

# Lexden History Group



## This issue features:

- Charles Haddon Spurgeon
- The Building of Prettygate
- Tales from the Churchyard – Durrant Family
  - The Lexden Horse Showground

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**Website [www.lexdenhistory.org.uk](http://www.lexdenhistory.org.uk)**

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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.

## 2017 Membership Renewal

### **Membership Renewal is due before the May AGM**

If your details have not changed since the 2016 AGM, then please fill in the form below and return it to:

Jackie Bowis  
Membership Secretary,  
20 Munnings Road,  
Colchester,  
CO3 4QG

**When paying this year's affiliation fees please bring your membership card with you which will be signed as a receipt for renewal of your membership**

MEMBERSHIP NO  NAME

Please tick the membership type required: SINGLE MEMBERSHIP £15  FAMILY MEMBERSHIP £20

### **Cheques made payable to "Lexden History Group"**

If your details have changed please ask the Membership Secretary for an application form.





Charles Haddon Spurgeon, probably the most famous preacher Britain has ever known, was born on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1834 at 71 High Street, Kelvedon (*left*) into a family of non-conformist clerics. His father, John, was pastor of a congregational church at Tollesbury, some ten miles away. When Charles was a year old his family moved to Hythe Street, in Colchester, but a few months later, with his parents

struggling to bring up their eight surviving children, he went to live with his grandparents in Stambourne, near Great Yeldham, where his grandfather, James, was a popular preacher for more than 50 years. Six years later Charles returned to Colchester, but continued to enjoy long holidays with his grandparents. His grandmother, Sarah, also encouraged him to memorise the hymns of Isaac Watts and would give him a penny for each one. When this was reduced to a halfpenny he still emptied her purse! These memorised hymns turned up in his sermons years later.

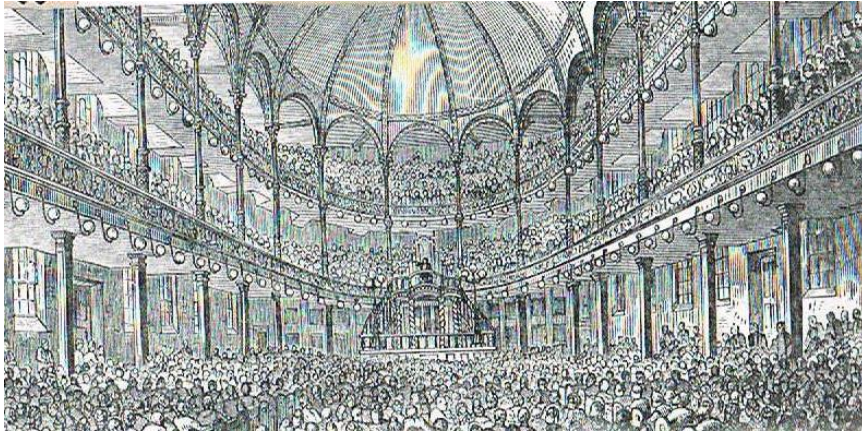
Spurgeon spent much time exploring his grandfather's parsonage and church and found a small room in the attic with many books on scriptural theology, Christian martyrs and his favourite *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan. He fell in love with reading and the books in the attic gave him a solid theological background from an early age. When he was about 14 he attended the All Saints' Agricultural College, then St. Augustine's, in Maidstone, and later a school in Cambridge. He was very serious about his studies.

In January 1850, aged 16, struggling up Hythe Hill in a snow blizzard for an appointment, he realised he was not going to make it and turned into the Primitive Methodist chapel (*right*) in Artillery Street. The snow had kept the minister away, but a parishioner was reading from Isaiah 45:22 "Look unto me and be ye saved". It changed his life - "God opened my heart to the salvation message" and that evening he attended Eld Lane Baptist Church. On 4 April he was admitted to the church at Newmarket and baptised on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1850 in the River Lark at Isleham - a stone still marks the location.



