



# FORDHAM HISTORY SOCIETY BULLETIN



THE LATEST EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



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## INTRODUCTION

by WENDY SHEPHERD

On behalf of Michael and myself may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. As her Majesty once said about a previous difficult year; this has truly been an 'Annus Horribilis.' For many of us we have never experienced such difficulties and it has been a year which has challenged us emotionally, medically and mentally. As we approach 2021, we can only hope that we will soon see a vaccination and the lifting of restrictions which will once again allow us to meet and greet our families and friends and get back to our 'normal' lives whatever that may be.

We have a few members who are dealing with health issues at present. We are thinking of them and send you our good wishes, positive thoughts and strength at a difficult time.

## **FORDHAM HISTORY SOCIETY AGM 2019/2020**

Our society is governed by a set of 'rules/guidelines' which were put together when we applied for our Lottery Grant for our WW1 Centenary Project. There is nothing written to say that we cannot present our AGM to members online or through a bulletin. Due to the unprecedented circumstances, I am presenting this AGM and accounts online.

I believe it is important that we keep our society going during this difficult time and therefore continuity is important. Therefore I am quite happy to continue as programme organiser and treasurer. Michael Hamilton-Macy would like to continue his role as CAG liaison and I have confirmed with Christine Alexander that she will continue as second signatory. If by chance you have any objections to these positions; please contact me and we can duly discuss it when we meet up again.

### **2020 meetings**

To think our last history society meeting was in February when Peter Jones talked about the great Essex earthquake. I had read little bits about how Peldon had been affected when I was doing some family history for a customer, but was unaware of the full scale of the earthquake until the talk; an interesting meeting.

'Now you see it, now you don't' presented by Michael Hamilton-Macy in January was indeed a fascinating account of disappearing buildings, roads, milestones and wells in Fordham. Michael has not been idle during lockdown and he has continued to examine the history of our village with further fieldwalking and investigation. He has produced an article about Thrift Farm for CAG (Colchester Archaeological Group,) I will give you the link for next month. But Michael will, at some time in the future, do a History Society talk on his latest fieldwalking investigations.

Congratulations to Michael who is the new chairman of CAG. A position which he assumed after offering to be Vice Chairman. He failed to read the small print which says that the Vice Chair takes on the mantle of Chairman after being the deputy!

### **2021 Programme**

It is very difficult to plan a future programme when we are unsure that the village hall will be re-opening in January 2021. I will let you know in the January issue.

So as programme organiser I have discussed with some of our members the proposal of focussing entirely on the history of Fordham in the first half of the year. These 'meetings' will be presented at the hall either by myself or Michael Hamilton-Macy and can easily be cancelled if necessary.

As the months go by I can assess the situation and then check on outside speakers to cover the rest of the year. It would be good to try and book Neil Catchpole and Katie Cole who were cancelled last year.

January - Fordham; new discoveries  
February - Fordham's Land Army  
March - Thrift Farm  
May - Unusual Church records  
June - Notables of Fordham  
July - Fordham Dig update

