

June 2021

The Hadleigh Society

WELCOME TO HADLEIGH SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Though still in lockdown, we are very hopefully moving towards the longed-for return to normality on 21st June – subject of course to continuing favourable data reports signifying a decline in coronavirus cases. I do hope you have stayed well and are beginning to feel confident about venturing out and about, especially as we may well be able to run the Hadleigh Society AGM at 8pm on Tuesday 29th June 2021 (Note the change to a later date from that published in our previous newsletter and programme cards). Our meetings will, from this date, be held in the Guildroom – entry is via the door facing the churchyard.

Since this meeting (as I write) looks as if it will go ahead, the requisite AGM papers are included herein. Do come along if you can and, after a brief AGM, enjoy the usual glass of wine or juice and the short talk on Hadleigh's Overlooked Heritage by Richard Fletcher, our Society Secretary cum Chair of the Environment and Planning Group. Should this scheduled evening have to be cancelled because of a threat from Covid variants, we shall naturally let you know the alternative arrangements.

Enjoy this newsletter and if any of you would like to write an article for a future edition, we should love to hear from you. Remember we also need a new Membership Secretary; feel free to contact me if you wish to chat about this role.

Good wishes

Margaret Woods, Chair of The Hadleigh Society

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RESUMPTION OF MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

We are so pleased that we will be able to hold our first ‘face-to-face’ meeting for well over a year on 29 June (unless Government guidelines change)! It also means that we will be starting to charge membership subscriptions again from 1 July 2021.

Members don’t need to do anything just yet

- All members’ subscription renewal dates are different
- The next round of subscription charges will take into account the months during which the Society has not been holding meetings. After that it will be the usual yearly fee
- Members will be contacted via email or post in the next few weeks to let them know how much they will be due to pay when their date for renewal comes round (this may be a number of months in the future)
- All members will be sent a reminder about paying their subscription shortly before it is due.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Our wonderful membership secretary, Mavis, has have moved away from the Hadleigh area. We, therefore. need a willing volunteer to take over this crucial but not onerous role. I fulfilled it for 5 or so years and enjoyed it greatly; it is a wonderful way to get to know lots of people.

The responsibilities involve managing the membership database (with Graham’s expert help) & sending out reminders re annual fees - overwhelmingly by e-mail nowadays. At meetings the membership secretary welcomes members & visitors along with ensuring all sign the book; s/he would also accept payment of some fees on each occasion. Joining the Hadleigh Society Committee would be welcomed but is not obligatory with this role.

Mavis is happy to continue to be involved & has kindly agreed to provide as much support as any new recruit may require. If you might consider helping the society in this role, please contact chair@hadsoc.org.

AGM TUESDAY 29TH JUNE 2021 IN THE GUILDROOM AT 8PM.

Note, Meetings now in the Guildroom

Minutes of the 38th AGM, 2020 can be found on our website. We will send them to you if you ask.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the 38th AGM
2. Treasurer's Report
3. History Group Report
4. Environment and Planning Report
5. Chair's Review
6. Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members

Nomination Form

Society members are invited to make nominations for service on the Society's **Executive Committee** for the year following the Annual General Meeting in the following capacities:

Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary or as one of our Committee members. All posts are honorary and seconded nominations must be sent to The Honorary Secretary, The Hadleigh Society, c/o 6 Lister Road, Hadleigh, Ipswich, IP7 5JN or by email to secretary@hadsoc.org.uk

I nominate the following for service on the Executive Committee of The Hadleigh Society for the year 2021/2022. In each case the nominee has agreed to stand.

Name	Position Nominated			Name of Seconder	
Signed					
Name			Date		

TINKERS LANE WEIR

With the current happenings at the old Toppesfield Mill site we thought it would be interesting to reprint an article from the Hadleigh Society Newsletter of July 1992, when Jim Betteridge was editor.

Presentation of the Hadleigh Society Noel Turner Award

The Rev. Canon John Griffin made the 1992 Award on behalf of the Society to Mr Barritt, our local Engineer for the National Rivers Authority Anglian Region,

who was accompanied by Mr Ripton the District Engineer and associate Mr Almond.

The Award was for their work in connection with the relief Weir adjoining Toppesfield Mill House which, in responding, Mr Ripton gave the following explanation of the background to its introduction and working.

The role of the National Rivers Authority is now covered by the Environment Agency.

The mill pond, old sluice gates to the left, 'new' weir to the right



The sluiceways at Tinkers Lane are part of the control structure for the former Toppesfield Mill which used the water of the River Brett to power its Mill Wheel. When the Mill was demolished the raceway was filled in and this reduced the capacity of the river structures. As a consequence, in time of storms and large flow rates in the river it has overflowed its banks. This resulted in flood water in the gardens and cellars of adjacent dwellings and flooding of the road and of footpaths; at times flooding washed away the soil of the footpath and playing field as it rushed from the high level at Tinkers Lane by the shortest route back into the river channel downstream.