Later that year he moved to Cambridge where he became a Sunday school teacher and, filling in for a friend, preached his first sermon in a cottage in Teversham. From the start his style and skill were judged to be far above average. That year he became pastor of the small Baptist church at Waterbeach, in Cambridgeshire, and in 1853 published the first of many literary works, a Gospel tract. Aged only 19 the "boy preacher" (*left aged 23*) was sent to a chapel in New Park Street, Southwark, which soon became too small for his increasing popularity and the congregation moved to the Surrey Music Hall.

On 8<sup>th</sup> January 1856, Spurgeon married Susannah Thompson and twin sons, Charles and



*Spurgeon preaching at the Surrey Music Hall c 1858)*

Thomas, were born on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1856. Four weeks later on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1856, as he was preaching at the Surrey Gardens Music Hall for the first time, someone screamed, "Fire!" and several were killed in the ensuing panic and stampede. Spurgeon was distraught and it had a sobering influence on his life, struggling against depression for many years and being moved to tears for no apparent reason. (Above:

On 18<sup>th</sup> March 1861, the huge congregation moved to the purpose-built Metropolitan Tabernacle at Elephant and Castle, Southwark, seating 5000 people with standing room for another 1000. It was the largest church of its day (*right*). The site had been acquired for the Tabernacle because of its prominent situation but also because it was thought to be the site of the burning of the Southwark Martyrs. The foundation-stone bears the words: 'The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.'



His work continued and he founded a Pastors' College in 1857, renamed Spurgeon's College in 1923 when it moved to its present building in South Norwood Hill, London. Besides his ordinary ministrations and the publication of a weekly sermon he also founded the Stockwell Orphanage, Christian Literary society, The Sword and Trowel Magazine, almshouses and schools and set up several charitable funds. Over 200 new churches were founded in the Home Counties alone each looked after by his students. His printed sermons, still in print, fill 63 volumes.

Spurgeon was the most popular preacher in Britain, regularly addressing congregations of 10,000 and speaking up to a dozen times a week. At the Crystal Palace in London on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1857, he preached to a crowd of 23,654 people. He would write each sermon out fully but in the pulpit only used a single page of notes even though he talked for an average of 40 minutes at 140 words per minute. His sermons were taken down in shorthand, transcribed, revised by him the next day and published immediately in pamphlet form selling at 1d each. They were widely circulated like newspapers. When David Livingstone died in Africa, amongst one of his few possessions was a copy of Spurgeon's sermons.

Spurgeon's success was difficult to explain. His sermons were graphic and colourful and often humorous but by some he was not considered attractive or charismatic. Eliakim Littell, the United States founder and editor of *Living Age*, described him as "short, and chubby, and rather awkward . . . commonplace, verging upon the vulgar." Littell described his face as "homely" and suggested he was popular because his sermons were colloquial and natural, just "one man talking to another." Perhaps this was his great appeal.

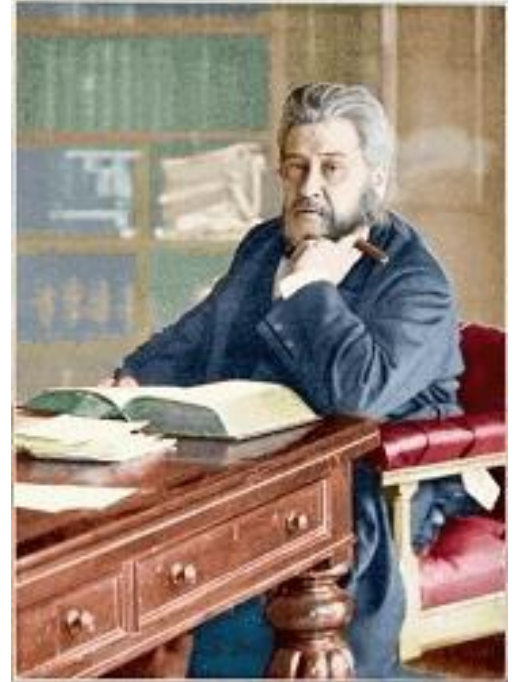
He did not forget Eld Lane Baptist Church and in 1866 when their minister became ill he found an assistant and also agreed to preach twice yearly. The assistant turned the church



around but on one visit it became apparent to Spurgeon that a school hall was desperately needed. He made a gift and a loan to enable the building and recently this has been rebuilt but it is essentially Spurgeon's Hall.

