

Researcher's Notes – April 14th 2023

This project started during Lockdown 2021, after reading the available archaeological reports, newspaper articles, books saved to the web and census returns since 1801. As all libraries, schools and universities were closed, I attempted to use sources primarily on-line via Essex Library's free access and summaries of documents held by the Essex Record Office. Other on-line sources included the Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology & History, Victoria County History of Essex, RCHME surveys, The National Archives, British Library and google books. What started as a brief article for a proposed village cookbook, soon grew as more history was uncovered. Since August 2022, I have also been accessing the local newspapers at Clacton Museum (1898-1976) and Colchester Library (on microfilm).

Before January 2021, as a keen sailor, I had heard locals' stories of an airline tycoon owning Alresford Hall, of an admiral living at Alresford Lodge, of oyster legal battles in the 1970s and the swing-bridge. But finding out about the Will of Ælfflæd (1000x2), the complicated Domesday Book entries, Admiral Lawson, Captain Matthew Martin, the chartering of all vessels by the East India Company, William Warwick Hawkins, the railways coming to Alresford twice and other stories was very rewarding. I tracked down early documents (1712 and 1739) relating to Martin's heroism. I also sorted through the previous mentions of Alresford from Morant (1768) who was one of the first to publish a history of Essex, in a limited printing of 200 copies – but was seen not to be totally accurate by his contemporaries and is not recorded as ever visiting many of the places he wrote about. All photographs are my own, except where noted.

Dedicated to the historians who went before; and those walking alongside me now

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Prehistory (before 43AD)

Some prehistoric finds have been found in Alresford, mainly in areas where gravel has been excavated or new housing built. These include cropmarks and Bronze Age (2300-800 BC) ring ditches, primarily along the ridge parallel to the Colne and Creek.¹ A prehistoric pit with two undated ditches, which may have been field boundaries, were observed and recorded in the Villa Farm area of Cockaynes Wood.² A Neolithic (3500-2300 BC) polished flint axe was found near the mouth of Alresford Creek **(TM01-119)** and purchased for Colchester Museum.³ Others were found whilst potato picking in 1974 at Alresford Lodge **(TM059 198)**⁴ and near to Plumpton's Farm **(TM0719)**.⁵

Bronze Age cinerary urns have also been located at Alresford Grange⁶ whilst digging a foundation for a cottage,



Figure 1 - Reassembled fragments of late Bronze Age coarse brown ware, domestic urn inverted over burnt bones. Found near Alresford Grange and donated by Alderman Wilson Marriage to Colchester Corporation Museum.⁷

from the Roman Villa site⁸ fragments of an Early/Middle Bronze Age grog tempered ware urn in the development south of Cockaynes Road,⁹ from the Blue Gates Quarry **(TM 02-152)**¹⁰ and from the top of a barrow on the edge of a gravel pit. **(TM 062 202)** This urn was found in 1942 by school-girl Anne Pilkington in the remains of a barrow, five feet down the northern side of a gravel pit (now near to a footpath) The Curator of Colchester Museum described it as *"..The clay is fine, burnt light red, but black within, and the whole body is covered with horizontal lines impressed in exactly the same way as those on the Flag Inn urn, but much less clearly. The base is slightly hollowed beneath and is not far from having a foot-ring.."*¹¹ The barrow was recorded in a note-book by Dr PG Laver (1866-1941) on July 8th 1922, as *"..undoubtedly a tumulus, but only about 18-ins. high .."*¹² It was not excavated due to a lack of funds.

A few Early Bronze Age sherds made from coarse flint-tempered fabric were found in a gully at Blue Gates Farm Quarry.**(TM 02-152)**¹³ There were also fifty-two Middle Iron Age pottery shards (600-500 BC), at Broomfield Plantation¹⁴ with fragments from the Early and Middle Bronze Age south of Cockaynes Road.¹⁵ One flint knife, eighty-seven flints (one Mesolithic (13,500- 3,500 BC), the others Neolithic and Bronze Age tools) and two barbed arrowheads were found north of Broomfield Plantation.¹⁶ At Marsh Farm pit,**(TM 050 213)** four struck flint flakes were recovered.¹⁷

In a field near to Noah's Ark at Alresford Creek, a flint core was found by Mr EJ Rudsdale from Colchester Museum.¹⁸

6.6ha of fields south of St Peter's (TM 0615 2060) were field-walked in 1994, finding prehistoric and burnt flints.¹⁹

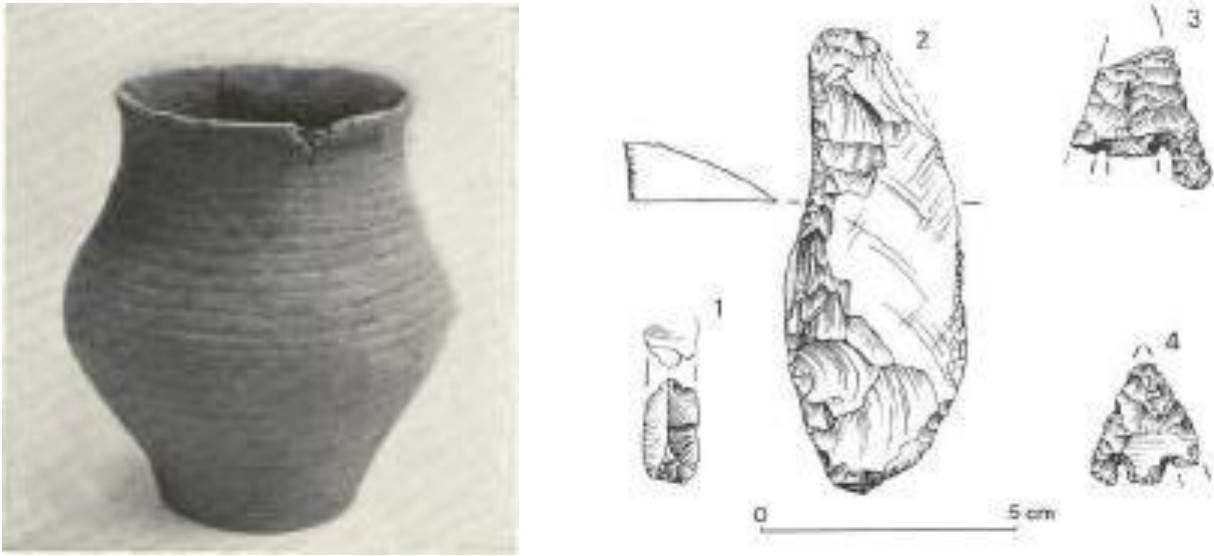


Figure 2 -The Alresford Hill Urn ¹¹

Flint found at Broomfield Plantation¹⁶

1. Essex Heritage Conservation Records 2361 and EHCR 2589-2591
2. <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/reports/CAT-report-0313.pdf>
3. Wilkinson TJ, Murphy PL (1995) *Archaeology of the Essex Coast, i The Hullbridge Survey* p.203, Colchester Museum (Accession Number 1061.06).
4. https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=ecad05c7-6bcd-4d8f-945d-fee1278f2a23&resourceID=19191
5. Clough THM, Cummins WA, (1988) *Stone Axe Studies: The petrology of prehistoric stone* p177
6. EHCR no 2606; Read N & M (1998) *A Journey through Alresford* in Paula Munson Orange File p4 by Ben Wade in 1921
7. Report of the Museum and Muniment Committee for the two years ended 31st March 1922 p8-9 4143.21
8. Essex Standard Friday, November 29, 1884
9. Archaeology South-East (2017) *ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION LAND SOUTH OF COCKAYNES LANE, ALRESFORD, ESSEX. ASE Report No: 2017498* p.33
10. Priddy D, Brown P (1988) *Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology & History* third series, xix p 240
11. Hull, M.R. (1946) "Five Bronze Age Beakers from North-East Essex," *Antiquaries Journal* xxvi Jan-Apr 1946 One of only four found in Essex. Healey F (2012) *Starting Something New: The Neolithic in Essex* *Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology & History* fourth series, iii p.18
12. Report of the Museum and Muniment Committee For the period April 1st 1937, to March 31st 1944 p10-11;
13. Heritage Gateway Monument # 386364; Clarke DL (1970) *Beaker Pottery of Gt Britain and Ireland* p480, 537
14. Priddy D, Brown P (1988) *Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology & History* third series, xix p240; Priddy D (1986) *Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology & History* third series xvii p123-5
15. Archaeology South-East (2017) *ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION LAND SOUTH OF COCKAYNES LANE, ALRESFORD, ESSEX. ASE Report No: 2017498* p.33
16. Bedwin O (1985) *The excavation of three ring ditches at Broomfield Plantation Quarry Alresford*, *Transactions of Essex Archaeology and History Society* third series xvii p.69-81
17. Eddy ER (ed) (1980) *Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology & History* third series, xii p 56-7
18. Report of the Museum and Muniment Committee For the period April 1st 1929, to March 31st 1930 p17
19. Brooks H (1994) *Archaeology in Essex 5. Alresford (Church Farm)* in *Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology & History* third series, xxvi p241

Roman Alresford (43 – 410 AD)



The earliest recorded building in Alresford was a Roman winged-corridor villa, and possibly a bathhouse, which was found in Eight acre field, 300 yards South-East of Alresford Lodge Farm near to the Creek **(TM 0609 1993)**. This was discovered in 1884 whilst ploughing¹ and excavated in June 1885 by Dr HS Laver from the Essex Archaeological Society, barely 18” under the ground² at a cost of £48 9d.³ The remains were left uncovered.

Figure 3 – Mitchell’s map of the Villa

Mosaic and plain red pavements showed the floor plan as the walls had been robbed out. The central corridor was 162 feet long by 10 feet wide, turning South at right angles at each end. The rooms were 21 feet long, with the main living room at the south-west corner, where portions of Flavian era (69-96AD) flue tiles⁴ with an ornamental raised pattern on them and a hypocaust (eight brick piles 14” across, 18” apart) were found. Some rooms were 6” or 14” above this central corridor.⁵ Finds included painted wall plaster (some painted over three times), tiles, pottery and single coins of Faustina and Commodus (c.161-192 AD).⁶ Green, plate window glass made with silicate of soda, rather than lead, was also found in small pieces.⁷

Some fragments of painted plaster from the walls, one with a few letters in graffiti that may have been incorporated into the design of a wall painting, and Samian-ware pottery sherds were preserved in Colchester Castle Museum.⁸ Indeed in Castle Museum Colchester Case #21 “..the small portions of ornamental Flue Tiles, from Alresford, are of interest, as are many of the exhibits in this case..”⁹ The site was recorded with plans drawn by Mr FE Morris and published.¹⁰

During the 1920s, ploughing in this field uncovered a large marble basin.¹¹ Part of a flue-tile decorated with moulded relief was found in the Gravel pit adjoining the site of the Alresford Villa by Mr. E. Howard.¹² Roman bricks can be seen in the ruins of St Peter's Church and were found in the foundations of Stable Cottage, Alresford Hall.¹³

One Alresford inhabitant disbelieved that the Villa had such riches. He wrote to the Essex Archaeology Society claiming that it was not grand enough to be more than a simple farmstead and that the bath-house was simply an enclosure for a polar bear.¹⁴ This was read out at an annual meeting to much hilarity. Conversely, the Women's Institute suggest in their *Essex Village Book*-book that Claudius sailed there to visit one of the villas.¹⁵ In June 1934, remains of a Roman Villa at Alresford Creek were uncovered whilst digging footings for a new house and were to form a terrace outside.¹⁶

Other signs of Roman inhabitation of Alresford have been found. At Marsh Farm Pit five sherds of Late pre-Roman Iron Age/early Romano-British pottery were excavated.¹⁷ Second century Samian pottery shards were uncovered between the Quarters and Plumpton Farm.¹⁸ A hoard of 100 fourth century bronze coins in a lead flask (**EHER 48108**) from the House of Constantine (306-61), were discovered by a metal detectorist off St Andrew's Close in 2000.¹⁹ Excavated at the site of Staunton Gardens were fragments of Grog-tempered ware with Roman grey ware firing characteristics and North Gaulish white ware (fine sandy variant) and roman nails.²⁰

No archaeological remains have been found for a Roman road. One was suggested as crossing Stane Street (roughly the route of the A133),²¹ linking Elmstead to Alresford for a distance of 2 ½ miles.²² The suggested route follows the current School Road from Elmstead to the junction with Main Road, then heads across country in a straight line towards Cockayne Woods and down to the Creek along Church Road.

1. *Interesting Excavation of a Roman Villa & Roman Remains at Alresford* in *Essex Standard*, Friday, Nov. 29, 1884
2. Laver HS (1889) *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society new series volume 3* p.137 3. *ibid* p191
4. Hull MR (1963) *Roman Gazetteer Victoria County History of Essex* iii
5. Laver HS (1889) p.137
6. *ibid* p.138-9
7. *ibid* p.138-9, *The Essex notebook and Suffolk gleaner (1884) Page 124*
8. *ibid* p195; Wachter J (2014) *The Coming of Rome* p178 This would be the only example of an obscene Roman word/phrase found painted in Britain.
9. Laver H (1893) *A guide to the collection of antiquities: the property of the Corporation of Colchester and the Essex Archaeological Society*, in Colchester Castle p.11
10. *Essex Standard* Saturday 15 August 1885 p7
11. *The Colchester Archaeologist Issue 11 (1998) p.31*
12. *Report of the Museum and Muniment Committee For the period April 1st 1944 to March 31st 1947* p30
13. *Colchester Archaeological Group Annual Bulletin Vol. 35 (1993) p.19-20*
14. *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society iv (1893)* and *Essex Standard* Saturday 02 March 1889 p.8
15. <http://www.visitoruk.com/Colchester/alresford-C592-V7532.html> Claudius was only in England for sixteen days in AD43 16. *The Times* Tuesday June 5 1934
17. Eddy ER (1980) *Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology & History third series, xii* p 56-7
18. Priddy (1985) *'Excavations in Essex 1983-4'* in *Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology & History xvi* p123-25
19. Bland R (2018) *43-498AD Coin Hoards and Hoarding in England* p276 record 2527 One coin from this period was found in Colchester in 1849.
20. *Archaeology South-East (2017) ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION LAND SOUTH OF COCKAYNES LANE, ALRESFORD, ESSEX. ASE Report No: 2017498* p.33
21. <https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/Monument/MCC7122>
22. Miller C (1926) *Roman Roads in Essex Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society new series xvii* p241

Romano-British Alresford (410-597 AD)

A double-ditched Romano-British enclosure (60x80m) was found between the Quarters and Plumptions Farm.¹ There were also three ring-ditches, containing graves in land quarried at the nearby Broomfield Plantation overlooking Alresford Creek.² One was an unique example of a burial rite – the body had been wrapped in a winding sheet, placed on a blanket and wooden support. The head was covered with wooden poles.³ At the villa site, **(TM 060 199)** a Saxon iron spearhead and a fourth century axe “..the handle of which was iron, a continuation of the head of the axe, with a socket for the insertion of the remaining portion of the handle of wood..” were found.⁴ This was taken to the Castle Museum and exhibited in case number seven “.. axe from Alresford ..”⁵

1. Priddy (1985) 'Excavations in Essex 1983-4', Transactions of Essex Archaeology and History Society third series xvi p123-25
2. Bedwin O (1985) The excavation of three ring ditches at Broomfield Plantation Quarry Alresford, Transactions of Essex Archaeology and History Society third series xvii p.69-81; (PRN 1906);
3. Bedwin O (ed) (1996) The Archaeology of Essex: Proceedings of the Writtle Conference p.113 There is still no definitive dating of these graves.
4. Laver HS (1889) Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society new series iii p.136-9
5. Laver HS (1893) A guide to the collection of antiquities: the property of the Corporation of Colchester and the Essex Archaeological Society, in Colchester Castle p.7

Saxon Alresford (597–1066 AD)

Essex from the middle of the seventh century was quite different to the later medieval county as it was divided into seventy hundreds (rather than twenty from soon after 1086). Alresford was part of the Colne Hundred with an estimated 94 ploughs, nine cultivators every 1000 acres and 4252 pigs.¹ It was part of Mercia until 825AD, then it became part of a minor kingdom of Wessex, firstly under Egbert, until 860AD with London as its capital.² Then Wessex took over full control naming the Ealdorman of Essex until 896AD. The first Christian church had been built in Roman Colchester (c320-360) and missionaries from Cedd, Augustine and Gregory were active in Essex again from the late sixth century.³ No remains of a wooden, Saxon church from this period have been found locally.

Wooden sea defences have been found north of the mouth of the creek 30 to 50 metres from the marsh edge **(TM058 197)**. There were eight vertical and three horizontal pieces, one of which was radiocarbon-dated to 760 (±70 BP) with an infill of tenth century brushwood. They were mainly oak, with some ash and polar. Tenon and mortice joints were visible.⁴

The Vikings started raiding England in 793AD and these became more frequent in the ninth century,

growing into large invasions. From 878, East Anglia was under Danelaw, ruled by Guthrum in his baptised name of Athelstan.⁵ Southern Essex along the Thames became a series of armed camps, whilst North-East Essex seemed to be peacefully settled (as reflected in the Danish place-names); although a camp is mentioned at Mersea Island and two naval battles on the River Stour. Alfred of Wessex also appointed an Ealdorman of Essex, Brihtwulf who died in 896AD.⁶

Viking rule lasted until the sieges of nearby Colchester and Maldon in 917 which were won by the Wessex King Edward.⁷ The estate of Colne was granted to Ealdorman Ælfar, who had manors on both side of the river, administered from Stoke-by-Nayland⁸ On his death in around 951, these were willed to his daughter, Ælfflæd, and her husband Byrhtnoth⁹ who became Ealdorman of Essex in c956. By 982 "Alresford was a Manor of some repute..¹⁰ The Vikings raided England periodically from 980 until Olaf Tryggvason returned in 991 with 93 ships. They landed and destroyed Folkestone, Sandwich and Ipswich before heading up the River Blackwater towards Maldon. They landed at Northsey Island and were met by Ealdorman Byrhtnoth with the Essex fyrd leading to the latter's defeat at the Battle of Maldon. The Vikings accepted gold to leave Essex.¹¹

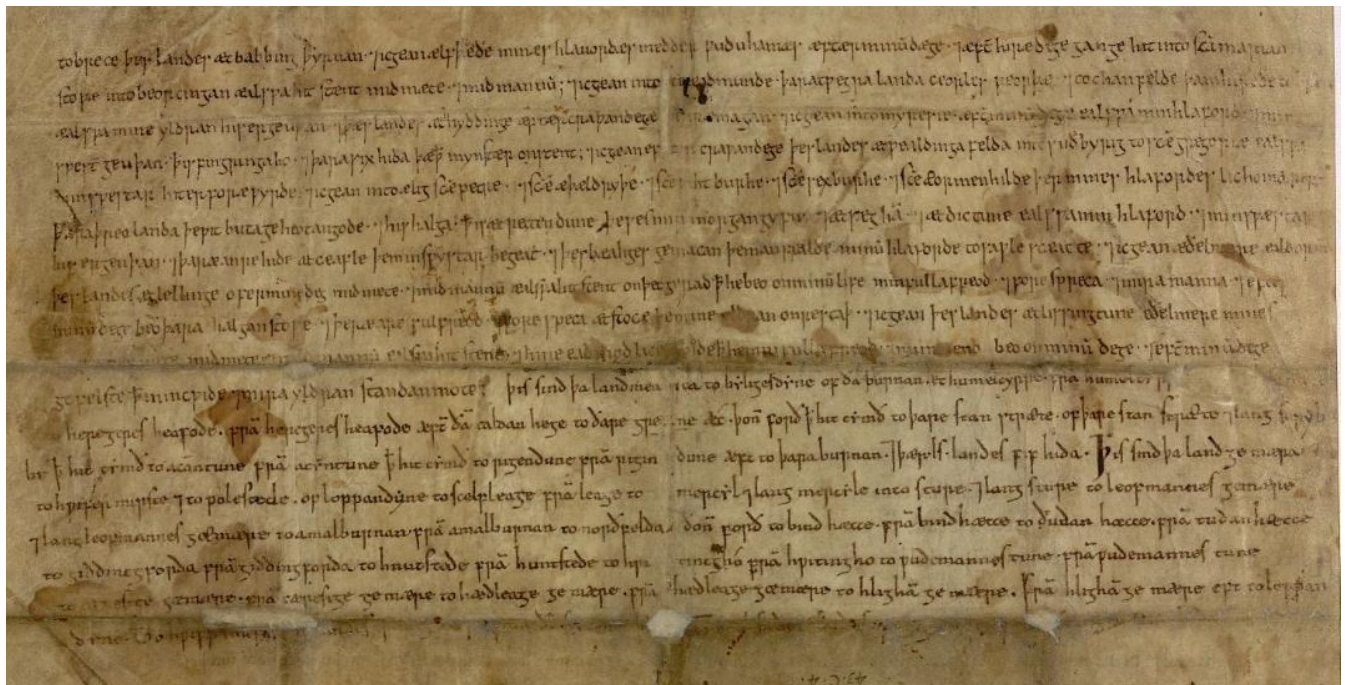


Figure 5 - S 1486 Will of Ælfflæd oldest written mention of Alresford (c.1000) Bury St Edmunds Archives

His widow Ælfflæd lived out the remainder of her life at St Peter's Minster, West Mersea. She willed *Ælesforda*, consisting of two hides and 50 acres, in 1000x1002 to her nephew King Æthelred (978-1013).¹² *"..In Essex, the Domesday hide usually comprised four virgates, each of 30 acres, making a total of 120 acres. On royal manors,*

however, or at least on some of them, the hide was abnormally large...¹³ so the estate could have been between 290 and 1000 acres. This land is the location of the current Alresford Hall.¹⁴

1. Rickword G (1920) *The East Saxon Kingdom* Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society new series xii p38
2. Williams A (1996) *The Vikings in Essex, 871-917* Transactions of the Essex Archaeology and History Society third series, xxvii p92
3. <https://www.thehistoryoflondon.co.uk/early-christianity-in-london-and-westminster/>
4. Wilkinson TJ, Murphy PL (1995) *Archaeology of the Essex Coast, i The Hullbridge Survey* p.203 -5 Colne CO1; Heppell E (2004) *GREATER THAMES ESTUARY ESSEX ZONE MONITORING SURVEY ASSESSMENT AND UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN ISSUE 2* p.12-13, p.65 Fig.14 (is an aerial photograph overlaid with the salt marshes). A re-examination of the area in September 2001 struggled to find these timbers due to the extent of erosion over the twenty years between surveys. Five sets of other timbers and six individual posts were located but not sampled due to access difficulties.
5. Williams A (1996) *The Vikings in Essex, 871-917* Transactions of the Essex Archaeology and History Society third series, xxvii p93-4
6. *ibid* p.95
7. Savage A. (1984) *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* p118
8. <http://www.anglo-saxons.net/hwaet/?do=get&type=charter&id=1483>
9. *Ibid*
10. *The Parish and Manor of Alresford* p1
11. Savage A. (1984) p.118
12. Kemble J. (2011) *The Place-names of Alresford* p5; Radford D. Gascoyne A. (2013) *Colchester, Fortress of the War God: an Archaeological Assessment* p.201 Her sister Ælfthryth (945 – c1000) was the second or third wife of King Edgar of England; and was the first king's wife known to have been crowned and anointed as Queen of the Kingdom of England.
13. Powell WR (1990) *Domesday Book and Feudal Topography* Transactions of the Essex Archaeology and History Society series 3 xxi p48)
14. Kemble J (2011) *The Place-names of Alresford* p8

Domesday Book

Searching for Alresford, Essex in the Domesday Book is difficult. Most places are to be found in their County Folio as one entry in the main Great Domesday Book. There would be listings for what the village was like in 1066 and 1086 detailing owners of the estate, tenants, size of land, number of ploughs, households and animals. Alresford is found in three counties – Essex, Hampshire and Somerset (the latter place is now lost). In Essex, Alresford is linked to five distinct entries in separate little Folios, in the Little Domesday Book of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. In none of them does Alresford have a prominent entry – it is mentioned as part of another estate and has different spellings. It is described as *Elesforda*, *Eilesforda*, *Elesforda (m)*, *Aleforda* in the Hundred of Tendring. The fifth mention is of *Alreforda* in the Hundred of Hickford. (As this location is so far away and is in a different Hundred, it is normally not considered to be the same place.)¹ Essex at this time had 421 manors with a total population of 9239 men.²

Simply adding up the contents of the four entries gives us nineteen households (two villagers, thirteen smallholders, four slaves), 1/2 plough-team, 60 sheep and 100 pigs. No church, industry, mill or major hall is mentioned. There were two manors on 4 ½ hides and 87 acres of land; worth a total of 91 shillings owned by four tenants-in-chief. Nominally these were: the Bishop of London (St Paul's); Bishop Odo of Bayeux, held as a private fief; Eustace II Count of Boulogne and Richard son of Count Gilbert. Only one tenant was still in place between 1066 and 1086. But each entry tells a story, even though there is no mention of any of the owners ever coming to Alresford,

neither of Eustace II in 1067 losing all his English lands³ nor Odo in 1082⁴ after rebellions against William I. Whether these lands in Alresford were restored by 1086 is unclear. These were not times of peace, but perpetual warfare against Scotland, Wales, Maine, rebellions in the north and incursions by the Vikings.

A major clue comes from the will in 1000x1002 written by Ælfflæd (Byrhtnoth's Widow) who left their lands to the King. She called the manor Ælesforda.⁵ King Edward the Confessor left forty-four estates when he died in January 1066. Locally these included St Osyth, Frating, Burna, Tendring and Frowick, as well as *Elesforda(m)* where he held 2 hides and 50 acres.⁶ A hide in Essex was normally 120 acres in Essex, but royal lands could be as big as four times larger.⁷ These were one of 136 places given to Count Eustace II of Boulogne by 1086. No value is given in 1066, but ploughs had decreased from 2 to ½ and slaves from six to two. In Essex, ploughs were valued at 26/- and each man at 8/-. The value in 1086 was 60/- (much more than the average of 67/- per square mile of land in Essex.⁸ A square mile was 640 acres.) One hundred pigs were in the woods and twenty sheep on the marshland.⁹ This estate has been located at the current site of Alresford Hall.¹⁰ Things changed quickly though as Eustace II died in 1087 and his successor Eustace III rebelled against William II. He was captured at Rochester Castle so lost his lands in 1088.¹¹ He went off to the First Crusade with his brothers; one becoming Baldwin I, King of Jerusalem. (1100-1118)

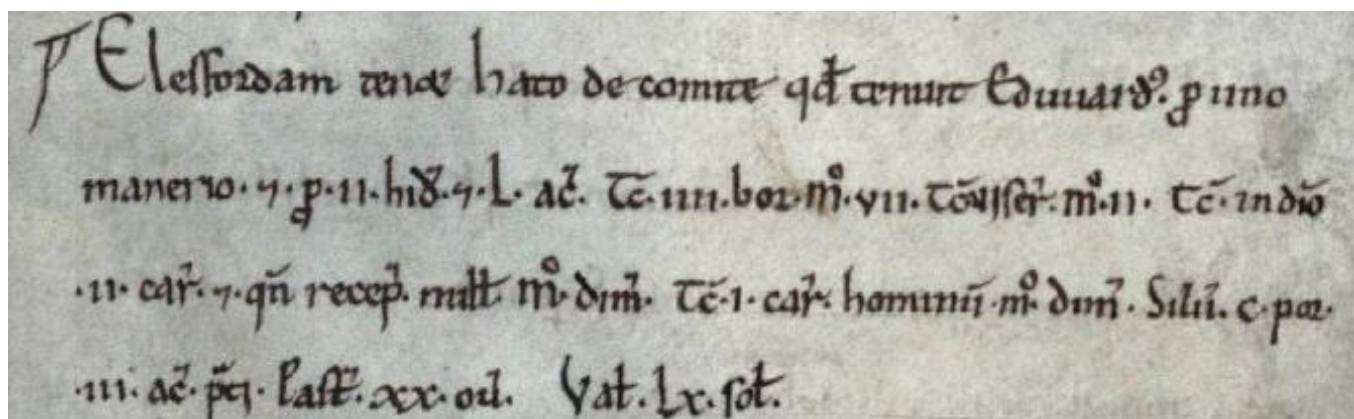


Figure 6 - © Crown Copyright The National Archives' reference E 31/1/1/216

The second largest estate of *Elesforda* (acquired with Great and Little Totham) was held for Maurice, the Bishop of London, who had previously been the Lord Chancellor of William I. There was one manor and two hides (240 acres) worth 40/- in 1066 but decreasing to 20/- in 1086.¹² By 1222, Alresford had ceased to be a Manor owned by the Bishop of London.¹³

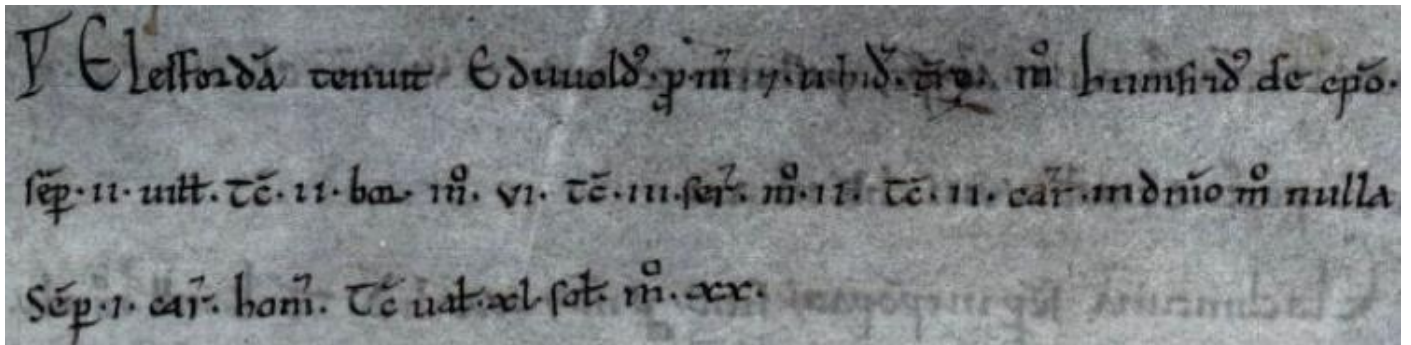


Figure 7 - © Crown Copyright The National Archives' reference E 31/1/1/75

Not all land was peacefully taken. Ralph fitzTurolde of Rochester seized Thorrington and half a hide of land at *Eileforda* from a free man in the name of Bishop Odo – maternal half-brother of King William I.¹⁴ He also took land in the Hanningfields (belonging to the abbey of Ely); at Mucking (from Barking Abbey), and at Fobbing (belonging to Count Eustace).¹⁵ Altogether Odo held 575 estates. These actions displeased the King's Commissioner who took the land for King.¹⁶ The land's value had decreased from 10/- to 5/-. Two years later Bishop Odo led the rebellion against William II and was captured at Pevensey Castle.¹⁷ Thirty-nine Essex estates were returned from Odo to the King, and the Churches given back their gold.

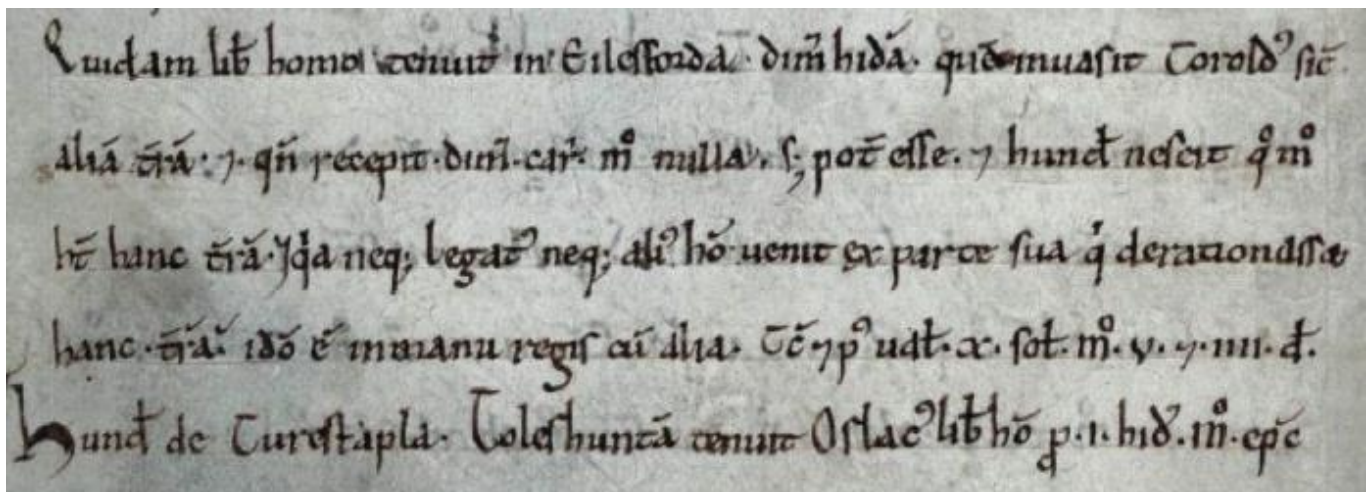


Figure 8 - © Crown Copyright The National Archives' reference E 31/1/1/287

The final estate of *Aleforda* (together with Great and Little Bentley, Great and Little Bromley, and Lawford) belonged to Richard fitz Gilbert (c1035-90) 1st Lord of Clare, son of Count Gilbert of Brionne. He is mentioned as tenant-in-chief for 224 places. This portion was still farmed by Algar, one of only two freemen to keep their lands in Essex from 1066 to 1086.¹⁸ It consisted of 37 acres and pasture for 40 sheep.¹⁷ Richard also rebelled against King William II in 1087,¹⁹ retired to a monastery in 1088 and his lands were passed to his son, Gilbert. (d.1117)

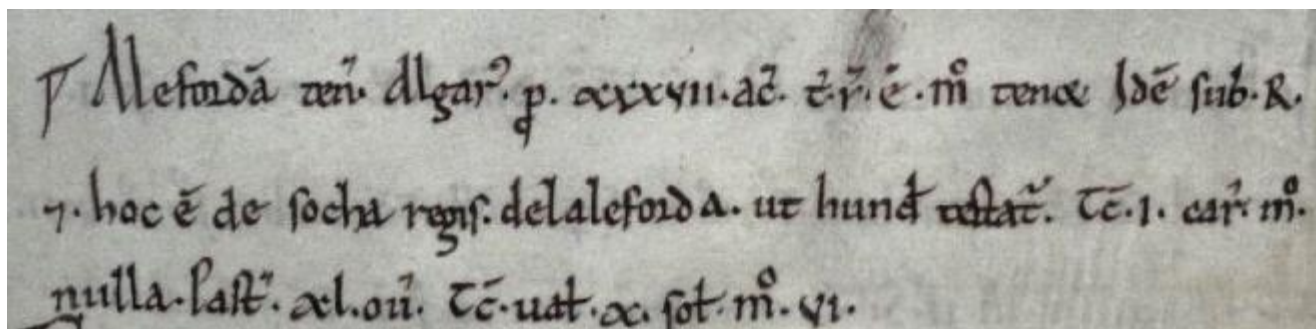


Figure 9 - © Crown Copyright The National Archives' reference E 31/1/1/365

No church was mentioned for any village in Tendring Hundred. Two thousand churches are mentioned in the Domesday Book,²⁰ including three near to Colchester,²¹ but many were not.

Lands in Alresford continued to be part of the honour of Boulogne, personally belonging to the King, and others to the Bishop of London until at least 1611.²² Boulogne was one of four Honours to be specifically mentioned in the Magna Carta of 1215.²³ *43 If anyone dies who held of any escheat, like the honour(s) of Wallingford, Nottingham, Boulogne, Lancaster, or of other escheats which are in our hand and are baronies, his heir is not to give any other relief, or to do us any other service, than he would have done to the baron if the barony was in the baron's hand; and we will hold it in the same manner that the baron held it.* Fees were paid – often 2½ marks of silver - to transfer Lordship of a Manor, after an Inquisition Postmortem lead by the County escheator - due to treason or dying without a male heir.²⁴ In addition, the costs of a knight had to be paid in time of war.

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24. https://magnacartaesearch.org/read/magna_carta_1215/Clause_43 General Commentary - King John often charged three times the previous rate for escheats of these four Honours. Many Barons holding lands in these honours rebelled against King John. *The honour of Boulogne was unlike the others, in that by 1215 it constituted a very different lordship from the one recorded under the Norman kings, but was an artificial creation, made up of four valuable but widely-separated manors, which passed in and out of the king's hands according to his own diplomatic policy and the political stance of whoever was count of Boulogne.*

St Peter's CofE. Church

St Peters Church (**EHCR 2384**) stands 1 Km north of the Creek on a valley formed by the Sixpenny Creek. It burnt down at 1:30am on 2nd October 1971; so is now a roofless ruin and a scheduled monument under the care of Essex County Council.¹ It is still used for occasional outdoor services.² A full survey of the standing structure was made in 1997 by Essex County Council;³ with the fall of plaster and rendering over the previous quarter of a century greatly aiding the surveyors' efforts to locate the different types of stones and joints used.⁴ To date no invasive archaeological survey involving digging trenches has occurred. Loose stonework was repaired there in 2008/9⁵ On the signboards are three different dates for the date of its construction – the tenth century, twelfth century and 1320. Previously, during the time of Rev Eric Britt in the 1980s this had said 1220.⁶



**Figure 10 - Inside the west wall
(10th/11th Century)**

**Green ECC Notice Board (12th Century) previous church board (1220)
current Blue Church board (1320)**

St Peter's has indications of Saxon features⁸ including a wall that is 0.84m thick,⁹ a high narrow nave, high windows (2.20m above the ground) and corner quoins. Other common features missing from the remains of St Peter's are pilaster strips (distinctive strip-work on exterior wall faces), triangular headed doorways and small twin narrow windows constructed from Ashlar blocks.¹⁰ At least, three Saxon churches still exist in Essex - a wooden church at Greenstead-juxta-Ongar; St Cedd's stone chapel at Bradwell-on-Sea and at St Mary's, Chickney. Dr. H. Laver reported that the church stood in a 'camp', the south ditch of which was filled for churchyard extension.¹¹ Prior to the First World War the Royal Commission for Historical Monuments in England examined all the buildings in England built before 1714. St Peter's was surveyed and after the War RCHME released this plan and an architectural description.¹² But features under plaster and white-wash were not observed. In black are the historical features (Saxon – 14th century) and white are the modern (Victorian).

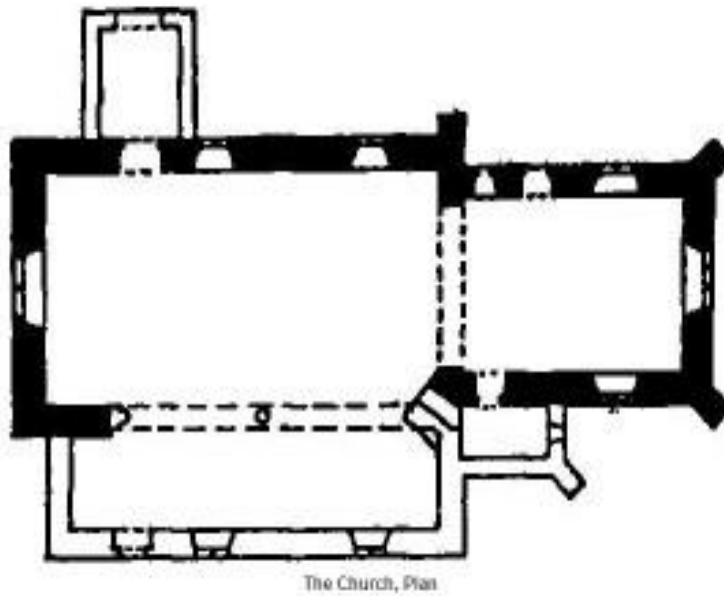
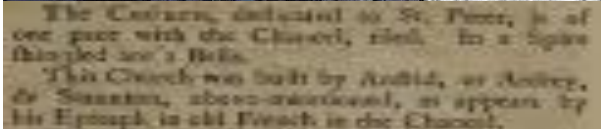


Figure 11 - Plan of St Peter's (1922) ¹³

The first phase of construction that can be accurately dated is from the twelfth century when a simple nave and chancel were built. It was constructed from coursed Kentish ragstone and flint rubble with Roman bricks and tiles used for decoration in the western corners (termed as quoins in Essex) and around the north doorway. It measured 6.6m by 10.6m in length, with walls 0.84m thick, and was 5.1m high to the eaves and 8.8m to the apex of the west gable end.¹⁴

In the following century, the church was enlarged increasing the length of the nave to 13.8m by demolishing the original east wall and a new chancel, measuring an estimated 4.7m by at least 4.8m was constructed. ¹⁵ Fulk Bassett, the Bishop of London (1244-1259), registered the churches in his diocese to pay Pope Innocent III a tax of 1/3 of beneficed clergy who were resident and 1/2 for non-resident. (Henry III wanted a tenth on the pretext of a Crusade.) Sir Robert Boteler was Patron; the estimated value of *Alleford* was five marks and there was no Vicar resident. 2 1/2 marks were payable in 1254 as the Norwich Taxation. *Alleford* was assessed at 7 1/2 marks in 1291.¹⁶



In the fourteenth century, the nave was widened by 1.7m, as seen in this photograph, **Figure 12**, the darker grey stone used in the extension is visible on the left of the apex. An existing circular window was blocked with Roman bricks and a new gothic arched window constructed. The chancel was extended 2.8m in length to the east and 1.9m in width to the south and a shingle-covered, wooden bell-tower added over the western end of the nave. New windows were also fitted in to the nave and chancel using Reigate stone. An inscription in the chancel on the gravestone of Anfrid de Staunton acknowledged he was Lord of the Manor of Alresford and carried out this renovation.¹⁷ This inscription was briefly

mentioned by Morant,¹⁸ but not recorded elsewhere earlier, and unseen since. It was underneath repairs in the chancel

and subsequently destroyed in the fire. Anfrid inherited the Manor and other lands from his aunt in 1312 and lived until 1337.¹⁹ The advowson of the Parish then passed on with the Lordship of the Manor until Victorian times.

The first named Rector at Alresford was Thomas Parker, who was succeeded in 1332 by Stephen de Berle on the presentation of Sir Humphrey de Staunton. There has been an unbroken line of over fifty Rectors since.²⁰

In 1337, de Berle and Walter le Gros, the Parson of Little Bentley, transferred to Anfrid and his successor John de Coggleshalle “..1 messuage, 150 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 52 acres of pasture, 240 acres of wood and 16s. 8d. rent in Alesford..”²¹ The de Coggleshalle family also inherited the advowson of the church.²² In 1511, Rev Walter Wolwyn became Rector of Ailesford and in 1521 was “admitted by exchange” with John Rothley of Warham, Sussex.²³ In 1525, Rev Rothley died leaving an inventory of twenty-three folios.²⁴

In 1548, the Church Wardens Stephen Gardener and Robart Anderton were accused of selling some of the

church's fixtures to pay for repairs without permission. They admitted selling one of the two bells (weighing five hundredweight) for £4 14/-; two standard, and two small candlesticks for 11/-; and one chalice for £3. So, totalling

£8 5/4d. They had paid out for glazing, a chest and a pulpit costing 20/8, leaving a remainder of £7 4/8.²⁵

In 1527, John Steven left money to establish a memorial Mass for himself on the Friday after Midlent Sunday, and his two brothers. Bells tolled, lights (candles), food and drink provided with a donation to the poor.²⁶

Other bequests paid for Lights to be lit for *Our Lady*²⁷ and a '*bachelers light*' before Our Lady.²⁸

In the 1588, the churchwardens reported that "*.. the steeple is ruinous and our church not so well tiled as it ought to be, but our parish is very poor and we can not invoke them to make a rate for reparation..*"²⁹

In 1637, a *rope-ornament* Rail was added to Archbishop Laud's specifications.³⁰ (During the fourth phase of the building, the Communion Rail was moved in front of the west gallery where the organ and choir were also positioned.)³¹ On August 8th 1683, St Peter's was visited by the Archdeacon. The Rector was Samuel Bridge; the Churchwardens were Gul'us Peare and Joh'es ffurton. There was "*..noe booke of Homilies nor Cannons, nor table of degrees of Marriage, noe linine Cloth for ye Comunion table nor Napkin. There wants some Glaseing in the Chancel.*

There are two small Bells. There is a small Boule and Patten of silver. There is Catechiseing every Sunday al this Summer. There is noe Terrier-of ye Gleb and Tithes. The P'sonage house in good repaire. The ffiaggon for ye Comunion to be changed for a new one. The Churchyard fence wants repaire. There wants a new Register booke.."³² Half of the flagons from the Colchester Archdeaconry (69 of 138) were *not of silver, made of unsuitable designs from pewter and required to be replaced*. It is probable that the Alresford one was an uncovered tankard.³³

In 1682, the sexton's salary was £1, the bells cost 1/- to mend, Francis Ward was paid 2/6 for catching a fox and John Ward's widow received 2/2. Annual expenses were £4 12/6 (including the expenses of the Constables and Surveyors of the Roads) and the collection totalled £4 11/11.³⁴ In 1684, St Peter's paid 2/6 for the manufacture of a cushion for the pulpit. In 1689, three yards of cloth was purchased for the Communion Table at a cost of £1 1/- and an hour-glass for 2/6.³⁵ In 1724 it was recorded that "*.. Our church & chancel are both in very good repair, and were last year ceiled, the One at the charge of the Rector, the other by the Parish, Our pews and Reading*

*desk are going to rebuild..*³⁶ In 1726-7, David Commarque was Master at Colchester Free Grammar School before becoming Vicar of Alresford (1727-30).³⁷

By 1738, Captain Matthew Martin moved to Alresford Hall and built a family vault. The engraved lid can still be seen at the foot of the Chancel. On the walls were placed seven hatchments, including four commemorating his actions in 1712 on board the “Marlborough” and bearing the arms of the East India Company.³⁸ From 1742, the surviving continuous Registers of baptisms, marriages and funerals were kept.

