

**VISIT TO HORHAM HALL** There was a good turnout for the Group's visit on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2015. Horham Hall is regarded as one of the finest pre-Reformation houses in Essex, and is steeped in a rich history. It stands astride two parishes, Thaxted and Broxted, and the boundary runs through the entrance porch and Great Hall. Parts of the house date back to the fifteenth century, but its current appearance is largely due to Sir John Cutte, Under-Treasurer to Henry VIII, who bought the estate in 1502. There was much to see in the house, including the bedroom where Elizabeth I stayed on her two visits to Horham Hall, in 1571 and 1578. The Great Hall, with its panelled ceiling and oriel window, was particularly impressive. We were made very welcome by the current owner, Mrs. Ward-Thomas, and all thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to explore the house and grounds. The weather was glorious on the day of our visit, and we were able to walk round the extensive garden, with its paved terrace, fountain court, and lake.



**VISIT TO WARDEN ABBEY** On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June, another visit took us to



the site of Warden Abbey, near Old Warden in Bedfordshire. Warden Abbey was founded in 1135, and was a daughter house of Rievalux in Yorkshire; it established three daughter-houses of its own, at Sawtry, Sibton and Tilty. A modern stained-glass depiction of the arms of Warden Abbey can be seen in



Tilty church. Nothing of the abbey remains now, but traces may be detected in the landscape, and local historians have collected together a great deal of information about it, together with an impressive collection of finds.

### GENERAL MEETINGS

We've had a really interesting range of speakers and talks this year. In March, Claire Matthews gave us a talk entitled 'A History of Easton Lodge – the Countess and her Gardens'. In May, Bruce Munroe presented his slide show on 'Historic Thaxted'. In July, Kate Cole gave us a talk on 'Witches of Tudor Essex', with a particular focus on Dunmow. And this month, Graham Jolliffe gave us a talk entitled 'A History of Pubs'.

In November, the Committee will be working on next year's programme, so do send any suggestions or requests our way.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG AT 'ABBEYGATES', TILTY –



Many thanks to everybody who came along to help with the dig on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September. The weather was kind, and good progress was made in digging

out two pits over the course of the weekend. The object of the exercise was to try to find traces of the Abbey's outer gatehouse, and it was exciting to discover a cobbled area in the pit nearest the road. A full report will be made available on the website in due course.



### NEXT MEETING

**TUESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER:**

PRESENTATION BY **CECILE DOWN** ON  
THE REV. CUTHBERTSON, VICAR OF TILTY 1940-1961

And don't forget the TILTY FLOWER FESTIVAL  
at Tilty Church

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October**  
12-5 p.m. each day