In 1887 Spurgeon left the Baptist Union as a protest against what he called "the downgrade" tendency of the church especially in its attitude to the Bible. However, he continued to preach at the Tabernacle several times a week until his death, always extending the invitation that if anyone was moved by his preaching on a Sunday, they could meet him at his vestry on the Monday morning. There was always someone waiting the next day.

His wife, Susannah, was often too ill to hear him preach but would take notes for him in the middle of the night if he awoke with a revelation! Spurgeon suffered from depression and also in his later life from a combination of rheumatism, gout and Bright's disease. He enjoyed cigars (*right*) and in his final days, according to his grandson, smoked a "F. P Del Rio y Ca.". (Francisco Perez del Rio was a famous Cuban cigar maker of the time.) To a gentleman who asked Spurgeon to confirm that he smoked he replied: "I cultivate my flowers and burn my weeds."



He often recuperated at Menton, near Nice in France, where he died on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1892. He was survived by his wife and sons and was buried at West Norwood Cemetery in London, where his grave (*left*) is regularly visited by followers. His son, Tom, then became the pastor of the Metropolitan Tabernacle. He wrote of his father: "As the crushing of the flower causes it to yield its aroma, so he, having endured in the long continued illness of my beloved mother, and also constant pains in himself, was able to sympathise most tenderly with all sufferers."

As well as his copious sermons he also wrote many books including *The Saint and his Saviour*, *Feathers for Arrows*, *The Metropolitan Tabernacle*, *Farm Sermons* and *Salt Cellars*. His thoughtful, and sometimes amusing, quotes include: "It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness": "By perseverance the snail reached the ark" and "Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strength".

The original Spurgeon's Tabernacle was burned down in 1898 (apart from the front portico and basement) and was rebuilt along similar lines. It was burned down again in May 1941 during the longest air raid of World War II but remarkably the portico and basement once more survived, and in 1957 it was rebuilt to a different design, but including the portico, on the original foundations.

Things got going quite quickly after World War Two ended in September 1945. I was born in September 1946 and the first home I remember, No 33, on the south west side of All Saints Avenue, Shrub End, must have had a very similar time of conception. I have a picture of me (right) in the garden with the plot of number 35 in the background as the temporary work yard of Hills the builders.



However the first four pairs of semis in Plume Avenue, and three pairs and four detached houses in All Saints Avenue, are shown in a map of 1939. Plume Avenue and the two small shops, grandly called "West Parade", to its south west side, had been thrust through the north east end of Pond Chase and the pond and farmyard of Plume Farm. The farmhouse itself is shown as surviving, albeit on a very small plot with a 1930's bungalow to the north east side. Hitler caused the postponement of the completion of the two avenues (Plume and All Saints) until after the war. In "Shrub End: History of Our Parish" by Miss AD Harrison published 1936, the farmhouse with a picture is described as being of 17<sup>th</sup> century date. In 1939, a newspaper cutting with a picture refers to "the impending demolition" of the building. Both these documents are in the Essex Record Office (ERO). I feel I can half remember Plume Farm after 1946 but can someone else supply the photo and support this?



Looking at maps of 1777 and 1805, Pond Chase appears to lead straight through to, and be the only access to, King Harold Road. The field boundaries seem to support this assertion. On the 1805 map (left) Squirrels Farm is shown north of Prettygate Farm but I can see no later reference to it. I have not seen any maps between that date and 1877. King Harold Road sounds a rather twentieth century name. It appears on a map of 1920 and on that it is applied, probably incorrectly, to the part of Prettygate Lane north of the farm. But was there an older name for King Harold Road? King Harold was also Earl of Essex and had a manor

in Lexden including the length of the ramparts and many other lands in the county.