By 1824, St Peter’s was too small, so a large, wooden gallery was added from the west wall. This cost £40, with the Society for the Enlargement of Churches paying £30 and Rev Newman £10.³⁹ In 1843 Rev Swainson wrote

“The Churchman’s Book of family prayer” which was advertised for 1/6 in several educational books.⁴⁰

The fourth period of major church construction was during the 1840s and 1850s, when the building was felt to be cramped and in ill-repair. The Reigate stone window frames had been replaced with wood. The pulpit was central, oversized and had a sounding board. There was only a small arched opening to the chancel. The pews were square in shape with very high partitions. The 1824 gallery was felt to be too deep as it extended over the entrance and was poorly constructed. The north porch and bell-tower were wooden. The font had been replaced during the reign of James I with an inferior copy. The chancel and nave were on the same level.⁴¹

There were services every Sunday morning and afternoon, with evening services between April and September. Otherwise, the Congregation had to walk to the Chapel at Elmstead for an evening service. There were four Holy Communions annually and collections were only taken at these services.⁴²

In 1843 when timber and railway entrepreneur William Warwick Hawkins was living at Alresford Hall and was the Rector’s Church Warden, he paid for a new stained glass east window. The west end under the gallery was cleared with the Vestry moved to a newly built one south of the Chancel. The font was also restored.⁴³

Due to the expanding population of London and Essex on January 1st 1846, Alresford moved from the Diocese of London to the Diocese of Rochester. On March 23rd 1847, the marriage took place between the Baron de Linde,

Attaché to the Legation of the Court of Wurttemberg, to Fanny the daughter of the late Colonel Affleck.⁴⁴ On December 3rd James Bale, aged 56, died at Alresford Hall.⁴⁵

In 1848, the wooden frames to the two windows to the south and north of the Nave were removed. A new pulpit, reading desk and stone window frames were installed. This was paid by a 3d rate for a year and 6d rate for two years.⁴⁶ The 1851 Census recorded there were 100 in the morning Congregation with 50 Sunday Scholars. In the afternoon service were 150 with a further 50 scholars. There were endowments of £236.⁴⁷

For Christmas 1854, William and Harriette Hawkins MP donated a new Communion plate consisting of flagon, chalice, paten and alms dish in silver gilt in a wooden presentation box with an engraved dedication.

⁴⁷ A stained glass window was also installed in the north wall of the Chancel in memory of Rev Swanson's mother, Mrs

Willis.⁴⁸

The main rebuilding work took place in 1856 with the addition of a south aisle (8m x 2.5m) funded by Hawkins. The final service was held on Sunday 19th May, then they were held in Mr Wade's barn at Heath Farm (later the motor repair shop at the petrol station). On May 29th a foundation stone was laid by Mrs Hawkins. There was no architect, so Rev Swainson acted as supervisor and Mr Saunders of Dedham was builder. The south wall of the nave was dismantled and a new one built to the south. Three stone windows with stained glass, including the trefoil window in the west wall, were installed by Messer's Ward and Nixon of London.⁴⁹ Both two-light windows used blue, green and yellow glass and had a circular window above- the south-western being a blue spot-light. The trefoil window was a mosaic of blue, green, red and yellow glass with two straight yellow sides.⁵⁰

The south aisle was joined to the nave by an arcade of two arches⁵¹ using harder pink limestone.⁵² There was a new stone doorway with an oak door. The floor was tiled in the south aisle, nave and chancel. New open benches and seats were installed. A staircase and door from the 1843 vestry was added.⁵³

Other areas of the church were also modernized. The fourteenth chancel arch was replaced with a larger one allowing additional light to enter and better visibility for the congregation. The old nave roof was cleaned and varnished with new ribs, cornices and bosses added.⁵⁴ The walls were coloured, the Commandments were painted, the reading desk was altered and a new one purchased for the clerk.⁵⁵

The Parishioners also contributed to the restoration of St Peter's. A new stone porch was built from surplus material from the south wall and chancel arch. The existing porch was moved and became the Sexton's shed. The 1820s gallery was curtailed, and the seventeenth century Communion rails placed in front. The pews in the nave

were varnished.⁵⁶ St Peter's was reopened four months later on Sunday 14th September.⁵⁷ Mrs Hawkins donated "*..a sweet-toned organ..*" to be played for the opening service.⁵⁸

In 1859, the church bell was found to be cracked and the turret to be in a dangerous condition that threatened the walls of the nave that supported it. In 1860, the walls were repaired, and the turret replaced except for the west tie-bar. The Rector paid for a new West window In the Nave. Messer's Warner of London cast a new bell. This work cost £120 paid from the rates and £45 from Rev Swainson.⁵⁹

The Hawkins Family also had a vault built⁶⁰ outside the west wall of St Peter's surrounded by a horizontal iron railing; and an engraved stone stands against the west wall of the south aisle, under the Trefoil window. The old elm fence around the churchyard was replaced with iron hurdles on the south and east paid for from the rates.⁶¹ In 1865, the Harvest collection was £3 11/-.⁶² In 1871, a stained glass window was installed in memory of Mrs Swainson with a brass plaque commemorating her husband in 1880.⁶³ In November 1877, Mrs Hawkins gave a "*..handsome harmonium, being the third instrument donated..*" in 1877.⁶⁴ In May 1877, Alresford was moved to the Diocese of St. Albans. In 1887, a fire was spotted in the chancel roof by a local labourer and extinguished.⁶⁵

In 1909, The Bishop of Colchester Dr. Whitcombe held a confirmation in Alresford Church for thirteen boys and eleven girls and afterwards consecrated the addition to the churchyard presented by Mr. E. M. Higginbotham of Church Farm.⁶⁶ In 1914, Alresford was moved to the Diocese of Chelmsford. In 1918, the five acres of glebe were sold.⁶⁷ The final building work undertaken was the insertion of a new east window on April 22nd 1916, during the First World War.⁶⁸ This was designed by Morris & Company⁶⁹ in memory of the men of the village who had died, especially Rev. Pritchard's two sons Lieutenants Rowland Prichard and Giles Prichard. This three-light window featured St Martin, St Peter and St George. Many more tones of each primary colours were used, than in previous windows installed at St Peter's; and St Martin's shoes were brown.⁷⁰ The remaining aperture measures 1.5m x 3.56m. A collection at this service raised £1 11/- for the Red Cross.⁷¹ A new organ was installed in the west gallery in memory of the Prichard's', the gift of the Rev. FW Bussell DD, formerly Vice-Principal of Brasenose College.⁷²

On December 23rd 1913, the collection for the Bell Fund raised £1 5/- and on January 4th 1914 collected £1 4/- 8.⁷³ On August 16th 1914, the Prince of Wales' War Fund raised £3 14/-.⁷⁴ St Peter's purchased War Savings Certificates that by 1921 had raised £47 5/6 which was added to the Church Restoration Fund.⁷⁵ In 1923, seven years of insurance was paid for two policies for the new window of 9/- (#130844) and 14/6 (G1444).⁷⁶ On August 5th

1933, £80 19/3 was transferred to the Church Repair Fund.⁷⁷

A commemorative tablet to the late FW Hutchinson was placed in St Peter's after his death in 1935 by his parents, owners of Alresford Hall until 1924.⁷⁸

Easter Sunday, April 6th 1947 was celebrated with a Service of Music. Soloists were W Grimwood, G Marks and Master D South. Organist was K Jennings.⁷⁹ In August, the Parochial Church Council applied for a Faculty to replace light lamps by installing electric lighting *as a thank offering for the safety of the church and parish during the war*. The complete cost was estimated at £92 and £40 had already been raised. H Fraser was appointed Treasurer.⁸⁰ On August 24th, there was an open air service on the Pointer Green where the Silver Band played, conducted by AH Whyte.⁸¹ In September, the Harvest Service was held with lessons read by Major Boulton and W Grimwood MM. The collection of £6 was donated to the Essex county Hospital. The gifts of produce went to the Hospital and GFS Hostel, Colchester.⁸²

In July 1948, a new organ was installed and paid for by a Fete in August.⁸³ The churchyard was enlarged and a repairs fund established: by 1966 £157 2/ was saved.⁸⁴ Also in 1948, a new mahogany organ was purchased for £300 from Cedric Arnold of Thaxted and positioned in the east end of the south aisle. This was quickly raised by a special appeal.⁸⁵ In 1960, a Credence table was installed.⁸⁶ During the 1960s, choirboys were paid 2/-6 per week for attending all services, singing in the choir and solos.⁸⁷ In January 1962, plans for a new Rectory were produced in the grounds of the existing one.⁸⁸ In March 1962, part of the stained-glass tracery and lead of the west window was damaged by high winds.⁸⁹ In May, the 300th Anniversary of the Act of Uniformity was celebrated with special services.⁹⁰ In June 1962, Church Wardens WJ Grimwood and EW Jennings attended the Visitation of the Archdeacon of Colchester.⁹¹ On June 19th 1962, Don Cardy joined the PCC. In November, the diocesan surveyors report outlined that repairs were needed to the tiles on the north side of the nave, the shingles of the Tower and the stairway to the gallery.⁹² In December, the Quota was increased to £33 and it was planned to spend £55 on seventy-seven yards of paving slabs and concrete in the cemetery. The following year, a decision was made about oil heating.⁹³

In July 1963, the Eastern Electricity Board were asked for advice and a scheme for adding additional heating points was discussed.⁹⁴ In August 1963, a mechanical mower was used at the Church and several foot-stones were removed to make mowing easier. New memorials were not allowed to have stones that impeded the

mower.⁹⁵ The diocesan architect also ruled that the tiles on the north roof needed replacing. A whist drive was held in the Cabin for church funds.⁹⁶ The Remembrance Parade was led by the band of the Queen's Own Buffs Regiment; and played the *Last Post* and *Reveille*. Wreaths were laid by Sir Edward and Lady Wyatt. Captain GE Kemball led the British legion detachment. The WVS and Girl Guides were present. Colours were presented and placed at the East End of the church.⁹⁷

In 1964 and 1966, £13 15/ was paid annually to *Little David Petroleum Products Ltd*; and in 1966 £16 4/-.⁹⁸

In 1965, Pevsner described St Peter's as ... *Church. Nave, lower (rebuilt) chancel, and (rebuilt) belfry. Roman brick quoins at the west end date the nave as Norman. Nice west gallery with twisted balusters, C18.*⁹⁹

In March 1966, there was a balance of £54 in the bank. In December 1967, the Quota was £41. Don Cardy and John Huke were Church Wardens from March 28th 1967 investigating how economies could be made. The accounts for December 1967 saw collections totalling £52; an Income of £273 and an expenditure of £206. At the Annual Parochial Meeting of April 1968, members were asked to identify ways of publicizing the Church or improve its image. In December, a fete raised £47 7/.¹⁰⁰

For the next six months, St Peter's was in correspondence with the Archdeacon and Diocese about the dangerous state of the collapsed chimney for the oil-fired central heating.¹⁰¹ The 80,000 BTU Portway boiler, with 250 gallon tank, lacked a frost control and the fluing would not meet Fire Prevention Authority standards. It was of different bores and constructed from different materials – two parts were metals, one was asbestos. Winds from the south would extinguish the flames. It was proposed to isolate the boiler from the body of the church.¹⁰² £50 was set aside to pay for this work and a second flue.¹⁰³ Additional radiators for the north Choir and an oil-cut-off valve were then planned.¹⁰⁴ In November 1969, the extremely poor structural condition of the Cabin was examined by the architect Bryan Thomas. Quotes of £1750 for repairs; £3000 for repairs and construction of toilets; or a new building for £4250 were prepared.¹⁰⁵ Summer Church Fetes raised £110 5/- in 1968, £158 9/4 in 1969 (half to the Village Hall) and £210 2/1 in 1970.¹⁰⁶

St Peter's burnt down at 1:30am on Saturday 2nd October 1971. In 1983, the bell was sold to St Mary's Mistley for £350; whilst parts of the font, Lectern and Communion Table were re-used in newly constructed ones at St Andrew's.¹⁰⁷

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30. **The parish and manor of Alresford p.3; McCallum JR (1968) *The Ancient Church at Alresford in Essex Magazine 17 p.35***
31. **The parish and manor of Alresford p.4**
32. **Pressey WJ (1942) *Visitations held in the Archdeaconry of Colchester in 1683* Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society new series xxiii p.148**
33. **Pressey WJ (1925) *The Pewter Communion Vessels of Essex churches* Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society new series xviii p.202**
34. **McCallum RJ (1948) *An English Village: rural scenes of English life and history referenced to the records of Alresford near Colchester p22*; McCallum JR (1968) *The Ancient Church at Alresford in Essex Magazine 17 p.35***
35. **ibid p30**
36. **Clarke BFL (1963) *The Building of the Eighteenth-century church p.17***
37. **Tomlinson D (2013) *'Young Gentlemen are at a reasonable Rate to be Boarded' An account of the Free Grammar School, Colchester c.1690–c.1820* Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology &History, 4th series iv p.171**
38. **McCallum JR (1948) p15; McCallum JR (1968) p.35**
39. **McCallum RJ (1948) p30**
40. **Hoare L (1846) *Hints for the Improvement of Early Education and Nursery Discipline p.23***
41. **McCallum RJ (1948) p.30; McCallum JR (1968) p.35; ERO 336/12/3 account of restoration 1844-6**
42. **ibid p33**
43. **McCallum (1948) *An English Village: p31***
44. **Gentleman's Magazine (1847) Volume 181 p.340**
45. **ibid p217**
46. **McCallum RJ (1948) p31**
47. **TNA HO 129/203/1 p.9**
48. **"An appropriate Christmas offering" in Essex Standard, Wednesday December 27th 1854**
49. **McCallum RJ (1948) p31**
50. **ibid p38; Post Office Directory 1874; *Old Barns in Alresford Paula Munson's Orange File***
51. **McCallum JR (1948) *An English Village p38*; *Alresford Advertiser June/July 2021 p.6* Order of Service from May 29th 1856 52.**
52. **ibid p31**
53. **Garwood A (1998) *Alresford, St Peter. A survey of the surviving remains* Transactions of the Essex Archaeology and History Society third series xxix p251**
54. **McCallum (1948) *The English Village: p31***
55. **ibid p31**
56. **ibid p32**
57. **ibid p32; McCallum (1968) *The Sexton's Shed was still in the Churchyard in 1968***
58. **ibid p.32**
59. **Morning Chronicle Wednesday April 22nd 1857**
60. **McCallum JR (1948) p32**
61. **Essex Standard Wednesday February 12th 1868**
62. **McCallum RJ (1948) *An English Village p32***
63. **Chelmsford Chronicle Friday 27 October 1865**
64. **McCallum RJ (1948) p.38Chelmsford Chronicle Friday 23rd November 1877 p6**
65. **Essex Newsmen Saturday January 15th 1887 p.4**
66. **THE ESSEX CHURCHES Chelmsford Chronicle Friday 19 March 1909 p6**
67. **ERO SALE A/83 1918**
68. **Alresford St Peter's Accounts Book (1912-1948)**
69. **The parish and manor of Alresford p.4**
70. **McCallum RJ (1948) p38**

71. **Alresford St Peter's Accounts Book (1912-1948)**
72. **The parish and manor of Alresford p.4**
73. **Alresford St Peter's Accounts Book (1912-1948)**
74. **Alresford St Peter's Accounts Book (1912-1948)** Great Britain declared war on August 4th 1914
75. **Alresford St Peter's Accounts Book (1912-1948)**
76. **Alresford St Peter's Accounts Book (1912-1948)**
77. **Alresford St Peter's Accounts Book (1912-1948)**
78. **McCallum (1948) p15**
79. **Clacton Times** Friday March 28th 1947
80. **McCallum (1948) p45; Clacton Times** Friday August 22nd 1947
81. **Clacton Times** Friday August 29th 1947
82. **Clacton Times** Friday October 3rd 1947
83. **Clacton Times August 13th 1948**
84. **ERO D/P 336/26/4 (1948); St Peter's Accounts book 1935-66**
85. *Extracts from St Peter's PCC Records* in Paula Munson's *St Peter's File*
86. **ERO D/CF 99/3 (1960)**
87. **Dolby C (2013) Operation Dolby The Ex-Copper Who Was Framed and Thrown in Jail for Playing it Straight p.276**
88. **East Essex Gazette** January 26th 1962
89. **East Essex Gazette** March 16th 1962
90. **East Essex Gazette** May 25th 1962
91. **East Essex Gazette** June 8th 1962
92. **East Essex Gazette** November 9th 1962
93. **Don Cardy Notes; Alresford PCC (December 1962) Agenda** and three hand-drawn maps of the paving; **East Essex Gazette** December 21st 1962
94. **East Essex Gazette** July 26th 1963
95. **East Essex Gazette** August 2nd 1963
96. **East Essex Gazette** August 23rd 1963
97. **East Essex Gazette** November 15th 1963
98. *St Peter's Accounts Book 1935-1966*
99. **Pevsner N (1965 2nd edition) Buildings of England: Essex p.57**
100. **Don Cardy Notes**
101. **Cleall AVG** December 17th 1968 letter from Archdeacon of Colchester to Church Wardens
102. **Hedingham GR** January 3rd 1969 **letter from engineer to Don Cardy**
103. **Cardy D** March 30th 1969 **letter to Hedingham GR** explaining the above work was completed
104. **Hedingham GR** April 30th 1969 **letter from engineer to Don Cardy**
105. **Thomas BK** November 1969 **Report on the structural condition of the Cabin, Church Road, Alresford**
106. **Alresford PCC Interim Balance Sheets 1968, 1969 and 1970**
107. **Hedges J (2000) Alresford a century of village life in postcards and photographs p.35;**
<https://facultyonline.churchofengland.org/CHR/ChurchDetails.aspx?id=2678#Interior> for St Mary's shows bell #2 was made in 1747 (the others in 1897) with a diameter of 29.5, made by Thomas. Paula Munson recorded the sale price of the bell as £350. 30/09/2021

Manor of Alresford (1180-1558)

The size of a manor could vary according to each King who granted it and whether parcels of lands were willed or sold to others. In Saxon times, it had been traditional to divide estates amongst sons. In Norman times, inheritance depended upon the Will left by the previous Lord of the Manor – or split between surviving daughters. Repeated outbreaks of warfare over the next four hundred years including the Anarchy of the mid-twelfth century, the Crusades, the Civil War against Henry III, wars against France, Scotland and the War of the Roses also led to rapid changes of Lordship as men were killed in battle or taken for ransom. Often estates were enlarged past parish, manorial or Domesday boundaries. Gradually, the Lord of the Manor might not be the largest land-owner or even a resident there. Alresford would be managed by a Tenant-in-chief paying dues to the Lord of the Manor, to the Bishop of London and the King for the honour of Boulogne. Other manors, like Thorrington, might instead have to pay a Baron who was their overlord.

In the twelfth century (c.1180), “..Geoffrey de Ferculis granted to Robert son of William, his free man of Alesford, of all the land which Walter son of Edwin held in the grantor’s will of Alesford, including exit for his beasts about that land into the common pasture.” This grant is a lease of the land with Robert making a down payment of 2½ marks, in addition to a yearly rent of 2/6. (A mark was worth 13/4, so a total of 33/4.)¹ The designation *Free man* is important: Robert was paying rent for the land, but he is not “bound” to it; he does not have to work each week for the Lord of the Manor. Often it is difficult to tell the difference between free and “unfree” men in medieval documents and specific references like this one are rare. The witness list included William the reeve, John the clerk of Nevenham (probably from Suffolk) with Everard his son, and three members of the de Ferculis family.²

By 1211, the manors of Alresford and Cockaynes were divided³ with the former still held by Geoffrey de Fercles for three knights’ fees of the Honour of Boulogne.⁴ Each Knight’s fee was considered to require five hides to generate. Three hides would be 1800 acres – slightly more than Alresford had in Victorian times.⁵ The assessed value of the lands was 20/9.⁶ In 1228, Eustace de Fercles inherited this part of the Honour of Boulogne and was to pay Henry III a fee of £15 – of which 10 marks was pardoned.⁷ In 1231, he died without an heir and Bartholomew Peche had custody of the lands and heirs for 100 marks – to be paid over five years. Peche struggled to pay this amount.⁸ In the 1240s, the de Fercles lands were divided between the widow and two daughters. Lucy married William de Appleford, a favourite of Henry III, and amongst other lands in Maldon and Cambridgeshire they had inherited “..half a carucate of land with appurts. in Alesford..”⁹ They were to pay £15 for the Honour of Boulogne.¹⁰ In 1243, a caracate of land with appurts in Alresford was leased to John de Appleford for £20 and “..any services to the chief lords..”¹¹ The Lord of the Manor and owner of the other acreage in 1251, was Sir Robert Butler, a witness to Hugh fitzRichard’s brief ownership of the Manor and Advowson of Thorrington.¹² By 1261, William and Lucy de Appleford were struggling to pay the King 50/- p.a. for their part of the Honour of Boulogne, *whereas William and Lucy did not observe their terms for the aforesaid payment, the king, for the service which William has given to him, wishing to do him grace, has granted him that, even though he did not keep his terms, as aforesaid, he may nevertheless recover the same terms, so that he is henceforth to render the said 50/- to the king at the aforesaid Exchequer at the aforesaid terms until the aforesaid debts falling to him and his wife therefrom have been paid to the king.* Lucy died in 1271.¹³

During the 1290s, Ralph de Coggeshale (d.1305), acquired from Roger de Coggeshale, “.. 2 messuages, 280 acres of land, 50 acres of marsh, 64 acres of wood, 5 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture and 22/- of rent in Thoriton, Alesford, Fratyng and Great Benelegh..” Roger was allowed to farm the land for life. A clove gillyflower was to be paid at Easter.¹⁴ However there is no reference to him being the Lord of the Manor Of Alresford.

By 1310 Andrew de Thunderle (died 1311) had purchased the Manor from William, son of William of Appleford, tenant-in-chief, 280 acres of land, 3 acres of meadow, 14 acres of pasture, 120 acres of wood, and 24/- of rent in Allesford. However, this was without a license from the King, so he was fined £10 on August 26th 1310.¹⁵ The Manor was then valued at 17/2, a race of ginger and a stalk of clove gillyflower.¹⁶ The Manor was inherited by Anfrid de Staunton (c.1290-1337) from William le Botiller and Christina his widow¹⁷ from 1312 until 1337.¹⁸ This was a grant from King Edward II. “..Anfrid de Staunton and Philip his brother to retain a messuage and land in Alresford to themselves and the heirs of the said Anfrid, acquired of Philip de Thunderle who retains land in Rushmere: Essex, Suffolk..” He too, had to pay a fine of 40/- for infringing on the Honour of Boulogne which was the King’s right.¹⁹ de Staunton also gained the advowson of the church which was vested with the Lord of the Manor for the next three centuries. The land was valued at 100 marks of silver.²⁰ He already owned land in Weeley,²¹ Great Bentley, Chiche and St Osyth.²²

Alesford manor and advowson passed to his sister and co-heir Margaret in 1344 (1303-46)²³ who had married Sir John de Coggeshall (1301-1361), the MP for Essex six times between 1334- 1358, of Codham Hall and Coggeshall, Essex. He had been Knighted by the Black Prince,²⁴ became the escheator (1343-48; 1351-4), and the High Sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire in 1334-9, 1340-1, 1343-8 and 1352-1354.²⁵ John’s eldest son, also named John, fought in Edward III’s retinue at Crecy (1346) and died at the siege of Calais, (1347)²⁶ so *Alesford* Manor was then inherited by his surviving son Sir Henry (1331-75) in June 1361. He was MP in 1363 and 1370.²⁷

After his death in 1375, the estates, in debt to over £1000, passed to his son Sir William de Coggeshall (1358-1426) who served in Milan as part of Sir John Harkwood’s “White Company.” In 1381, he was a Commissioner charged with putting down the Peasants’ Revolt in Essex. He became High Sheriff of Essex and Hertfordshire in 1391, 1404 and 1411 as well as MP for Essex ten times between 1381 and 1421. In 1400, he had forewarning of a plot to kill King Henry IV by the Earl of Huntingdon and was arrested. He was released at the intercession of his uncle

Thomas. In 1404, he arrested the conspirators plotting with the dowager Countess of Oxford who claimed that Richard II was still alive. Sir William died leaving four daughters in 1423 so the family holdings were then divided amongst them.²⁸

Blanche (d1460) married John Doreward (1380-1420) and inherited Alresford, via a *Quitclaim*²⁹ and the findings of an *Inquisition Postmortem* in May 1436.³⁰ The Manor consisted of *300 acre land, 400 acres pasture, 20 acres pasture, and 60 acres wood in Alresford, Fratyng, Thorryngton and Wevenho. Part of the said manor, viz a messuage, 140 acres land, 4 acres meadow, 52 acres pasture and 60 acres wood, worth 10 marks, is held of the King in chief, as of the honour of Bologne, by service of ½ a knight's fee, and the residue of the said manor with all lands in Alresford, Fratyng, Thorynton, and Wevenho, worth 10 marks, is held of Richard Bishop of London, service unknown.* John was High Sheriff for Essex and Hertfordshire, MP for Essex six times (1395-1414) and unprecedentedly became Speaker of the Commons part-way through a Parliament twice in 1399 and 1413.³¹ They had six children. Their son John (1416-1476) was a JP for ten years and MP for Essex between 1453-4. He was knighted at Elizabeth Woodville's Coronation in 1465. His son, John (1447-1480) died without heir.³² The Manor of Alresford, the advowment of the church and a mill was passed to his uncle William Doreward, whose son John (d1495) died without issue. Alresford and other estates were then passed onto his daughters Margaret (1477-1513) who had married Nicholas Beaupre; and Elizabeth who married Henry Thursby (d1532). From at least 1509 Alresford Hall was recorded as East Hall for Manorial Court Rolls.³³

During the reign of Henry VIII, Margaret's son Edmund Beaupre, esq. (1502-1568), received from his cousin Edward Thursby, esq. (d.1547),³⁴ *a moiety of his messuage and of 140 acres land, 10 acres meadow, 52 acres pasture and 60 acres wood in Alresford for the fee of 33/4 paid to the King.*³⁵ In 1556, he further received *the Manors of Alresforde & Esthal and twenty 20 messuages, ten cottages, one water-mill, twenty gardens, 500 acres arable, 30 acres meadow, 500 acres pasture, 260 acres wood., 100 acres. furze & heath and £10 rent in Alresforde, Fratyng, Thoryngton, Stysted & Wyvenho, view of frankpledge & free warren in Alresforde, a several fishery in the salt water called 'Alresforde Forde' in Alresforde, the advowson of the church of Alresforde, & a moiety of 1 water-mill in Alresforde & Thoryngton worth £600.*³⁶ It passed to his daughter Mary, who married Richard Barwicke, in 1565. Their son Thomas, the Deputy of the Cinque Port limb of Brightlingsea (d. 1607), sold the Manor to Rev Tabor in 1578.³⁷

1. <https://hls.harvard.edu/library/historical-special-collections/exhibits/history-in-deed-medieval-society-the-law-in-england-1100-1600/#chap1>
2. **ibid**
3. **Kelly's Directory of Essex (1894) p.18**
4. **Kemble J. (2011) The Place-names of Alresford p5**
5. <https://hls.harvard.edu/library/historical-special-collections/exhibits/history-in-deed-medieval-society-the-law-in-england-1100-1600/#chap1>
6. **The parish and manor of Alresford p3**
7. Henry III Fine Rolls [12/232 \(13 July 1228\)](#) [12/283 \(28 September 1228\)](#)
8. Henry III Fine Rolls 15/146 (18 April 1231) 15/328 (11 October 1231) 16/99 (08 May 1232) 16/162 (03 July 1232)
9. **31 HENRY III. 1246- 1247 DIVERS COUNTIES.** li; sixty acres
10. Henry III Fine Rolls 29/218, 29/303 Lucy was to pay a moiety (1 ½ knights' fees) & her co-heirs the remainder
11. **31 HENRY III. 1246- 1247**
12. **Moore T. (2009) The Thorrington Dispute: a case study in Henry III's Judicial Interference para 12** Can possibly be identified with Robert, son of Richard Butler, lord of Meesden (Herts) and Waterbeach (Cambs), Enfield (Middx) and Warham (Norfolk), and who also held a rent of 10 marks in Patching Hall in Broomfield
13. **Henry III Fine Rolls Project 45/552 (29 May 1261); Close Rolls, Henry III (April 1259) 376; TNA C132/40/15** Lucy died in 1271
14. **23 EDWARD I. 1291/i-1295. 598 Michaelmas; Ward JC (1991) Sir John de Coggeshale an Essex Knight in the Fourteenth Century in Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History third series xxii p61-6**
15. **TNA C143/80/19; Calendar of Patent Rolls of Henry III (1896) p.276 4 Edward II Membrane 10**
16. **Parish and manor of Alresford p1**
17. **6 EDWARD II. 1312-1313 255 Michaelmas**
18. **ERO T/P 195/8; Morant 1768, I, p.452**
19. **TNA C 143/91/1 6 Edward II (c1312); Calendar of Patent Rolls of Henry III (1896) p.512 6 Edward II Membrane 10** November 20th 1312
20. **6 EDWARD II. 1312-1313 255 Michaelmas**
21. **TNA C 143/92/9 6 Edward II**
22. **TNA C 143/40/15 30 Edward I (c1301)**
23. **Calendar of the Patent Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office: Edward III 1327-1377 (1902) p.197; Cal. IPMs Vol 8 Edward III #129, p 73** Will of Aufridus (Humphry) de Staunton; <http://www.teachergenealogist007.com/2020/10/squire-john-de-staunton-margery.html>
24. **Roskell JS Clark L Rawcliffe C (ed.) (1993) The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1386-1421**
25. <https://highsheriffessex.com/list-of-high-sheriffs/>, **Ward (1991) Sir John de Coggeshale p.63, 64**
26. **Roskell JS Clark L Rawcliffe C (ed.) (1993) The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1386-1421**
27. **ibid**
28. **ibid**
29. **Calendar of Close Rolls Henry VI: Vol 3 1435-1441 (May 1436)**
30. **Maskelyne and H. C. Maxwell Lyte, 'Inquisitions Postmortem, Henry VII, Entries 1101-1150', in Calendar of Inquisitions Postmortem: Series 2, Volume 1, Henry VII (1898), pp. 469-504**
31. **Dodd G (2020) 'Nother by addicions, nother by diminucions' in Monarchy, State and Political Culture in Late Medieval England p130; Roskell JS (1976) John Doreward of Bocking, Speaker in 1399 and 1413 in Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History third series, viii p209-222**
32. **King HL (1885) The Strangman Pedigree in Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society, iii p103**
33. **33. ERO D/DJo M1**
34. **King HL (1865) The Strangman Pedigree iii p103.**
35. **Calendar of the Patent Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office Henry VIII (1938) p412**
36. **CP25(2)/70/583 MICHAELMAS, 3 AND 4 PHILIP AND MARY 1556**
37. **Watson JY (1877) The Tendring Hundred in the olden times p109** Thomas was Deputy of the Cinque Port Limb of Brightlingsea

Medieval Alresford (1066-1485)

The earliest mentions of Alresford in medieval times are of villagers acting as witnesses in land conveyances. In 1160, Tuold *de Alesford* was witness to his late brother Geoffrey's ten acres of lands in Bentley, to Aubrey de Vere for a grant of 13/- and annual rent of 2/-. The granter received 10/-, the widow 2/- and the son 12d.¹ In 1185, William *daleford* was witness to a land transfer in Elmstead worth 1/12th of a Knight's Fee.² In 1200, Guy *de Aleford* was witness to a tenement in Elmstead being transferred for a grant of 20/- and annual rent of 12d.³ On 12 April 1282, William le Butiller was witness to Richard de Tanes, knight's, Quitclaim of two marks of silver to Geoffrey, son of Stephen of Elmstead.⁴

In 1346 a Burgess of Colchester, Geoffrey Daw of Alresford was a bailiff, owner of *le Bern and Berifeld near Abbehalow* in Colchester in 1374 (today's location of the Firstsite art gallery) and M.P in 1378.⁵ He had a life tenancy of the Manor of Alresford in 1375⁶ and was one of five Burgesses from Alresford (1381-1440).⁷ Daw was also Captain of the *James of Colchester* in 1369.⁸ Poll Tax returns of 1380 for the Clergy show one was resident paying 40d.⁹ In 1382, John Squerel was fined £1 for forestalling barley.¹⁰ The 1428 subsidy on Parish and Knights Fees was paid.¹¹

Eighty pottery shards from the thirteenth to seventeenth century were in three hectares of land surveyed, at Church Farm north-west of the medieval church.¹² This was the site of a historic quarry.¹³ Two sherds of fourteenth century pottery were found near to the Creek mouth.¹⁴ A smoke jack was found at Alresford Hall.¹⁵ In 1960, in the field south of the Church appeared *a dark patch. (GR,52/065204) Vast quantities of oyster shell accompanied pottery and tile at this site, which appears to have been some sort of dwelling.*¹⁶ In 1971, Dr W Dean donated to Colchester Museum a medieval, brown glazed clay bead found in Alresford.¹⁷ A copper alloy 'sterling bust' jetton, (counting token) pierced in the centre (1302-1350) was found at the Broomfield plantation.¹⁸ Documentary sources linked to the later Tithe Maps mentioned Cockaynes (1279); Mill Wood and Millwood Field were owned by William atte Milne (1327); John Turnpenny (of Thorrington) (1337) and Jermann ate Marsh (1341).¹⁹

The complicated nature of medieval properties can be seen in the land transfers recorded in the *Feet of Fines*. In 1310, Robert de Pentrich acquired from John le Botiller of *Allesford, I messuage, I mill, 130 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 36 acres of pasture and 24 acres of wood in Elmsted and Stapelford Abbots.*²⁰ In 1368, Robert

Herdas acquired from the Pentrich descendants *a messuage, 170 acres of land, 8 of meadow, 10 of aldergrove, and 12 of pasture in Elmstead, Frating and Alresford*. These farms changed hands over forty times between 1295 and 1617.²¹ This is the site of Blue Gates Farm.

Agriculture and fishing remained the main form of employment. Competition amongst oyster gatherers in Essex has sometimes led to outbreaks of violence. During the reign of Edward III, a disagreement between men from Brightlingsea, Alresford, Wivenhoe, Fingringhoe, Mease, Salcott and Tollesbury concerning fishing rights resulted in the drowning of three men.²² Alresford petitioned the King. Also considered was that John de Coggeshale had built five fishing weirs and John Wynchester four by 1362, on the River Colne and Creek. The Admiralty ruled that these, and many from other landowners, including Lionel de Badenham, had to be removed from the Colne as they obstructed navigation.²³ During the Hundred Years War, two ships and six mariners from Alresford with a total tonnage of 53 tons sailed with fifteen from Brightlingsea to war. This was probably prior to Brightlingsea being affected by the Plague in 1348²⁴ and included one-third of the ships in each town. In 1372, Edward III ordered a survey of twenty ports in Essex so he could prepare for future warfare. These orders were received by the Constable of each Parish, including Alresford, and separately by the Sheriff of Essex. Alresford had seven mariners (11% of the taxpayers).²⁵

Records for taxation on *Aleford* exist from 1237, when the village was grouped with *Fratinge* to pay 12/ 9. Poor people with less than 40d in goods were exempt.²⁶ In 1327, the villagers were to pay a Lay Subsidy for the Defence of the Realm assessed at the value 1/20th of their moveable goods (e.g.- cows, sheep, crops), but excluded the clergy and moneyers.²⁷ In the *Villata de Aleford* De Aumfrido de Staunton was assessed at 5/1; Wilhelmo atte Milne 21d; Johanne le Hunte 10½d; Germano atte Marshe 19d; Galfrido Bagge 12d; Eustacio Adnar 10d; Johanne Caproun 16d; Johanne le Cake 12d; Agrete Squirels 12½d; Adam Skyle 2/6¼ and Johanne in the Fenne 2/ 6.²⁸ In 1377, seventy-seven people paid the Poll Tax of 4d each.²⁹ The Tax was also collected in 1379 (graduated tax) and 1380-1 (1/- each).³⁰

1. ERO D/DU 23/9
2. ERO D/DU 23/31
3. ERO D/DU 23/32
4. ERO D/DRg 125
5. Laver PG (1926) *Berryfield Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society: new series volume 17 p.119*
6. *Victoria County History of Essex ix (1994) p57-66*
7. Galloway (1986) *Colchester and its region: 1310-1560 Map 11 opposite p280*

In 1587, Sam Gyles owned twenty acres of arable and twenty acres of salt marsh in Elmstead, Alresford and Wivenhoe worth £80.¹⁰ This was then transferred to Thomas Bussard, but were only valued at £60.¹¹

In 1577, Stephen Page occupied two messuages, two gardens, one orchard, 50 acres arable, 8 acres meadow, 12 acres pasture & 6 acres of Wood in Alresford. Valued at 160 marks.¹² Edward Neweman occupied one messuage, one orchard and five acres arable in Alresford. Valued at £40.¹³ Thomas Bendishe, sen, Esq, owned two-third parts of three messuages, one cottage, four gardens, one orchard, sixty acres arable, eight acres meadowland, twenty acres pastureland and twenty acres wood in Alresford, Elmstead, Frating and Little Bentley. This was worth £80.¹⁴ He also acquired a further four messuages, four gardens, two orchards, eighty acres arable, eight acres meadow, four acres pasture and thirty acres wood in Alresford, Elmstead, Frating and Little Bentley. Worth £60.¹⁵

Samuel London occupied two-thirds of three messuages, one cottage, four gardens, one orchard, sixty acres arable, eight acres meadow, twenty acres pasture and twenty acres woodland in Alresford, Elmstead, Frating and Little Bentley worth £100.¹⁶ John Beriffe (d.1625), gentleman, owned the deed to one messuage, twenty acres arable, four acres meadow, 20 acres. pasture and six acres wood in Alresford, Frating and Thorrington. Worth £41.¹⁷

Thomas Buckstone owned six messuages, two cottages, one shop, three gardens, two orchards, twenty acres arable, twenty acres meadow, twenty acres pasture and six acres marsh in Alresford & Colchester. This was valued at £240.¹⁸ Ralph Creffield the elder in 1666, left houses in Colchester with lands in Alresford and local villages.¹⁹

To encourage the fishing industry, in 1562, a law was passed that made it compulsory for residents to eat fish on Wednesdays and Fridays.²⁰ In 1627, Tobey Deane applied for a dredger's license and John Wilkinson was named in 1701.²¹ It was customary not to sell licenses to anyone who had not been an apprentice to a dredgerman for seven years; and to grant one free to a *poor dredger* at Alresford and the seven other villages.²² In 1544, thirty-seven sailors from “.. *Bryeckelyese, Alresford and East Mersea..*”²³ were pressed to take soldiers from Henry VIII's army on the *Mynyone* and *Primrose*, from Deptford to the War in Flanders. Alresford was also listed as a harbour during Medieval and Tudor Times. There was one “*lading place*” at the south side of the Ford in Alresford Creek. In Alresford itself there were three deputies, one lading place at the Ford (on the north side), one lading place at the Mill.²⁴ A survey of Ipswich and its creeks in 1565 included Alresford Creek as part of the Harbour of Brightlingsea.²⁵

In 1594, John Norden recorded in *“The Description of Essex”* that *“..The most barren heathy ground bears the finest wool..”* and listed *Alresford Heath*.²⁶ Alresford is not shown on Speed’s County map of 1610; but at an Inquisition into the ownership of Colchester Castle on April 12th 1637 was called *a township in Tendring Hundred*.²⁷ In 1677, Henry Northage of Alresford, gentleman and bailiff of the Hundred of Tendring, was appointed as gamekeeper of the Hundred.²⁸

Many of the roles of the present Parish, District and County councils were undertaken by the vestry Meetings. In 1681, Thomas Cole and Thomas Philips were both Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor. Clare Sydney and Ambrose Rigby were Constables responsible for apprehending felons and transporting them to the courts. John Sutton and John Burr were Surveyors of the Highways.²⁹ Each villager was expected to fix local roads for six days each year or a warrant was issued.³⁰ All of these roles were recorded in the annual Church accounts, and these were finalised on April 17th 1682. The Constables expenses were 1/6, received from the Church accounts, and for implementing four warrants 10/-; walking the bounds cost 3/- and 10d was paid to the relief of passengers. Tendring Hundred received £1 2/4 for bridge repairs and quarteridge (money paid each quarter); Colchester received 1/6 for Trane arms. The Constables expenses totalled £3 7/2 whilst collecting £3 16/11 ½.³¹ In 1682, the two Constables were Henry Turner and William Colchester.³²

Properties in Alresford are also mentioned in Tudor Wills. In 1528, Richard Whyter left land in Alresford and other Parishes on the Colne to his daughter Frances.³³ On March 21st 1560, Margaret Barker to *Alice my daughter my boat and all that belongeth to it, my bed that I lie on, my querns, 1 pig, my red petticoat, my linen and 20/- To Mary Pepper 1 table, 1 form, 1 featherbed, 1 cupboard, 6 earthern platters, 1 pewtor platter, 1 hutch, 1 earthern pot. The rest of my goods to Richard Barker my so, whom I make my ex’or*.³⁴ On June 2nd 1599, Nicholas Bragg of Alresford left *To my son John my house and lands in Sible Hedingham after the decease of Joan my wife. The rest of my goods to my wife, whom I make ex’rix*.³⁵

In c1597, Bridget Ball received one candlestick and a feather pillow.³⁶ On February 20th 1599, *William Giles sailor of Could Hall, Wivenhoe* left his house and lands in Alresford to his son William when he became 21.³⁷

Alresford paid taxes in 1324 of £1 2/11 ¼ pa, which rose by 1527 to £3 6/6. (190% increase)³⁸

In 1650, the Commonwealth surveyed for the union or division of parishes, read in the court 23rd November 1650. Inquisitions were held at key places – including Alresford Rectory (395).³⁹ In 1654, Thomas Stone conveyed to

Ellis Markant A property in Alresford, Essex.⁴⁰ In 1660, Ellis Markant Transferred to *Thomas Beacon, Mary Beacon, widow and Ann Beacon, property in Thorrington and Alresford, Essex.*⁴¹

Between 1662 and 1689, the King raised finances via the annual Hearth Tax. 2/- was paid for each hearth in a property in two instalments at Lady's Day (March 25th) and Michaelmas (September 29th). There were exemptions for the poor.⁴² The returns still exist for *Arlesford* in 1662 and 1670; the latter collected by John Maschall (Royal Collector) and John Burr (Constable).⁴³

