

Essex Sound and Video Archive

Sources on Essex Dialect and Accents



Contents

- 1) Dialect
- 2) Some accents
- 3) Posh voices
- 4) A-Z of Essex Villages

Essex Sound and Video Archive Sources on Essex Dialect and Accents

This guide to the collection has been produced to assist searchers who are looking for sound and video recordings on the subject of Essex dialect and accents. Before ordering any of the items listed below, consult the tape summaries on the Essex Record Office catalogue database SEAX to make sure that this is the right recording for your needs. Video recordings are indicated by italics.

Almost all of the recordings held at the Essex Sound and Video Archive include voices recorded in different parts of the county. If you are interested in the dialect or accent of a particular town or village, you should carry out an 'Advanced Search' on SEAX for recordings relating to that location. Click 'Advanced Search' on the right hand side of the menu screen, then enter SA in the first box and the name of the place in which you are interested in the second box. This will bring up all of the sound recordings relating to that place. For video recordings you should enter VA in the first box.

The following areas are covered by distinct collections held at the Essex Sound and Video Archive:

- Basildon area (Billericay, Great Burstead, Laindon, Pitsea, Vange): **SA 3** – for Basildon New Town, see **SA 20/2**
- Burnham-on-Couch: **SA 5** and **SA 29**
- Chelmsford: **SA 7** and **SA 15**
- Colchester: **SA 8**
- Great and Little Chesterford: **SA 18**
- Harlow: **SA 22**
- Loughton, Epping and Chigwell: **SA 14**
- North Essex (Alphamstone and Henny, Bardfield, Bulmer, Earls Colne, Finchingfield, Gestingthorpe, Little Maplestead, Steeple Bumpstead, Wickham St. Paul): **SA 17**
- Southend: **SA 4** and **SA 20**
- Waltham Forest (Leyton and Walthamstow): **SA 9**

Also, the Essex Record Office has produced a CD compilation for sale called ***How to Speak Essex: 20th Century Voices from the Essex Sound and Video Archive*** which includes over one hundred examples of Essex accents and dialect recorded in the twentieth century. The earliest example dates from 1906, while the majority are recordings of people born between 1900 and 1940. The CD includes both speech and song, with examples from across the county. These recordings should also demonstrate the diversity of accents in Essex. They have been divided into ten geographical areas in order that the listener can compare, for instance, the accents of villages in the north of the county bordering Suffolk with areas of historic Essex now deemed to be part of Greater London.

1) Dialect

| | Reference |
|--|-------------------|
| A-Z of Essex Villages – Fyfield: old Essex dialect | SA 1/125/1 |
| “All Manner of What”: tales and songs in Essex dialect | SA 6/304/1 |
| “All Manner of What”: dialect songs | SA 6/305/1 |
| Americans at Great Saling Air Base from 1942: Essex dialect likened to Southern American accent | SA 1/633/1 |
| The Battle of Maldon: narrative in Essex dialect | SA 6/730/1 |
| Bob and Tom Hawkins of Tillingham: local accents | SA 26/27/1 |
| Broad Essex: Essex tales told in dialect | SA 6/289/1 |
| Broad Essex: two dialect poems – ‘A Tale of Mersea’ and ‘The Ghost of a Roman Soldier’ | SA 6/290/1 |
| Cecil and George Osborne, Cocklemen: dialect words and local accent | SA 20/1557/1 |
| The Cocklemen of Leigh: dialect | SA 19/1056/1 |
| Essex Ballads by Charles R. Benham: two ballads spoken in the Essex dialect, entitled 'These New-Fangl'd Ways' and 'Jim's New Gal' | SA 24/222/1 |
| Essex Ballads by J. London: ballads sung or spoken in the Essex dialect, entitled 'Wi' is Owd Cadepowt' [catapult], 'Owd Rat-Tayled Tinker from Owd Lunnon Town' and 'Dingie 'underd Ghoosts O'Alloween'. Also 'The Queen Bee and Me in the Residency' in Australian dialect | SA 24/221/1 |
| Essex Dialect: account of local customs in dialect | SA 1/282/1 |
| Essex Dialect: account of local customs in dialect | SA 1/285/1 |
| Essex Dialect: conversation about Christmas and Christmas fare using Essex dialect and vernacular terms | SA 1/347/1 |
| Essex Dialect: conversation on cure for colds, sheep, education and cooking using Essex dialect and vernacular terms | SA 1/346/1 |
| Essex Dialect: humorous dialogue using dialect and vernacular words | SA 1/269/1 |
| Essex Dialect: observations on the weather, farming and working horses using Essex dialect and vernacular terms | SA 1/176/1 |
| Essex Dialect: stories and songs | SA 24/390/1 |
| Essex Dialect: talk by Westley Sandford on Essex dialect and country characters | SA 8/1/14/1 |
| Essex Man and Woman: package on Essex dialect | SA 1/1801/1 |
| Estuary English: report on the spread of Estuary English accent | SA 1/1227/1 |
| Folk Songs and Dance Music: a recording made by the Essex Dialect Conservation Society of singers and country dance music | SA 21/1306/1 |
| <i>Foulness: schools programme on differences in accents spoken by young people and older people on Foulness Island.</i> | <i>VA 27/14/1</i> |
| Memories of Little Maplestead: dialect words | SA 17/788/1 |
| Memories of Mersea: recording made by the Essex Dialect Conservation Society | SA 17/799/1 |

