

Lexden History Group

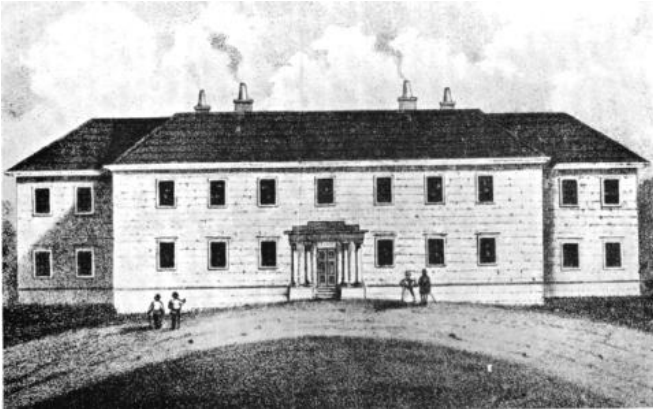


Interior of a Hospital Tent (41st Casualty Clearing Station) 1918
John Singer Sargent *Imperial War Museum* (see page 10)

- **Bunting Family and Nursery**
 - **Lexden in 1825**
- **WW1 – William Moss, Spring Lane**

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Website: www.lexdenhistory.org.uk

The founder of the nursery business, Isaac Bunting, was born in 1783 in Mile End, Colchester, the son of William and Margaret. Later William became a gardener at Lexden Manor and lived in what is now the Toll House. Isaac was one of three sons and four daughters and at the age of 17 was already working as a gardener. He married Elizabeth Franklin in Colchester in 1807 and 12 years later at the age of 36 was a seedsman with his own nursery business on land where Brooke Lodge is now in Lexden Road, opposite Sussex Road. Three sons, William, Isaac and Horatio eventually joined him in the business. Part of Hilly Fields is known as Buntings Meadows and the land adjacent to what is now Lockhart Avenue was known to have been used for plant and seed production.



The business was successful and Isaac was made responsible for setting out the gardens of the new Essex County Hospital (*left c1825*) and also secured the contract for their continued maintenance. Not long after this he bought land in Snake Lane, later renamed Serpentine Walk, just south of where Wickes is now off Station Way. This became Bunting's North Nursery. Isaac's son, William, controlled this side of the Bunting's business and was given a new house

there. Two other sons, Isaac and Horatio, also worked for the family business. Isaac senior was being recognised as a florist with an entry in a local directory and it is thought he was growing plants in greenhouses which were an innovative development at that time.

When Isaac Bunting died in 1850, the business was divided between his two surviving sons William and Horatio (Isaac junior died in 1846). Horatio inherited the Lexden Road nursery and William, North Nursery and he continued to be successful but his brother had problems, amassing debts of over £2,000 by mortgaging his part of the business and in 1856 was declared bankrupt. Horatio forced William to take over that business to satisfy his many creditors.

With William in control the business thrived acquiring many contracts including one to organise planting the new Mersea Road cemetery which opened in 1856. Buntings was also responsible for planting the gardens in the developing seaside towns of Clacton and Frinton. The business also provided floral decorations for many different functions in the town including the Colchester Oyster Feast.

William's two older sons, William Ellis and Alfred, had also become part of the hugely successful company, but it took William's youngest son, Isaac, to secure its ongoing success. Isaac (*right*), who was born in 1850, thought further afield and in 1874, hoping to become more familiar with an export business, took himself off to Yokohama in Japan for a couple of years. His mentor was fellow nurseryman John Joseph Jarman whose family business was flourishing there. In 1867 the Meiji dynasty was working to unify Japan and was encouraging foreign interest. This was aided by the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 which considerably shortened the journey to and from the east. Returning to Colchester in 1877, Isaac made the significant decision to take out all his savings of £22 in order to return to Japan and start



another business. This he called Creekside Nurseries. He hoped to minimise any risks and to protect his finances he set up the London and New York Tailoring Company, of which he was the sole proprietor, and called himself a “Seed and Cloth Merchant”. This enabled him to import ready-made men’s clothing from Colchester to Yokohama.



