

# Lexden History Group

Lexden History Group Members at our recent Annual Summer Barbeque



## This issue features:

- William Withey Gull, Essex Man Physician-in-Ordinary to Queen Victoria.
  - Zeppelin Crash Landed in Essex.
  - Margaret Thatcher in Colchester.
  - A Brief History of Lexden Manor.

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Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7.45pm in St Leonard's Church Hall, Lexden, except August when there is no meeting.

Entry £1 for members, £3 for non-members, refreshments included.

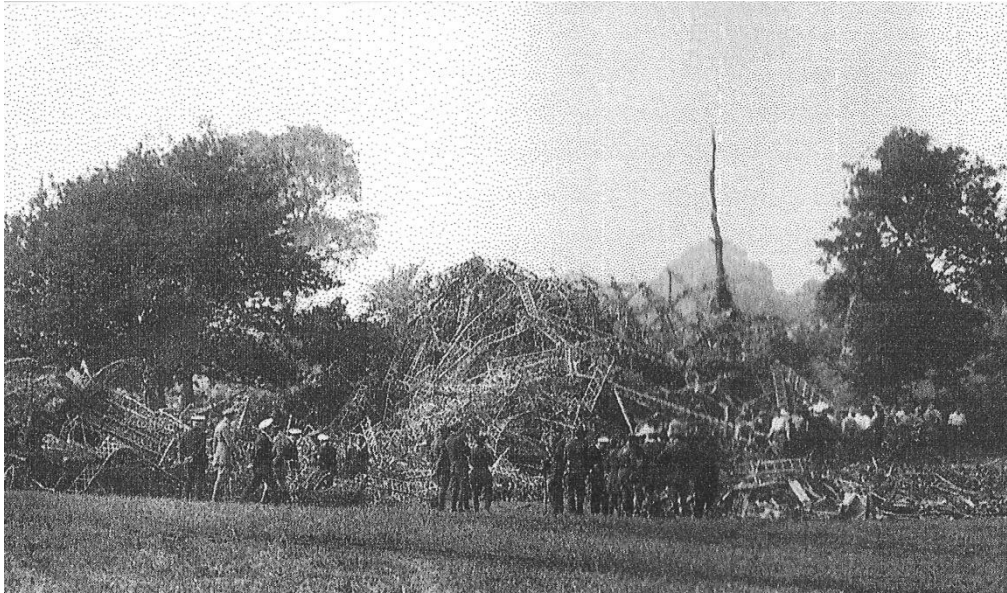
Annual membership £15 for single person; £20 for a family living at the same address.

## Lexden History Group Library

We now have a selection of reference books which are available to members:-

- *Britain in Old Photographs, Colchester 1940-1990. A Changing Town (1996)* Andrew Phillips
- *The Changing Face of Colchester (2002)* Patrick Denney
- *Colchester 800, a celebration, 1189-1989 (1988)* Colchester 800 Association
- *Colchester 1815-1914 (1980)* A F J Brown
- *Colchester A History(2004)* Andrew Phillips
- *Colchester in old picture postcards (1984)* George Pluckwell
- *Colchester Then & Now (1996)* Essex County Standard
- *Discovering Coggeshal - Timber-framed buildings in the town centre (undated)* D Stenning & R Shackle
- *Discovering Coggeshall - The 1575 rental survey and the dated buildings,(2013)* David Andrews
- *History & Guide, Colchester (2004)* Patrick Denney
- *A Portrait of Victorian Colchester (1982)* Peter Sherry
- *Ten Men and Colchester: Public Good and Private Profit in a Victorian Town (1985)* Andrew Phillips

