

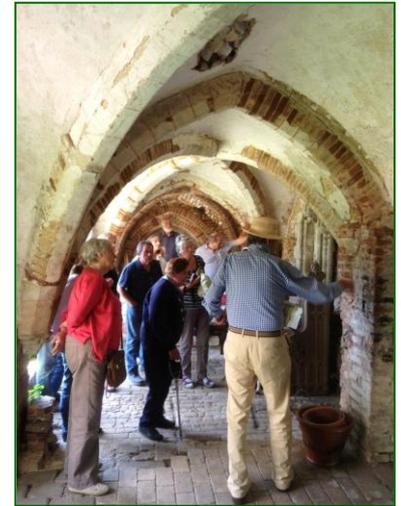
GROUP VISIT TO COGGESHALL ABBEY, SUNDAY 1ST JUNE - There was a good turn out for the Group's visit to Coggeshall Abbey in June. This beautiful building is now a private house, and was built on the site of the 12th



Courtyard Terrace, a picturesque square framed by the East Wing of the Tudor Manor House, the Guest House, the Abbot's House, and the River Blackwater.



century Cistercian abbey; it incorporates parts of the original building with later, mainly Tudor, additions and adaptations. The abbey was founded in 1140 by King Stephen and Queen Matilda. The sixth abbot, the renowned Ralph of Coggeshall (1207-18), was also an historian; his chronicles of the times include brief accounts of raids by King John's men at both Coggeshall and Tilty. Our visit started in the



We sat in the sunshine, enjoying the view, the roses - and the coffee, tea and splendid home-made cakes with which we were provided. We were then taken on a tour of the house, grounds and outbuildings, including the two-storey covered passage way that at one time linked the Abbot's House to the Infirmary. The owner, Roger Hadlee, proved an informative and entertaining guide to the house and its history, and had a wealth of fascinating tales to share with us. We were also able to take a look around the chapel of St. Nicholas, the abbey's gatehouse chapel; a beautiful and simple building - 'Tilty church with brick facings' was a recurrent response! The chapel went through a period of use as a stable or cowshed before it was restored to sacred use in the late 19th century, and is still used for services today, even though it has no electric supply. The visit was thoroughly enjoyable, and the house is well worth a visit if you were unable to join us in June. Darren came across the house a while back, while visiting the nearby mill, and we were all pleased we followed

his recommendation and went to take a look at Coggeshall Abbey. More detailed information is available from their website: <http://www.theabbeycoggeshall.co.uk/> There is also a website providing information about other historic buildings in the area which may of interest: <http://www.invitationtoview.co.uk/properties.asp>

MAY MEETING -- Our external speaker for the May Meeting was Katie Marsden, from Portable Antiquities, which is a government-funded project designed to encourage the voluntary recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public in England and Wales. Based in Colchester, Katie is the Finds Liaison Officer for Essex - a large area to cover, which has produced many hundreds of finds since the scheme started. Katie's presentation explained the nature of the work carried out by Portable Antiquities, and provided the chance to find out about many fascinating discoveries in Essex, including some Bronze Age arrow-heads of unique design. Group members had also brought along an eclectic array of local finds, and there was the opportunity to take a look at all the items during the course of the evening. It was an extremely interesting evening, and we were grateful that Katie could come along to talk to us.

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY 8TH JULY Archaeology Workshop - Part 1.
Presentation by **Rachel Clarke** and **David Kenny**
on archaeological processes and techniques.

Part 2 will follow on Sunday 20th July,
when there will be the opportunity to participate in some
practical archaeological work.

OTHER SUMMER DATES:

Countess of Warwick's Show
SUNDAY/BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY
24TH/25TH AUGUST