASTER REACHES THE SUMMIT

Alan Beales

Since moving into Mount Bures, Ida has always had a keen interest in the local history surrounding her local area. In 1969 she joined CAG and with their assistance started her first dig at the base of the Motte, just a few yards from Fen House, where she lived with her husband Bill.

In 2009, Ida was delighted to learn that the Dedham Vale AONB had been granted £1m by the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project "Managing a Masterpiece" to help preserve and celebrate the area's importance. The "Managing a Masterpiece" money would help 15 archaeology, biodiversity and conservation schemes in the Stour Valley. One of these schemes would be directed at the Motte to finance such projects as excavating the site, improving access, the steps and finally new display boards and signage.

A few months before the scheduled excavation date, Ida received a visit from Carenza Lewis, best known from Channel 4's Time Team. Carenza explained that "Access Cambridge Archaeology", on behalf of the Lottery funded "Managing a Masterpiece" scheme, would run a two-week public programme of community archaeological excavations, test pitting and surveying around the Motte, between the 8th and 19th of August 2011.

During her 1969 excavation of the Motte, Ida was convinced it dated back to the Bronze Age, which the Normans made good use of when they arrived in the area. (CAG Bulletin Vol 12) Would Carenza's new excavation confirm her previous findings? That was what Ida wanted to know more than anything else. They talked for some time about the possible history of the Motte and the planned works. Ida was extremely pleased the Cambridge Archaeology team would be visiting the Motte. In all that time, there hadn't been an officially recognised dig since the one she carried out with CAG some 40 years earlier.

Carenza and the team arrived on August the 8th and started to excavate the top of the Motte. During that first week they also made four other test pits in private gardens within close proximity to their main excavation, including the rear garden of Herds Pasture, a 16th century timber-framed house a few hundred metres to the east.

Ida, now aged 93 and with her mobility very restricted, was always seeking information about the progress of the dig, especially that at the summit. Like others, I tried to keep her informed with updates every couple of days and photographs taken on-site. Ida was now becoming very frustrated at not being able to see for herself what was taking place only a few hundred yards from her bungalow. She did suggest at one point, they should make a test dig in her garden. That was one way of seeing what was going on, but sadly that never materialised.

On the Friday, Michael Wood and a camera crew arrived to film a clip for his new series "Story of a Nation" which will be broadcast on BBC TV during 2012.

During the second week of the dig Ida was now more determined than ever to climb the Motte steps. She set about making phone calls to see if anyone would be willing to assist her to the top. Unfortunately, everyone was concerned at the possible dangers to Ida if she were to fall whilst on the steps and so her ascent seemed increasingly unlikely.

Finally a glimmer of hope came from Philip Crummy, who mentioned he had contacts at Colchester Barracks who might be able to help out. Ida then decided to follow up Philip's suggestion and phoned the barracks herself where to her surprise, she received a positive response. But of course, they already knew of her request from Philip.

Thursday and only one day to go before the dig closed, the situation looked hopeless in getting

situation looked hopeless in getting Ida to the summit. Fortunately good news arrived early that morning as Philip telephoned once again to inform her the army would be more than pleased to come to her aid. We were all to meet at the site the next morning at 10am.

On Friday morning, Ida, her daughter Pam and myself were waiting for the soldiers to arrive when Michael Wood's cameraman arrived on scene and started to set up his recording equipment. My first reaction was "*how on earth did he hear about Ida's visit*", but it appeared his presence had nothing to do with us whatsoever. He had come to take a few brief shots of the area to complete the filming from the previous week - what a coincidence. On hearing of Ida's imminent ascent with the aid of the army, he immediately postponed his planned work and set up his video equipment to record her journey to the summit.

Precisely at 10am, three soldiers arrived and surveyed the steps and the Motte to work out the best way to get Ida to the top. The simplest method always seems to be the best, so without hesitation they lifted her complete with wheelchair and climbed the steps. On reaching the top the archaeology team and the waiting visitors at the base spontaneously cheered and clapped. Ida was then welcomed by Carenza and the rest of her archaeological team. Carenza spent some time with Ida as she explained what they had achieved at the summit during the past couple of weeks.

After this Ida was then interviewed at some length by the cameraman about her interest in archaeology, especially her air photography days. He assured us this would be taken back to the studio but naturally he could offer no guarantee that it would be used by Michael.

Ida must have spent a good 45 minutes at the summit and was constantly the centre of attention by the archaeological team and visitors. Time at the top passed quickly and soon it was time for Ida to return to terra firma. With no more ado, the soldiers lifted Ida up in her wheelchair and slowly descended the steps returning her to the entrance gate.

What a morning this turned out to be, it was intended to be a discreet lift to the top by the army, but it seemed like a TV celebrity had paid the project a visit.

In her report, Carenza substantiated Ida's findings of the 1969 dig by stating: The medieval Motte may have been built by enlarging a pre-existing burial mound, as Bronze Age (1500-800 BC) pottery and struck and burnt flint was found in excavations nearby.

A collection of photographs taken over the two week period, including Ida's visit, are available on the Mount Bures web site:-www.mount-bures.co.uk



The army to the rescue—ascending the Mount
(Photographs by David Hailes)



Ida with Michael Wood's cameraman

REPORTS ON LECTURES

THE DEFENCE OF WALBERSWICK, 1940: WARTIME ARCHAEOLOGY AND COMPUTER RECONSTRUCTION

Robert Liddiard, Senior Lecturer in Landscape History, University of East Anglia

11th October 2010

Report by Bernard Colbron

At the start of the war Walberswick was considered to be a prime site for invasion. The authorities therefore put in defences in the small town. Beaches either side of the river were fortified with the usual barbed wire and sea facing slanted posts. Behind the beaches gun posts and pillboxes were erected. Some pillboxes were connected with shallow trenches. Further inland houses were requisitioned for command posts but with easy access to the front line.

All the fortifications were completed in a very short time but by the end of the first year the authorities decided that the position of the defences was not satisfactory. Some of the large guns fired too close in shore, the pillbox trenches were not deep enough to protect the 'runners'. So by the end of the first year the fortifications were repositioned to greater effect.

Robert showed many slides and diagrams during his lecture but these were all copyright to the MOD and could not be copied. Some of the evidence of the fortifications was from documents and also could be found at ground level in the town. Also he interviewed residents of Walberswick together with retired soldiers who were stationed there.

LAVENHAM AND THE GUILDHALL OF CORPUS CHRISTI

Jane Gosling, Manager of Lavenham Guildhall for the National Trust

18th October 2010

Report by David and Dorothy Townsend

Jane Gosling took us on a personal and historical journey around Lavenham. Lavenham was granted a market charter in 1257. The street layout is very much as it was then, with the Market Place and the Market Cross in the same position on top of a hill. Between 1340 and 1530 Lavenham was rebuilt as a result of the wealth from the wool trade, with the wood framed jettied buildings very much as they are today. The rebuilding of the church was started by Lord de Vere in 1485.

We were shown photographs of many of the old buildings, including Little Hall (1380), an aisled hall house, the Angel Hotel built in 1465 as an inn, the Swan Hotel, De Vere's House (1450), Prentice Street which had been a row of shops, and Water Street, so named as it had running water through the street. Later the buildings were moved back and an underground culvert was constructed.

The weavers of Lavenham wove Lavenham Blue Cloth, a thick broadcloth dyed with woad. Competition from weavers in Essex eventually led to a decline in the industry and by the 1580's many of the cloth makers had left. About this time many of the merchant houses were divided into tenements, people covered over the jettied buildings and some buildings were demolished and rebuilt elsewhere. No new building took place until the coming of the railway in the 19th century.

The Guildhall, constructed between 1529 and 1539, was the last high status building to be built. It was built for the Corpus Christi Guild, a religious and charitable guild, whose prime function was to collect money for saying Masses for the souls of the dead. It was constructed as three separate buildings, a Guildhall and two domestic houses. The Guildhall is a fine jettied building with carving

around the porch. The guild used the hall downstairs, the cellars were to store barrels and for feasting. The attics were used for storage and the upper floors were rented out to store cloth. The porch chamber was used for storing the guild's valuables. When Henry VIII abolished the guilds in 1547 the Guildhall eventually became the Town Hall. In the late 17th century it was used as a prison. In 1800 the two buildings next door were joined with the Guildhall to make a workhouse. In 1835 a lock-up and mortuary were built at the back.

Cuthbert Quilter bought the building in 1887 and undertook repair work. It was passed to the National Trust.