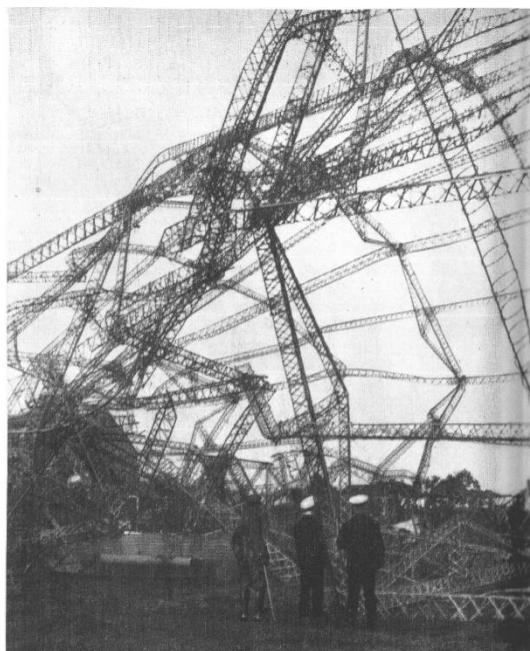




It is now one hundred years since a German Zeppelin airship crashed landed near Colchester 1.30am on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 1916 (*picture left*). The 'zeppelin' was pioneered by Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The feature of the airship design was a rigid light alloy skeleton, made of rings of longitudinal girders the basic form being a long cylinder with tapered ends and a complex of fins.

Within the outer structure were several separate cells (gasbags) containing lighter-than-air-gas, usually hydrogen. These were made from sheets of skin from the intestines of cows. Forward thrust was provided by several internal combustion engines mounted in nacelles, or engine cars, attached to the structural skeleton and there was a small compartment (gondola) for crew and passengers built into the bottom of the frame.

After a bombing raid on London Zeppelin L33, under the command of *Kapitänleutnant der Reserve Alois Böcker* (*picture right*), was heading for the coast when it was damaged by gunfire and started to lose height by the loss of gas. When north of Chelmsford Böcker gave orders to jettison some moveable articles to lighten the aircraft and overboard went tools, spare parts, cartridge boxes and a machine gun. Further on, still losing height, other equipment was thrown out. With the situation becoming



impossible to resolve Böcker made one last effort to get clear of the coast off West Mersea, but with his craft almost down he decided that it would be better landing on hard ground. The L33 hit the ground in a field between Little Wigborough and Peldon, beside the cottages of New Hall Farm.

The airship landed heavily. There was a slight explosion and she caught fire, but Böcker had jettisoned the remainder of his bombs over the water and there was little gas left in the ship so only the outer casing would burn. There was considerable damage to the front gondola and the framework collapsed when the fire started but the commander and his crew were uninjured and managed to get clear of the ship.

Böcker went immediately to the nearby cottages and



knocked on the door to warn the occupants he was going to set alight the remains of the wreck which lay only a few yards from their homes. There was no reply from the first cottage for the family was already under the stairs. Next door was occupied by an elderly lady who was too frightened to answer the door. Böcker returned to the wreckage and called off his crew, fell them in, and marched up the lane, passing New Hall Farm and on to the Peldon Road. The party headed for the village having been able to read the signpost at the end of the lane. As they progressed along they encountered Special Constable Edgar Nicholas coming from the village on his bicycle.

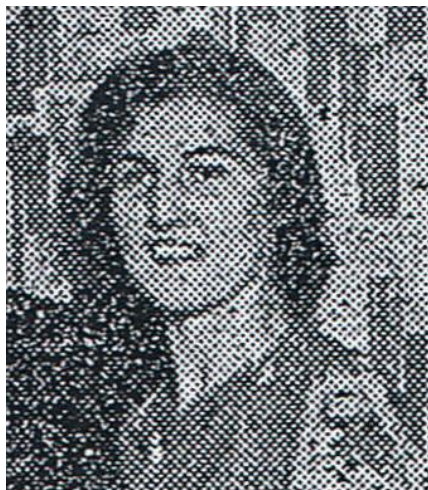
Böcker halted his men and asked in English, 'Can you tell me how far we are from Colchester?' Constable Nicholas replied 'Never mind Colchester. You come along with me'. The crew followed him and were shortly joined by Sergeant Edwards of the Metropolitan Police, who was on leave in the district. On reaching Peldon Post Office Constable Smith of the County police arrived and took the small band of Germans into custody.

When Smith had taken down all the details in his notebook Böcker asked 'May I please telephone my wife's sister?' The reply: 'I'm afraid we cannot run to that, it's rather a long way to Germany.' To which Böcker said 'It's not to Germany, only London. She is married to an Englishman.' Constable Smith told him, 'It's not allowed', and promptly made a note to investigate the matter.

