

On **SUNDAY MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup>** there was a Group visit to the site of Sibton Abbey, near Yoxford in Suffolk. Sibton Abbey was founded by the Cistercians in 1150, and was a sister house of Tilty and Sawtry, all three being daughter houses of Warden Abbey in Bedfordshire. The remains of the Abbey are currently being renovated, on behalf of Historic England, by R & J Hogg Ltd. – the same company that did the restoration work at Tilty in 2013. There are fairly extensive ruins still standing, though much of the site has hitherto been quite overgrown.



David Kenny had kindly made arrangements for our visit, with the Sibton Abbey Estate, and led us on a ‘walk and talk’ around the site. The architect, and some of the builders from Hoggs, were also there on the day, and conducted optional scaffold tours for us. It was great to have the opportunity to take a closer look at some the restoration work. We were given a warm welcome by the Friends of St. Peter’s Church, Sibton, some of whom also joined us for the tour. It was an interesting and enjoyable visit, finished off with lunch at a local pub, before a drive home in the sunshine through some beautiful countryside. More information about Sibton Abbey can be found here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1018327>



## GENERAL MEETINGS

The AGM in **JANUARY** was very successful. There was an excellent turn-out for the meeting, and the Upstairs Room was packed. We dispensed with the formalities swiftly, and the current Committee was voted in for 2019. Tim Turner, Senior Valuer at Sworders, then gave us an informative and entertaining presentation about antiques, which incorporated a mini ‘Antiques Roadshow’. The AGM is always a sociable occasion, and there was the chance to enjoy some refreshments too, including some delicious ‘Portland Puddings’ baked by Jane Pedley. Sworders has been operating since 1782, during the reign of George III, and Jane had found a recipe for a pudding that the king had particularly enjoyed when he visited the Isle of Portland (<http://www.foodsofengland.co.uk/portlandpudding.htm>).

Our **MARCH** meeting started with a short presentation by Irene Jones about the Neolithic flint axe-head discovered by Irene and Keith in their garden in Broxted. It was interesting to hear about this prehistoric find, and to have the chance to pick it up and hold it; Irene’s report is now on the Group website. The evening continued with a presentation by Anthea Hawdon, of ‘Raking Light’, who gave a presentation about her work on historic graffiti. The technique of ‘raking light’ is used to reveal hidden images and text carved into the stonework of ancient buildings, and the talk was illustrated by a wide range of examples – some from our local churches. More information about the subject, and links to other historic graffiti groups, can be found on Anthea’s website <https://rakinglight.co.uk/uk/>



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Following the success of last year’s outing, Derek Connell has kindly agreed to lead us on another ‘Walk and Talk’ in London. This will be taking place on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June**, and details will be circulated in due course.
- On the weekend of the **13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July** we will be holding an exhibition in The Upstairs Room at The Three Horseshoes in Duton Hill. The exhibition will showcase the Group’s work and activities, together with some of its archive material, and Alf’s wonderful collection of folders on the local villages. Materials relating to a variety of subjects will be on display.

## NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY

Presentation by Sarah-Joy Maddeaux  
Sound Archivist  
at the Essex Record Office

“HOW TO SPEAK ESSEX”