

Local and Essex History Group Suggested visits this Summer 2022

Great Easton

If you visit Great Easton, don't miss its church. The Church of St John and St Giles is Norman, but it stands on the site of a Saxon church and is built from Roman bricks.

Once there was a timber tower but it was struck by lightning, so the wood was repurposed in some of the local homes.

Greensted

Greensted's church isn't just the oldest wooden church in Essex, it's the oldest in the world, containing timbers that date back to the 6th and 7th centuries. The oldest grave in the churchyard is that of a 12th century Crusader; you'll find it right by the front door.

East Mersea

One of two settlements on Mersea Island, East Mersea is the smaller. It's home to Cudmore Grove Country Park whose crumbling cliffs from time to time offer up fossils and bones, including 300,000 year old monkey and hippo bones from a time when the climate was considerably different to today.

Check the time of the tides though so you can cross back on the causeway!

Dedham

Dedham is perhaps the most famous of the county's villages thanks to its proximity to Flatford Mill where artist John Constable enjoyed to paint.

The main street is crammed with historic properties including an imposing church and buildings which contain a plethora of shops and cafes.

Take a walk to see the nearby mill, before following the banks of the River Stour all the way to Willy Lott's Cottage on the Suffolk side of Dedham Vale.

Bradwell on Sea

There are several Bradwells in Essex – this one sits on the edge of the Dengie peninsula not far from a decommissioned nuclear power station, the site of a Roman fort and a 7th century chapel.

In the heart of the village, in the wall of St Thomas' church, The Cage is an 18th century brick structure containing oak whipping posts, once used to punish petty thieves and drunks

Thorrington

Standing at the head of Alresford Creek is the Thorrington Tide Mill. The structure dates from 1831 and is one of only two functioning tide mills in the country; the other is across the border in Suffolk.

The lucam, which sticks out from the upper part of the mill, would have been used to hoist sacks of corn to be ground. There was once a windmill too, but it was blown down in a 19th century storm and never rebuilt.

Or of course you could visit some of the places I suggested last year that you never quite made it to.

Stock

Ashdon

Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Wendons Ambo

Coggeshall

Or visit some of those places I mentioned in my original email i.e. Curling Tye Green, Pleshey, Coopersale, Helions, Belchamp St. Paul, Gt, Sampford, Bocking Church Street, Goose Green, Alphonstone.

All I ask are some photos and an account of your visit including any recommendation for lunch i.e. pubs or cafes! Remember to send your accounts to myself and Ian Phipps.

If you need our email addresses please contact us via:

Marion: [**Local and Essex History Group**](#) email link.

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