However, his main purpose was to export lily bulbs to England where many were clamouring for specimens of unusual Japanese flowers. The bulbs, clusters of waxy segments, were all slightly different but the *Lilium loniflorum* (the Easter Lily), with the highly prized blue-white flowers (left) became an instant success. Isaac demanded cash payment from purchasers before the ship left on its long journey and his 1885 catalogue insisted that “I do a cash business and that only. My customers will therefore please understand that I require cash at Yokohama as soon as the

goods are safely packed and on board the mail boats.” The safe transport of these delicate

items on their long journey back was vital. (right: one of Bunting’s adverts from Japan Society website) His increasing business saw Hythe Quay swamped in mid-winter with incoming cargo of hundreds of identical wooden crates, originally of cedar wood but later of cheaper deal, packed with thousands of lily bulbs, each one covered with protective clay by Japanese workers practised in clay modelling.

There were several firms like Buntings in and around Colchester

so reputation was vital. Customers relied on Buntings to deliver these lilies safely back to the wide European market so good packing was vital as seawater could ruin a delivery. To support the growing demand Buntings increased their Hythe Quay premises by building an icehouse so that on arrival an unexpected change in temperature or humidity would not spoil the delicate cargo. Awaiting the arrival of the bulb cargo, the men’s wear was prepared for export and the return journey to Japan, via the Suez Canal. Isaac Bunting was also shrewd enough to include bolts of Colchester wool, although it was already in decline, but for many years the very successful lily bulb business was the major part of the Bunting’s turnover.

He regularly returned home with gifts for the family and friends. On his return in 1880 he married Sarah Ann French on 17th August in Woodham Walter, Essex, and they returned to Japan where they had four children, two sons and two daughters. As soon as they were old enough the two sons, Ernest Isaac and Frank Ellis, were working in the business enabling their father to find and identify new and rare bulbs in the many Japanese islands. This brought to the islanders welcome employment and income and they were now trained to collect and wrap the valuable bulbs in dried sugar cane leaves to protect them on their journey to Yokohama and then to Europe. Over the years a story built up that Isaac Bunting



LILIUM AURATUM.
PHOTOGRAPHED AT NORTH NURSERY, COLCHESTER

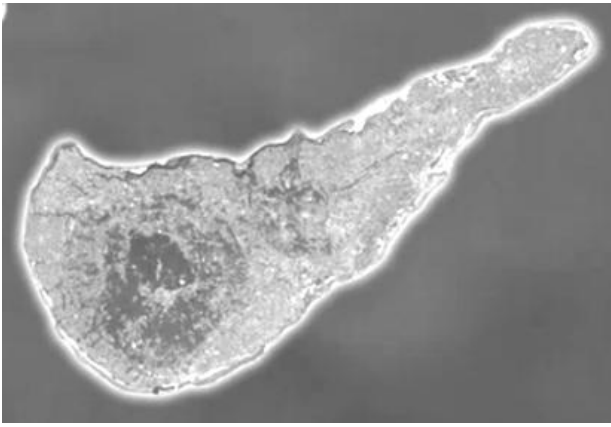
THE STANDARD
OF EXCELLENCE.

ISAAC
BUNTING'S
LILIUM
AURATUM

HAVE DESERVEDLY
OBTAINED THE
REPUTATION OF BEING
**SECOND
TO NONE.**

QUALITY
THE FIRST
CONSIDERATION.

For prices of specially selected
bulbs please see page 4.



had been shipwrecked off the island of Okierabu (Okinoerabu) (*left*), halfway between Taiwan and Japan, and was saved by the islanders. In gratitude he is supposed to have started the business there with what they had always regarded as weeds. Transport to and from Japan had improved over the decades and the Trans-Siberian Railway between Moscow and Vladivostok opened in the early 1900s but the journey was still 6,000 miles by land with a 400 mile sea crossing.

William died in 1895 and the business had to be broken up between members of the family causing some friction over the following years. The Lexden Road business was left to William Ellis, retaining the name “Bunting and Sons”. Alfred was left a small acreage of land close to the barracks which he sold, but his unmarried sisters, Harriet and Julia, had benefitted from North Nursery being left in trust to them to provide an income. Alfred then rented land from them, where he set up and ran North Nursery but this no longer carried the Bunting name.

The Lexden business under William Ellis went from strength to strength and he also secured some notable local contracts. However, his son, William Whorlow, was more interested in helping the youth of the town and in 1906 he built the Bunting Rooms in Culver Street (*right: 3 top windows – taken 2011 by Glynn Baker*). A fully equipped gym, St George’s Gymnasium for Young Men, was on the ground floor and the first floor accommodated the St George’s Institute juniors, which ultimately became the 1st Colchester Boy Scout Troop – one of the very first in that movement.