GRIMES GRAVES: THE QUEST FOR BLACK GOLD – MINING FOR FLINT IN NEOLITHIC NORFOLK

Gillian Varndell, Curator (Neolithic), Dept. of Prehistory and Europe, British Museum

25th October 2010

Report by Louise Harrison

Anyone who has visited the mysterious field of mounds and hollows which is Grimes Graves cannot fail to be fascinated by the story of black gold, and Gillian conjured up a Neolithic world of long ago.

About 4000 BC, the first agriculturists arrived in Britain from Europe. Needing axes for clearance and ritual purposes, they started mining flint about 100 – 200 years later, primarily in the South Downs. Around 2600 BC mining stopped here and began at Grimes Graves. At first, they would have scavenged flint nodules washed downhill by glacial movement, and mined outcropping seams. Later they sank 600 deep shaft mines to excavate the good quality black flint known as 'floorstone'.

During the 1970s, some pits, excavated by earlier antiquarians, were re-excavated. We learned that the Neolithic miners understood what they were doing. Having first dug a shaft, they then galleried out, at different depths, following the seams of flint. The shafts are considerably wider at the top to reduce the danger of blockages and to let in light. They left pillars of rock to support the roofs and 'windows' to provide escape if needed. Their usual tool was antler, as many of these were found abandoned. Their method of work was to hammer in the antler tines then to prise out the blocks of flint. Large blocks were broken up at the bottom of the shaft so they were easier to lift out of the mine. The lack of any soot suggests the miners did not use artificial light, relying on natural light reflected off the chalk.

The miners' occupation site has not been found suggesting the work was seasonal. Perhaps their rubbish was taken away with them out of religious respect for the site, as remains which are left tend to have been placed deliberately. As antlers are cast in the spring this might have been the start of the season. The available evidence suggests that stone axes and discoid knives were roughly chipped out at the mine site, being polished and finished elsewhere, at a site not yet found. Not all axes were for use, some were used as high status symbols and gifts, possibly for ritual purposes. This is reinforced by the knowledge that mining only started about 100 years before the arrival of metallurgy yet continued for 800 years. The floorstone has good knapping qualities but similar stone can be found more easily elsewhere, so why did they bother? Where did these objects go? It is very difficult to trace particular flint once it has left its original site.

Gillian's engaging and informative talk stimulated my curiosity. How did these exploiters of flint convince their purchasers that their product was of more value than others', even though there is no way of telling where an axe comes from just by looking at it? Was this the greatest marketing exercise in history? Did the ancients have ways, now lost to us, of identifying worked stone? Were the people who bought the raw material and chipped and polished it into luxury goods a separate, itinerant tribe who were held in awe by mere farmers? Were they the same people as the miners and was the finishing and polishing their winter job? Time and further excavation of this fascinating site may provide some of the answers.

MASSIVE, COMPLEX, BEAUTIFUL, HIDDEN: THE TOMB OF HARWA IN WESTERN THEBES, EGYPT

Chris Naunton, Deputy Director of the Egypt Exploration Society

1st November 2010

Report by Barbara Butler

Illustrated with his own pictures of the tomb, Chris Naunton gave us a talk which was especially engaging, as he had worked on the excavation of Harwa's tomb. As an archaeologist on the site, he summed up his impressions of the tomb as "massive, complex, beautiful and hidden".

The tomb is located in uninhabited desert in Sudan, in a position which has been naturally fortified by a cataract on the river, which makes it impassable. He introduced the period of the tomb of Harwa by explaining the Egyptian Empire had included the land of Kush, which is now part of the Sudan. Egyptian power diminished under a series of weak rulers and a Kushite king seized power c.750BC and founded the 25th Dynasty. The king's name was Piye also known in Egypt as Pi-ankh. Piye re-unified the country and built monuments to the Egyptian pantheon of gods, particularly Amun, who was revered as the patron of royalty. Although the Kushite rulers were African, they embraced Egyptian culture and used traditional hieroglyphs on their monuments. Between 750 -664BC Egypt's rulers were referred to as Kush by the ancients. The Syrians had chased them out by 564 BC. Foreign rulers had built temples, such as to Amun at Karnak, the Kushite kings refurbished this and extended it with a great porch.

On the east side of the Nile lie the remains of the southern capital of Egypt, Waset, later known as Thebes. The western side of the cemetery and the temple of the 18th Dynasty female pharaoh Hatshephut were still in use by the Kushites, with a dedication to Amun. The temple became a focus for the worship of Amun and the cemetery was for non-royals.

There were few new tombs until the 25th Dynasty, when there were more than 1,000 rock cut tombs, brightly painted, until non-royal proliferation in New Kingdom tomb building stops. Coffins and other burial equipment were bought in the lifetime of the individual, then deposited in single graves in pre-existing tombs. A change in customs came with the influx of the foreigners from the west. The burials became simpler. In the 25th Dynasty, there were large tombs cut again by wealthy officials, but unfortunately many of these tombs remain hidden.

The modern road from the burial ground follows the line of the ancient causeway to the river Nile. The causeway was the inspiration for the location of the tombs. One of the chambers of Harwa's tomb was left open to the sunlight and the constructors tunnelled into the bedrock, near temple activities. There were a series of statues of Harwa. One of them shows him to be bald and stout, with two goddesses in front, Isis and Hathor. Harwa is shown as the chief steward of the wife of Amun. The earthly wife of the god was a royal princess or priestess who would have needed a right-hand man. Harwa had been that man.

A diagram of the tomb shows it to be a series of chambers and corridors, which were originally separated, but now there was little to keep them apart. Harwa's tomb was the first to be built, the other tombs cluster around his. It had an entrance hall, with supporting pillars and a portico, all of which is now partially ruined, 13 metres below the surface level. It shows signs it was once finely decorated. Excavations in 2003 show the ceiling to have collapsed about 300 years ago, possibly due to an earthquake.

Decorations within the tomb reveal a series of musicians and dancers in fine relief. Each has a different name, proof that by this time Egyptian craftsmen were honing their skills after centuries of nothing. Artists were having to work straight on to the bed rock in Harwa's tomb, with an outline of the figures initially cut into the rock. Harwa's tomb was unfinished. The work stops dead. Decorations were being placed to be read like a book. For instance, there is the preparation of fish for cooking, fishing in a stylised river, four fishes, all of which are different and detailed enough for the species to be identified. Only five per cent of the carvings remain in situ, the rest are in fragments together with boxes of

bones, bandages and pottery. The illustrated fragments are all being reassembled, they show very fine detail, and, in the first chamber, illustrate everyday things.

There was a door to the first pillared hall, but all the rest of the tomb was open. Restored pillars here give an idea of the architecture. Leading off the north and south walls are five side chambers, now used for storage, but which might have been created for the burial of family members. There is some decoration on the walls. Hieroglyphs depict the rituals of the hours of the day and the rituals of the hours of the night, with numbered hours on the pillars to allow for the movement of the soul through the day. The tomb is aligned east to west... from life to death sun rising, birth, sunset, death. Osiris dwelt in the west. To put the fragments back together all the sunk reliefs are sorted according to type and sized according to a grid. Most of the text is coloured blue on white, others on a red background or blue background. The fragments are assembled within a frame in a sand box on the ground. The hieroglyphs are also being recorded by hand.

The intersection between the first pillared hall and the second pillared hall is the most important part of the tomb. It hold a life-size relief of Harwa with Anubis. Harwa is stoutish and has attained a status, and enough money for plenty of food. The second pillared hall has columns of hieroglyphs which have been badly eroded by bat dung and this has been removed with distilled water. The acid content of the bat dung had eaten into the top of the decoration. The text relates to mummification and preparing the body for the afterlife. In the intersection to the final chamber Anubis is looking both ways and Harwa is depicted having lost his paunch and “rejuvenated”. The Osiris shrine has statues and a miniature staircase symbolically leading to Osiris and visually giving the impression he is miles away. It features a statue of Harwa, depicts the perfect journey through life and the ideal preparations for the journey into the afterlife.

EDCATION IN ROMAN BRITAIN

Mark Hassall, ex-Institute of Archaeology UCL, and Chairman of CAT

8th November 2010

Report by David and Aline Black

Late Roman Britain was divided into five provinces. It was planned that in each province there would be people appointed at three levels - those who could teach grammar, those concerned with teaching the great classics and, at the highest level, those who knew how to dispute and to argue a case. So in each of the five provincial capitals there should be basic teaching of letters and, at a higher level, literature. It is not known whether this plan was implemented but historical and archaeological evidence suggest that it was.

