



Once again St. Thomas, Brentwood raised the most money for Ride & Stride

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

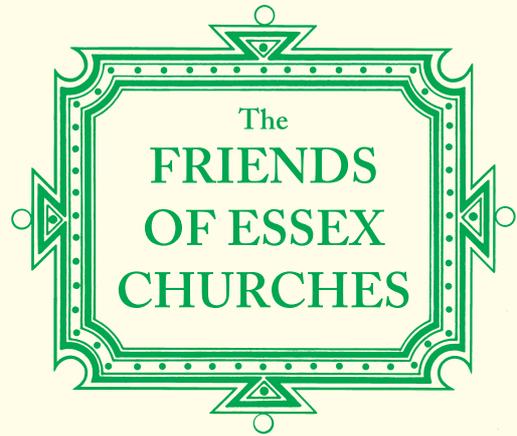
I am delighted to be able to tell you we have had another very successful year. We have been able to allocate to the Grants Committee the largest sum ever. We are hugely indebted to all those people who give us money.

For seven years WREN has been our biggest single donor to enable us to give extra help to those buildings covered by the Landfill Tax rules. The benefit has been enormous and we are very grateful. Sadly, this source of funds has come to an end as WREN's sites in Essex are now full, and so under the rules they cannot continue their support. A final THANK YOU therefore to WREN.

I should also like to thank Ann Hilder who was appointed our representative on the WREN board by Geoffrey Morgan when he was chairman of FEC. It proved an inspired choice and I feel we have done better than anyone could have hoped thanks to Ann's efforts on our behalf. We now have the task of replacing this revenue stream. It will not be easy.

The Reverend John Morley has been Chairman of the Grants Committee for well over 20 years. He has decided it is time for him to retire and will stand down after the AGM. We owe him the greatest possible thanks for his leadership and tact and for his genius at getting on with people and his powers of persuasion. I know churches would have got a lot less support from Essex Environmental Trust and from the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, to name but two, without John's influence. We will miss John hugely.

At our February meeting David Lodge was elected to succeed John as Grants Committee Chairman, the committee could not be in more expert hands.



Supporting Churches in Essex & East London

ANNUAL REVIEW & ACCOUNTS 2006

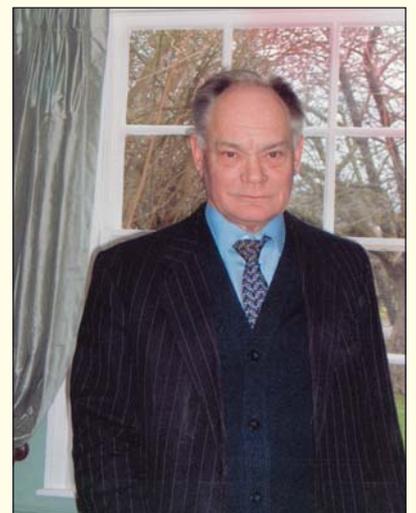
Another retiree is Tim Pratt who has been Treasurer of the Events Committee for the last five years; our sincere thanks to Tim for his work for this committee, which, incidentally, has increased fund raising by one third in 2006. Lady Vanessa Watson has taken over the post of Treasurer.

John Hoskins led our Ride & Stride this year, for the first time, and raised over £100,000. You will find more about this in the Review.

James Bettley's Study Days continue to grow in numbers, as people appreciate the quality of his presentation.

What we need now are more members. Subscriptions are an important part of income. We have included a membership form with this Review. If each one of you could recruit just one new member think of the difference it would make. Completed forms should be sent to our Hon. Membership Secretary Keith Gardner.

Finally, I want to thank all the people serving on our committees; it has been a privilege to be your Chairman and to work with you all. I pass the baton now to Julia Abel Smith who has been proposed as our new Chairman. You could not have a better person for the next few years. I fear they may be more financially difficult than in my years in office and her youth and energy will be vital.



Lance Lepper

Hello, and welcome to my first Ride & Stride Report. Taking over from Julia Abel Smith last March, I had no idea how the year to 9th September was going to pan out. In the end I would say “interesting” and “exciting” sums it up. As I write this in early February 2007, I have heard from Ray Clements that we have broken through the £100,000, so well done to everyone who took part. Obviously, we would love to raise more money, but I will come to that later.

The 2006 Ride & Stride was launched at St. Thomas, Brentwood, the winners of the 2005 event. Lord Petre was there to present the trophy and Song Cycle gave a rendition of one of their songs. Everywhere they go they impress people with their music. It looks as though the church raising most in 2006 will again be St. Thomas, Brentwood - thanks you to all - participants and sponsors.

