

**Essex Society for Family History**  
**Annual General Meeting 15 October 2022**  
**Trustees' Report 2021-2022**

Throughout the year we have had a presence at the Really Useful Show and Rootstech both online and we are grateful for all the volunteers who helped us answer queries over total of 73 hours at the two events. In the preparation for the shows we are grateful for the expertise of Trevor Rix in preparing the booth information.

We were given some stats by Rootstech after the show; there were 616 visitors to the booth; 865 pages of information were viewed and the people who visited or read the information came from 15 countries so we are gaining some good publicity and also new members.

We have attended several virtual coffee mornings organised by Family History Federation and picked up hints and tips plus discussing the running of hybrid meetings plus attended events at local libraries where we could discuss family history with visitors to our stand, and several of them joined the Society. Also we had a presence on a couple of Radio stations in Essex where we were able to inform the listeners about our Open Day and the library events.

During 2021-2022, a year which covered the end of Covid and the time we were coming out of the restrictions imposed, we held 39 zoom meetings of which 7 were hybrid meetings. There were 3619 zoom attendees with 66 people attending in person at 7 meetings at venues. This works out as an average of 93 attendees per zoom and 9 attendees in person at venues. In addition to these talks there were several workshops where we hope the members have improved their knowledge about DNA, software packages and resources etc.

The talks organised by the planning group have been incorporated into the programme with many of the suggestions in the survey we ran last year being added. More will be added to the schedule for 2023 and they are always looking for other ideas for talks so if you have any ideas please contact the Society Programme Co-ordinator via our website.

With regards to projects, we have many members transcribing parish registers at home, ~~and~~ in the research centre ~~plus~~ and at the Colchester branch meetings. This ~~which~~ has increased the data on our genealogical database available to all members or by purchase as digital downloads. The monumental inscriptions team are looking to complete several churchyards.

A member researching their family history noticed that a church register was not listed in the Essex Record Office. She approached the church and informed the Society and we were able to borrow the register and then we paid the ERO to make a digital copy for the benefit of our members and other researchers using the ERO.

The Society is also reviewing its data from previous projects with a view to converting them to a modern computer format so that they can be incorporated into the databases on the web site. The complete set of Poor Law indexes were originally published on microfiche, c1995 and later, in 2004, on compact disc, have now been uploaded.

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This year Paul Stirland our webmaster has, with help from John Lodge our website hosting manager, made improvements to the website and this has resulted in additional data being added to help members in their research

In keeping with our constitution, we have continued to make a donation to the Victoria County Histories project and our Student Award winner Julie Miller was presented with her Certificate at a meeting this year and she gave us a talk about her project relating to Quaker families from Essex who emigrated to America.

In order to ensure the smooth running of the Society we continue to review and amend where necessary any processes, policies and codes of practice and these are accessible on our website and include contingency plans for roles within the Society.

During the year we sadly lost several of our members.

Eric Probert, One of our Vice Presidents, who, during his membership of the Society, had twice been Chairman; a Programme Secretary; a volunteer at our research centre; a reviewer of Books for the Historian and helping organise Essex Family History Conferences.

Jack Baxter was one of the first members of the Society. Jack had edited books listing Essex Marriages 1754-1851 and Burials 1813 – 1865 and he was responsible for researching settlement material for the Rochford Hundred.

Dave Wells, a onetime editor of The Essex Family Historian, who in 2002 was awarded the Elizabeth Simpson Award for Family History Journal, an issue he had put together and which was considered the finest in a worldwide competition.

During the year Fred Feather retired as Vice President, after many years as Chairman, Editor and speaker and Helen Matten is standing as a member of the executive committee and we thank them both for their contributions to the Society.

The Trustees thank everyone who helps the Society in the running of meetings, act as volunteers in the research room, carry out specific duties and participate at meetings as without you there would be no Society.

Finally we welcome to the Society our new Patron, the Rt Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani who when informed that as a Society we have gradually been transcribing the parish registers in Essex along with recording the Monumental Inscriptions in order to make the information available to family historians and to ensure the information is not lost due to the erosion of the writing on the stones, especially on the old stones, replied that the Society is obviously doing valuable work to ensure information is not lost.

Elizabeth Cox - Chair

On behalf of the Trustees