In AD 79 at an open forum in Verulanium the sons of British chieftains were encouraged to study the liberal arts and were eager to learn. Demetrius of Tarsus sailed around the coast of Britain -why Britain? Was he engaged to teach the sons of chieftains? What evidence is there for more general literacy?

The backing boards of wax writing tablets often still show writing scratched into them. Writing has also been found scratched on roof tiles before they were fired, perhaps by someone practising the alphabet or learning to write during their lunch break? In the last twenty years the discovery of a large number of writing tablets at Vindolanda show literacy in the Roman army and also evidence of learning to copy writing, thus of teaching.

High status villas have both wall decoration and mosaic floors with scenes from classical writing, often the story of Dido and Aeneas from Virgil's Aeneid, which suggests that the villa owners were familiar with the story when they commissioned the work.

But what about numeracy? Given the complexity of the Roman numbering system perhaps numeracy is a different matter!

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

15th November 2010

Report by John Spears

Anglo-Saxon Mersea

Sue Howlett described Mersea as an Anglo-Saxon island settlement, adjacent to the rivers Blackwater and Colne with the Strood crossing connection to the mainland. The first known written reference to Mersea appears in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of 894AD.

She described how aerial photographs of Wellhouse Farm (West Mersea) indicated crop marks which led to the discovery of three or more pits. In 1993 remains of an ancient boat were found on the southern shore, together with some pottery. Sue suggested this might be the remains of a Saxon settler's immigrant boat. In 1998 an amateur metal detector found a 6th century copper alloy mount, possibly off a brooch. Two Middle Saxon coins (700-710AD) and a copper brooch clasp (710-725AD) were also found.

Between 2006 and 2010, 58 test pits were dug but only two produced pottery of Anglo-Saxon origin. Other artefacts found included two 9th century strap ends (whereabouts now unknown), coins of King Edward the Martyr (975-978AD). An 8th century carved stone fragment was found built into the wall of West Mersea church, indicating the existence of an earlier church before the current 11th century building.

An Anglo-Saxon oak-pile dated 684-702AD was found in the Strood; it is thought that up to 5,000 of these were used in the construction of the causeway. One wonders who instigated the building of such a project. Perhaps, King Sebba (665-695 AD) was responsible.

Finally, the remains of Anglo-Saxon fish-weirs have been carbon-dated to between 600 and 950AD. Most likely date was 8th century when the causeway was completed. Two lines of timber posts are still in place after 1300 years.

Lodge Hill Site

John Moore said that there was a lodge standing from the mid-16th century to 1702 on the site owned by the Waldegrave family. The lodge was built on a slope commanding a prominent position overlooking the surrounding area. There were numerous deer-parks in the region, dating from the 1400s. Three of these - Small-bridge Hall deer-park, Church Hall deer-park and one which lay behind Wormingford Hall - were all owned by the Waldegraves. Three deer parks were surely a high status symbol.

Three generations of the Waldegrave family owned the lodge site from 1338 to 1613. It is thought that deer hunting had declined in popularity during the time. But it seems likely that Henry VIII re-introduced the sport and the lodge was rebuilt during the ownership of William Waldegrave (1539-1613).

Referring to John Norden's map of Essex (1594), it indicated "Worningforde" Lodge to be a "house of name", thus indicating its importance. This is confirmed by hearth tax returns, showing the lodge had ten hearths, second only to Wormingford Hall in the local area.

The Waldegraves sold up in 1702. From 1702-1830, the lodge and Wormingford Hall were involved in various changes of ownership. They went from house to farm to oblivion.

By 1768 the area was referred to as "Lodge Farm". The last map referring to the lodge site was in 1825. By 1838 the tithe map showed no evidence of a lodge, presumably to avoid the payment of tithes.

More Lodge Hill

Don Goodman reminded us of the story when a ferret got caught up underground whilst rabbiting and had to be dug out on the Lodge Hill site. How a brick foundation was discovered during the digging and the bricks were identified as Tudor bricks. How further digging discovered a cellared building and revealed its square construction. Don explained that later, when a rubbish pit was found, it turned out to be a well. The well was excavated and found to be five feet across and thirty feet deep but no mortar was used in its construction. Don described the discovery of a twelve-foot long trunk within the well, which had been augured out using a long drill to form a pipe. This pipe was part of the pump used to extract water. The workings of the pump were explained by Don.

Phil Cunningham then showed us a magnificent video of the pipe being uplifted from the well and the well being explored. The video clearly showed the brickwork construction and recesses put in place to support the pump. Both video and commentary were of the highest order. Finally, a brick platform had just been discovered. Could this be the base of an early Tudor brick kiln?

CLASSICAL SITES IN LIBYA

Tony O'Connor, District Museum Officer, Epping Forest District Museum

22nd November 2010

Report by David Harrison

Tony has been leading cultural tours since 1991 after spending 18 years in survey and archaeology in Libya. It is still possible to visit the majority of sites within Libya and be the only tourist; this is mainly due to the political situation. The majority of Libyans still live within the coastal strip as they did in antiquity.

Cyrene was a Greek city founded in 63BC by Battus on his second attempt. His first attempt ended in failure and he returned to Delphi where the oracle told him to try again. On this second trip he was taken, at night, to a site which he was told was the best in Libya. The city developed on the upper of the two plateaux and was built around the Temple of Apollo. There are also the remains of the Temple of Demeter, along with other minor temples. Cyrene was a very powerful and rich city; on the coast its port was called Apollonia, as well as other cities within the same area. Water supply was good and came from the Fountain of Apollo. Eventually, with the rise of Rome, Cyrene became a Roman city. There are the remains of a Doric Greek theatre with views across the plateau to the sea; after the Jewish revolt this theatre became an arena under the Romans. The city still had four other theatres anyway. In the surrounding hillsides there is a huge necropolis with some of the tombs still showing signs of the paints used. One of the most important exports was sylphanon (a cure-all plant). So much of this plant was collected and shipped overseas that eventually it died out and became extinct.

Greeks only settled on the eastern seaboard of Libya. The Phoenicians settled to the west. They came from the Lebanon and were very good at trading and sailing. They established Leptis Magna and other cities in the west of Libya, but it was not until Carthage in Tunisia was destroyed that they became very prosperous. Leptis Magna was laid out by the Romans on top of the original Punic city. The rich and famous people wanted it to be seen as "the place to be" and had erected a stone-built theatre by the 1st century BC. There was also a great deal of modernisation carried out in the 2nd century AD. Some excellent mosaics have been discovered including the fallen gladiator and other gladiatorial scenes. Several very wealthy villas have been found, in particular Villa Selene which was built between the 1st and 2nd century AD and included the hippodrome mosaic. The city also spent a great deal of money by building a new harbour but it silted up within 50 years. Leptis Magna is the main city but in the same area there are others which are still undergoing excavation. Unfortunately some of the sites already found are suffering from pollution and also plundering.

A GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF EARLS COLNE PRIORY.

Tim J Dennis, School of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering, University of Essex

29th November 2010

Report by Philip Cunningham

Location

The original Priory was situated close to the River Colne, with a water mill being part of the estate. The current modern house known as the Priory is close by but not located exactly on the old site. The location is now a scheduled site and is currently covered mainly by lawn making access easy.

The priory is identified in a number of maps. First as part of Earls Colne surveyed by Israel Amyce in 1598. Amyce was himself a servant of the 17th Earl. The map was drawn up for Roger Harlackenden who had acquired the De Vere properties. It shows in particular the De Veres' new house on the site of the then former Priory. It then appears on Chapman and Andre, 1777.

History*

Founded between 1100 and 1107 by Alberic de Vere, as a 'cell of Abingdon' with six monks, later twelve. Some evidence of pre-conquest monastic activity from a will of 1045. Always a small-scale institution, at the dissolution it had a prior and ten monks. Disagreements resulted in independence from Abingdon in 1311.

'Special trouble' in 1356-7 with probable collapse of the central tower and crossing.

At the dissolution in 1536, the buildings and property were granted to John de Vere, 15th Earl of Oxford, a return to the family whose ancestors had provided them originally.

The 17th Earl, 'a notorious spendthrift', or more charitably, lacking in financial acumen, sold properties, including the Priory, to Roger Harlackenden, his master of the horse and Essex steward, and to Roger's son Richard.