When Plume Farm was pulled down, two bungalows of post war date were erected on the site, one of which, somewhat cheekily, calls itself Plume Cottage. What a shame that the Town & Country Planning Act of 1947, which introduced the Listing of period buildings as a way of deciding which to retain after the ravages of war, had not by that time had the effect of protecting that and the other lost buildings that I mention. Plume Avenue until about 1958, ended in rough ground just after the turning to All Saints Avenue which, of course, was built right through to the south west of Prettygate Farm, which was featured in LHG Newsletter No 32 of March 2014, based on Bernard Polleys' "Research into Prettygate Ward of Colchester Borough" of 2002.

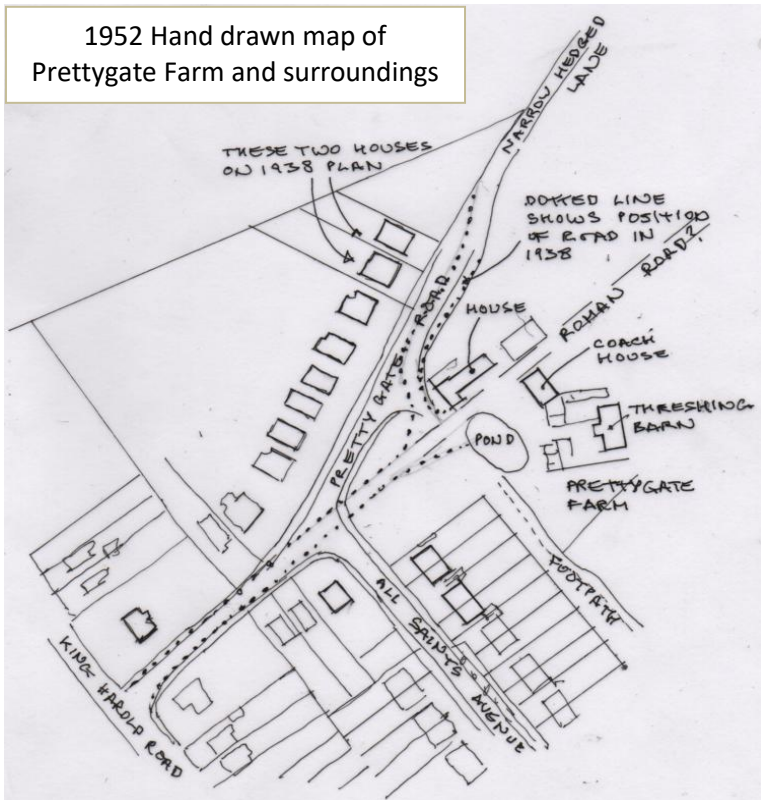
I can remember that Prettygate Farm in the early 1950's retained the old lane entrance between hedges, whilst Prettygate Road (or Lane) had been moved north west to a highway engineer's line, coordinating with the frontages of the pre-war bungalows. In spite of all the talk of Roman remains in Colchester when I was a child, I never realised until recently, that the part of Prettygate Lane from King Harold Road was said to be the only part of a Roman road still in use, as shown in Jenkins'



"Plan of Camulodunum of 1842" in the Colchester Archaeological Trust publication of 1985 and labelled "London Road". An 1877 map refers to that first part as "Roman Way" and shows the line of it continuing north east through the farmyard and south west beyond King Harold Road. Is this Roman Road still substantiated by later research? Sadly there are no interpretation plaques on the ground to explain the road and other local earthworks such as Prettygate Dyke.



I have picture which shows me feeding the ducks in the farmyard by the pond. This was a big local attraction for all the children who lived in the adjacent new houses. That one and the picture (right) clearly show that the farmyard had a very fine early 19<sup>th</sup>(?) century coach house probably with living quarters for workers over. Towards the back, east side, there appears to be an aisled threshing barn with a thatched roof, probably at least as old as the seventeenth century. The farmhouse itself appeared to be timber framed maybe of the seventeenth century or earlier.



The picture (below) shows the altered vehicle entrance to the farmyard with modern kerbs, carried out to enable the erection of two pairs of council-built semis before the main new estate was started. It also shows the "Pretty Gate" on the right hand side. This must have been shortly before the demise of the whole farmyard.



