

TILTY ABBEY - INTERPRETATION BOARDS 'LAUNCH' Following completion of the conservation and restoration work on the remaining sections of the abbey walls, an interpretation scheme – funded by Natural England and English Heritage, and designed by Oxford Archaeology East – was unveiled in the Abbey field on Sunday 27th April. This event marked the culmination



of several years' work at Tilty Abbey, which began with the survey work commissioned by English Heritage, and undertaken by OA East, in 2010-11. There are now four panels positioned at key points around the site; each panel details different aspects of the

history, archaeology and environment of the site, and each has superb illustrations and reconstructions that bring the abbey to life. There was a good turn-out for the unveiling, which included the owners of the site, members of our Group, representatives from OA East and English Heritage, local residents and two of the skilled craftsmen who were involved in the repair and consolidation work on the walls. The boards are well worth going to see if you were not able to come along to the launch; they provide a great deal of information about Tilty, the abbey and the Cistercians.



THE "BACCY PARSON" BBC1's 'The One Show' broadcast an item about the Rev. Hugh Cuthbertson on Monday 28th April. His daughter, Cecile Down, gave a splendid interview about her father – and provided much information about his life, together with many photographs. The Rev. Cuthbertson raised a great deal of money, to repair the church bell-tower and window, by sharing his knowledge about growing and curing tobacco. He was a fascinating character – who held one of the first aviation licences before he turned to the church; indeed a scriptwriter on The One Show thought there might be a film in his life story! If you've not already seen it, it is available on BBC iPlayer (the Tilty section starts about ten minutes in). This is the link:



http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0414pkw/The_One_Show_28_04_2014/

There is also information about the Rev. Cuthbertson on the Group website:

<http://www.tiltyhistoryprojects.co.uk/all-our-stories/places-and-events/tilty-vicarage>

RECENT MEETINGS

The **AGM on January 7th** was well attended, and combined a friendly social occasion with the chance to discuss plans for 2014. There were also two mini-presentations – on the Fleet Air Arm's most decorated living pilot, and on local WWI Memorials. There was an external speaker for the meeting on **March 11th**: Bill Fulton, from the Essex Branch of the Western Front Association, with a presentation on WW1. Bill provided an informative evening, and brought along some fascinating artefacts from the period.

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY 13TH MAY External Speaker: **Katie Marsden** – from Portable Antiquities (Colchester); a presentation on the Portable Antiquities scheme and significant local finds, together with the opportunity to discuss items people bring along.

And don't forget ...

SUNDAY MAY 4TH

DUTON HILL FUN DAY