



Essex Record Office e-bulletin

October 2012

Welcome to the October edition of the ERO e-bulletin. In this edition:

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News

Autumn events at the Essex Record Office

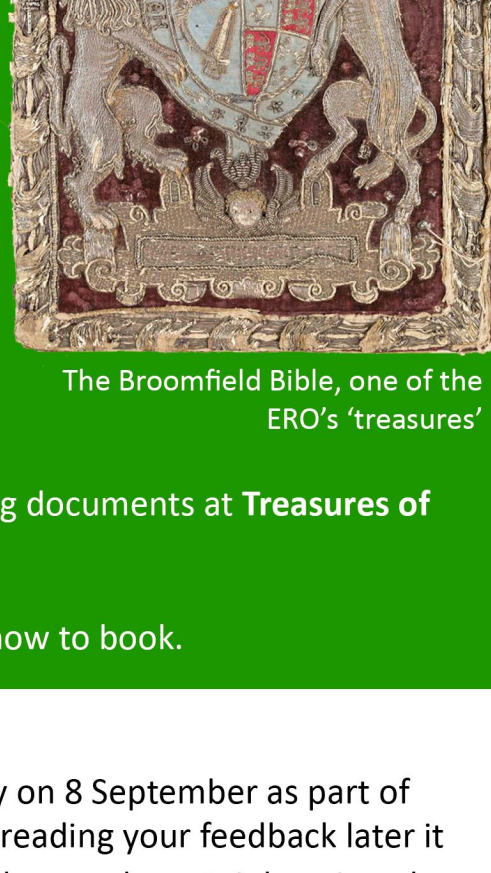
We have a packed events schedule for you to enjoy this autumn, with workshops, talks and conferences exploring all sorts of different aspects of Essex's past. See below for a full list of forthcoming events, but here are a few highlights:

Do you need help starting to research your family tree? Come to our **Discover: Family History Sources from 1837** workshop on Saturday 6 October for expert advice on getting started using civil registration records and census returns

Would you like to be better at reading old handwriting in parish registers and wills? Try our **Discovering Palaeography** workshop, 2 sessions, Fridays 12 & 19 October

Come and find out about Essex's multicultural heritage at our **Workers of the World Unite!** day on Saturday 13 October – great speakers and a tasty lunch. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Essex Cultural Diversity Programme, tickets for this event are now free, rather than the previously advertised £20

Come and see our most beautiful, rare and interesting documents at **Treasures of the Record Office**, Tuesday 23 October

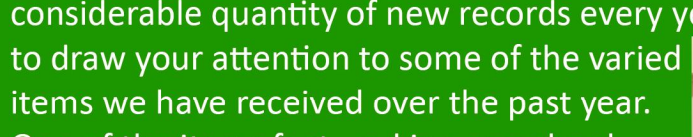


The Broomfield Bible, one of the ERO's 'treasures'

See below for times, ticket prices and information on how to book.

Review of Discovery Day

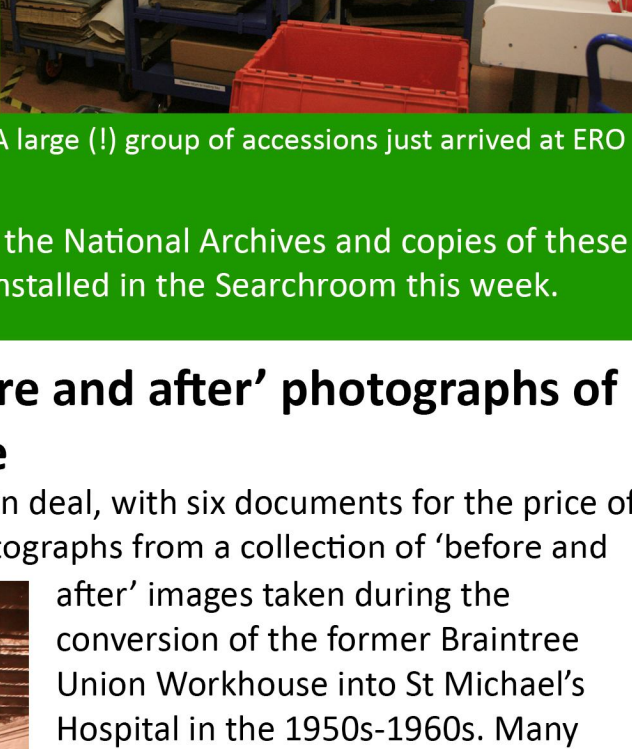
Thank you to everyone who came to our Discovery Day on 8 September as part of Heritage Open Days! Talking to visitors on the day and reading your feedback later it seems like people certainly enjoyed themselves, whether it was attending Nick Barratt's fantastic talk, getting advice from our expert staff, or going on tours to see how we take care of Essex's history. You can view some photographs of the day [here](#) – might you even spot yourself?? In the true spirit of archiving, we made a recording of Nick Barratt's talk, and we will soon be uploading some highlights from it to our blog.