Up to the 14th Earl, all but the 3rd and 12th Earls are thought to have been buried at Earls Colne Priory: some monuments survive, moved from the present Priory House to St Stephens Chapel, Bures St Mary in 1935.

**Principal source: 'Colne Priory, Essex, and the burials of the Earls of Oxford', F. H. Fairweather, Archaeologia, Society of Antiquaries, 1938.*

At some stage, presumably following their reacquisition of the property after the dissolution, the De Veres built a new house on the Priory site. It is this house that appears on the Amyce map of 1598.

'Mr. Sheffelde told me that a little beside Colne Priorie yn Etsax, wher the Erle of Oxford usid to be buried, was a manor place of theirs, the dikes and plotte whereof yet remayne, and berith the name of the Haulle Place. Syns the ruine of this manor place the Erles hath builded hard by the priory.'*

* *The Itinerary of John Leland in or about the years 1535-1543*, ed. Lucy Toulmin Smith, George Bell and Sons, London, 1908.

Later History*

Decay during 1600s, and by the latter part of the 17th c., one part of the priory buildings was being used as servants' sleeping accommodation and another known as the Monument House contained 'a few olde monuments with other lumber'. Sold by the Harlackendens in 1672, now themselves in financial difficulty, the site was eventually through marriage acquired by 'a Mr Wale' in the early 1700s. 'This is a critical point in the history. Mr Wale was a most destructive innovator. The entire remaining portion of the church was swept away, and '[a] ditch... was dug through the centre of the choir... .' 'Many graves were dug though and destroyed, and the remaining effigies and monuments were entirely eradicated... .' 'The priory church is entirely pulled down, the foundations dug up and stables erected on the site' (Holman, 1740).

The building on the site of the old De Vere house was finally demolished around 1827 by Henry Holgate Carwardine. Carwardine built a new house in a different location; this is the one that now stands, and is still known as Priory House. The last standing remains of the church were removed in the 1960's.

**Quotes from 'Colne Priory, Essex, and the burials of the Earls of Oxford', F. H. Fairweather, Archaeologia, Society of Antiquaries, 1938.*

Excavation

Fairweather conducted a number of excavations from 1929 to 1934. Measurements from his plan suggest an external length of the monastic church at 60.1 m; width of transepts (excl. corner projections) 29.9 m and width of west front 25.7 m. The layout and proportions are similar to West Acre Priory in Norfolk and St Botholphs, with Earls Colne being slightly larger.

Tim was able to overlay the Fairweather plan onto Google aerial imagery to help identify the site and its features. Linking this to Ordnance Survey maps is a very useful technique in preparation of a ground based survey.

Survey

Resistance, magnetometry and ground penetrating radar techniques were explained in brief terms. Each has different benefits and limitations, so a combination is often helpful as was demonstrated in this survey. The different results were overlaid on the aerial imagery and Fairweather's plan using an OS based grid.

Whilst it was not possible to cover the whole site there was some evidence of later buildings and the foundations of a circular driveway.

Ground Penetrating Radar

Tim showed a video of a unit in action on the site. Dragged along the ground it can give 20 readings per metre, though for the survey half metre intervals were used. Results once processed provide horizontal slices, based primarily on time taken for the signal to bounce back, rather than depth, though this often correlates. A clear sequence in plan is generated, as demonstrated by Tim for CAG members. A clear plan of the church comes through particularly at the lower levels. Some tombs may remain at the site, possibly more of the Oxford Earls.

Features not shown on the Fairweather plan were discovered, also possible garden features and drainage.

Geophysics techniques

The Radar works best where there are clear contrasts and is less effective on clay or wet sites, penetrating at most down to 2 metres. Magnetometry is good for identifying ditches and not so effective in urban settings. Resistance is good on walls and ditches. None are foolproof or totally reliable and variable on soil factors.

Lidar.

This acronym stands for Light Detection and Ranging using three-dimensional data points by the application of a laser. Tim explained the basis for this new technique and demonstrated aerial Lidar mapping of a site close by Essex University, undertaken on behalf of the Environment Agency which has commissioned surveys covering parts of the country vulnerable to flooding. The highly accurate topographical mapping is fine enough to identify details such as ring features, just by small changes in height. After computer processing the 3D laser sweeps provide enough information to give the apparent ability to see through vegetation, forest and buildings down to the surface. These maps are available for purchase for research purposes. A guide on the technique is available from the English Heritage web site:-

ROMAN GESTINGTHORPE: AN UPDATE

Ashley Cooper, Gestingthorpe farmer and author

17th January 2011

Notes by John Mallinson

Subtitled: Contrast, Surprise and Archaeological Red Herrings or: The Pleasantly Affluent and the Unresearched Poor

When Harold Cooper, Ashley Cooper's father, picked up a few pieces of tile from a field on his farm at Gestingthorpe, he started a 63 year long interest for himself and his son which continues to this day. The tile proved to be Roman and to have come from a villa located on their land, and ever since the Coopers have devoted much of their spare time to unravelling the secrets of the settlement, and presenting their findings to a wider audience through publications, lectures and displays at their private museum on the farm.

The first part of the talk dealt in detail with the discovery and subsequent excavation of the villa and surroundings from 1949 to 1976. At that time the site was scheduled, which protected it, but also prevented any further intrusive exploration. The villa proved to be a building 36m x 18.4m, oriented NE/SW with an apse on the east end of the south west wall. Both red and white roofing tiles were found, which must have made the villa appear very striking from the outside. There were four rooms along the SW wall, almost certainly used as living rooms by the family, with a hypocaust in the apsidal room. Five rooms along the NE wall included a kitchen. Evidence for a bath complex, with *opus signinum* floor and painted plaster walls was found on the west side. Further details can be found on the SEAX website, SMR No. 138599.

Numerous finds from the site were illustrated by excellent slides which confirmed the villa owners to have been affluent, but not ostentatious, comfortable but hard working upper middle class. Their wealth and status was probably enhanced by their proximity to the Roman road from Braintree to Ixworth and beyond. Although no physical trace of this road has been found to date (much to the frustration of the Coopers), the line of it must have been very close, and have brought the possibility of trade. This is attested to by evidence of a market area to the north of the villa, where 60-70 scattered coins have been found, as well as evidence of bone and antler, bronze and other artefacts, which could have been traded. In turn the market supported a thriving local industry attached to the villa. A second building with a rubble and flint base was thought to have been a bronze worker's workshop. Within it was a clay mould for a 15" bronze figurine of Bacchus, as well as a bronze axe and other

votive tools. It is even possible that there was a local Celtic shrine nearby. There was also a tile kiln where the striking red and white tiles for the villa could have been made. All the details of the early excavations have been reported and can be read in "Excavations at Hill Farm Gestingthorpe, Draper A.J EAA25: ECC Archaeological Section 1985" available in the CAG library and elsewhere.

In the second part of his talk, the speaker described the work carried out outside the scheduled area of the villa. The Coopers continued to try to pinpoint the line of the Roman road, and with help of geophysical surveys conducted by Peter Cott, they were able to identify a pair of ditches which appeared to have the right orientation to belong to the road, about 100m away from the villa. They were able to follow these for about a hundred yards, and a steady trickle of finds dating to the late IA or early Roman from the area tended to confirm the putative road line. The magnetometry also revealed a number of other features of interest, including a rather enigmatic hollow, possibly natural, but probably man-made, though for what purpose is not known, and a series of 4 small ditches, very reminiscent of the "skanks" at Bulmer Brickworks. About 600m NE of the villa the site of a house or building was identified. Some grey ware and barbotine pottery, loom weights and bits of bronze suggested a domestic dwelling, but in contrast to the villa, there was no gold or silver, or brooches or other items of personal adornment, suggesting that the inhabitants were relatively poor. A second area a further 600m from the villa suggested another similar habitation.

The speaker concluded by offering three "archaeological red herrings" which had at one time or another caused puzzlement. The first was the discovery, in a Roman context, and cut into the boulder clay, of 6 chalk lines 3-4" wide and 5-6m apart, which ran for about 70m across the site. Roman running track? No. 18th century land drains in which chalk had been packed on top of bush faggot drains — an unusual but practical way of keeping the drains free flowing. Second, a clear straight broad line running across the site, clearly visible on Google Earth. The line of the Roman Road? No. The line of the North Sea pipeline. Third, photographs of circular areas of stunted crops. Crop marks from prehistoric barrows? No. Barley yellow dwarf virus in areas that had been missed by spraying. Few things are ever what they seem in archaeology.

