

THE HADLEIGH SOCIETY

Registered with
THE CIVIC TRUST

Honorary Secretary

106 High Street
Hadleigh
IPSWICH
Suffolk IP7 5EL

Telephone
01473 822192

Email
secretary@hadsoc.org.uk

*All views expressed are those
of the contributors and are
not necessarily those of the
Hadleigh Society*

Programme of Events

Monday 3 rd April	St Edmund: History and Legend	Dr Sam Newton
Wednesday 24 th May	Pretty Corsets in Hadleigh	Roger Kennell
Wednesday 28 th June	Annual General Meeting	
Wednesday 16 th August	Transportation in Suffolk	Pip Wright
Monday 9 th October	Hadleigh's Parks	Sue Andrews
Wednesday 29 th November	The New Poor Law	Clive Paine
Wednesday 17 th January 2007	Rags and Bones, a 19 th Century Working Class Community in Ipswich	Frank Grace

*Meetings are held in Hadleigh Old Town Hall, 8pm,
unless otherwise notified. Entry is free for members, £2
for non-members.*

Other Contacts

Chairman	John Bloomfield	chair@hadsoc.org.uk	01473 822063
Membership	Rosemary Schade	membership@hadsoc.org.uk	01473 824009
Newsletter delivery	Jim Betteridge	newsletter@hadsoc.org.uk	01473 823991
Website & Editor	Graham Panton	webmaster@hadsoc.org.uk	01473 823503

The Hadleigh Society website has past newsletters and other information at
<http://www.hadsoc.org.uk/>

March
2006

The Hadleigh Society

HISTORY GROUP UPDATE

The Society's History Group is continuing its study of the 1836 map that lives in Hadleigh Town Archive. The map is carefully hand-drawn and is accompanied by a listing of each dwelling with the name of its occupier. With the guidance of Joint Town Archivist, Sue Andrews, the group has been collecting additional information about the properties and the families who lived in them. The period of research was extended to include information from the 1841 Census. Also, at about that time a new Rector arrived in Hadleigh, who kept a diary detailing his daily activities, his workload and rich descriptions of his parishioners!

Members of the group are currently making regular trips to the Suffolk Record Offices at Ipswich and Bury to search through the newspapers of the time. All sorts of interesting snippets about Hadleigh life have been gathered from these sources. For example, it was reported in 1835 that: *'The second meeting of the Hadleigh Horticultural and Floral Society took place on Wednesday, July 22nd; the day being very fine the attendance on the bowling green was very numerous. After the show upwards of 40 members sat down to an excellent dinner provided by Mr Stevens; the evening was spent with the greatest harmony. The venerable Archdeacon Lyall, president of the society, won the prize for the best kitchen apples.'* Although the 1836 map only shows the main streets of Hadleigh, it was felt that the area of study should be extended to include all outlying farms within the parish.

Having accumulated all this fascinating information, the group naturally would love to share some of it with you, and so will be giving a presentation to the Society sometime in 2007.

History Group Update	1
Plague in 17 th Century Suffolk	2
Hadleigh Society Scrapbook 1983-2003	3
Tesco	4
Hadleigh's 20 th Century Revealed	6
The Public Catalogue Foundation	7
Suffolk Local History Council	7
Next Event	7
Projector	7

PLAGUE IN 17TH CENTURY SUFFOLK

In the 17th Century there were many killer diseases including smallpox, fever, measles and diarrhoea, but the most devastating of all was plague. There were five major outbreaks of plague throughout the century and Hadleigh was affected every time. Our speaker on October 5th, Clive Paine, explained to a fascinated audience how original documents can be used to assess the impact of plague on towns and villages in Suffolk.

The average annual number of deaths in seventeenth century Hadleigh was about 50, but in 1637 an outbreak of plague caused the total to rise to 258. On one day alone, 10th May, seven plague victims were buried.

However, the worst outbreak was in 1666 when Hadleigh's parish register recorded a total of 344 plague deaths, which accounts for 68% of the total deaths for that year. The first death occurred in April and the last on 19th December. Five members of the Thorne family and six members of the Richardson family died within days of each other in April. The plague was at its peak in the warm summer month of June when 56

people, out of a monthly total of 64, died from the epidemic.