In 1662, the villagers, and the number of hearths taxed for, were Martha Berrefe; Willus Berrefe, gen.; Johes Bogest (3 hearths); Johes Browne; Johes Corder (1); Houricus Burrell (2); Robtus Gaile (1); Johes Ha...; Johes Harvy (3); Johes Lan.. , miles; ... Martin, gen; Alicia Mor ... (2 residencecies); Richardus Norton (1); Houricus Quince (2); Ambrosius Ryseby (1); Robtus Walker (4); Thomas Ward (1); Thomas Warren (2); Nathaniel We... ; Will For a total of 77 hearths.⁴⁴

Table 1 – 1670 Hearth Tax⁴³

| Name | Number of Hearths | Name | Number of Hearths | Discharged certificate | |
|------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------|------------------------|---|
| Johannes Burr | 5 | Thomas King | 3 | Sibley Barker | 1 |
| Willelmus Sandall | 1 | Robertus Boyce | 12 | Johannes Beaumont | 1 |
| Johannes Hunnick | 5 | Elias Marcant | 2 | Johannes Fisher | 1 |
| Richardus Northern | 1 | Willelmus Colchester | 1 | Thomas Ward | 1 |
| Willelmus Salton | 1 | Johannes Ward | 1 | Maria King | 1 |
| Robertus Gale | 4 | Thomas Blomfield | 1 | Richardus Nightingall | 0 |
| Benjamin Cleere | 4 | Edwardus Peirce In tribe vac domibz | 3 | | |
| Nathan Wells | 4 | Edwardus Peirce | 2 | | |
| Johannes Dawes bae vac | 4 | Ambros Risby | 3 | | |
| Jacobus Searle | 8 | Georg Spring | 1 | | |
| | | Robertus Boyce vac | 2 | | |

Further exemptions were granted in other years: in 1671, six villagers were named;⁴⁵ in 1672, seven with eight hearths;⁴⁶ and in 1674, eight with ten hearths were named.⁴⁷ Villagers also had to pay a Poll Tax for the Dutch Wars of at least 1/- per person in 1667 and 1668.⁴⁸

In March 1562, Robert Yonge and Anthony Robson were Jurors assessing the Parish of Dedham.⁴⁹

1. MICHAELMAS. 25 HENRY VIII.1533 34 St John's was founded in 1511 and still exists today
2. EASTER, 2 EDWARD VI 1548 CP25(2)/66/546 DIVERS COUNTIES; ODNB [doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/70579](https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/70579) Darcy was 1st Baron of Chiche (St Osyth) and died in Wivenhoe. He married Elizabeth de Vere of Wivenhoe in 1521. He was MP for Essex in 1536, 1539, 1545 and 1547. TNA E328/403 3. TNA C1/967/ 20
4. TNA C1/796/31
5. CP25(2)/5 7 /420 EASTER, 3 EDWARD VI 1549
6. CP25(2)/57 /420 TRINITY, 3 EDWARD VI 1549 54
7. CP25(2)/57 /421 HILARY, 3-4 EDWARD VI 1550 16
8. CP (2)/5 7 /422 MICHAELMAS, 5 EDWARD VI 1551 79
9. CP25(2)/70/579 MICHAELMAS, 1 AND 2 PHILIP AND MARY 1554 43; final concord November 3rd 1555 ERO T/A 133/1
10. CP25(2)/133/I 704 HILARY, 29 ELIZABETH 1587, 3
11. CP25(2)/I 39/I 7 55 HILARY, 42 ELIZABETH 1600 4
12. CP25(2)/70/585 HILARY, 4 AND 5 PHILIP AND MARY 1558 S9
13. CP25(2)/130/1666 EASTER,19 ELIZABETH 1577 18
14. CP25(2)/138/1748 EASTER, 40 ELIZABETH 1598, 27
15. CP25(2)/140/I 764 EASTER, 44 ELIZABETH 1602 6
16. CP25(2)/137/I 738 TRINITY, 37 ELIZABETH 1595, 43
17. CP25(2)/138/1748 EASTER, 40 ELIZABETH 1598, 30, Watson (1877) p.138
18. CP25(2)/I 39/I 7 55 HILARY, 42 ELIZABETH, 30
19. ERO D/DRc F7/1 1 10; Will D/ACW 17/180
20. Dickin EP (1913) p138
21. ERO TA 391/3 p.39; TA 418/229/8
22. ERO D/B5 Ef1/1
23. Dickin EP (1913) p73
24. Dickin EP (1926) *Notes on the coast, shipping, and sea-borne trade of Essex, from 1565 to 1577* Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society new series xvii p156; Emmison FG (1998) *Essex Wills: The Bishop of London's Commissary Court: 1587-1599* pXI 25. Dickin EP (1913) p116
26. Emmison FG (1991) *Elizabethan Life: Home, Work and Land* p34; ERO D/DMs P1
27. Round, JH *Some Documents Relating to Colchester Castle* in Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society iii (1885) p.146
28. ERO D/DRc 28, xlii
29. McCallum RJ (1948) *An English Village*: p22
30. *ibid* p24 31. *ibid* p22
32. *ibid* p24
33. ERO D/ABW 39/12
34. Emmison FG (1993) *Essex Wills: The Bishop of London's Commissary Court, 1558-1569* P.57 (Will 251)
35. Emmison FG (1993) *Essex Wills: The Bishop of London's Commissary Court, 1558-1569* p.60 (Will 267) 21 March 1560
36. Emmison FG (1990) *Essex Wills The Archdeaconry Courts, 1597-1603* p.123 (Will) 37. *Ibid* P.133 (691B)
38. Galloway JA (1986) *Colchester and its region: 1310-1560* p.46 During the same period Elmstead paid 500% more and Frating 870%.
39. Lambeth Palace Library COMM/12A/8 Volume 8 (395)
40. TNA C 10/467/242
41. TNA C 9/23/77
42. [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/England_Hearth_Tax_1662_to_1689_\(National_Institute\)](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/England_Hearth_Tax_1662_to_1689_(National_Institute))
43. ERO Q/RTh 5
44. *Essex Family History (1998) 1662 Hearth Tax* (microfiche in Colchester library's Quiet Room)
45. TNA E179/328/589 45.
46. TNA E179/328/590
46. TNA E179/328/591
47. NA E179/112/704; E179/300/7 There was an additional sliding scale from £50 for Duke to Gents 20/-.
48. Collinson P, Craig J, Usher B (2003) *Ecclesiastical Dedham Conferences and Combination Lectures in the Elizabethan Church 1582-90*, p.1 xiv

Manor of Alresford (1578- 1720)

In 1578, Rev William Tabor DD, owned a moiety of the manor of Alresford and *Easthall* as well as Thorrington, Wivenhoe, Westwick, Bradwell, Writtle and Moulsham.¹ Tabor was Rector of Widdington (1570- 1575); High Ongar (1572-1611); Willingale Spain (1576- 1607); Archdeacon of Colchester (1594-1603) and Rector of Bradwell-on-Sea (in 1611).² In his 1611 Will, he left a moiety of rents of the Manor of Alresford and East Hall to his daughter Martha during her minority, with *a new mansion house that had been recently built* left to his wife Eleanor. Upon her death, Martha was to be raised by Sir Anthony Browne³ (d.1623)⁴ and his wife of South Weald.

In 1599, a group led by Henry Hobart, esq., acquired from Thomas Barwicke the *Manors of Alresforde & East Hall, 20 messuages, one watermill, 20 gardens, 1,000 acres arable, 80 acres meadowland, 200 acres. pastureland, 300 acres wood, 200 acres furze & heath, 60 acres. marsh, 30/- rent, free warren, several fishery in the water called Alresford Ford & view of frankpledge in Alresford, Wivenhoe, Frating & Tharrington, & advowson of church of Alresford, & moiety of one watermill in Alresford & Thorrington worth £600.*⁵ In 1602, Barwicke transferred these lands to Henry Reade, but now they were only worth £400.⁶ They also needed a *bill to recover possession; the manor of Alresford, situate near the sea, and the moiety of a creek, parcel of the said manor, leading from the sea towards the town of Thorrington, and dividing the parishes of Alresford and Thorrington, Essex, and the moiety of a water-mill upon the said stream called Thorrington Mill.*⁷

In c1622, Tabor's daughter Martha married her guardian's son, John Browne of Weald Hall (d.1658)⁸ and the manor was transferred to John Hawkins a clothier from Braintree, who willed it to his son, John, in 1633.⁹ In 1633, his sixteen year old heiress, Christian, married Sir John Dawes 1st Baronet of Putney (1644-71) without seeking approval from her guardian Sir Andrew Rickard. She was *worth £1000 per annum present, good land, and some money, and a very well-bred and handsome lady: he, I doubt, but a simple fellow. However, he got this good luck to get her which methinks I could envy him with all my heart.*¹⁰ Dawes divided the estates for sale.¹¹ Their second son William (1671-1724) was Archbishop of York 1714-24.

In 1683, part of the Manor of Alresford was purchased by Benjamin Field, a wine cooper of London. His son Benjamin, a goldsmith of Lombard Street, inherited before selling it to Captain Matthew Martin of Wivenhoe House.¹¹ He also purchased all of the other estates belonging to the Manor. A mansion at *Alersford* is shown on John Oliver's map of 1696 to the east of the main road between *Wyvenhowe* and *Brightlingsea*.¹²

1. Watson JY (1877) *The Tendring Hundred in the olden times* p.109; Peile J, Venn JA (1910) *Biographical register of Christ's college, 1505-1905, and of the earlier foundation, God's house, 1448-1505* p64
2. <https://theclergydatabase.org.uk/jsp/persons/CreatePersonFrames.jsp?PersonID=59092>
3. ERO D/DC 41/231 Will of William Tabor
4. TNA PROB 11/142/533 Will of Anthony Browne (d.1623) Weald Hall was located in Brentwood; <https://www.greatbritishlife.co.uk/stepping-backthrough-history-weald-hall-7001240> Weald Hall was owned by the Browne family (1548-1668) and was demolished in 1950
5. CP25(2)/138/I 7 53 TRINITY, 41 ELIZABETH 1599 39
6. CP25(2)/140/J 765 TRINITY, 44 ELIZABETH 1602
7. C 2/Eliz/B16/25
8. Metcalfe WC (1879) *The visitations of Essex* p362 called her Hester, NOT Martha, mother of the Cavalier Sir Anthony Browne ERO D/DBg 9/4 Private Act of 1662 to settle his estates; *'Parishes: South Weald'* Powell WR (ed) (1983) *A History of the County of Essex: viii* pp. 74-90.
9. Watson JY (1877) *The Tendring Hundred in the olden times* p110, Morant (1768) i p453
10. Pepys S (1665) *Diary* May 3rd 1663, October 29th 1663
11. Burke B (1854) *Visitation of the Seats and Arms of Nobleman* p205-6
12. Watson JY (1877) *The Tendring Hundred in the olden times* p110

13. <https://hdl.huntington.org/digital/collection/p15150coll4/id/2536/>

Manor of Cockaynes

In c1180, *Geoffrey of Cokama* is mentioned in a land grant.¹ Geoffrey de Cockayne was a juror on one grand assize and an elector on another in 1227, and also served as the viewer of an essoin in 1233. His son, William de Cockayne was a witness for Hugh fitzRichard's purchase of Thorrington Manor in 1251, a presenting juror for the hundred of Tendring before the special eyre of 1268; and a valet for the eyres of 1254 and 1262. He also held the manor of Cokaynes and lands in Elmstead, Wivenhoe, Bromley, Stambridge, and Bentley.² Cockayne witnessed a charter for land in Ardleigh and another granting land in Elmstead to Simon Batilly in 1245, while Cockayne were the first two witnesses of another local charter.³ Cockayne had previously witnessed a grant to Richard d'Ectot.⁴ After the Civil War against Henry III (1263-7), '*William Cocone*' was named as the leader of local rebels.³ John de Cockayne was a valet at the special eyre of 1272.⁵

In 1279, the Manor of Cockaynes, was held by Sir John de Sutton of Wivenhoe valued at 19/-.⁶ He had two parts of one messuage (a dwelling house with outbuildings and land assigned), one caracute (hide; 120 acres) of arable land; twenty acres of wood; twenty acres of pasture; and six marks rent. There were also appurtenances (property rights) in Elmstead, Bentley and Bromley.⁷ His son Benedict de Cokefield inherited, then the Manor passed to Sir John de Sutton of Wyvenhoe Hall in 1332.

The Manor of Cockaynes then passed down through the owners of Wyvenhoe Hall.⁸ In 1338 it drew rents from Great Bentley: 3/- from the earl of Oxford, 11/6 from Hugh de Roklonde, and 3/11 from Richard Drawesword.⁹ In 1408, Agnes the widow of John "in the fen" Alresford occupied one messuage with forty acres owned by Robert Benorthen. This was worth 100/-.¹⁰ (The nineteenth century Fenn Farm was north of the Mitchell's farm shop – over a mile north of St Peter's.)

By 1500, it had grown to seventy acres of heath, 386 acres of arable and pasture; sixteen acres of meadow, eighteen acres of wood, sixty-three acres of marsh and four messuages.¹¹ In 1586, Roger Townshend was Lord and had a map drawn¹² and the ownership of each parcel of land was surveyed soon after.¹³ In 1720, the Manor of Cockaynes was purchased by Matthew Martin.¹⁵ The Indenture of 1786, did not mention leaving the Manor of Cockaynes to Martin's descendants.¹⁶ Nicholas Corsellis controlled the Manor for the 1822 Inclosure Act,¹⁷ but in

1848 Mary Higginbotham was named as owner¹⁸ and George and William Higginbotham in 1874.¹⁹

1. <https://hls.harvard.edu/library/historical-special-collections/exhibits/history-in-deed-medieval-society-the-law-in-england-1100-1600/#chap1> Item 3. c.1180 Grant, Wivenhoe, Essex
2. Moore T. (2009) *The Thorrington Dispute: a case study in Henry III's judicial Interference* para 14 A valet held a knight's fee and was of full age but had not yet been knighted. A special eyre was held by the King's justices every seven/eight years to assess land ownings and taxes paid.; C60/49 Fine Roll of 36 Henry III
3. Ibid para 15; TNA E 329/255; ERO, D/DU 23/34; ERO, Drg/1/18
4. Ibid para 15; ERO, Drg/1/18, TNA KB 26/189, m. 3d
5. Ibid para 22.
6. The parish and manor of Alresford p.2
7. 7 EDWARD I. 1279 116 Easter
8. Watson JY (1877) *The Tendring Hundred in the olden times* p111
9. <https://hls.harvard.edu/library/historical-special-collections/exhibits/history-in-deed-medieval-society-the-law-in-england-1100-1600/#chap1> Item 39. 1338 July 5 Grant and Livery of seisin, Wivenhoe, Essex
10. 10 HENRY IV1408 191. Michaelmas
11. Wright T (1836) *The history and topography of Essex: i* p395-6
12. ERO D/DEt M24
13. ERO D/HN T61
14. Parish and Manor of Alresford p.2
15. ERO D/DB T1478
16. 3 Geo. 4 c1
17. White W. (1848) *History, Gazetteer & Directory of Essex*
18. *Post Office Directory of Essex 1874* p8

Post-medieval Charity

During the Tudor era, a number of wills detailed charity for the poor. On May 28th 1588, Edmund Porter left a house called Knapps, church fences and lands of 31 acres to John Porter and his heirs. In return, Porter was expected to give the poor every Sunday from Whitsun to Michaelmas, the milk of two cows: 3 /4 on Good Friday and Christmas Day. This milk tribute was later commuted into a distribution of bread¹ for 12/8 per annum.² The balance was distributed in 1922 by the Rector.³

There were also two almshouses, for widows, which existed without any specific endowments.⁴ In 1571, yeoman Richard Boller referred to his almshouse at Alresford⁵ and in 1572 left 4d to every poor person.⁶ Also in 1572, the Rev George Lawson left money for the poor of Alresford, Elmstead, Thorrington and Brightlingsea.⁷ In 1583, Thomas Sawyer the younger of Frating left to the poor of Alresford ... 40s each parish, according to the need at the discretion of my exor.⁸

During the Plague of 1665/6, 4559 of 10,000 Colchester residents in 935 households died.⁹ The neighbouring villages in the Hundreds of Lexden, Winstree and Tendring were taxed at £108 a month for two months. Alresford paid £1 12/- on both October 13th and November 28th.¹⁰ Villagers also made private donations.

1. Edwards H (1842) *A collection of old English Customs, and Curious Bequests and Charities* p75
2. *Public Charities III. Return of Charities to be Distributed to the Poor Commissioners for Inquiring Concerning Charities-(1842)* p.66 3. ERO D/P 336/8/3
4. Parish and Manor of Alresford p.4; Lewis S (1840) *A Topological Dictionary* p40 still two almshouses in 1840

5. Emmison, FG (1986) *Essex Wills (England)* iii 1571-1577 p253
6. Emmison, FG (1986) *Essex Wills (England)* iii 1571-1577 p285; Morant P (1768) ii p453 still in existence
7. TNA PROB 11/54/540 p.1 Will of George Lawson, Clerk, Parson
8. Emmison FG (1982) *Essex Wills (England)* iv 1578-1588 p.198 will # 899
9. Doolittle IG (1972) *The Plague in Colchester 1579-1666* p145
10. ERO Q/SR 407/66 EPIPHANY 1666

Post-Medieval Crime recorded at the Quarter Sessions and County Assizes (1485-1714)

Quarter Sessions, with Juries for non-capital crimes, started in 1344¹ in Essex and records exist from 1556.²

On 14 March 1556, Anthony Church, labourer, was accused of *about 11 o'clock at night burglariously broke into the house of John Waylett there and stole from him a shyrt worth 2/-*. He was found not guilty.³

On 1st July 1556, Richard Hardinge, a labourer, was indicted for stealing from Edmund Goodwyn at Alresford, *two wether sheep, value 5/- and 8 lambs, value 16/-, one whistle of 'iverye' with one 'Le flewe' silver gilt, value 6/8 and £4 in money*. He was to be taken to Colchester Gaol by the warrant of Edmond Tirell, Esq. The two constables from Alresford guarding him, William Steven and John Sakes, allowed Hardinge to escape and were fined 3/ 4 each. They were summoned by the writ of Sir William Petre at Chelmsford to appear before the Justices in 1557.⁴

On March 23rd 1561, William Cockley was found guilty of stealing six gold coins from John Bocher from of St Osyth and *handed to the Ordinary*.⁵ At Epiphany 1562, Thomas Stephyn was appointed constable.⁶

For being a vagrant and not retained in service, on 16 September 1572, Ann Borley of *Ausford*, singlewoman, was indicted and taken from the village.⁷ On 20 November 1574, George Binham, a labourer of Alresford, was among a dozen indicted for being a vagrant.⁸

On March 3rd 1575, Thomas Martine, a labourer, was found not guilty of stealing two heifers from John Pawfin on September 23rd 15 Eliz.⁹

At Easter 1589, Thomas Chues of *Alsford* was presented at the Quarter Sessions *for a piece of a ditch about the space and length of forty rods or thereabouts, for annoying the Queen's liege people, the ground abutting upon the ground of "Vanmans."*¹⁰

Alresford was expected to contribute to Juries at the Quarter Sessions. This was not always the case as at Epiphany 1577 *the vill. of Alresford were warned to send two lawful men each to the sessions and made default*.¹¹ At Midsummer 1585, Thomas Hewes of *Ausford*,¹² Easter 1587, William Smythe of *Awfford*¹³ and Easter 1589, Robert Baall and Thomas Lucas were sworn in as jurors in Tendring.¹⁴ In 1592, Isaac Hickford and Harry Wade were

appointed to the Jury panel for the Bishop of London, and John Horton to Tendring.¹⁵ In 1593, Isaac Hickford and Charles Humberston were appointed to Tendring,¹⁶ and Thomas Sparatt to London.¹⁷

On May 2nd 1597, John Tame and William Vincent, labourers, were found guilty of stealing two red cows worth £8 and two black cows from Edmund Cook.¹⁸ On 20 July 1612, Thomas Grynly of *Afford*, a labourer, was tried for stealing *half a bushell of rye meale* from John Vlackborne in Thorrington. He was found guilty and whipped.¹⁹ On 18 September 1615, Elizabeth Lewger, a widow of Alresford widow, was called to Court *to answer to all such matters as shall be objected against her by James Russell of Aircaford, and to keep the peace towards him* but she defaulted.²⁰ On March 2nd 1618, Henry Waite was indicted for stealing a *sholder of mutton worth 10d*. He was acquitted.²¹

In Midsummer 1618, the baker John Kettel was accused of playing unlawful games on the Lord's Day and of *making bread for the poor not to the statute*.²²

On May 3rd 1620, Richard Ward, Richard Porter and George Harrison, herdsmen, were taken to court by Edmund Rother.²³ On June 1625, several villagers were indicted: Samuel Lovekin, a tailor, for being a *common sabbath-breaker, a common railer and a hedge-breaker*; Henry Wade and John Persone, labourers, of *being common alehouse haunters and sabbath-breakers*.²⁴ On March 27th 1626, Thomas Stratcher and Arthur Jackson, both butchers; Edward Man and William Lymmer, weavers; and John Dunninges, a husbandman, were accused of stealing a calf worth 16/- belonging to William Grymell.²⁵

At the Midsummer Assizes of 1633, over sixty Essex men were accused of not working to mend the roads, including William Stone from Alresford. George Noble was accused of *ploughing up a common church path* and of *taking away a common footbridge*.²⁶ At Micheaelmas 1637, *James Harris, singleman, was to keep the peace to Elizabeth wife of Robert French, gent*.²⁷ September 16th 1637 In November, Henry Kettle and Robert Clarke were found guilty of petty larceny and were to be sentenced by Henry Waite, the Clerk.²⁸

The local inn-keepers were regularly mentioned at the Quarter Assizes. On 16 July 1574, James Watts of *Alresford* victualler, *James licenced to keep an alehouse at the same*.²⁹ On February 23rd 1579, Thomas Chamberlen paid a Victuallers Surety.³⁰ In Midsummer 1601, Zachary Soames and John Gladwin were prosecuted for victualling for a month contrary to the statutes, although the latter had permission from Alresford.³¹ At Easter 1605, John

Wakering gave a Surety for Alresford.³² In March 1607, this was paid by Ursula Gladwyn³³ and again in 1608.³⁴ In 1618, a disorderly ale-house was mentioned at the Quarter Sessions.³⁵ In Midsummer 1631, Stephen Sallows was prosecuted for selling less than a quart of beer for 1d.³⁶

In 1605, one case was taken to both the Court of the Star Chamber and the King's Bench, criminal or civil side: Barnes category. *John Robinson, yeoman, accused the Constable, Samuel London, Samuel London the younger, William Turnour, James Parker, and others of forcible entry, threats to the workmen of plaintiff, damage to gates and seizure of corn at Alresford, perjury in the King's Bench, officer's misfeasance; destruction of property; unlawful assembly.*³⁷

On 25 April 1645, Susan Sparrow of Little Bentley accused Mary Greenleaf of witchcraft thirty years before in Alresford. Greenleaf was arrested and died of the plague in gaol in August 1645, aged 84.³⁸ In 1650, Susan Sparrow herself received a one month jail term.³⁹

In July 1654, John Harwood, husbandman was to answer Thomas Tricker of *Alersford* in front of the Justice Sir Thomas Bowes.⁴⁰

On 9 March 1665 James Sewell, a husbandman of Alresford occupying a messuage and lands of 100 acres, was accused of stealing a sheep belonging to William Browne worth 6/-. Browne insisted in court that the sheep was stolen on January 30st, had his brand and that Sewell said he was keeping it. The victim's father identified the sheep by its broken horn. The Village wrote a petition attesting to his good character, signed by Rev Thomas Martin the Rector; John Bream and John Hunwicke churchwardens for three years; Nathl. Wells the constable, Ambrose Risby sidesman and Rev Mark de Pours, Rector of Wivenhoe. They also protested that his accuser William Browne *is a prophane person not fearing God nor reverencing man.*⁴¹

In 1669, *Jops. Deadmn* took Sam Deadman and his family as his undertenants, without permission.⁴² On March 14th 1670, Lawrence Coale, Jos. and Susan Bumpstead were prosecuted for not attending Church on *18 July 21 Chas. II*⁴³ Robert Boys of Alresford, yeoman, was a "*petty constables*" of the several vills in the Hundred of Tendring, on *22 March 21 Chas. II* recognized by the chief constables of the Hundred.⁴⁴ In April 1676, John Burr, a yeoman of Wivenhoe, was twice taken to court and instructed to keep the peace to Thomas Batty's wife, who feared he would

cause bodily harm.⁴⁵ At the Easter sessions of 1686, Alresford was found to be negligent in repairing the highway from Wivenhoe to *Alford, being almost unpassable*, and the road to *Chich St Osyth*.⁴⁶

In 1694, *John English "basketmaker," Susannah Bullen, widow, and Henry Bullen of Wivenhoe, labourer now prisoner in the Gaol of this County*, were indicted for *affray, battery and riot by him and other against Nathl. Frances constable of Great Totham and divers other persons there*.⁴⁷ In 1709, Henry Bullen accused Benjamin Oliver of Great Clacton and Josias King of Little Clacton, yeomen, of *assaulting and riding over him upon the common highway*. They did not attend and were pardoned.⁴⁸

Alresford Villagers also attended the Church Courts. In 1601, John Page, warden, "*spoke in anger" to judge*.⁴⁹

1. Emmison FG (1946) *Guide to the Quarter Sessions* p. i
2. *ibid* p iv Capital Crimes were dealt with by the County Assizes and minor crimes in front of a JP or Manor Court without a Jury.
3. ERO T/A 418/9/18 Ass 35/8/1/18
4. ERO Q/SR 2/4, 5; Q/SR 3/31
5. ERO T/A 418/5/32; ASS 35/3/2/31
6. ERO Q/SR 4/24
7. ERO Q/SR 42/1; Q/SR 41/21; Q/SR 44/15; Q/SR 45/18
8. ERO Q/SR 52/30, 48, 49, 50
9. T/A 418/25/38
10. ERO Q/SR 108/20
11. ERO Q/SR 60/20 28 December 1576
12. ERO Q/SR 93/14
13. ERO Q/SR 100/18
14. ERO Q/SR 108/11 110/9
15. ERO Q/SR 120/6; 121/7
16. ERO Q/SR 123/14 Q/SR 212/91
17. ERO Q/SR 125/15
18. ERO T/A 418/64/36; ASS 35/39/2/36
19. ERO Q/SR 154/24
20. ERO Q/SR 212/91
21. ERO T/A 418/92/35
22. ERO Q/SR 221/47,48 others were prosecuted for playing bowls
23. ERO Q/SR 229/7
24. ERO Q/SR 250 25, 26
25. ERO T/A 418/101/23, 45; ASS 35/69/1.
26. ERO Q/SR 283/43
27. ERO Q/SR 298/15
28. Q/SR 299/140
29. ERO Q/SR 50/24 This is the earliest mention of an ale-house.
30. ERO Q/RLv 1/41, ERO Q/SR 212/91, 155/40; similar offenses merited three days in gaol Q/SR 173/62, 63
31. ERO Q/SR 171/78 33. ERO Q/SR 179/99
34. ERO Q/SR 183/84
35. Hedges J (2000) p.88
36. ERO Q/SR 275/32
37. TNA STAC/8/253/32
38. ERO Q/SR 275/32
39. ERO Q/SR345/122
40. ERO Q/SR 361/65
41. ERO Q/SR 404/25, 30, 34, 39, 40 62, 63, 64; There is no mention of a verdict. Sewell d.1678 Will D/ABR 10/157/2
42. ERO T/A 418/170/50 ASS 35/111/2/27
43. ERO T/A 418/170/43
44. ERO T/A 418/169/34; ASS 35/110/4/8 (1669)
45. ERO Q/SR 432/138, 139 Midsummer 1676
46. ERO Q/SR 450/8 Easter 1686
47. ERO Q/SR 428/8 Michaelmas 1694
48. ERO Q/SR 539/27, 37
49. Emmison FG (1973) *Elizabethan Life: Morals and the Church Courts* p309

Ye olde buildings

The oldest existent building in Alresford is Brook Farmhouse, about three-quarters of a mile East-North-East of the St Peter's, on the modern Thorrington Road. The house is of two storeys, timber-framed and plastered; the roofs are tiled. It was built late in the fifteenth or early sixteenth century, with a central hall and cross-wings at the North and South ends. There is a seventeenth-century addition on the North side. Inside the building there was some exposed timber-framing and an original doorway with a four-centred head. The roof still had the original cambered tie-beams.¹

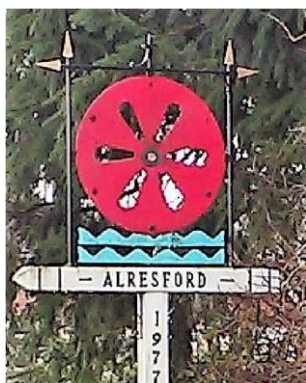
A tenement called Ford House was already standing in 1571, when William Frauncis a farmer of Wivenhoe, left it to Margaret, his wife, and son Thomas.² The existent timber Ford Cottage was built in the 1650s with a "smugglers" creek to the right of it leading to an underground cellar entrance. In the 1930s, Jack Humphreys, a local builder uncovered carved wooden panels and plaster work that were removed and sent to London for valuation. No-one knows what happened to them. From 1945-79, the Potter family occupied the cottage. The Great Flood of 1953, covered the road three hours before high tide. After leaving in 1979, the cottage lay abandoned for several years until the next owners fully restored it.³

Plumpton's Farmhouse has an overhead beam carved with the date of 1671. In the nineteenth century the house was enlarged, and the frontage enclosed in red brick. It was a property owned by Richard Sanderson MP in 1843.⁴ Wells were sunk in the 1940s a short distance from the house. In January 1953, the farm suffered serious damage during the Great Flood.⁵

Two separate Copyhold tenements called *Bulls* and *Squerrels* were left in July 1663 by Elizabeth, the widow of John George the Mariner of Wivenhoe, to Edward, George, John, Judith and Tabitha Locke. They appeared before the manorial Court of John Dawes Bt, his wife Christiana and steward William Lyngwood.⁶ (The Victorian farm of Bulls and Squirrels was located at Marsh Farm.)⁷

1. An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Essex iii North East (1922) p5
2. Emmison, FG (1983) Essex Wills (England) Vol 2 1565-1571 28 January 1561/2 (648) p179
3. Hedges J (2000) p9; Read N & M (1998) *A Journey through Alresford* in Paula Munson's Orange File p2
4. ERO D/CT 4a
5. Hedges J (2000) p9
6. ERO D/DJo M19 M21 and M23-M25
7. OS 1881

Alresford Mill



For many years, the village has had a mill wheel on its sign **Figure 13**; yet no mill is existent. In 1310, a mill was owned by Robert de Pentrich.¹ Mill Wood and Millwood Field were owned by William atte Milne in 1327.² A mill cottage existed in 1478 on the Sixpenny Creek, where the Quarters is now.³ The Mill at Alresford was left to Mary Barwick in 1558.⁴ Her son, Thomas Barwicke⁵ transferred a moiety (equal share) of a watermill in Alresford to Henry Reade, for the annual rent of £30, for eighty years.⁶ In 1599⁷ and 1602⁸ this moiety was transferred to Henry Hobart and Henry Rande, respectively.

William Hawkins' uncle-in-law, Rev W. Smythies, owned Thorrington tidal mill in 1840;⁹ which had been rebuilt in 1831, on a site dating to the sixteenth or seventeenth century.(SMR 15494)¹⁰ There were 27 deeds of ownership, including Guy Cobbold's attempt to rent it out in 1929,¹¹ prior to 1946, including buildings on the Alresford side of the Creek.¹² In 1926, the Mill ground by tide-power for the last time as the Creek was silting up and most grain was moved by rail.¹³ In 1939, the Mill was called *Alresford Mill, near Wivenhoe* in a motorist's guide-book.¹⁴ In 1941, Thomas William Glover purchased the Mill, and his son Thomas Frederick Glover grew seeds for harvesting in fields on the Alresford side of the creek. Seeds harvested included sweet-pea, wallflower, clarkia, pansy, runner beans and onions until the business closed in 1974.¹⁵ In 1977, the buildings in Alresford were demolished after ECC took over the Mill. The Mill was restored and now again belongs to the Glover family.¹⁶ In 2021, there is twelve acre of vineyard planted on the old flower meadows, Shropshire sheep wandering along the dam and a glamping business operating at Thorrington Mill Farm.¹⁷

1. 3 EDWARD II. 1309-1310.
2. Kemble, J (2011) *The Place-names of Alresford* p7
3. Morant (1768) i 485
4. Hedges J (2000) p14
5. Dickin EP (1913) *History of Brightlingsea* p121 Thomas was Deputy of the Cinque Port Limb of Brightlingsea
6. CP25(2)/137/I 742 Trinity, 38 ELIZABETH 1596 #22
7. CP25(2)/138/I 7 53 TRINITY, 41 ELIZABETH 1599 #39 8. CP25(2)/140/J 765 TRINITY, 44 ELIZABETH 1602 #1 & 30
9. ERO T/B 355/1
10. Collins C (2018) *Archaeological Test Pits Excavations in Thorrington, Essex, 2006 & 2007* p.20
11. Times Saturday May 25th 1929
12. ERO T/B 363/1
13. <https://thorringtontidemill.org/2019/10/06/a-history-of-thorrington-tide-mill/>
14. Bax C (1939) *Highways and Byways of Essex* p212
15. Hedges J (2000) p11

16. <https://thorringontidemill.org/2019/10/06/a-history-of-thorrington-tide-mill/>

17. <https://www.thorringtonmill.co.uk/our-story/>

Alresford Lodge

In medieval times, this was occasionally, the hall for the manor of Cockaynes. On December 18th 1610, the *Recites Demesne of the messuage of Warreyn House* with lands in Alresford and Wivenhoe was transferred by John Bonner to Robert Vigorous of Langham, gentleman.¹ In 1634, it was a capital messuage called *Gylotts* or Warrenhouse, in the Will of Robert Birchard, a yeoman of Witham.²

Later called Warren House, or *Alsford Lodge*, it was the home of Vice-Admiral Sir John Lawson (1610-1665) of Scarborough from June 1663 as he decided he needed a home closer to the Admiralty in London and the Nore anchorage on the Thames, off Southend. He left it, with the neighbouring ballast quay and farm, to his daughters: Elizabeth Kynaston (d. 1696) and Anna. (d.1720).³ Elizabeth's daughter, Ann, in 1698 sold the Scarborough house and continued living at Alresford Lodge until her death in 1721. The fields of the farm were leased to John Winch. In August 1701, Winch and his brother were part of a mob of 26 men who searched for witches. He was fined for throwing Thomas Johnson into the river on the pretext he was a wizard⁴ and also holding his wife Kath underwater. She died four hours later, at 7pm.⁵ In 1709, Ann Kynaston transferred to Peter Godfrey property in Wivenhoe and Alresford.⁶ In 1711, Ann Kynaston of *Arlesford* was arrested by the County Bailiff Ezekiel Wood of St Mary's, Colchester, at the suit of William Smart, and forced to give sureties of £9, rather than going to Gaol. Wood was himself summoned to the Midsummer Quarter Sessions over this "*..illegally and extortionately exacted £9..*"⁶

The estate was purchased, along with the rest of the Manors of Alresford and Cockaynes in 1721 by Captain Matthew Martin.⁷ It consisted "*..of a good dwelling house, bains, granary and other convenient buildings..*"⁸ On the tithe map of 1843 three fields called Old, Middle and Long Warren are next to Alresford Lodge.⁹ In 1765, Samuel Martin left £20 pa to his maid, Elizabeth Holmes. If this was not paid for three months, then she was given the right to enter Alresford Lodge and collect rents to that amount.¹⁰

On the tithe map of 1843, and in the Post Office Directory of 1874 Samuel Candler was living there. By 1884, he had retired to Walton-on-the-Naze, and Mr. Barton (Parish Surveyor and General Overseer) owned the

Lodge, authorising the excavation of the Roman Villa.¹¹ In 1911, Martha Barton, his widow, and their daughter Emily were farming there.¹² During World War One, Australian soldiers were billeted there.¹³

In 1919, the Pilkington family¹⁴ moved into Alresford Lodge, farming dairy cattle and growing vegetables transported by their lorries to London markets.¹⁵ They entered a Dressed Car at the 1934 Colchester Carnival.¹⁶ Alresford Lodge Kennels opened¹⁷ and Mrs Lottie Pilkington (1896-1981) won dog show classes with golden retrievers, including the Ladies Kennel Club.¹⁸ In May 1936, *Alresford Serladroff Mall* won the *any variety sporting novice* category at the Clacton Canine Club Show.¹⁹ In November 1936, at the Clacton Dog Show: *Retrievers: golden puppy or bitch* she was awarded first place with *Alresford Drofseria* and very highly commended with *Alresford Golden Princess. Golden open, dog or bitch* second place with *Alresford Serladroff Mall*.²⁰ In November 1937, at the Clacton and District Canine Society Show, *Alresford Supreme* was awarded second place in the *Golden junior, dog or bitch* Retriever Category. *Alresford Patricia* came third. *Alresford Serladorf Mall* was second in the *Retriever, Golden post graduate* class and third in the Special Open category. *Alresford Gildus* was third.²¹ At the 1939, Clacton Canine Club Show *Alresford Guidus* was placed third in the *Golden Retriever: Graduate* category.²²

In the September 1939 Register for England and Wales, John Joseph Pilkington (1892-1972) and family were resident.²³ During World War Two, a searchlight battery was positioned on the farm and Italian POWs were housed who worked as general labourers. In July 1942, Lottie Pilkington was fined £1 for not renewing her four dog licenses.²⁴ On August 23rd, John Pilkington was assaulted at Colchester Market, after an allegation his cowman was being poached by the owner of Ballast Quay Farm. The attacker was fined £5.²⁵ In March 1945, after a dance celebrating their daughter's coming of age at the George Hotel, the Pilkington's made a donation of £66 to the Society of North Countrymen's Bed Fund at the Essex County Hospital. *Mr Pilkington was one of the original members of the Society.*²⁶

In January 1948, Helen Pilkington married John Edward le Gresley from Gersey.²⁷ In 1949, Charlotte Pilkington came second in the Chelmsford Horse Show on *Chance Royal* for mares/ geldings under 13 stone, in front of a crowd of 2,000.²⁸ At the 1953 Clacton Dog Show, her dog *Alresford Countryman* was highly commended in the category: Any variety gun dog open.²⁹ In 1968 at the Essex Show, *Alresford Gainsborough* won third prize in the Novice: Golden Retriever category and *Alresford Pinesmore* was first in the Open.³⁰ In 1965, Sir Miles Wyatt purchased Lodge Farm.³¹

1. ERO D/DU 210/35
2. ERO D/DGd T47
3. ERO D/DGd E38 **Probably** purchased from Sir John Dawes who married the heiress to the Manor of Alresford and East Hall in that year.
4. ERO T/A 418/229/8
5. ERO T/A 418/229/16
6. TNA C 5/608/31
7. ERO Q/SR 548/16
8. ERO D/Y 1/1/130/1; *Ipswich Journal* Saturday 21 July 1781
9. Kemble J (2011) *The place-names of Alresford* p.32
10. National Archives PRO 11/909
11. *Interesting Excavation of a Roman Villa & Roman Remains at Alresford* *Essex Standard* Friday November 29 1884
12. *Census 1911*
13. Read N & M (1998) *A Journey through Alresford* in Paula Munson's Orange File p3
14. *Ibid*; Hedges J (2000) p17
15. *ibid* p17-21
16. *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 29th May 1934
17. *Chelmsford Chronicle* July 22nd 1938; Friday 17th March 1939
18. *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 02 December 1938
19. *Walton Times and Gazette* May 30th 1936
20. *Walton Times and Gazette* November 21st 1936
21. *Clacton Times and Gazette* November 27th 1937
22. *East Essex Gazette* July 1st 1939
23. *Tendring RD Register #4 Enumeration Code DDYA*
24. *East Essex Gazette* July 4th 1942
25. *East Essex Gazette* September 26th 1942
26. *East Essex Gazette* March 24th 1945
27. *Clacton Times* Friday March 30th 1948
28. *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 24th 1949
29. *Clacton Graphic* March 23rd 1953
30. *East Coast Gazette* June 21st 1968
31. Read N & M (1998) *A Journey through Alresford* in Paula Munson's Orange File p2

Sir John Lawson, High Lord Admiral of England (1610 -1665)

Lawson was born in Scarborough; but lived at Warren House in Alresford from June 1663.¹ Before the English Civil War began he was a freeman of Scarborough Corporation from 1639, a master merchant and part owner of *The Adventurer*, carrying coals from Sunderland to England and Europe. In 1640, he married Isabelle Jefferson from Lythe near Whitby. From 1643 to 1646, he was the Parliamentary Naval Captain of the *Covenant*. This had twelve guns, forty-two crew, weighed 140 tons and was part of Captain Haddock's Northern Squadron. Their main role was intercepting the King's coal shipments from Newcastle and Sunderland that were funding armaments that were stored in Scarborough. Although many of his contemporaries changed sides due to ego or loss of faith in the Parliamentary cause, with Scarborough changing hands seven times; Lawson stayed true. He blockaded Scarborough Castle which was held by the former Parliamentarian Sir John Chomley (August 1644-July 25th 1645), supplied the besieged Hull (September-October 1643) and prevented a plot by the Governor Sir John Hotham to turn the port over to the King in 1643. One day, he fought and captured both a merchant ship and then a much larger Man-o-War. Lawson was then sent after the Royalist turncoat and privateer Browne Bushell (1609-51) who had captured Scarborough Castle from the King, then returned it to his cousin Chomley in 1643. Bushell was off Tynemouth in April 1648 "*..as he was about to seize upon the merchants' goods for the use of the King of Scotland..*"² Captain Lawson

captured him and sent him for trial in London. Chomley, Bushell and Hotham were all executed. In May 1649, Lawson sailed into the heavily-fortified Danish port of Gluckstadt, on the eastern side of the Elbe, to retrieve a loaded collier stolen from one of his Scarborough associates.³ In 1650, he was given command of the

Commonwealth Navy's forty gun *Centurion* to support Cromwell's campaign in Scotland. With Vice-Admiral Penn he sailed to the Azores and Mediterranean to try to catch Prince Rupert. Although unsuccessful they did take thirty-six French and Portuguese prizes.⁴

On May 18th 1652, he was captaining the 32-gun first-rate frigate *Fairfax* at the Battle of Goodwin Sands in the First Anglo-Dutch War. He captured the Dutch ships *Sint Maria* and *St Laurens* and was promoted to Vice Admiral of the Red. At the battle of *Portland* (February 18th–20th 1652), he saved the endangered Admirals Blake and Dean from being surrounded and sunk. He tacked around the smoke and mêlée before crashing into the rear of the Dutch warships so that separated them from their merchantmen. He lost half of his crew and the *Fairfax* was severely damaged.⁵

He successfully fought the Battle of *Dungeness* (30 November 1652) and the *Action of the 14th of December* (losing his masts and 100 men against two Dutch ships). Whilst the *Fairfax* was repairing in Chatham it caught fire. He became Admiral of the Blue and Commanding Officer of the 52 gun *George*, fighting in the battle of the *Gabbard* (2/3 June 1653) - the first time the English fleet sailed in line and only boarded once an enemy ship was disabled. Nineteen Dutch ships were lost as their fleets were chased first to Dunkirk, then back to Holland. This led to the Battle of *Scheveningen* (July 29/31 1653) which was painted by de Velde and can be viewed at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich.⁶ Victory led to the end of the War, further promotion and the award of gold medals and chains valued at £100. He was a Baptist who sided with the sailors' petition in October 1654, disagreed with a potential war with Spain and in February 1656 resigned his commission after Montague was promoted over him. Lawson was suspected of treason and arrested, being sent first to the Tower and then banished to Scarborough.⁷

After the end of the Protectorate, on Wednesday June 1st 1659 Vice-Admiral Lawson was appointed by the Rump Parliament to command the 48 gun *James*⁸ and the Channel Fleet. He blockaded London with twenty-two ships at Gravesend. This forced the end of the Commonwealth led by General Fleetwood, on Christmas Day

December 1659. He was rewarded by Parliament with a grant of land. At the Restoration of the Monarchy in May 1660, Lawson brought James, Duke of York, back from the Netherlands on board the 80-gun Second-Rate *London*⁹ and was rewarded for these services with a pension of £500 pa. In 1661, he was knighted and received a gift of £1000 from the sale of surplus naval stores;¹⁰ before being sent to fight the Barbary Pirates. For the next four years, he led the Mediterranean Fleet capturing pirate vessels and freeing European slaves. Lawson's ships were regularly fighting against the Dutch and Barbary fleets from Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli blockading England's new possession of English Tangier, on the north-west tip of Africa. (1661-84).¹¹ The fleet came back to over-Winter in England twice. He returned to England again to fight the Second Anglo-Dutch War (1665-7) and was ordered to command the *London* as Vice-Admiral of the Red's Van squadron.¹² But sailing down the Thames to meet him on the March 7th 1665, the ship blew up at the Nore, off Southend, killing 300 men.¹³ In the first battle forty miles off Lowestoft, 216 ships with almost 10,000 cannons, fought near the Outer Gabbard (**52.05°N 2.40°E**) in shifting winds.¹⁴

Due to a change in the wind, Lawson's squadron was at the front of the line for the third pass of the fleets. He commanded the 100 gun *Royal Oak*, which sank the 73-gun Dutch flagship *Eendragt*. The Battle was an English ^{victory} with the Dutch losing 4500 men and seventeen ships. This victory helped cement Britain's place as a maritime power and was the Dutch Navy's worst ever defeat. "*..A great(er) victory never known in the world. They all fled, some got into the Texell, and others elsewhere, and we in pursuit of the rest..*"¹⁵ However, Admiral Lawson was mortally wounded – he was hit in the knee by a musket ball, "*..hath had some bones taken out..*"¹⁶ but the wound turned gangrenous.¹⁷ Due to the outbreak of Plague in London he was buried at night in St Dunstan's London "*..without company..*"¹⁸ Cannon balls are still being recovered and ship-wrecks located from the area of the battle.¹⁹

His daughter and co-heiress Isabella "*..of Alresford, Essex..*" (c.1645-1709) was described as pretty and proud by Pepys. She married Daniell Norton of Hampshire in 1664, but he died soon after a son has born. He left a jointure of £800pa. Their son Richard (1666-1734) inherited his paternal grandfather's estate and later served as MP for Hampshire. (1693-1700 and 1702-1705).²⁰ Samuel Pepys had disapproved of this marriage and the £6000 dowry Lawson had given (he liquidated half of his estate to pay it); as on his death, his wife Isabel and two youngest daughters, Elizabeth and Anna, were "*..left beggars..*"²¹

In fact, Lawson left the £500 pa pension which continued as he had died in service to his youngest daughters, for the term of their lives. He also left them the rest of the estates and gold that were not disposed of elsewhere, including a stone mole in Tangier worth around £2000. Lawson left Warren House, its farm and his interest in the Ballast Quay in Alresford Creek to his wife. He also left her Three Closes, his house in Scarborough. She later moved to Wanstead. To Elizabeth he left a gold chain that was presented to him in Portugal in 1663, for her eldest son. Isabella inherited the gold chain and medal received during the Dutch war of 1653. for her eldest son, two silver dishes and six silver plates. To his son-in-law he left all of his guns, pistols, rapiers and swords. To his merchant son, Samuel who later owned the "*African of London*", he left a long gun²² He died in 1693.²³ After Elizabeth's death in 1696, her daughter Anne Kinaston, lived at Warren House until 1721, leasing the farm to provide an income.