The problem was worsened if a rapid rise in river flow occurred and the manually operated sluice gates were not raised quickly enough. The operation of the gates is NRA's responsibility but it has not always been possible to get men there quickly enough in an emergency when urgent other situations may have higher priority. To avoid this as far as possible NRA arranged with the Hadleigh and District Angling Society for their local members to assist by opening the gates when

required to prevent flooding and they have done a good job. They also re-close the sluices as flows subside to avoid environmental and fishery damage which may occur if the 'ponded' stretch of river is drained out because the sluice is left open for too long. However, there were still occasions when flooding occurred. To reduce the operating problem and increase the capacity of the system, NRA decided to build an overflow weir beside the existing sluice gate. The weir operates at a river level a little higher than the sluice overflows. This is designed to prolong the period of build-up in the river level and reduce the extent of out-of-bank conditions.

The construction was undertaken in 1991/92 by the NRA Emergency Workforce. It was built in reinforced concrete and clad in brick facework to harmonise sympathetically with the surroundings. The earth embankment and slopes have been topsoiled and sown with a suitable seed mixture. Some tree planting is planned to enhance the scenic appearance and benefit wildlife.

Initial operating experience in the Spring of 1992 indicates it is successful.

TREASURE FOUND IN HADLEIGH'S QUEEN STREET!

David Elisha Davy (1769-1851) was recognized variously as a Suffolk scholar, historian, antiquary, writer, genealogist, correspondent, traveller and collector; he came originally from Rumburgh, where his father was a farmer. In 1803 Davy was fortunate to inherit the estate of his uncle - Eleazer Davy of Yoxford; this estate, at that date known as 'The Grove', today is named 'Grove Park'. From then Davy resided in Yoxford, becoming a magistrate and receiver-general for the county, until depreciation in land value in 1815 resulted in financial embarrassment and loss of the estate. This forced his relocation to Ufford where he devoted himself to his extensive studies until his death in 1851.

Of interest to us in this Newsletter is D. E. Davy's manuscript *Collections of Suffolk Hundreds. Vol XII: Cosford*, specifically the section 'Extracts from Hadleigh'. This handwritten volume, with many entries in Latin, others in English, is currently being translated and transcribed by

volunteers in Hadleigh Archive; a task made rather difficult by the minute cursive script on a poor-quality photocopy! In compiling this document, Davy has clearly examined an incredibly wide range of texts relating to Hadleigh between the 10th and 19th centuries; he must have travelled far and wide to museums, libraries, archives and churches to access such a diverse set of academic and historic material. Most entries in his *Hadleigh Collection* appear to have been directly copied from what he deemed interesting and relevant text found within the great range of documents he consulted. His selected order of topics is not entirely chronological or logical and there is occasional repetition of subject matter albeit from different sources; nevertheless, the resultant document in general seems to provide a fascinating and informative read for any committed student of Hadleigh's history.

By way of illustration, one of Davy's interesting little snippets from Hadleigh's past is

reproduced below; he has taken it verbatim from the *Ipswich Journal* of March 20th, 1841.

Discovery of silver coins [in Hadleigh]

This town was in a considerable state of excitement on Monday morning last and so continued throughout the day, in consequence of a discovery of some hidden treasures in the bowels of the earth. It is well known to those persons who visit this town that a new street [Queen Street] has been formed within a short period of time, leading from the High Street into the Churchyard and new buildings are being erected on each side. About 10 o'clock on Monday morning three or four workmen were engaged in excavating for the purpose of preparing a cellar, when suddenly they discovered nearly half a peck¹ of silver coins, many of them in an excellent state of presentation; these must have been placed in a bag, as no trace of an earthen vessel was visible. The coins consist of crowns, half crowns, shillings and sixpences, some of them dated in the reign of Edward VI, Philip and Mary but mostly of Elizabeth, James I, Charles I and II, those of the last-mentioned sovereign are of the first and second coinages. There are all varieties of the mint of Charles I, some having mint

marks and distinctions, not mentioned in Ruding's Work², hitherto unpublished. The scramble which took place on the first discovery may be easily imagined: not only did the workmen obtain rich rewards, many of the passers-by joined in the general search and great confusion followed, until the proprietors (Messrs Wilkinson & son) fenced up the [area], in which state it now is. The labourer who obtained the larger share of the treasure had already sold about £10 worth and has now in his possession nearly 100 pieces, for some of which he has been offered nearly double the original value. No clue can be obtained as to when the coins were posited, certainly no great trouble was manifest in hiding them. The depth of the hole in which they were found was not more than ... feet from the surface. At present no further fortunate discovery has been made in this place, though some hopes are entertained that more will be found in the foundations as the progress of digging is proceeded with. The ground upon which the silver was found, is the property of the Archbishop of Canterbury and is let upon building leases. During the excitement Archdeacon Lyall³ arrived and claimed the property with a view to take care of it for the workmen, that it might not all be wasted, as

there is too much reason to fear it may be in the hands it has fallen into.

Ipswich Journal, March 20th, 1841.