Towns and villages all over Suffolk suffered; in 1604 Ixworth was infected and Long Melford lost 18% of its population to the plague in May 1604. In that year, an Act was passed by Parliament for 'the charitable relief of persons affected by the plague'. Struggling communities could ask for help from other parishes within the Hundred.

We heard about the remedies and cures that were available. People would try to protect themselves from the plague by hanging a little bag about the neck or using 'celestial waters'! Very occasionally the plague did not prove to be fatal, as shown in the account of the experience of 16 year-old Leonard Gales who recovered from 'the sickness'.

There were no more outbreaks of plague in England after 1666, probably due to climate changes. By the end of the evening, Clive had provided a wealth of information and statistics to give us an amazing insight into how the entire community of Hadleigh would have been affected by each visit of the terrible plague.

THE PUBLIC CATALOGUE FOUNDATION

is a registered charity recording the UK's complete collection of oil paintings in public ownership and has recently published its Suffolk catalogue.

For £20 in soft cover or £35 hard cover you get reproductions of 1800 paintings from 39 collections.

See their website at www.thepcf.org.uk or call 020 7747 5936.

SUFFOLK LOCAL HISTORY COUNCIL

is holding its annual meeting at Mendlesham on the 18th March. Call 01473 242500 for information.

NEXT EVENT

Dr Sam Newton returns on Monday 3rd April to talk on St Edmund: History and Legend.

PROJECTOR

Sue Angland has succeeded in getting a grant for the Hadleigh Society to purchase a digital projector, for use in conjunction with a laptop computer. We expect to use it to help illustrate many of the Society's presentations but it will also be available for loan to other local organisations for similar purposes. If you think this might be useful to you then please contact our Honorary Secretary as listed on the back page.



HADLEIGH'S 20TH CENTURY REVEALED

Having cut his teeth on a successful chronicle of Holland-on-Sea, Roger Kennell turned his attention to Hadleigh, his home for most of his adult life. Over the years he has built a collection of postcards and books and has drawn on these to illustrate the changes in the town through the 20th century. At the start of that century Hadleigh was an agricultural centre, largely self-sufficient, with a population of 3200, a market on Mondays next to the Corn Exchange and Town Hall. Several churches (although not yet the Catholic Church). Passengers could arrive by train; Wilson's the corn millers was the largest employer and there were also mat and rope factories and maltings. The Urban District Council ran the place and there was a Court as well as a Police Station. The Fire Engine was horse-drawn.

The population dipped in the 1930s, the airfield came and went again, and passenger trains ceased. The Second World War revived the railway activity, supplying the REME workshop and ammunition dump.

By 1950 the population was back to the level of 1900 but in the 1960s, probably for the first time since mediaeval era, the growth really started and the industrial estate was established, although we lost a few services such as the cinema.

At the 23rd November meeting Roger treated us to a few of the photographs that didn't make it to the book. One remains a mystery, a 1902 photo titled 'Keeble's Pond'. Others showed features now disappeared: the open stream that flowed down Angel Street and High Street, Cook's Emporium that dwarfed Barclay's Bank, the Deanery before its wings were clipped, the White Lion's vine, Toppesfield Mill and the Egg Packing Station.

For £6.99 you can own this fascinating collection of pictures and support one of the finest features of our town. Over the centuries Hadleigh has ensured that the fabric of the church has been maintained for successive generations. In his modest way, Roger is contributing to that tradition: all profits are going to that cause. You can find it in any of the bookshops in the town, including Avis, the publishers.

HADLEIGH SOCIETY SCRAPBOOK 1983-2003

The Hadleigh Society has now passed its first scrapbook of newspaper cuttings relevant to the town into the safe-keeping of the Hadleigh Archive. It is hoped that future generations of Hadleigh residents and visitors will enjoy, and also find much interest and information in, the wonderful miscellany of news items relating to this beautiful town and the activities of its incredibly diverse population between the years 1983 and 2003. The subject matter of the newspaper articles ranges far and wide and includes such topics as -

- the activities of the various clubs and organisations;
- the many exhibitions held in the town (e.g. regular and one-off Arts and Crafts Fairs/Exhibitions, the Round Table History of Hadleigh Exhibition);
- traffic and parking issues and successes (e.g. lorries in Benton Street, the opening of the by-pass);
- occurrences of vandalism; the devastation caused by not infrequent fires;
- the death of significant local personalities;
- the delivery of the town flag;
- Babergh affairs as well as reactions to their decisions and plans;

- mayoral events and inaugurations;
- the cull of doves nesting in the timber frame of the Guildhall;
- archaeological digs;
- our present chairman [JB] starring as the Free Press 'Reader in Question'
- and, of course, the all important restoration / conservation of historic buildings and the demolition and development of others (e.g. the Guildhall, Toppesfield Hall, the Silk Factory, the Corn Exchange and the Co-op).