There was a division in the family resulting in a separation of the ways between Alfred who was working on his own at North Nursery and William Ellis and his son, who retained the original trading name “Bunting and Sons”. William Ellis died in 1916 and William Whorlow ran the Lexden business until he died in 1922 but being childless, he left it to one of his employees, not to Alfred or other members of the family. Unfortunately this man had no commercial acumen, failing to appreciate the company’s value and it went out of business a few years later, resulting in the land being sold off.

However, the Bunting business at home and abroad continued to be very successful and as wild lily bulbs were being developed and cultivated in England this helped to solve the problem of their increasing scarcity in Japan. Some years after the First World War Isaac decided to move with his wife, Sarah, to Vancouver where he carried on with his lily bulb business until he died in 1927

Eventually Alfred’s son, Eric, succeeded in buying back the “Bunting and Sons” name and used it at North Nursery. Alfred died in 1926 and Eric took over the business with great success, helped by his son, Peter, and in time his grandsons, Stephen and Benjamin joined the company. Lily bulbs by this time were no longer their prime product, having been overtaken by tomato plants.

In 1935 the Lexden Road Nursery was sold but Buntings continued over the years – a well-known local company. Eric died in 1964 and in 1969, having sold the North Nursery site for building, the company moved to Great Horkesley where they branched out with a five year plan to build many enormous greenhouses (*right*) to grow tomatoes. They did ground-breaking research into fighting tomato plant pests and received the Queens Award in 1991 for Export Achievement. This successful development was sold in 1992 to Ciba Geigy but by this time Buntings was facing the competition of many overseas importers.



They had bought the large Tudor house, Westwood Park, in Little Horkesley (*left*) in 1993



opening up various businesses and, having stopped growing tomatoes in the late 2000s, the Bunting family diversified further but the 200 year old nursery business finally had to close. For ten years the family tried to develop the 113 acre site under various names, one was the John Constable Heritage Centre with cafés, a shire horse centre and different shops selling a variety of suitable goods. However, the plans were not received well

locally with many protests about increased traffic, congested roads and that the plans had inflated the possibility of success. They tried again with the Stour Valley Heritage Centre but this was once again vigorously opposed by local groups and constantly turned down by Colchester Planning Committee so after 200 years Buntings and Sons finally went into administration - a sad end to an internationally known family business.

Postscript: I found an interesting item from the Japanese Embassy in the UK describing a visit of the Japan British Society of Kagoshima to the UK in spring of 2013 including a visit to Colchester to see where Isaac Bunting, the “discoverer” of the Erabu-lily (*Lilium longiflorum*), was born. They also visited the Hythe where Isaac had his warehouse from where “Bunting lilies” were distributed to many places including Covent Garden Market, St. Paul’s Cathedral and even Buckingham Palace.

They repeat the shipwreck story of 1898 off Okierabu Island, Kagoshima. After his recovery, whilst walking, Isaac Bunting was astounded by the profusion of beautiful wild white lilies and encouraged the islanders to collect the bulbs which he collected a couple of years later, enabling the island to thrive as an “an island of lilies”. A song about this special erabu-lily has been written and recorded (*right*). The islanders have not forgotten what he did for them.



I must confess that I have copied the following extract almost word for word from my 1825 illustrated copy (*right*) of “History and Description of the Ancient Town and Borough of Colchester in Essex” by Thomas Kitson Cromwell. The original book was published in 1803 and dedicated to “Sir George Henry Smyth of Bere Church Hall whose family has long been resident in the neighbourhood of Colchester and whose father for several years represented the Borough in Parliament”.