The 9th September dawned sunny and warm - a perfect day for riding and striding - so I got my car out! Well, I wanted to get out and meet the Riders & Striders and get some photos. I drove south from Braintree to St. Mary's, Great Leighs with its wonderful round tower, and met a lovely couple awaiting their first visitors. I went on via Holy Cross, Felsted to the Priory Church of St. Mary Little Dunmow. It is well worth a visit containing many unusual features. Outside I met Graham Brine, our local rep from Rayne. He was dressed the part for a good day's cycling and I hope he got a good total.

At St. Mary, Stebbing I met Bert Felgate “signing in”; he took some of my mini Mars Bars for lunch as it was about mid-day. By 1pm I was at St. Peter Ugley to see Colin Clarke manning his table and offering a welcome biscuit and orange juice - even to a car driver! We were visited by Daniel Auger who said he had cycled from Chelmsford - an admirable journey - but as his goal was an hotel room in Ely that night I hope he was being sponsored at 50p a mile. South from there through Elsenham and Takeley to the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes at Hatfield Broad Oak where I met two lovely ladies selling wonderful fruit cake at far too reasonable a price! We were joined by about a dozen members of the Hatfield Heath Youth Group and their leader Mike Clargo. It is good to see so many young people taking part in the event.

At Hatfield Heath URC the signature sheet was already halfway down column 2 and they ended up with 28 visitors, whilst further on at St. Edmund Abbess Roding they had 19. They had a Flower Festival also on that day, which meant the churchyard was well attended with people in the marquees, plus Andrew Parminter manning the Ride & Stride table. At St. Martin White Roding, as it is so

secluded, I thought I might have a few quiet minutes for a sandwich - but no - there were voices and in the church porch I found our Julia, her husband and friends - there is no hiding on Ride & Stride day!

St. Botolph, Beauchamp Roding sits proud on its own surrounded by fields and accessed by a track from the main road, and I was pleased to see 15 cyclists had made it, to be greeted by Churchwarden Elizabeth Reed, who showed me some of the features of the church including the raised pews at the rear accessed by their own pull out steps. My last call was All Saints, Stock at about 5.15pm where I met Julia Seaman. We were pleased to see each other at this late hour; there had been 13 visitors during the day.

All in all, a very interesting day and after months of planning, it was good to get out and see Ride & Stride in action.

I would very much like to see more people from the London Boroughs taking part, possibly with more walkers. Graham Field is one of our championing voices in East London, and at St. Paul's, East Ham he had refreshments, facilities and cycle tools on hand. They had 12 visitors but would like to see more people from East London out and about on 8th September this year.

To give you an idea of the hill we have to climb, Waltham Forest Area 8 has the most places of worship - 84 - and a population of around 200,000. Last year we received just one form back and £20! Part of the problem is the lack of Area Organisers to work between myself and the 1100 local reps at the churches. There are 25 areas in the Diocese but I only have 8 Area Organisers I can call upon. If there is anyone from the following areas who would volunteer to help please contact me:

Barking, Epping Forest, Harlow, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Waltham Forest, Brentwood, North Chelmsford, Maldon, Southend, Hinckford, Braintree, Colchester, Harwich, St. Osyth.

Please also contact me to let me know if **your** church will be open on 8th September this year and participating, your contact details, plus details of the local rep who should receive the Ride & Stride pack. This will stop us sending out unnecessary and mis-directed mail (both costly)

Finally, I believe in aiming high - my dream is that every church should have at least 25 visitors and raise £1,000 per church! But above all, just remember it is the taking part that counts AND IT IS FUN!!

REMEMBER - 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2007

John Hoskins, County Organiser
4 Kingfisher Gate, Bocking, CM7 9AF. 01376 552350 johnhoskins85@msn.com



Above: Lord Petre with the Reverend Robert White and members of Song Cycle at St. Thomas Brentwood

Right: Vanessa Watson, Julia and Charles Abel Smith and David Scott at St. Martin White Roding

Below: Hatfield Heath Youth Group and Mike Clargo at Our Lady of Lourdes, Hatfield Broad Oak



We are in the process of updating and improving our web site.
Make sure you log on to www.foec.org.uk to find out the latest news and about Events that are taking place



Brian Gilders from St. Mary Little Baddow and his party of 3 cyclists visited 52 churches and covered 50 miles and a walker managed 24 churches before 2pm!