He asked Mrs Smallwood, the postmistress, to get in touch with the military authorities in West Mersea by telephone. Whilst this was happening Böcker and his men were taken to the nearby church hall and given some food and drink. Mrs Smallwood was told that an armed escort would set out from Colchester and the prisoners should be marched to meet them. Escorted by the policemen the German party was handed over to the military authorities at the Stroud causeway, taken on to Mersea and put under guard in the village hall before being collected by motor lorry and taken into custody at Colchester Barracks.



In the days that followed news about the crashed Zeppelin in a field at Little Wigborough was quickly circulated and crowds of souvenir hunters set off to the scene to collect pieces of the wrecked framework to take home as keepsakes, which have now become prize possessions from World War One. Many fragments were made into jewellery and other items (*picture above*).



An interesting footnote: early that morning a girl was born in the village and Dr Salter, who delivered her at home in the glow of the burning wreck, suggested to her parents, George and Emily Clarke, that she might be named Zeppelina. Her birth and historic name was recorded in Lexden district. She married John Williams in 1939, had a family and lived for many years in Great Totham. "Zepp" died in October 2004 (*picture left aged 21*).

## William Withey Gull, Essex Man and Physician-in-Ordinary to Queen Victoria Trish Terry



William Withey Gull (*picture left*) was born on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1816, the youngest of eight children, on his father's barge "The Dove" which was moored at St Osyth Mill. His father, John Gull, was a wharfinger (harbourmaster) responsible for deliveries to the wharf and day-to-day activities including slipways, keeping tide tables, resolving disputes, etc. William's middle name came from his godfather, Captain Withey, a friend and employer of his father and also a local barge owner.

When William was four years old the family moved to Thorpe-le-Soken but six years later his father died in London of cholera. After his death his wife, Elizabeth, devoted herself to her children's upbringing on very slender means. She was a woman of character, instilling in her children the proverb "whatever is worth doing is worth doing well." William Gull often said that his real education had been given him by his devoutly religious mother.

As a young boy, William Gull attended a local day school with his three older sisters. Later he was a day-boy at another school kept by the local clergyman and at fifteen became a boarder there for two years. He began to study Latin but the teaching was limited and at seventeen he moved to a school in Lewes, Sussex, where he became a pupil-teacher. He lived with the schoolmaster and his family, studying and teaching Latin and Greek. The local rector also took an interest in him and proposed that he should resume his studies at the rectory. William became acquainted with Joseph Woods, the botanist, and formed a lifelong interest in unusual plant life. When home he and his sisters would row down the estuary to the sea, watching the fishermen, and collecting wildlife specimens from the nets of the coastal dredgers which he studied and catalogued. This created his interest in biological research and he determined to study medicine.



1820 Engraving of Guy's Hospital entrance by James Elmes and William Woolnoth

Benjamin Harrison, the local rector's uncle, met William and impressed by his ability, invited him to go to Guy's Hospital under his patronage, as Treasurer of the Hospital, and in September 1837 William started his life's work. This patronage provided him with two rooms in the hospital and an annual allowance of £50. He was determined to make the most of his opportunity and resolved to try for every prize in the hospital that year. He succeeded in gaining every one. During his first year he also continued to study Greek, Latin, and Mathematics at the recently founded University of London. In 1841 he took his MB degree, gaining honours in physiology, comparative anatomy, medicine and surgery.

In 1842 William Gull was appointed to teach *Materia Medica* at Guy's Hospital with an annual salary of £100 and a small house in King Street. The following year he was appointed Lecturer in Natural Philosophy and he was also Medical Tutor at Guy's. He was able to increase his medical experience when other staff were unavailable, by caring for hospital patients night and day with a Mr Stocker. In 1846, he earned his MD degree at the University of London and was awarded the coveted gold medal. He became lecturer on physiology and anatomy and then a physician at Guy's, where he taught and was a consulting physician for the rest of his life. He was a popular teacher and some of his epigrams are still current, eg, "Fools and savages explain; wise men investigate".