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| Memories of Mount Bures: dialect word for yeast | SA 24/1616/1 |
| 'Springfield Bits': an example of local dialect | SA 24/1414/1 |
| <i>Suffolk dialect</i> | <i>VA 5/3/1</i> |

2) Some accents

| | Reference |
|--|--------------|
| Bocking: Olive Getgood | SA 8/1853/1 |
| Burnham-on-Crouch: George Shelley | SA 5/389/1 |
| Burnham-on-Crouch: Frank Sims | SA 24/728/1 |
| Canvey Island: Aubrey Stevens | SA 20/1144/1 |
| Chelmsford: Peter Seabrook | SA 1/905/1 |
| Chelmsford: Stan Petchey | SA 24/359/1 |
| Clavering: Betty Turner and Molly Law | SA 26/69/1 |
| Clavering: "Farmer's Boys" – former agricultural workers | SA 6/288/1 |
| Colchester: Albert King | SA 8/391/1 |
| Cold Norton: Dorothy Cowell | SA 26/30/1 |
| Colne Engaine: Gertie Watson | SA 12/538/1 |
| Easthorpe: Jack Bishop | SA 26/77/1 |
| Great Bardfield: Arthur and Milly Green | SA 19/1/40/1 |
| Great Chesterford: Gladys Reynolds | SA 18/909/1 |
| Jaywick: Audrey and Derek Frost | SA 16/759/1 |
| Kelvedon: Albie Wilkes | SA 24/1012/1 |
| Kelvedon: Chris Warner | SA 44/1/70/1 |
| Kelvedon: Fred Joyce[?] | SA 44/2/3/1 |
| Leigh-on-Sea: Sydney Willder | SA 12/578/1 |
| Little Bromley: Peter Herring | SA 8/1752/1 |
| Maldon: Michael Emmis | SA 1/1109/1 |
| Manuden: Frank Pratt | SA 24/1600/1 |
| Navestock: Jack Root – former farmer and market gardener | SA 24/822/1 |
| Pleshey: blacksmith | SA 19/1061/1 |
| Quendon: Leslie Basham | SA 13/717/1 |
| St. Osyth: Phyll Hendy | SA 26/66/1 |
| Southend: Walter J. Wixley | SA 4/252/1 |
| Southminster: Bill Chapman | SA 26/91/1 |
| Terling: Fred Thurgood, Ted Thurgood and Fred Twin – gamekeepers | SA 24/1422/1 |
| Thaxted: Ruth Rolph | SA 24/1670/1 |
| Thurrock: Pat Jemmett | SA 1/537/1 |
| Vange: Jessie Payne | SA 3/419/1 |
| Walthamstow: Mrs Gorringe; and Mr Gorringe of Epping | SA 9/427/1 |
| Walthamstow: Mrs Summers | SA 22/1364/1 |

3) Posh voices

| | Reference |
|---|---|
| Norman Joscelyn of Braintree | SA 8/1829/1 |
| Sir John Ruggles-Brise of Finchingfield | SA 1/111/1; SA 1/112/1; SA 1/113/1; |