Frank Kelly from All Saints Springfield managed 25 churches around Chelmsford and raised £553.

Anne and Tony Holmes' party from St. John RC Ingatestone, clocked up 53 miles visiting 34 churches and raising £448. As a nice touch they sent thank you cards to the sponsors explaining what they had done.

Caroline Lambert from St. John Danbury visited 35 churches in just 35 miles. She found Maldon's 10 churches a good boost to the total.

Beryl Knight from All Saints, Wickham St. Paul's took a party of 7 walking across the fields to Gestingthorpe and Bulmer. At Sudbury, where they had lunch, Beryl gave a conducted tour of the 12 places of worship in the town. By 5pm they had covered 7 miles on foot.

GRANTS 2006

Abridge Holy Trinity	General Repairs	£ 10000
Becontree St George	Roof Repairs	15000
Billericay St. John the Divine	General Repairs	1500
Bradwell on Sea St Peter on the Wall	Buttress Repairs	1500
Braintree Christ Church	General Repairs	2000
Broomfield Methodist Church	General Repairs	6000
East Donyland St Lawrence	Lightning Conductor	500
East Springfield St Saviour	Timber & Door Replacement	5000
East Tilbury St Catherine	Essential Electrical	8000
Forest Gate St saviour	Window Repairs	6000
Gosfield St Catherine	Window Repairs	4000
Great Bromley St George	Window Repairs	2000
Great Bursted St Mary Magdalene	Steeple Repairs	2000
Great Waltham St Mary & St Lawrence	Roof Timbers & Masonry Repairs	15000
Harlow St Andrew Methodist	Asbestos Removal	10000
Heybridge St Andrew	General Repairs	8000
Heydon Holy Trinity	Drainage Works	3000
High Laver All Saints	Room & Mastonry Repairs	10000
Highwood St Pauls	Floor Repairs	1000
Marks Tey St Andrew	Underpinning	5000
Lamarsh Holy Innocets	Tower Repairs	3000
Leytonstone St Margaret	Roofing	10000
Little Clacton St James	Render Repairs	10000
Rettendon All Saints	Roofing	10000
Rochford St Andres	Roof & Buttress Repairs	2000
Roydon St Peter	Roof & Parapet Repairs	8000
Runwell St Mary	Plaster Repairs	1000
Sible Hedingham St Peter	Tower Repairs	4000
South Woodford Holy Trinity	Tower Repairs	2000
Stebbing st Mary the Virgin	Spire Repairs	3000
Thorpe le Soken St Michael	Roof Repairs	10000
Thundersley St Peter	Spire & Tower Recladding	4000
White Colne St Andrew	Spire Repairs	10000
Witham Methodist Church	General Repairs	2000
		£ 194500

WREN 2006

Becontree St George	Roof Repairs	£ 10000
Grays North St John	Damp Treatment	5000
Hornchurch Sts John & Matthew	Window Frame Replacements	8000
		£ 23,000

For grant application forms apply to:-

John Bloomfield
39 Lake Rise
Romford, RM1 4DZ
01708 745273
john.bloomfield@btinternet.com



Lamarsh Holy Innocents received £3000 for Tower Repairs

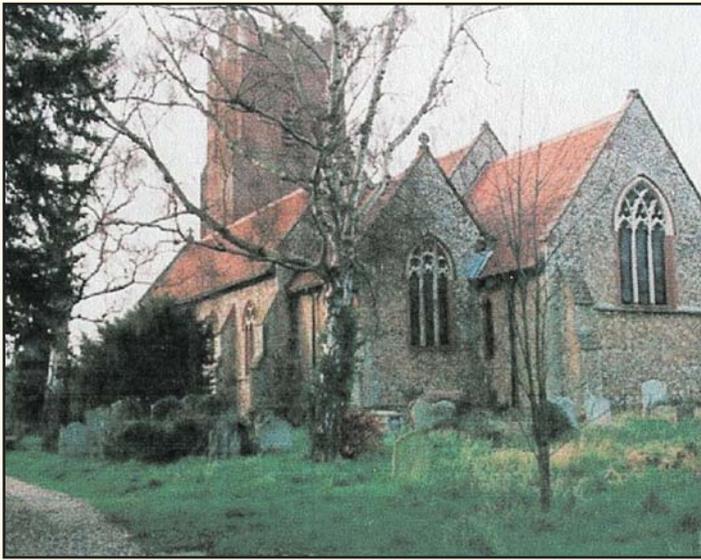


St Andrews, White Colne

Photo by Ian Rose

St. Andrew's, White Colne

Friends of Essex Churches gave £10,000 towards the repairs to the steeple of this beautiful church. At the beginning of February the weather proofing was in place and the parishioners were keeping their fingers crossed that nothing would be discovered, when the work started, which would mean repairs over and above those already expected.