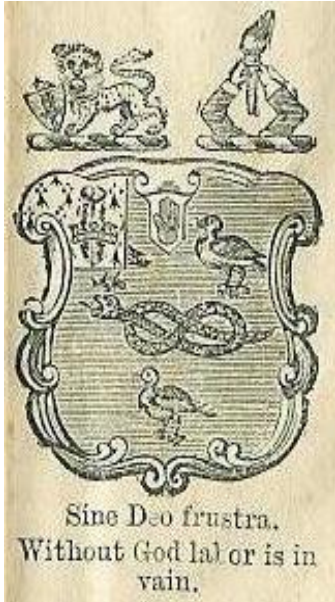
On 18<sup>th</sup> May 1848, Dr. Gull married Susan Ann Lacy, daughter of Colonel J Dacre Lacy of Carlisle, and moved to 8 Finsbury Square. They had three children: Caroline born in 1851, Cameron in 1858 who died in infancy and William in 1860. His caricature (*above*)





appeared in the British magazine, *Vanity Fair*, on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1875, under the title "Physiological Physic" - one of a series showing prominent personalities of the time.

While at Sandringham the Prince of Wales became unwell on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1871 and was attended by local doctors but after a week, having diagnosed typhoid fever they sent first for Gull on 21<sup>st</sup> November and then Sir William Jenner on the 23rd. The illness was complicated by bronchitis and the Prince became critically ill. For the next month, daily bulletins were issued by Sandringham and posted at police stations around the country. The Times reported on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1871:



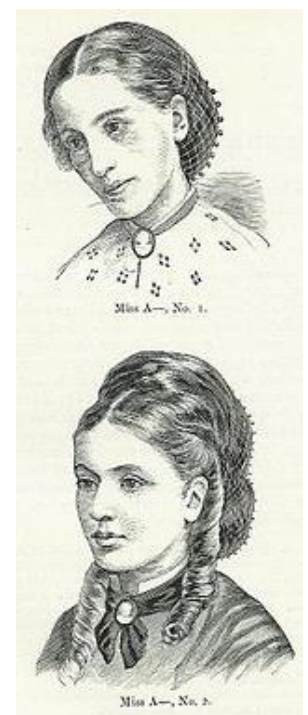
*"In Dr Gull were combined energy that never tired, watchfulness that never flagged; nursing so tender, ministry so minute, that in his functions he seemed to combine the duties of physician, dresser, dispenser, valet, nurse, ..... After the recovery of the Prince, Sir William remarked, 'He was as well treated and nursed as if he had been a patient in Guy's Hospital.'"*

A service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral for the Prince's recovery was attended by Queen Victoria and, in recognition of his service, William Gull was created 1st Baronet of Brook Street on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1872 (picture left - Coat of Arms). He was also appointed Physician-in-Ordinary to Queen Victoria with an annual salary of £200. This was largely an honorary appointment, the Queen only seeing her senior physician, then Sir William Jenner, and her resident medical attendant.

Sir William Gull led efforts to improve the prospects of women wishing to pursue careers in medicine. In February 1886 he chaired a meeting at the Medical Society in Cavendish Square to establish a medical scholarship for women - the Helen Prideaux Memorial Fund - named after Frances Helen Prideaux who died from diphtheria in 1885, having gained a first class degree and won the exhibition and gold medal in anatomy. Gull expressed the hope that the scholarship would lead to a liberalisation of attitudes and greater recognition of such remarkable women. The Fund was launched and by the mid-1890s the scholarship supported a bi-annual prize of £50, awarded to a graduate of the London School of Medicine for Women, to assist in completing a further stage of studies.

Gull contributed valuable articles to *Guy's Hospital Reports* on many clinical subjects and was one of the first clinicians to describe myxoedema (under active thyroid gland) known as Gull's Disease. In 1868, he addressed the British Medical Association at Oxford and referred to a "peculiar form of disease occurring mostly in young women, and characterised by extreme emaciation". The cause was undetermined, but seemed mainly to occur in young women between the ages of sixteen and twenty-three. He referred to the condition as *Anorexia nervosa*. Five years later in 1873 he published his seminal work "*Anorexia Nervosa (Apepsia Hysterica, Anorexia Hysterica)*", in which he describes the three cases of Miss A, Miss B, and a third unnamed case. In 1887 in his last medical paper, he also recorded the case of Miss K.