Queen Street, being built around the above date. not surprisingly, was named in honour of the relatively new Queen Victoria. Its ten terraced houses with their walls of Suffolk white brick, roofs of slate, sash windows and recessed doorways are now listed Grade II – undoubtedly a noteworthy residential road constructed within the centre of Hadleigh town by the afore-mentioned Hadleigh builders - Messrs Wilkinson and Son.

The site had previously been the location of the Dean's Tithe barn which was no longer required after the 1836 Tithe Commutation Act had decreed tithes should thenceforward be replaced with monetary payments. As the above newspaper article notes, the site belonged to the Archbishop of Canterbury. Hadleigh Church was still a peculiar of this cathedral, which was why Dean Lyall, as Canterbury's

representative, felt it appropriate for him to descend on the scene to take charge of the valuable find. Of course, in much earlier times (10th -16th century) this patch of land would have belonged to the Manor of Hadleigh which had been bequeathed to the 'Church of the Saviour' (as Canterbury Cathedral was then entitled) by its late 10th century Lord, Ealdorman Byrhtnoth. His bequest, which came into effect after his wife's death (cAD1001), comprised all his land, tenants, two mills, the manor house in its four acre enclosure (around today's Hadleigh Hall) together with its church (later to become St Mary's), the rectory and churchyards. The manor/church area at that time extended from the river to the king's highway (today's High Street) and would have encompassed the Queen Street site.⁴ By the late 11th century, governance of the church and its grounds had been separated from that of the Manor of Hadleigh. The latter, with its manifold possessions (lands, tenants etc), had subsequently been gifted to the Prior and Monks of Canterbury's own priory, providing them with a

fairly generous source of income for over 500 years until the Dissolution; the church and its now separate holdings (e.g. churchyards and Queen Street site) remained within the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury until 1845⁵ – hence its status as a peculiar.⁶

Of course, what no ancient document has to date revealed, and the intriguing mystery we should dearly like to be solved, is – which person or persons actually deposited this valuable bag of silver coins in the Queen Street area in the first place, why was it hidden in that particular location and in what circumstances?

Notes

1. A half-peck is an imperial unit of measurement of dry volume, probably, in this context, indicating equivalence to 8 dry pints or 4.05 litres – a not insignificant bag of ancient coins.
2. Rogers Ruding (1752-1820) was an English cleric and academic numismatist, author of *Annals of the Coinage of Britain & its Dependencies. 1817-18.*

(Source Wikipedia, accessed 28 March 2021)

3. The Venerable William Rowe Lyall was Dean of Hadleigh as well as Archdeacon of Colchester between 1833 and 1841 when he became Archdeacon of Maidstone and, consequentially, a Canon of Canterbury. In 1845 he was appointed Dean of Canterbury. An altar tomb with his recumbent form in doctoral robes and a memorial inscription are dedicated to him within Canterbury Cathedral.
4. Hadleigh Extent (1306) British Library. Harley MS
5. Lambethpalacelibrary.org/sites/default/files/Canterbury-Diocesepdf (Page 8) Accessed 27 April 2021
6. Woods, M. (2018) *Medieval Hadleigh*. Printing for Pleasure; Chattisham.

Reference:

Davy, D. E. (19th century) 'Hadleigh Extract' pp94-95 in *Collections of Suffolk Hundreds. Vol XII: Cosford*, British Library: Add MS19125.

ANOTHER QUIZ FOR YOU

by Ray Whitehand

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



1	High Street, entrance to Queen Street.
2	104a steps
3	104 steps
4	106 steps
5	Bridge St
6	Bridge St
7	George St
8	George St
9	George St
10	Magdalen House
11	Primary school, Station Road
12	no 1 High Street

Your Route

Enjoy a stroll through Hadleigh town centre - keeping a safe distance. See how many of these images you can spot. START in High Street in sight of St Mary (clue a Queen?). Take some steps down the High Street, continue into Bridge Street, then retrace your steps aiming for George Street. Return to Magdalen Road then go to the far end looking out for the younger and older generations. Then down to the start of High Street.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2021/2022				
 <p>Honorary Secretary Richard Fletcher 6 Lister Road Hadleigh Ipswich IP7 5JN 01473 827891 secretary@hadsoc.org.uk All views expressed are those of the contributors and are not necessarily those of the Hadleigh Society</p>	Tue 29 Jun	AGM, short talk on Hadleigh's Overlooked Heritage	Richard Fletcher	
	Wed 4 Aug	Hadleigh Airfield	Peter McGee	
	Tue 5 Oct	Suffolk Relocated Buildings	Liza Psarianos	
	Wed 1 Dec	At The Field's Edge, Adrian Bell and the English Countryside	Richard Hawkings	
	Tue 8 Feb	River Brett and its Environment	Will Akast	
	Wed 23 Mar	The Black Death in Suffolk	Mark Bailey	
	Tue 3 May	Suffolk Surveyors and Maps in the 16 th Century	Vivienne Aldous	
	Wed 29 Jun	AGM		
	<i>Meetings are held in Hadleigh Guildhall Guildroom at 8pm, unless otherwise notified. Entry is free for members, £3 for non-members.</i>			
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