*St. Michael Thorpe le Soken £10000 for Roof Repairs
Photo by Bill Cronkite*

We are grateful to Ian Rose for allowing us to use the photographs of St. Michael, Thorpe le Soken, and St. Andrew, White Colne, which we took from his web site.

To see the full range of photographs that can be found go to www.iananddot.org and click on to Essex Churches

If during the course of the year you receive a grant from FEC we would like to have a report from you and some photographs to include in the Review.

St. Mary & St. Lawrence, Great Waltham

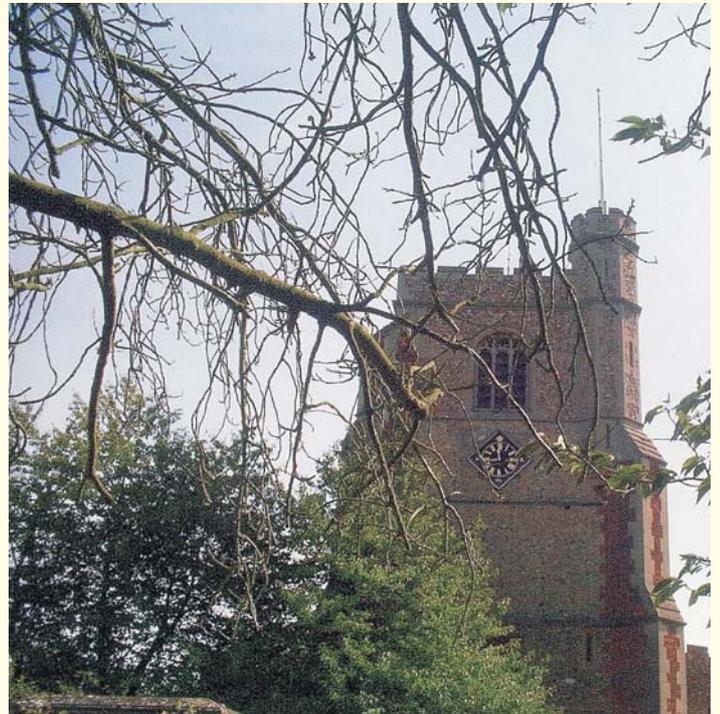
Work started in the new year. Repairs to plaster in the north aisle proved an even bigger task than had been thought. The plaster in and backing on to the tower has also had to be replaced. Rot was found in one of the main plates of the tower and in the base of the carved screen and this had to be dealt with.

It was a nasty shock to discover the electrical system was in a dangerous state - another task to be taken on.

Friends of Essex Churches were able to assist with a £15,000 grant for all the above.



Mick from Lodges Builders re-plastering the tower



Other work will be undertaken to improve the church, and in due course to provide a kitchen and loos; this work must be funded from other sources.

The parishioners are determined to hand on the church to future generations in the best possible condition. They had some good news at the beginning of February; English Heritage has recommended the church be upgraded to Grade 1. The church has a high survival of medieval and Norman fabric and contains high quality interior fixtures and fittings. Thus St. Mary's joins the other 150 churches in Essex that have been granted Grade 1 status.

Report from Rose Braisby,
Church Warden at Great Waltham



Brading Congregational Church

Chapel Crockery

Sir Alastair Stewart recently discovered that Mrs. Helen Harris, whose late husband had been a Congregational Minister and then URC Minister in the East Midlands and East Anglia, had a collection, begun in the 1960's, of Chapel crockery. Since as far back as the 18th Century, Chapel people had enjoyed a cup of tea after their Service and many congregations had their own tea services made to order with the name of the Chapel and denomination decoratively applied.

Mrs. Harris was looking for a home for her collection now amounting to about eighty pieces. The URC Chapel in Little Baddow has a History Centre and Alastair thought this would be a suitable place for it. With the support of the Chapel Elders and the History Centre Committee, he approached Mrs. Harris who readily agreed to this idea.

The collection lacks any examples of crockery from Essex, so if anyone comes across some at boot or antique fairs, house or jumble sales, do remember - it would be wonderful to add to the collection.