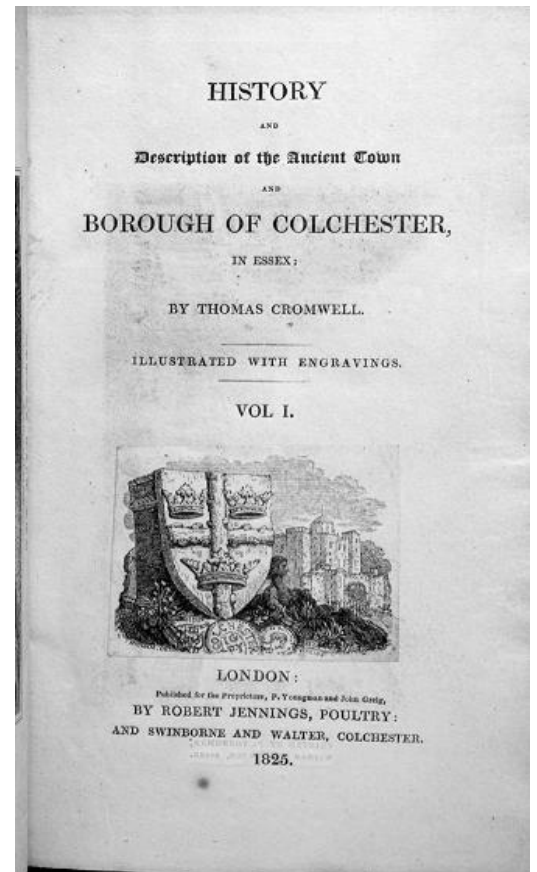
Thomas Cromwell was born in 1792, ordained in 1830 as a Unitarian and served in Stoke Newington until 1864 when he moved to a Presbyterian congregation in Canterbury until his death in 1870. He contributed many articles to various periodicals as well as writing several books about London and East Anglia, becoming a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1838. It is apparent that he much preferred to mention the larger, more impressive houses owned by Lexden’s wealthy and influential families and not the general appearance of the village.

My book was previously owned by a certain Robert Hill who wrote copiously on the inside cover but unfortunately the last line, which may have contained more interesting information, has been scratched out. He exhorts his friends who were encouraged to borrow the book to “Read slowly, pause frequently, think seriously, return in due time” It was given to a Miss J Bedford “In Remembrance of R Hill 1st March 1870, but I am unable to identify either of these people.

I have used the original text, spelling and punctuation, so mistakes are not, this time, mine!

Chapter IV - Environs of Colchester – “The parishes with the liberties of the town, with the most remarkable places and objects adjacent”

The four parishes situated at some small distance from Colchester, but considered within its liberties, are, Lexden, Mile-end, Greenstead, and Bere-church.



LEXDEN. This is the largest and most populous of the four mentioned, and lies about a mile west from the town, on the road to London. From Colchester it is approached by Crouch Street, whose name points to the situation of the house and chapel of the Crouched Friars, the last remains of which were removed in Morant’s time. (*left: Rev Philip Morant, MA, FSA, 1700-70, wrote extensively about the local area and was described as an “amiable portly gentleman”*)

Of the various conjectures respecting the etymology of the word Lexden, the most probable appears that given secondarily by Morant; namely, that it is derived from the Saxon *læc*, stranger, and *dun*, a hill, or more properly a fortification upon a hill; the Romans, or Strangers alluded to having had a fortified camp, it is

well known, upon the most commanding spot of this pleasing eminence, vestiges of which are yet existing.

The manorial history of Lexden cannot be traced to an earlier period than the reign of Henry II, when the lord was Hubert de St Clare. In Domesday Book, where the name is written *Lessendena*, it is termed only a berewite (that is, a village, or hamlet) in Stanway manor. From the time of Edward I, until about the year 1612, it was in the Lords Fitzwalter: and prior to the decease of the last of that family without issue, was purchased by Sir Thomas Lucas, for his illegitimate son Thomas; who was afterwards knighted by Charles I, and resided here until his estate was sequestered by the Parliament, when their standing committee for the county acted in his place. His eldest son, Charles, succeeded him in the manor; became Baron Lucas of Sheffield on the death of John Lord Lucas in 1671; and died, without issue, in 1688. By a female heir it then passed in succession to the families of Selfe and Rawstorn; and the present lord is the Rev J R Papillon, whose residence is in the village. (*Charles Lucas did not die "without issue". His two daughters and his widow inherited the manor and Penelope, one of the daughters, married Isaac Selfe, who bought the manor outright and sold it to Samuel Rawstorn who married Sarah Papillon.*)

Lexden Lodge, though now only a farm-house, may formerly have been the residence of the Lords Fitzwalter, and other possessors of the manor; for here the manorial courts are yet held, and an ancient moat surrounds it. The house is seen in the fields north of the London road, very pleasantly situated (*right c1814 anon*),



The Park (*now Lexden Springs*), an ancient appendage of the manor, was extensive, and chiefly on the north side of the river, whose windings appear in that direction from the high grounds of Lexden. The comparatively small plot now called Lexden Park, lies south of the road, and contains the site of the late residence of John Fletcher Mills Esq, upon which a new house is at this time erecting by Mr David Laing, architect of the town Exchange (*today the Co-op Bank*). The remnant of the park surroundings, contains some noble trees, considerable variety of surface, and a handsome sheet of water; and in the brake and broom which clothe parts of its embrowned eminences, still presents something of the wilder features of nature.

