

ESSEX HERITAGE NEWS

2019

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SUCCESS 1989 - 2019

Like most worthwhile things, the Trust began with an idea: wasn't it time to find some permanent way of protecting the Essex heritage, in which the people of the county could share?

The idea was seized upon by the team who had planned Essex Heritage Year in 1989. Then came the enthusiastic endorsement of the Lord-Lieutenant of the county Sir Andrew Lewis, in getting the Trust off the ground.

Now in 2019 we are celebrating 30 years of helping to protect our county's heritage. Looking back over the years, the people we have met, the projects that have been completed, we have a huge sense of achievement. We are still here and going from strength to strength. It is only through the great support of you, our Friends and Supporters, that we have been able to do so much.

Over the past 30 years the Trust has supported over 500 projects and contributed over £1m in grant aid.



Grants Awarded

for the financial year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018

Project Tick Tock, Southend <i>Restoration of the R A Jones shop clock</i>	£ 5,000	Little Baddow Memorial Hall <i>Listening Bench</i>	£ 1,000
St John the Baptist, Thaxted <i>Restoration of the Becket Chapel windows</i>	£ 2,000	St Mary Magdalene Church, Wethersfield	£ 1,000 <i>Conservation of hatchment</i>
Friends of Historic Essex <i>Purchase of Paycocke's deeds</i>	£ 150	St John the Baptist, Little Maplestead	£ 6,500 <i>Restoration of stained glass windows</i>
** Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust <i>Trinity's Floating Centre</i>	£ 5,000	All Saints Church, Purleigh	£ 3,000 <i>Organ restoration</i>
Victoria County History of Essex Trust <i>Research work Volume XIII Harwich & Dovercourt (third and final instalment)</i>	£ 4,000	Halstead & District Local History Society	£ 600 <i>Display equipment and storage boxes</i>
Mersea Island Museum <i>Display pit for walkway timbers</i>	£ 1,000	St John the Baptist, Little Yeldham	£ 2,000 <i>Install toilet and kitchen facilities</i>
St John the Baptist, Mount Bures <i>Install kitchen and toilet facilities</i>	£ 3,000	St Peter's Church, Goldhanger	£ 3,200 <i>Rebuilding of part of ancient boundary wall</i>
St Christopher's Church, Willingale <i>Organ restoration</i>	£ 5,000	Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome	£ 6,000 <i>Hangar re-display</i>
** Radwinter Church <i>Lychgate restoration</i>	£ 5,000	Colchester Borough Council	£ 1,500 <i>Refurbishment of water fountain</i>

**** Featured in this Newsletter**

Front Cover images: Cliff Park Bandstand, Dovercourt, The Well House, Cressing Temple, Ashdon Windmill, Statue of Byrhtnoth, Maldon, St John the Baptist Church, Little Maplestead, Colchester Roman Circus Mosaic, VCH Publication, The Museum of Power, Langford, Thames Barge-Thalatta, Epping Forest District Museum-Display Case, Anglo-Saxon gold ring, Saffron Walden Museum.

Have you got a
project
needing a
grant

Contact our office for information about assistance with your heritage project.

To apply for funding please complete the expression of interest form on the 'Projects' page and then we will contact you with further instructions.

WALTON MARITIME MUSEUM

Conservation of the Marble Plaque and Terracotta Roundels

Essex Heritage Trust awarded a grant to the newly listed Grade II, Old Lifeboat House, now Walton's Maritime Museum, for the conservation of its commemorative marble plaque and terracotta roundels. Badly eroded by frost damage, severe coastal winds and some physical damage, the 1884 commemorations were in poor condition and increasingly illegible.

Experienced conservator George Monger drove down every day to Walton from his Stowmarket base to carry out the specialist treatment with materials prepared in his workshop. Widely acknowledged for his skill, George was recommended by several historic buildings surveyors before being appointed by the Frinton and Walton Heritage Trust.

According to records in the Frinton & Walton Heritage Trust archive

'When the plaque was installed it was black - faced marble and the lettering was in gold with the Honourable Artillery Company's coat of arms raised in white'. 'At some time in the 1920's the tablet was removed for renovation and when it was returned the base was black slate colour showing white veins and the lettering was in red.'

The marble plaque commemorates the handover of the first Walton Lifeboat and its Lifeboat House, by their funders, The Dramatic Club of the Honourable Artillery Company, recording the names of the different parties present.