Visitors enjoying a guided tour

New display: Accessions at the Essex Record Office

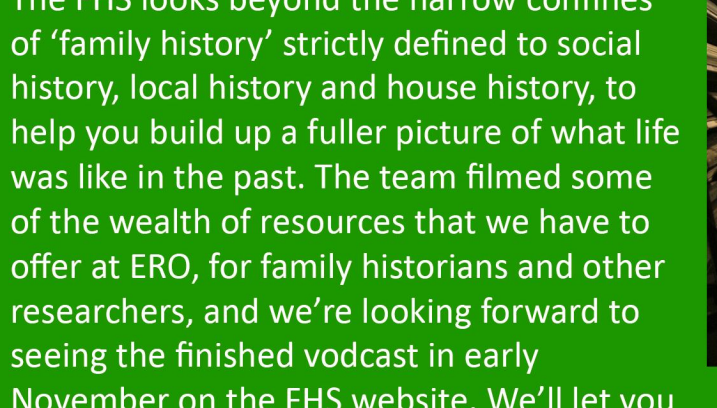
The subject of our next Searchroom display is recent accessions. We receive a considerable quantity of new records every year and this regular display is designed to draw your attention to some of the varied items we have received over the past year. One of the items featured is a scrapbook compiled by the Women's Institute in Helions Bumpstead recording and illustrating life in their village during the W.I. Golden Jubilee year in 1965. Another of our accessions this year was records of the West Essex Conservative Club and the display includes a photograph of Sir Winston Churchill, the local M.P., attending a meeting in his constituency. We prepare an annual list of accessions every January for the National Archives and copies of these are available on request. The display will be installed in the Searchroom this week.



A large (!) group of accessions just arrived at ERO

Document of the Month: 'Before and after' photographs of St Michael's Hospital, Braintree

October's Document of the Month is a bargain deal, with six documents for the price of one (A/H 19/2/5/1-6). On display are six photographs from a collection of 'before and after' images taken during the conversion of the former Braintree Union Workhouse into St Michael's Hospital in the 1950s-1960s. Many former workhouses were converted to hospitals following the 1948 NHS Act, and the work brought about quite a transformation, with bare brick walls being plastered and painted, and radiators being installed. You can see the photographs on display in the Searchroom.

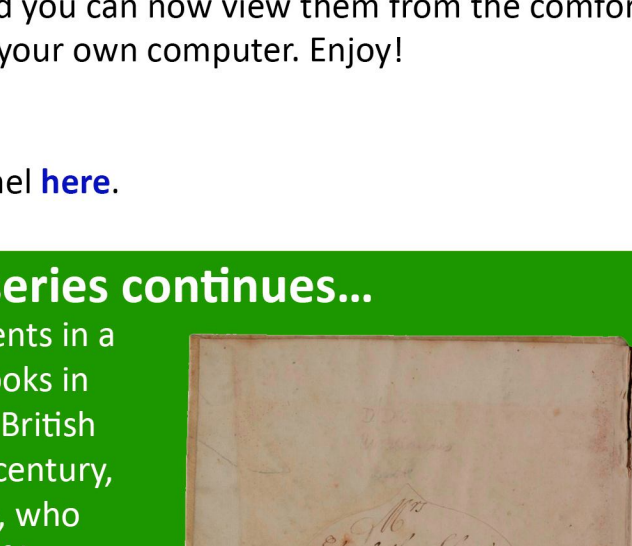


The former Braintree Union Workhouse being converted into St Michael's Hospital

The Family History Show at the Essex Record Office

We do love it when people come to film things at ERO. We recently had a visit from the [Family History Show](#) team, made up of Nick Barratt, Laura Berry and director-cameraman Tamer Asfahani, who together produce a monthly online video podcast, or 'vodcast', showcasing interesting topics from the world of genealogy.