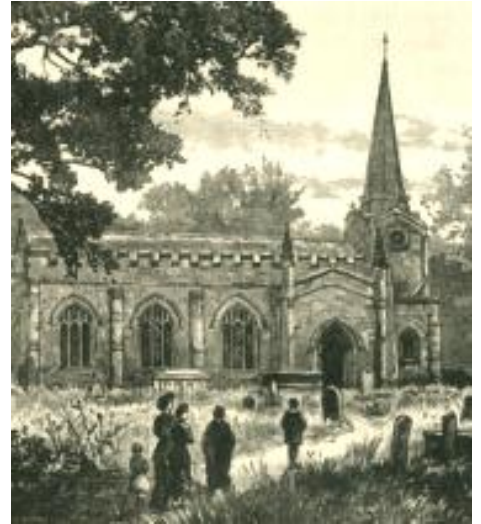


Opposite these grounds is the seat of John De Horne Esq; (*Hill House, de Thorne 1771-1845*) and, on the same side of the road, more in the centre of the village, that of the Rev George Preston, Rector. This latter is approached from the road by an avenue (*now Spring Lane*), bordered on either side by trees and a parterre; the front, which appears from the head of the avenue, is in the gothic style, turreted and the whole building stone-coloured (*left - artist unknown*). The site of the house is a retired but tastefully wooded bottom; the park-like grounds, which are seen to advantage from the hill, very prettily undulating. A red-brick seat, on the

left of the road entering Lexden from London, is beautifully situated, and surrounded with well-arranged pleasure-grounds; it is the residence of George Round, Esq. (*rebuilt in later years and now "Lexden Hospital" at junction of Cymbeline Way and London Road. George Round JP1771-1823 was a member of the Round family of Birch Hall, Colchester Castle and Hollytrees*)

The Church (*right*), with its surrounding burial-ground, faces the approach to the Rectory. It is a small but very neat specimen of modern Gothic architecture, erected within the last ten years (*actually only 3-4 years earlier*), consisting of a body and chancel, with a tower, and leaded spire. The principal entrance is by the north porch, which has a pinnacle at each angle of its front, ornamented with crockets and a finial. The body is turretted, and the arches of the door-ways and windows are pointed in a very good style.

The interior is extremely neat, but perhaps carries with it an appearance too merely chapel-like. On a marble tablet, placed under the singers' gallery is the following inscription:



By means of subscriptions
amounting to £900., of a Grant of £500 from the Society for promoting the enlargement
and building of Churches and Chapels,
and of a Rate,

It is capable of accommodating 525 persons;
and in consequence of the above Grant,
300 sittings, in addition to 50 formerly provided,
are hereby declared free and unappropriated for ever.

The Rev George Preston, M.A.) Henry Hayward)
Rector) James Tillett)
Churchwardens.

It must afford pleasure to every mind imbued with the spirit of a benevolent and rational religion, to observe so large a proportion of the whole number of sittings in this little building "free and unappropriated"; and if the grants of the Society are always thus usefully employed, munificence could hardly be better devoted than to its support.

The only monumental decoration of the interior, is a memorial affixed to the south wall, which was similarly situated in the old church, simply informing the reader that Richard Hewett died the XXV of April MDCCLXXI aged XXXVIII.

