



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2024

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Dear Friends and Donors

Last Autumn the Trustees agreed to send our Friends and donors regular email reports of our meetings in place of our annual printed newsletter. The first report was well received, so this is our second, covering the meeting held in March.

Here are the projects for which we awarded a grant:

#### **St Mary the Virgin, Ardleigh – Bell Restoration**



The current building dates from 1460, with rebuilds in 1760, 1841 and finally in 1882 by a renowned architect named William Butterfield and is Grade II\* listed. There is also mention of a church in Ardleigh around 1140.

The tenor bell, cast by Robert Burford c. 1410, is one of the oldest bells in a ringing peal in Essex. A major overhaul of the bells (peel of 8 on a wooden frame) and equipment is required as nothing has been done since 1957. It is also planned to add two more bells to the frame. The bells are used extensively as a training facility and it is also planned to add two dumb/training bells to the clock room below the bell chamber, together with computer software.

**The Trustees approved a grant of £4,000**

### **St Nicholas Church, Castle Hedingham – New interior lighting system**



The existing lighting system was installed at least 40 years ago. Probably half the existing lights are no longer working, and the bulbs used are no longer available, nor are the fittings.

The whole system needs replacing with a modern system which complies with current regulations. It will also be upgraded to properly light the whole Church including the exceptional roof.

It is an ancient Church, Grade 1 listed and frequently visited. It is also used regularly for various functions in addition to the usual religious services.

New lighting will not only encourage greater use but also enable the many visitors to more easily appreciate its historic features.

**The Trustees approved a grant of £4,700**

## **Budworth Hall -re-instate original features, removal of suspended tile ceiling**



A dominant Victorian building on the Ongar High Street, it is a well-equipped and well used community facility. It includes a large hall with stage and balcony. Its Victorian roof is currently hidden by a false tiled ceiling.

**The Trustees approved a grant of £4,000 to re-instate the original roof features in the Concert Room.**

## **The River Stour Trust – replace Lock gates & modernise mechanism that opens the sluices**



The River Stour Trust was formed in 1968 to ensure the Stour remained navigable. Since then, they have restored or rebuilt 4 locks and a number of other major projects along the river. They also operate river trips on electric boats.

The application is to replace/restore Dedham Lock, which had to be closed 8 years ago on safety grounds. The lock sits in the grounds of Dedham Mill, although the lock itself is owned by the Trust. A 99 year lease of a small area around the lock has been secured. The Essex Way footpath runs across the end of the lock.

**The Trustees approved a grant of £9,300**

### **Writtle Parish Council – Writtle Archives**

Writtle Parish Council wish to improve their archive storage facilities.

**The Trustees approved a grant of £3,500**

### **St Mary's Church, Little Bromley – Bell Restoration**

This church is 11th century, with additions in 13th, 15th and 16th centuries and is Grade II\* listed. Most of the interior is arts and crafts influenced. This church also has two Robert Burford bells dating to 1410. The church is now owned by the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT).

The bells and 1890 fittings need to be renewed, crown staples replaced on the oldest bells and retuning of the two 19th century bells.

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

### **Friends of Historic Essex – Auction of Lot 16 – The Foyle Collection**

The Lot purchase for sale consisted of Surveys of the Estates of Robert, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Rich, c.1610 covering Braintree, Rochford, Rayleigh, Great Waltham, Hatfield Broad Oak, South Shoebury etc.

The Lot purchase was successful at Auction.

**The Trustees approved a grant of £1,000**

### **Ingatstone & Fryerning PC – Heritage Trail**

The application was to produce a Heritage Trail leaflet to record significant buildings and memorabilia around Ingatstone and Fryerning.

**The Trustees approved a grant of £1,350**

### **Chelmsford Museum – Acquisition of Baddow Hoard**

A hoard of 933 iron age gold staters was discovered in 2020 at Baddow by a detectorist acting illegally without permission of the landowner. When the find came to light the finder was prosecuted and the coins declared treasure trove. They are now being offered by the Crown to Chelmsford Museum.

It is one of the largest collections of gold coins found in Essex and if kept together will be a valuable source for research into iron age coinage and tribal influences in the East of England.



The Trustees approved a grant of £5,000



*Photos Courtesy of the Trustees of The British Museum*

### Essex Heritage Trust Annual Meeting

This year's meeting will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at St Mary's Church, Broomfield, Essex. Further details will be emailed out during August. We hope you will be able to join us.

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

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

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