2006 PATRONS

The Lord Lieutenant of Essex,
The Lord Petre
The Bishop of Chelmsford,
The Right Revd. John Gladwin
The Bishop of Brentwood,
The Right Revd. Thomas McMahon

PRESIDENT: G. Courtauld
Vice-Presidents: Col Sir John
 Ruggles-Brise
 Lord Braybrooke

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & TRUSTEES

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Vice-Chairman: Julia Abel Smith
Hon. Treasurer: Ian Dudley
Hon. Secretary: Mary Blaxall
 James Bettley, John Bloomfield,
 Ray Clements, Keith Gardner,
 Ann Hilder, Revd. John Morley,
 Simon Mynott, Marisa Petre,
 Marion Scantlebury, Sir Alastair Stewart,
 Sarah White

Southend Branch

Thanks to a continuing recruitment campaign, supported by many of our present members, we have been able to maintain membership at over eighty. Even though some of our members, through ill health, are no longer able to travel with us on our outings, they continue to support us with subscriptions and donations. In 2006 we continued to have nearly full coaches for our outings to Brentwood Cathedral, North Stifford, Stratford, Cressing, Bury St. Edmunds and Arkesden. As is always the case, a warm welcome was received at each venue.

Please contact Betty Garrod on 01702 557466 or see www.foec.org.uk for more information about trips in 2007. *Don Woracker*

Contact Numbers:

Subscriptions and Donations: Keith Gardner 01708 688576
 keith.gardner@care4free.net
 Grant Applications: John Bloomfield 01708-745273
 john.bloomfield@btinternet.com
 Ride & Stride: John Hoskins 01376-552350
 johnhoskins85@msn.com
 Southend Branch: Don Woracker 01702-203027
 donworacker@hotmail.com
 General Enquiries: Mary Blaxall 01245-354745
 MBlaxall05@aol.com

TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Treasurers Report

During the year we received payments of £19,200 from Waste Recycling Environmental. This will be the last distribution from this source as the landfill sites at Aveley & Ongar are now full. Since 2001 we have received more than £400,000 from Waste Recycling and we must thank them for their enormous contribution to preserving the fabric of churches in this area. Unrestricted income from Members Subscriptions and Donations, together with the fundraising activities of our Events Committee and the Sponsored Bicycle Ride produced £115k, with interest and dividends amounting to £19.2k. We are most grateful for the legacies from the estates of Wendy Skelton (5k) and Mr AJ Heapy £4k to date). In total unrestricted income totalled £143.4k.

Support and Governance costs remain extremely modest at £2.5k, whilst fundraising costs and expenses amounted to £12.3k. When netted out our fundraising contributes over £60,000, a magnificent sum by any standard.

The Grants Committed allocated £23,000 from the WREN restricted fund and £194,500 from unrestricted funds. Investments rose in value by £20k.

The net outflow of funds during the year was planned by the Trustees as we aim to reduce total funds gradually towards the reserve level of £250,000

For 2007 the Trustees have decided on a grant allocation of £175,000 and in addition to use the £27.1k available in the Landfill Tax fund. There is no doubt that we will miss the landfill tax transfers from WREN enormously and we intend carrying out a review of fundraising generally to see if we can open some new opportunities for the future.

Ian Dudley 19th February, 2007

Auditors Statement to the Members of The Friends of Essex Churches

We have examined the above summarised financial statements.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors

The trustees are responsible for the preparing the summary financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of the charities SORP.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and Trustees' Annual Report.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 'The auditors' statement on the summary financial statement' issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 2006.

Edmund Carr

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, 146 New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0AW.

March, 2007

Summarised accounts for the year ended 31 December 2006

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2006

Total 2005 £'000		2006 Restricted Fund £'000	2006 Un-restricted Fund £'000	2006 Total £'000
67.7	Landfill tax credits	19.2	0.0	19.2
19.3	Subscriptions	0.0	17.6	17.6
26.5	Donations	0.0	26.6	26.6
88.8	Legacies	0.0	9.0	9.0
61.0	Fund Raising - Bike Ride	0.0	55.9	55.9
9.9	Fund Raising - Other events	0.0	14.9	14.9
20.3	Interest and dividends	1.2	19.2	20.4
0.2	Gazetteers sold	0.0	0.2	0.2
293.7	Total income	20.4	143.4	163.8
(1.1)	Support costs	0.0	(0.9)	(0.9)
(1.5)	Governance costs	0.0	(1.6)	(1.6)
(1.7)	Fundraising/Publicity Costs	0.0	(4.8)	(4.8)
(4.3)	Fundraising expenses - bike ride	0.0	(6.1)	(6.1)
(3.6)	Fundraising expenses - other events	0.0	(1.4)	(1.4)
0.0	Gazetter expenses	0.0	0.0	0.0
(218.0)	Grants payable	(23.0)	(194.5)	(217.5)
(230.2)	Total Expenditure	(23.0)	(209.3)	(232.3)
(63.5)	Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	(2.6)	(65.9)	(68.5)
25.2	Gains/(losses) on investments	0.0	20.0	20.0
88.7	Net movement in Funds	(2.6)	(45.9)	(48.5)