Which inscription is placed on a tablet in the centre of the handsomely sculptured marble base, while an urn of the same material appears at top. The tablet is supported by angels in relief, who in their opposite hands hold inverted torches. On the urn are three figures in relief, whose emblematical meaning, as a group, is not very apparent; but one of the three seems to be holding a distaff, while a second may be recording upon a scroll, the virtues of the deceased. The whole is of very good marble, and an ornament, taken altogether, to the church; but neither the style nor the execution of these figures, it will be conjectured, is extraordinary

Ascending the hill from this spot, we observe, on the left, the Seat of the Rev IR Papillon, lord of the manor, as before mentioned, which is decorated on one side by a tasteful *grotto*. Other seats to be noticed in this vicinity, but nearer Colchester, are those of G Errington, Esq (George Henry Errington 1777-1843 lived at 'Casina' now St Mary's School - right), G Roddam, Esq, MD, (left - 1774-1838 physician to the Royal family, lived at St Mary's Lodge – now Vint Crescent) and Francis Smythies, Esq (right 1779-1840). The latter a building imitative of gothic architecture, and commanding a beautiful prospect from the eastern front. (left - The Turrets. built in 1818 by the Colchester-born architect Robert Lugar)



Some mention of the *Ancient Intrenchments*,

considerable remains of which existed, until recently, upon Lexden Heath, must not be here omitted. These “evidently appeared” (to Morant) “to be remains of the *castra*, *castellan*, and *praesidia*, mentioned by Tacitus, that were placed about the ancient Colonia-Camulodunum.” Very few vestiges of these works are now apparent, the heath having been of late years entirely enclosed and cultivated*; but on their survey about a century back,** they could be traced for several miles, and in various directions, but especially towards Mersea Island, which the Romans greatly frequented, and where several discoveries of tessellated pavements, &c, have taken place. One portion of these vast works undoubtedly constituted the *Cam* formed for the more immediate protection of Camulodunum, the which Petilius Cerialis (left) escaped with the horse of the ninth legion, after his rout by the incensed Britons under Queen Boadicea.



The Population Return for Lexden gave the houses at 189; male inhabitants, 457; females, 475; total population, 932.

*(Lexden Heath, comprising 290 acres, was enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1821. The two main local landowners, John Fletcher Mills and John Papillon were responsible for acquiring much of the local common land, after which the Papillon family owned 1,216 acres and Mills a mere 296 acres out of the total of 2,312 acres in the parish, land which had been regularly used by the local population for grazing, horse racing and also for military camps, causing much local dissatisfaction)

**Survey taken by the Rev T Lufkin and Payler Smith, Esq. July 12, 1722, for the particulars of which see Morant, Book II p 25.

William Ernest Moss (*right*) was born in November 1896 the second of seven children of Samuel and Elizabeth. Samuel was a horseman on a local farm and Elizabeth worked; as many women did in those days, as a laundress to bring in desperately needed money to a poor family. They lived at 14 Spring Lane, Lexden (now demolished for the Avenue of Remembrance) and in 1911 William was working as cowman on a farm, possibly on the same farm as his father, one of many in the local area.



He enlisted in Wivenhoe with the Essex Regiment (*left – Essex Regiment badge*) and was given the regimental number 43582. He probably started with the 8th (Cyclist) Battalion in Colchester which on mobilisation moved to Wivenhoe where the battalion headquarters was based but his records were destroyed with many others during WW2 bombing in London. The Cyclist Battalion did not serve abroad which is why he transferred to the 9th Battalion, one of the New Armies formed by Kitchener. The 9th came under 35 Brigade and in early March

1915 moved to Blenheim barracks in Aldershot to prepare for embarking for France. They landed at Boulogne on 15th March 1915.

The battalion served at the Battle of the Somme in the summer of 1916 and at the Battle of Albert in July 1916 before they had even reached the British front line the 9th Essex came under heavy shellfire, their progress made considerably worse by the deep shell holes. During August they relieved troops at the Battle of Arras and then returned to the Somme where they took part in the battle of Le Transloy and again in October returned to Arras. There were many skirmishes but although it was relatively quiet, there were many raids and frequent shellfire during which William was wounded. His wounds would have been dressed before he was taken to 41st Clearing Station at Namps, south of Amiens, a tented hospital behind the lines with an operating theatre and wards. The 41st had opened in October 1916 but by the end of November it had become necessary to start an extension to the local cemetery.

William sadly died at the 41st on 12th December 1916 and is buried at Wanquetin, communal cemetery extension, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France. The inscription at the base of his gravestone (*right, courtesy Claude Laignel*) was chosen by his family: “Rock of ages cleft for me let me hide myself in thee”. His mother received a war gratuity payment of £11 10s, his Victory and British War medals and Memorial Plaque.