Ron [Rocky] Bennett started this scrapbook in 1983 on behalf of the Hadleigh Society, Paul Garrod then took over in 1988 when Ron became unwell and Tricia Bloomfield continued the good work from 1995 until August 2005 when a new loose-leaf scrapbook became the responsibility of Margaret Woods.

Isn't it good to know that the numerous newspaper reports relating specifically to our town & providing an extremely vivid and lively picture of its life and people will be available for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren (and perhaps even beyond) to read in their own Hadleigh town archive?

TESCO

Roy Smith informed us in the January Community News that work will begin on building the Tesco supermarket in the summer, Babergh Officers and members tell us that Tesco will be building on the riverside site; meanwhile the Society has said nothing. Why? The situation as we see it is as follows.

The Inspector at the District Plan Inquiry agreed with Babergh that the riverside site is suitable for a supermarket and could therefore be identified as such in the new District Plan due for confirmation in July. The Inspector is following the Governments guidelines in PPS 6 which briefly lays out a sequential test for supermarket sites, i.e. first one must look at potential town centre sites, (remember all of the fuss a few years ago when Magdalen Road car park was mentioned as a possible site). The car park site was deemed unsuitable for a supermarket, therefore the next step in the 'sequential test' is to look for edge of centre sites, thus the Brett Works / Riverside site being the next option if it is 'suitable'.

Now that the Brett Works / Riverside site is being included in the District Plan Tesco's planning

application will need to be placed before the Babergh Committee for determination. As you will remember Tesco submitted a plan in December 2004. That submission identified a 'bog standard' glass building and two possible entrances onto Bridge Street. There was no detailed information about the entrances and nothing at all about how the traffic in Bridge Street will be handled.

At the District Plan Inquiry we obtained copies of letters from the Environment Agency identifying that they 'Objected' to the development, subject to a number of details concerned with alleviating the risk to the flood plain. We do not yet know if their objection has been removed.

To achieve an access to the site Tesco have to acquire part of Babergh staff car park and part of Hadleigh Town Council's allotments. Babergh are willing to sell their car park and have asked Hadleigh Town Council to join them in negotiating a price with Tesco for both pieces of land. Babergh have suggested to the town council that if they negotiate together the money might go towards a Swimming Pool!!

To-date Hadleigh Town Council has been opposed to the building of a supermarket on that site and opposed to selling their land. Babergh however can Compulsory Purchase the town lands and sell them to Tesco.

At the January Town Council meeting the Council decided not to enter into discussion with Babergh and Tesco at this stage, the Council decided to wait until they have seen the details of Tesco's plans and then decide if they continue to object or are prepared to sell their land. Babergh are suggesting that to get the best price we should enter into discussion now.

The Hadleigh Society has acquired a number of booklets from the Deputy Prime Ministers Office and has distributed them to all of the

properties likely to be affected by the development and who may well have claims for compensation for the devaluation of their property, and to Town Councillors. (If any member wishes to borrow a set please contact me).

Why has the Hadleigh Society not taken any obvious action to date? Simply until there is a planning application out for public discussion we believe there is no action to be taken. As soon as the plans are in the public arena then we will start to campaign and will need all of the support we can manage to oppose the application.

If Babergh, Tesco's or their supporters group think that we have given up they are due to be sadly disillusioned.

If you want to catch up on the national concern about the increasing influence of supermarkets in general and Tesco in particular then look at these websites (you might find it easier to do this from our online version of the Newsletter).

<http://www.tescopoly.org/>

<http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/> (ghost town Britain)

<http://www.cpre.org.uk/campaigns/index.htm> (Local Foods)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/supermarkets> (10 years to save the high street)

<http://news.independent.co.uk/business/news/article350688.ece> (Tesco owns more than half the unbuilt supermarket sites)

<http://comment.independent.co.uk/commentators/article350698.ece> (some things are more important than low prices)