

The Newsletter of the *Wivenhoe History Group*



September 2013

Up and Running

The group is now five months old. We held our inaugural meeting in the Nottage Institute in April. Since then, we have been working on organising our constitution, making plans for our bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the money to set up a Community Archive website, and starting to organise talks on local history and trips to sites of historical interest. Here in this newsletter are some of the details about what the Group has been doing.

Wivenhoe Memories



One of our key aims is to put on our website copies of the magnificent collection of photographs on Wivenhoe's past that John Stewart has amassed. Everyone who has seen his exhibitions in the William Loveless Hall, the most recent on the last Bank Holiday weekend, will know what a treasure trove they are. We want to preserve them for future generations and to collect more photographs if we can.



Public Talks

Our first talk in Wivenhoe will be on Friday, 11th October in St Mary's Church at 7.30 p.m. We shall be hearing about Wivenhoe Hall, the late medieval manor house here in the village and the fortunes of the families – the de Veres, Earls



of Oxford, and the Howards, Dukes of Norfolk – during and after the Wars of the Roses.

Tickets have been selling very well and the event promises to be a sell out.

Trips

The Group has two trips planned. The first is on 19th September and will be to:

- Broomfield Hall, Felsted Old School and parish church and to Leez Priory to look at the legacy of the Rich family, the county's greatest landowners in the period after the decline of the de Veres. That family proved to be one of King Charles I's major opponents in the English Civil War of the 1640s. The day proved to be a wet one but one that all those who went on it found fascinating and rewarding.
- Castle Hedingham on 20th October to see the seat of the de Vere family and the remains of the castle, one of the best preserved medieval sites in the county and country.
- The Essex Record Office to see what this archive holds on the history of Wivenhoe and the wider community of Essex. This has yet to be arranged but will probably take place late in the year or early in 2014.



Research

- Two of our members, John and Dudley, have already made great progress in transcribing and making available to members of our Group the census data for Wivenhoe in the nineteenth century. This is invaluable for tracing people who lived here at that time and for the information it provides about families and where they lived. This will, in due course, be going up on our website.
- The 100th anniversary of World War One in 2014 and the sacrifices made by people from Wivenhoe in the years of conflict.

The Future

If you are interested in joining our group or helping in our projects, please contact us. Any one of our members will be pleased to help. You can find out more by contacting Peter Hill (01206 823073) or Ian Valentine or John Stewart or Chris Thompson.