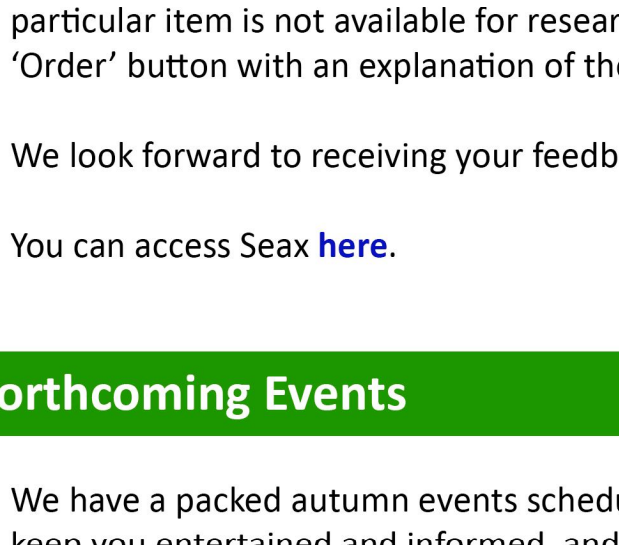
The FHS looks beyond the narrow confines of 'family history' strictly defined to social history, local history and house history, to help you build up a fuller picture of what life was like in the past. The team filmed some of the wealth of resources that we have to offer at ERO, for family historians and other researchers, and we're looking forward to seeing the finished vodcast in early November on the FHS website. We'll let you know when it's ready!



In the meantime, you can see pictures from the visit [here](#).

Essex on film

Two new films have recently been added to our YouTube channel: a selection of extracts from the Essex Sound and Video Archive – including morris dancing, Bradwell power station, a 1940s police video insulting Colchester's pedestrians, the opening of Lakeside shopping centre, wartime landgirls, people on their holidays at the Essex seaside, and lots more – and our now famous 'document production' video. Some of you may have seen the films at our Discovery Day, and you can now view them from the comfort of your own computer. Enjoy!

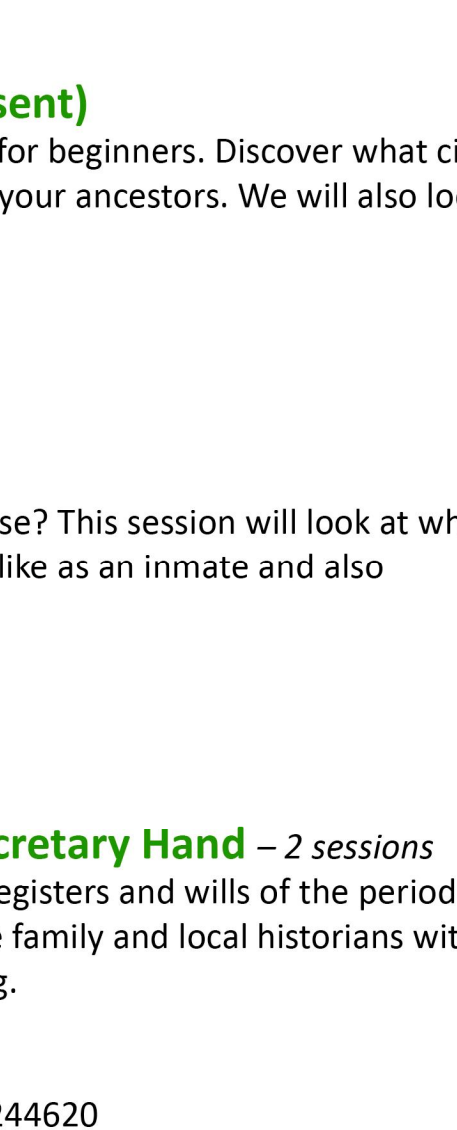


You can see the videos on our YouTube channel [here](#).

Our recipes from the archives series continues...

Last month, we brought you the first instalments in a series of blog posts delving into the recipe books in our archive, to coincide with the BBC's Great British Bake Off. We have now moved into the 18th century, with recipes from the book of Elizabeth Slany, who began writing in 1715, carefully indexing all of her recipes, including one for a 'Plumb Cake', the mixture for which was to be heated 'until blood warm'!

You can find all of the posts in the recipes series [here](#).