The plaque is composed of a marble slab inscribed with text and headed by the Honourable Artillery Company's coat of arms cut in stone and inset into the marble. The coat of arms detail is badly eroded with all colouring lost. The approach was not to attempt restoration but to hold back further erosion.

The whole plaque was washed down with a non-ionic detergent solution and brushed to remove lichen. The inscribed letters had lost their precise edge and shape, all compromised by the differential weathering of the marble's face. Harsh colouring would have drawn attention to its deterioration. It was resolved to coat the marble to stabilise the surface and so avoid any



Taken by Historic England photographer

bleeding' of colour. The letters were cleaned out using a wooden probe. They were not painted, but their clarity heightened by using 'rotten stone' powder to slightly darken the lettering. The marble was too eroded to polish - the inscriptions would have been lost - it was decided to apply a clear glaze to protect against further erosion in a three-coat cover.

The roundels' conservation presented a very different challenge from the plaque. The terracotta roundels had glaze erosion, a severe crack and damage to the decorative details of the lifeboat form and the banners bearing the RNLI name and 1884 date recording the set-up of the Walton Lifeboat Station. After cleaning and removal of old filling, repair and carefully blended colour, both roundels are now splendidly restored complete with protective coatings.

Frinton & Walton Heritage Trust are delighted with the result, appreciating both George Monger's skill and the funding support from **Essex Heritage Trust**.

Walton Maritime Museum is open from 2-4pm from 1st June - 30th September.

Dr Josie Close, Curator
Walton Maritime Museum
on behalf of the Frinton & Walton Heritage Trust

FELLOWSHIP AFLOAT CHARITABLE TRUST

Glazing of the light tower



Trinity was constructed in 1954 and in service until the late 1980s. FACT bought the lightship in 1989 and took two years to convert it to a floating activity centre. At the time the light tower was painted which protected it from the weather. FACT have continued to paint it regularly but inevitably the exposed nature of the tower meant that work would be needed to restore it before it was glazed.

When the TRINITY3 project was formed, it was clear that the light tower had to be a central feature of the design. To do this, restoration work was needed, which included a number of fittings being removed and areas repaired so that the tower can be used safely. In addition structural supports had to be fitted to the light tower, in preparation for glazing.

The materials and paint systems used are tougher, offer better protection for a longer period and will ensure the light tower is in a great condition for the future. The completed work has made a huge difference to Trinity, not just visually, but by providing an easier route around the ship, making it work better for the next 25 years of service to thousands of young people.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Essex Heritage Trust for their financial support which has helped to enable us to install new glazed panels which look outstanding.

**Andrew Eastham, Chief Executive
Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust**

www.fact.org

YOU HAVE HEARD: ESSEX SOUND AND VIDEO ARCHIVE PROJECT

The Essex Sound and Video Archive (ESVA) at the Essex Record Office (ERO) is delighted to announce that we have officially completed our three-year project, *You Are Hear: sound and a sense of place*.

With funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Friends of Historic Essex, as well as from the **Essex Heritage Trust**, we were able to digitise and catalogue almost 1650 unique sound and video recordings in the archive. We then took them out into every corner of the county, encouraging engagement with the recordings to help people develop their sense of place and appreciation for this county's rich heritage.

We installed 18 listening benches in different communities, using volunteers to choose and put together audio clips from archive recordings about their community to play on the benches. We ran tours of two further listening benches, and of two touchscreen audio-video kiosks, visiting over thirty-five public locations, from green spaces to libraries to Stansted Airport. We also developed an online audio map of past and present Essex Sounds: click on a location to hear soundscapes recorded in that location.

How many can you find



All of these exciting engagement activities would not have been possible without first digitising the recordings, which were originally recorded on open reel tape, audio cassette, CD, mini-disc, VHS cassette, or DVD. Funding from the **Essex Heritage Trust** allowed us to equip a second sound studio at ERO. We hired a part-time Sound and Video Digitiser, Catherine Norris, for the project, who worked primarily from this studio.

This enabled her to set up her workstation to optimise the digitisation workflow, adapting it as required depending on the format of the material she was digitising.