Finally Ashley asked his father, who was present in the audience, what he would most still like to find- "A Roman milestone, with the distances to the two nearest towns marked on it" was the reply.

A truly memorable, informative and entertaining lecture, which was excellently illustrated, throughout by slides showing the many features and artefacts found. Of particular interest, and a wonderful way of bringing the site alive, were the slides of the many paintings by Benjamin Perkins, commissioned by and painted under the advice of the speaker, which interpreted and illustrated the villa and its surrounding as they would have appeared in Roman times.

SIR ROGER OF BEELEIGH

Stephen Nunn and Geoff Clark, Maldon Archaeological and Historical Group

24th January 2011

Report by Pam Pudney

Sir Roger of Beeleigh was an almost forgotten Essex-born cleric, later promoted to sainthood, one Roger Niger of Beeleigh (Saint Roger Niger de Biliye). He was probably born in Beeleigh in about 1175 and his parents were Ralph and Margery Niger (Niger = Black, a common early Norman-French surname. Did he perhaps have dark hair and a swarthy countenance?). Possibly he was, as a very young boy, given to the Premonstratensian Canons of Beeleigh Abbey as a child oblate to be brought up and educated in the service of the church, much as the Venerable Bede had been centuries before. Beeleigh certainly had a "children's chamber" = a schoolroom, until the Dissolution in 1536. He seems to have advanced quickly in his church career, and the first official record of him was in 1192, showing that he was a prebendary Canon of the medieval guild of Old St. Paul's Cathedral in the City of London. He would have lived in a residence nearby, and been in receipt of a stipend from a property or tithe paid to Eadland, Eadland was an area lying in the parish of Tillingham in the Dengie marshes. Since 610 AD the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's had been, and still are, the Lords of the Manor of Tillingham, making the parish a prebend of the Cathedral. Tillingham (Eadland) still has a choir stall in the new St. Paul's (built 1675-1710). The income paid to Roger as a Prebendary Canon would have been enough to complete his studies at St. Paul's, following on from his schooling at Beeleigh Abbey. One of his duties was to recite from memory a number of psalms, specifically the 82nd to 86th psalms, every day at a service at the cathedral.

By 1218 he had been promoted to the post of Archdeacon of Colchester. He was head of six Essex deaneries, covering 158 parishes. One deanery was Colchester itself with 16 parishes, including that of Holy Trinity church in Trinity Street. Held in Cambridge University Library now is a later copy of some grants and licences issued by Roger for rectors and priests of the archdeaconry - 69 paragraphs in Latin with reference to the conduct of his clergy, including their duties towards the Chapter of St. Paul's, burials of excommunicates etc.

Eventually he was made Bishop of London (c.1228-9). He lived in a palace next to St. Paul's Cathedral. On 25th January 1230, a special day - the anniversary of the conversion of St. Paul - Roger was preaching at High Mass in the Cathedral when, recorded the monk chronicler Matthew Paris, there was "a tempest of thunder and lightning", the congregation fled but Roger and one canon stood firm. Roger, Bishop of London, recited the words he knew so well from the 83rd psalm while plaster fell on him and his companion - St. Paul's had been struck by lightning. Eventually the people returned to find him still praying at the High Altar. This was the start of the cult of St. Roger, his reputation was in the ascendant.

He also had to deal with disputes at the highest level. Until 1232 King Henry III was still a minor. There was, therefore, a regime run by different justiciars. Three of them took it on in turn, but two were particular rivals jockeying for power - the French-born Peter des Roches, Bishop of Winchester, and the Anglo-Norman Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent. Des Roches accused de Burgh of treason. Henry III believed this accusation. De Burgh fled and sought sanctuary at the new chapel of St. Thomas in Brentwood (the chapel established in 1221 by the monastery of St. Osyth's, now used by East Anglian pilgrims travelling to the shrine of St. Thomas a Becket in Canterbury). There de Burgh was seized by soldiers, but Roger Niger, Bishop of London, on hearing about this, threatened to excommunicate the King, his soldiers, and all concerned with breaking the right of sanctuary. Henry III, mindful of his ancestor Henry II's part in Thomas a Becket's death, backed down. De Burgh was allowed to stay; 39 days later, almost starving, he gave himself up. However this was a useful time-lag for the King to cool down and for de Burgh's innocence to be proven.

Roger was very good at obtaining his own way. He stood out against the Italian money-lenders in England and their extortionate rates on loans. The Pope supported them as the Vatican received a percentage of the loan rate charged. Roger was summoned to Rome by the Papacy but refused to go, on the grounds of ill health - and some years later the money-lenders were expelled.

He attended many important ceremonies including the election of Edmund of Abingdon to the post of Archbishop of Canterbury. He officiated at the coronation of Queen Eleanor of Provence in 1236 and in 1239 he assisted at the baptism of her son Edward, the future Edward I. He witnessed the re-issue of Magna Carta and was generally involved in so many leading events. Roger was very much associated with the Old St. Paul's and was a benefactor to that Cathedral. He had a chantry chapel installed there to the memory of his parents, Ralph and Margery. In 1240 he had a new choir area built, and to the dedication he invited the great and the good, including Edmund, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Walter Mauclerc, Bishop of Carlisle, Otto, a papal legate, and the King himself, Henry III. (Of course Old St. Paul's Cathedral no longer exists, so badly was it damaged by the Great Fire of London in 1666 that Sir Christopher Wren decided to demolish it and rebuild anew).

Roger eventually retired just outside the City of London to a quiet rural place called Stupenheath (Stepney) and on 29th September, the Feast of St. Michael - Michaelmas Day - 1241 he died. There was a total eclipse of the sun when he was buried in Old St. Paul's, adding to his status as a saintly man. Many pilgrims would have come to visit his shrine over the years. His episcopal ring was given to the monastery of Hatfield Broad Oak in Essex, and other religious establishments received his cope and his cushion as relics. His heart was removed, as was often the custom then, and kept at Beeleigh Abbey in a shrine before the altar. All these relics of Roger brought visitors to the respective religious sites where they were held.

King Edward I and his queen, Eleanor of Castile, stayed at Beeleigh in 1289 and there visited Roger's shrine. But in 1536, 6th June, on the day of the feast of St. Norbert of the Premonstratensians, King Henry VIII's Commissioners closed the monastery. There was no mention in their inventory of Roger's shrine. Had the monks hidden it? Gradually his name slipped from people's memory and the site of the High Altar and his shrine is now an ornamental pond in Beeleigh Abbey's grounds. However, since the 1920's, with a paper by J.H. Round, a book by Fowler, Clapham and Galpin, and Mr. Nunn's own booklet, published in 2001, interest in Roger has been revived.

Nowadays he is remembered at Maldon's Roman Catholic church and good relations with monks in Chelmsford and Premonstratensians from Belgium has meant that they have visited Beeleigh Abbey as guests of the owner Christopher Foyle who also opens the property to the public from time to time in the summer months.

A LOST ENGLISH COUNTY: WINCHCOMBESHIRE

Julian Whybra, Educational Consultant and former history teacher

31st January 2011

Report by Pat Brown

Julian Whybra began by outlining the beginnings of English shires as they were up to the reorganisation of local government in 1974. He had been intrigued by the mention, in the margin of a cartulary (*Liber Wigoniensis*), of "Winchcombescir". Mercia, unlike the rest of England, had been divided into "burghal districts" for the purposes of raising the militia and providing ships, and these were based on fortified burhs, ignoring tribal boundaries. Each contained 12 hundreds, or 1,200 hides (a hide was traditionally 100 acres, enough land to support a family). "Scir" means a district "shorn" from another territory. From 600 on it is the term of an ealdorman, later an earl. Shires were imposed by Cnut in 1008. Winchcombeshire was joined to Gloucestershire in 1017 by the traitorous Eadric Streona (or, possibly, to contain him).

Julian had spent years of research, piecing together this lost shire. He had begun by looking at land charters referring to Winchcombeshire, and plotting the hundreds where these estates lay: this gave him five. A note after the Domesday Book entry for Evesham Abbey referred to a "ferding" of Gloucestershire, which gave him two more. References in Domesday Book to the allegiances of burgesses to a shire gave four more. The twelfth hundred was named in a dispute over Windrush adjudicated by the king, who gave it to Winchcombe, and this gave a total of 1098 hides. The missing hides can be accounted for by two of the "Triple Hundreds of Oswaldslow" which bring the total up to 1179. The remaining 21 hides can be more or less accounted for by five parishes in the west that moved between Wales and England.