I also clearly remember the Georgian Walnut Tree Farmhouse by Shrub End Road and looking in it on my own when it was deserted and about to be demolished in about 1952. I remember, even at that age, wondering how adults could destroy something so beautiful. My love of old buildings has stayed with me all through my life, especially after I became an architect in 1975.

Many thanks to Nick for sending personal photos, hand drawn maps and accompanying text to help us understand how Prettygate has changed. There is more to follow!

## TALES FROM THE CHURCHYARD - DURRANT FAMILY

### Immigrants from Suffolk! Beer House Keepers, Stonemasons and WW1 tragedy

Having located an interesting looking grave for the Durrant family I must confess I soon became rather confused trying to sort out all the people mentioned on another three graves covering several generations of the same family. On the first grave members of three generations are buried together, the second grave has two parents and two sons, the third a sister-in-law with a niece and nephew, and the fourth a son, a daughter and her husband. The name James kept recurring, confusing matters further, and Edersign James Durrant used either name; generally James for official purposes and Edersign to prevent confusion with his father and grandfather! The Durrant family and also the families they married into were sometimes remembered together in death causing further research problems! The graves are difficult to find and read but fortunately their inscriptions were recorded in the early 1990s by a dedicated band of people from Lexden Church.

The Durrant family came from a number of small villages east of Bury St Edmunds, ie, Hessett, Beyton and Norton, where they had lived for generations. James Durrant was born in 1784 one of seven children of Thomas and Elizabeth. They must have been fairly moneyed as Thomas is on the list of voters in Beighton (Beyton) in 1790, so he would have owned property. One wonders why his son, James, left the area to move to Bures but there were many Durrants there and also in Lexden so perhaps they were all related.

On 25<sup>th</sup> May 1806 James married Mary Ann Lawrence at Bures St Mary and they had six daughters, two of whom died young, and then Mary Ann sadly died in 1831. James had probably moved to Lexden after Mary's death as he was married again in Lexden on 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 1832 to Sophia Spooner of Messing and both his sons, James and John, were born here in 1836 and 1838. John left the area later becoming a watchmaker and jeweller, living in Oxford and then Kensington where he died in 1876. He did not marry.

By 1841 James (senior) and Sophie are in Lexden Heath and James is recorded as a carpenter. Living with them are their two sons, boarders Sophia Last aged 13 and Jane Baxter 22, as well as a servant Sarah Lewis aged 20. In the 1851 Census James Durrant is still a carpenter and but now also a Beer House Keeper at what eventually became the "Star" in Straight Road. His two sons, James and John, are there and servants Eliza Appleton aged 25, born Tolleshunt D'Arcy, and Elizabeth Head, 15, born in Lexden.



James died in 1858 and he must have been fairly successful as his effects were sufficient to require probate to be granted. They amounted to under £200 – a good sum in those days. In the 1861 census three years after her husband's death, Sophie is recorded as a Brewer and running the "Star" Beer House with Eliza Appleton remaining as her servant. The Beer House connection runs through the family as Edersign James was born in 1856 to James, a stonemason, and Sarah at The King's Head, Lexden, run by Sarah's father, William. Sophie was at the "Star" 10 years later but with her this time were two of her grandsons, Edersign, now a mason's apprentice following in his father's trade, and Arthur, a scholar aged 12. Also there is James Kimberlee aged 37, possibly a brother to their next door neighbour, William Kimberlee, a carpenter. To digress slightly, Eliza Appleton is now living a few doors away - a servant to William Pamplin, a shoemaker. Eliza by 1881 was keeping a boarding house in Maldon and she died there in 1887 after a life spent serving other people.

