

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
ESSEX ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY,  
AT THE TOWN HALL, COLCHESTER,  
ON WEDNESDAY, 28 APRIL, 1926.**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Mayor of Colchester (Councillor A. W. Piper) extended a warm welcome to the Society, and said one could not imagine a more fitting setting for a meeting of any archæological society than Colchester. Canon Galpin thanked the Mayor for his attendance, and spoke of the great interest that the Mayor and Corporation of Colchester had always taken in the antiquities of the town; he also congratulated them on the recently opened Albert Hall.

Alderman W. Gurney Benham, F.S.A., moved a vote of thanks to the President, Vice-Presidents and honorary officers, including the Hon. Secretary, Treasurers, Editor and Auditor. He thought they were very lucky in their officers, who performed great service on their behalf, and they desired to express their gratitude with special emphasis to the President. They had never had a more zealous or efficient president than Canon Galpin; he had given them ungrudgingly of his time and ability, and they were grateful to him for all he had done for the Society. The Rev. W. J. Pressey, F.S.A., seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously. Canon Galpin, in responding, gave a brief review of the past five years' work, and concluded by thanking the members for the kindness shown him during his term of office, which had been five years of great happiness, socially as well as archæologically.

The Chairman then added that they had asked Mr. G. F. Beaumont, F.S.A., to undertake the office of President for the ensuing year. He was especially pleased to put his name forward, for Mr. Beaumont was an Essex man, and he had ably served them for nine years as hon. secretary (1893-1903). The resolution was seconded by Mr. S. J. Barns, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Beaumont then took the Chair, and expressed thanks for his election. He mentioned that he had been associated with the Society for 43 years; Mr. Reuben Hunt, of Earls Colne, was also elected a member in 1883, and he would like as his first act as



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REV. CANON F. W. GALPIN.

*President of the Essex Archæological Society,  
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President to move: "That a message of congratulation be sent from the Essex Archæological Society to Mr. Reuben Hunt on his recent attainment of the age of 90 years, during forty-three of which he has been a member of the Society." Alderman Benham seconded, and spoke of Mr. Hunt's generosity and helpfulness in the many capacities in which he had served the county. The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Annual Report was taken as read and adopted.

The Annual Statement of Accounts was presented by Mr. J. Avery and passed.

On the proposition of Mr. G. Rickword, seconded by Miss Vaughan, the Vice-Presidents (with the addition of Canon Galpin) and Council (with the exception of Mr. G. Biddell, who did not wish to be re-nominated) were re-elected.

Mr. P. G. Laver, F.S.A., Mr. Duncan W. Clark, A.R.I.B.A., and the Hon. Secretary, were re-elected as representatives of the Society on the Museum and Muniment Committee of the Colchester Town Council. On the motion of Alderman Benham, seconded by Mr. H. J. Sheldrake, the Council of the Society was authorised to appoint a fourth representative, if required.

Fifteen ladies and gentlemen were elected as members of the Society.

Mr. R. C. Fowler, F.S.A., spoke with regard to the preservation and custody of manorial records; also to the useful work in collecting information about local history and old customs that could be accomplished by the Women's Institutes in the county (see *How to Compile a History and Present-day Record of Village Life*, written for the Women's Institutes of Northamptonshire by Miss Joan Wake, F.R.Hist.S., 2nd edition, Northampton; County Federation of Women's Institutes. 1s. net.).

The Hon. Secretary announced that the relatives of the late Mr. Arthur Henry Brown, of Brentwood, had decided to present his valuable collections of rubbings of monumental brasses, which includes rubbings of several lost Essex brasses, to the Society. On the proposition of Mr. Benton a special vote of thanks was unanimously accorded the donors for their generous gift.

The Mayor was thanked for the use of the Grand Jury Room; and the President expressed pleasure at the presence at the meeting of Alderman Wilson Marriage, who was elected in 1874, and is the oldest subscribing member of the Society.

Luncheon was subsequently served at the Red Lion Hotel, the President presiding, supported on his right by the Mayor of Colchester.

## EXCURSION TO DEDHAM.

At 2.15 p.m. about 100 members and friends proceeded by motor char-a-banc and car to Dedham, where the parish church of St. Mary-the-Virgin—a fine example of the East Anglian type, *c.* 1500—was described by the Rev. Canon G. H. Rendall, Litt.D., LL.D. (see *Essex Review*, vol. xxviii., p. 137; vol. xxix., p. 1). Afterwards, Mr. Duncan W. Clark, A.R.I.B.A.), gave an address on the domestic architecture in Dedham, and the most interesting examples—including Brook House (kindly thrown open for inspection by Mr. R. Wallis), the Marlborough Head Inn, the Sun Inn, the School House, and Southfields—were visited in sections, under the guidance of Dr. Rendall, Mr. Clark, the Hon. Secretary, and others. Southfields, built *c.* 1500 on a quadrangular courtyard plan, attracted particular attention as a mediæval building of the first importance. It is traditionally known as a “bay and say factory,” but Mr. Clark pointed out that though it might have been used for that purpose, it was certainly not erected as such, for the building was at least fifty years older than the introduction of the bay and say trade. There is no reason, however, why it should not have been occupied by a ‘clothier,’ *i.e.* a maker of the older and heavier English cloth. The many tenements into which this interesting building is divided precludes a correct description; and a careful survey and enquiry into its purpose has yet to be made. The Free School, erected about 1732, was also considered noteworthy on account of its splendid workmanship; and as exemplifying the early eighteenth-century craftsman’s appreciation of the brilliance produced by a judicious use of white paint with brickwork. This house is admirably illustrated in the recently published *History of English Brickwork*, by Mr. Nathaniel Lloyd (p. 236), who is of the opinion that ‘the soft coloured wallings, rich red brick pilasters, cornice, niche and Ionic order (with white painted caps, bases and cill), window architraves and apron-pieces, contrasting with a green door and railings,’ form, as a whole, ‘a delightfully gay and pleasing combination.’

At 4.30 p.m. the party was entertained to tea in the Hewitt Memorial Hall, by the kindness of Dr. Rendall and Major E. W. MacDonald, of Lower Park, to whom hearty votes of thanks were duly accorded. The Society is also indebted to Dr. Rendall for generous assistance in connection with this excursion.

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