Julian ended by reminding us of the persistence of county loyalties, and recounted how a Gloucestershire County Councillor, when she heard of his work, insisted when on celebrating the county millennium in 2007 in Winchcombe, rather than 2008 for Gloucestershire as a whole.

FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE: A NEW TYPE OF WORLD HERITAGE SITE

David Breeze,

7th February 2011

Report by Pat Brown

David Breeze explained that UNESCO was intending to make the entire length of the frontier of the Roman Empire into a World Heritage Site.

In Germany the frontier was straight for 80 kilometres in one stretch, with 20 camps along the wall. Inscribed stones showed exactly how much of the wall each detachment of the army built. Problems arose: each monument had to have a buffer zone, while in North Africa the Roman Empire was only a narrow coastal strip.

But overall there were two main problems: firstly, at what point in time were the frontiers to be defined? and secondly, where exactly was the frontier, in areas where the limits of the Empire were in a zone of influence, rather than an actual rampart.

THE TEMPLE OF CLAUDIUS

Mark Davies

14th February 2011-04-28

Report by Rosemary Joseland

Mark began his lecture by reminding us that Colchester's Temple of Claudius is one of the most historic sites in the country, although this fact cannot be proved, in view of the lack of any evidence from inscriptions and no coins have been found.

AD60 saw the burning of the Temple and AD54 was the year in which the Emperor Claudius died. As soon as an Emperor died, the Roman Senate met, to decide the formalities, which would take place to enable the deceased Emperor to become divine and for temples to be constructed to his memory; in the case of Claudius, this meant temples in both Colchester and Rome.

90% of the building materials for the Temple in Colchester were Roman and the Temple was constructed in an octave style, with eight columns along the front Mark showed us slides of plans of the precinct, which would have consisted of a huge platform, with the Temple inside. Rex Hull's excavations in the 1930s revealed the front of the castle, vault and prison. These were followed by excavations in 1952, 1964 and 1969. Mark referred to excavations by Sir Mortimer Wheeler and to some Roman marbles, found by Rex Hull.

Well before the excavations in 1950, in 1940 a bomb fell at the back of the Castle and, although there is very little evidence on the north side, it is believed that the major structure was in place by AD60, but nothing was completed, although work did take place after the Boudiccan rebellion. There was some timber building after Boudicca and pottery from the Vespasian period was discovered in 1969. Mark went on to show us some slides of John Weeley's tunnel and the vaults

Mark then referred to the other side of the High Street from the Castle and suggestions that it might have been the site of the provincial basilica of the colonia (London being, by AD90, the capital city). There has even been speculation that it could have been the site of another temple. Mark went on to say that there would have been a processional way from the Temple of Claudius to the Circus and finished his lecture by showing us some slides of the Circus.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE FENS

Tim Reynolds, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology, Birkbeck College

21st February 2011

Report by Andrew White

This fascinating presentation began with an overview of the Fenland Basin which consists of a million acres of low-lying land much of which is below sea level and was swamp from the Mesolithic period. The area has numerous sand and gravelly mounds within the peat fen.

The fens were reclaimed in three periods — major Roman drainage dykes, more piecemeal inking by the ecclesiastical centres, and the major drainage works by the Dutch in the 17th century.

An archaeological survey was funded by English Heritage over a ten year period. A quarter of a million acres were field-walked, 2,000 new sites of archaeological importance were mapped, 900 of which were prehistoric and 800 Roman. A parish by parish survey was carried out and checks made against existing records. The sandy hills within the fen usually have Stone Age and Bronze Age settlements. An understanding of how the landscape functioned was discussed. A 2km ceremonial way (cursus) was discovered at Barleycroft, and Roman salt-making alongside Roman peat workings.

Perhaps we have been too busy looking at the huge fenland skies and not taking enough notice of what is beneath our feet.

RAYNE FOUNDRY: THE SECOND IRON AGE IN ESSEX

Chris Lister, Colchester Archaeological Trust

28th February 2011*Report by Elaine Mead*

Our speaker opened his lecture with the warning that if we had hoped to find out more about the (first) Iron Age in Rayne then we would be disappointed! His talk was based upon a Buildings Recording Survey of the Foundry, which he had undertaken for CAT in 2008. Iron is the most common element on the planet and is formed by fusion in stars; iron particles being thrust into space by this process. The earliest use of iron is thought to have been in Anatolia in 2000BC and the Roman invasion of Britain in 43AD is supposed to mark the official end of the first Iron Age in Britain.

The Second Iron Age was, of course, begun during the Industrial Revolution of the 18th Century. Rayne Foundry dates from 1819, when it was founded by Mr Challis, a farmer from the Felsted area, who saw an opportunity to profit from the demand for the new agricultural implements. By 1838 the Tithe map shows it as being owned by Edward Goss; it also shows an independent smithy adjacent to the right of the foundry, a common symbiotic business arrangement.

By 1851 the Foundry employed 10 men and 2 boys, a substantial percentage of the village population. In 1855 a Mr Peene from Benthalls went into partnership with Goss. The following contemporary rhyme was quoted:

*Now Rayne is famous for its plough
The best that ever had been seen
For metal of the very best
Is only used by Goss and Peene*

Peene soon became the sole owner and by the 1860s Rayne foundry was making the earliest drain covers for Essex. Other products ranged from garden tables and chairs to the iron grave markers still seen in some graveyards around this area.

By 1871 the foundry employed 22 men and when it was later sold to Barnard and Lake 30-40 were employed there. The time of greatest expansion, however, came during the two World Wars. The Foundry was used for manufacture of munitions, for instance hand grenades, and employed 120 people. After the war, though, agricultural machinery ceased to be made there and the whole site was used for casting production. Casting in bronze was also undertaken on a small scale, for example part of the clock mechanism for Big Ben was cast here. In the last quarter of the 20th century employment dropped and in 2001 the company went into receivership and closed. Rayne foundry had been the last operational Iron Foundry in Essex.

Our speaker then gave an informative explanation of the process of manufacture at the Foundry and we were shown maps and plans of the layout of the foundry buildings. Initially a pattern was drawn up to the customer's specifications and these were fabricated in the Pattern Shop. Patterns were exact wooden replicas of the finished product, made slightly over-sized. (When Rayne Foundry closed the pattern loft was found to be 'stuffed' with old patterns; Essex CC and Braintree DC removed many of these for future use.) Sand was then mixed with a fixative, which was poured into the pattern to form a core. This was rammed hard and, following baking in an industrial oven to harden it, the core was sent to the moulding floor. Moulds were made from 'flasks' and when ready were taken to await the molten iron on the Casting Floor.

The Furnace was filled with a mixture of Pig Iron and Scrap Iron. Heat was provided by wood and then coke and limestone added to purify the mixture. Air was blasted in, the impurities pulled off and the liquid metal poured into ladles suspended from hoists. These hoists were moved along by an 'overhead monorail metal handling system' and the molten iron was poured into the moulds on the floor. When cooled the moulds were broken away and the rough castings finished, either by hand or, more conveniently, by the Pangbourne Shot Blaster - a device which blasted steel shot at the castings.

When finished, items were painted or dipped in red or grey oxide to prevent rusting. Patterns, which were expensive to make, were usually stored ready for re-use.

Our speaker concluded his talk by stating that although Rayne Foundry was small by national standards, it nonetheless played a vital role in creating the modern “iron-filled” world we see around us today.

LIVING IN ESSEX: WHERE DO WE COME FROM?

7th March 2011

Mark Curteis, Heritage Learning Manager, Essex Record Office.

Notes taken by Jean Roberts

We were told that there was no such thing as Essex man, as over 200,000 years history everyone was an incomer and Mark took us on a journey covering all the people who had settled in this region over the years.

During an interglacial period, in the Palaeolithic Era early hominids moved in and left behind hand axes, a few being found around Clacton. 4,000 - 2,000 BC saw the beginning of farming but it is difficult to decide whether this was brought by new people or the existing people adopted new ideas. Two cursus from this period have been found near Wormingford, while Bronze Age artefacts were discovered in a barrow near Ardleigh, together new styles of pottery and metal working.

It is now thought that there was no mass migration of the Gallic people, fleeing from Julius Caesar and his army, although there was a flow of traffic between Britain and Gaul, bringing more new ideas, such as wheel-turned pots. Some of these were found in the Stanway burials.

