

2020-2021 & COVID-19 PANDEMIC The Group's activities were much curtailed during the last two years, but we were able to meet on occasion – in the Club Room, as well as via Zoom! – and have held two meetings so far this year. Some short reports are set out below. Please contact the Secretary if you have any items you'd like to see included in newsletters in 2022.

AUGUST 2021 Derek Connell led us on an excellent guided walk around Great Dunmow last summer. The weather was kind to us, and we enjoyed a thorough exploration of the highways and byways in and around the town. Derek is a very well-informed and entertaining guide, and shared many interesting facts and stories with us. The shield on the town sign, for example, (near the Queen Victoria pub) incorporates colours or devices relating to seven Dunmow manors, and the reputed manor of Minchins. There are also allusions to the church, the town as a borough, and Catherine of Aragon (who was granted the manor of Great Dunmow in 1509). The walk included a coffee break at the Saracens, and lunch at Meadow Hill.



Dunmow – Town Sign

Maggie and Darren put together the Group's first **CHRISTMAS QUIZ** in December 2020, to provide some entertainment during the festive lockdown. As it was received so well (☺), we did another in 2021, and are now planning to make it an annual event. Many thanks to all of you who took part – and congratulations to the winners and runners-up. **Andy Dodsley won in 2020**, with Alf Wright and Roger Clark just a few points behind. **Jo Wood won in 2021**, with Roger Clark coming second, and Jacky Booth and the Dodsley Family tied in third place.



Zoom...

The Group ventured into a brave new world of technology, and held its first Zoom meetings at the beginning of 2021. Despite a few teething problems – and several members being inadvertently locked out – the meetings went well. We followed a virtual tour of some historic sites in Cambridge in January, led by Murray Jacobs [<https://hiddencambridge.co.uk/>]. And in March we had a virtual tour of the City of London, led by Chris Burton [<https://camdenguides.com/guide/chris-burton/>].



GENERAL MEETINGS

OUR 2020 programme started with a well-attended AGM in January, when Tim Turner gave us a presentation on silver and its history. We also had 'silver cake', courtesy of Jane! Our March meeting went ahead, with a talk on Morris Dancing by Daniel Fox. But our next meeting in the Club Room didn't take place until August 2021 when we re-grouped to share artefacts and stories. In September 2021 TALHG Committee Members Alf, Darren and Maggie gave a presentation on local villages in literature. And in November there was a talk by Christopher Farndell (from the Essex Police Museum) about the history of the Essex Police.



Tim Turner kindly returned to talk to us at our AGM in February 2022, when his subject was clocks. He brought along some great examples to illustrate their history, and provided us with an informative and entertaining evening. We also had clock-shaped shortbread, thanks to Jane's culinary skills. Tim is a popular speaker and a good friend of the Group; his talks are always well received, and much appreciated. Our March meeting was a 'bring and share' meeting, and generated some fascinating stories for us all to enjoy.

Arranging meetings and activities has been difficult over the last few years, and the Group is very appreciative of those who have enabled us to keep the programme going. We would also like to thank all our members and friends for their continuing support, and particularly those who brought along such interesting items and stories for our 'bring and share' meetings.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 10TH MAY There is an external speaker for this meeting: Gary Matthews, from the Gardens of Easton Lodge, giving a talk entitled "A history of Easton Lodge – the Countess and her Gardens".