

**December
2021**

The Hadleigh Society

THE REVIVAL OF BENTON END

This November the Garden Museum and the Pinchbeck Charitable Trust jointly announced plans to revive and restore the former Suffolk house and garden of artist-gardener Sir Cedric Morris (1889 – 1982) as a new centre of gardening, art, and creativity. The Pinchbeck Charitable Trust acquired Benton End and has now transferred ownership of the house, a private home since Morris' death in 1982, to the Garden Museum.



In 1940, Cedric Morris and his partner the artist Arthur Lett Haines bought the 16th century manor house outside Hadleigh in Suffolk called Benton End. There they established the East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing – a sanctuary for a diverse range of influential

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artists, writers, musicians, and botanists of the 20th century.

Morris made a garden as influential in its day as Sissinghurst for the irises he bred there; it became one of the first modern gardens of naturalistic design, developed as it was for the study of the unusual plants Morris chose with his keen artist's eye.



The revived Benton End will similarly aim to support and inspire artists and gardeners of all ages and to encourage freedom of invention, enthusiasm, and enjoyment, following in the spirit

the original ethos of Morris and Haines.



Trustees Philip Mould, Rob and Bridget Pinchbeck and National Collection holder of irises bred by Cedric Morris, Sarah Cook.

Bridget Pinchbeck says:

“The robust and exciting partnership between the Pinchbeck Charitable Trust and the Garden Museum will underpin the future development of Benton End, ensuring that the enchanting story of the house and the characters who inhabited it will not be lost. The aim is for Benton End to be a place of inclusivity and enthusiasm. It was Ronald Blythe, author and friend of Cedric and Lett who best summed up the experience of Benton End when he wrote, “The atmosphere was one of intellectual freedom. Everything

was discussed. It was Bohemian in the best sense... The whole atmosphere was exciting and liberating...”, adding that, “The greatest crime at Benton End was to be boring!”

We are thrilled that this collaboration has come about and look forward with great anticipation to the next stages unfolding...”

The Garden Museum plans to begin work renewing Morris’ garden in 2022. Redeveloping the house will be a longer-term project, aiming to restore Benton End’s post-war bohemian glamour and atmosphere, build an exhibition gallery and spaces for learning dedicated to the art of the garden, and to make the building more accessible.

Garden Museum Director Christopher Woodward says: “I’ve been involved in museums for more than 25 years, but never come across a gift of such generosity. It’s from the heart. And we are pleased that Bridget will be involved in the creative development of the project.

This would not be a rural outpost of the Garden Museum. The new Trust will be a hybrid of the Garden Museum and the

heritage of Benton End and its neighbourhood. It will not be a museum, but once again a house where things happen.”

In September the Garden Museum welcomed a coach party of Hadleigh residents to London.



They visited the Constance Spry exhibition (herself a friend and visitor to Benton End), explored the Beth Chatto Archive and sampled the delicious food from the museum café, while hearing about plans for Benton End.

The Garden Museum’s director, Christopher Woodward discussed the potential projects that Benton End could deliver, invited ideas for how the house could be used, and how the Hadleigh community could be involved.

Hadleigh has a thriving, very proactive community, committed to the improvement of services and facilities to the benefit of all. The Trust looks forward to

working with the residents of this welcoming, picturesque Suffolk town.

Please support the project by following @benton.end on Instagram.

Sign up to our newsletter and get the latest news on the house, the garden, exhibitions, events and stories from Benton End.

www.bentonend.co.uk

*Lucy Skellorn
Benton End House & Garden Trust*



HADLEIGH'S RELOCATED BUILDINGS

Many members will have found much of interest in the talk on Moving House, (about the

relocation of Suffolk buildings and parts of buildings) given by Lisa Wall at our Hadleigh Society

meeting on Tuesday 4th October 2021. The following day Sue Andrews, probably our town's best-known local historian and editor of *The Hadleigh Historian*, e-mailed to say how much she had enjoyed Lisa's talk; she also thought members might be interested in other Hadleigh properties or parts of buildings that have, in the past, been relocated in some way or another.

In her talk Lisa recounted the tale of a splendid timber framed Hadleigh property, 12-14 George Street, faced with the prospect of demolition in the 1930s, being completely dismantled and rebuilt on London Road, Capel St Mary. A slide of this rather impressive 15th century building in its new location was shown - with slight alterations / additions; it was undoubtedly a considerable loss to our heritage town. In its new situation the house was, unsurprisingly, given the name *Old Hadleigh*; it is now one of Capel's Grade II listed buildings.

Sue was kind enough to pass on to the society brief details of

four other Hadleigh buildings / parts of buildings which she described as today being *somewhere else in some shape or form*:

The first was a post windmill at the top of Mill Hill (the end of Ivy Tree Lane); this was moved to Elmsett between 1851-61.