We have also made many of the digitised recordings available in full online. The recordings are uploaded to our SoundCloud and YouTube channels, and then embedded in our electronic catalogue. Users can access them under a Creative Commons (Attribution-Non Commercial) licence, meaning they are free to be played and reused, provided it is not for commercial purposes. This vastly increases the access we can offer to our collections: it is now global, twenty-four seven access. To view the uploaded recordings, select 'Audio Visual' from the 'Refine your search' drop-down box on the main Essex Archives Online homepage (www.essexarchivesonline.co.uk/).

Having a second studio will enable us to continue the vital and urgent work of digitising our collections, before the media degrade or become obsolete.

www.essexsounds.org.uk

[www.soundcloud.com/
essex-record-office](http://www.soundcloud.com/essex-record-office)

[www.youtube.com/
essexrecordoffice](http://www.youtube.com/essexrecordoffice)

Sarah-Joy Maddeaux
Sound Archivist Essex Record Office



**Nearest
listening
bench site**



CLACTON VCH GROUP DISCOVERING DAD'S ARMY



It is a curious anomaly that despite the growing awareness of the part of the Home Guard during the Second World War there are few, if any, public memorials to this often underrated force.

In Essex, during the past 25 years, over 2,700 concrete and steel World War Two defence sites have been located and recorded for the county Heritage Environment Record. Most of these pillboxes, road barriers, anti-tank obstacles and spigot mortar emplacements were stepped forward during Britain's hour of need.

Aware of this omission, for the past 12 months Clacton VCH group has been engaged on a "Discovering Dad's Army" project funded with the aid of a generous grant contribution from **Essex Heritage Trust**.

The major aims of the work were to track down and record the memories of surviving members of 'Dad's Army', to locate, visit and survey the results of the project and to hold a public exhibition of the results of the project and to mount, at a suitable place, an illustrated information board honouring the role of the wartime volunteers.

Working from wartime records, 1940's aerial photographs, and the archive of local memory, the dedicated team of Clacton VCH Group traced gun emplacements, infantry strongpoints, anti-invasion obstacles, ammunition shelters and Home Guard look-out posts. Of the latter, the climb to the top of Great Bentley church tower and the view across the surrounding countryside was particularly memorable.

The exhibition was held on a hot June day in 2018 in the hall of All Saints CE Primary School in Great Oakley. There were stalls, talks, enthusiastic visitors and Home Guard re-enactors in uniform. Outside on the school field, a 'military encampment' played host to potential recruits.

At 2.00pm the high point of the day arrived, the unveiling of a pictorial information board on the finely-surviving Home Guard pillbox in the centre of the village. Headed by marching re-enactors the Chairman of Essex County Council, Councillor John Jowers, his wife and the Chairman of Tendring District Council, Mark Platt, the procession headed along the High Street and round the bend, to be met by the stirring sounds of a local brass band and a sea of faces around the pillbox. At least 100-150 people had gathered to watch the ceremony.

There was music, speeches and a historical review of the World War Two defences manned by the Great Oakley Home Guard. At the climax, the information board was unveiled, the Union Flag slid to one side by Councillor Jowers and Beryl Tite, the village historian and long-time pillbox supporter. With the sounds of the band drifting through the summer air, the crowd began slowly to disperse, many of them to join together again back at the school for welcome refreshments.

A day to remember!



Clacton VCH Group offer their sincere gratitude to **Essex Heritage Trust** for their support and financial assistance in the funding of the project.

Fred Nash
Military Archaeologist, Clacton VCH Group



ST MARY'S CHURCH RADWINTER Lychgate restoration



The Lychgate, built to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee, and paid for by public subscription, was first mentioned in the Quinquennial Report of 2008 but became critical in the 2014 Report as needing attention; the structure was moving and tilting outwards because the sole plates were rotten.

The Lychgate is indeed a focal point at the crossroads in the centre of the village. Not only has the structure been saved from collapse but the much needed lowering of the entrance has been completed to provide a level access. We are very grateful to **Essex Heritage Trust** for their wonderful grant of £5,000 to boost us in our fundraising.