Isabella then married one of her late father's Lieutenant's from the *Swiftsure*, Sir John Chicheley (1640-91) in 1667. He had been knighted after his first battle, Lowestoft in June 1665, as Captain of the 40-gun *Antelope*. He also fought at the *Action of 3rd September* when six English ships captured the 58-gun *Zevenwolden*. Chicheley then commanded the 60-gun *Fairfax* at the Battle of Galloper Sand (1st-4th June 1666). He was Vice-Admiral of a squadron sent to the Mediterranean in 1668 on the 64-gun *Rupert*, then in command of the Straights (Biscay and Iberian Coast). On June 7th 1672, at the Battle of Sole Bay, off Southwold, he was Rear-Admiral of a squadron and captained a raw crew on the seventy-eight gun *Royal Katherine*. This was boarded at 10 o'clock and the crew confined. Following Chicheley's lead the crew overcame their jailors and sailed the ship back to Southwold.²⁴ He went on to become envoy to the Spanish Netherlands (1670) before being promoted to Rear-Admiral of the Red on the 96-gun *Charles* for the unpopular Third Anglo-Dutch War. He fought at the first and second Battles of Schooneveld (May 28th and June 4th 1673) a shallow basin at the mouth of the Scheldt river and at the Battle of Texel (August 11th 1673). Chicheley retired from the Navy and became Commissioner for the Navy (1675–80), Joint Commissioner for Ordnance (1679–82); Lord of the Admiralty (1682–4, 1689–90) and MP for Newton, Lancashire three times (1679, 1685, 1689).²⁵ Isabella died in 1709 after having a further six children.

1. PROB 11/317; ODNB <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/16202>
2. Powell, JR (1963) *The Navy in the English Civil War* p150
3. <https://www.thescarboroughnews.co.uk/news/parliaments-seafaring-hero-572332>
4. <http://bcw-project.org/biography/john-lawson>
5. <https://www.thescarboroughnews.co.uk/news/parliaments-seafaring-hero-572332>
6. National Maritime Museum BHC0277
7. ODNB <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/16202>
8. <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/commons-jrnl/vol7/pp670-671>

9. <https://thelondon.southendmuseums.org.uk/feature-content/the-history-of-the-london/>
10. <https://www.thescarboroughnews.co.uk/news/scarboroughs-tarpaulin-admiral-meddles-state-affairs-568340;>
https://three decks.org/index.php?display_type=show_crewman&id=1949
11. Routh EMG (1912) Tangier, England's lost Atlantic outpost, 1661-1684
12. ODNB <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/16202>
13. Pepys S (1665) Diary Wednesday 8 March 1664
14. Grant RE (2017) *Battle of Lowestoft* Encyclopaedia Britannica
15. Pepys S (1665) Diary June 8th 1665
16. Pepys S, (1665) Diary June 8th 1665
17. ODNB <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/16202>; Charnock J (1893) *Biographia navalis I* (Digital Book)
18. Pepys S (1665) Diary Sunday July 2nd 1665
19. https://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=1584087#aRm
20. <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1690-1715/member/norton-richard-ii-1666-1732>
21. Pepys, S (1665) Diary 6 July 1665
22. PROB 11/317
23. PROB 11/404/307
24. Charnock J (1893) *Biographia navalis I* (Digital Book)
25. <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1690-1715/member/chicheley-sir-john-1640-91>

Alresford Hall (1721-1786)

Alsford Hall, as well as the Manors of Alresford and Cockaynes were purchased in Autumn 1721¹ by Captain Matthew Martin (1676 -1749), from Benjamin Fields, goldsmith of Lombard Street, London.² Martin came from a wealthy nautical family and he already owned the family's Wivenhoe House; as well as the farms of Samptons Wick (290 acres in Peldon), Tents Meadow (3 acres with messuages between North Gate and North Bridge, Colchester); Spittles (40 acres in Tollesbury and Tolleshunt D'Arcy) and Hinds Head (Wivenhoe 30 acres).³ He was a Captain on the East India Company's chartered 750 ton, *Tavistock* from March 1700 until November 22nd 1701 sailing to Calicut, Bombay, Carawar and Durat. Then back from Bombay to England.⁴

On his return he married Sarah, the daughter of a director of the East India Company. On December 10th 1702, the *Tavistock* sailed for Madras and Bengal, returning on January 17th 1706.⁵ A third voyage on the *Tavistock* left on September 16th 1707 bound for Bombay, Surat and Gombroom: returning on November 18th 1708.⁶

| When Sailed | SHIPS NAMES | Commanders | Names | When Employed | Amount |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------|----------|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1703 April 16 | Northumber ^d | Samuel | Nide | 21 August 1706 | 218 18 13 8 |
| | Sidney | John | Craddock | 13 Novem ^r 1708 | 351 68 19 2 |
| | Montagu | Roger | Collier | 21 August 1706 | 170 37 19 9 |
| | Stretham | Roger | Meyers | 4 March 1706 | 100 66 4 5 |
| | Dutchels | Math | Raymond | 20 Novem ^r 1708 | 263 32 13 .. |
| | Tavistock | Francis | Kelly | 13 Dec ^r | 424 33 19 2 |
| | Anna | Francis | Kelly | 20 Dec ^r | 434 6 13 .. |
| | Queen | William | Jones | 10 Dec ^r | 195 70 5 4 |
| | Seaford | | | | |

Figure 14 – EIC Roster showing Martin's third voyage on the Tavistock
NMM AMS.29

Martin was the Captain of the United East India Company's chartered *Marlborough* (1712-24), a 480-ton merchant ship with 32 guns. This set sail on October 16th 1711 to Fort St George and Bengal,⁷ and arrived in Cape Colony on May 18th 1712.⁸ Between October 6th and 24th November 1712, when Britain and France were fighting during the War of the Spanish Succession, the *Marlborough* was attacked by three French ships but managed to evade capture by setting adrift a lantern on a raft at night. The cargo worth over £150,000 was safely transported to Fort St George (modern day Chennai.) He received a reward of £1000 and a gold medallion with 24 diamonds.⁹ On the reverse is an inscription: " ..*The English United East India Company rewarded Captain Matthew Martin, commander of the Marlborough, with this jewel, and 1,000L. sterling, for defending his ship in India three days successively against three French ships of war, and bringing her safe to Port St. George...*"¹⁰ The *Marlborough*, arrived back in Cape Colony on April 8th 1714 bound for home¹¹ and in England on September 3rd 1714.

The United East India Company (1708-1803) held a monopoly of British trade to the East Indian islands, India, China and to take tea to North America. This was frequently reconfirmed by Act of Parliament and worth 13% of British imports as the EIC carried £501,501 in 1700.¹² Martin and the ship's owners had paid for the right to carry this cargo,¹³ and up to fifty tons of their own outbound and twenty tons homebound. Often a profit of £2,000 - £12,000 could be made each voyage.¹⁴ Due to the frequent warfare and threat of piracy the ships were well armed. As well as becoming a Director, he also became a ship owner chartering to the East India Company. In 1724, he was one of two owners of the *Princess Amelia* bound for Banjarmasin, Indonesia.¹⁵ In 1744, he was listed as co-owner with Captain Richard Micklefield, (formerly Captain of the East Indiaman *Marlborough* and *Colchester*), of the *Wager* (two voyages), *Godolphin* (four voyages) and *Northampton* (made one successful voyage to China, then sank on second off Bourbon).¹⁶ On April 13th 1742, they had all been in Cape Town Harbour together.

His son George Martin also became an E.I.C. Captain sailing the *Princess Mary* in 1737 to Madras, Calcutta, Inglee, Fort St David and Pondicherry.¹⁷ In 1742, he captained the *Princess Mary* again,¹⁸ but no destination or competition date is recorded. In 1744, the *Princess Mary* was recorded as *Taken*.¹⁹

Matthew Martin became Mayor of Colchester in September 1726, when he signed for the property of the great mace, little mace and silver seal, Borough gaol at the Moot Hall and custody of nine prisoners.²⁰ He also became Whig MP for Colchester twice (1722-7, 1734-42), a Director of the United East India Company (1722-9,

173240), High Steward (1746) and Alderman for the Borough of Colchester, a Governor of St. Thomas' Hospital, Wivenhoe Workhouse and an Elder Brother of Trinity House (1720).²¹ In 1736, he was part of a Parliamentary Committee examining the poor state of paving in Colchester along over a mile of the King's highway.²²

He purchased the grounds of St Botolph's Abbey in Colchester, which he generously gave his daughter Sarah and her husband Major-General John Price as a Wedding Present.²³ Matthew and Sarah had ten children in total, but four died in infancy. Mary married Isaac Lemyng Rebow (1705-35) of Wivenhoe Park in 1728, with a dowry of £5000 and a house in Headgate Street Colchester. They had a son Isaac Martin Rebow in 1731. Isaac Lemyng Rebow, jointly with his father-in-law Matthew Martin, became MP for Colchester in 1734.²⁴ Hannah married Daniel Cock in 1736.²⁵

By 1738, the Martin family had moved to Alresford Hall and built a family vault in St Peter's Church, in front of the chancel. His wife was laid to rest here after she died on January 6th.

Figure 15 – Inside St Peter's Church

Near this place lieth the body of Sarah Martin,
 Wife of Matthew Martin of Wivenhoe esq,
 Lord of the Manor, a Member of Parliament,
 High Stewart and Alderman for ye Borough of
 Colchester,
 A Governor of St Thomas's Hospital,
 And an Elder Brother of Ye Trinity House etc.,
 Who died much lamented as she lived much
 beloved and esteemed for her conjugal,
 Maternal, and social Virtues.
 She departed this life the VI. Of Jan
 Anno Domini MDCCXXX VIII
 Aetat LV1



The house was renovated from c.1721 in the Queen Anne style with seven bays in brick, burnt headers and segment-headed windows.²⁶ In 1730, the manor and 300 acres at Fenn Farm, Elmstead was surveyed by William Braiser.²⁷ (Fig 16 on page 55.)

Upon his death in 1749, he left the Halls, farms in Wivenhoe, Elmstead and Alresford; and property in London in the Parishes of Saint John Wapping, Saint George's in the East and Stepney to his eldest son Samuel (1706-1765). His daughters each received £1000 and silver plate. His grandchildren, on their twenty-first birthday or marriage would receive sums between £100 and £700. His younger son, Thomas (1710 -1775) received Fenn Farm and Heathen Wood in Elmstead.²⁸

Samuel and Thomas continued their father's work as a trustee of Wivenhoe Workhouse until May 1752.²⁹

Some building work was completed at Alresford Hall. The builder Isaac Green, and bricklayer Francis Merry billed £54 10/- each in 1764.³⁰ Samuel died in 1765 and left the house, his yacht *Britannia* and all his lands to his brother, Thomas, a lawyer in Chelsea.³¹ Building continued so that the Dowager Mary Rebow Martin, supervised by her son Isaac Rebow Martin, could move from Wivenhoe Park, but Thomas died in 1775.³² The builder Isaac Green and bricklayer Francis Merry billed £34 12/- in 1768, £22 in 1772, and £21 in 1775 to the latter.³³ In 1770, Master Carpenter William Lay charged £15 3/-.³⁴

The remodelling of the house was completed by his daughter Mary Martin Rebow (1738 -1804)³⁵ and her husband Isaac Martin Rebow (1731-1781) of Wivenhoe Park, who was Colonel of the East Essex Militia, Deputy **Lieutenant** of Essex³⁶ and Whig MP for Colchester between 1755 and 1781.³⁷ Rebow was also Matthew Martin's grandson. At one stage the old hall was not water-tight, as recorded in a letter by his wife in August 1778 "*.. begs you will speak to Mr. Ennew and have the Old Building kept up as tight as possible till the new one is erected.*"³⁸ Richard Woods (1716-93), the landscape gardener,³⁹ started to draw up plans and began to remodel the house and the grounds of 'the Park' in 1776-1780. Woods also completed a number of scale drawings for a banqueting hall and anteroom, including for a Chinese Temple in 1776, but Rebow died before they were completed.⁴⁰

In January 1771, the widower Thomas had married the much younger Dorothy Schofield (1750-1812) of St Luke's, London. In May 1777, after Thomas' death she had married John Adams and signed a pre-nuptial agreement giving him, the Martin's lands including Alresford Hall.⁴¹ After Isaac's death, a long legal process led to an Indenture of 1786, which granted a five hundred year lease on the Manor of Alresford, East Hall, twelve messuages and lands totalling 1,425 acres in Alresford, Wivenhoe and Elmstead in trust for the daughters of Mary Martin Rebow. In reality they were administered by the new husband of her father's widow, John Adams. These messuages included *The Ship Inn* and the *Quarters* in Alresford.⁴²

1. ERO D/Y 1/1/130/1 Letter from William Holman (1669-1730) discussing the purchase. Holman was a nonconformist Minister in Halstead who wrote a *History of Essex*. ERO T/P 195/8/12 This included the Parish of Alresford.
2. <https://ancestryeachfamily.angelfire.com/>; Watson JY (1877) *The Tending Hundred in the olden times* p111 3. ERO D/DC 5/122
4. India Office (1896) List 1 of Marine Records of the Late East India Company p.9 Logbook CXLV
5. India Office (1896) p.11 logbook 593A; image at <https://www.rmg.co.uk/stories/blog/library-archive/shipwreck-sickness-pirates-dangers-working-east-indiacompany> carrying cargo worth £32880 8/ outward and £42433 19/2 homeward
6. India Office (1896) p.11 Logbook 593B
7. India Office (1896) p.14 Logbook 602A
8. Geber JL (1997) *The East India Company and Southern Africa: A Guide to the Archive of the East India Company and the Board of Control, 1600-1858 Appendix: Volume 2 Catalogue of Archival Description*
9. Report - Royal Commission for Historical Manuscripts (1887) xi p149 letter from 1739 by EIC Secretary to Parliament, about Martin's exploits *The British Critic* (1803) xxiii p.277-9 contains details of the encounter. Possibly the first detailed account published.
10. Wright T (1836) *The history and topography of Essex*: i p.398
11. BL IOR L/Mar/B/602A

12. Barrow I (2017) *East India Company, 1600-1853* p.43 Matthew Martin is not mentioned in any narrative history of the EIC
13. Chatterton EK (1912) *The Old East Indiamen* para 131-3 Project Gutenberg e-Book #54561
14. BL E/3/102 ff 147-51 mentions supercargoes, Francis Everest and Captain Misenor (made six voyages as Captain) 15. *ibid* para 134 – Officers paid for own passage. A mate would pay £95-£235 to make the voyage.
16. BL IOR/L/MAR/B/198A
17. List p.25 logbook 381A
18. *ibid* 381H
19. Hardy C (1800) *Companies, in 1707, to the Year 1760* p.226
20. ERO D/Y 32/2/97
21. Sedgwick R (ed) (1970) *The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1715-1754*; Victoria County History of Essex ix (1993) p.156-169; ERO D/P 277/25/20
22. House of Commons Journal (1836) xxxii:789, 815
23. Morant P (1748) *The History and antiquities of the town and borough of Colchester* ii p.6
24. ERO D/Db 22; Sedgwick R (ed) (1970) *The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1715-1754*.
25. ERO A/ALL 1736/50
26. Bettley J Pevsner N (2007) *The Buildings of England Essex* p.87
27. ERO D/DT C306; Hedges J (2000) p24
28. ERO D/DHt T303/4, National Archive PRO 11/772/98
29. ERO D/P 277/25/20
30. ERO Rebow Papers Box D/Dht Bl Small Account No4, 4 March 1764
31. ERO D/P 277/25/20; National Archives PRO 11/909
32. *The Record* (1967) Vol 28-33 p11
33. ERO Rebow Papers Box D/Dht Bl Small Account No4
34. ERO Rebow C47, *Rebow Box 2*; Lay was Green's former apprentice (TNA IR 1/53/139)
35. <https://thegardenstrust.blog/2020/07/18/angling-for-attention/>
36. ERO C47 Rebow Box 2 D/DYa addl: D/B 6
37. Namier L, Brooke J (ed.) (1964) *The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1754-1790*
38. <https://content.libraries.wsu.edu/digital/collection/p16866coll11/id/418/rec/5> Ennew was a local solicitor 39. Bettley J Pevsner N (2007) *The Buildings of England Essex* p.87
40. ERO C47 Rebow Box 2 D/DYa addl.; D/B 6
41. ERO D/Du 381/40
42. ERO D/DB T1478

The Quarters at Alresford Hall

In 1476, a mill cottage existed on the site of the Quarters.¹

Thomas Martin, King's Conseil (KC), had begun work to extend and convert an existing cottage on the Sixpenny Creek, south of Alresford Hall. The *little fishing house* is known as The Quarters because it was rumoured to have quartered Cromwellian troops during the Civil War² and is drawn on a survey of 1730.³

The Quarters was also a commission of Richard Woods, who continued the work after the death of Thomas in 1776 and his son-in-law Isaac Rebow in 1781. Externally, it was designed as a Chinese-style octagon with a veranda on the edge of the brook, linked to an existing building by a fourteen foot long trellis. It had a tent-like partially lead-covered roof and keyhole windows. There were also four "*Gothick collums*."⁴ Two estimates were prepared: one to take down the kitchen and rebuild it; another to build the banqueting room, ante room and passage using old bricks from the site. The undated estimate was for £343 13/6. The existing two storey cottage was retained, and the kitchen was in a freestanding cottage.⁵ Woods also designed a similarly themed bridge with trellising on the side facing the Quarters and a brick dovecote.⁶ The building was used for picnics, eating the fish caught⁷ in the Sixpenny Brook.

Mary Martin Rebow's daughter (1776-1834) married⁸ the soldier Francis Slater (1770 - 1845) in 1796 and he took the Rebow name. The Major-General returned from being a staff officer in the Peninsula Wars⁹ and in 1816 commissioned John Constable to paint both his main residence at Wivenhoe Park and The Quarters behind Alresford Hall. Constable described the Quarters as *"a beautiful little fishing hut, where the young Lady (who is the heroine of all these scenes) goes occasionally to angle"*. This was General Rebow's daughter Mary Martin wearing red who can be seen on the path.¹⁰ The 13" x 21" painting was taken by descendants of the Martin Family to Australia in the nineteenth century and is now in the National Gallery of Victoria.¹¹

In 1942, Major Cobbold asked for planning permission to recondition Quarters Cottage.¹² The Quarters were listed in 1950 and are now a Grade 2* Listed Building.¹³ In 1951, The Quarters became a private house, no longer part of the Alresford Hall estate which had been sold, and a two-storey extension added.¹⁴ Instead of a gamekeeper or coachman living there, Sir Edward Boulton Bt moved from Alresford Hall to live at the Quarters.¹⁵

The house, gardens and lake had been neglected for many years, so were restored. In 1958, the renovations featured in a double page spread of Country Life.¹⁶

In 1965, Pevsner described .. *The Quarters (formerly Grotto Cottage). In the grounds of the hall, by a stream. A cottage of no interest converted into a pretty extravaganza by giving the windows some kind of fancy Gothic shape and adding an octagon with a Chinese concave-sided roof and a wooden verandah. It may have been used as a summer house or even for fishing from the verandah. Modern extension, 1951-2 in the style of the original.*¹⁷

In Autumn 2020, the current Baronet, John G Boulton was resident and wrote complaining about the damaged, listed west wall of the Walled Garden at the Hall.¹⁸

1. Morant (1768) i 485
2. <https://thegardenstrust.blog/2020/07/18/angling-for-attention/>
3. Cowell F (2009) Richard Woods (1715-1793) Master of the Pleasure Garden p85
4. Bettley J Pevsner N (2007) The Buildings of England Essex p.88
5. Girouard M *Living in a Folly Country Life* November 6th 1958 p1040-1
6. Bettley J Pevsner N (2007) The Buildings of England Essex p.89
7. Hoff U (1973) European Painting and Sculpture Before 1800 p30
8. Burkes Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry (1882) Red 1384
9. The Gentleman's Magazine and Historical Chronicle for the year 1845
10. <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/essay/the-heroine-of-all-these-scenes-john-constable-and-the-rebow-family-in-1816-2/>
11. <https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/the-quarters-behind-alresford-hall-john-constable/IQF5k8MoOkJHmg?hl=en> Read N & M (1998) *A Journey through Alresford* in Paula Munson Orange File p9 originally taken to Australia by Benjamin Brookman, a school teacher from Glasgow
12. ERO D/RT Pb1/6065
13. <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1337178>
14. Bettley J Pevsner N (2007) The Buildings of England p.88
15. The Times Monday December 13th 1952
16. Girouard M *Living in a Folly Country Life* November 6th 1958 p1040-1
17. Pevsner N (1965) *Building of England: Essex* p.57

18. <https://docs.planning.org.uk/20210104/18/QJ7VLKQB0FZ00/6bochmwbtrsihrp.pdf>

Georgian Alresford (1714-1837)

Around this time, many of the brick farms, lodges and other buildings were under construction along Church Lane and Wivenhoe Road: including the Pointer Inn (Brasier's Map of 1730, called the Chequers Alehouse),¹ Ship House (1737)² and Baytree Cottage (1783); a former messuage and blacksmiths shop³ built by Samuel Clarke on Alresford Heath with a frontage of 33 yards and depth of 36 yards at an annual rent of 4/- payable on Lady's Day. This remained as a blacksmiths for the next 200 years.⁴

In 1705, Samuel Roote was farming in Alresford but the owner, John Holborn of St John's Holborne, wanted to recover the land.⁵ Between 1705-14, eighteen of the 27 householders were involved in parish administration. The average poor Relief was £29pa (an average of 2/ 1 per head); whilst other functions only added up to £10pa. This burden led to three females being elected and an attempt to save costs by only having one Overseer and one Constable; but the workload led to a reversion to the previous number. Not helped by one of the Church wardens being illiterate.⁶ In 1719, John Root an oyster dredger, and several from other villages, sued the Mayor of Colchester over oyster fishing laws in the Colne.⁷

In 1730, William Braisser drew a map of the Manor of Alresford for Matthew Martin (**Figure 16**). William Bly was the tenant of Hall farm (236 acres); Daniel Bly farmed Fanmans (47 acres); Nathaniel Cardy farmed 84 acres at Cockaynes and rented 149 acres of woodland (sold in 1748); his son, Nathaniel, occupied High Elms Farm (94 acres); Edward and Jonathan Feedham farmed Marsh, Lodge and Church farms (451 acres); Mrs Elizabeth Custon had Heath Farm (65 acres); John Root had Brick Farm (14 acres) and also rented a three acre field from the Hall; Captain John Dines farmed Plumpton's Farm (155 acres) and Thomas Bacon was at Brook Farm (60 acres). The Rector had thirty acres of Glebe land scattered around Ford Lane and Wivenhoe Road.⁸

Figure 16 – 'Survey of the parish and manor of ALRESFORD ... by William Braiser 1730 at which time the manor with the demesnes was the property of Matthew Martin.'⁹



In 1734, the freemen eligible for Jury Service were Nathan Cardy, 45 earning £20 pa; Jonathan Freedom, yeoman 27 earning £50pa; and Daniel Blyth, 44, earning £12 land in Elmstead.¹⁰

In 1768, the major land-owners were Selby Thorowgood, Nathaniel Cardy, William Crooks and Thomas Freedom. The Parish was rated at £395 3/-.¹¹ The *electors for the knights of the shire* were: Benjamin Gilders; William Midlane; Thomas Nunn (resident in Pebmarsh); John Partridge;¹² Nathaniel Cardy (St Osyth)¹³ and Selby Thorowgood (Colchester).¹⁴



**Figure 17 – Chapman & Andre map of Essex,
1777 (plate 9)¹⁵
(Scale 1:32,000)**

Thomas Pyellgrom left his lands and tenements on March 1st 1781, to his wife Agnes for fourteen years if she maintained the fences and brought up his three children Mary, John and Thomas. Then they were to pass to Mary.¹⁶ The main crops harvested in 1788 were peas, carrots, rye and wheat.¹⁷ The population was 201 at the 1801 Census¹⁸ and the main road was from Wivenhoe across the Creek to Brightlingsea.¹⁹ In c.1800, a map was plotted at a Scale of 20 inches to 1 mile of 172 acres: 71 acres of Elmstead Heath, roadside waste, 70 acres of private land in south of Elmstead and 28 acres of Alresford Heath in the extreme north of Alresford. It showed the names of adjacent woods, owners and occupiers; as well as the Pointer public house and a finger post.²⁰ In 1813, lands on Alresford Heath were enclosed Copyhold of East Hall.²¹

In Georgian Times, many functions of current councils were still run by Vestry Meetings. In 1783 Justices inspecting the accounts requested that four, instead of two, Oversaw the poor.²² Payments to the poor included 5/9 for 23 lb of meat in 1757. The services of Doctor J Turner cost 9/-, a coffin for Thomas Oliver 7/-, whilst bridge money and quarteridge were 18/11 ½ in 1758.²³ The Overseers also paid for orphans to be taken in by villagers. On April 11th 1771, William Turner was paid two guineas to keep the girl Barrel. On November 5th 1774, *Fair's wife* was paid 1/6 to look after the girl Smallage and £2 to nurse her for four weeks. On January 5th 1775, she was paid 11/8 for burying her. On November 24th 1774, Captain Baker was paid £6 10/- for taking the boy Hotson and 11/8 for binding him.²⁴



In 1782, Thomas Rowlandson (1756-1827). drew a barber's shop in Alresford for his book '*Rowlandson's Tour in a post chaise, 1782*'.²⁵

Figure 18 -

The Sun Fire Office started to insure properties in Alresford belonging to John Simons jnr. (January 1788);²⁶ James Smith (September 1790);²⁷ and farmer John Goslin of Halfway House farm (November 1791).²⁸

During the early years of the Napoleonic War, Captain John Bromley of Great Bromley Hall (1794-1803) was in charge of the defence of Tendring Hundred. This included camps for a Brigade each at Elmstead Heath and Thorrington in August 1803. At Elmstead Heath, were 3400 soldiers of 1st and 2nd West Yorks and the East Yorks Militia under the command of Lord Southampton, living in bell tents.²⁹ At Thorrington were the West Suffolk Militia.³⁰ On August 26th they were inspected by the Commander of the British Army, the Duke Of York, Prince Frederick Augustus as he checked all troops in the Eastern District.³¹ An evacuation route from Tendring Hundred was also drawn up.³²

During Georgian Times, Alresford was often written as *Allesford* on maps (Ordnance Survey from 1805) and in books.³³ In 1800, Henry Field's horse strayed, and its description was advertised in local papers. "...A black mare colt, about 14 high, 3 years old, has a small star in her forehead..."³⁴

On 7th May 1814, 850 oak-tops and ten acres of underwood were to be sold at Pointer from Old Hall Wood, The Stables Wood, Maskell's Fam & Cockin's Wood, Great & Little Mill Wood, Church & Burton's Grove and Oxney Wood.³⁵

From 1815, meetings of the *Elmstead & Thorrington Association* (for prosecuting felons) at the Great Bentley Lion were attended by eight land-owners from Alresford. Peter Conway, John Malby and James Cansdale went in 1817.³⁶ In January 1829, James Ward of Alresford, and Joseph Beach, of 14 Charles Street, Hampstead Road, Regents Park, were both in custody for stealing from letters. Francis Freeling, General Post Office Secretary, wrote to the Home Office, requesting a warrant order to detain letters addressed to and from Ward's address.³⁷

The first half of the nineteenth century brought technological change but also changed the lives of many

people as wages declined; some of whom resorted to rioting and smashing machinery. In November 1830, 150 labourers at Tendring and 200 at Ramsay were demanding higher wages on route to Harwich. The threat of this in December 1830 led to the County's Parish Constables being reinforced by the Special Constables. The Curate of St Peter's wrote to the Magistrates at Manningtree "*..My parish will thank you to swear in the persons who come with this note as Special Constables .. we are pretty quiet here, but we have suspicious persons in the parish and menaces have been made ... therefore as Barton one of the constables is generally out of the way, and Candler the other resides at the extreme boundary of the Parish we hope you will readily comply with our request..*"³⁸ Sam Candler farmed at Alresford Lodge and Mr Barton was at Church and Brook Farms.³⁹

In 1833, the animals on Marsh Farm were offered for sale when James Cansdale retired. Sold were six cart horses, one harness, three cart colts, one suckled cart horse, five milch cows, ten grazing heifers and twenty-six swine.⁴⁰

At Easter 1833, Joseph Barton, farmer and builder, was fined for non-attendance as a petty juror.⁴¹ In 1833, William Baker and Thomas Sharpe were found guilty of an aggravated assault on George Simpson, a farmer. They were fined 40/- and costs each. Baker could not pay so was sentenced to two months in the Convict Gaol.⁴²

In February 1834, to improve agriculture using science and technology the *Hundreds of Tendring Agricultural Association* was established with Orbell Simons attending meetings.⁴³ In Michaelmas 1834, Jeremiah Cornell successfully requested exemption from jury service due to ill-health.⁴⁴

In January 1836, *The premises of Mrs. Wade, of Alresford, were plundered on Saturday night last, and eight turkeys taken away. The Great Bromley Association have offered a reward for the discovery of the thieves.*⁴⁵

1. **Hedges J (2000) p88; Alresford Two Hundred Years Ago in Paula Munson Orange File** – earliest landlord was Samuel Cole and it was originally two cottages before becoming a Coaching Inn
2. **ERO D/DB T1478**
3. **ERO D/DJ C1290**; Samuel Clarke had rights to build a blacksmith's shop on land at Alresford Heath from 1730.
4. **Hedges J (2000) p70-1, Paula Munson's Orange File**
5. **ERO D/DR T28/4**
6. **Brown AFJ (1996) Prosperity and Poverty Rural Essex 1700-1815 p13, 17**
7. **TNA C 11/247/43**
8. **Alresford Two Hundred Years Ago and Cockaynes Farm in Paula Munson Orange File**
9. **ERO C306** Modern hand-coloured copy of copy made 1861 by John Brigby, surveyor, being a copy of a copy made 1810 by William Cole.
10. **Emmison FG (1973) Essex Freeholders Book p70, 73**
11. **Morant P (1768) Histories and Antiquities of the County of Essex ii p453; D/Dle T2/3 (1776) D/DYz 42 (1818) Little Pannels Farm 14a cannot be located**
12. **Clay RL (1768) The Poll for the Knights of the Shire to Represent the County of Essex p.124,**
13. **Ibid p.132**
14. **Ibid p.111**
15. **ERO Map/CM/37/4**
16. **Emmerson FG (1982) Essex Wills (England): 1578-1588 p.163**
17. **<https://content.libraries.wsu.edu/digital/collection/p16866coll11/search/searchterm/alresford/field/all/mode/all/conn/and/page/1>**
18. **http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10234153/cube/TOT_POP**
19. **Cary's New and Correct English Atlas, 1798**
20. **ERO D/DEt P10**
21. **ERO D/Det T85**

22. McCallum (1948) *An English Village* p.24
23. *ibid* p25
24. *ibid* p26
25. *A barber's shop, Alresford, Essex. Colour process print, 1891, after T. Rowlandson* Wellcome Collection. Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)
26. TNA MS 11936/351/539490
27. TNA MS 11936/370/573881
28. TNA MS 11936/381/59239
29. *The Ipswich Journal* Saturday Aug. 6 1803;
30. Osbourne M (2013) *Defending Essex The Military Landscape from Prehistory to the Present* p21
31. *British Press* Saturday 2nd July 1803, *Bury and Norwich Post* Wednesday 21st September 1803 *Morning Post* Monday Aug. 22, 1803; *Ipswich Journal* Saturday 27 August 1803 The Duke of York (1763-1827) from the famous rhyme, who also featured on a statue paid for by his soldiers donating a day's pay, on a 124 foot column at the Duke of York steps, north of the Mall in 1834.
32. ERO D/DHA 01/11
33. Morant P (1789) *The History and Antiquities of Colchester* p.20;
34. *Ipswich Journal* (1800) Saturday 12th June 1800
35. *The Ipswich Journal* Saturday May 2nd 1812
36. Brown AFJ (1996) *Prosperity and Poverty: Rural Essex 1700-1815* p.52, *The Ipswich Journal* Saturday April 26 1817 ;
37. TNA HO 33/3/26 Folio 58 January 6 1829
38. ERO Q/APp 1, Russell S *Trouble in Essex East Anglia Daily Times* October 11th 2007
39. ERO D/CT 4b
40. *Essex Standard* September 14th 1833
41. TNA/ERO Q/Sb 519/38 Easter 1833
42. *Essex Standard* Saturday, Mar. 9, 1833
43. *Essex Standard* Saturday, Feb. 1, 1834
44. TNA/ERO Q/Sb 517/92
45. *Essex Standard* 8th January 1836

Alresford Hall in the nineteenth century (1800-68)

The Martin Rebow family primarily lived in Wivenhoe Park but continued to visit Alresford Hall for leisure activities. Mary Rebow Martin died in 1804 and was succeeded by her only surviving daughter, Mary Hester.¹ Her step-aunt, Dorothy Adams, was living at Alresford Hall in 1810 and had a share of nine dividends due for Consolidated £3 percent annuities.² She died in 1812 at Alresford Hall;³ with furniture, two bay geldings and a “..family chariot..” offered for sale.⁴

The estates were managed by Mary Martin Rebow's daughter, Mary Hester, who married General Slater in 1796.⁵ He in turn took on the surname Rebow. In 1813, the Hall was advertised for rent along with sporting rights over the Manor of Alresford.⁶ Henry Wright (1741-1831) and his wife Elizabeth, who farmed Hall, Church and Carter's Farms became resident.⁷ In 1817, *Miss C Kemp of Alresford Hall* married Mr Dorell of Colchester.⁸

The Manor of Alresford and the Hall were next inherited by Dorothy's nieces Mary and Harriet Higginbotham, who lived in London. George Adams, then mainly resident in Cheltenham,⁹ was Lord of the Manor in 1832 when he collected rent from the tenants at the Pointer,¹⁰ but died in December.¹¹ Seven years later, no Lord of the Manor was named for that year's collection of rents¹² but Mary Higginbotham called a meeting to commute the Tithes in June 1838.¹³

By 1840, William Warwick Hawkins junior, (1816-1868) a shipping and timber entrepreneur from the New Hythe, Colchester¹⁴ was resident¹⁵ at a rent of £230 pa for fifty years¹⁶ and inherited on Mary Higginbotham's death in 1856.¹⁷ Two

lodges at the entrance to the drives were built; the West Lodge was built from flint and stock brick; the North Lodge was weather-boarded.¹⁸ In 1842, William Warwick Hawkins married Jane Harriet Smythies,¹⁹ the daughter of the former Clerk of Colchester Borough²⁰ and a business partner in the timber trade.²¹

Hawkins became involved in the railway mania of the 1840s promoting the lines from Ipswich to Colchester (1843),²² to Norwich;²³ Marks Tey to Sudbury,²⁴ Colchester to the Hythe (1847),²⁵ St Botolph's to Wivenhoe (1863), to Alresford, Weeley (1866) and Walton-on-the-Naze (1867).²⁶ He was a director of the Eastern Union Railway;²⁷ a member of the Provisional Committee of the Stour Valley, Sudbury and Halstead Railway;²⁸ and Chairman of the Tendring Hundred Railway Company.²⁹ He became a Councillor in Colchester,³⁰ was a witness to the army testing six-pounder rockets at St Osyth³¹ and a member of the Essex Agricultural Protection Society.³² He built the village school in 1846; paid for the enlargement of St Peter's, donated to the Colchester Church of England Literacy Institution³³ and promoted the Royal Agriculture College Benevolent Fund.³⁴

Hawkins was elected as Conservative MP for Colchester in 1852³⁵ winning 686 votes.³⁶ He served for five years until ill-health prevented him continuing.³⁷ Whilst working in London he lived at Berkeley Square³⁸ and at Park Street, Westminster.³⁹ Once he recovered, he returned to the Magistrates Bench in Colchester; the Clerk was accused by a fellow magistrate of corruption.⁴⁰ He was re-elected to Colchester Council,⁴¹ was involved in the regulation of the Colne fisheries⁴² and a Trustee of the Colchester Savings Bank.⁴³ In January 1866, the railway came to Alresford; with the station built just north of his estate by his Tendring Hundred Railway Company.⁴⁴ By the time of his death in February 1868, the railway was completed to Walton-on-the Naze.⁴⁵ He left £35,000.⁴⁶ Later, Hawkins Road in Colchester, the site of his warehouses was named in honour of him⁴⁷ and also a road off Coach Road, Alresford during the 1960's.

The Hall became a major part of the Colchester social scene with a banquet for 120 in a Marque at the Quarters, after the presentation of a silver bugle to the newly formed Colchester Volunteer Rifle Corps in August 1860. Hawkins wore his uniform as Deputy-Lieutenant of Essex.⁴⁸ Regular meets of the Essex and Suffolk Hunt started at the Hall⁴⁷ as there were eleven litters of foxes in Tendring.⁴⁹ Hawkins and his game-keeper for *East Hall and Cockaynes*, James Rawlings, had gun licenses costing £4 10d and £1 7/6 respectively.⁵¹ The house was renovated with an icehouse built on an island in the lake.⁵² A larger staff including a married coachman, butler and Head Gardener for the pines, grapes, forcing wall-fruit and flower & vegetable were engaged.⁵³

Gardeners from the Hall regularly entered competitions at the Essex & Suffolk Horticultural Society and

Colchester & East Essex Horticultural Society's annual shows, often winning prizes. In 1844, Mr Burgess from Alresford won prizes for dahlias for nurserymen, seedling dahlias, striped/tipped dahlias, hollyhocks, apples, pears, peas and seedling potatoes. Mr Strother won for onions.⁵⁴ He also won for six nectarines in 1860,⁵⁵ for melons and cherries,⁵⁶ and fifty French beans and cabbage lettuce.⁵⁷ Mr J. Alexander, gardener to Mrs Hawkins, won for his

French beans in 1870,⁵⁸ six peaches,⁵⁹ strawberries,⁶⁰ melon (green flesh),⁶¹ cherries⁶² and for twelve plums.⁶³

Pedigree animals were also important. The 16-hand *a beautiful rich brown without white* stud stallion *Agreeable*, by *Emilius* (Winner of the 1823 Epsom Derby and sire of the Winners in 1827 and 1831) and *Surprise*, which Hawkins purchased from Lord Rivers for 500 sovereigns, was advertised for five guineas per mare, and 10/- for the groom, over twenty times from Spring 1841.⁶⁴ Hawkins also sold a large shorthorn at the Christmas Market.⁶⁵

Road traffic accidents involving Alresford residents did occur. One of Hawkins' waggons ran away on Magdalen Street and crashed at the Hythe.⁶⁶ Another carrying manure crashed on May 26th 1859, leading to John Day fracturing his ribs.⁶⁷ Rev. WY. Smythies of Weeley (Hawkins' brother-in-law) had an accident on his way to Alresford Hall. The horse pulling his phaeton was spooked, broke the springs and dislodged the front wheels when it crashed, throwing Rev Smythies.⁶⁸

On Sunday 18th July 1847, a major fire at Heath Farm, Church Road, began during the morning church service. The Congregation led by Rev Swainson, and builder Mr. Barton attempted to deal with the blaze by removing the furniture from the house and making a breach into the back of a barn. The Essex & Suffolk Equitable Insurance Office (formed 1802)⁶⁹ fire engine arrived from Colchester; but could not access sufficient water. Two horse's worth between £30-£40 each, a colt, a calf and several pigs died. A granary full of the harvest, large barn, stables, cow-house, sheds, piggery, fowl-house, stacks of straw, hay and wood were destroyed. The damage was initially estimated between £500-£1000. The property was partially insured by the Royal Fire Exchange Office, so the fire was attended by Superintendent Brown, PC66 Smith. Inspectors Ward and Ackers. They found that the young maid, Martha Sadler, had thrown the ashes from the open hearth outside on a windy day. She was questioned and admonished by the Magistrate Mr Green for gross carelessness. The farm was occupied by Fred Wade and owned by Hawkins.⁷⁰

In 1867, the only electors were Hawkins and Thomas Gregory Cowell.⁷¹

In 1868, "*.. three rods of pastureland COPYHOLD to the Manor of Alresford complete and a residence with*

butchers' shop/wool chambers..”, occupied by Mrs. May, was offered for sale.⁷² In February 1871, Fred Rodwell, a blacksmith from Alresford, was seen poaching on the Candler and Cockrell farms by W. Saunders who reported the crimes to Charles Gilder, game-keeper of Alresford Hall. He was fined 10/- and 12/-costs.⁷³

1. **Burkes Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry (1882) Red 1384**
2. **Bank of England (1815) The Names and Descriptions of the Proprietors of Unclaimed Dividends on Bank Stock p.10**
3. **Bury and Norwich Post** Wednesday March 4th 1812
4. **Ipswich Journal** Saturday March 28th 1812
5. **Burkes Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry (1882) Red 1384**
6. **Morning Post**, Tuesday, June 8th 1813
7. **Kaye RL (1969) Barton-Green and related families p.37;**
8. **The Monthly Magazine** February 1st 1817 XLiii p94
9. **Morning Post**, Friday June 15th 1821
10. **Essex Standard** Saturday June 23rd 1832; **D/DDU 381/29** In 1826, he also leased Slough Farm, Frating for 21 years at £110pa to John Mulley Simpson and Orbell Simons of Alresford and Joseph Newstead of Thorrington
11. **Essex Standard** Saturday December 15th 1832
12. **Essex Standard**, Friday, August 9th 1839 **13. Essex Standard** Friday, June 29th 1838
14. <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/reports/CAT-report-1359.pdf> p6 & 66 Historic building recording at the Rising Sun and Maponite buildings, 3 Hythe Station Road, Colchester, Essex CO2 8JZ (018)
15. **Essex Standard** Friday September 16th 1840
16. **The Weekly Notes** March 23rd 1872; **Lambert S (1873) Return of the Owners of land I p28** details three pieces of land owned totalling 809 acres
17. **NA, PROB 11/2241**
18. **Bettley J Pevsner N (2007) The Buildings of England Essex p.87**
19. **Essex Standard** Friday May 13th 1842
20. **Victoria County History of Essex ix p.208-221**
21. <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/reports/CAT-report-1359.pdf> p6 & 66
22. **Essex Standard** Friday December 20th 1843
23. **Essex Standard** Friday November 9th 1849
24. **Essex Standard** Friday June 6th 1849
25. <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/reports/CAT-report-1359.pdf> p.66
26. **Essex Standard** Friday December 20th 1843
27. **Ipswich Journal** Saturday October 4th 1845
28. **Essex Standard** Friday October 17th 1862
29. **Essex Standard** Friday August 6th 1847
30. **The Standard** Tuesday November 4th 1845
31. **Morning Post** December 29th 1845
32. **Essex Standard** Friday 3rd January 1851
33. **The Times** Monday June 6th 1859
34. **Ipswich Journal** Saturday February 1868
35. **The Era** Sunday June 13th 1852
36. **The Essex Review iii (1894) p.89**
37. **Essex Standard** Wednesday February 11th 1857
38. **Essex Standard** Wednesday December 21st 1853
39. **Essex Standard** Wednesday December 29th 1854
40. **Essex Standard** Wednesday March 20th 1861
41. **Essex Standard** Friday November 17 1861
42. **Essex Standard** Friday 7th 1864
43. **Essex Chronicle** January 21st 1870
44. **Essex Standard** Wednesday March 7th 1866
45. **The Standard** Tuesday February 11th 1868
46. **England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1858-1995**
47. <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/reports/CAT-report-1359.pdf> p.6
48. **Bury and Norwich Post** Tuesday August 14th 1860
49. **The Standard (London)** Friday February 20th 1846
50. **Essex Standard** Wednesday April 25th 1860
51. **Essex Standard** Friday September 20th 1844
52. **Bettley J Pevsner N (2007) The Buildings of England Essex p89**
53. **Essex Standard** Wednesday September 3rd 1856
54. **Essex Standard** Friday October 4th 1844
55. **Essex Standard** Friday July 6th 1860
56. **Essex Standard** Wednesday 9th September 1860
57. **Essex Standard** Wednesday May 17th 1861
58. **Essex Standard** Friday May 20th 1870
59. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 28 June 1871
60. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 1 June 1877
61. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 11 June 1880
62. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 16 July 1880
63. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 31 August 1883
64. **Ipswich Journal** Saturday 31st 1841; **Craven (1840) Sporting Review** p217; **New Sporting Magazine (1841)** p232; **Racing Calendar (1842)** p617
65. **Essex Standard** Friday December 21st 1860

- 66. **Essex Standard** Tuesday May 31st 1850
- 67. **Essex Standard** Friday June 3rd 1859
- 68. **Essex Standard** December 12th 1860
- 69. **Victoria History of Essex ix (1993) p179-198**
- 70. **Morning Post** Tuesday July 20th 1847; **Essex Standard** July 23rd 1847
- 71. **Borough of Colchester. The Poll for Member to Serve in Parliament, Taken on Friday, February 15, 1867**
- 72. **Essex Standard** Monday September 30th 1868
- 73. **Essex Standard** Friday February 3rd 1871

The Village in early Victorian Times (1837-1871)

The 1831 Census was the first to ask detailed questions about occupations and homes. There were 291 villagers¹ living in only 55 houses in Alresford.² Of the 75 men over 20 years of age: 57 were involved in agriculture and 14 in retail or handicrafts.³ The population stayed between c.200 and c.300 in Alresford (registration district 195) until 1951.

