

Local and Essex History March-April Challenge

2023

SEASIDE & COAST

- 1) According to the Ordnance Survey, Essex has the second largest coastline in England, behind which county?
- 2) Which seaside resort began as a small part of a much older community which was later swallowed up and was named for its geographical location in relation to that community, as the second largest coastline in England, behind which Country?
- 3) Which seaside town lost its church to the sea in the late 1790's following severe coastal erosion?
- 4) Who was behind the development of Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton as seaside resorts and was engineer on the Chappel Viaduct?
- 5) Which is the only town north of the River Thames that was in the confederation of medieval Cinque ports, an organisation which was set up for military and trade purposes?
- 6) Where are the High and Low Lighthouses?
- 7) At the turn of the 20th century Frederick Hester bought up numerous plots of land in one concentrated location to sell to Londoners as development land for seaside homes. Where was that location?
- 8) The aptly named Haddock and Salmon families were well known mariners, with members of the family becoming admirals, captains and Masters of Trinity House. Where were they from?
- 9) Where is Copperas Bay?
- 10) Where is the only official naturist beach in Essex?

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1) Essex has the second longest coastline at approximately 905km. The coastline consists of beautiful beaches and villages.

Cornwall is in first place and has the longest coastline at approximately 1086km.

Data Source: www.wikipedia.org

2) Southend-on-Sea began life as fisherman shacks in the south end, (Southend), of Prittlewell.

Prittlewell was much older in c1750, but major developments in 1790 made Southend became larger than Prittlewell, so Prittlewell then became a suburb of Southend-on-Sea.

Data Source: Google Information

3) The town that lost its church, All Saints Church, to severe coastal erosion, was in 1798 at Walton on the Naze.

(Another area that lost their church to the sea was the parish of Milton in Southend on sea)

Data Source: www.losttown.net, www.democracy.southend.gov.uk (pg18 4.2 history of Milton)

4) The man who developed Walton on Naze and Clacton was called Peter Bruff. Between 1847- 1849 Peter Bruff constructed the Chappel Viaduct.

The viaduct became a designated grade 2 listed structure on 27th November 1967.

Peters' legacy lives on in the hospital ward and a residential road named after him. Peter died in Ipswich in 1900.

Data Source: www.wikipedia.org, www.clactonfrintongazette.co.uk

5) The only town north of the River Thames, that was in the confederation of medieval Cinque ports was Brightlingsea.

Data Source: www.wikipedia.org

6) The high lighthouse and low lighthouse can be found in Harwich. They worked together to guide the vessels safely into the port.

The high lighthouse stands 90 feet high and is a grey granite brick, nine-sided tower it was built in 1818 to replace the light over the town gate. The lighthouse was built under supervision of John Ronnie and the tower became redundant in 1863.

In 1980 the building became a maritime museum. The museum is open to the public to visit on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, between 11am - 3pm.

The lowlight house is built 150 yards away from the high lighthouse and is a white 10-sided tower, built of brick and is also a museum, known as the Harwich Maritime Museum.



The Low Lighthouse



The High Lighthouse

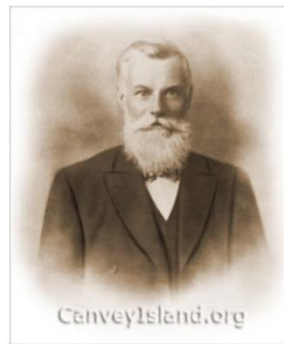
Data Source: www.harwich-society.co.uk

7) Frederick Hester was a Canvey Island entrepreneur, who bought agricultural farmland during the depression.

He turned the land into plots and placed them on the market for holiday homes to be built. He also wanted to turn the creeks around the island into grand Venetian style canals, to build a horse drawn monorail and establish exotic Winter Gardens. While he had some success with the horse drawn monorail and the Winter Gardens, the canals never came to fruition, as Frederick was made bankrupt in 1905.

There is to this day an area of Canvey Island still known as the Winter Gardens, just south of Sommes Avenue.

Frederick Hester became known as the godfather of Canvey.



Frederick Hester portrait courtesy of his granddaughter Carol Mayers

Data Source: www.greatbritishlife.co.uk

8) The Haddock's and Salmon families both came from Leigh on sea in Essex. Sir Richard Haddock was born in 1629 and died in London in 1714.

Robert Salmon was born in 1566, and buried on 18/6/1641 in St Clements Church, Leigh on sea. There is a statue of Robert Salmon set into the west end of the outside of the Church's north wall.



Sir Richard Haddock

Data Source: www.genealogy.com

9) Copperas Bay is on the southern banks of the river Stour, near Wrabness, and is well worth a visit.

This is the only place in the county of Essex where mature woodland goes right down to the water's edge. Most Essex coastline in this area is dominated by either mudflats, or salt Marshlands.

Data Source: www.wildessex.net



10) The official naturist beach is at St Osyth, near Clacton.

To reach the beach you need to walk pass Huntley Caravan Park in beach road and go to the sea wall turn right (West) then walk approximately 1mile and you will reach the beach which is divided into three sections by dunes. One for families, one for gay men and the other for swingers.



Data Source: www.alto-sax.co.uk

DENISE PHIPPS

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1) Seems to be Cornwall, although there is some dispute about this as Essex is often given in first place!

2) Southend (the south end part of Rochford).

3) Walton on the Naze All Saints Church.

4) Modern day Clacton was founded by Peter Bruff in 1871 with the aim to develop a seaside resort. The Pier and facilities were constructed to utilise trade from The Woolwich Steam Packet Company, which at the time operated between London and Ipswich.

The railway viaduct, which crosses the River Colne, was completed in 1849. It consists of 32 30-foot semi-circular spans, with tapered piers, is 1,060 feet long and rises to a maximum height of 75 feet. More than 6 million bricks were used in its construction.