On 17 January 1866 Miss A was referred to Sir William Gull by her doctor, a Mr Kelson Wright, of Clapham. She was aged 17, 5ft 5ins tall but weighed only 5st 12lbs. Physically she was mostly normal and active but refused all food. He also recorded that there was a "striking expression of the nervous state, for it seemed hardly possibly that a body so wasted could undergo the exercise which seemed agreeable". He recommended that food should be given without consulting the patient, particularly in the early stages. In Gull's medical papers images (picture right) were published of Miss A in 1866 and after treatment aged



# William Withey Gull, Essex Man and Physician-in-Ordinary to Queen Victoria continued

21 in 1871. She remained under Gull's observation until March 1868, reaching the weight of 128lbs.



Miss B, (*picture left*) in 1868 aged 18 and then in 1872, was the second case described in his *Anorexia nervosa* paper. She was referred to Gull on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1868 by her family who suspected tuberculosis. He was struck by the similarity to Miss A, and recorded a "peculiar restlessness" that was difficult to control. Her mother advised that "She is never tired". Gull treated her until 1872 but admitted that the medical treatment probably contributed little to her recovery consisting, as in the former case, of various tonics and a nourishing diet.

Miss K aged 14 was referred in 1887 by a Dr Leachman of Petersfield. Gull arranged for a nurse from Guy's to supervise her diet, ordering light food every few hours and after six weeks such good progress was made that her mother soon reported that her recovery was almost complete, with the nurse no longer being needed. Gull had observed that a slow pulse and respiration were common factors resulting in below-normal body temperature and proposed the application of external heat as a possible treatment. This is still debated today.

In 1887 Sir William suffered his first stroke at his Scottish home in Killiecrankie. He recovered and returned to London but over the next two years he had several more, the final one at his London home, 74 Brook Street (*picture right*), on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1890. He died two days later, reported by the Times on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1890 who stated that

"The Prince of Wales was kept informed of Sir William's condition through Sir Francis Knollys". The news of his death was reported widely and the American author, Mark Twain, noted in his diary on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1890: "Sir Wm. Gull is just dead. He nursed the Prince of Wales back to life in '71 and apparently it was for this that Mr Gull was granted Knighthood, that doormat at the threshold of nobility. When the Prince seemed dead Mr. Gull dealt blow after blow between the shoulders, breathed into his nostrils, and literally cheated Death."

Sir William Gull was buried on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1890 next to his parents in the churchyard at Thorpe-le-Soken. A special train carried mourners from London. The inscription on his headstone was his favourite biblical quote: "What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God?" The obituary notice in the Proceedings of the Royal Society reads: "Few men have practised a lucrative profession with less eagerness to grasp at its pecuniary rewards. He kept up the honourable standard of generosity to poor patients." A memorial bronze plaque was placed at the entrance to Guy's Hospital Chapel by the Governors and Medical Staff.



Sir William Gull's estate was £344,022 19s. 7d - an enormous sum in 1890. Small bequests were made, an annuity with other benefits to his wife and funds in trust to his daughter and son, who also received all the real estate. The residue was to be held in trust for the purchase of real estate in England or Scotland (but not in Ireland) and to be added to the entailed estate which already included a jewelled snuffbox presented to Sir William Gull by the Empress Eugenie, widow of Emperor Napoleon III of France.



Postscript - Links to the Whitechapel Murders of 1888

Since the 1970s, Gull has been linked to the unsolved 1888 Whitechapel murders (Jack the Ripper). Although named as the murderer by the now discredited Masonic/Royal conspiracy theory in *Jack the Ripper: The Final Solution*, it remains popular among producers of fictional works, eg, 1988 TV film *Jack the Ripper* with Michael Caine and the 1996 graphic novel *From Hell* and its subsequent film adaptation. Considering that Sir William had suffered several strokes by 1888 and was in his 70s it is odd that he was even suggested as a suspect. However it is interesting to note that his former residence in Brook Street does not have a blue plaque outside whereas the one opposite does!