Another local connection to 41st Casualty Clearing Station was Nurse Katherine Evelyn Luard who was born in 1871. Her father was the rector at Birch from 1895 and she was known as Evie in the family but as Kate elsewhere. She served at several Clearing stations, arriving at the 41st in 1918, sometime after the death of William E Moss. John Singer Sargent was sketching for his major work “Gassed” with the 4th Army near Peronne when he

became ill with influenza in late September 1918 and was admitted to the 41st for a week. Whilst there he wrote a letter to his friend, Mrs Isabella Stewart Gardner, describing the “horrific fitful nights” with “the accompaniment of groans of wounded, and the choking and coughing of gasses men, which was a nightmare – it always seems strange on opening one’s eyes (the next morning) to see the level cots and the dimly lit long tent looking so calm, when one was dozing in pandemonium,” (*see cover painting*)

Kate Luard (*right*) first worked as a governess and then trained at the nursing school of Kings College Hospital, London. She joined the Army Nursing Service in 1900, covering the Second Anglo-Boer War. She enlisted with Queen Alexandra’s Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve on 6th August 1914, serving first on the Ambulance Trains and then at the Casualty Clearing Stations in France and Belgium. She was twice mentioned in dispatches for “gallant and distinguished service in the field” and was awarded the Royal Red Cross and Bar – high honours. She kept a diary throughout the war, recording her experiences and also wrote many letters. There is a comprehensive archive of these held at the Essex Record Office in Chelmsford.



Digressing slightly - Kate Luard’s sister-in-law, Eloise Beatrice Luard, bought Weavers 187 Lexden Road in the early 1920s and appointed architect Duncan W Clark to remove the Georgian facade and restore the Tudor frontage. This was completed in 1923.

More memories of Chitts Hill Bombing 1941 (see LHG Newsletter No 81, June 2026)
from a letter to Colchester Recalled Issue No 4

Although she never received any publicity, she would have hated it anyway, but my mother was one of the unsung heroines of the 1941 train bombing at Chitts Hills, Lexden. We had been here a few weeks from the East End of London where we had already been bombed out of a house and a school we were sheltering in. My mother decided to evacuate us all to a relation on Chitts Hills (*sic*). We all, on a lovely September day marched down to this Aunt with only what we stood up in.

We rented a little wooden bungalow, called Rose Cottage, for ten shillings a week, it had an outside toilet and was very bare inside. The people down Chitts Hills took us to their hearts and with them and Reeman Dansie salerooms, mum made it a little home. We thought we were in heaven, still alive, what with thirty fruit trees in the garden.

Late on Saturday afternoon whilst in the sitting room, my sister heard a plane – and on looking out we saw the German markings. It started machine gunning, we thought it was aiming for our bungalow, but by then the train had stopped outside our door. The passengers scrambled up the bank into our bungalow. The train looked like a pepper pot. My Mum tore up sheets, towels and pillowcases as bandages for the wounded and used all her rations to make tea. I will never forget what my Mum did that terrible snowy afternoon in 1941, so cheerfully and when all the ambulances and voluntary services had left Chitts Hills, what a mess she had to clear up.

My mother was Mrs Jane Elizabeth Beddoes – she died in 1977.

Yours sincerely,
Lill Jolly, Colchester.

Our Australian Friends

It was a pleasure to welcome Charles and Caroline Cordy-Hedge from Perth in Australia to our AGM in May. Charles is directly descended from the Hedge family, Colchester Clockmakers, and has family connections with Lexden. They read our Newsletters online.

Your Committee

Chairman

Position vacant

Secretary and Newsletter Editor

Liz White

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Treasurer

Robert Cobb

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Membership and Speaker Secretary

Jackie Bowis

jebowis50@gmail.com

General Members

Ian Bowis 01206 561528

Gill Shrimpton 01206 545969

Lynn Sturges 01206 355494

Val Asker 01206 853046

Forthcoming Meetings

Wednesday 14th October 2026

Mark Hockly

"A symbol of European courage"

Wednesday 11th November 2026

Peter Rowbottom

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Wednesday 9th December 2026

LHG Christmas Party 2.30pm to 4pm

**Meetings are held on
the 2nd Wednesday of each month
at 2.30pm in St Leonard's Church Hall, Lexden.**

Annual Membership subscriptions

£25 Family, £18 Single