5) Brightlingsea

6) Harwich



7) Canvey Island. (There is a lot of very interesting information on this on the CanveyIsland.org website).

8) There was a prominence of Leigh on Sea seamen in naval history and the Dutch Wars.

Among these were members of the Salmon and Haddock families. Captain William Haddock served with distinction against the Dutch and was awarded a gold medal for his services.

His son, Admiral Sir William Haddock became Comptroller of the Navy.

Robert Salmon was a Master of Trinity House.

9) Copperas Bay is on the south side of the Stour estuary, between Manningtree and Harwich.

The Stour Estuary has large areas of mudflats fringed by saltmarsh and reedbed. Copperas Bay has hides for bird watching and the Copperas Nature Research, part of the Essex Wildlife Trust.

Nearby Stour Wood/Stour Nature Reserve is an RSPB site.

10) St Osyth

(Sorry, I couldn't find any pictures!).

Acknowledgements: The Harwich Society, Chappel Parish Council, Canvey Island Org, Trinity House

Mavis Regan

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1) Cornwall has the longest coastline in England measuring 422 miles. Next in line is Essex measuring 350 miles and third is Devon measuring 318 miles.



Cornwall



Essex



Prittlewell Village

2) When the Saxons discovered our county's coastline, they decided not to settle right beside it, but settled inland on what is now the edge of modern Southend.



Southend Pier

It is believed that this was a thriving village in the 6th or 7th centuries. St Mary's church still has a Saxon arch. In the Middle Ages this settlement went on to become a busy market town and became even more prosperous in the 15th and 16th centuries.

In the late 1700s the first buildings began to appear in the area that was to become Southend. Go forward to the 1800s and the Edwardians fell in love with Southend more for the shopping than the seaside.

3) Walton was once a small farming village, miles inland of the coast.

It wasn't until the 1700s that it became a coastal region. The real old village of Walton now rests nine miles out to sea on the west rocks.



Walton on the Naze

Due to coastal erosion its old church finally fell into the sea in 1798. In the early 19th century, the new town of Walton grew and now thrives as a seaside resort.

4) Peter Schuyler Bruff (23 July 1812 – 24 February 1900) was born in Plymouth Dock. He was an English civil engineer and worked on establishing the East Anglian railway in the 1840s and 1860s.

He contributed a great deal to the region's infrastructure including the renovation of Colchester's water supply (1851-1880) and the Ipswich sewage system which was completed in 1881.

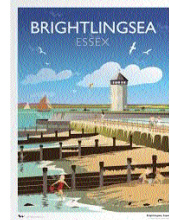


He was also responsible for the development of Harwich, Walton on the Naze and Clacton. He built up the town of Clacton from an unused piece of farmland into a flourishing seaside town.

Finally, Peter Bruff was responsible for the development of the late Victorian revival of the Coalport porcelain factory in Shropshire which he bought in 1880.

5) The Cinque Ports were a historic confederation of the five most important ports on the coast of the English Channel. They were expected to provide ships and men to fight for the king in times of war and were compensated by exemptions from taxation. Each port had what is known as a Limb.

Such towns or villages would help the Cinque Port ease their wartime obligations and thus share the benefits of their privileges. Brightlingsea became a Limb of Sandwich and is the only town outside Kent and Sussex that is in the Confederation of Cinque Ports.



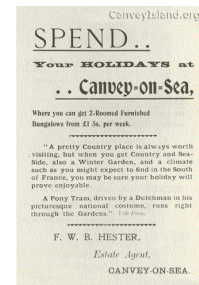
6) Two historic landmarks in Essex are the High and Low Lighthouses. They can be found in Harwich and when built in 1818 they were known as "leading lights" because they were there to guide ships into harbour.

In 1863 they were withdrawn from service because the position of the channel changed. Since then, they served as private homes and are now museums.

7) Frederick Hester was the man who, in the early 1900s, had a dream of turning Canvey into an Island holiday resort.

He was born in 1853 in Fulham. He and his wife Sibyl had seven children, some of which helped their father in his Canvey project. One of their sons, Frederick William, was an estate agent. He played a big part in his father's project and stayed on Canvey all his life.

At that time many things were changing, one of which was the expansion of the LT&SR railway line from Fenchurch Street to Southend. As Canvey appeared to be an ideal holiday resort for Londoners to spend time away from the busy city Frederick took advantage of Benfleet Station, which was virtually on the Island. Posters were posted around London to try and promote the Island.



8) Henry Salmon was born in 1647, in Clavering, Essex, England, United Kingdom. He died on 23 August 1712 in his home town, at the age of 65, and was buried in Essex. Sir Richard Haddock was born in 1629 in Leigh on Sea where he lived until his death on 26th January 1714.

9) Copperas Bay is in the Stour Estuary. Large areas of mudflats are fringed by saltmarsh and reedbed. It has two hides which are reached by a path in a narrow strip of woodland between the railway and the estuary.



Both hides give good views of birds at their high-tide roost. The wood runs right down to the waterside which is unusual in Essex and makes it an enjoyable walk. Occasionally there are views of Copperas Bay through the trees along the path. In Autumn and Winter, the bay is used by birds such as brent geese, many ducks and a large flock of black-tailed godwits.

10) The only official naturist beach in Essex is at St Osyth. St Osyth Naturist Beach is a safe beach and is a clothing optional beach, which means there might be nudist zones.



St Osyth Naturist Beach offers a lot of space for sunbathing and the best months to visit this beach are June, July, August and September, when the weather is warmer and, although not guaranteed, less crowded.

Sources: Wikipedia, Canvey.org, Beyondthepoint.co.uk, snr.org.uk, Google Images.

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