**Bygone Recipe****Sonia Lewis**Granny Sarah's Christmas Stilton Dated 1906

To prepare a whole Stilton, cut the top crust off and discard. If preferred cut in half cross ways, wrap in muslin and store one half in the outside ventilated food safe where it will keep and mature ready for New Year's Eve or Twelfth Night.

Place the Stilton in deep dish on a small table, with a serving spoon to the side. Do not place in a warm kitchen. Dribble port over the top of the cheese and top up as the Stilton is enjoyed.

After Christmas, remove and discard crusty edges, measure cheese crumbs in a cup and together with the same measure of butter, place in a pestle and mortar and pound until smooth. Add port

and salt to taste. You may find it will improve if you pass the mixture through a sieve. When smooth place in small pots and serve with freshly baked bread. Granddad loved it.

**Or 2016 version**

Equal quantities of Stilton and butter. Place in a food processor and blend. Add salt and port to taste. This makes a nice topping for canapés spread on a crispy base, OR served as a starter with hot toast.

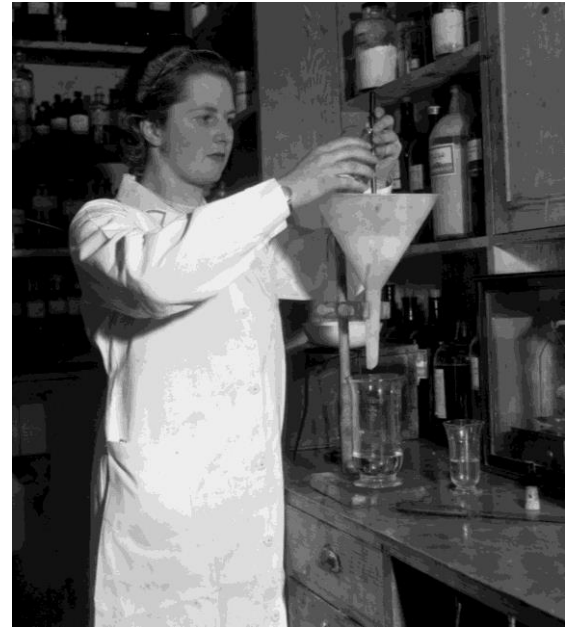
I have discovered a trick when blending with butter - warm the blender bowl first, just warm not hot, it speeds up the process.



# Margaret Thatcher in Colchester

Most people have no difficulty in remembering that Margaret Thatcher became our first woman Prime Minister in 1979, but how many know that she lived in Colchester for a couple of years?

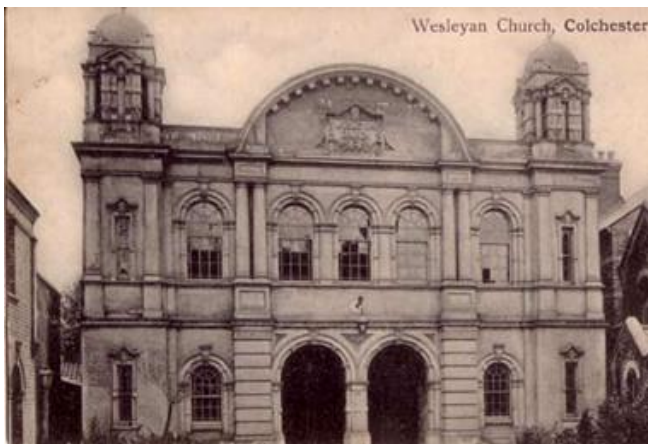
She had graduated from Oxford in 1947 and by August had secured a job as one of three women graduates taken on as research chemists at BX Plastics in Manningtree with a salary of £350 (the seven male graduates were given £400 for the identical position!). She had thought that she would be the PA to the Research and Development director but found instead that she was one of 70 researchers and would be working on "surface tensions to develop an adhesive for sticking PVC to wood or metal".



Her first task, however, was to find accommodation and it is thought she contacted the local Colchester Young Conservatives to help her. Like many of her colleagues she lived in Colchester and commuted on the BX Plastics workers' bus each day, wearing her Burberry coat and gloves. Her first landlady was Mrs Enid Macaulay, a recently widowed young woman, struggling to bring up two children on her own. Not only did the redoubtable Mrs Macaulay have several lodgers including Addison (Addi) Neal, the secretary of the local Young Conservatives, but she also ran a small playgroup to help with the running costs of the house at 168 Maldon Road.