In August 1836, the Commutation of Tithes Act of England and Wales⁴ was passed. The traditional method of each farmer giving one tenth of their harvest, stored in a parish tithe barn was made obsolete by the rapid enclosure of lands. For example, the 1822 Act Inclosure Act for Cokaynes and Kelars (Rebandyshide) Manors⁵ that included 90 acres of Heaths, Commons, and Waste Land – some from Alresford.⁶

Instead, each parish was to be surveyed and a rent-charge worked out based on the average price of barley, wheat and oats – payable to the Rector. This rent-charge could be deducted from rent paid to landlords.⁷ Three copies of each map were drawn and sent to the National Tithe Commissioners, to the Diocese of London and the Parish. The commutation rent was adjustable according to the cost of wheat and corn. In 1839 and 1843, Tithe Maps were drawn for Alresford that showed 251 parcels of land⁸ with a rent-charge of £356 payable to Rev. John Taylor Allen. The whole parish measured 1426 acres 2 roods 21 perches of which 1056a 2r 31p were arable, 220 acres wood and 36 acres glebe.

Within the Winstree and Tendring Hundreds, either side of the Colne, twenty-five field names are unique to Alresford. Some names remind us of the animals or plants farmed there- the Warrens, Rabbit Field, Fox Burrow, Birch Grove, Plum Tree Field, Potatoe, Turpentine Meadow, Greater and Little Turpentine. (The sap of turpentine or pine trees were distilled to make turpentine which was burnt in oil lamps) Claypit Field and Sawpit Fields indicate their major use. Others included Downings, Banham Meadows, Keep Field, South Leys, Pointer Pightle, Rayleigh Field, Shaw, Long Sponds, Upper and Lower Stephens, White Gate Field.⁹

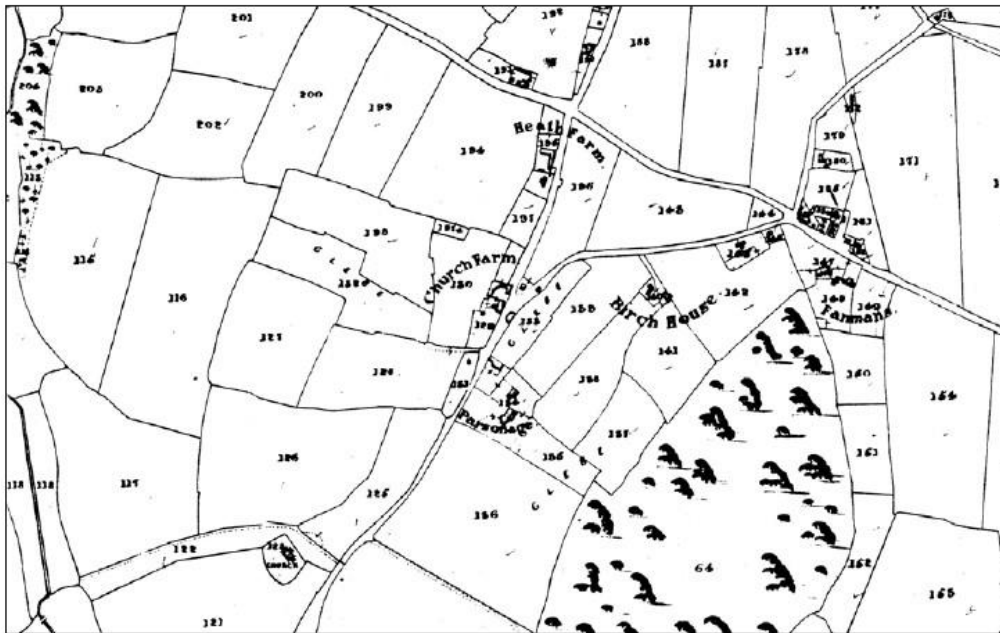


Figure 18 -

Section of the Alresford tithe map, 1839¹⁰ showing the current routes of Church Road, Ford Road, Coach Road and Wivenhoe Road. St Peter's is in the south-west.

In 1841, the only registered voters were Rev Taylor, Samuel Candler (Alresford Lodge), William Hawkins (Pointer Farm), William Hines (occupier of Cocking's Farm), Philip Lugar (who lived in Richmond, but owned Cocking's Farm) and Richard Sanderson Esq (The Dairy Farm), the sitting MP.¹¹ Others with land within the current Parish boundaries included James Porter (Elmstead -including Heath Cottage), John Gosling (Elmstead) and Robert Ward (*Elmstead on the heath*),¹² and William Baxter (of Copyholds Cottages, living in Great Clacton).

By 1848, there were horse-drawn omnibuses operating between Colchester and Brightlingsea which passed through the village. Other routes continued to Harwich.¹³ These continued until the railway was completed in 1867, when the vehicles and horses were sold by the proprietor Mr R. Cresswell.¹⁴

White's Directory of Essex 1848 described the village as "*..ALRESFORD is a pleasant village and parish, on the eastern side of the vale of the river Colne, 5½ miles South East of Colchester, containing 289 souls, and 1427A.2R.25P. of land, watered by two rivulets, which fall into a creek of the Colne, on the south side of the parish. The creek is fordable at low water; and from this ford, and the alders still growing near it, the parish had its name. It is in two manors, Alresford and Cockayne, both now held by Mrs. Mary Higginbotham, of London, and formerly by the Ferle, Staunton, Tabor, Cockayne, and other families. Most of the soil belongs to other proprietors, the largest of whom is W.W. Hawkins, Esq., of Alresford Hall, which stands on an eminence, and has lately been much enlarged. Mr. Hawkins is the lessee of the manors..*"¹⁵

If a person were ill and unable to work they could be returned by the Courts to their home village. Such

orders were made for John Kemp, his wife Martha and four children from Belchamp Otter, in March 1833,¹⁶ and Alfred Polley, his wife Ann and illegitimate son John from Navestock, near Brentwood, in April 1841.¹⁷ In January 1836, the Tendring Poor Law Union was established with the Parish in the St Osyth Division. Alresford was now to pay £112 19 9 ¼ pa, instead of £214 when administering alms itself.¹⁸ In the year *ending 25 March 1837*, Alresford was levied for £150 and expended £131 in total. £107 was *expended for the relief of the poor*; £2 for the *removal of pauper, law charges etc*; £17 towards the *County Rate*; and £5 *expended for other purposes*.¹⁹

In 1840, £109 was *levied by assessment* with £132 15/- expended in total. £101 14/- was *expended for the maintenance of the poor*; £11/1- *expended for medical relief*; £14 11/- *expended on the removal of paupers*; £1 3/- *towards the costs of the Registration Act* and £4 6/- on other expenditure.²⁰

In the year *ending March 1864*, Alresford was in Tendring (Census District 203) with a population of 248 and an acreage of 1583 with an estimated £2216 gross rental-charge. Rates were 1/-3¼ to the £ of rent-charge *for the relief of the poor*; an average of 0.16 persons per acre paying £8 18/-9 each.²¹

In Autumn 1852, Mr Warren was charging with stealing three sheep from John Malthy, farmer of Alresford. A butcher from Ardleigh Robert Pentney was charged with accepting two of the stolen sheep, knowing they were stolen.²² In December 1852, officer of Customs William Bishop was on duty near Alresford Creek and inspected the smack *Good Agreement*. The master was arrested for smuggling contraband tobacco and spirits.²³

In 1856, Tendring was broken into eleven medical districts; and each was to have a doctor. In District 6, were the Parishes of Great and Little Bentley, Frating, Thorrington and Alresford with a total population of 2424 and a salary of £40. This was *exclusive of fees for vaccinations, quarterly visits to the on insane paupers, fractures, midwifery, etc*.²⁴

In 1871, Cockaynes Farm was rebuilt.²⁵

1. http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10234153/cube/TOT_POP
2. http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10234153/cube/HOUSE_OCCUPANCY
3. http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10234153/cube/OCC_PAR1831_SIMP
4. 6 & 7 Will 4 c 71; *The Standard* Saturday March 4 1837 Alresford and Elmstead did sign a petition opposing this 5. 3 Geo. 4 c1
6. *The Statutes of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (1822)* p.854
7. Kemble J (2011) *Placenames of Alresford* p3
8. ERO D/CT 4a 1843, ERO D/CT 4b 1839 surveyed at a scale of 13.3" to the mile
9. Waller WC (1898) *Field names of Winstree and Tendring Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society* p.285-327
10. ERO D/CT 4b
11. *Northern Division (Essex) (1842) Copy of the Register of the Electors* p.114
12. *ibid* p124-125
13. Cooper J (ed) (1995) *Victorian History of the County of Essex* ix p233-237
14. *Essex Standard* July 10th 1867
15. White W (1848) *Directory of Essex*

16. ERO Q/SBb 512/63/1 1833 TNA
17. ERO Q/Sbb 544/45, 46 1841 TNA
18. The Ipswich Journal Saturday Feb. 25 1837; Essex Standard Friday Feb. 24 1837
19. House of Lords (1838) Reports from Commissioners xliv p.430
20. Poor rate returns of Unions and Parishes House of Commons (1840) Reports from the Commissioners xviii p.175
21. House of Lords · (1868) Accounts and Papers xviii p.122-3
22. Chelmsford Chronicle Friday 14 November 1852 p3
23. Chelmsford Chronicle Friday 02 January 1852 p4
24. The Lancet London (1856) A Journal of British and Foreign Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics, Physiology, Public Health and News · I p.248
25. Hedges J (2000) p86

Richard Sanderson Esq. MP (1783-1857)

On the Voters list for 1841, Richard Sanderson Esq. owned the tenancy of the Dairy Farm. On the tithe maps¹ he was tenant at Plumpton's Farm and Brick House Farm, probably as an investment as farms in the area were often advertised as such in Alresford and Thorrington.² Voters needed to prove they occupied property with an annual value of £10 from 1832.³

Richard Sanderson Esq. became wealthy brokering bills in Lombard Street, London and as an East India proprietor.⁴ Promoting anti-Catholic sentiments, supporting protection of trade, the education of the poor and the end to the slave trade he was elected to be one of two MP for Colchester in 1829-1830⁵ winning 644 votes for the Conservatives.⁶ He was forced to withdraw as a candidate in 1830 after his agent was caught bribing an elector⁷ In 1831, whilst campaigning in Harwich angry voters forced his carriage into a pond.⁸ He finished third.

Sanderson was re-elected in 1832 (winning 637 votes), 1837 (472) and in 1841 without a vote as there were only two candidates. During this session of Parliament, Sanderson was busy promoting the railways, especially those around Colchester involving Hawkins and other Colchester merchants. He also presented to the Commons a petition signed by 1100 from Colchester asking for changes to the recent Poor Law legislation.⁹ He lost the election of 1847 by sixty-four votes, though polling more than a decade before.⁹ He donated to the Colchester Provident Asylum Society¹⁰ and the National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor.¹¹ He married Charlotte Matilda, the daughter of Charles Manners Sutton, the Speaker of the House of Commons on 12 February 1833.¹² They had at least six sons and four daughters. In 1847, his brokerage firm had to suspend operations for that year due to financial issues. Sanderson died in October 1857. Two weeks later his business closed with liabilities of £5,299,006¹³ His collection of paintings by artists including Hogarth (*The Laughing Audience*), Gainsborough and Murillo sold for over 2500 guineas.¹⁴

1. Essex Record Office D/CT 4a, D/CT 4b; Essex Standard Friday September 14th 1838 he also owned Heveningham Hall, Suffolk

2. Essex Standard June 28th Friday 1839

3. http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/pathways/citizenship/struggle_democracy/getting_vote.ht

4. **Essex Standard** Wednesday November 4th 1857
5. **The Times** Friday April 24th 1830
6. **The Essex Review An Illustrated Quarterly Record of Everything of Permanent Interest in the County iii (1894) p.89**
7. **Colchester Gazette**, 31 July 1830, p10
8. **Colchester Gazette** April 30th 1831
9. **Essex Standard** Friday June 22 1838
10. **The Essex Review An Illustrated Quarterly Record of Everything of Permanent Interest in the County -iii (1894) p.89**
11. **Essex Standard** Friday October 1st 1858
12. **Morning Post** Monday September 18th 1843
13. **Morning Post** Wednesday February 13, 1833
14. **Fisher DR (ed.) (2009) The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1820-1832**
15. **The Times** Monday March 31st 1858

Hulme Trust and the new rectory (1838)

A new eight-bedroomed Rectory was built in gault brick by the Hulme Trust who had purchased the advowson of the church in 1838, after a private Act of Parliament, in 1827, allowed the diversion of funds. This allowed them to pass the Rectorship to fellows of Brasenose College, Oxford and was one of twenty-eight Parishes which they purchased.¹ To mark this link, a *brazen nose* was added to the corbels by the front door.² Rev. Newman jun (d 1830), Newman Snr (1830-39), Robinson (d1843),³ Swainson (1837 for forty years), Bache (1877 for thirty years), Pritchard (1907), Ferguson (1919), Viret (1922),⁴ Duncan (1932); Edwards (1933), Huskisson (1943) and McCallum (1945-69)⁵ were fellows of Brasenose who became Rectors at Alresford. The law changed in the 1920s.

1. **Hargreaves, W. (1879) Spoliation of Hulme's Charity** ; letters **East Essex Gazette** November 8th 1963
2. **The parish and manor of Alresford p3**
3. **Church of England Magazine (1843) xv p2**
4. **The parish and manor of Alresford p4**
5. **Murry J (2000) Alresford p38**

Living at the Hall after 1868

Hawkins widow, Jane Harriette Martin remained living at the Hall and as lessee of the two Manors for the next forty years.¹ Owners of the Manors were George and William Higginbotham² who sued in 1872 for the loss of profits from wood cut without permission. An injunction without any damages was issued to prevent any future cutting.³ The *Lord of the Manor of Alresford otherwise East Hall* title passed on frequently; in 1870 to E. Abbott,⁴ in 1874 to JM Wells,⁵ and in 1918 EM Higginbotham.⁶

The large staff were slowly passed on to other employers. In April 1885, a 19 year old groom who had worked under a coachman was available⁷ and in August 1889, the services of a lady's maid, who was also a good dressmaker, was offered.⁸ In December 1900, Mrs Hawkins offered to pay for a RONTGEN RAYS apparatus (X-ray

machine) for the Essex and Colchester Hospital.⁹ For the opening of the new Town Hall in Colchester she donated a window, on the staircase, in memory of her husband.¹⁰ In 1903, she donated £5 to the rebuilding of the North Wall of St Giles Cripplegate Church and the building of a statue of Milton.¹¹ She died in 1908 leaving £71,380 17s. 6d. to the Essex and Colchester General Hospital and £10 for the Poor of Alresford.¹²

Also living there was Lieutenant-Colonel Septimus Hawkins who had returned ill from India in 1863.

Septimus had begun his military service by purchasing a Lieutenancy in the 97th Foot Regiment in 1845. He married Harriette Dennie in September 1845¹³ before serving overseas in Corfu, Malta and Nova Scotia. They had a daughter Alice Aimee, before being granted a divorce by the House of Lords in 1852.¹⁴ Septimus left for the Crimean War in 1854, briefly stopping in Greece to put down an uprising. The 97th Foot arrived at Balaklava on 20th November, fighting the following year at the Siege of Sevastopol and the Battle of the Great Redan. He won the Crimean Medal with clasp. In June 1856, the 97th Foot Regiment returned to England before being despatched to Bombay after the Hindu Mutiny in 1857. Septimus served at the Siege of Lucknow, Fort Nusrutpore, Chanda, Umeerpore and Sulnapore before the conflict ended in 1858. He was awarded the Order of Medjidu, Indian Medal and clasp.¹⁵ In 1859, his promotion to Brevet Major was confirmed.¹⁶

In 1860, he became Colonel of the Regiment by purchase¹⁷ and later was promoted to command a Brigade before returning ill from India in 1863.

Septimus joined his brothers commercial interests as a director of the Tendring Hundred Railway, a Justice of the Peace, an occasional magistrate in the County¹⁸ and owner of the eighteen ton ship "*Water Sprite*" of Colchester.¹⁹ During the Winter of 1870, Septimus donated four bushels of cereals and two pecks of wood each to the poor of the parish²⁰ and £2 to the Essex and Colchester Hospital; paid to him to avoid two prosecutions for poaching.²¹ Due to the poor harvest Septimus gave his tenants a ten per cent reduction in rents in 1886.²² Sporting pursuits and entertaining continued at Alresford Hall until his death in 1891. He was interred in the family vault at St. Peter's.²³

A third Hawkins brother, Charles was also a businessman partner²⁴ who went onto become a Colchester borough councillor (1844-89), poor-law guardian, improvement commissioner, leader of Colchester Conservative party and Mayor of Colchester four times.²⁵

Mrs Hawkins nephew, the Rev Charles Smythies DD, (1844-1894) was the fourth Bishop of the Universities

Mission to Central Africa (present-day Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe)²⁶ from 1883. He had been a Curate at Great Marlow in 1871 and Roath Cardiff before being invited to the post by the Bishop of London.²⁷ Part of the province was invaded by the Germans in 1884-8²⁸ which led to a war with some tribes in 1889.²⁹ He returned ill to England in 1890, after he had ordained the first native priest, on January 25 Cecil Majaliwa.³⁰

Whilst in England he spoke about leading a Christian mission in non-British territories and raised £13,000 for the endowment of the Bishopric of Nyassaland (modern day Malawi). In 1894, he was ill for three weeks with a high fever. Whilst travelling between Zanzibar and Suez he died on-board “the *Peiho*” and was buried at sea,³¹ eight hundred miles off the coast of Aden as the temperatures were over 91^o Fahrenheit.³² “*He is said to be the only English prelate known to have been buried at sea.*”³³ His portrait hangs at Trinity College, Cambridge where he had studied.³⁴

Timber continued to be a source of income for the estate. In 1870, 3000 bavins, 600 hurdles, 200 birch and alder seconds, 200 of thatch, 200 of birch and fourteen loads of sheer faggots were advertised for sale.³⁵ In 1871, birch and alder lots were sold.³⁶

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2. Post Office Directory (1874) p8
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4. NA MAF 9/56/17
5. NA MAF 9/56/18
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9. Essex Newsmen Saturday 08 December 1900 p3
10. Chelmsford Chronicle Friday 27 December 1901 p3
11. The Times Monday November 9th 1903
12. Essex Newsmen Saturday 28 November 1908 p3
13. The United Service Magazine (1845) Volume 49, p.319
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17. The Edinburgh Gazette, August 3, 1860
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19. Board of Trade (1867) The Mercantile List and Maritime Directory p.406
20. Essex Standard Friday February 18th 1870
21. Essex Standard Friday December 16th 1870
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24. The London Gazette (1850) p.414
25. Victoria County History of Essex ix p.208-221
26. <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/structures/member-churches/member-church.aspx?church=central-africa>
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33. Essex Review Volumes 1-3 (1894) p.162
34. <https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/charles-alan-smythies-18441894-dd-4th-bishop-of-the-universities-mission-to-central-africa-134792>
35. Essex Friday March 18th 1870
36. Essex Standard Friday March 3rd 1871

Alresford School (1846)

Even before Foster's 1870 Elementary Education Act,¹ granted schooling to children between the ages of five and ten, children in Alresford already had an education. In 1812 and 1815, *Arlesford had 40 boys and girls attending School*. In 1818, a Sunday school contained 30 boys and girls taught by the master, who was also the clerk of the parish. He was paid £4 pa. by subscription. *"The poorer classes are without sufficient means of instruction, but desirous of having them."*³ In 1819, there were 16 boys and 20 girls attending the Sunday School.⁴ By 1833, this had grown to 37 males and 36 females supported by voluntary contributions.⁵

In 1843, a tiny school room was built on the common; similar in design to the Lodges.⁶

In 1846, William Hawkins built the original school in Church Road⁷ as part of the National Schools network. This was constructed in a similar manner to the West Lodge of Alresford Hall, from flint and stock brick with decorated bargeboards.⁸ In 1854, the school had eighty pupils.⁹ In 1882, this *Parochial School (mixed)*, had fifty children taught by Miss Amelia Chisnell earning a salary of £50 pa.¹⁰ The pupils and Rector were treated to a day at Walton-on-the-Naze by Mrs Hawkins.¹¹ The National School was given to the parish in 1896 by Mrs. Hawkins to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary.¹² Plans were drawn up to enlarge it with an extra classroom in 1894-5, with subscriptions from locals.¹³

In 1894, the school had room for 61 scholars with an average attendance of 56. A grant of £45 11/6 was received.¹⁴ Her Majesty's Inspector sent a *".. gratifying report .. reflecting great credit on Mrs Knight and her assistants.."* in 1900. An evening school had begun for thirty teenagers run by Miss Ella Harris and Miss Mary Mason. Unfortunately, an outbreak of measles had shut both schools for two weeks.¹⁵ For a short period at the turn of the century lessons were carried out at Heather Cottage whilst the school was altered. The floor of the main room was raised by two feet and a larger classroom built.¹⁶

Prior to the 1893 Education Act, granting free schooling for all children under ten, there were other schools still operating in Alresford. Governess Watcham, the shoemaker's wife, ran a school for tiny tots of the middle classes, where the old-fashioned tin candlesticks featured. At Brick House Farm, Miss Matilda Carter charged a fee of 2d per week, per girl taught. At this school a shoe club was run – for every penny paid in, another penny was added by Miss Jones, Miss Beckell and Miss Higginbotham. The latter was a distant relation of the Martin's of Alresford Hall.¹⁷

In December 1907, Essex Education Committee adjudged that *Alresford School provided good illustration of successful gardening taught by a mistress under great difficulties.*¹⁸ In 1919, the village donated a piano to the school¹⁹ and Miss AB Webb was employed as Headmistress.²⁰ A well was sunk for the school in 1933.²¹

In April 1939, the trustees of the Church of England School agreed to hand it over to Essex County Council; and Mr Campling agreed to donate the piece of land used as a playing field.²²

The school welcomed seventy-five evacuees from London, including some who did not stay long before returning to their homes. At 8am on Sunday June 2nd 1940, the final seventeen left, accompanied by Mrs Edwards, by bus to Thorpe station, then onto Ross-on-Wye. They arrived at 7:30pm.²³ Later that month, Tendring RDC costed an air raid shelter for fifty pupils at £125.²⁴ From January 1944, 350 school lunches were cooked at Great Bentley Primary School and delivered to Alresford and neighbouring schools.²⁵ Due to the short warning time from attacking V1 flying bombs in 1944, a telephone was installed at the school.²⁶

For many years, the school roll was small with one junior and one infant class. In May 1947, *Alresford Junior and Infants Church (Voluntary) School* was informed that the long-term plan was for closure with the pupils going to Wivenhoe Church School instead.²⁷ In July, pupils won prizes in the Road Safety poster competition of Tendring RDC. In the over-eleven category: first was Daphne Burbage; second was Celia Fowler; third Peter Scofield. In the under-elevens: first was Noel Bush; second was Roger Birch; third was Ann Hubbard.²⁸

In 1952 only had forty-two pupils, and was still threatened with closure, when Mrs Warren became Headteacher. Suzanne and Paul Waters became the 99th and 100th pupils in March 1962.²⁹ In November, 34 children accompanied by Mrs Warren and Mrs D Crozier attended James Balde's talk and demonstration of percussion instruments at Wivenhoe School.³⁰ In December, the Nativity was performed in the Village Hall with Mrs Warren playing piano. Assistant Teachers Mrs Crozier, Mrs Carter and Miss Chamberlain helped the children. Donations were sent to Oxfam.³¹

In March 1963, a rummage sale at the school raised £5 10/- for school funds. Helpers were the teachers with Mrs Calver, Moore, Goodwin and Miss Metson. The Easter Festival was held in the Village hall with £8 raised for the Freedom from Hunger Campaign.³²

The new school was built in 1965³³ with Mrs Warren continuing as Headteacher for three years when the school had 205 pupils. As retirement gifts she received a silver tea-set, a bouquet of flowers and an album of

photographs.³⁴ The number of pupils increased from 170 in 1967 to over 300 in 1973; 330 in 1987; before declining to 142 in 1995; and around a hundred in 2000-20.³⁵

In March 1962, Mrs Warren held a meeting for parents to discuss the dangers presented by the lack of footpaths to the school. The children were to be crossed over Wivenhoe Road in lines.³⁶ In July, at the North-East Essex Primary Schools sports at West Mersea Diane Marshall came second in the 60 yards for girls under 10 (Section B); Ian Hyams was third (Boys 80 yards Under-12s); B Jennifer Marshall was third (Girls 80 yards Under-12s). Alresford scored 22 ½ points, finishing ninth.³⁷

In July 1963, over 93% of the pupils were savers and won the monthly Tendring RDC Savings trophy. The school went on a trip to Ingatestone Hall accompanied by Mrs Carter, Calver and Miss Chamberlain. They later visited the English Schools Athletics Championships, in Chelmsford.³⁸ In October, a rummage sale raised £6 for school funds.³⁹ The final open day at the Victorian school building was during education week in November 1963. *The parents inspected books and work and were particularly intrigued by with a display of Cuisenaire apparatus for maths.*⁴⁰ On Friday December 13th, the Nativity was performed in the Village Hall. Tea was served by past pupils of the school. W Carter was stage manager.⁴¹

On July 23rd 1968, an 41' by 25', three feet deep prefabricated outdoor swimming pool was opened by Divisional Education Officer TTD Carter. This was built by volunteers and £1300 raised by parents with £250 from Essex County Council. Two changing rooms could accommodate forty pupils.⁴²

On Good Friday 1972, 29 pupils from form four went on an extended visit at Minehead. The football team beat Tiptree Milldene 5-1 to win the Rutherford Cup. Michael Thompson scored a hat-trick.⁴³

1. <https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/livinglearning/school/overview/1870educationact/>
2. National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church Throughout England and Wales (1812) Annual Report p.65; *ibid* (1815) Annual Report p.65
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21. ERO D/P 336/28/25; Kelly's Directory of Essex (1922) p4
22. ESSEX EDUCATION COMMITTEE Chelmsford Chronicle Friday 28 April 1939
23. East Essex Gazette June 8th 1940
24. East Essex Gazette June 28th 1940
25. East Essex Gazette January 29th 1944
26. <https://www.alresford.essex.sch.uk/about-us/history>
27. Clacton Times Friday May 23rd 1947
28. Clacton Times Friday July 24th 1947
29. East Essex Gazette March 16th 1962
30. East Essex Gazette November 16th 1962
31. East Essex Gazette December 21st 1962
32. East Essex Gazette March 29th 1963
33. ERO C/DA 3/1
34. Hedges J (2000) p63;
35. East Essex Gazette July 26th 1968; Paula Munson's Orange File; <https://www.alresford.essex.sch.uk/about-us/history> ;
36. East Essex Gazette March 23rd 1962
37. East Essex Gazette July 13th 1962
38. East Essex Gazette July 26th 1963
39. East Essex Gazette October 25th 1963
40. East Essex Gazette November 15th 1963
41. East Essex Gazette December 13th 1963
42. Paula Munson's Orange File; East Essex Gazette July 12th, 26th 1968;
43. East Essex Gazette March 17th 1972

Hawkins Railway to Alresford (1867)

In 1843, the railway from London reached Colchester and a link onto Alresford was promoted by a letter to the editor of the Essex Herald; *"... confirmed, and state that since the last meeting a deviation of the line been suggested the formation a branch connecting Alresford with Colchester, the adoption which would be for their consideration, the completion of the Hue from Colchester to Harwich ..."*¹ Other routes took precedence for the next two decades as the railway reached Sudbury, Ipswich and Norwich. William Hawkins was Chairman of *The Tendring Hundred Railway Company* which was incorporated in 1859 to build a railway between the Hythe and Wivenhoe; and a further Act in 1863 to extend the line to Weeley and Walton-on-the-Naze.² Hawkins promoted the route as a way of speedily reaching yachts moored at Brightlingsea³ after the route reached Wivenhoe – less than two miles away. Engineer in chief was Peter Bruff and he plotted a route for 1 ½ miles across thirteen plots of land in the north of the Parish, slightly north of Wivenhoe Road, then an embankment over the valley of the Tenpenny Brook at a gradient of 1 in 233.⁴

There was a fatal accident on this stretch of line as a navy was run over by a waggon whilst picking up a whip off the ground.⁵ Tenders were requested for the building of stations at Alresford, Bentley and Weeley to plans Bruff had drawn⁶ which was won by John Humm of Colchester.⁷ There was a further accident, when one of the horses pulling the builders' carts was startled. This led to a worker breaking his arm and narrowly avoiding a crushed foot.⁸ Funds for this extension were raised by selling shares.

£5,000 were raised in 1863 and a mortgage of £28,000 was also taken out.⁹ Several farmers in Alresford were investors, including Sam Candler of Alresford Lodge Farm, Col Septimus Hawkins, E Benham and FS Blomfield.¹⁰ Land-owners included Caius College (High Elms farm); William Simons (Heath Farm); the glebe; and Philip Lugar (Cockings).¹¹

The next seven miles of the railway to Weeley opened in March 1866,¹² using rolling-stock from *the Great Eastern Railway* for 50%-70% of the takings.¹³ The first run from Weeley to St Botolph's Station went smoothly, but the return train with twenty passengers came off the tracks near to East Hill, Colchester. Mr. Goodey, the Inspector, jumped from the tender. The line stayed closed for the rest of the day.¹⁴

Figure 19 The published timetable of March 2nd 1866 showed here were four trains a day between Colchester and Walton-on-the-Naze: with Sunday services only in summer.¹⁴ Trains went to Colchester at 8:11, 12:51, 3:51 and 7:43 taking *twenty-four* minutes to reach Colchester, two hours nineteen minutes for London and three hours fifty-nine

| WEEK DAYS. | | | | | | | WEEK DAYS. | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------|-------|---------|-------|-------|----------|---------------------|------------|---------|-------|----------|-------|--|
| FROM | Exp. Party | 1 & 2 | 1, 2, 3 | 1 & 2 | 1 & 2 | 1 & 2, 3 | FROM | Party | 1, 2, 3 | 1 & 2 | 1 & 2, 3 | Exp. | |
| | Class | Class | Class | Class | Class | Class | | Class | Class | Class | Class | Class | |
| Wesley.....dep. | 7 55 | ... | 12 35 | 3 25 | ... | 7 15 | London.....dep. | 7 15 10 | 9 11 42 | ... | 4 25 | | |
| Bostley Green..... | 8 1 | ... | 12 41 | 3 41 | ... | 7 23 | Colchester..... | 8 55 | ... | 12 49 | ... | 5 12 | |
| Thorrington..... | 8 6 | ... | 12 46 | 3 46 | ... | 7 33 | Colchester.....arr. | 10 4 11 15 | 1 35 | ... | 5 26 | | |
| Alresford..... | 8 11 | ... | 12 51 | 3 51 | ... | 7 43 | Tarsooth.....dep. | 5 20 | ... | 10 45 | ... | | |
| Wivenhoe..... | 8 17 | ... | 10 35 | 12 57 | 3 57 | 8 0 | Lowestoft..... | 5 30 | ... | 10 55 | ... | | |
| Hythe..... | 8 25 | ... | 10 43 | 1 3 | 4 2 | 8 20 | Norwich..... | 5 50 | ... | 11 15 | 2 20 | ... | |
| St. Botolph's..... | 8 35 | ... | 10 53 | 1 15 | 4 15 | 5 43 | Ipswich..... | 6 30 | ... | 1 25 | 4 0 | ... | |
| Colchester..... | 8 45 | 11 3 | 1 25 | 4 25 | 5 33 | 8 20 | Colchester..... | 9 17 | ... | 2 5 | 4 50 | ... | |
| Ipswich..... | 10 12 | 11 19 | 1 37 | ... | 5 50 | ... | St. Botolph's..... | 9 30 | 11 22 | 2 15 | 1 40 | 6 5 | |
| Norwich..... | 11 10 | 11 42 | 2 20 | ... | 6 35 | ... | Hythe..... | 9 43 | 11 37 | 2 26 | 4 20 | 6 16 | |
| Lowestoft..... | 2 10 | 2 39 | 4 35 | ... | 8 50 | ... | Wivenhoe..... | 9 55 | 11 42 | 2 38 | 4 58 | 6 21 | |
| Tarsooth..... | 2 20 | 2 39 | 4 45 | ... | 9 5 | ... | Alresford..... | 11 55 | 2 43 | ... | 5 6 28 | | |
| Wesley..... | 2 35 | 2 35 | 4 55 | ... | 9 15 | ... | Thorrington..... | ... | 12 0 | 2 45 | ... | 6 33 | |
| Colchester.....dep. | 8 57 | 9 25 | ... | 2 14 | 4 30 | ... | Bostley Green..... | ... | 12 5 | 2 55 | ... | 6 43 | |
| Colchester.....arr. | 9 36 | 10 42 | ... | 3 5 | 5 26 | ... | Wesley.....arr. | ... | 12 10 | 3 1 | ... | 6 50 | |
| London..... | 10 30 | 12 10 | ... | 4 0 | 6 30 | ... | | | | | | | |

G The 7.15 p.m. Train from Wesley to Colchester is a Goods Train, with Carriages attached for Passengers.

minutes for Norwich. Returns from St Botolph's Left at 9:43, 11:27, 2:15, 4:40 and 6:03. Columns had headings of morning and evening.

For the six months to February 1866, an average 300 passengers were transported from the

Hythe to Wivenhoe generating revenues of £36. In the ten weeks since the extension was opened between St Botolph's and Weeley an average of 530 passengers and 242 tons of minerals, fish, oysters and other goods were carried weekly.

Passengers had to change trains at Colchester North station.¹⁵ There were complaints that trains were an hour late.¹⁶

There was a delay opening the railway to Walton-on-the-Naze as the original contractor, William Munroe had gone bankrupt. He had taken £16,000 of stock in return for the work; in lieu of payment for his services and materials.¹⁷ The completed line was inspected in May 1867 by Captain Tyler, from the Board of Trade,¹⁸ and opened in July.¹⁹ Another share release attempted to raise £30,000 with interest of a maximum of 7% per annum, by the *Tending Hundred Railways Act of 1867*.²⁰ Financial difficulties in April 1868, led to the Sheriff of Essex seizing all nonfitted goods including the carpets and board-room furniture at St Botolph's; as well as the goods weighing machines and notice boards at Alresford Station.