At some time after 1871 Sophie Durrant moved to live with her son, James, a stonemason and engraver, and his wife, Sarah. Sophie died on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1877 at their house in



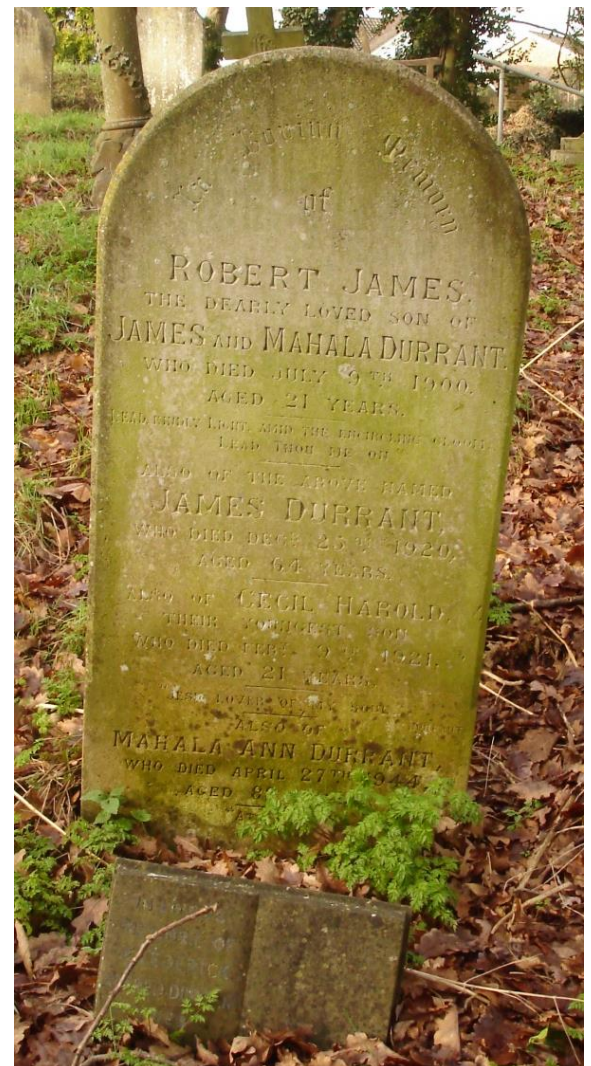
Balkerne Hill next to the King's Head. They had moved there from Straight Road, Lexden Heath, and in 1881 James was recorded as a stone and marble mason. Seven of their children were living with them, ie, Alfred, Laura, Walter, Kate, Beatrice, Ethel and (Ellen) Maud who was soon to be recorded on a gravestone by the north wall of the church (*above left*) with baby Jane Matilda. The other sons George, Frederick, Edersign, Arthur and William, were making their own way in life. James and Sarah went on to have a total of 14 children.

In 1901 Edersign and his wife Mahala were living at 27 London Road with eight of their twelve children and remained there for many years.

One of Edersign's sons, Cecil Harold, enlisted in 1918 giving his address as 27 London Road and his occupation as a grocer's assistant (he was possibly working at the Co-op in London Road). He joined first the Rifle Brigade and then transferred to the King's Royal Rifle Brigade but almost immediately after his arrival in France he was wounded in a gas attack on 22<sup>nd</sup> August. He was hospitalised and eventually demobilised in March 1920 returning to 27 London Road. His father, Edersign, died on Christmas Day 1920 in Essex County Hospital and Cecil died a few weeks later on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1921. He was awarded the Victory and British War Medals. By April of that year Sarah must have been finding it difficult to manage and on her behalf SSAFA asked if she could benefit from Cecil's war pension. It is not known if this application was successful.

Arthur, Edersign's brother, also mentioned on the grave stone, became a watch and clock repairer like his uncle John, and married Alice Louise in 1887. They had 5 children and in 1911 were living at 54 Walsingham Road Colchester. It appears the couple had met in London and married in Edmonton in 1886. Two of their children were born there and then in about 1889 they moved to Brightlingsea where in 1891 they lived in the High Street, probably above the shop and later at 74 New Road where his occupation was recorded as a watchmaker and jeweller.