The Roman invasion brought soldiers who had been recruited all over the Empire and they were settled in and around Colchester. This imposed a new culture on Essex. Anglo-Saxons replaced the Romans in the 6th and 7th centuries, looking for new land, followed by the Vikings, after their success at the Battle of Maldon, introducing the Viking culture and way of life here. The church at Greenstead is a stave church showing Viking influence.

The Norman Conquest was an invasion of the aristocracy, not peasantry, and this led to castle building and the establishment of monasteries, mostly run by monks from France. William 1 encouraged Jews to settle in England, although they were not allowed to own land and there is documentary evidence for Jews in the area in the 13th Century.

The 14th Century brought cloth workers from the Low Countries, but Colchester still only had a small proportion of foreigners. This changed in the 16th Century when Dutch people fleeing from the Continent brought their skills in the making of Bays and Says to Colchester and settled in the town. When Colchester was fined £12000 after the Siege, half of it was raised by the large Dutch community living here. There are also records of people in Essex having black servants in the 17th Century.

The 19th century brought Irish immigrants fleeing from poverty and famine, Jews escaping pogroms in Europe, while the 20th Century saw Asians encouraged to move from London, evacuees from Tottenham who were housed in Saffron Walden and Germans who were interned in camps in Essex.

During the Second World War, the area was home to thousands of Americans based at the various USAAF airfields, and after they left the base at Rivenhall was used to house Polish refugees,

who were eventually relocated and rehoused. After the war immigrants from the Caribbean brought Calypso and steel bands, blues and Reggae and slum clearance led to the building of Harlow New Town. One of the final waves of incomers were Ugandan Asians who landed at Stansted airport and brought their influences to Essex.

Mark had proved his point that we are all incomers of some sort or other.

BOOK REVIEWS

Additions to Group Library

Boudica to Raedwald: East Anglia's Relations with Rome

John Fairclough ISBN 0953968039

Report by Bernard Colbron

A re-examination of past archaeological discoveries together with recent finds by metal detectorists and aerial surveys provide a re-evaluation of some of our familiar local places. Well illustrated with many colour photographs.

Earthen Long Barrows.. The Earliest Monuments in the British Isles

David Field

Review by Francis Nicholls

This is a very readable account not only for experts but also for amateur archaeologists as well. He manages authoritatively to review the history of research, together with the principal features of long barrow form and contents. It is at its best when it takes us on a series of mini-tours to clusters of long barrows using aerial photography and ground surveys.

Long barrows, single mounds of earth, flanked by ditches are some of the earliest monuments on the country and have long considered to be burial sites for chieftains or those killed in battle. However it would appear that their true nature still eludes us.

David Field has added greatly to our knowledge on the subject. His description of the treatment of the dead and his sense of connection to the land, place and the earth makes his book an informative and rewarding read.

Field Archaeology - An Introduction.

Peter L. Drewett

Review by John Mallinson

This is only a small book, but it attempts to give an overview of all aspects of field archaeology. Starting with site recognition, notification and recording, it moves through non-destructive archaeological techniques, such as field walking and geophysics, to excavation planning, legislation and safety. After discussion of excavation techniques, and recording, it concludes with sections on finds processing and report publication.

Those with a modest amount of fieldwork experience will be familiar with most of the advice and information presented, but for the beginner, or for someone hesitantly wondering whether they have sufficient knowledge and experience to lead a project, the book provides a useful confidence booster and aide memoire. If you are unsure about how to lay out and set up a site, how Munsell charts work, how to fill in a context sheet or create a Harris Matrix, you will find help and reassurance here. It is inevitable that depending on their current level of expertise, the individual reader will find some of the discussion unnecessarily pedantic (do we really need in depth discussion of the type of toothbrush suitable for pot-washing?), whilst in other cases find it irritatingly vague, but overall the general level is about right.

The edition reviewed is a digital reprint of a book originally published in 1999, and it is a pity that the publishers did not take the opportunity to update one or two of the sections. There is virtually no mention of digital photography, for instance, and in some cases the details of the legislation covering excavations has changed. But overall the book is still thoroughly relevant, and should be of interest to anyone who wants to broaden their knowledge of how archaeological investigations should be carried out.

ANNUAL CAG PUBLIC LECTURE**THE STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD**

Dr Leslie Webster, former Director, Department of Prehistory and Europe, British Museum

22nd January 2011

Report by Pat Brown

Dr Webster, who is a foremost authority on Anglo-Saxon metalwork, began by setting the scene in 7th-century Mercia, a period when there is little known about this area; Bede is not much concerned with it. The Staffordshire Hoard has attracted intense public interest, largely due to its high gold content and exquisite workmanship, as well as the drama of its discover, by a metal detectorist in a field near Lichfield.

Buried probably towards the end of the 7th century, it contains c.3,500 fragments and objects including 24 garnet and 52 filigree sword pommels, 10 of which are silver and probably earlier than the gold ones, an unprecedented total to be found together. Other military items include sword pyramids, and shield and helmet fittings.

It is notable in lacking any female items or coins, consisting almost entirely of small, damaged or stripped military pieces. Also absent are sword fittings such as the strap distributors found at Sutton Hoo, and this may be attributed to such items being of use to leather-workers rather than metal-workers. But there are many resemblances to the Sutton Hoo Mound 1 assemblage, particularly in the garnet cloisonne and lidded cloisons, while the Style II ornament on the maple-wood bottles is paralleled by the decoration on one of the crosses in the hoard. The filigree, however, is much looser than the close filigree found at Sutton Hoo. Much is already old, showing considerable wear.

Other distinctive items include an inscribed strip, possibly from a cross, one of the earliest non-runic inscriptions yet found in Anglo-Saxon England, referring to the "scattering of enemies" by God; also a folded cross - possibly a standard - and a pendant cross with cabochon garnet. Gold snakes are an unusual component though these may be associated with the Mercian saint, Guthlac, who struggled with such creatures - personifying evil - in his fenland retreat.

It is difficult to be exact about dating, particularly in a non-funerary context, but some idea can be gained by the gold content, much of which would have been obtained by melting down Merovingian coins such as found at Sutton Hoo, since the gold content of these coins is known to have been progressively reduced.

As for the nature of the hoard, various interpretations have been advanced - though it is generally accepted to represent battlefield plunder - ritual, treasure for distribution to warriors and followers, or a metalworker's hoard (Dr Webster favours the latter). But Oswy attempted to buy off Penda of Mercia with treasure, and Wilfred distributed gold and precious stones on his deathbed. It may also be incomplete, since the immediate context is unclear. as it may have been robbed in the past. The exact location, near Watling Street, is also problematic – how was it marked? Why was it buried there, on marginal land?

This was a stimulating and informative talk, and we were fortunate to have had the benefit of Dr Webster's unrivalled knowledge.

VISIT TO WALTHAM ABBEY: 3RD AUGUST 2011*Report by Pat Brown*

30 CAG members and friends spent an extremely interesting - and very hot - day at Waltham Abbey, expertly and indefatigably guided by Peter Huggins of the Waltham Abbey Historical Society, veteran excavator of the Abbey and its surroundings. He took us first to the reconstructed forge, passing the barrel-lined well and the infirmary sites, where a modern statue of an Augustinian canon stands. Waltham Abbey was the largest establishment of Augustinian canons in England, though the church today known as Waltham Abbey is a very small part of the abbey founded in the reign of Henry II; only the nave remains.

Peter Huggins described an excavation nearby which had revealed part of the cellarer's range of the Abbey, where post-medieval layers had exposed a sump interpreted as a soaking-pit for removing the mortar from broken abbey stonework, intended for use in the adjacent lime-kiln. Significantly an Anglo-Saxon fastener depicting an eagle and fish, in C7 Style II, had emerged, pointing to an early ecclesiastical presence.

We next went through the gatehouse, with "Great Bricks", leading on to the remains of the mill workings and water-wheel, before entering the Abbey itself. The Norman nave which we came into had been preceded by, probably, three earlier churches, the first a wooden structure; the second – stone - c.790, and the third the church built by Harold, later King. This was said to have housed a black stone cross miraculously found on the Somerset estate of Tofig the Proud, one of Cnut's chief thegns. No remains of this cross have ever been found.