These were auctioned to pay a creditor – Peter Bruff and several volunteers bid for the goods and purchased them back cheaply.²¹ In 1870, the builder Ogilvie sued the company for unpaid labour and materials of £5734 -/4. The case was adjudged against them and surplus lands seized by the Sheriff to pay the debt. This was ruled correct by Vice-Chancellor Wickens in the Court of Chancery and an appeal in 1872 was dismissed with costs.²²

In December 1869, services had increased to six on weekdays and one on Sundays,²³ but passenger numbers were down, whilst freight was up - even though the oyster fishing trade was in decline.²⁴ However, Alresford was one of hundreds of new rural stations without any significant attraction to view, listed simply as “.. 7 ½ miles from Colchester ..” on the line after Wivenhoe.²⁵ By November 1873, the station was being poorly used and the timetable was captioned *Will call when required to take up or set down passengers.*²⁶

In June 1878, gross takings for six months were £4,189. £1,652 was spent on dividends and £1,062 on improving stations.²⁷ The branch line to Clacton-on-Sea was opened on July 4th 1882 by another railway company, where Peter Bruff had established a pier and hotel as part of a new holiday resort from 1871.²⁸

In 1889, a signal box with 24 levers was opened at the western end of the platform for trains to Walton. This operated until December 21st 1958. The private goods siding operated until September 7th 1964; latterly by Cawood Aggregates Ltd. By December 1890, a second track was constructed and a bridge positioned by a large crane between the two platforms in front of a large crowd. The return to Clacton cost a shilling.²⁹

On February 5th 1890, the locomotive and two carriages of the 5.17pm train from Clacton *left the rails* approaching Wivenhoe stations on an incline of 1:70, around a 35 chain curve, at a speed of about 30 mph. *The train consisted of an eight wheel tank engine, which was running with its funnel in front, six carriages and a brake-van.* One passenger, William Hewett of W.H. Smiths, suffered a fractured femur whilst trapped for an hour and a half. Railway carpenter Oliver Johnson had three broken ribs and GER labourer Thomas Buxton had severe bruising and an arm that couldn't be used. Four other passengers were slightly injured, and the driver Mr West shaken. The lead carriage became uncoupled, rolled diagonally over the brake-van, past the locomotive and overturned. *This carriage was completely destroyed; the engine and all other coaches were damaged; 21 chairs and nine sleepers were broken.* The train stopped within 80 yards of the accident and the line was closed until 0700 next day. The Inquiry led by Captain Rich RE, found that a 1 ¾” thick steel tyre had broken in half – with three pieces and seven stud-bolts collected along the route. Part of the brake-block was found half a mile from Alresford Station. It had been serviced

in the previous October and only completed 5910 miles. The GER changed the design so that a broken tyre could no longer leave the wheel.³⁰

In January 1905, the branch line was washed away by severe gales at the Hythe. Passengers were transported by brake cars to Wivenhoe Station. It took platelayers two days to repair the line.³¹ On August 8th 1908, a supper train from London was forced to stop at Alresford due to the behaviour of a passenger who was swearing, throwing beer and pulled the communication chain. Joshua F Powell, an estate-agent living in Clacton was charged by GER Police Inspector Campbell after he had been restrained by the conductor and other passengers. The defending solicitor said *The defendant is a Welshman with a rather excitable temperament, and in a moment of excitement he did pull the cord.* He was fined a total of £4 6d.³²

In 1914, Alresford Station raised 3/ 1 for the GER War Fund.³³ These lines were taken over by the Great Eastern Railway in 1883,³⁴ which in turn became part of the London and North-Eastern Railway in 1923 and British Rail in 1948.³⁵ In October 1928 and 1937, Alresford won the Best Kept Station *first class awards: —G.E.*

*Section: Alresford.*³⁶ On Saturday 1st August 1936, the 08:14am Clacton-London Express hit a level crossing gate that had been left open and managed to brake just before the closed gates at Alresford Station. The gate-keeper had a narrow escape. After a fifteen minute delay the undamaged train continued its journey.³⁷ In September 1937, RC Patterson won the LNER best kept station award , fourth class.³⁸

Initially after World War Two there were only limited trains stopping at Alresford. In July 1956, trains to Colchester were at 6.54, 7.45, 10.01, 10.52 am, 12.01pm, 2.57, 4.58, 6.44, and 9.24 on weekdays. There were three trains on Sundays.³⁹

In 1959, the line was the first in the country to be electrified, pioneering the use of overhead wires taking power from the National Grid. The canopies of the shelters had to be reduced to allow the operation of the overhead wires⁴⁰ and the lattice-work footbridge raised. The first electric train in North-East Essex ran between Colchester and Alresford on February 5th 1959, driven by Mr A Smith and Mr H Spark.⁴¹ Full local electric services started on 13th April 1959 with a new timetable, which had trains running at half-hourly intervals with alternate trains giving London connections at Colchester. The through trains between Walton, Clacton and London still had to be steam or diesel-hauled until electrification was completed between Liverpool Street and Clacton at 08:33 on May

26th 1962.⁴² Through electrified services to and from London Liverpool Street, were officially introduced on 7th. January 1963.⁴³ Electrification saved Alresford from the Beeching cuts that closed Brightlingsea and Thorington stations. In 1962, six services a day were cut from stopping at Alresford and this was discussed at the North East Essex Area Transport Committee.⁴⁴ The Government commissioned Hall Shaw Report (1976) proposed turning six railways around London into motor-coach routes. *Alresford Station is at a level crossing. Existing buildings can serve as bus shelters. Allow £10,000 for extra surfacing. The house can be sold for £8,000. The bridge on which the B1027 crosses over is concrete with good clearance.*⁴⁵ This Report was mentioned in the House of Commons on January 23rd 1976.⁴⁶

In 1991, the platforms were extended to allow eight coach trains to stop.⁴⁷ In 2009, the manually operated gates at the level crossings in Station Road and Coach Road were replaced by automatic systems (MCB-CCTV).⁴⁸ By this time the station building was disused and tickets purchased from a demountable ticket office, then later from a ticket machine. The Station is now unmanned and classified as B1 *This station has a degree of step-free access to the platform, which may be in both directions or in one direction only* - used by 11,514 passengers in 2018.⁴⁹ Pre-Covid (2020) the level crossing saw 94 trains per day with 635 cars and 139 pedestrians daily. The crossing was graded at G (Moderate) for individual and 5 (High) for collective risk as trains passed through at 75mph. There had been three incidents of misuse since 2014.⁵⁰

On Saturday 12th August 2017, the steam locomotive *Tornado* journeyed between London and Walton-on-the-Naze to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the line carrying 2000 passengers.⁵¹ There were festivities on the Pier and in Walton Town Squares. A commemorative sign was hung at Alresford Railway Station. On 15th March 2018, the line was closed by a landslip at the start of the embankment a few hundred metres east of the station;⁵² and by iced points in February 2021.⁵³ In July 2021, the station was visited by the Minister of Transport: Chris Heaton-Harris, MP for Daventry.⁵⁴ The station was used by 62,294 passengers in 2018/9.⁵⁵

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2. **The Times** Tuesday December 19 1871
3. **Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle (Town Edition)** October 11th 1863
4. **Mitchell V (2011) Branch Lines to Clacton and Walton p iv**
5. **Essex Standard** Friday January 13th 1865
6. **Essex Standard** April 7th 1865
7. **Essex Standard** Wednesday August 16, 1865
8. **Essex Standard** Wednesday August.16, 1865
9. **The Times** August 7th 1868
10. **Essex Standard** Wednesday 04 April 1866 p2-3; Wednesday July 17th 1867

11. **Kemble (2010) Placenames of Alresford**
12. **Essex Standard** March 2nd 1866, Wednesday March 23rd 1866 report by Peter Bruff
13. **Essex Standard** Friday April 24 1868; **The Railway Times (1878) xli p618** due to difficulties working this percentage out, it was set at 60% in 1878 14.
14. **Essex Standard** March 2nd 1866
15. **Essex Standard** Wednesday 04 April 1866 p2-3
16. **Essex Standard** Wednesday August 8th 1866
17. **Essex Standard** Wednesday 04 April 1866 p2-3; **Bradshaw's Handbook for Tourists (1866) Part Iv p38**
18. **The Times** Thursday May 2nd 1867
19. **Essex Standard** July 19th 1867
20. **Essex Gazette** Thursday 18th 1867
21. **Essex Standard** Friday April 17, 1868; Wednesday April 22 1868; Friday April 24 1868
22. **Court of Chancery (1872) The Law Reports: Chancery Appeal Cases vii p175-8**
23. **Mitchell V (2011) Branch Lines to Clacton and Walton p iv**
24. *TENDRING HUNDRED RAILWAY COMPANY* **Essex Standard** Friday, May 15, 1868
25. **Murray J (1875) Handbook for Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire p58**
26. **Essex Herald** Tuesday 25 November 1873
27. **The Railway Times (1878) xli p850**
28. **Jacobs N (2002) Clacton Past p.23, 30**
29. **Mitchell V (2011) Branch Lines to Clacton and Walton p52; ERO D/Z 346/3251/5; Essex Standard** Saturday July 5 1890; Carter AE *Winter Jan 18 1881* in Paula Munson's Orange File
30. *SERIOUS ACCIDENT ON THE TENDRING HUNDRED RAILWAY* **Essex Standard** Saturday February 8 1890; Saturday March 22, 1890
31. *SERIOUS GALE & HIGH TIDE* **Essex Newsman** Saturday 07 January 1905 p2
32. *FRACAS IN A SUPPER TRAIN* **Essex Newsman** Saturday 12 September 1908 p4
33. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 09 October 1914
34. **The Times** Saturday January 13th 1883; **Essex Standard** Saturday December 23rd 1882
35. **Mitchell V (2011) Branch Lines to Clacton and Walton p i**
36. *BEST KEPT STATIONS* **Essex Newsman** Saturday 12 October 1929 p4 **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 10 September 1937
37. *Train Collides with Gate: Mishap at level crossing* **Clacton Globe** August 8th 1936
38. **Clacton Times and Gazette** September 11th 1937
39. **Mitchell V (2011) Branch Lines to Clacton and Walton p51**
40. **Mitchell V (2011) Branch Lines to Clacton and Walton p52**
41. *On this day in History: 1959* **Clacton and Frinton Gazette** Thursday 6th February 2014
42. *First Through Electric Trains* **East Essex Gazette** May 25th 1962
43. <https://www.ontrackrailusers.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/2017-07-26-THR150-TORNADO-12AUG17-v24ACB-pdf-.pdf>
44. **East Essex Gazette** June 15th 1962
45. **Hall P, Shaw E (1976) Better Use of Old Rail Ways p105**
46. <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/1976-01-23/debates/d83b2869-49c2-48b2-bcfe-b9a81cfa8f4f/TransportPolicy>
47. **ERO D/Z 346/3251/3 1991** platform extension
48. <https://web.archive.org/web/20120329064401/http://www.networkrailmediacentre.co.uk/Press-Releases/MORE-RELIABLE-RAILWAY-FOR-ESSEX-AS-100M-UPGRADE-IS-COMPLETED-11fc.aspx> Level crossing gates
49. <file:///C:/Users/rob23/Downloads/September%202020%20ATP%20Guidance%20final.pdf>; https://abcrailwayguide.uk/alr-alresford-essex-railwaystation/facts-and-figures#.YbWyNr1_rDc
50. https://abcrailwayguide.uk/alresford-station-public-level-crossing-essex#.YbWu771_rDd
51. **Daily Gazette** Monday August 14th 2017
52. **Daily Gazette** March 15th 2018
53. **Daily Gazette** February 8th 2021
54. *Cabinet Minister visits Alresford's Community Garden* **The Brightlingsea & Wivenhoe Chronicle** August 2021 p.1
55. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunshine_Coast_Line

Ford Creek Bridge (1867-1964)

Soon after the opening of Alresford Station in March 1866, a second line was launched that did not stop there. A railway of 5 1/2 miles (8Km) was constructed along the eastern banks of the River Colne linking Wivenhoe and Brightlingsea, using money predominantly raised in Pontefract, Yorkshire. The line was designed by the engineer James Samuel Cooke (formerly articulated to Peter Bruff), Mr. Wilkins of Ipswich was the contractor with the bridge constructed by Shaw's of Birmingham.¹ The first sod was cut in 1863 by Mrs Waters, the wife of the Rector of

Wivenhoe,² but opening was delayed by an extensive land slip near to the Viaduct and legal action by the builder William Munro who complained about the penalty of £10 per day, if work continued past the contracted one year.³ There was a fatality at Alresford Creek: John Shepherd’s leg was crushed by a waggon and amputated, but he died in hospital.⁴ The line was inspected in December 1865 by Captain Yolland RE⁵ and opened on Tuesday 17th April 1866

| FROM | WEEK DAYS. | | | | | | Sunday. | |
|---------------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|------|
| | Partly | | 1 & 2 | | 1 & 2 | | 1 & 2 | |
| | 1, 2, 3 | 1 & 2 | 1 & 2 | 1 & 2 | 1 & 2 | 1 & 2 | 1 & 2 | |
| Class | Class | Class | Class | Class | Class | Class | Class | |
| | Mor. | Mor. | Mor. | Mor. | Evn. | Evn. | Mor. | Evn. |
| London | 7 15 | 9 15 | 10 0 | 11 42 | ... | 4 25 | ... | 4 30 |
| Chelmsford | 8 55 | 10 15 | ... | 12 40 | ... | 5 10 | ... | 5 50 |
| Colchester | 10 4 | 10 37 | 11 15 | 1 32 | ... | 5 56 | ... | 6 47 |
| Yarmouth | 5 40 | ... | ... | 11 0 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Lowestoft | 5 50 | ... | ... | 11 10 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Norwich | 5 50 | ... | ... | 11 15 | 2 20 | ... | ... | ... |
| Ipwich | 8 30 | ... | ... | 1 25 | 4 0 | ... | ... | 4 45 |
| Colchester | 9 17 | ... | ... | 2 9 | 4 50 | ... | ... | ... |
| St. Botolph's | 10 17 | 11 22 | ... | 2 15 | 4 40 | 6 3 | 9 0 | 7 0 |
| Hythe | 10 20 | 11 34 | ... | 2 27 | 4 52 | 6 15 | 9 12 | 7 12 |
| Wivenhoe | 10 20 | 11 38 | ... | 2 31 | 4 56 | 6 19 | 9 16 | 7 16 |
| Brightlingsea | 10 20 | 11 41 | ... | 2 37 | 5 2 | 6 25 | 9 22 | 7 22 |
| Alresford | 10 20 | ... | ... | 2 45 | ... | 6 30 | 9 26 | 7 26 |
| Thurington | 10 50 | ... | ... | 3 0 | ... | 6 42 | 9 40 | 7 40 |
| Bentley Green | ... | 11 52 | ... | 2 41 | ... | 6 32 | 9 30 | 7 30 |
| Wesley | ... | 11 58 | ... | 2 49 | ... | 6 34 | 9 36 | 7 36 |
| ... | ... | 12 5 | ... | 2 54 | ... | 6 42 | 9 42 | 7 42 |
| ... | ... | 12 10 | ... | 3 0 | ... | 6 50 | 9 50 | 7 50 |

Figure 20 – Timetable June 1866⁸

when the first *Great Eastern Railway* train from London arrived. The return journey took fifty minutes to travel to St Botolph’s. The GER claimed 40% of all takings.⁶ The line cost £45,840 2/7 to build, including £10,113 19/4 to purchase land.⁷

Alresford Creek was crossed by a swing bridge due to the coasters collecting flour from the tidal mill since medieval times, gravel from the Ballast Quay in use since at least 1663 or bricks from the brickyards at Tenpenny Heath (SMR 15494) and the Mill (SMR 15495). Cargoes of manure or lime for local farmers were also transported in; whilst straw and hay were sent to London to feed horses.⁹ Barges also collected fresh water from springs at Alresford Lodge.¹⁰ Near to Bulls and Squirrels Farm were gates to allow cattle to cross the line and graze on the coastal marshes.¹¹

The Ford Creek Bridge - a 462 foot long wrought iron, swing viaduct had ten spans. It sat on four foot diameter (1.2 metre) cylinder piles that were between thirty and thirty-six feet long to reach the bedrock and filled with concrete. At high water, it was six feet above the Creek, at low it was twenty. The bridge was normally left open two hours either side of high water unless a train was coming. Otherwise, two men had to row from the north side of the Creek, where a boat-house and cottage was built in 1895 (since demolished) by Henry Everett and Son of Colchester¹² were located. Then manually crank the two central spans (eighty feet) of the viaduct by inserting a T-bar into a cog. This

could be operated in 6 ½ minutes by one man, allowing a 100 ton vessel to pass between.¹³ The bridge opened 90° and rested on wooden trestles.¹⁴

On March 1st 1892, a truck of lime came off the rails outside Brightlingsea Station closing the road until 6pm.¹⁵ Initially, trains had to keep to a 10 mph speed limit, but this was cut to only 5 mph due to the later state of the bridge.¹⁶ There were signals until 1927, when electrical interlocking was implemented¹⁷ and a small, white pilothut was built.¹⁸ This viaduct later became GER bridge number 1035.¹⁹ In 1939, the swing bridge operator's cottage was occupied by Robert Nawton, a cowman.²⁰

The line being built on soft clay embankments and wooden trestles (one was over 600 feet along, another of over 300 feet) only three feet above the high tide level²¹ was prone to flooding. This it did in 1874 and 1876. The embankments were raised, but the line flooded again in 1882. During Black Friday of 1897, a train trying to force its way through the floods got stuck and the passengers were rescued by boat. Further closures occurred in November 1901, November 1903, December 1904, January 1905, January 1928 and April 1949. After the Great Storm of January 31st 1953, the line was closed for eleven months.²² In January 1905, gales and high tide lead to the swingbridge being flooded stopping a Wivenhoe to Colchester train. The passengers were forced to leave the carriage and walk to the Alresford-Wivenhoe road.²³

In 1930, the LNER consulted about making the bridge fixed and the Colchester Planning sub-committee was asked to consider whether this would impede navigation.²⁴ In 1931, whilst the viaduct was being repaired after a fire, Win Warren of Elmstead Road was injured by a large beam.²⁵ The following year, a wooden beam under the bridge caught fire and the Wivenhoe Fire Brigade was summoned.²⁶ Also that year, one of the trestles was *filled* in using 8000 tons of material. WW Webb, Clerk at Brightlingsea Station commented that *The maintenance costs of this branch are, therefore, obviously high.*²⁷ In 1934, William John Read, from a barge, was arrested for breaking into a railway store at Alresford swing bridge and stealing an axe and other items with 7/- . PC Jay of Brightlingsea and PC Hasler attended.²⁸ Other incidents are recorded, including of the bridge not closing properly²⁹ after being hit by Arthur Prior's anchored barge "Serlo" causing £148 damage on October 24th 1938 during thick fog. Next morning, Arthur W Nice, the sub-ganger stopped the 7:53am train using a detonator and red flag. The court case found was settled against Prior in March 1940 after paint from the bridge was found on a large dent in the barge.³⁰

On Saturday June 5th 1948, firemen from Brightlingsea and Wivenhoe were called to the swing-bridge. A section of decking, 12ft x 4ft was alight. Within half an hour firemen using buckets extinguished the fire and the section of decking was badly damaged.³¹

This line closed on June 15th 1964 as less than 600 daily used the service and most of these were on six of the fifteen trains. There were regularly 37 workmen travelling to Wivenhoe, *an unquantified number of children to school, four season ticket holders to Chelmsford, 23 to London and there were some visitors in Summer*. It was more economical to move freight by road and twenty regular buses went past Alresford Station.³² In 1953, it was estimated that the line lost £8000 pa.³³ The track was removed in November 1964³⁴ and the swing-bridge was demolished in 1967.³⁵ The route was filmed in Autumn 1963 and is free to watch at the BFI.³⁶

1. **Essex Standard** Wednesday September 23rd 1863; *James S Cooke Obituary* in **Institution of Civil Engineers (1887) Minutes of Proceedings XC p419**
2. **Essex Standard** Wednesday September 23rd 1863
3. **The Times** Monday October 30 1865; *Vice-Chancellor's Court* **Essex Standard** June 15th 1864
4. **Essex Standard** Wednesday January 11th 1865
5. **The Times** Tuesday December 5 1865
6. **Essex Standard** Tuesday April 18th 1866; **Thomas D StJ (1968) A Regional History of Railways of Great Britain p67** Great Eastern Railway
7. *WIVENHOE AND BRIGHTLINGSEA RAILWAY COMPANY* **Essex Standard** Friday, Sept. 7, 1866
8. *TIME TABLE FOR THE GREAT EASTERN BRANCH LINES* **Essex Standard** Wednesday, June 6, 1866
9. **Hedges J (2000) p14**; **Collins C (2018) Archaeological Test Pits Excavations in Thorrington, Essex, 2006 & 2007 p.21**
10. **Hedges J (2000) p.5**
11. **Hedges J (2000) p.3**
12. **ERO D/F 136 C249 Box 1 Colchester Commercial**; **Fisher O** *On the warp* **Royal Geological Survey** June 20th 1866 **p562** found that the first eight feet were estuarine mud, the next six inches were black mud and shells; before the *warp* (original ground surface) were reached
13. **Essex Standard** Friday Dec. 22, 1865
14. **Hedges J (2000) p5**; **Read N & M (1998) A Journey through Alresford** in **Paula Munson's Orange File p2**
15. **Essex Standard** Saturday 12th March 1892
16. **Faulty M, Garon J (2004) The Essex Coastline – then and now p.56**
17. **Mitchell V (2011) Branch lines to Clacton and Walton p48**
18. **Hedges J (2000) p3**
19. <http://movablebridges.org.uk/BridgePage.asp?BridgeNumber=1061>
20. **National Survey (1939) Tendring RD Register #4 DDYA.**
21. **Essex Standard** Friday, Dec. 22, 1865)
22. **Duck R (2015) On the Edge: Coastlines of Old Britain**
23. *SERIOUS GALE & HIGH TIDE* **Essex Newsman** Saturday 07 January 1905 p2
24. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 09 May 1930 p.11
25. **Essex Newsman** Saturday 03 October 1931 p1
26. **Essex Newsman** Saturday 18 June 1932
27. **Webb BB** Brightlingsea: A Bright Spot in Branch Lines (1932) **London & North-eastern Railway Magazine XXII p638**
28. **Essex Newsman** Saturday 21 April 1934 p.4
29. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 28 October 1938 p.3
30. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 08 March 1940 p.3 **Essex Newsman** Saturday 9th March 1940 Court case LNER v Prior
31. **East Essex Gazette** Friday June 11th 1948
32. **Thomas D StJ (1968) p68**; **Gibbins EA (2000) The Railway Controversy p94**
33. **Brandon DL, Brooke A (2019) Railway Haters: Opposition to railways, from the 19th to 21st centuries p 33.** **Hedges J (2000) p2**
34. **Faulty M, Garon J (2004) The Essex Coastline then and now p.56**
35. <https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-river-ride-1963-online>

The village after the railway

The railways spurred on some growth in Alresford. A post office was established by 1851, managed by the draper and grocer John Keeble. Then in 1857, by H Howchin; from 1863 by EH Howchin; between 1870-82 by Mrs Susannah Howchin; in 1888 by Frederick L Burgess and from 1889-1926 by the Grocer Charles William Bacon at the corner of Colchester Road and St Osyth Road (today's Coach Road and Wivenhoe Road.) ¹ Also, resident in 1855 was Lieutenant-General EF Waters of the East India Company.²



Figure 21 - There was a Primitive Methodist Chapel (deeds from 1843-1967) ³ a mile north of the Parish Church on the Main Road (near to the current Alresford Garage). On September 8th 1833, John Hammond was the first Methodist child to be Baptized from Alresford.⁴

The Chapel was built in 1867; then bought and restored in 1904 according to the Foundation stone donated to the St Andrew's in 2013. In 1963, the church were looking to build a new chapel closer to the village.⁵ The Chapel was open until 1973.⁶

The Census of 1881 shows a change in employment patterns.⁷ There were now twenty-five farmers, nine fishermen, twenty-one employed in domestic service at the Halls, three at the railway station, three in quarrying: with a Bakery at the current 12 Coach Road. Altogether there were sixty-three working men and twenty-six working women. Another former resident, the widower and retired agricultural labourer James Lee (74 years old), was recorded as living at the Tendring Workhouse with 160 other inmates.⁸ One of the fishermen was Daniel Wellum, who purchased the 34 foot, nine-ton smack Rochford (16CK) in November 1876. This was registered until 1902.⁹

On January 18th 1881, Arthur E Carter recalled *"we had the greatest snow-storm ever recorded in this district, three feet in general. There was no post for a week. This brought out all sorts of sledges – men were busy cutting pathways and clearing roads."*¹⁰

In December 1882, Daniel Welham, a fisherman, was fined 10/- with 24/10 costs for trespass, taking thirty-three oysters and damaging others worth 1/-, belonging to the Colne Fishery Company near to Hound Bouy and Wivenhoe. He had been previously warned about trespass, but *"... he and his relatives were a constant source of trouble for the company..."* This was Witnessed by Captain Harry Harlow, a Colne Juryman, who *"... saw the lad on*

shore with a net and the defendant row along, the net being attached in the usual way...” Welham claimed to be washing his net and pleaded poverty, so the Mayor did not impose the full fine of £5. Default would be fourteen days in gaol.¹¹

In 1887, to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria all children received a medal, one orange and one penny each at the village celebrations. Around 1895, the River Colne froze and Albert Carter and other boys walked over the foot thick ice to Brightlingsea several times.¹²

1. Hedges J (2000) p67; 1851 Census; Trinder IF (1971) Postal History of the Tendring Hundred of Essex p70
2. Post Office Directory of Essex, (1855) p23/4
3. ERO D/NM 104; C109; C732
4. Eureka Partnership (2020) Colchester Wesleyan Methodist circuit: Volume 1 Baptisms 1793-1838 p28
5. East Essex Gazette May 24th 1963
6. ERO C1079; Hedges J (2000) p53 photograph of children’s trip in 1957; <https://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/content/chapels/essex-2/a-gessex-2/elmstead-heath-primitive-methodist-chapel>
7. https://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10234153/cube/OCC_ORDER1881
8. <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Tendring/Tendring1881.shtml>
9. Mersea Museums ID BF69_009_004
10. Carter AE Winter Jan 18 1881 in Paula Munson’s Orange File
11. Essex Standard Saturday December 2 1882
12. Carter AE Winter Jan 18 1881 in Paula Munson’s Orange File

Earthquake of 1884

At 09:18am on Tuesday 22nd April 1884, a major earthquake hit centred on Wivenhoe and Peldon. In Langenhoe the church was destroyed, and over 1250 buildings were damaged across North-East Essex¹ including the spire at Lion’s Walk Congregational Church, Colchester. The British Geological Survey estimated that the 1884 earthquake's magnitude was around 4.6 on the Richter magnitude scale – the most devastating earthquake ever to property. Compared to the devastation at Wivenhoe where nearly every building was damaged; in Alresford, damage was reasonably minor. Chimneys were damaged at the Rectory, Alresford Hall, a Lodge occupied by Mr. Comb, the school, Heath Farmhouse occupied by the churchwarden Mr. Harris and the Pointer Inn. At St Peter’s a large portion of tiles in the Chancel were shaken down and the bells were ringing on their own. The Rector was teaching Scripture at the school and felt a slight movement of the floor as the coping stones on the roof were dislodged. He exclaimed “*Lord save the children*” while Miss Church, the School Mistress, led the pupils outside into the road and sent the children home. They missed the next two weeks until repairs were completed.² The sum of £9 10/6 was donated from the Mansion House Relief Fund to pay for repairs.³

1. Haining, P. (1976) The Great English Earthquake
2. Essex Standard April 24th 1884 Carter AE Winter Jan 18 1881 in Paula Munson’s Orange File
3. The Essex notebook and Suffolk gleaner (1884) p.77

Oysters in Alresford Creek (1898-1904)

The new century started with a court case involving illegal oyster beds in Alresford Creek. In 1894, a solicitor from Leeds¹ Benjamin Colet Pulleyne (1841- 1907), accepted the titles Lord of the Manor of Brightlingsea, and also of Manton in Rutland,² as settlement for a mortgage from Mr Bradley³ on him for £5000. However, he never looked at a plan of the property nor read the conveyance on the Manor of Brightlingsea, which did not mention Alresford Creek. He claimed the rights to all of the foreshore of the Creek at low-tide, even that in the Manor of Alresford, and ignored the *Colne Fishery Act of 1754* (31 George II, c.71) and *Colne Fishery Act of 1870*⁴ after which the sole rights were leased to the Colne Fishery Company for ninety-nine years. The selling of these annual licenses to 307 dredgermen generated one-eighth of the rates for Colchester Borough.

Pulleyne complained that his men were charged for unloading oysters at Alresford Creek in 1898 and the following year his men defaced the Colchester Harbour signs on the west side of the Marsh, on the River Colne.⁵ He had also fitted a metal plate to the buoy outside Alresford Creek that declared it was "*manor of Brightlingsea Mooring*".⁶ In August 1899, Pulleyne threatened to have the buoy removed. Colchester Borough replied that this would lead to legal action.⁷ Licenses were sold by Pulleyne's Bailiff for 6/- to collect periwinkles, muscles, cockles and oysters from the foreshore leading to the arrest and trial of Bertie Stewart.⁸ Pulleyne also leased the rights to farm oysters and fish in Alresford Creek to Mr Fisher, Horace and Frederick Day on March 25th 1899,⁹ and to Frederick Orme of Bishopsgate Street in 1902 for £10pa. On each occasion, Colchester Borough and the Colne Fishery Co. asked for these oysters to be removed in writing within a month and the signs to be replaced. Mr Orme ignored this request so, on April 28th 1902, *Pyefleet CK28*,¹⁰ the Colne Fishery Board steam dredger removed 1.1 million stock from the beds (worth £1000), leading to Pulleyne acquiring an injunction. Later in the year, the Colne Fishery Board refused to allow any oysters to be wintered on land, leading to the loss of the whole crop.¹¹ These rights were disputed leading to a court case, *Pulleyne and another vs Colne Fishery Co.* in the Kings Bench Division of the High Court, which lasted for several days in August and October 1903, with a decision in December 1903.

The Clerk of the Colne Fishery Board stated that Alresford Creek was too narrow and shallow for oysters; and that before Pulleyne there had never been any licenses for winking there. Mr Edgar Newman, Manager of the

Board, said that 337,000 oysters were dredged, but half were dead, and presented to Horace Day. He said he did not

want them and that another 500,000 were coming the following week. The oysters were valued at between 4/6 and 6/- per 1000.¹² Pulleyne refused to pay any tonnage dues as he claimed that the oysters were landed on his land; before he issued a writ claiming that the oysters had been stolen¹³ which led to the case going to the High Court. The Lord Chief Justice ruled that the Lord of the Manor of Brightlingsea had “.. *wholly failed to show that any part of Alresford Creek formed part of the manor of Brightlingsea, or that the Lords of the Manor of Brightlingsea ever had any fishing rights therein* ..”¹⁴ In fact any land on the south side of Alresford Creek belonged to the Manor of Moverons and the plaintiffs’ own witnesses had stated that any earlier fishing there was “..*by net and line caught flounders, smelt, and other fish.. The action must be dismissed with costs.*”¹⁴ Pulleyne was billed £2,700, but at his death in 1907 this was still unpaid.¹⁵ Pulleyne appealed to the Supreme Court. The Master of the Rolls ruled that there was no definitive map of the Manor of Brightlingsea until 1886. Both this and one of the Manor of Alresford showed the foreshore of Alresford Creek belonged to the latter. Consequently, “.. *the plaintiffs had failed to establish the claims asserted by them.*”¹⁶

1. Obituary **Belfast Newsletter** Thursday September 26 1907
2. **Victoria County History of Rutland ii (1935) p77-84**
3. **The Times** Saturday 5 December 1903
4. **ERO T/P 191/1**
5. **Essex Standard** Saturday December 9th 1899
6. **Essex Standard** Saturday July 8 1899
7. **Essex Standard** Saturday August 5 1899
8. **Essex Standard** Saturday December 22nd 1900
9. **Essex Standard** Saturday July 8 1899
10. **Mersea Museum BF03_001_116_001**
11. **The Times** Tuesday August 4th 1903
12. **The Times** Monday 10 October 1903
13. **Benham H, French PR, Leather J (1993) Essex Gold The Fortunes of the Essex Oystermen p.35**
14. **The Times** Saturday 5 December 1903; **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 11 December 1903
15. **Benham H, French PR, Leather J (1993) Essex Gold The Fortunes of the Essex Oystermen foot note #5 p.155**
16. **ERO Acc. C4, Colch. Fishery Co. v Pulleyne (1904); The Times** Wednesday 13 July 1904

Alresford at the turn of the Twentieth Century

At first glance, Alresford village does not seem to grow in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Indeed, a look at the National Census details shows the population remains at just under 250 with around 60 households.¹ But this only focuses on Census district 195, labelled “Alresford”. Also looking at people who had a postal address of Alresford or attended St Peter’s, yet were included in Elmstead Parish,² shows this is untrue. No street names are included in these 1911 Census records (District 197) – the address given is just “Alresford”. In 1881,

a walk of 50 yards or so north from railway station would put you technically out of Alresford Parish and into Elmstead, even though St Anne's and St Lawrence's Church, Elmstead is three miles away. The official boundary was along the line roughly of today's Chestnut Road and Orchard Road – where there was a thin orchard. Looking at these additional records there are 117 inhabitants in twenty-eight households in "Alresford" and in three households living at "The Row, Elmstead" – including one living in a cottage near to Cockaynes Farm. (There were others with the postal address of *Elmstead Heath* that have been excluded as there is insufficient information about where each household lived.) That would lead to Alresford being at least 50% larger than merely included in the Alresford (Census district 195) records. Many of these inhabitants were working for the railway, in domestic service or agriculture. There was no public house ("Rose and Crown"), nor Baptist/Primitive Methodist Church listed in these census details.

The following population analysis shows employment in Alresford (combined Census districts 195 and 197) using the occupation groupings from the 1881 Census.

| Employment in 1911 | Men | Women | Total |
|---|------------|--------------|--------------|
| General/local Government | 2 | | 2 |
| Defence of the country | 1 | | 1 |
| Professionals | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| Domestic service or Office | 8 | 19 | 27 |
| Conveyance of men, goods and messages | 17 | | 17 |
| Agriculture and animals | 62 | | 62 |
| Workers and dealers in Machines and Implements | 1 | | 1 |
| Workers and dealers in House, Furniture and Decorations | 11 | | 11 |
| Workers and dealers in Carriages and Harnesses | 11 | | 11 |
| Workers and dealers in Food and Lodging | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| Workers and dealers in Dress | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Persons without specified occupations | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Unknown occupations | 1 | 67 | 68 |

In 1892, Alresford Savings Bank (Essex) was closed.⁴

In 1897, Samuel Welham of Copyholds Cottage on the River Colne was killed at sea off Plymouth. The family's fishing boat was driven ashore on a high tide. The following year, his son, also called Samuel, was killed whilst removing mud from underneath the beached vessel when it fell onto him.⁵

Also that year, the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria was celebrated with Dr Peter Cowan as the main organizer and Mrs Harriet Hawkins paid for most of the expenses. Mr Bush, school-master, conducted the pupils in singing "The Children to the Queen". The Midsummer Day began with a ploughing match at Heath Farm. In the

afternoon, each pupil received a medal before going up to the corner of Ford Lane opposite the Post Office to plant a chestnut tree. In a field behind Church Farm, there were bicycle races, blind man's buff, a tug of war and a *washing competition* for men. The children had a free tea where they received Jubilee mugs, there was a *public feast* for adults and a bonfire at Heath Farm from which people went home by candle-light.⁶

On the night of October 18th 1897, the buildings at Plumpton's Farm caught fire. By the time the fire brigade in Colchester were alerted by messenger on bicycle and arrived they found that the buildings and stables were gone. Only the wind changing direction saved the farmhouse – inhabited for only a month by Robert Schofield and family. Albert Carter recalled a couple of years later, the son of William Sibbons, a horseman at Lodge Farm, tried to smoke a reed as he had no money for tobacco. The fire soon spread to three insured stacks of hay.⁷

In 1899, Cockaynes Farm and Wood were sold by Nicholas Corsellis of Wivenhoe.⁸

In 1901, Constance Pamela Duffield, a domestic servant, was working at High Elms Farm, Alresford – the home of the retired Veterinary Surgeon Peter Cowan and his family. She was accused of poisoning a young, blind lady and was sentenced at the Mistley Petty Sessions to a reformatory for three years.⁹ Also that year from High Elms Farm fifteen fowls were stolen and killed. They were recovered from the premises of Hugh McKee hidden under his clothes. McKee and his accomplice Webb were remanded at Mistley Petty Sessions. The fowl were donated to the Essex and Colchester Hospital.¹⁰

In May 1902, *George Blizzard, coal dealer, Alresford, was summoned for selling coal in bags without having labels attached, at Little Bromley, on May 18.*¹¹ *The Fourth annual Show of the Alresford, Elmstead and Horticultural Society was held in the Nook Grounds, Wyvenhoe on Thursday 5th September 1902.*¹²

In September 1903, Park Farm, Elmstead and Marsh Farm, Alresford were auctioned. Stock included capital cart mares, cows and one calf, 100 black-faced ewes, sow with pigs, poultry.¹³ In November 1903, *fever was reported at High Elms Farm, Alresford where pigs had been slaughtered.*¹⁴

In 1904, *Charles Paskoll, a labourer, of Alresford, charged with allowing Ada Burnett, six, stepchild and Charles Win. Paskell, nine months, his child become chargeable.*¹⁵

*In July 1905, Mr. P. Cowan (Alresford) won the principal prizes for neat stock at the Tendring Hundred Show.*¹⁶ *Early on the morning of Saturday 27th October, William Alexander, 75, woodsman, was killed when his cottage near to the church burnt down. For many years he had been employed on the estate of Mrs. W. Hawkins, of*

Alresford.¹⁷

In March 1906, Crestlands Villa, was offered for Let. *Situate nicely recessed from the high road, three minutes' walk from Alresford Station on the and Walton Branch of the G.E.R. close to Wivenhoe and Brightlingsea.*¹⁸

In July 1906, *Edwin Porter, a labourer, was charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with having a gun and rabbit his possession, at Alresford on the 16th June. Police-constable Burgess gave evidence. The Chairman told the defendant that he would lose his gun.*¹⁹

In 1907, George William Wells was elected to Tendring District Council.²⁰ In March 1907, William Marchant a labourer of East Street, Colchester was summoned for doing wilful damage to 80 holly trees, to the extent of £b, at Alresford, in February. Mr. Asher Prior appeared to prosecute on behalf of Mr. Wilson Marriage, the owner of the property.²¹ In April 1907, it was announced that Wivenhoe Volunteers and Wivenhoe and Alresford United have decided to amalgamate and form a Wivenhoe Town Club. The officers include President, Mr. J. H. Hawkins.²²

Inside toilets were becoming more affordable. Colchester Brewing Company's Public House, The Pointer Inn, fitted urinals and two earth closets in 1908³ and sanitation work was undertaken in Crestlands in 1919.²³

In August 1908, Charles Henry Cox, a labourer, of Alresford, was charged with improper behaviour...Mr. Sparling defended. The defence was a complete denial of the charge.²⁴

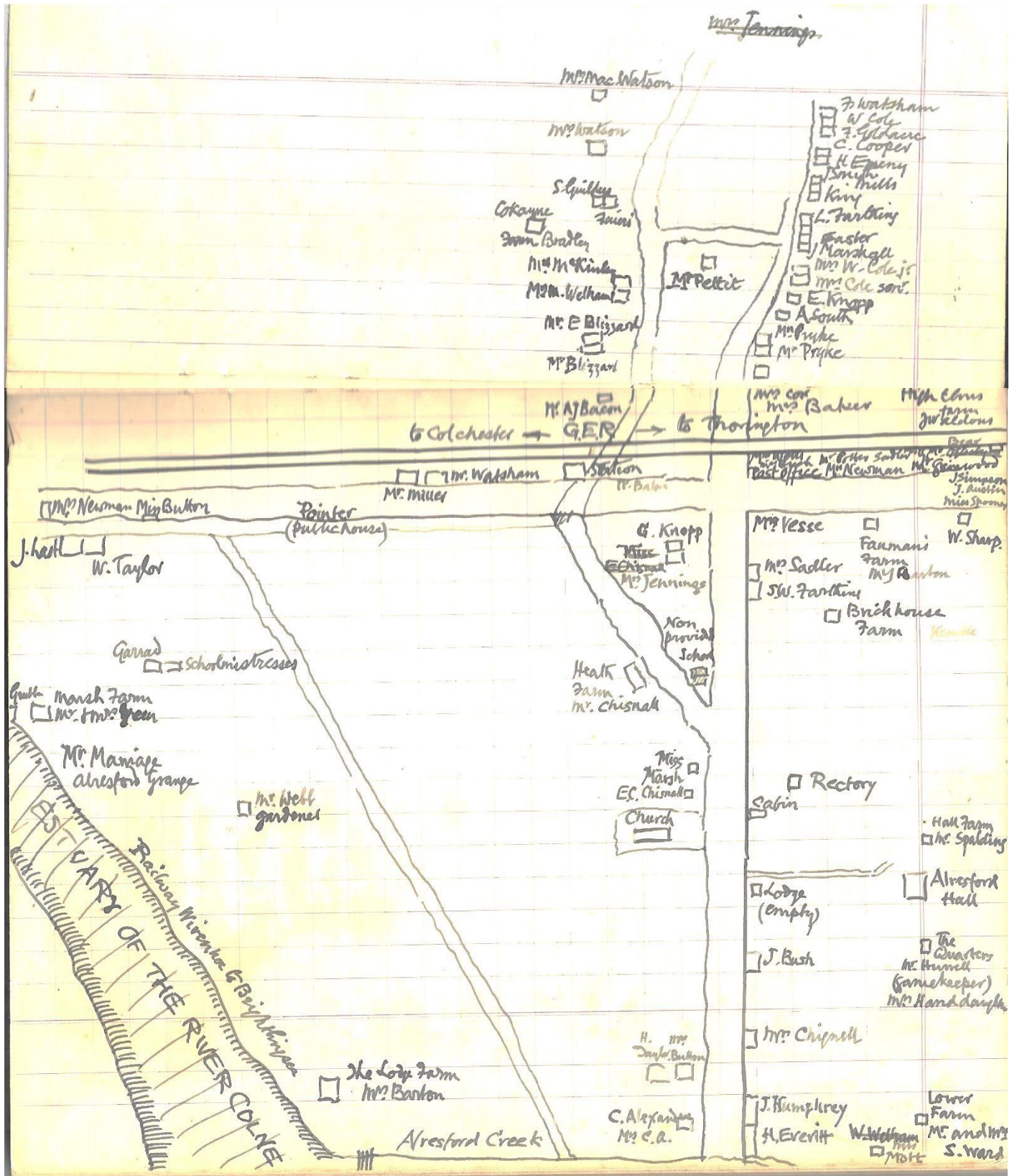
In January 1909, *Stebbing, Alresford, was summoned for trespassing in search rabbits, on land belonging to Mr. Wilson Marriage, Alresford. Mr. Jarrold, foreman, said he saw the defendant.*²⁵ Later that month, *Monday evening a concert in aid of the repair of the west gallery of Alresford Parish Church was held in the Cabin, the Rev. C. C. Prichard presiding, and there was a large and appreciative audience.*²⁶ In April, *The annual vestry meeting was held in the Cabin, Alresford, Tuesday evening, the Rector (the Rev. C. C. Prichard) in the chair.*²⁷ In July, Essex County Council decided that Alresford should vote at a polling station in Wivenhoe.²⁸ *In December, a shooting accident occurred. Cross, was admitted to the Essex County Hospital with a gunshot wound in his right leg, accidentally caused on Marsh Farm, Alresford. A man aimed at a rat, but the charge entered Shipp's leg. Shipp was conveyed to the Hospital in Mr. J. B. Hawkins's motor.*²⁹ Also in 1909, Archibald Lexdon a builder from West Bergholt, was prosecuted for not submitting the plans for Alresford's sanitation and concreting to the Tendring Rural District Council. He was fined 10/- and costs.³⁰

In 1911, swine fever was found at Alresford. *At Lexden Winstree Session Saturday Supt. Coppin reported outbreak of swine fever on premises in the occupation of Wm. Grimwood, blacksmith, Alresford, where one pig died and 30 had been slaughtered by order of the Board of Agriculture.*³¹

In 1912, *The Annual Show of Alresford and Horticultural Society took at Alresford on Thursday. There was excellent display garden produce. The Alresford United Brass Band rendered music, and athletic sports included donkey races in costume and a race for Boy Scouts. A quirts competition was also held.*³² Later that year, Supt. Lennon reported a suspected outbreak of anthrax at Alresford on premises in the occupation of Mr. William Grimwood. One pig had died. The premises had been disinfected.³³

Throughout this late Victorian and pre-World War One period the main shop and Post Office was run by Charles William Bacon (1898-1926) at the corner of Colchester and St Osyth Roads.³⁴

Figure 22 – Hand-drawn map showing the homes of the Congregation when Rev Prichard was Rector (1909-18)



1. Census 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911 - District Registration Tending 195, sub-district Ardleigh 5, Enumeration district 5, Parish St Peter's
2. Census 1911 District Registration Tending 197, sub-district Ardleigh, Parish Elmstead St Anne and St Lawrence
3. ERO D/RT Pb1/331
4. TNA NDO 20/93
5. Hedges J (2000) p45
6. Mugs and Medals in Paula Munson's Orange File
7. Fires at Alresford in Paula Munson's Orange File
8. ERO A13644

9. **THE ALRESFORD MYSTERY** *Essex Newsman* Saturday 01 November 1902 p.2; *Essex Newsman* Saturday 08 November 1902
10. **FIFTEEN FOWLS UNDER HIS CLOTHES** *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 27 September p7 *Essex Newsman* Saturday 28 September 1901 11. **PETTY SESSIONS** *Essex Newsman* Saturday 31 May 1902 p2
12. **DISTRICT NEWS** *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 05 September 1902 p7
13. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 11 September 1903 p4; **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 18 September 1903 p4
14. **PETTY SESSIONS** *Essex Newsman* Saturday 07 November 1903 p2
15. **THORPE** *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 02 September 1904 p5; **PETTY SESSIONS** *Essex Newsman* Saturday 03 September 1904 p2
16. **TENDRING HUNDRED FARMERS' SHOW** *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 21 July 1905 p5
17. **STORY OF THE WEEK** *Essex Newsman* Saturday 04 November 1905 p3; *Essex Newsman* Saturday 04 November 1905 18. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 09 March 1906 p7
19. **MISTLEY** *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 20 July 1906 p8
20. **LOCAL ELECTIONS** *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 08 March 1907 p7 *Essex Newsman* Saturday 09 March 1907 p3
21. **CHARGED WITH CUTTING SO HOLLY TREES** *Essex Newsman* Saturday 23 March 1907 p3; **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 05 April 1907 p5
22. *Our Sports Columns* **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 26 April 1907 p3
23. **ERO D/RT Pb1/833 toilets**
24. **PETTY SESSIONS** *Essex Newsman* Saturday 22 August 1908 p2
25. **MISTLEY** *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 15 January 1909 p7
26. **ESSEX CHURCHES** *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 29 January 1909 p5; **Alresford Advertiser** Oct/Nov 2021 Cabin features
27. *Essex Newsman* Saturday 17 April 1909 p4
28. *Essex County Council* **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 09 July 1909 p6
29. **WIVENHOE** *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 03 December 1909 p5
30. *Petty Sessions* **Essex Newsman** Saturday 16 January 1909 p2
31. **SWINE FEVER AT ALRESFORD** *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 22 September 1911 p7
32. **DISTRICT NEWS** *Essex Newsman* Saturday 03 August 1912 p3
33. **THORPE** *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 29 November 1912 p6
34. **Trinder IF (1971) Postal History of the Tendring Hundred of Essex p70**

Renovations of Alresford Hall

The architect JW Start (1858-1920) from Wivenhoe was engaged, by the owner C. Dixon, to make several alterations, especially to extend the Swiss Room.¹

1. **ERO D/RT Pb1 422, 431, 438**

Alresford Grange

Alderman Wilson Marriage JP (1842-1932) was the landowner in 1905 when a Lodge was constructed within 26 acres of land.¹ He also owned the neighbouring Marsh Farm.² The Edwardian Tudor-style mansion of Alresford Grange was built in 1910/11³ and was his home until his death in 1932. It has eleven bedrooms, four bathrooms, three staircases and is reached via a 150 yard drive.⁴ Many locals were employed in service.⁵ He was a member of the dynasty that owned the corn milling company at East Mill, Colchester which produced over 2500 bags of flour per week⁶ and employed 30 men. (The family also had interests in mills in Chelmsford and Suffolk). He was a Quaker, born at 112, East Hill Colchester and in 1868 he married Mary Thompson (d. 1923) of Bridgewater, Somerset. They had four children – Lillian Burgess (1869-1876), Edith Thompson (1871-1958), Lucy Isabel (1872-1956) and Francis Edward (1873-1955) who became first his father's apprentice in the mill, then owner of a mill at Great Billings, Suffolk. The family resided at 11 Roman Road and Dilbridge Hall on the Ipswich Road before moving to Alresford. Wilson was first elected to Colchester Borough Council in 1879 and served for fifty years. He became Portreeve of Colchester, and

Mayor in 1892-3, 1901-2, 1907-8 and 1913-14. In September 1918, he was awarded the Freedom of the Borough of Colchester. Major projects he promoted in Colchester included the new Town Hall, Castle Park, the Library, the Albert Hall and the Art Gallery. He was a keen yachtsman; President of Colchester Arts Club; President of Colchester Chess Club; author of "The History of Chess" published in 1899; President of the National Association of British and Irish Millers; a Director of the Essex and Suffolk Equitable Insurance Society; a director of Davey Paxman and Company; a Governor of the Grammar School; and a Trustee of both the Kendall and Winsley Almshouses. He served on the Education Committee; helped to establish several schools and in 1933 Barrack Street School was renamed after him in Colchester. In 1920-21, he a Committee member of the Colchester Castle Museum donating the cineary urn found on his property and half the cost of purchasing an early nineteenth century Lambeth Stoneware Jug with a panel of St George and the Dragon, stamped MOOR, COLCHESTER. In Alresford, he became a major supporter of the Silver Band. He died in July 1932, and was buried in the Friends Burial Ground, Roman Road. He left effects of £103,656 0/11 to his son.⁷ In December 1932, surplus furniture and Georgian plate were auctioned.⁸ In May 1933, Saville's announced that the Grange was sold.⁹

In September 1934, W. Vickery advertised his services – *Gardener – Head or Single-handed: 16 years' first-class experience all branches; excellent references: age 32, one child.*¹⁰

In October 1934, the wedding reception of Ida Snowdrop Wilmot, daughter of Lady Ada Niel of Alresford Grange was held there. *The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. Henry Frederik Wilmot, wore a picture gown of parchment-tinted satin, with a train cut in one with the skirt. Her veil was of Brussels lace and she carried a bouquet of pink roses and carnations. The four bridesmaids- Lady Sylvia Maitland, Miss Catherine Urquhart, Miss Shelagh Theobald, and Miss Diana Cartmel – wore dresses of powder-blue crepe de Chine trimmed with silver, and headdresses of blue and silver.*¹¹ In 1935, Lady Nield sought planning permission to build a squash court, conservatory and outbuildings.¹² Her son, Lieutenant Sir Arthur Wilmot (1909-1942) was engaged to marry Miss Pamela Vera Garrard of Daventry in December 1935. He had been educated at Wellington College and Sandhurst. He was gazetted on January 31st 1929, as a Second Lieutenant. They had a daughter in 1937 and a son was born on October 8th 1939.¹³ In January 1936 and on March 24th 1939, the Hunt was photographed at Alresford Grange, led by the Master Peter Crossman.¹⁴

The estate's cottages were occupied, but not the main house in September 1939,¹⁵ which was offered as a

holiday let.¹⁶ In 1941, an anti-tank unit was garrisoned at the Grange to defend against any invasion force using the river. The officers slept in the Grange, but the gunners were in the unheated bathing huts.¹⁷ In October 1942, Major Sir Arthur Ralph Wilmot, Baronet, of the Black Watch, was killed in an accident in the Middle East, where he was deployed as an adjutant. His address was listed as Glenfarg House, Abernethy, Perthshire, and he left £120,823 gross.¹⁸ In 1944, the house was sold to be used as a home for *retired actresses* but was not successful.¹⁹

In October 1948, the Grange was again auctioned with the successful bidders being the Impey's, grand-daughters of Wilson Marriage.²⁰ In July 1995, planning permission for the stables to be converted into a squash court and offices as the existing access using a bridleway was too narrow.²¹ Alresford Grange was last sold on September 9th 1996, for £670,000.²¹

1. ERO D/RT Pb1/169; Read N & M (1998) *A Journey through Alresford* in Paula Munson Orange File p4
2. Hedges J (2000) p96
3. ERO D/RT Pb1/527
4. Essex Newsmen Saturday 23rd July 1932; https://assets.savills.com/properties/GBIPRSIPS170010/IPS170010_IPS17002275.PDF
5. Hedges J (2000) p96
6. E. Marriage & Sons Ltd. *Annals of 100 Years of Flour Milling (1940)* p26-31, 49-55
7. Hedges J (2000) p95; Reynold C (1984) *An Illustrated History of William Marriage School* p6; Reports of Colchester Museum 1919-23
8. ERO D/DJ 2/25/1
9. Chelmsford Chronicle Friday May 19th 1933
10. The Times Tuesday September 11th 1934
11. The Times Monday October 29th 1934 p.17
12. ERO D/RT Pb1/5115; Read N & M (1998) *A Journey through Alresford* in Paula Munson Orange File p4
13. Hedges J (2000) p96; Walton Times and Gazette October 3rd 1936; East Essex Gazette October 17th 1942
14. East Essex Gazette January 11th 1936; Mersea Museum ID DW15_011
15. Tendring RD Register #4 Enumeration Code DDYA
16. The Times Saturday December 18th 1939
17. Hedges J (2000) p96
18. Chelmsford Chronicle Friday May 17th 1943 p7; East Essex Gazette October 17th 1942
19. Read N & M (1998) *A Journey through Alresford* in Paula Munson Orange File p4;
20. Chelmsford Chronicle Friday October 29th 1948 p2; Read N & M (1998) *A Journey through Alresford* in Paula Munson Orange File p4
21. East Essex Gazette July 7th 1995
22. <https://themovemarket.com/tools/propertyprices/alresford-grange-colchester-co7-8bg>

World War 1

At the start of the war, there was a panic about enemy spies working locally. On Tuesday 18th August 1914 at 9pm, Ernest Abberfield, 24, a fitter from Clacton was spotted cycling along the Colne's riverbank at Marsh Farm when he was challenged by a picket from the Devonshire Yeomanry and arrested for riding without a light by PC Mullinger. His excuse of cycling to meet some girls in Wivenhoe was not accepted; he was charged under the *Official Secrets Act 1911* and remanded. Investigations showed he was half-Hungarian. A week later, his mother appeared in Court and made it clear she considered herself English. The Prosecutor asked for the case to be dismissed. In September, Abberfield enlisted with C Hollidge in the 20th Hussars training at Scarborough.¹

In September 1914, elderly women observed three cyclists acting suspiciously and mentally noting the shipping over several evenings at Alresford Creek. This led to a suspicion that they were spies – the police were called whilst the women punctured their tyres with scissors. The men were questioned and proved they were coastguard volunteers.²

The school pupils were given a day off to go foraging for blackberries in the hedges, on behalf of the Ministry of Food.³ On May 24th 1916, the first national Empire Day was held – the anniversary of Queen Victoria's Birthday. The pupils dressed up as their heroes, like Clive of India, and the children received an Empire Day Certificate if they had sent supplies to soldiers at the front. Then they were allowed to go home early to celebrate.⁴

The 10th (Service) Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were deployed to Alresford between November 1914 and February 1915 before fighting at the Battle of Loos with many local men.⁵ Australian army units were based in Brightlingsea and training in neighbouring villages. In April 1915, a Serjeant and Band from 2nd/5th Battalion, Essex Regiment visited Alresford whilst on a recruiting on a tour of over twenty villages in a week.⁶ On the night of the 2nd and 3rd April 1916, Zeppelin LZ.90 crossed over Alresford on its return from a bombing mission in SW Essex.⁷

In 1918, two Australian soldiers were spotted taking a Plymouth Rock and a black hen from Brook Farm and bolting towards High Elm Plantation by Charles H Frost, foreman. A third, Deweerdt, was found by Serjeant Pryke plucking a hen in front of a camp-fire. The pot contained the dismembered Plymouth Rock. Deweerdt claimed to have found the chickens and was showing a friend how to pluck the birds. He attempted to escape but was arrested.