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| | SA 1/114/1; SA 1/115/1; SA 13/612/1; SA 13/644/1; SA 20/1544/1; SA 20/2/16/1 |
| Miss Stephenson of Great Chesterford | SA 18/924/1 |
| Miss Tennant of Ugley | SA 1/148/1 |
| Brigadier John Vaizey of Tilbury-juxta-Clare | SA 24/1002/1 |
| Alderman Hugh Wright of Chelmsford | SA 24/1280/1 |

4) A-Z of Essex Villages

The A-Z of Essex Villages was a series of recordings broadcast by BBC Essex radio from 1986 to 1988. The programmes include short interviews with a number of local residents in each of the villages. The villages were chosen from all parts of the county and therefore the series may serve as a useful resource for studying the range of accents to be found in Essex.

| | Reference |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Abess Roding | SA 1/173/1 |
| Ashdon | SA 1/10/1 |
| Ashdon (background) | SA 1/11/1 |
| Bradfield | SA 1/12/1 |
| Bradwell-juxta-Coggeshall | SA 1/174/1 |
| Castle Hedingham | SA 1/195/1 |
| Castle Hedingham (background 1) | SA 1/196/1 |
| Castle Hedingham (background 2) | SA 1/197/1 |
| The Chignals | SA 1/13/1 |
| The Chignals (background 1) | SA 1/14/1 |
| The Chignals (background 2) | SA 1/15/1 |
| The Chignals (background) | SA 1/230/1 |
| Danbury | SA 1/213/1 |
| Doddinghurst | SA 1/16/1 |
| Doddinghurst (background) | SA 1/17/1 |
| Easthorpe (background) | SA 1/224/1 |
| Elsenham | SA 1/123/1 |
| Elsenham (background) | SA 1/124/1 |
| Faulkbourne | SA 1/225/1 |
| Fyfield | SA 1/125/1 |
| Doddinghurst (background 1) | SA 1/231/1 |
| Doddinghurst (background 2) | SA 1/232/1 |
| Gosfield | SA 1/233/1 |
| Great Oakley | SA 1/281/1 |
| Great Wakering | SA 1/126/1 |
| Great Wakering (background 1) | SA 1/127/1 |
| Great Wakering (background 2) | SA 1/128/1 |
| Hadstock | SA 1/266/1 |
| Havering-atte-Bower | SA 1/129/1 |
| Havering-atte-Bower (background 1) | SA 1/130/1 |

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| Havering-atte-Bower (background 2) | SA 1/131/1 |
| Ingatestone | SA 1/132/1 |
| Ingatestone (background) | SA 1/133/1 |
| Jaywick | SA 1/194/1 |
| Kelvedon | SA 1/134/1 |
| Kirby-le-Soken | SA 1/256/1 |
| Latchingdon | SA 1/257/1 |
| Lindsell | SA 1/135/1 |
| Mistley | SA 1/18/1 |
| Mistley (background) | SA 1/19/1 |
| Nazeing | SA 1/136/1 |
| Osea Island | SA 1/137/1 |
| Osea Island (background) | SA 1/138/1 |
| Paglesham | SA 1/139/1 |
| Paglesham (background 1) | SA 1/140/1 |
| Paglesham (background 2) | SA 1/141/1 |
| Quendon | SA 1/142/1 |
| Radwinter | SA 1/333/1 |
| Rowhedge | SA 1/143/1 |
| Roxwell | SA 1/144/1 |
| Roxwell (background) | SA 1/145/1 |
| Sandon | SA 1/555/1 |
| Steeple Bumpstead | SA 1/146/1 |
| Tillingham | SA 1/147/1 |
| Tiptree | SA 1/330/1 |
| Ugley | SA 1/148/1 |
| Virley | SA 1/149/1 |
| Virley (background) | SA 1/150/1 |
| White Colne | SA 1/151/1 |
| White Colne (background 1) | SA 1/152/1 |
| White Colne (background 2) | SA 1/153/1 |
| The Yeldhams | SA 1/154/1 |
| Bumper edition – a selection of excerpts from the 1987 series | SA 1/155/1 |

The Essex Sound and Video Archive is being added to all the time and there may be recordings on this subject that have been recently added to the collection. Please consult the Essex Record Office catalogue database SEAX for further references.

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Cover photo:

*Photograph of 3 men drinking in a public house, n.d. [post 1921]
(ref: D/DU 1072/16)*