The nave is dominated by massive engraved pillars, reminiscent of Durham. The great east windows are by Burne-Jones, and the painted ceiling by Sir Edward Poynter. The whole had been restored by Burges, so what we see today is to a great extent a Victorian concept. Peter Huggins took us to the Lady Chapel (1318) to view the splendid Doom wall painting, and to the crypt below it to see the mutilated figure of Our Lady, to whom, with St. Laurence, the Abbey was dedicated. He also showed us herring-bone brickwork in a wall, possibly part of Harold's church. There is a tradition that Harold's body was brought here for burial after the Battle of Hastings. The west tower is C16.

In the afternoon he took us round the cloister walls and the precinct, pointing out the lines of destroyed apses, which gave an idea of the vast size of the original Abbey, with its straight transepts and probable twin west towers, a huge Romanesque structure. In the walls of the cloister and precinct he pointed out many re-used stones, including Purbeck marble column bases. Excavations in the Vicarage garden had revealed traces of what might have been an Anglo-Saxon turf-walled building. Was this, Peter Huggins suggested, Tofig's hall?

Together with the glimpse he gave us of the market place, and the Welsh Harp, a rambling picturesque building which was probably originally an ale-house built to remove the sellers of ale from around the Abbey itself, we came away with the impression of a town and its church where the creation of a pleasant park around the abbey promised future discoveries whenever excavation was possible.

Group members
outlining the east end
of the earlier church



SUMMER PROGRAMME 2011

Our CAG outings started in January with a trip to the British Museum to see the “Journey into the Afterlife” exhibition, based on the Egyptian Book of the Dead. This was followed by a trip to the Afghanistan exhibition in April.

Mark Davies conducted an exploration of Colchester’s western dyke system in May and our summer evening walk in June took in Boxford to Groton and back again, following the footpaths trod by some of the families who emigrated to America in the 1630’s and founded Boston.

The summer party was held at Hazel West’s house at Easthorpe and, despite a cool evening, was the usual sociable success with excellent food provided by the members.

Several members who had been unable to go on the previous visit greatly enjoyed a visit to Ashley Cooper’s farm and museum at Gestingthorpe.

STUDY DAY ON FLINT KNAPPING

Friday 30th September 2011

Report by Ellie Mead

Will Lord was brought up at Grimes Graves where his parents were custodians; hence he has a unique relationship with one of man's earliest forms of raw material: flint. When asked who taught him to knap flint he replied 'the flint taught me'. Will took us on a 'journey' through the history of knapping from an early example of 2 1/2 million year old knapped quartz to demonstrations of Will's own talents in arrow and axe making. From an archaeological point of view Will believes that flint tools cannot be categorized by date easily, due to 'some serious overlaps' in techniques used over time. However, developing craftsmanship did mean that later tools tend to be thinner and finer. Will's modern flint tools could easily be mistaken for the originals, though the latter may feel 'waxy' or have a patina that is lacking in newly knapped flint. As the day progressed we learnt more of the technicalities of flint knapping: to choose hammer stones of quartzite or basalt, how to tell if a flint has been hit with a hard hammer or a soft, about 'cresting' - taking small flakes from an edge, and how pressure flaking with antler is generally a later Palaeolithic technique as opposed to the earlier method of percussion with a hammer stone, the correct angle and position of strike in order to ensure that the shock waves exited from the flint without damaging it. I had always thought of flint knapping as an Art, but a day in the company of Will taught me that it is as much a Science as an Art, and may be regarded as a way of 'connecting with our ancestors' to boot.



CAG WEEKEND TRIP TO THE WEST MIDLANDS

6 - 9 May 2011

Report by Gill Shrimpton

We left Colchester promptly at 8.15 and an uneventful journey took us to Bath. We arrived in fine warm weather at the Roman Bath complex which has been refurbished and the exhibition updated. The audio guides were excellent with a choice of 3 versions of commentary. If you'd wanted to hear them all in full you would need to be there all day! As it was we had 2 hours which was exactly right.

Bath – Aqua Sulis is the best preserved bath complex in Europe and we know from an inscription that it dates from at least 79AD. It was originally a pre Roman sacred site dedicated to a Celtic deity Sulis and was gradually developed by the Romans to the cult of Sulis/Minerva. A temple was built which was set within a colonnaded sacred area and this was all incorporated into one site with the baths. There have been successive excavations since 1800 right up to 1980 and now it is possible to see how the baths actually operated and how they are linked to the temple. The first 3 steps of the temple are now visible. The Museum contains displays of all aspects of Roman life, with emphasis on the military. (The 20th Legion was based here for a while). It was well illustrated with moving panoramas. Then on to our home for the weekend, Studeley Castle. Victorian Gothic kitsch—great fun! It was set within large and beautifully landscaped grounds and had been a college at one time. A long driving day, but very interesting once we were in Wiltshire and the Cotswolds.

Saturday.. Raining. We had a leisurely start after a suitably baronial breakfast and drove for about 90 minutes to a spot just past Malvern.. We alighted and climbed steeply up to the "British Camp". As it was still raining we didn't get the views we deserved! It is a large hill fort covering about 12 hectares and following the natural contours of one of a string of Malvern Hills. Not much information as the site has never been properly examined, it is a multi-period hill fort (possibly Bronze Age) with at least 4 separate building phases. It is also the site of a C11 (or possibly pre Norman) motte at the southern end. The party then split; 7 intrepid souls to continue exploring the Malvern Hills. The rest (it was still raining) continued into Malvern to visit the priory and Museum. Eventually the rain stopped and it became quite humid and clear so we could see details of where we had been. The group reassembled only to split again; some to Elgar's birthplace and the rest to Worcester. Here the cathedral is on a prominence overlooking the river Severn. Founded originally by St Oswald and built mainly by St Wulfstan in the C11. Both saints are recorded and revered. There are many fine memorials to the noble dead from C13 onwards and some lovely C13 carvings behind the main altar. The crypt is largely unaltered from C11, just some extra masonry when the tower was raised in late C14. An Anglo-Saxon burial was found confirming the early foundation.

Sunday Today we travelled to Bewdley, slightly north of Kidderminster, where half the Group had a trip on the Severn Valley Railway - vintage steam! We (the others) spent the morning in Bewdley - a delightful and unspoilt Georgian small town, it appears to have escaped industrialisation because the proposed canal link was built elsewhere. There is an interesting museum displaying the local crafts, ie tanning, leather work, rope making. And we had a pleasant walk along the river. Historically it was an important port, trading all over the world and there are some fine merchants houses in the town. In the afternoon we moved on to Coughton Court; a Tudor manor house (with additions). It has been in the Throckmorton family for 600 years, and its history is really that of the family due to their adherence to Catholicism and involvement in the Gunpowder plot. There are lovely gardens and it is run very successfully in an alliance with the National Trust.

Monday Our visit today was to Warwick Castle. This was extremely well presented, with lots to interest the visitor. A mill, falconry display, an exciting demonstration of a trebuchet, gardens, the state rooms, dungeons and, of course, the castle itself. There were many people in costume explaining aspects of mediaeval life. Our final journey was back to Colchester where we arrived just before 6.

A huge thank you to Barbara Butler who had the mammoth task of organising it all and to Mark Davies for delving into his knowledge for interesting facts about the places we saw and passed through.



Members of the group on Bewdley Station

VISIT TO THE ROMAN VILLA AT GESTINGTHORPE,

7th September 2011

Report by Francis Nicholls

The second CAG visit to Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe as guests of Mr Harold and Mr Ashley Cooper was another very interesting and enjoyable event. The afternoon began at the farm museum where Harold Cooper explained about the numerous finds from the land at and near the site of the Roman villa. The overall quantity and quality of them is quite astonishing.

He also gave some of the background about how the villa was discovered. He said that exactly 63 years ago to this month, he was extra deep ploughing on one of his higher fields prior to planting kale. He noticed that the plough was fetching up pieces of red brick and tile. He stopped the fieldwork immediately and contacted Rex Hull of Colchester museum. Mr. Hull strongly advised that a trial trench should be dug. The trial dig resulted in the discovery of the Roman Villa.

Mr. Ashley Cooper then led the party to the villa site. He suggested that the site could have been a trading area in view of number of probable outbuildings. He pointed out the various rooms and areas within the villa and various CAG members were asked to imagine what it could have been like to actually be inside the building. Don Goodman and Andrew White were asked to stand in the areas of the heated bath and the cold plunge pool and to imagine that they were enjoying these two functions. They acted their parts with Shakespearian skill.

Our group were very much taken with the way that both Harold and Ashley Cooper cared for and nurtured their site and its finds together with an obvious pride in having such an historic monument under their stewardship. It was a pleasure to share their enjoyment.

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