The hens were valued at 18/- and the men offered to pay three times their value. Four soldiers were arrested – Shaw, Cox, Spencer and Deweerdt – and investigated at the Thorpe Petty Sessions. *Three men were of excellent character and upbringing; the fourth had no adverse mark on his conduct sheet. The Bench decided to hand over the defendants to the military authorities, Colonel Nicholson DSO.*⁸

Rural life continued in the village. On June 1st 1916, seven youths from Wyvenhoe were arrested for trespassing on the railway line at Alresford and fined between 10/- and 15/- each at Clacton petty Sessions.⁹ On October 22nd 1916, there was a GER excursion to the Dairy Show London leaving Alresford at 07:57.¹⁰ In November 1916, Alderman Wilson Marriage subscribed £20 towards the memorial for Captain JB Hawkins of neighbouring Ballast Quay Farm.¹¹

There were shortages and no guarantee of the quality of some products. In August 1917, *Charles Wm. Bacon, grocer. Alresford was summoned for sell baking powder to the prejudice the purchaser on May 21st. The Bench fined defendant £2. the Chairman saying there was no reflection whatever on the honesty of the defendant in selling the goods. Mr JT Bridge, Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act, said that two packets of baking flour purchased at defendants shop contained arsenic to the amount of 10 parts per million, or 7-100 of a grain per lb.*¹²

On April 15th 1918, off-duty Special Constable Arthur Littlewood, *farmer and dealer*, assaulted blacksmith William King of Thorrington after a disagreement about *horse-hairs in a sofa*. Littlewood struck King as he cycled past then *delivered a smashing blow on the bridge of the prosecutor's nose, cutting it badly and blacking both eyes*. Littlewood was fined the maximum £5.¹³ In September, Messers EA and C Bradley of Cockaynes and Brickhouse Farm won a prize in Class 2 of the Tendring Union Farm Awards.¹⁴

To co-ordinate village efforts the Church established: the Dressmaking Class Committee, 1914; Recruiting Committee, 1914; War Savings Committee, 1917; and the (War) Emergency Committee, 1915-1917.

EC Chisnall's District

| Name | Location | Vehicles | Driver | Helpers / Notes |
|-------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|--|
| C Bradley | Cockaynes Farm | 1 waggon 1 bicycle | R Fairs | C Bradley <i>Go with Waggons</i> |
| E Chisnall | Heath Farm | 1 waggon 2 bicycle | W Taylor | M Chisnall <i>Messenger</i> E Chisnall <i>Charge of Labour Gang, Heath Farm</i> |
| EC Chisnall | Church Farm | 1 waggon 2 bicycle | J Last | |
| C Kemble | Brick House | 1 waggon | self | |
| H Corner | Pointer | 2 bicycles | - | <i>Labour Gang, Heath Farm</i> |
| W Taylor | Colchester Road | 1 bicycle | - | |
| J Last | Colchester Road | 1 bicycle | - | |
| G Button | Colchester Road | 1 bicycle | - | <i>Labour Gang, Heath Farm</i> |
| S Miller | Station Cottages | 1 bicycle | - | G Balm |
| F Watsham | Station Cottages | 2 bicycles | - | |
| G Knopp | Station Road | 2 bicycles | - | <i>Labour Gang, High Elms Farm</i> |
| AJ Bacon | Station Road | 2 bicycles | - | |
| W Tubby | The Rectory | 1 bicycle | - | <i>Labour Gang, Heath Farm</i> |
| | | | | S Farthing, <i>Labour Gang, Heath Farm or Station</i> |

J Barton's District

| Name | Location | Vehicles | Driver | Helpers / Notes |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| S Ward | Lower Farm | 3 waggons, 4 carts 1 trap | J Humphrey H Everett | |
| Mrs Barton | Lodge Farm | 3 waggons, 3 carts 1 trap | H Taylor J Tracy | |
| Wilson Marriage | Marsh Farm | 3 waggons, 4 carts 1 trap | J Garrard J Garrard jnr | G Green <i>Point Duty</i> H Grubbs, <i>Labour Gang, Hall Farm</i> |
| | The Grange | 1 motor | J Webb Catchpole | |
| G Green | Marsh Farm | 2 bicycles | - | |
| J Garrard | Marsh Farm | 1 bicycle | - | |
| Miss Barton | Lodge Farm | 3 bicycles | - | |
| H Taylor | The Ford | 3 bicycles | - | J Bush, <i>Labour Gang, Hall Farm</i> |
| H Everett | The Ford | 3 bicycles | - | A Mott, <i>Labour Gang, Hall Farm</i> |
| J Humphrey | The Ford | 1 bicycle | - | A Taylor & C Bush, <i>Labour Gang, Hall Farm</i> B Bush, <i>Messenger</i> |
| S Ward | Lower Farm | 1 bicycle | - | <i>Go with C.P.</i> C Alexander, <i>Go with C.P.</i> |

The latter were responsible for the evacuation of Alresford if a German invasion took place on the Tendring coast. The route was *From POINTER CORNER ---Elmstead, Collingswood Farm, Bromley Cross, Old Shields, cross G.E.R. at Home Farm, Dedham Heath, Dedham, Stratford-St Mary, Higham, Stoke-by-Nayland, Nayland, Bures and into the Petty Sessional Division of Halstead.* In October 1917, the village was broken up

into two districts headed by EC Chisnall and J Barton. Detailed notes were made of the owners and drivers of thirteen waggons pulled by 23 horses *for Moving Civil Population*, 11 carts, 2 traps (1 pony each), 1 motor and 31 bicycles.¹⁵

Captain Eric Francis Hausburg (1878-1953), had moved into Alresford Hall¹⁶ after marrying Dorothy Davidson, William Warwick Hawkins' niece in 1908 whilst based at Colchester. Their son Christopher was born later that year.¹⁷ Hausburg had begun his military service as a Second Lieutenant on 13th October 1897 with the 3rd Battalion, The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).¹⁸ He transferred to 2nd Battalion, The King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment), was promoted to Lieutenant¹⁹ and left for service in the Boer War in South Africa.²⁰ In 1904, he was promoted to the rank of Captain. On his return to England, Captain Hausburg was elected to be a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in June 1905.²¹ He transferred to the 3rd Battalion, The Suffolk Regiment at Colchester before retiring in 1910.²²

In 1913, Hasburg was confined to bed and requested that all letters were addressed to his wife.²³ In 1915, Hasburg resigned from the Tending Board of Governors as he was fighting in France – no substitute was sent to meetings by Alresford Vestry Council.²⁴ In October 1915, Herbert Gowing Heath took Major Hasburg to the County Court *for damages for alleged breach of agreement*. He had swapped a field for two cottages on the agreement that the grass in the field would not be grazed in 1915. This had happened and Hasburg sent £7 10/- into Court as compensation.²⁵

During WW1, he returned to his Regiment serving in France becoming a Major, then a General Staff Officer. He was awarded the 1914 Star with clasp and was Mentioned in Dispatches, wearing the bronze oak leaf emblem on his Victory Medal. He changed his German surname to the Anglicized Hutchinson by 1920.

His son Christopher died whilst Major Hutchinson was living at the Villa Rogeberthe, Monte Carlo in December 1934.²⁶ USA Immigration Records show that he sailed twice to the USA. On both occasions his residence was listed as Monte Carlo. On June 26th 1937, he arrived on *MS Chichibu Maru* from Yokohama. On February 25th 1939, he arrived on the *MS Hakiyu Maru* from Callao, Peru.²⁷ Hutchinson then entered from Tijuana, Mexico in 1940 with his wife Dorothy and became a nationalized American Citizen.

(1) My full, true, and correct name is ERIC FRANCIS HUTCHINSON

(2) My present place of residence is 1285 No. Crescent Ave. Bldg. 140 My occupation is retired

(4) I am 63 years old. (5) I was born on 7-24-77 in Penshurst, England

(6) My personal description is as follows: Sex male, color white, complexion dark, color of eyes blue-gray
 color of hair gray, height 6 feet 4 1/2 inches, weight 220 pounds, visible distinctive marks none
 race English, present nationality British

(7) I am married; the name of my wife or husband is Dorothy; we were married on 1-2-08
 at Colchester, England; he or she was born at Cork, Ire
 on 2-11-31 and entered the United States at San Ysidro, Calif
 on 11-10-40 for permanent residence in the United States, and now resides at with me

(8) I have no children; and the name, sex, date and place of birth, and present place of residence of each of said children who is living, are as follows:

(9) My last place of foreign residence was Tijuana, Mexico (10) I emigrated to the United States from Same
 at San Ysidro, California under the name of Eric Francis Hutchinson
 on 11-19-40 aboard afoot

(12) Since my lawful entry for permanent residence I have not been absent from the United States, for a period or periods of 6 months or longer, as follows:

| DEPARTED FROM THE UNITED STATES | | | RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| PORT | DATE (Month, day, year) | VESSEL OR OTHER MEANS OF CONVEYANCE | PORT | DATE (Month, day, year) | VESSEL OR OTHER MEANS OF CONVEYANCE |
| | | | | | |

(13) I have not heretofore made declaration of intention: No. on (Month) (Day) (Year) at (City or town)
 (Country) (State) (Name of court)

(14) It is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States and to reside permanently therein. (15) I will, before being admitted to citizenship, renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which at the time of admission to citizenship I may be a subject or citizen. (16) I am not an anarchist; nor a believer in the unlawful damage, injury, or destruction of property, or sabotage; nor a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government; nor a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching disbelief in or opposition to organized government. (17) I certify that the photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a likeness of me and was signed by me. I do swear (affirm) that the statements I have made and the intentions I have expressed in this declaration of intention subscribed by me are true to the best of my knowledge and belief: SO HELP ME GOD.

Eric Francis Hutchinson
 Subscribed and sworn to (affirmed) before me in the form of oath shown above in the office of the Clerk of said Court, at Los Angeles, California
 this May day of 1941, anno Domini 1941 I hereby certify that
 Application No. 23 102324 from the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, showing the lawful entry for permanent residence of the declarant above named on the date stated in this declaration of intention, has been received by me, and that the photograph affixed to the duplicate and triplicate hereof is a likeness of the declarant.

R. B. Zimmerman, Clerk U. S. District Court
 Clerk of the Southern District of California Court.

By [Signature]
 Form N-315
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
 (Edition of 1-19-41) 016-19119 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

SEAL OF THE U. S. DISTRICT COURT OF SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

106851-107000

Figure 23²⁸

He died at 701 North Beverley Drive, Beverley Hills, California on June 18th 1953.²⁹ Dorothy died there the following year.³⁰

Outside St Peter's Church a War Memorial was unveiled by the Bishop of Colchester on 2 June 1920³¹ for twelve members of the local community, who lost their lives in the First World War. These Alresford men had fought throughout the Western Front, in Italy and on the battle-cruiser *HMS Indefatigable*.

Private Herbert Arnold (No. **S/D 5872**), 11th (Service) Royal Sussex Regiment died on October 21st 1916 and is commemorated at Thiepval – the Memorial to the Missing at the Somme. He was the son the game-keeper John and his wife Elizabeth; born in West Tofts, Norfolk. The family moved around East Anglia but by 1911 lived at Wood Cottage. He had three sisters Lilian, Edna and Violet.³²

Rifleman Sydney Roger Bacon (No. **55266**) of the 1/16th Battalion (Queens Westminster Rifles) County of London Regiment was born in Alresford, but lived in Clapton, London where he worked as a Wholesale Salesman. He

was the son of the Village Postmaster and Grocer Charles William and his wife Martha (nee Balm); born on September 3rd 1893. He was educated at Thorrington School. His siblings were Alec Victor George (1896-1971); Reginald Cecil (1897-1936); Alan Theodore (1898-99), Victoria Gladys May (1901-72). He enlisted on February 28th 1915 and served in France and Flanders from July 1916. He died on March 28th 1918 at Arras. An officer wrote *He will be greatly missed by all for his cheerful disposition under the most trying circumstances. If it is any consolation to you to know he gave his life for his comrades. They were holding this particular post (Towey Post), when they were overpowered by the Germans, Your son's death was instantaneous; he was shot by a sniper, and none of the Westminister's came back to tell us how the battle went, but we know it was a glorious fight. A fellow soldier wrote He was a good comrade and will be greatly missed.*³³

Private Leslie Button (no. **23533**) of the 11th Battalion, Essex Regiment died on April 23rd 1916 and is buried at Essex Farm, Belgium. He was born in 1887 to the brickmaker George and Ellen. His siblings were Florence and Charlie. In 1901 he resided in Thorrington and in 1911 in Alresford. He became a brickmaker; married Gertrude Daisy Everett and had two children: George (born 1911) and Edith (1915). He left effects of £2 6d. His widow received a pension of 18/6 per week and a gratuity of £3 on September 23rd 1921.

Private John Edward Franklin (no. **202154**), 4th Battalion Essex Regiment, died on October 27th 1918 and is buried at St Peter's Alresford. He was born in All Saints Parish, Belvedere, Kent – the son of a labourer in a steel factory, Frederick and Susan residing at 5 William Street. His siblings were Eleanor, Hannah Eliza, Harriet, Frederick Lewis, Ethel M, Dora Ladysmith and Alice. His widowed mother had remarried to William Sadler on October 8th 1908 and the family resided in Alresford at Dormer Cottage. John was employed in 1911 as a farm labourer, and in 1914 as a stoker by the Colchester Gas Company. He enlisted on June 16th 1914 and was described as 5'8" tall; a chest of 37" with an expansion of 2 ½"; fair vision, good physical development, dark complexion, grey eyes and dark brown hair. He had two tattoos – on his right arm of a woman and sword; on his left – a woman and butterfly. Between July 22nd and December 4th, he was deployed to *B M East* landing at Sulva Beach, Gallipoli on August 12th. He was invalided in October 1915. He returned to England and on June 21st 1917, he was discharged as *being no longer physically fit for war service* as he was disabled by Nephritis (inflammation of the kidneys.) He received a pension and remained an outpatient at Colchester hospitals. His mother received a pension from November 29th 1918 and his effects of £7 15/-.

Ordinary Seaman William Garrard (no. **J/37841**) died when the Battle Cruiser HMS Indefatigable, with eight 12" guns, was sunk at the Battle of Jutland by the German Van der Tann. (Only three of 1019 sailors survived.³⁴ In total 24 ships were sunk and c.9,000 men died.)³⁵ He was the son of the horseman, Charles and Sarah Ann of Marsh Farm, where he was a labourer. He had a younger brother John.

Lieutenant John Chisnell Grimwood of the 2/5th Royal Warwickshire Regiment died on December 3rd 1917 at La Vacquerie, Cambrai. He was son of the village blacksmith William and Mary of the forge, Alresford Heath (now Wivenhoe Road.) He was the second son of four – all who served; Second-Corporal Gilbert (no. **250648**)³⁶ Essex Regiment was wounded on June 6th 1916 (1997-1957). He had worked pre-war as an engineer's hammerman at Tilbury Docks and post-war lived in Wanstead and Walthamstowe; Gunner Walter J of the 14th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery served in Egypt. He was wounded in July 1915 and on February 22nd 1918 was awarded the Military Medal. Post-war he was a postman and was awarded the Imperial Service Medal. He was buried at St Peter's (1897-1988); and Sapper William Edwin (no. **7026**) of the Honourable Artillery Company, Field Company, Royal Engineers (1893-1950). Before the War, John was a Botany Teacher at Colchester Technical College. At the commencement of the War, he enlisted in the 8th Battalion (Cyclist Corps) Essex Regiment (no. 1119) and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment on 21st December 1915. Whilst home on leave in October 1917, he married Alice, Headmistress of Kendall Road Infant School. He left effects of £190 15/2.³⁷

Private Percy Edward McKinley (no. **16957**) of 9th Battalion, Essex Regiment was reported as missing on July 17th 1917 at Arras.³⁸ He was reported dead on September 28th 1917.³⁹ He was the son of John and Elizabeth from Fulham – born in 1896. His half-brother Edward was born in 1900. He attended Ackmar Road School from September 22nd 1902. By 1911, his widowed mother had moved to Station Road, Alresford. He left effects of £9 19/6 and his mother received a weekly pension of 5/- from March 19th 1918 and a gratuity of £11 10/- on 13th November 1919.

Private George Percy Mitchell (no. **15399**) of 11th Battalion, Essex Regiment died of his wounds on November 18th 1915 at Ypres. He was the son of Alfred George and Margaret (Nee Copsey) Mitchell of Halstead; born in 1886. His father died the following year and his mother had married the LNER Platelayer James Bush of Elmstead Heath by 1892. He had step-siblings: farm labourers James Harold and Philip John; the kitchen-boy Ernest Charles; Margaret Agnes and Basil. In 1901, George was a labourer in a shipyard and in 1911 a bullocks-man. His pension was paid to his mother Margaret Bush of Ford Lane.

Lieutenant Rowland George Prichard of the 1st Suffolk Regiment died on April 27th 1915 at St Julien. He was a son of the Rector of Alresford Rev Charles Collwyn and his wife Margaret Jane. He was born on September 23rd 1895 at Thornton-le-Moors, Cheshire. He had three brothers Frederick, Monty, Frank and a sister Margie. He attended Lindley Lodge School and Hereford Cathedral School where he was a member of the Officer Training Corps for three years. Rowland was accepted by Brasenose College, Oxford but was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 3rd (Reserve) Suffolk Regiment on August 15th 1914. He was promoted to Lieutenant at Felixstowe on February 2nd 1915; before embarking for France attached to the 1st Battalion fighting north of Ypres for eleven days. He was temporarily in command of a Company. He joined a composite force of survivors and was killed leading an assault on German trenches. He left effects of £50 6/- to his father. He was reburied in St Peter's, Alresford.⁴⁰

His older brother, Lieutenant Frederick Giles Prichard of the 2nd Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment died on August 9th 1915 aged 23 at the Military Hospital, Millbank, London. He was buried next to his brother in St Peters, Alresford. He was born at Whalley Vicarage, Lancashire on July 23rd 1891. He was educated at Heswall; Lindley College, Nuneaton; Marlborough College and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. Giles joined the East Yorkshire Regiment on March 13th 1911 as a Second Lieutenant. He was promoted to Lieutenant on August 13th 1914 after serving three years in India at Tezpur, Fyzabad, Kailana and Kamptee. He went to France on January 15th 1915; but was invalided home with frost-bite on February 19th. He re-joined his regiment at the end of April. He was hit in the head and six other places on May 3rd leading his troops to their trenches. He left effects of £1429 16/4 to his father.⁴¹

Private Arthur Charles Rice (no **40587**) of 7th Battalion Suffolk Regiment died on April 29th 1917 at Arras. He was the son of Arthur James and Lydia (nee Goham) Rice of Wivenhoe Road (west of the Pointer Inn). He was born on February 11th 1891 and baptised on May 31st at St Peter's. His mother died in June 1908 and his brother Ernest Edward in April 1910 (aged 14.) At the 1911 Census his brother Alfred was 27, a motor mechanic; Frederick was 25, a labourer on a farm; Annie was 22, a housekeeper; and Charles was 20, a domestic gardener. He initially enlisted as a Private (no. **1980**) of the South Staffordshire Regiment. He left effects of £3 11/9 and his father received a gratuity of £3 on October 3rd 1919 whilst resident in Ford Lane.

His brother, Private Frederick Rice (no. **40585**) 11th Battalion Essex Regiment died on December 30th 1916.

The Alresford memorial takes the form of a Celtic wheel cross on a tapering shaft atop a plinth with a single-

step base. The whole is surrounded by a low, single-strand chain link fence and stands near to Church Road. The inscription is on the front face of the shaft, with the World War 1 and 2 inscriptions on the plinth.

**TO THE GLORY OF
GOD
AND IN
HONOURED
MEMORY OF
THE ALRESFORD
MEN
WHO FELL IN THE
GREAT WAR
1914-1919**



World War One

Herbert Arnold

Roger Bacon

Leslie Button

John Franklin

William Garrad

John Grimwood

Percy McKinley

Percy Mitchell

Giles Prichard

Rowland Prichard

Charles Rice

Frederick Rice

World War Two

Harry Cox

Jack Ellis

Kenneth Hart

Harry Pyke

Robert Wernham

Figure 24- The Alresford War memorial

Following the Second World War, a dedication was added to commemorate five local servicemen who died in that conflict in Tunisia, Singapore and north-west Europe. In 2004, the lettering was recut, and the memorial cleaned with the help of grant of £250 from the War Memorials Trust,⁴² and in 2018 the Memorial was Listed as Grade 2.⁴³

Inside the graveyard, are the graves of Private Franklin, Lieutenant Giles Prichard and Lieutenant Rowland Prichard. There was also a commemorative window and organ in St Peter's Church by Rev FW Bussell DD. A legacy of £100 left by Lieutenants' Giles and Rowland Prichard for church purposes, had been invested in the War Loan, and the interest was paid half yearly to the churchwardens.⁴⁴

On the February 3rd 1920, their brother Captain Francis Hesketh Prichard Royal Garrison Artillery died from Typhus whilst serving with the Dunsterforce of the British Military Mission, in Novorossisk, South Russia. He was born in

Whalley, Lancashire on October 2nd 1888 and christened in Clitheroe. He was first commissioned in 1908, and in 1911 he was serving with the 56th Company in Mauritius and South Africa. On February 10th 1914, Lieutenant Prichard qualified as a pilot, gaining his Royal Aero Club Aviator's Certificate no. 733, in a Vickers biplane at the Vickers Flying School, Brooklands. On April 20th 1915, he was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps with 5 Squadron in France. On June 2nd he was forced to land in Holland and interred until June 1918 as a Prisoner of War. He was initially listed as "*casualty in the Expeditionary Force reported from General Headquarters under the date 4th June: missing*" on the Casualty List issued by the War Office from 10th June, 1915. In 1918, he transferred to the Royal Air Force. In 1919, Captain Prichard, rejoined the Royal Garrison Artillery and fought in South Russia. He is commemorated at the Haidar Pasha Memorial, Istanbul. He left effects of £2717 2/10 to his widowed mother.⁴⁵

Other men who died and are not named on the St. Peter's War Memorial include Private Henry Gant (**20126**) 9th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment, was the son of Peter Gant of the Heath, Alresford. Private Ernest Charles Henry (**322774**) 6th Battalion London Regiment was the husband of Annie Bailey, of "Hazelmere," Alresford, Essex. Private Alfred William Burnell (**13254**) 1st Battalion, Norfolk Regiment, husband of Edith May Richer (formerly Burnell), who moved after the war to "Gyllyngdune," Alresford, Essex after remarrying. They had a son James Alfred born on November 3rd 1917. She received a £5 grant on September 27th 1917 and a weekly pension of 18/9 per week from January 2nd 1918. Stoker 1st Class Horace Bird (**307567**) HMS Vanguard was killed when the 4" magazine exploded in Scarpa Flow, killing all but two of the crew. He was the son of James and Eliza Bird of Ivy Cottage, Cockaynes Lane. Private Roland Edgecumbe Wortley (**59316**) Royal Fusiliers died on September 28th 1918. He was the son of Sarah Wortley who remarried and moved to Inglenook, Alresford. He had volunteered at the start of the war.⁴⁶ The death of Private HW Mustard (London Rifles) was announced by the Germans, after he became a Prisoner of War, on November 3rd 1916.⁴⁷ Private John Sheldrake (no. **36039**) Machine Gun Corps died from disease on October 14th 1919. He was the son of Alfred David Sheldrake, initially of Essex Villa, Saville Road, Chadwell Heath but moved to Alresford.

Alresford men who returned home included Private Albert Benham (**16216**) who enlisted in 1916 with the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish, then transferred to 2/6th Essex Regt and later the Labour Corps in Ireland. David Carter (**2849** Royal West Kent); Rifleman G Carter (Kings Royal Rifle Corps) wounded May 11th 1917; Gunner Herbert Chisnall (**661441** Royal Field Artillery). A.T. Ockwell was wounded on October 26th 1917.⁴⁸

Merchant marine sailors included: Edwin James Barrett, John Rutter, Frederick Hill, Albert Charles Dawson and David Welham.⁴⁹

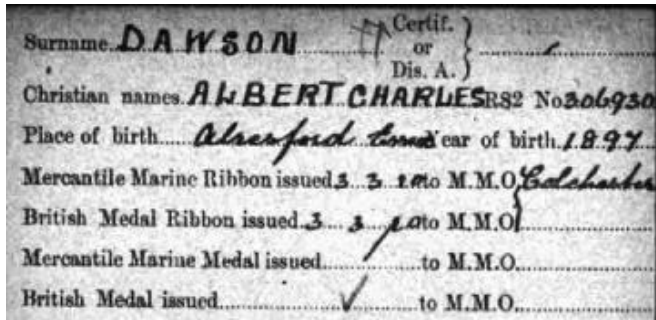


Figure 25 -

Medal card for Albert C Dawson, Merchant Navy

The National Archives' BT 351/1/34584

Others received exemption from conscription due to hardship, age or working in a Restricted Occupation.

*CW Goldacre, 41, market gardener, Alresford. who was stated by his solicitor, Mr. O. Thompson Smith, have been born two days too soon —(laughter)—was granted conditional exemption.*⁵⁰

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The village begins to grow in the 1920's and 1930's

Village life quickly returned to normal after the War. In December 1918, it was announced that the Colne would be dredged and widened from Colchester to past Alresford Creek, by Colchester Borough Council at a cost of £120,000.¹ On March 22nd 1919, AJ Johnston of Thorpe, was elected unopposed as the Alresford representative on the Tendring Board of Guardians.² In November, AH Hoare of the Ford offered the services of his second gardener E Crouchman.³ In December 1919, *Hills scored six of the seven goals with which Great Bentley beat Alresford United* in the Tendring Hundred League. By December 27th Alresford were mid-table after ten games – winning two, drawing two and losing six against reserve teams from Wivenhoe, Clacton and Walton; as well as Frinton, Rowhedge, St Osyth, Great Oakley, Thorpe, Brightlingsea and Clacton Scouts.⁴

In January 1920, the Sub-Postmaster's son, Alexander Bacon was in trouble for not returning to his pre-war role as an auxiliary postman which the Post Office had kept for him. Instead, he had claimed the *dole* and sentenced to six months.⁵ In June 1920, the Essex Agricultural Show was held and *bottled fruit from Alresford* was displayed.⁶ In October 1920, *John Frost, Richmond Road, Twickenham, was summoned for carrying a gun without licence, Alresford, September wrote enclosing £1 to pay the fine, and said if it was more he would be pleased to forward it.* He was fined 30/-.⁷

In January 1921, at Colchester Cattle Market, Wilson Marriage sold sows: *included 22 guineas for Alresford Holly, 19 ½ guineas for Alresford Iris, 17 guineas for Alresford Dewdrop. Prices obtained for gilts included 16 guineas for Alresford Cowslip, 16 guineas for Alresford Cowslip II, 15 ½ guineas for Alresford Cowslip III, 16 ½ guineas for Alresford Cowslip IV; Alresford Astor realised 16½ guineas, Alresford Astor II 14½ guineas; Alresford Astor III 15 guineas; Alresford Astor IV 15 guineas; Alresford Buttercup I 15½ guineas; Alresford Buttercup II 15½ guineas; Alresford Buttercup III 16½ guineas; Alresford Buttercup IV 14½ guineas; Alresford Fuschia II 15 guineas. Five pedigree large black boars made 14 guineas.*⁸ Also that month, *Henry Corner, landlord the Pointer beerhouse,*

*Alresford, was summoned and fined £1 for permitting beer to be consumed his Licensed premises at Alresford after closing time. He claimed his wife had put the clock on an hour, so she didn't miss her train and he hadn't realised.*⁹ In April, *Ernest Cowling, Alresford Road, Elmstead, was summoned for keeping two dogs without licences on February 22.*¹⁰

In February 1922, *Joseph Pratt and Elizabeth Pratt, Alresford, were summoned for wilfully neglecting their children, aged 14, 12, 10, 8, 6. and 3, in a manner likely to cause unnecessary neglect.*¹¹... In May, they were charged on remand with wilfully neglecting their six children.¹² By June, their house was now fit to live in.¹³

In June 1922, at the Colchester Show, *Alderman Wilson Marriage JP won first place for Cart Mare Gelding, not exceeding' 4 years (open) with Sunbeam of Hothfield.*¹⁴ In July 1922, Mrs. Elizabeth Sadler, of Alresford, was 102 years old. She was asked for *her opinion of modern women: their smoking habits... and dresses ... in my young days they would have been put in the pillory.*¹⁵ In 1924, she celebrated her 104th birthday.¹⁶

In March 1923, an Union meeting for farm-workers was held to complain about the low wages. Many were only getting 18/- to 24/- across East Anglia for up to 54 hours per week - was judged to be the same as 10/- before the war. The Speaker was Councillor Jack Shingleford.¹⁷

In 1925, *James Barber, 47 of Brook Street, was admitted to Hospital on Wednesday with an injury to his left leg caused by a fall while running after a horse at Alresford. Colchester.*¹⁸

In October 1926, *Edgar A. Lougher, dairy farmer, Alresford, was summoned and fined for selling milk to the prejudice of Vivian J. Woodward, at Frinton, on Sept. 14.*¹⁹ In 1927, *Mr. R. Farthing, while returning home from work at Alresford on Monday, found Mr. Joseph Potter, roundsman aged 64, underneath an overturned baker's cart on some waste ground known as Broomfields. He released him, but he died.*²⁰

In 1928, at the *Felsted Beet Show, Mr. J. H. Gilmour, Church Farm, Alresford won the Growers of from 3-10 acres category and the prize of £25. On 3 acres he grew 13.65 tons per acre; with a sugar content of 5,261 lb. per acre.*²¹ In October 1927, at the *Norwich Kennel Show on Wednesday, Essex successes included: Mr. F. Campling, Alresford. first for flat-coated retrievers.*²²

In February 1928, *Pilkington Bros. vegetables were on a stall at Spitalfields Market which won a silver cup, as the Queen officially opened the market.*²³

In the Winter of 1928/9, lorries from Pilkington Bros. were involved in two accidents whilst travelling to the London markets. In November 1928, Henry Stranger, a retired Judge with poor eye-sight fell, under the wheels of a Pilkington's lorry at Danbury. The Coroner's Jury exonerated the driver.²⁴ On February 12th a motor lorry, the property of Pilkington Bros., Alresford. caught fire while stationary near Witham Lodge on Tuesday as the driver's mate filled up with petrol. The driver's cab and a number of empty sacks were destroyed. *Fire extinguishers were used, with good effect.*²⁵

In November 1929, *Mr W. L Moore, of Alresford,... reared a couple of squirrels, almost from birth, a bottle in the early stages, until now they sit and take meals with him- They are about six months' old.*²⁶

In the 1931 Census, there were 312 villagers²⁷ living in 87 houses in Alresford.²⁸ During the 1920s and 1930s more houses were built along Wivenhoe Road, Station Road and the Main Road. From 1920 until the start of the Second World War planning permission was given for fifty-one bungalows, twelve single houses and two groups of houses, two garages, three cottages and additions to nine buildings. At least nineteen of these were built by the Baker Brothers.²⁹ Tendring Council urged the building of new homes to replace the crumbling buildings then standing. In 1937, 163 homes in 34 clearance areas were to be demolished. Two were in Alresford leading to Cobbold appealing the decision.³⁰

Station Road was mentioned in the planning applications for the first time in 1937.³¹ There was also an application for "*Elmstead Row, Alresford*"³² and around twenty from other locations within the current Parish boundary. The "*Rose and Crown*" owned by Truman, Hanbury Buxton and Co. Ltd was rebuilt in 1927.³³ In 1937, older houses were sold to let: North Lodge (let at £20 pa, sold to Mr H. Alexander for £120), Brook Cottage (let at £13pa, sold for £110 to Mr W Purdy): Station Cottage (£25 for a client of Messrs Balch and Balch).³⁴

The Alresford Sand and Ballast Company was incorporated in 1932³⁵ by Ben and Martin Barrell, after selling the ropewalk at Wivenhoe Cross. Other directors were CW Chambers, AE Symes and WC Barrell. There was £30,000 capital in £1 shares. The Barrell Brothers were joined by Jack Orrock when he married their sister Madeline and their son Peter took over as manager and owner in 1971.³⁶ They used the ballast quay at the Creek to send sand from local quarries to London via Thames barge. Photographs show four Thames barges abeam taking on sand and gravel from the wooden beamed sand conveyor and aerial runway c.1935. This was built from surplus timbers used to

construct Clacton Pier. Due to the encroachment of the mud it became uneconomical as only smaller barges could reach it; so was last used in 1969.³⁷ In 1936, the barge Victor was sailing to Barking Creek with one hundred tons of sand when it needed rescuing by the lifeboat and was escorted back to Harwich.³⁸ Mr Guy Cobbold sold fields for sands and gravel quarrying in 1938. One area of fifty-one acres of gravel sold for £3,600.³⁹ 76,000 tons were excavated in 1997.

