

Recorders of Uttlesford History events in 2013

Following some very successful trips in 2012, the Uttlesford Recorders put together a busy programme of outings and workshops during 2013. The visits were organised by Debbie Lowe, Recorder for Wicken Bonhunt.

VISIT TO THAXTED WINDMILL

In May, preceding the Annual Meeting, Len Farren (Thaxted Local History Recorder) gave us a tour of **Thaxted Windmill** with its museum of bygones, and even arranged for the sails to turn – a magnificent sight. The visit was followed by the annual meeting in a nearby hall.



BARTLOW 8 June 2013

In June it was better weather for our visit to **Bartlow** Hills, the Roman burial mounds, and a guided tour of nearby Bartlow Church.



BARTLOW HILLS

A group of Recorders enjoyed a visit to Bartlow Hills, on a sunny summer day. Built c.AD 90, these Romano-British barrows were part of the largest burial site in Europe. Three of the seven barrows remain; the largest at 45 feet is the highest in Britain. A wooden staircase gives access to the top without causing erosion. You can then look down on the other two giants. Artefacts recovered from the site are housed at Colchester Museum (Bartlow was formerly in Essex).

CHURCH OF ST MARY BARTLOW

We then went on to the nearby church where we had a guided tour and talk about the history of St Mary's by Mr Stephen Bugg. The church was constructed c.1300 and is of the decorated style with a round tower. Inside the church are several fine 15th century wall paintings.

Each year in Bartlow there is the 3 Counties Charity Walk on Bank Holiday Sunday in early May, raising money for the church and local charities. Because of this income they have been able to persuade many other charities and English Heritage to support a number of significant projects. Over the past 10 or 12 years they have spent over £250,000 restoring and repairing the Church, and are now embarked on a £50,000 fund raising drive to pay for the conservation of the 3 wall paintings. The tiny village of Bartlow has only 100 residents in 40 houses, yet they have raised £80,000 for the various good causes in the first 9 years - not bad for a tiny hamlet!

Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology, Cambridge

26 September 2013

In September Recorders enjoyed a guided tour of the new Cambridge Gallery and a private viewing and behind-the-scenes look at Uttlesford objects including part of the Great Chesterford hoard. We were able to handle artefacts and look at the wonderful displays in the refurbished museum.

WORKSHOP ON SELF PUBLISHING

In October, there was a well-attended Workshop on **Self-Publishing** held by courtesy of Fiona Bengtsen (Manuden Local History Recorder) at her barn in Manuden. Saffron Walden Recorder, Gordon Ridgewell gave a very informative illustrated talk about how to put history books together as a self-publisher, while Rosemarie Gant, our IT adviser from Ashdon, gave further information, and Jacqueline Cooper, Clavering Recorder, added a brief set of tips based on her own experience of publishing books.

LANDSCAPE HISTORY DAY SCHOOL

In November, a number of Recorders attended the Day School on **Landscape History** organised by Jacqueline Cooper in Clavering, with some splendid lectures by some of the region's leading landscape historians.

CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

In December, the Recorders were fortunate to take part in the final Workshop offered by Saffron Walden Museum Conservator, Lynn Morrison, prior to her retirement after 26 years. She explained **conservation methods** and materials required for the work that Recorders do in conserving local documents and artefacts. We are very grateful to Lynn for all her advice and help to Recorders over the years, and wish her a happy retirement. Sadly, her post of Conservator at the Museum is being abolished.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Finally Recorders finished the year with a **Christmas Social** organised by Elsenham Recorder, Ray Franklin and the Elsenham History Society. Ray gave a talk about myths and legends of Essex.

WAR MEMORIALS PROJECT

So ended probably the busiest year of events RUH has had, with thanks to the various Recorders who gave their time to organising them. The other activity in 2013 was the commencement of the a War Memorial Project to survey the **war memorials** all over Uttlesford. This was organised by Fiona Bengtsen of Manuden and will reach fruition in August 2014. Many Recorders and history societies are also doing projects to commemorate the Centenary of the start of WW1 in 2014.