The title page from Elizabeth Slany's book of recipes, 1715

Seax upgrade

Following a recent upgrade to the Seax operating system we are pleased to report an important visible change to search results. Results have been re-formatted, to give better spacing of the fields in item level descriptions. Other important changes are invisible to the Internet user but have successfully resulted in the modernising, stabilising and future-proofing of the Seax operating system, now more than a decade old.

We have also removed the arbitrary limit on the length of Seax results lists and where a particular item is not available for researchers to see we have replaced the confusing 'Order' button with an explanation of the reason.

We look forward to receiving your feedback.

You can access Seax [here](#).

Forthcoming Events

We have a packed autumn events schedule, with workshops, conferences and talks to keep you entertained and informed, and to help you with your research. You can see a full list of our events on www.essex.gov.uk/EROevents.

Unless otherwise stated, all events must be booked in advance – please telephone **01245 244620**.

Discover: Family History Sources (1837-present)

Get to grips with the basics of family history in a session for beginners. Discover what civil registration documents and the census can reveal about your ancestors. We will also look at internet sources.

Saturday 6 October, 10.30am-12.30am

£10, book in advance on 01245 244620

Discover: Workhouse Records (from 1834)

Do you have an ancestor who spent time in the workhouse? This session will look at why and how workhouses came into existence, what life was like as an inmate and also consider surviving Essex workhouse records.

Thursday 11 October, 2.30pm-4.30pm

£10, book in advance on 01245 244620

Discovering Palaeography: How to Read Secretary Hand – 2 sessions

Secretary handwriting, commonly found in early parish registers and wills of the period 1550-1650, can be tricky to read. This course will provide family and local historians with a basic grounding in how to approach period handwriting.

Session 1: Friday 12 October, 2.00pm-4.00pm

Session 2: Friday 19 October, 2.00-4.00pm

Tickets for each session £10, book in advance on 01245 244620

***Special Offer** – book for both sessions and receive 20% off *Examples of English Handwriting* by Hilda Grieve (£4.80 instead of £6.00)

Workers of the World Unite - Black History Month Event

Since World War II there has been an influx of people and families coming to Britain and Essex to work. This special one-day conference looks at the contribution and the type of work people from other countries and cultures made to the working life of Essex.

Saturday 13 October, 10.00am-3.45pm

Free! Including buffet lunch and refreshments

Book in advance on 01245 244620

Discover: Your Criminal Ancestors

Did one of your ancestors find themselves on the wrong side of the law? This session will explain what records can reveal about criminals, their crimes and the punishments they suffered.

Thursday 18 October, 10.30am-12.30am

£10, book in advance on 01245 244620

Discover: Treasures of the Record Office

Our collections cover seven miles of shelves and include thousands of fascinating items. Join one of our archivists for this opportunity to see a selection of the most interesting, beautiful and precious items in our care.

Tuesday 23 October, 2.30pm-4.30pm

£10, book in advance on 01245 244620

Manningtree Walk: In the footsteps of a Witchfinder

Join this popular walk and discover Manningtree as Matthew Hopkins, the infamous Witchfinder General, would have seen it.

Wednesday 24 October, 2.00pm-3.30pm

Thursday 25 October, 2.00pm-3.30pm

£5, book in advance on 01245 244620

Searchroom Tour

This forty-five minute tour will show you how to get the very best from the ERO's Searchroom – it's ideal if you are just starting your research or perhaps want to go beyond using microfiche and microfilm. We will also offer some tips on how to use our online catalogue, Seax.

Saturday 27 October, 9.30am-10.15am

Free, advance booking essential, call 01245 244 620

The work of the Thames Sailing Barge Trust

An informal talk from David Gibson for the Essex History Group. All welcome.

Tuesday 6 November, 10.30am-11.30am

Free, small charge for tea and coffee, no need to book

Discover: Your House History

Have you ever wondered who used to live in your house? This session will enable you to begin to discover the history of your house, or other buildings, using documents from the ERO's collections.

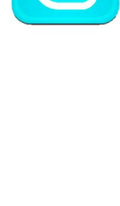
Tuesday 6 November, 2.30pm-4.30pm

£10, book in advance on 01245 244 620

Keep up with ERO

We welcome your comments on this e-bulletin and all other aspects of the ERO's service. If you have a comment or a suggestion about how we could improve, please e-mail us at ero.enquiry@essex.gov.uk.

If you no longer wish to receive the ERO e-bulletin, please reply with 'Unsubscribe e-bulletin' in the subject line.



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