



# FORDHAM HISTORY SOCIETY BULLETIN



THE LATEST EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



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## INTRODUCTION

by WENDY SHEPHERD

Following on from my email in early June, I have been trying to think of how we can all keep up to date with all things historically linked to Fordham and our society. So I thought of putting together a monthly newsletter to keep us up to date. I do hope that you are all in good health and coping under these unprecedented circumstances.

### COVID-19 UPDATE

Hall reopening:- The village hall will not be reopening until 1st October; all being well. Therefore our September meeting will not go ahead. I shall contact you nearer the time to give you details of how we will operate our meetings to ensure we are all Covid -19 secure.

## Programme 2020

**20th October** - Kate Cole will be giving her talk on Christmas in Medieval Essex.



**November 18th** – Our annual A.G.M. will take place. This always includes a social element; so please bring along a plate of nibbles. There will be no charge for this event. I will give a short presentation of the work of the school history club who were unable to present their work in our cancelled June meeting. Michael Hamilton-Macy will give an update on the Fordham Dig. The 2021 programme will also be announced.

## All Saints Fordham History Club

We started off the 2019 Autumn term with 8 children, along the way we lost two boys, but gained 2 girls. So we had an interesting group of 3 boys and 5 girls. For three of the children Jude, Maya and Alexandra this will be their last year and I will miss them, they have been excellent students who individually have bought a great deal of knowledge to our meetings.

As there is still a great deal of uncertainty ahead. I am unable to say what will happen in September 2020. It will be a real settling in period for the children, especially for those who did not get into school during lockdown. The school will also be having a new head teacher. Hopefully the club will resume at some stage. W.S.



**History Club Mosaics**

## Roman Dig Update

*Michael Hamilton-Macy*

We are now back on site and excavation work has re-started after the Covid 19 lockdown has been eased but with reduced numbers and dig days to comply with government guidelines. We now dig Sundays and Thursdays (missing out Tuesdays) with a six person limit per day, one of whom is Jonathan Oldham our site supervisor, which means, as there are over twenty people wishing to dig, each digger can only dig for one day each fortnight at present. Amongst other things we are hoping to find the north wall foundation trench of the underfloor heated room on the north western corner of the main building, this should also be connected to the furnace flue which we have not found yet, fingers and trowels crossed.



## The Three Horse Shoes

Sadly, lockdown has taken the toll on our village pub. The Three Horseshoes has closed under the ownership of the St. Arnold group. We do not know what the future holds for one of the oldest buildings in Fordham. Parts of the timber framed house date to the 14th/15th century. There was a blacksmith and cottage beyond, but these were demolished. A smithy in the village was a necessity in a village where agriculture was the main occupation and would have worked alongside the wheelwright. In 1874 the pub was used for an inquest following the brutal murder of Solomon and Susannah Johnson by their son Thomas. The Johnsons lived in a lane just off Fossetts Lane. Thomas Johnson was committed to Broadmoor where he died in 1911.



## WW2 Project

During lockdown, I have been working on a book about Fordham and WW2.

We have a good selection of photographs in our archive which will be used. I am also looking at the 1939 Register which gives a clear indication of who was living in the village just before the start of the war. It would be fantastic to get more personal accounts from the people of Fordham who might have had family involved and could have some great stories to tell.

Now living in France, Jess Jephcott gathered together the oral histories of some of our Fordham folk; there are snippets of WW2 in these recorded stories. Many of these can be found online at [www.camulos.com/fordham/recalled.htm](http://www.camulos.com/fordham/recalled.htm)

If you have any information which could be used in the book please contact me on [wendyhawk@talktalk.net](mailto:wendyhawk@talktalk.net) Next month I will tell you how we confirmed that there were guns on Fordham Heath during WW2.

### Remembering our casualties of war

Lance Corporal Walter Perry of the Military Police Corps who died 9th July 1918. Son of George Perry and Caroline Bunting of Fordham Heath and uncle to one of our history society members.