The family had several graves and Robert James Durrant, who died on July 9<sup>th</sup> 1900 aged 21, the son of Edersign and Mahala, is prominent on one side of a grave stone to the south of the church (*right*) which later included his father James (Edersign) who died aged 64 years and Cecil Harold their youngest son (WW1 casualty see above). Their mother Mahala Ann, who died April 27<sup>th</sup> 1944 aged 88 years, is also on the grave stone as is another son, Frederick Alfred, who died Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 1959 aged 73. The stone mason is recorded as Durrant - the family trade - perhaps continued by Alfred born in 1866 son of James (junior) and Sarah, or Frederick Alfred. Robert James is also recorded on a marble framed plaque on the south wall of the church in memory of choristers.



One wonders whether Edersign had carved the headstone for his parents and another family stonemason, possibly Alfred or Frederick, added his brother, Arthur, in 1926. What an interesting family the Durrants proved to be, once I had sorted out all the relationships. Acute sadness was mixed with success - as it is with most families. There are many Durrants living in Colchester today and it would be interesting to know if any of these are descendants the family in the Lexden churchyard!



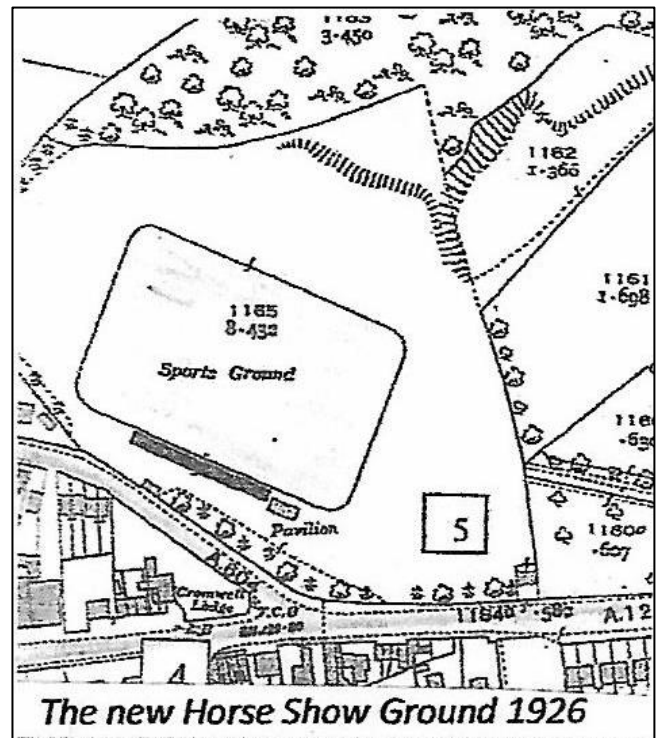
*F Wright's exhibits: Colchester Horse Show 1909.  
First prize in each class.*

The Lexden Horse Show Driving, Riding and Leaping Association (later known as Colchester Horse Show Association) held their first public show on Whit Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 1905 at Monk Wick, Berechurch Road. The events included cob shown in harness, tradesmen's turn-out, obstacle driving, heavy and lightweight hunters, hackney and cart stallions, flat race hurdles and yeomanry races. The prize fund amounted to £80 in total and admission to the whole event cost one shilling (5p). A special attraction was a performance by the Band of the 16<sup>th</sup> Queen's Lancers. The Mayor of Colchester, Lexden's Alderman Edwin Sanders, was in attendance.

There followed each year on Whit Monday an annual Horse Show held at various venues in the town, mostly Lexden Park. In 1924 the Horse Show was held at the Braiswick home of Mr A G Mumford JP (Mr Mumford was director of the iron foundry in Culver Street, AG Mumford Ltd). The secretary of the Association was Edward Prime, a veterinary surgeon with a business in Crouch Street.

The following year, Whit Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June, the show was held for the first time in the grounds of Lexden House – one time home of Sir Charles Gurney Hoare. The main attractions were a grand military display by Dragoon Guards and Thurston's Royal Circus.

Following the success of the 1925 Show the Association negotiated with the owners of the property to buy part of the site to set up a permanent show ground. This bid was successful and the Lexden Horse Show Ground came into being with the first show being held at the new site on Whit Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 1926 (plan right). There was ample space for a pavilion and tiered seating for spectators, others watched from around the ring and cars were allowed to park ring-side for five shillings (25p).