Many years later Mrs Macaulay was interviewed and remembered that Miss Roberts was always smartly turned out, "nice suits, nice blouses, nice gloves", and that she was determined to be a politician. However, local members of YCs generally felt that she was "not one of us" keeping herself to herself and, contrary to Mrs Macaulay, thought that she dressed in a rather old-fashioned style and was "dowdy". Miss Roberts also gave the impression that YC social activities were unnecessary and the time could have been better used by more overt political activities. In 1948 she applied for a job at ICI but, when the personnel department thought her "headstrong, obstinate and dangerously self-opinionated", her application was rejected and she remained at BX Plastics.

Her section director at BX Plastics, Stanley Booth, remembered Miss Roberts as being "very conscientious, very thorough, hard working" but another thought that "she didn't possess sufficient imagination to be a good research chemist, which is the best qualification you can have for a politician". The chairman's son thought she was "the only good-looking woman in the research laboratory" and a "very go-ahead" chemist. However, she was not popular with her colleagues as she usually managed to secure whatever she wanted for her experiments!



The young Margaret Roberts stayed with Mrs Macaulay for about a year but our future prime minister found that the children were getting "very cheeky" and if the lodgers admonished them, it was they who were taken to task not the children. Margaret and another lodger decided to move to other accommodation – this time at the much more upmarket 19 Lexden Road (now the Colchester English Study Centre). For some reason she soon moved to a flat at 42 Cambridge Road which she shared with a friend and which they redecorated. She also regularly attended Culver St Methodist Church (now demolished to become BHS and soon Primark) (picture left) and, with other young people of the church, she would visit local villages, reading the lessons and possibly preaching, giving her an

opportunity to hone her oratory! Her young Methodist friends thought her very sophisticated.

Nearby in Museum Street was the Young Conservatives Club where she helped to maintain a vigorous programme of political activities and social events. One of her friends from Oxford knew the chairman of the Dartford Conservative Association in Kent and that they were looking for candidates. She was asked to apply and despite the fact that she was not on the approved list of candidates she was formally selected in February 1949 at the tender age of 23. They thought she was "easy to look at, soft-voiced, feminine, charming and clear-headed ... and very fashion-conscious". She was adopted as the Conservative candidate for Dartford only being added to the approved list later and in July of that year, in preparation for the (unsuccessful) 1950 election, she moved to Dartford, taking work as a research chemist in Hammersmith for J Lyons and Co, helping to develop emulsifiers for ice cream.

It is rumoured that she greatly admired David Papillon of Lexden Manor, also prominent in the Colchester Young Conservatives, and whose New Year party she attended in 1949. Although she did not greatly enjoy the work at BX Plastics her almost manic social and political life kept her going and perhaps she left with fond memories of Colchester. Margaret Thatcher returned to Colchester in the 1970s when she spoke to the local Soroptimists whose chairman was Mrs Enid Macaulay.

## **A Brief History of Lexden Manor**

Aelfflaed, the widow of Byrhtnoth, who was killed at the Battle of Maldon on 10<sup>th</sup> August 991, died in about 1002AD and left and in Lexden to the king who probably added to his holdings in Stanway but in 1086 the burgesses of Colchester claimed that it had belonged to Godric of Greenstead together with other land in Mile End. It appears that Lexden ownership had been passed from Greenstead to Stanway in about 1075 and later the area became known as Lexden manor.

Eudo Dapifer, was granted Colchester and the castle by William II, and is also thought to have been granted the manors of Stanway and Lexden. He died in 1120 and through various wills and marriages and a fairly colourful history, these passed to the families of St Clare, Lanvalei and Burgh. In 1505 Lexden became the property of Robert, Lord Fitzwalter (later Earl of Sussex). A century later his descendants sold it to Sir Thomas Lucas and it was then inherited by his illegitimate son, Charles. He was executed in 1650 after the Civil War and it passed to his son, also Charles, Lord Lucas of Shenfield. In 1701 the manor was sold to Samuel Rawstorn of London. His son, Thomas, who died in 1768, passed it to his unmarried daughter, Ann, and on her death in 1816, Lexden Manor went to her distant cousin, the Rev John Rawstorn Papillon. Different branches of the Papillon family inherited it including Philip Oxenden Papillon (*picture right*), who was MP for Colchester between 1859 and 1865 and twice Mayor of the town in 1866 and 1874. Finally in 1931 the Lexden Manor Estate was broken up and sold by his son, Pelham R Papillon.



