

# **SAFFRON WALDEN HISTORICAL JOURNAL**

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## **CONTENTS**

The Saffron Walden Survey 1912	<i>Martyn Everett</i>	1
Molehill Green: village in danger	<i>Jacqueline Cooper</i>	6
Some Stately Homes of NW Essex (pt 3)	<i>Bruce Munro</i>	11
NW Essex c. 1600: Camden's <i>Britannia</i>		15
Saffron Walden Abbey and the Impediment of Government Regulation	<i>Tony Fox</i>	18
True Tales of the Gibson Estate (pt. 2)	<i>Zofia Everett</i>	23
New Publications	<i>Martyn Everett</i>	30
The End of Woolies	<i>Jack Turnbull</i>	31
History News		32

## **EDITORIAL**

One of the experiences which makes the task of an editor so rewarding is the way that various articles, even though randomly commissioned, somehow when they materialize, fall into a common theme in any particular issue of the *Journal*! Thus, in our 17th issue, while covering a wide date range from medieval to modern, there are a number of insights into various types of surveys. In the picturesque language of Tudor times, we reprint a brief extract of a local description in the first-ever topographical survey of the whole country, by William Camden, the subject of a recent television programme. In a different vein is Martyn Everett's careful exploration of the background behind the pioneering Saffron Walden Survey carried out in 1912. Martyn's wife, Zofia, is also a local historian whose articles concentrate on the human stories behind the scenes, and there is no one better placed to survey the evolution of the Gibson Estate and some of its characters. On a more rural theme, Jacqueline Cooper looks at the survey by Framework Archaeology of the village of Molehill Green, which is under threat of destruction by airport expansion at Stansted. Also out in the NW Essex countryside, Bruce Munro concludes his survey of the numerous stately homes which are such a feature of the area. Our best-known former stately home is, of course, Audley End, but before its building, the site was occupied by Walden Abbey and Tony Fox has been surveying the archives to find out how the Abbey was funded, digging out some surprisingly 'modern' analogies.

None of our writers or editorial team receive any payment and thus the *Journal* is able to continue to offer, at reasonable price to an increasing readership, access to new research on the history of Saffron Walden and north-west Essex. For this we must thank our contributors, readers and local outlets for their continuing support in these difficult times.

## **SAFFRON WALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF LECTURES 2009**

**All meetings 7.45 pm at Friends' Meeting House, High Street, Saffron Walden**

- Mon 27 April – *Revolt & Revolution in the Essex Countryside*: William Tyler.
- Mon 18 May – Society Annual Meeting (members only).
- Mon 28 Sept – *Eglantyne Jebb, founder of the Save the Children Movement*: Claire Mulley.
- Mon 26 Oct – *Fighting for Old Buildings: the SPAB explained*: Douglas Kent
- Mon 23 Nov – *800 Years of Cambridge University* – Honor Ridout.