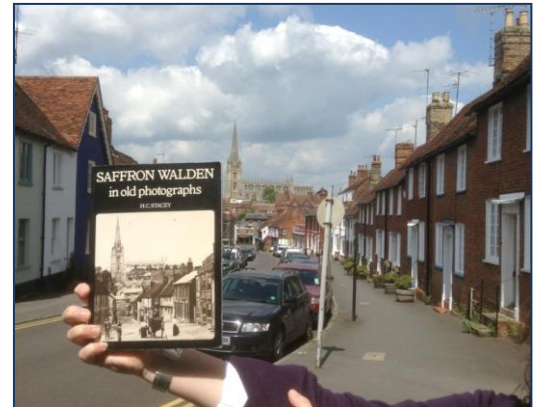


VISIT TO SAFFRON WALDEN -- SUNDAY MAY 15TH 2016 On a gloriously sunny day back in May, David Kenny and Rachel Clarke took members of the group on a fascinating 'walk and talk' around Saffron Walden. The town has a long history, and retains many buildings from the medieval period onwards. Much of the current street layout follows the course of the bailey enclosure of the 12th century castle, and our walk took us along the curved roads and alleyways which indicate its extent. We also walked out to, and along, the so-called 'battle ditches' which were likely to have been built as part of the town boundaries in the mid-13th century. We were provided with a wealth of information about Saffron Walden, and discovered some unexpected and intriguing aspects of its past – from the history of the commercial 'Rows' which pre-dated the Market Square, to the stories surrounding the Old Sun Inn (now an antique shop). The walk finished at the Castle, and was followed by a tasty lunch



at The Crown in Little Walden. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day, and we are very grateful to David and Rachel for taking the time to share their wide-ranging knowledge of the town with us.



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GENERAL MEETINGS

We've had a really interesting range of speakers and talks so far this year. The A.G.M. in **January** was well attended, and Rachel Clarke provided us with a presentation about the two recent digs at Tilty – which took place in July 2014, at Clerk's Cottage, and September 2015 at Abbeygates. We also had the chance to examine some of the finds from both digs, and to take a look at some items from the 1942 dig in the Abbey field, which Cecile Down had recently rediscovered.

At our **March** meeting we had a presentation on the Dunmow Flich Trials by Steve and Pat Scora – who were successful participants in 2012! The Flich Trials date back to the 12th century, and are mentioned by Chaucer; the presentation provided an overview of the history of the tradition, which included stories and photographs from the 19th and 20th centuries. The modern version occurs every four years, and tickets may still be available for this year's event which will take place on **Saturday 9th July** (see website for information: <http://www.dunmowflichtrials.co.uk/history/2016/>).

In **May**, Group members Alf Wright and Darren Stone provided us with a presentation on historic Great Easton. Alf has a splendid collection of photographs and postcards of Great Easton from across the years, and a fund of information and stories to go with them. Darren followed this up with a presentation based on his research into the Maternity and Children's Homes in Great Easton, and their indomitable founder Miss Rigby. Alf's collection will be published on the website in due course, and Darren's report is already on the Group website: <http://www.tiltyhistoryprojects.co.uk/home-page/great-easton-maternity-home-1896-1924>



OPEN DAY -- SATURDAY 13TH AUGUST

10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

The Group will be showcasing its work at an Exhibition at the Guildhall in Thaxted on 13th August.

Do please spread the word – and please get in touch if you would like to help: tilty.archaeology@gmail.com



NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY 12TH JULY:

PRESENTATION BY **PETER LAYZELL** ON
THE ESSEX REGIMENT IN WW1