In 1920 a Hut from Hadleigh Airfield on Pond Hall Road was re-erected in Duke Street.

The gatehouse of Place Farm aka The Monastery in Angel Street was demolished in 1926 with the bricks and mouldings being re-used at Frinton in Essex.

A late medieval window frame from 107 High Street is now, somewhat prestigiously, in the Victoria and Albert Museum in South Kensington.

Each of the above has featured in past editions of *The Hadleigh Historian* and we are grateful to Sue for drawing our attention to these fascinating snippets of information relating to our historic town.

Margaret Woods

THE GUILDROOM CELLAR: THE FORGOTTEN ROOM



Background

The Hadleigh Guildhall complex of buildings includes the Guildroom where Hadleigh Society meetings are now held. Beneath the ground floor of this room, is a brick lined cellar. When it was built, the Guildroom was freestanding from the Market Hall, but later extended to become joined. The following is a basic interpretation following two inspections of the cellar during 2019.

Description

The walling

The basic rectangular shape of the red brick lined cellar replicates the upper room being six paces in width, the length was not checked. The walling shows evidence of much modification over the years, but is generally constructed in English Bond, and it is suggested that the cellar is contemporary with the building of the Guildroom above. The excavation of a cellar being the same area would be difficult with

an existing building in situ. The cellar is entered on the west side from the garden, and is off centre, and down six steps.

North wall: This includes at the north-east corner a blocked opening which has a four-centre arch roughly constructed. It is likely that this was the original entrance to the cellar and entered via steps down from the ground level gap between the two buildings.

Incorporated flush in the walling at about waist height is a length of wood, its purpose unknown. These were normally used as a fixing but no evidence of any fixing can be seen.

East wall: This wall includes five recesses or openings with steeply splayed jambs and bases. These recesses are crudely blocked. At their upper height they show an unfinished appearance. Their purpose is unknown but perhaps these were used as a chute?

Along this wall length are two full height vertical straight joints, where the bricks butt against the adjoining brickwork, and not bonded into it. The walling to the right of the straight joint projects about one inch (25mm) and the

reason for this and the straight joints is another one of the mysteries of the cellar and its use.

South wall: No special features noted.

West wall: This wall includes two different sized openings, with square jambs. These openings which are at the higher level admit light and ventilation to the cellar. The external access steps are on this wall length. The main walling is thickened at two places at a later stage, indicated by the different brickwork, and their purpose appears to be as additional support when the two external chimney stacks were added. They were necessary for the considerable weight of the chimney stacks and the reduced lateral resistance caused by the cellar. There is an additional wall thickening at the right-hand return corner.

The main ceiling joists are supported centrally by modern brick piers. There is also much modern supporting steelwork. One of these piers has a large wood knee bracket as an additional support which, although old, is clearly not in its original position.

Floor joists

The arrangement of the main and secondary floor joists incorporates features worth noting.

There are five main joists, all aligned east-west. These joists are simply chamfered. The two south bays include two secondary joists running north south and again chamfered. Although quite basic, the use of chamfering indicates a level of status above a plain squared joist as would be expected for a cellar. The minor joists at these two bays are aligned east west but are plain squared. The remaining four bays northwards have no secondary joists, and the minor joists are aligned north-south, and are also plain squared. The reason for the different alignments of the minor joists is not understood but may relate to different sections or use of the cellar.

The first main joist from the north end has a series of mortice holes. The tenons at the ends of the vertical studwork which went into the mortice have been removed but once formed a partition wall.

At the third bay from the north, one of the main joists has

a single mortice hole with a horizontal dowel fixing hole. The purpose of just a single mortice is unknown. Then at the fourth bay from the north, the fourth joist from the east wall has four edge notches shown, their purpose unknown.

The joists on the under surfaces show copious numbers of nails indicating a former lath and plaster ceiling. There is also some lime bleaching to the joists where a lime wash has been applied. It cannot be said if this plaster ceiling was contemporary to the construction of the cellar, but it does add to the status aspect of the cellar and why only the main joists are chamfered. There are still some small remnants of the wood laths remaining.

A curious feature is a series of vertical dowel holes which occur on the main joists on the first from the north end, the third and fourth only. Then strangely, they are on the north joist edge on the east half of the joist, then on the south side on the west joist. This sequence is repeated on the remaining two main joists. Was the purpose of these holes to receive dowel rods on which a

sacking type of material was attached to act as basic divisions in the cellar?

At least two of the joists have carpenter's marks in the form of an X. These might not date from the construction of the floor, being isolated examples.

The Floor

The floor is of rammed earth with a significant chalk content. There is evidence of a small area of Suffolk White brick pammments which once, probably extended over the whole floor area.

Conclusions

From construction considerations alone the cellar must have been built first followed by the Guildroom above.