Summary balance sheet as at 31 December 2006

2005 £'000		£'000	2006
185.5	Investments - market value		265.5
437.0	Cash and deposits		369.4
3.1	Sundry debtors		1.3
625.6	Total assets		636.2
(114.0)	Undrawn grants		(173.0)
(1.5)	Creditors		(1.6)
510.1	Net assets		461.6
	Represented by:		
479.3	General fund (unrestricted)		433.1
1.1	Gazetteer fund (unrestricted)		1.4
29.7	Landfill tax credits (restricted)		27.1
510.1			461.6

FRIENDS MATTER

Essex and East London Churches have many Friends: individual members, donors and congregations. All are very much valued. Together they gave us over £45,000 in 2006. This is about £1,000 less than the previous year and worryingly, part of a downward trend.

Individual members are very loyal and subscribed over £17,000. But they are few - around 700 - some of whom are not up to date with their subs. We do not send reminders as a matter of course but some members do like their memories jogged and I will try to make sure I don't forget to do that!

Since I wrote this report last year, I have been pleased to welcome 35 new members. But during that time I have been advised of 10 members who have died and 9 others who have resigned, often because they have moved away. As responses to reminders come in other losses become apparent.

Our Chairman has emphasized the need for new members - if you know of likely members please encourage them to contact me - Tel 01708 688576
email: keith.gardner@care4free.net For snail mail my address is Pink Cottage, Curtis Mill Green, Stapleford Tawney, RM4 1RT.

Donations range from the small to the large. Each, I am sure, is a gift from the heart. Notable donors this year include **The Augustine Courtauld Trust, The Essex Club, Messrs. Lodge & Sons (Builders)** and the **Friends of Lambourne Church**. We were also most fortunate to receive proceeds of sale of pictures painted by **Muriel Dell** formerly of Southend. Total donations were over £10,000.

Congregations is my umbrella word for churches and chapels of many denominations which include us in their charitable giving. Twenty-four new congregations joined us in 2006, but other stalwarts were unable to contribute. So again it is swings and roundabouts with congregations as a whole finding over £12,000 for the Friends.

Gift Aid is a Friend indeed. We were able to claim back over £4,700 tax paid during the year.

THANK YOU most sincerely to all who have supported us in 2006. I endeavour to acknowledge all moneys sent by post but, for those who contribute by Standing Order, this is my one opportunity during the year to "thank you"

Keith Gardner

Hon. Membership Secretary

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

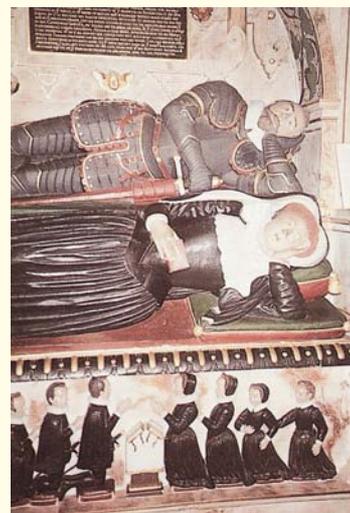
Wednesday 2nd May	Study Day will visit Lambourne, Theydon Mount, Theydon Garnon and Waltham Abbey
Tuesday 15th May	Annual General Meeting at All Saints, Terling at 3pm
Thursday 7th June	Visit to Copped Hall for a tour of the house and gardens beginning at 2pm. Tickets £20 to include refreshments
Saturday 8th September	Ride & Stride
Saturday 6th October	Study Day - Area to be notified
Wednesday 17th October	Autumn Fair at Reid Rooms, Margaret Roding beginning at 10.30am

Other events are being planned and you will receive notice of these in due course

For Events: Clare Cottrell 01206 330790
birchfarms@farming.me.uk

For Study Days: Marion Scantlebury 01279 731228
scant@parvilles.fsnet.co.uk

Waltham Abbey - tomb of Sir Edward & Lady Denny



*Below:
Interior Lambourne*