Lexden Manor covered a large area but the mediaeval manor house was on the present site of Lexden Lodge. It was an impressive moated building recorded in 1313 as having an inner courtyard with a house, kitchen, granary and chapel and in the outer courtyard there were two barns, a byre, dairy and garden. Sir Thomas Lucas in the early 1600s bought the dilapidated tenter house (used for stretching newly-woven cloth) in Lexden Street (now 134 Lexden Road) and built a new house.





Part of this, the SE corner of the present building, still stands and over the next 100 years additions were made including gardens and extensions to the north and west (*picture left*). Across the road Lexden Springs was "landscaped" with ornamental water and plantations to present a good view from the house. An avenue of lime trees is recorded on a 1777 map and led from the Manor House to what is now Straight Road. Some trees still remain behind the houses in Chaucer Way. The house was further enlarged and remodelled in 1837. Large garden parties were held there each year.

Another part of the Lexden Manor estate belonged to the Mott family who over the years had held increasing areas of land since the early 14<sup>th</sup> century and is recorded as paying parish tithes as early as 1360. The "Manor of Motts" was on what is now Chitts Hill and different branches of the family succeeded until in 1547 it came to George Sayer and then by marriage to Sir Isaac Rebow who died in 1726. By 1821 it was owned by Thomas Wood and known as Newbridge farm. A few years later the farm was so close to the newly built railway and viaduct that it was called Viaduct or Seven Arches Farm.

Newbridge farm was sold to John Fletcher Mills in 1821 and became part of the growing Lexden Park estate. This had been laid out before 1768 by John Richardson whose father, Charles, had bought the land from the Mott family in 1714. John left his estate to the trustees of his 1768 will who sold it to Isaac Bevan. Eventually JF Mills added it to his other purchases building a large Italianate mansion on the north of Lexden Street.

Lexden heath, which covered some 290 acres, was enclosed under the 1821 Act and both JR Papillon and JF Mills snapped up the opportunity of enlarging their estates, virtually dividing the heath between themselves. Papillon acquired 151 acres by allotment and a further 18 acres by buying common rights. Mills was allotted 40 acres, bought the common rights on another 41 acres of heath and also the burgesses' lammas rights on 39 acres of farmland adjacent to his park. By 1838 the Papillon family owned 1,216 acres and JF Mills 296 acres, a large proportion of the 2,312 acres in Lexden parish.

In due course the much enlarged Lexden Park Estate was inherited by George Henry Errington (*picture right*), the son-in-law of JF Mills. By 1889 times were hard forcing the sale of the house with 90 acres of land and in 1908 more land was sold off for building. EJ Sanders bought the house, leaving it in turn to his son Sir Percy Sanders, Mayor of Colchester in 1922 and 1939-43 who sold it to Endsleigh private school in 1955. When this was taken over by Essex County Council ten years later it became part of the Colchester Institute and known as the Endsleigh Annex. After a public outcry 25 acres of land, which was threatened with redevelopment, was bought by Colchester Council in the early 1990s for the people of the town to enjoy in perpetuity. Eventually the mansion was sold and redeveloped creating many flats and houses whose owners enjoy the remaining land and lake.



Over the last 1000 years Lexden Manor has had a chequered history of inheritance and land grab by families with great power and influence but perhaps this has helped preserve the pleasant ambience of Lexden as we know it today!

## **FORTHCOMING SPEAKERS/EVENTS**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October

**Jimmy Lawrence**  
**My Early Barge Days (Part 2)**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November

**Dorian Kelly**  
**Lost Theatres of Colchester**

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

**Christmas Party**  
*(Tickets available at our October & November meetings)*

***Caption Competition – just for fun***