Although cellars are usually associated with storage and a functional purpose only, the main joists display a simple chamfer to their edges, indicating some minor status. The evidence also of a plaster ceiling adds to the status aspect beyond a basic storage space. The dowel holes

and their alternating position either side along the main joists are difficult to explain. Did it form a simple vertical frame for a hessian or sacking woven material to be attached to form a basic partition or an area of privacy?

The present access from the west garden side down into the cellar is not the original entrance which was via the now blocked opening in the northeast corner of the cellar and in use before the Guildroom above was extended to become attached to the Market House.

The main ceiling beam at its southern end of the cellar has no stopped end showing to its chamfered edges where it meets the south wall, indicating that it once went beyond. This is evidence that the southern end of the cellar, and of the room above, extended further, before it and the Guildroom above were reduced in length with the building in 1851 of the New Town Hall.

Roger Kennell

THE LOCAL LIST FOR HADLEIGH GOES PUBLIC

A year ago, in the September 2020 Newsletter, I advised that after some three years of survey and analysis the Society's Local List for Hadleigh was 99% complete with public consultation as the remaining phase to be undertaken. But why consult the public you may ask?

For a Local List to be both recognised as an approved document, and to be taken into account in making planning decisions and planning policy by the Local Planning Authority, planning practitioners and Central Government it needs to be demonstrated that the properties and places catalogued in the Local List are those supported and cherished by the local community as being of special local architectural and or historic interest and merit in the heritage of Hadleigh.

Accordingly, a process of consultation with the community is necessary to seek its views on the chosen draft list items. The first of these consultations took

place on Friday 17 September and Saturday 18 September 2021



The Exhibition in the Town Hall

in the form of a free exhibition held in the Hadleigh Town Hall between 10 am and 4 pm each day. The exhibition was in three parts, an explanation of what a Local List is and the selection criteria used to vet entries; details of some 22 properties contained in the draft list, and finally; a section for visitors to submit comments and nominations for properties to be considered for inclusion in the local list.

Being a joint project partnered with the Hadleigh Town Council the exhibition was opened by the Town Mayor Cllr Frank Minns.



The Society's Secretary, Richard Fletcher discussing the exhibits with the Town Mayor Cllr Frank Minns

During the two days there was a steady flow of visitors, from which we received written comments ranging from praise at the quality of the exhibition to providing additional information regarding the various items displayed, together with a nomination for a property to be considered for inclusion in the local list.

In the near future I will be discussing with the Chief Planning Officer of Babergh and

Mid Suffolk whether there might be any opportunity of that Council's involvement in getting "Supplementary Planning Document" status for the Hadleigh Local List prior to any inclusion in Hadleigh Town Council's slowly emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

Concurrently with the production of the Local List the Society had plans to upgrade its website which was some 15 years old since initial creation. This planned upgrade gave us the opportunity to place the Local List onto the website, albeit with some additional work. The Society approached the Town Council for assistance, via its Community Grant Awards scheme, to help in funding both public consultation and placing the Local List on the new website. The Town Council were most receptive to our bid for a grant, and late last year they awarded the Society £950 towards the planned expenditure on the Local List.

Part of that money has been put toward the placing of the Local List on the website and you will now find the draft Local List

at <http://hadsoc.org.uk/local-list/>. You can press a button for an introduction or start to explore. You can change the number of entries viewed in one screen from 10 to 100, using the drop-down on the left. Entries are presented in increasing distance from the town centre. You can search for a particular word in the Local list. For instance, if you want all the entries in a certain street, type the street name in the box below the address column and it will bring up all those entries in that street. The guidance notes tell you how you can see the whole list, search by street or search for any other key word. Try 'railway' for instance.

Below the list is a Google map showing the location of the Local List entries.

Below this a box allows you to submit your own suggestions for the Local List.

Each of the entries shows its location by clicking on the red balloon marker set against the property's description.

For extra details, if you click the black button on the left of

the entry, it will open up a sub box that allows you to view: -

1. All the photographs attached to that entry
2. Footnotes - that give details of whether it is in the Conservation Area, its age, reasons for inclusion, and any references or sources of information used in researching the entry
3. The Post code, Latitude & Longitude location of the property

Of particular use is sub box 4 which opens up an email link to the Society 'Local List monitor' and allows you to add your own comments about the property, such as date of construction or particular previous occupants of some local note, etc. It also allows you to highlight any inaccuracies you noted in the entry. Once received these comments will be logged, noted and actioned upon, where necessary, by the Society.

Now, go on, try out the Local List on the website and also enjoy the Society's new upgraded web format.

Richard Fletcher

SPS HERITAGE CHAMPIONS

Suffolk

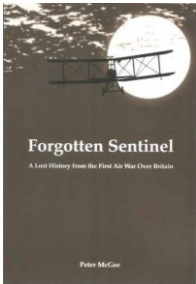
PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Suffolk Preservation Society has introduced a new series of awards this year aimed at highlighting the work of local people and communities looking after Suffolk's historic places and buildings. You have just been reading about two of the winners.