**Sue Bright, Treasurer
Friends of Radwinter Church**

ESSEX INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

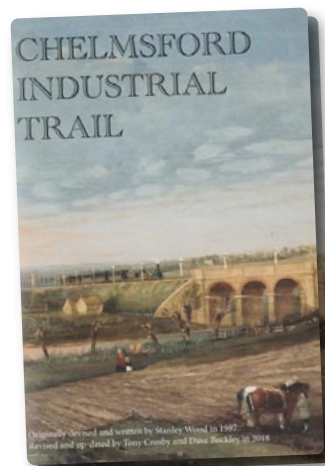
Publication *Chelmsford Industrial Trail*

In 1987 Stanley Wood wrote the *Chelmsford Industrial Trail* for the 'Chelmsford Industrial Museum Society and Essex Schools', targeted at residents of the town, visitors and teachers planning field trips - very much an educational tool.

He recognised Chelmsford as having been 'the birthplace of a great modern industry deeply affecting all our daily lives' and felt that 'Chelmsford is a town with a great story ... [if] you live here you should know the story and be proud of it'. It consisted of a guided walk visiting the main industrial sites in the town, divided into two parts and with some optional extra sites to visit. The history of the various businesses, such as Crompton's, Hoffmann's and Marconi's, was outlined along with a description of the buildings. This is now an important historical document in itself, accurately describing the industrial activity in the town in the 1980s and it should, therefore, continue to be widely available to those interested in the history of Chelmsford, both generally or for specific studies and research.

To mark the 30th anniversary of Wood's innovative guide, Essex Industrial Archaeology Group members decided to produce a new edition of Wood's original Trail. By doing so it will ensure that Wood's original text remains widely available, and will also bring the history and heritage of the City's industry as described by Wood up-to-date. It therefore highlights the enormous changes that have taken place within a generation in the industrial activity of the City and the physical remains of where that activity took place.

This new edition includes those industrial sites in Wood's original which survive, albeit in an altered state, describing what changes have taken place, but also highlighting those sites which have been totally lost and redeveloped. As Wood was principally interested in the industries established in the town during the 19th and 20th centuries, most of which were still operating in 1987, he omitted some of the more traditional industries such as malting and brewing, so this new edition includes sites associated with these industries. This addition of sites which Wood did not include also reflects the expansion in the interests of industrial archaeologists, and so a number of sites of workers' housing are included.



Again the Trail is in two parts, and the guide booklet includes a bibliography and other sources of information such as the Museum and Record Office.

**Tony Crosby, Chair
EIAG**



Income and expenditure may be summarised as follows:	2017/18 £000	2016/17 £000
Income from investments	64	64
Subscriptions, Donations and Legacy received	6	6
Aggregate income	70	70
Less: Administrative cost	14	13
Available for grants	56	57
Grants (Net)	53	73
Net Surplus/Deficit for the year	3	-16
Realised and Unrealised net losses/gains on investments	-47	133
Decrease/Increase in the value of the Trust's fund	-44	117
Value of the Trust's funds - at the beginning of the year	1,621	1,504
- at the end of the year	1,577	1,621

The Trust's grant distribution policy (subject to the performance of the Trust's investments) continues to be that an aggregate amount of up to £60,000 be set aside for grants each year. Whilst income alone may not achieve the desired target, over time the value of the Trust's investments continues to show positive growth, and with this in mind, the Trustees propose to continue to distribute grants up to £60,000 per annum, looking to the total return on the Trust's investments including valuation gains.

Copies of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018, from which the above information has been extracted, have been subject to examination by an independent qualified accountant. Copies of the accounts may be obtained, on request, from the Trust office.

Peter J Mamelok DL FCA, Honorary Treasurer

Be a Friend of Essex Heritage Trust

Since 1990, our members' generous support and financial contribution to the Trust has enabled us to award over 500 grants, totalling over £1,000,000.

It is clear that you are helping to preserve our rich and diverse heritage and making it accessible for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of Essex and our many visitors.

With your help we can continue to ensure that valuable buildings, artefacts, objects, records, memories or areas of great beauty are not spoilt or lost forever.

If you wish to become a Friend on an annual basis (£25) or become a Life Friend (£250), take out Corporate membership (£150 per year) or make a Gift Aid donation, please contact our Administrator at the office or visit the website.

Trustees

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

Honorary Treasurer: Mr P J Mamelok DL FCA

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst

Councillor John Jowers, Chairman, Essex County Council

Rt Hon Lord Petre KCVO JP MA Dr J Bettley JP DL FSA Mr M F Pertwee

Mr R H Wollaston Mrs S Brice Mrs K Twitchen OBE

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