**The new Horse Show Ground 1926**

There is some contradiction about who actually owned the show ground. In his book 'Lexden as I remember it' Philip Cardy wrote "Where the fire engine shops are now used to be the Horse Show Ground owned by Mr Edward Prime, a vet". As Mr Prime was Honorary Secretary of the Association, this probably means he was acting on their behalf. Also in the booklet 'Lexden Teatime Tales' the text mentions that the Horse Show Ground was owned by Colchester Rugby Club. In fact the Rugby Club used the ground as their playing headquarters until war broke out in 1939.



Now with a regular home for their annual presentation, the Horse Show Association always laid on a great show of equestrian events, supported by military units stationed in the Garrison. In 1931 it was the 3<sup>rd</sup>



Carabiniers Regiment and in 1935 the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards (*left: Musical Jumping display by 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards*)

Apart from the Horse Show Association holding their annual event at Lexden every year on Whit Monday, other organisations used the ground for their events. For many seasons the Lexden, Stanway and Shrub End Horticultural society hired the show ground on August Bank Holiday Monday for their annual event. It was a show for the exhibition of flowers, fruit and vegetables, needlework and handicrafts, as well as baby and poultry shows, all mixed in with competitions and entertainment.



Another event was a Summer Fair in 1935 by Colchester Imps - later known as Young Conservatives. Attractions included Volpre's miniature circus (*above*), Bert Stock's Fun Fair, a gymnastic display by St Peter's Club and a display of Wells fireworks. Mr Oswald Lewis, Colchester's MP, introduced Lord Burghley to address the young people. Burghley had taken part in the 1928 Summer Olympics in Amsterdam, winning a Gold Medal for the 400 yards hurdles. The advertisement for the event read "admission 2d for nine hours' non-stop fun".

**COLCHESTER HORSE SHOW**  
30th ANNUAL  
**SHOW**

LEXDEN SHOW GROUND, COLCHESTER  
**WHIT-MONDAY, 29th May, 1939**

JUMPING COMPETITIONS. HUNTERS, SUFFOLKS and SHIRES.  
COBS. CHILDREN'S PONIES. TRADESMEN'S TURNOUTS.

**FRED LINDSAY** the world-famous Stock Whip Expert in spectacular mounted performances  
(Colonel HOLMAN-JUMP)

SWINGS, ROUNDABOUTS and FUN FAIR

ADMISSION—9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 2/6; 2 p.m. to close 1/-  
CHILDREN HALF-PRICE.

CARS—Ringside 5/-. Parked 2/6. Motor-Bicycles 1/-. Cycles Free.

GRANDSTAND—2/6.  
Bookable at The Colchester Saddlery Store (R. G. Claridge), 16, Butt Road.  
Tel. 2449 Col.

Little did the Colchester Horse Show association know that Whit Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May 1939 (*advert left*) would be their final show on Lexden Show Ground for in a few months' time the country would be at war with Germany. Already the Garrison had announced they would be unable to take part - as they were on stand-by.

When the war started the showground was taken over by the National Fire Service and used as a training centre for new recruits. In 1948 the site was transferred to Essex County Council to house the Essex County Fire Brigade workshops, as it is today.



6<sup>th</sup> August 1934 - Lexden, Stanway and Shrub End Horticultural Society. The Committee, prize winners and guests. Mayor and Mayoress Gurney Benham seated 6<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> from left. David Papillon seated 5<sup>th</sup> from right.

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS/SPEAKERS

## Forthcoming Events

**Tuesday 27th June, 2017 a visit to Lavenham.**

A guided walk in the morning around the village followed by a tour of the Guild Hall in the afternoon.

## Speakers

Wednesday 12th April

**Patrick Denney - Colchester Voices**

Wednesday 10th May

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Followed by an Antiques Roadshow - James Grinter, Local Auctioneer - Bring along a treasured item that you would like James to give his professional opinion upon.

Wednesday 14th June

**Jacqui and Peter Marshall-Ward - Dress to impress in Tudor Times**

## 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 Coggeshall - 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*