The Benton End House and Garden Trust was nominated by Robert Townshend, SPS Trustee, "for its work at Benton House and garden in Hadleigh to ensure that its rich cultural history is preserved and celebrated."

Richard Fletcher was nominated "in recognition of his work through the Hadleigh Society to create an extensive and interactive Local List of Non-Designated Heritage Assets. The SPS is delighted to recognise this important initiative, which will provide a permanent record of Hadleigh's local heritage and will become a material consideration in future planning decisions which affect the town's heritage."

FORGOTTEN SENTINEL – PETER MCGEE



You may remember the talk in August on Hadleigh and Elmswell Aerodromes in the First World War. Peter

McGee's book has just been published by the Elmswell History Group. Copies are for sale at Bury's Apex Tourist

Information Centre, Stowmarket's Museum of East Anglian Life, **Elmswell's Wesley Coffee Shop/Café**, School Rd, IP30 9EE (9am-4pm, Mon-Sat), the book is £11.99 by mail order or from Graham Newman (01359-240846). at £15.49 inc.p+p. Good for anyone interested in the pioneering forerunners of aviation history.

HADLEIGH SOCIETY'S NEW TIMELINE

8000BC to 2021

One of the many elements very worth exploring on Hadleigh Society's splendid new website (<http://www.hadsoc.org.uk>) is the **History of Hadleigh Timeline**. This provides a chronological sequence of fascinating information on the rich and interesting history and heritage of our remarkable town. The first of the 375 entries, dated 8000-4000BC, reveals where evidence of habitation in Hadleigh during this period was located. Three hundred and seventy-three entries later the final two items in the Timeline relate to 2021; they record the closing of Hadleigh's last bank earlier in the year and the number of listed buildings currently within the town.

To glean as much of Hadleigh's history as possible individual members of Hadleigh Society's History Group researched a vast range of material including documents from the town Archive, texts by well-known local historians and local History Recorder reports. The mass of collated facts was refined and condensed into what is hoped is a readable and

accessible format - a Timeline intended to inform, arouse interest, answer questions and maybe even inspire historians of the future. Should any new historical facts emerge as a result of further study, they may be added or they may lead to existing entries being amended or erased. History is ever changing.

So, what sort of facts does this Timeline uncover?

Readers may, for example, ascertain the earliest documented mention (to date) of the Benton area of the town, of Brad Street (now Angel Street), of Buk Street (now George Street) or of Hadleigh or Toppesfield Bridges. Also revealed is what one or two significant visitors to Hadleigh thought about the town e.g. what impression did the evangelist and martyr, Thomas Bilney, have of 16th century Hadleigh after residing and preaching within the town for a spell? How did the celebrated poet, John Betjeman, describe the Hadleigh of 1962? How many people know Hadleigh Market was established in 1252? At what date was there evidence of a workhouse/place of

correction/hospital within what has undoubtedly become one of our town's most valuable heritage assets – the Guildhall Complex of the 21st century?

Hadleigh's connection with the Authorised Version of the King James Bible of 1611 is made clear as are the number of plague burials in Hadleigh in 1666 and the year in which Hadleigh cemetery was opened on Hopyard Field near the present-day Cricket Ground. The early date of the creation of Hadleigh Bowls Club may be surprising but not that tongues were set wagging in 1818 when the curate George Wilkins eloped to Gretna Green with the 17 year old daughter of Dean Auriol Hay Drummond! What did the Ecclesiastical Census of 1851 reveal about church-going habits in Hadleigh at that date? When cheap day return train tickets came into being, which were the most popular railway

destinations for Hadleigh residents on a day out in 1877? Where was the first telephone kiosk set up in 1931? What caused the death of Mrs Halls in 1941? What occurred in the Co-op in 1894? Many readers may well remember that Sir Joshua Rowley opened the new Hadleigh by-pass but in which year did he actually cut the ribbon?

Such questions and many many more may be answered by visiting the **Hadleigh History Timeline** on the Hadleigh Society website (<http://www.hadsoc.org.uk>). Click on *About Hadleigh*, the third heading from right, then under *Hadleigh History* on the far left, click on *Hadleigh History Timeline*. Use the Search box (upper right) to help find what interests you. Most importantly enjoy!

Margaret Woods

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS 2021/2022				
<p style="text-align: center;">THE HADLEIGH SOCIETY</p> <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>	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 – 40 th anniversary		
	Tue 9 Aug	Windows to the Outside World	Edward Martin	
	Wed 5 Oct	The Hold, Suffolk Archives		
	Tue 6 Dec	Sudbury Common Lands Charity		
	<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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<p>The Hadleigh Society website has past and present newsletters, etc at http://www.hadsoc.org.uk/</p>				