In 1929, ECC agreed to spent £190 on road improvements between Clacton and Wivenhoe.⁴⁰ A footbridge was installed at the station in 1937, with a large crane positioning it on a Sunday.⁴¹



A traffic census at the level crossing between August 10th -16th 1936, saw an increase in tonnage of 69%, from 1,534 to 2,592. The village was bypassed with the building of a new road and concrete bridge (**Figure 26**) over the LNER line between High Elm Farm and St Osyth Road at a cost of £21,800, the land cost

£3,875 to purchase. The road reconstruction was completed by July 1937, but the bridge was delayed by a lack of steel. The road was over sixty feet wide to allow pedestrians, cyclists and cars to be separated. In March 1938, there was no official opening ceremony, instead the bridge was crossed by cars containing the County Surveyor RH Buckley, County Councillors JE Ball and JH Caesar-Gordon, Brigade-General Kincaid-Smith, JH Chorlton Resident Engineer and district general foreman HC Cunningham.⁴² Prior to this the main road had crossed the levelling crossing in Colchester Road (modern Coach Road), then turned at the Post Office (Meads) Corner before continuing along St Osyth Road (Wivenhoe Road) eastwards.⁴³ (**Figure 27**)

In 1934, Mrs JH Gilmour at the Colchester Rose Show won the prize for *best table decoration - spray*.⁴⁴

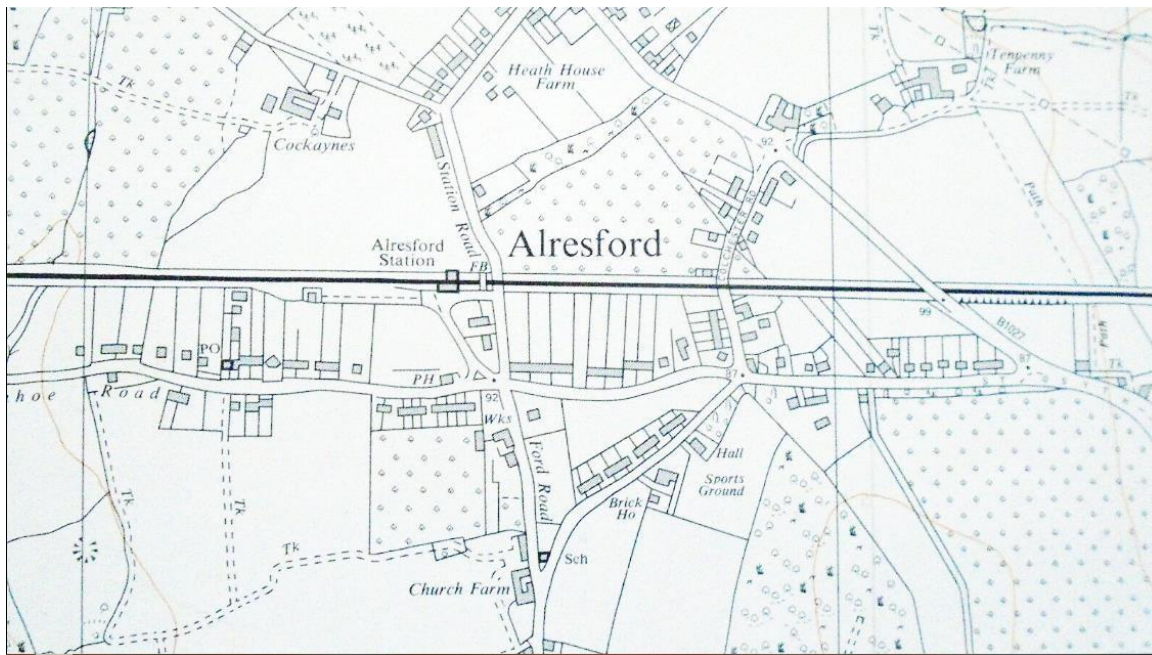


Figure 27 –
OS 1954

On April 30th 1919, farms offered for sale by Alresford Hall included Fanman's Farm, *Elmstead* Heath (now 15 Station Road), Plumpton's Farm, Brook Farm, Church Farm (managed by the Gilmour family) and Lodge Farm totalling 340 acres. This sale realized £7,900 at £23 per acre. The seven-acre field (now Cox Road) made £230. Twelve houses fetched between £40 and £340 for the house and workshop at the corner of Wivenhoe Road and Ford Lane.⁴⁵ In 1920, High Elms was sold with *two capital farm horses, two young-in-calf Jersey cows, 20 head of swine, poultry and the excellent agricultural implements etc.*⁴⁶ In 1922, John Aldis sold Heath Cottage Farm, Station Road with 12 acres, 3 roods and 1 perch of land, to Lucy Hall for £1050.⁴⁷

In January 1936, JJ Pilkington demonstrated his invention to clean sugar beet as they were loaded by conveyor on to a lorry. He claimed to remove 45 -50 ib. per cwt. Three men could clean 25 tons per day.⁴⁸ In March, builder Frederick Vane Sanders of *Crestlands* was fined 10/- after *not displaying necessary lights* in Little Clacton.⁴⁹ Later that month the high tension electrical line in Alresford failed between 6.05 and 9.35pm plunging Elmstead in to darkness.⁵⁰ In June, the Church Fete was held in the grounds of Alresford Rectory to raise funds for the Church and Silver Band. The Fete was opened by Mrs CMD Gooch of Wivenhoe Park, who *was presented with a bouquet of sweet peas and maiden hair fern by little Pamela Perriman*. 27 children entered the fancy dress competition with prize winners being: *Most original boy, Billy Bush: most original girl, Irnee Cansdale: best dressed boy, Colin Almond: best dressed girl, Christine Barr*. Other prizes were won by *Bubbles Alexander and Kenneth Perriman*.⁵¹ In October

1936, a Whist Drive was held in the Cabin to raise funds for the Football Club. Prize winners were: Ladies Mrs Pearce, Gentleman's Mr Barr. This was followed by a dance with Mr Bibs as MC and music by Mr Humphreys.⁵²

From 1937, Cockaynes Farm,⁵³ and from 1947 Fanmans Farms, developed orchards growing 500 tons of apples annually. These were owned by the Grinsteeds and was capable of segregating four million apples per year; employed up to seventy workers and produced 10,000 bottles of apple juice supplying Sainsbury's, Asda and Somerfield.⁵⁴

In March 1937, the Housing Committee of Tendring RDC agreed to purchase land north of St Osyth Road (now Wivenhoe Road) to build six council houses.⁵⁵ On Monday July 12th, forty tons of hay in a stack at Plumpton's Farm caught fire. The Fire Brigade attended and had to draw water *from a pond hundreds of yards, and the burning stack was pulled to pieces and damped down.*⁵⁶ Colonel Cecil G Mangles' (MC MFH, of High Elms Farm) touring car somersaulted after a collision with another vehicle, near to Wivenhoe Park. He managed to crawl out.⁵⁷ On September 27th, the living and dead stock of Fanman's Farm was sold. This included *2 powerful horses, 11 dairy cows, 29 head of poultry, Smyth's 13-coulter corn and seed drill, Bentall grass mower, Deering self-binder with sheaf carrier, and twenty lots of surplus household furniture.*⁵⁸ In November, Alresford beat Horkesley 5-4. The players were: Eagle, Thomson, Suley, Hutchorn, R Cox, RF Cox, Sebbons, Wayland, G Seaman, Goff and Cole.⁵⁹

In February 1938, A R. Greenslade, won third prize at the Essex Pig Society Show for boar farrowed after July 1, 1937: with Caxton Conqueror.⁶⁰ In October 1938, the Ardleigh and District Ploughing Matches took place at Badley Hall, Great Bromley. JJ Pilkington won fifth place for Sugar Beats.⁶¹

In 1939, Mr Watcham of 8, St Osyth Road won the Alresford best gardens category of the Tendring Rural District Council's second garden competition.⁶²

In March 1924, Hutchinson sold Alresford Hall to Major Guy Fromanteel Cobbold MA MC (1885-1969) of Oaklands, Ipswich and moved to live at the Court Hotel, Sloane-square, London for the Autumn.⁶³ Cobbold was the grandson of John Chevallier Cobbold MP for Ipswich (1845-1869), JP and Deputy Lieutenant for Suffolk. In October 1924, he advertised for a Single Chauffeur - Mechanic; willing to work in garden.⁶⁴ In 1925, plans were submitted by Cobbold for additions at Alresford Hall⁶⁵ and in 1927, to turn it into cottages.⁶⁶ In 1928, a betweenmaid was required.⁶⁷ In 1930, his son Cameron married Lady Hermione Lytton at Knebworth Church. The Indoor Staff of Alresford Hall gave a silver inkstand and Outdoor Staff a silver tray.⁶⁸ Major Cobbold, in 1931, appealed against the

rates proposal by the Colchester Area Assessment Committee to assess the Hall at £172 gross and £140 rateable.⁶⁹ In 1933, Hutchinson was listed as the Lord of the Manor.⁷⁰ In 1934, Cobbold complained about the low price paid to producers of milk by the new Milk Marketing Board, which only offered an increase of ¾ d per gallon.⁷¹ In 1935, Ralph Snow, farm manager for Mr Cobbold, gave evidence in court against the owner of two dogs that were worrying sheep.⁷²

From 1938, Major Cobbold attempted to sell the Hall with 95 acres of parkland, one acre of lake and 783 acres of farmland.⁷³ Also offered were the Lodge with three cottages, Fanmans Farm (160 acres), Hall Farm (137 acres), two cottages, Plumptions Farm (160 acres), stone and gravel deposits, The Ford House: South and North Lodges, Brook Cottage, Station Cottages, Ford Lane Cottages and 79 acres of land; Thorrington Mill and Mill House; two farms totalling 59 acres and four cottages in Thorrington.⁷⁴ The first auction in June 1938 sold some lands, including the fields over the gravel seams for £10,000, but the House and half of the estate was unsold.⁷⁵ A manservant, Inman aged 51, from the Hall advertised his availability from November 1939.⁷⁶ In January 1940, the Hall and 95 acres were again offered for £7,500. Up to 344 acres were for sale.⁷⁷

Until 1926, the Post Office remained at the corner of Colchester and St Osyth Roads run by Charles William Bacon. In 1929, the grocer Edward Wilkinson was Sub-Postmaster and by 1937, the shopkeeper, Wilfred S Mead had taken over.⁷⁸

1. **Essex Newsmen** Saturday 7th December 1918
2. **East Coast illustrated News** March 22nd 1919
3. **The TIMES November 20th 1919**
4. **FOOTBALL NOTES Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 19 December 1919 p6; **East Coast Illustrated News** December 27th 1919
5. **UNEMPLOYMENT DOLE Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 30 January 1920 p7
6. **ESSEX AGRICULTURAL SHOW Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 11 June 1920 p3
7. **ESSEX POLICE COURTS Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 22 October 1920 p2
8. **SALES OF PROPERTY Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 07 January 1921 p6
9. **ALRESFORD PUBLICAN FINED Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 07 January 1921 p6
10. **PETTY SESSIONS Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 08 April 1921 p3
11. **PETTY SESSIONS Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 17 February 1922 p3
12. **AN ALRESFORD CASE Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 19 May 1922
13. **PETTY SESSIONS Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 23 June 1922 p3 .
14. **FINE COLCHESTER SHOW Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 09 June 1922 p7
15. **CENTENARIAN ON DRESSES Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 14 July 1922 **REFLEXIONS BY REFLEX Essex Newsmen** Saturday 15 July 1922 p1
16. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 25 January 1924 p2
17. **Clacton Graphic** March 3rd 1923
18. **PETTY SESSIONS Essex Newsmen** Saturday 23 October 1926
19. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 6 February 1925
20. **ROUNDSMAN'S SAD END Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 04 February 1927 p8 **Essex Newsmen** Saturday 05 February 1927 p2
21. **FELSTED BEET PRIZES Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 11 May 1928 **Essex Newsmen** Saturday 12 May 1928 p3
22. **The Norwich Kennel Show Alresford Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 28 October 1927
23. **Messrs. Jas. and Geo. H. Matthews had Stand So 273 the Smithfield Show Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 21 December 1928
24. **RETIRED JUDGE KILLED Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 26 April 1929; **Essex Newsmen** Saturday 27 April 1929
25. **Essex Newsmen** Saturday 16th February 1929
26. **Essex Newsmen** Saturday 23 November 1929 p4
27. http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10234153/cube/TOT_POP
28. http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10234153/cube/HOUSE_OCCUPANCY;ERO D/RT Pb1 336/ sixty eight separate records
29. **ERO D/RT Pb1**

30. *AN OWNER'S PROTEST* **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 19 November 1937
31. **ERO D/RT Pb1 336/5561**
32. **ERO D/RT pb1/1827**
33. **ERO D/RT Pb1/1928**
34. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 17th June 1938
35. <https://alresford.cylex-uk.co.uk/company/alresford-sand---ballast-co-ltd-14200441.html>
36. https://www.wivenhoehistory.org.uk/content/topics/resources/books-about-wivenhoe/nick-butler-interviews/an-interview-with-mr-leslie-___kemble; **Carriers Publishing Company (1933) The World's Carriers and Carrying Trades' Review · XXIX p130**; **Read N & M (1998) A Journey through Alresford** in Paula Munson's Orange File p2
37. **Mersea Museum ID HBC_003_003 and RG04_009**; **Read N & M (1998) A Journey through Alresford** in Paula Munson's Orange File p2
38. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 24 June 1936
39. **The Times** Tuesday June 14th 1938
40. *ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL* **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 04 October 1929
41. **Hedges J (2000) p82**
42. **Clacton Times and Gazette** February 9th, May 11th 1935, July 24th, October 9th, November 20th 1937, February 17th (includes photograph of bridge from the railway), March 16th 1938 (includes photographs of the bridge opening), Saturday March 26th 1938 ; **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 25 March 1938; **TNA BP 2/108**
43. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 25 March 1938
44. **The Times** Monday 9 July 1934
45. **Hedges J (2000) p86**; *When Alresford was up for sale (1974) in Paula Munson's Orange File* - the workshop was demolished in June 1974
46. **MICHAELMAS 1920 Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 10 September 1920 p8; Friday 17 September p4
47. **Conveyance**
48. **Walton Times and Gazette** January 18th 1936
49. **Walton Times and Gazette** March 18th 1936
50. **Walton Times and Gazette** April 18th 1936
51. **Walton Times and Gazette** June 20th 1936
52. **Walton Times and Gazette** October 24th 1936
53. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 20 June 1919
54. **Hedges J (2000) p73**; **Read N & M (1998) A Journey through Alresford** in Paula Munson Orange File p4
55. **Walton Times and Gazette** March 26th 1937
56. **Clacton Times and Gazette** July 31st 1937
57. **Clacton Times and Gazette** July 10th 1937
58. **Clacton Times and Gazette** September 25th 1937
59. **Clacton Times and Gazette** November 6th 1937
60. *ESSEX PIGS*, **Chelmsford Chronicle**, Friday 25 February 1938
61. *FARMING CRAFTSMANSHIP* **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 07 October 1938
62. **East Essex Gazette** July 22nd 1939
63. **The Times** Tuesday October 21st 1924
64. *SITUATIONS VACANT* **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 17 October 1924 **Essex Newsman** Saturday 18 October 1924
65. **ERO D/RT Pb1/1449**
66. **ERO D/RT Pb1/1444**
67. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 08 June 1928 Saturday 09 June 1928 Friday 22 June 1928 p2 **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 15 June 1928
68. **The Times** Thursday April 3rd 1930
69. **Essex Newsman** Saturday 28 February 1931 p1
70. **Kelly's Directory of Essex (1933)**
71. **The Times** Monday September 3rd 1934
72. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 18th January 1935
73. **The Times** Friday June 10 1938
74. **ERO SALE/B25**
75. **The Times** Tuesday June 14 1938
76. **The Times** Friday October 13 1939
77. **The Times** Wednesday January 17 1940
78. **Trinder IF (1971) The Postal History of the Tendring Hundred in Essex p70**

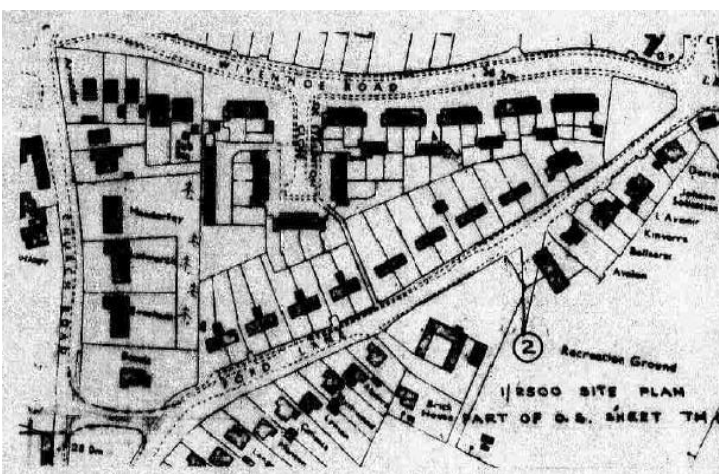
The Village Hall (1937)

During the first decades of the twentieth century, the village used Rev Pritchard's large cabin at the entrance to the Rectory for many events that would normally take place in a village hall.¹ This was felt to be too small, and fundraising started for a new one. The Village Hall was built on land at Brick House Farm, Ford Lane. It was designed by William Hayne and built by the Baker Brothers² at a cost of £700, raised over two years.³ A major source of funding came from a village fete and sports day held at Alresford Hall which raised £295.⁴ Other fundraising came from dances held at Alresford Hall, door-to-door collections,⁵ a grant of £300 and a loan of £300 from the Essex Rural Community Council.⁶

It was opened on Thursday November 18th 1937⁷ by Brigadier-General. K. J. Kincaid-Smith C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.,⁸ Bt Col, Chevalier Legion of Honour, from St Osyth Priory who had been High Sheriff of Essex in 1929. *May it be the centre for promoting all social amenities, not only in this village, but in the surrounding district. May it prosper.* Games for adults and children were organised by Mr Barr, Pilkington and Bills. Entertainment was provided by Mr E Draper (Brightlingsea), Woolard, Forgate and Moore (Wivenhoe).⁹ Major Cobbold and Oliver Bills of the Limes, Elmstead Heath were the two trustees; and a Management Committee was established by the Alresford Parochial Church Council (Walter Renshaw), Alresford Football Club (Harry Barr), Alresford Silver Band (Albert Carter) and inhabitants of Elmstead Heath (Oliver Bills).¹⁰

Figure 28 - Village Hall Plans (1937)

- Note the houses already built and the walkway between the houses leading to De Staunton Close (2) = planned Village Hall **11**



Chairs were bought for 4/8 each and the piano cost £31 10/-. In 1939, the declaration of War led to the discharge of the caretaker as his services were no longer required. In 1941, dances and Whist drives were held to raise money for the hospital.; but the wearing of army boots was prohibited.

In 1942, a committee was formed but only met once. In 1946, bad behaviour of some men led to the Saturday Night dances being cancelled. In 1947, another piano was purchased for £60. Fund-raising included hiring out the china and cup and saucers for 1/3 a dozen.¹²

In September 1948, two men from Brightlingsea entered a dance for the Elmstead Victory Hall Fund at 10:45pm, without paying. When challenged they assaulted four villagers – James Patterson Thompson of 5 Council Houses; Alex H Theobald; George Rouse and William Robert Pullen. They were arrested and charged. At court they were found guilty and fined £2 each plus costs.¹³

In 1952, a Children's Christmas Party was arranged for all the village children. Mr Ennew, the local baker catered for eighty at a cost of £15. This party continued annually until 1964.

In 1953, the Village Hall committee and the Alresford Silver Band united to hold a village fete. Mains water and a new sink was brought into the kitchen. A stage was built which could be dismantled for storing in the loft. Curtains were made by Locke's of Colchester. A Christmas Party/Lunch was held for the pensioners. This ran until 1965.

In 1965, Mr W Jennings built new toilets with cloakrooms at the side of the stage. In 1969, the Church joined with the organizing of the village fete after the withdrawal of the Silver Band. In 1969, the gas central heating was installed. In 1970, the Carnival was held for the first time. The following year, the Scouts took over from the Church in organizing the Carnival and fete. In 1972, Tommy Tinder opened the fete.

In February 1974, a plan of the proposed extension was drawn by P Sainty with an anticipated cost of £18,000. This estimate rose to £22,000 and two local builders joined the Building Sub-committee.¹⁴ In May, there was a 33-act concert to raise funds for the extension organised by Jimmy Reilly and Gill Newlyn. Performers included the Alresford Players and Wivenhoe Players. £80 was raised.¹⁵ A *wine and disco dance* raised £53 for the village hall fund.¹⁶ The Carnival and fete raised £400 for the extension fund.¹⁷

On 14th June 1975, a Grand Opening Dance was held and P Sainty reported that the minimum estimate for the extension was £9000. Priority was given to the following items: carpet (£100), additional heating (£350); water tank (£150); electrical power points and lights (£100); replacement of wooden floor of main hall (£1,500); redecorate main hall (£300); stage improvements (£300); kitchen and ladies room (£300); 120 new chairs (£1.20

each); ten melamine-topped tables (£15 each). By 1977, most of the work was completed and the final payments made to the builders. In 1979, The main floor was resurfaced for £480.

That year the Brownies started meeting here. In 1981, the Co-op Women's Guild commissioned an artist to paint a picture of Ford Cottage to hang in the hall. By 1984, weekly bookings included a Karate Club, dancing school and Alresford Youth Group and there were regular discos. Later that year, new central heating was installed by Blake and Smith at a cost of £2677; including a hot water system in the toilets and kitchen. In 1985, floor tiles were laid in the kitchen for £150.

In 1987, the Committee consisted of WE Lowe (Eagles Football Club); Mrs P Dimmock (Mothers and Toddlers); Mrs P Ward (Co-op Women's Guild); B Jordan (Camera Club); Rev E Britt (Church); Mrs B Tickner (Women's Institute); Mrs C Olle (Playgroup); D Newbold (Cub Scouts) and Mrs S Connew (PTA). The Chairman was A Corton; Vice-Chair - Mrs C Olle; Treasurer - Mrs J Pannell; Secretary - Rev Eric Britt and Booking Secretary - Mrs P Munson.

Around 1990, the stage was rebuilt. In 1993/4, the old wooden chairs were replaced with brown plastic ones and large tables replaced the trestles. The unrequired furniture was sold cheaply. New curtains were purchased for the hall and stage in pink and grey. In 1994, a hatch was built in the kitchen.¹⁸

The Village Hall is used for elections and many other local activities, including the local Scout Group, indoor bowling, weddings, photographic club, luncheon club, horticultural club and monthly Farmers Market. The Hall was extended in 2015. Behind the church and village hall is the 3.2 hectares recreation ground, with a children's playground and space for football pitches used by Alresford Colne Rangers Football Club and a cricket square.

Alresford Parish Council offices and meeting room together with sports changing facilities can be found in The Pavilion (a building attached to the rear of the Village Hall). The Pavilion has a bar and kitchen area. A bookable floodlit hard-court area for football, tennis or basketball on the playing field was opened in August 1992 by Terry Butcher, the England Football Captain. This cost £35,000 funded by the Parish Council lead by Joan Coates, Tendring District Council and the Eastern Region Sports Council. It was first used by the Alresford Eagles football team.¹⁹ The playing field is shown on the 1937 plans of the Village Hall as including the current location of St Andrew's Church.²⁰

The Village Hall has been successful in receiving grants from the National Lottery. In May 2004, £1500 was received to remove asbestos from the roof; in December £2005, £1414 to purchase foldable tables; and in 2010 £10,000 for repairs to the flat-roof.²¹ In January 2022, funds were received from RCCE to fit anti-Covid measures including four-in-one air extractors in the Hall and Pavilion.

1. Hedges J (2000) p42
2. ERO D/RT Pb1/5632
3. Chelmsford Chronicle Friday 26 November 1937 p.10
4. Chelmsford Chronicle Friday 30 July 1937 p.10
5. Hedges J (2000) p51
6. *OUR COUNTRYSIDE* Chelmsford Chronicle Friday 13 May 1938
7. <https://e-voice.org.uk/alresfordvillagehall/village-hall-history/>
8. Chelmsford Chronicle Friday 26 November 1937 p.10
9. Who's Who (2021) article ; Clacton Times and Gazette November 20th 1937
10. <https://e-voice.org.uk/alresfordvillagehall/assets/documents/conveyance>
11. Ibid
12. Paula Munson's Orange File (former Booking Secretary of the Village Hall)
13. East Essex Gazette September 10th 1948
14. Paula Munson's Orange File (former Booking Secretary of the Village Hall)
15. East Essex Gazette May 31st 1974
16. East Essex Gazette May 3rd 1974
17. East Essex Gazette July 19th 1974
18. *New court for sports* East Essex Gazette August 28th 1992, September 4th 1992
19. Read N & M (1998) *A Journey through Alresford* in Paula Munson Orange File p4
20. <https://e-voice.org.uk/alresfordvillagehall/assets/documents/conveyance>;
21. <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/grants?localAuthority=E07000076&westminsterConstituency=E14000734&page=4&locale=en>

Alresford Silver Band (1910-1968)

After the failure of a village orchestra ¹ Alresford Silver Band was formed in 1910 as Alresford United Brass Band.² The first performance was at Elmstead in 1912.³ Money was raised from performances and each bandsman donated 6d per week. In c.1927, they had a big fund-raising campaign to purchase a uniform dark blue with red stripes and gold trims for 26 members.⁴ Alderman Wilson Marriage was a keen supporter of the band and they played at the Colchester District Nursing Fete in the grounds of his home in June 1931.⁵ During the 1930s, the Band often led Remembrance Parades in Colchester,⁶ Copford,⁷ Feering,⁸ Fordham,⁹ Frating,¹⁰ Thorrington,¹¹ Wivenhoe,¹² as well as carnivals in Clacton¹³ and Maldon;¹⁴ and the Church Fete in Thorrington¹⁵ and Alresford.¹⁶ The bandmaster between 1934-1938 was Frank Watsham, a retired LNER signalman.¹⁷

After the War the Band performed for the Village Fete;¹⁸ Elmstead Fete of 1948;¹⁹ West Mersea Regattas of 1947²⁰ and 1948²¹ and Coronation of 1953.²² They lead the British Legion Parade in Little Clacton in August 1953.²³ Between 1953 and 1968, the Silver Band helped to organize the village fete.²⁴ In August 1960, the Band played in the Rectory Gardens underneath a blue spruce tree and helped to raise £60 for Church funds.²⁵ With a few gaps during the two world wars and another in the 1950s, it reformed for the final time in 1963. In July 1968, the Silver Band

were forced to abandon plans to play at the Alresford Church Fete.²⁶ Unfortunately, many key players, who belonged to the *Prince of Wales Own* Regiment, were posted overseas to Berlin and Aden so the band folded in 1970²⁷ after 59 years. The unused instruments stored in the village hall were sold to St Helena School to be used by the school pupils lead by Music Master Norman Smith. In return, the school planned to play a concert in Alresford. One of the bandmasters was Ernie Jennings who had played since 1912.²⁸

1. Hedges J (2000) p93
2. Holman G (2016) *British Brass Bands Historical Records*
3. *East Essex Gazette* April 29th 1949
4. Hedges J (2000) p94; *Alresford Band is no more Clacton Gazette* September 1970
5. Hedges J (2000) p95; *East Essex Gazette* June 20th 1931
6. *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 9 November 1934 p.7
7. *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 18 July 1930 p.9; *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 17 July 1931 p.3
8. *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 27 May 1932 p.10
9. *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 23 August 1935 p.10
10. *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 17 November 1933 p.10 *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 19th November 1937 p.10
11. *STMM Record Book 1 1932-1939* November 13 1932
12. *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 13th November 1936 p.3 *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 15th November 1935 p.10
13. *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 20 August 1937 p9 *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 21 August 1938 p9 *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 25 August 1938 p10
14. *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 13 August 1937 p9
15. *STMM Record Book 1 1932-1939* July 15th 1932, 1935
16. *Walton Times and Gazette* June 20th 1936
17. *Chelmsford Chronicle* Friday 08 July 1938
18. *Clacton Times* August 15th 1947, August 13th 1948
19. *Clacton Times* Friday July 9th 1948
20. *Clacton Times* August 1st 1947
21. Mersea Museum DM2_AB10_122_009
22. Mersea Museum MMC_P1141E_004
23. *Clacton Graphic* Tuesday August 18th 1953
24. Paula Munson's Orange File
25. *East Essex Gazette* August 26th 1960
26. *East Coast Gazette* July 12th 1968
27. *Ibid*; Holman G (2016) *British Brass Bands Historical Records*, (2018) *Brass Bands of the British Isles* p40
28. *Alresford Band is no more Clacton Gazette* September 1970; *Sound of Music Still Clacton Gazette* October 23rd 1970

World War Two

At the beginning of World War Two, the village was surveyed as part of the National Survey of England and Wales on 29th September 1939.¹ This helped with the distribution of identity cards, ration books from January 1940 and gas masks. Major Guy Cobbold was resident at the Hall with three servants, including Miss Ida Fuchs, a forty-year-old Austrian Jewess working as a house-maid.²

During World War, One Major Cobbold served in the 9th Battalion, Yorks and Lancaster Regiment (Oa/74806). He disembarked in Boulogne, France in August 1915 as a Second Lieutenant; was promoted to Temporary Captain, then Captain in 1916; and Temporary Major in 1918.³ He was awarded the Military Cross in 1916, Victory Medal and 1914-15 Star in 1920. The Battalion fought in eleven battles in Flanders, including the First and Second Battles of Passchendaele. In 1917, the Battalion moved to Italy and fought at Vittorio Veneto (October 24th- November 3rd 1918.)⁴ One cousin, Cameron (1904-1987), became Governor of the Bank of England 1949 to 1961; Lord Chamberlain from 1963 to 1971; the first Baron Cobbold KG GCVO PC and Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire. During World War Two Cobbold was commissioned as a Captain in the Home Guard.

Others who had served in World War One included Frederick Inman (Royal Field Artillery 1914-18), George Moss (retired Sergeant 2/5 Essex Regiment), Walter Henshaw (*"totally blind army pensioned"*) and William Kershaw (retired Flight Officer, Royal Air Force). Others wanted to join-up, including James Huntley who had applied to enlist in the Royal Engineers.

Civil Defence started to be implemented from 1938 and members recruited.⁵ These included Horace Jackson (Essex County Constabulary), Sydney Bispham (Auxiliary Fire Service), Ralph Poulton (Observer Corps Colchester), Oliver Huntley (ARP Colchester Ambulance), Graham Doe (ARP Clinical Department (Rescue) and Kate Edwards (Billeting officer). The Senior Air Raid Precautions (ARP) Warden was William Pilkington and James Hunt was the Deputy Air Raid Master for Alresford. Voluntary ARP Wardens included Percy Castle, Albert Rose, Basil Bush, Arthur Goodwin and Arthur Walker. ARP Railways were listed as Ernest Jennings and Robert Watsham. The Railway Decontamination Squad included Benjamin Brown, Alan Prior and Frank Corner. The First Aiders were Rosa Crowther (ARP) and Maggie Goodwin.⁵ Alresford ARP attended a training course at Weeley School about their role and used

the Home Office Gas Van to prepare themselves in July 1939. They were among 760 volunteers trained in Tendring (1 in 22). Alresford reported to the Colchester Control.⁶ In May 1940, the first aid post was moved from the Church Hall to the Village Hall.⁷

War time regulations were strictly enforced by the Senior ARP Warden Mr Pilkington, leading to fines of £4 for two cases of showing lights from buildings at night for one household in July 1940.⁸

Unexploded objects recorded as landing in Alresford, Essex dropped on 24h/25th August, 12/13 December 1940,⁹ 2 June 1942-31 August 1943,¹⁰ 3 September-30 October 1943¹¹ and between January 1944- March 1945¹² causing no casualties. Other incidents were recorded on 24/25 August 1940¹³ and 6/7 May 1941.¹⁴ High Elms Farm was bombed, causing structural damage. A Luftwaffe plane was hit, and the crew landed near to Broad Lane. A fighter was shot down and crashed at Wivenhoe Park. A barrage balloon drifted from a local town damaged house roofs and power lines.¹⁵ An inert, WW2 incendiary bomb was found in Poplars in February 2021.¹⁶

However, other local towns were not as fortunate. Clacton-on-Sea was the first place in the UK to suffer casualties on 30th April 1940, when a Luftwaffe Heinkel He111 bomber carrying a magnetic mine crashed into Victoria Road killing Mr and Mrs Frederick Gill; and injured 156.¹⁷ Clacton was also hit by one V2 rocket with two landing in the sea. Whilst Brightlingsea was hit by two V2s¹⁸ and bombed four times killing two people and injuring seven. Chapel Street, Colchester was bombed over thirty times, including Chapel Street in October 1942.¹⁹

Belgian refugee fishermen, working for Lewis Worpse of North Sea Cannery of Wivenhoe, returning with a

catch, observed soldiers exercising on the Ford Creek Viaduct. They threw hand-grenades into Alresford Creek killing a large number of herring.²⁰

Roads mentioned in the Register were St Osyth Road, Wivenhoe Road, The Pointer Road, Church Road and Ford Lane.²¹ At least seven council houses had been built. The Post Office was near to the Pointer (shown on the north side of the road on the OS one-inch 1954 Sheet 149 Colchester **(TM061213)**).

During World War Two, many of the men went off to war. They were replaced by members of the Women's Land Army at Cockaynes Farm. At Ford Farm, the Land girls and POWs from a local camp used

horses to work the fields. Land girls from the village included Joan Blundon, Florrie Goodwin, Dot Richer, Mary Atkins and Molly Marshall.²² Italian POWs helped to farm the fields at Alresford Lodge.²³ The first POWs arrived in Essex in 1941 at Wakering Camp.²⁴ Over 4000 German POWs arrived at Camp 186, Colchester from September 1944²⁵ and an Internment Camp for POWs was also opened at Butlins Holiday Camp, Clacton.²⁶ From October 1939, the collection point for *fat stock* grown in Alresford was Colchester.²⁷



Figure 29 Back row: Doris Radford (Wivenhoe), Joan Blundon, Florrie Goodwin (Alresford), Barbara Potter (Wivenhoe), Mary Braithwaite (Rectory Road, Wivenhoe).

Front row: Dot Richer (Alresford), Joan Potter, Audrey Ablitt (Hamilton Road, Wivenhoe). *Photo supplied by Florrie Goodwin*

The school welcomed seventy-five evacuees from London, including some who did not stay long before returning to their homes. At 8am Sunday June 2nd 1940, the final seventeen left, accompanied by Mrs Edwards, by bus to Thorpe station, then onto Ross-on-Wye. They arrived at 7:30pm.²⁸ Later that month, Tendring RDC costed an air raid shelter for fifty pupils at £125.²⁹ Due to the short warning time from attacking V1 flying bombs in 1944, a telephone was installed at the school.³⁰ Derek South recalled that buses towed a trailer full of gas; concerts for the Troops and Saturday dances were run at the Village Hall; and the disbanding of the football team that played at Whitegates in Ford Lane.³¹

Village Life continued as normal. In early January 1940, a villager was prosecuted for his second drink-driving offence and for dangerous driving. He was fined £20 and banned from driving for three

years.³² The Whitsun Services of May 1940, saw the church decorated in red and white with two-thirds of the village attending service. A whist drive and dance were organised in the village hall by Mrs Gilmour and G Baker with prizes presented by Miss Barton. The winning ladies were (1) Mrs Charlton, (2) Miss Humphrey, (3) Miss Jennings. The winning men were (1) Mrs Balls, (2) Mr Harvey, (3) Mr Carlin. Competition prize winners were Mr Mood; Mr Howlett and Miss Mills.³³ In June 1940, Flag Days were organised for the British Red Cross and the St John's Ambulance raised £4 1/2d. Mrs Pilkington raised £1 8/-; Mrs Pond £1 6/2; Miss Crowther 5/10½.³⁴ The Primitive Methodist Church had its anniversary service at the end of the month with a prize giving to children on Monday 23rd June.³⁵ In 1939, the declaration of War led to the discharge of the Village Hall caretaker as his services were no longer required. In 1941, dances and Whist drives were held to raise money for the hospital.; but the wearing of army boots was prohibited. In 1942, a committee was formed but only met once.³⁶

In March 1942, F Campling resigned as a Tendring DC Councillor.³⁷ During the Warship Week, a Grand Concert was held at the Village Hall on Wednesday March 25th. The village saved £6,061 towards the Tendring total of £123,259 which paid for a new corvette.³⁸ On May 28th 7-9pm; May 30th 2:30-4:30pm; or June 4th 7-9pm villagers could collect their new ration books from Miss Miller, *Lyndhurst*.³⁹ There was now one ration book, not the previous yellow and pink versions. Food types were organized into four weekly groups.⁴⁰ In July 1942, a villager was fined £1 for not having licenses for her four dogs.⁴¹ In August, £2 12/- was raised for the Empire Air Raid Relief Fund.⁴² On August 23rd, John Pilkington was assaulted at Colchester Market, after an allegation his cowman was being poached by the owner of Ballast Quay Farm. The attacker was fined £5.⁴³ In December, Sergeant Woolard entertained at the Elmstead Home Guard social.⁴⁴

The whist drive and dance at New Year's 1943, raised £20 for the Essex County Hospital. MC for the whist drive was G Baker and for the dance O Bills.⁴⁵ In March, the Women Land Army in Elmstead and Alresford organised a dance at the Village Hall, with a military band, which raised £33 for the Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross and St John's Ambulance Prisoner of War fund.⁴⁶ Also in March, Alresford took part in the Tendring Area Book Salvage Scheme – aiming to get 22,000 books to replace those in bombed out libraries or to be used for munitions.⁴⁷ In April, W Henshaw and eleven of thirteen tenants of Heath

Lodge were prosecuted for not paying the tithe of £97 6/2 direct to the Harwich County Court. They had been coerced to pay Henshaw who had not passed the funds on; against a previous ruling of the Court.⁴⁸ Between May 19th and 26th, the village took part in the Tendring Wins for Victory appeal which aimed to promote the saving of £100,000 to purchase twenty spitfires. Alresford was set a target of £2,500, which it exceeded raising £4304 14/-.⁴⁹ On Monday 21st, Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd June residents had to collect new ration books from Wayside Stores, Elmstead.⁵⁰ In August, the WVS led by Mrs Baker collected for the Essex War Welfare Fund: Miss M Watsham £1 7/6; Mrs Cormer 19/7; Miss I Cormer 5/9; a total of £2 13/10.⁵¹

In December 1944, the Elmstead Heath Methodist Sunday School held their Winter Treat in the Village Hall accompanied by Rev and Mrs Pearce. After a *good tea*, .. *the party uindulged in enjoyable games, Mrs Pierce presented the prizes from a beautifully decorated Christmas tree. There was a present for every child and in addition a threepenny piece and a bag of sweets.*⁵²

In February 1945, the Kempbrook Poultry Farm with 13¼ acres was sold to G Franklin for £420. Other items sold included: a sectional brooder house 40'6" x 12' for £120; incubator house 20'9" x 12'3" for £61; Glevum Gloucester 600 egg incubator for £9; iron water barrell on pneumatic wheels £2 10/-; hard cart 32/6.⁵³ In March, Guy Cobbold resigned from Tendring Rural District Council, as he had sold the Hall and was moving to London. He had served as Chairman of the Executive committee for savings responsible for organizing the Warship Week, Wings for Victory and Salute the Soldier campaigns.⁵⁴ In April Mrs Baker organised the collection for King George's Fund for Sailors raising £2 10/-.⁵⁵ In May 1945, the Tendring Rural District Council rates were set at 14/9 in the £.⁵⁶ In June the Red Cross Flag Week was organised by Mrs Heath (£1), Mrs Baker (£1 19/3) and Miss Jean Baker (£1 8/10). A total of £4 8/1.⁵⁷

The local volunteer unit was Wivenhoe Platoon, 17th Essex Home Guard led by Charles Gooch of Wivenhoe House.⁵⁸ They were filmed practicing in Wivenhoe Gravel Pit in May 1943⁵⁹ and in paraded at Brightlingsea.⁶⁰ A search-light battery was sited at Alresford Lodge⁶¹ and an anti-tank battery at Alresford Grange.⁶² Corke, commander of a flotilla of R-boats based at Brightlingsea planned to move his unit to Alresford Grange in the Winter of 1940-1 to escape the overcrowded conditions and improve discipline.

After an Admiralty Inspection this request was denied, and *HMS Helder* opened at Point Clear. The flotilla provided sea training to Commandoes in the Alresford Creek Area.⁶³

Aggregate from Alresford Sand and Ballast Company was used to build airfields in Suffolk.⁶⁴ On December 12th 1942, a sand lorry, driven by a resident of Epsom collided with an articulated lorry driven by Rodney Tricker at the junction between Ford Lane and the Post Office. The lorry overturned leading to a £2 fine with 16/- costs for *driving without due care and attention*.⁶⁵

Soldiers from the Norfolk Regiment were billeted at Brook Farm, tasked with destroying roads and bridges with explosives.⁶⁶ The Rector converted the cellar of the Rectory in an air raid shelter.⁶⁷

Villagers who served included - Percy Castle, James S Carter (RN), Ken Sergeant.

Five died and are commemorated on the War Memorial at St Peter's.

Gunner Harry Douglas Cox (no. **1141219**) 56 Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery died on April 27th 1943, aged 24 in Tunisia. This unit was equipped with sixteen 7.2" howitzer mark 4s and It formed part of 1st Army Group Royal Artillery (1st AGRA). He was the son of farm labourer Charles Henry and Marta M, born in 1919. His father had served in World War One Lance-Corporal (no. **2083**) Essex Regiment and (no. **483061**) Labour Corps receiving a pension of 5/6 per week from June 22nd 1919. Harry's siblings were farm labourer Norman, council labourer Reginald, Charles, Olive, Phyllis and Alma. Harry played for Alresford Colne Rovers. In 1939, the family lived at 1, Council Houses, St Osyth Road (now Wivenhoe Road). Harry was a tractor driver and farm labourer. He was resident in Essex in 1941.

Private Kenneth David Hart (no. **14392193**) 4th Battalion, Somerset Light Infantry, 43rd Division died on July 10th 1944, aged 19 in Normandy. He was the son of James William Crabb Hart and Rebecca (nee Cross), born in 1924. They had married at St Peter's Prickwillow, four miles east of Ely, and in 1930 resided at 20 Silt Road, Isle of Ely County. Kenneth's brother Sidney was born in 1926 at Littleport, Ely.

Sapper Jack William Ellis (no. **2158878**) 702 Artisan Works Company, Royal Engineers died on February 2nd 1943, aged 26 in Tunisia. He was the son of LNER carpenter and joiner Frank and Ellen; born on April 14th 1916. In 1911, they lived in Woodham Ferrers with a daughter, Daisy born in Ipswich. In 1939, they were resident at 2 Mill End Road Cottages, Colchester. Frank was a railway bridge

carpenter, Jack a railway bridge bricklayer and brother Claud a packer to a general engineer. In January 1940, Jack married Nancy May Cox in Essex. Jack was in Essex in 1941.

Sapper Harry Robert Pryke (no. **1890845**) 560 Field Company Royal Engineers died on September 12th 1944, aged 25 as a Japanese Prisoner of War. His parents were wheelwright Samuel Frederick and Mabel Miriam May (nee Barr) of Elmstead Heath (near to where the Spar Shop now is). They were married at St Peter's on November 18th 1911. Harry was born on April 12th 1919. His brothers were Stanley (born November 9th 1913), Fred (1918-21) and Ray (born January 5th 1929.) In 1939, the family were resident in Pointer Road. Samuel and Harry were carpenters and joiners. Harry was resident in Essex in 1941 but was captured in Singapore in 1942 becoming POW no. 11279. The death rate in these camps was 27.1% The Japanese listed the father's address as the Gables, Alresford.

Sergeant (Observer) Robert George Wernham (no. 924112) 115 Squadron Royal Air Force (Volunteer Reserve) died on September 26th 1941. He was onboard Wellington 1c bomber KO-X R1332 which flew from RAF Marham at 18:50 towards Emden in NW Germany. The plane ditched off the Frisian Islands after sending a radio signal that an engine was on fire at 20:26 – probably caused by heavy flak. All five crew died – including four members of the Royal Canadian Air Force: Pilot Sergeant Maven Ernest Farnan (no. **785036**), second pilot Sergeant John Harbin (no. **1007199**), wireless operator F/S Alexander "Lex" Harkness (no. **R/71459**) and Sergeant John Stephen Lappin (no. **J/5330**.)

He was the son of Charles and Ethel (nee Howe) who were married on December 4th 1915 at All Saints Church, Brightlingsea. In 1911, Ethel was recorded as a visitor with the Baker family of Brightlingsea. Robert was baptised at All Saints on August 16th 1916. He later became a carpenter and joiner. In 1939, Ethel and Robert were living at Leander, Elmstead Heath – a hundred yards north of the Corner Café.

James Walker Leach (d.1942) was the son of Miss Lefevre who had lived at Brook Farm, Alresford. He was born in Hong Kong and returned to attend Colchester Royal Grammar School, staying with his uncle, Albert Ward at Fenn Farm, Elmstead. He attempted to sail a junk from Singapore to Britain, but was forced to abandon the attempt at Penang. In May 1941, he came back to train as a pilot

and died during night training near Kidlington, Oxford. His older brother Robert Lefevre was captured in Malaya and imprisoned by the Japanese. Younger brother Dick was part of RAF Bomber Command.

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4. <https://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/units/328/york-and-lancaster-regiment>
5. **Tendring RD Register #4 DDYA**
6. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 14th July 1939; **East Essex Gazette** January 13th 1940
7. **East Essex Gazette** May 25th 1940
8. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 12 July 1940 p4
9. **ERO C/W 1/2/39**
10. **ERO C/W 1/7/10**
11. **ERO C/W 1/7/11**
12. **ERO C/W 1/7/18**
13. **ERO C/W 1/2/39**
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17. **Clacton and Frinton Gazette** 3rd May 2017; **Russell S Trouble in Essex EADT** October 11th 2020
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20. **Benham H, French PR, Leather J (1993)** **Essex Gold** The Fortunes of the Essex Oystermen p.162
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26. **The Little Book of Essex (2009) Dee Gordon p.31**
27. **OFFICIAL NOTICES MINISTRY OF FOOD SOUTH-EASTERN AREA CONTROL OF THE COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF FAT STOCK** **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 27 October 1939
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29. **East Essex Gazette** June 28th 1940
30. <https://www.alresford.essex.sch.uk/about-us/history>
31. **South D (2001)** Alresford: I Remember Things in General **Alresford Advertiser** April/May 2001 p15
32. **East Essex Gazette** January 13th 1940
33. **East Essex Gazette** May 18th 1940
34. **East Essex Gazette** June 8th 1940
35. **East Essex Gazette** June 29th 1940
36. **Paula Munson's Orange File**
37. **East Essex Gazette** March 7th 1942
38. **East Essex Gazette** March 14th, 28th 1942
39. **East Essex Gazette** May 18th 1942
40. **East Essex Gazette** April 25th 1942
41. **East Essex Gazette** July 4th 1942
42. **East Essex Gazette** August 8th 1942
43. **East Essex Gazette** September 26th 1942
44. **East Essex Gazette** December 26th 1942
45. **East Essex Gazette** January 16th 1943
46. **East Essex Gazette** March 13th 1943
47. **East Essex Gazette** March 27th 1943.
48. **East Essex Gazette** April 17th 1943.
49. **East Essex Gazette** June 19th, June 26th, July 3rd 1943 WINGS
50. **East Essex Gazette** June 5th 1943 rationing
51. **East Essex Gazette** August 24th 1943 WVS
52. **Elmstead East Coast Gazette** January 3rd 1945
53. **East Coast Gazette** March 3rd 1945
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55. **East Essex Gazette** April 28th 1945
56. **East Coast Gazette** May 28th 1945
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61. **Hedges J (2000) p17**
62. **ibid p96**
63. **Foynes JP (1994) The Battle of the East Coast (1939-1945) p.347** The R-boats were pre-war New York City taxis converted to Patrol Boats
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- 67. **Clacton Gazette July 13th 1940**

The village doubles in size

In September 1945, the village saved £5217 5/6 during the Tendring Hundred Thanksgiving Week.¹ A fundraising dance was held for 160 in the Village Hall raising funds for the Elmstead Victory Hall appeal.² A Whist Drive was held there in November raising a further £16.³

In September 1945, Tendring Rural District Council were questioned about the provision of a house to a disabled ex-serviceman, as he was not disabled. The disabled ex-serviceman had been let the property but had left after a week as *not fit for a pig to live in*. Another tenant had left after a week due to the dampness and the owner had moved back in.⁴ This matter was raised again in October for 10 St Osyth Road by Councillor Rev S Huskisson. It had been let to a man, 31, with no children ignoring a man who had 45 points. The system of the local housing manager consulting with the local representative had not happened.⁵

In 1946, a Parish Council was formed with five councillors⁶ after Alresford's population had increased to over the required 300. A Swann was Chairman. On October 26th, Essex County Council held a local inquiry to equalize the number of voters in Alresford and Elmstead by transferring Elmstead Heath and Elmstead Row. The conclusion was *The evidence submitted ... and a subsequent inspection showed that the area known as elmstead heath is physically separated by a belt of agricultural land from the main centre of the parish of Elmstead known as Elmstead market, the means of communication .. being an unclassified road .. with little development. On the other hand the road on which Elmstead dHeatha nd elmstead row is situated is a classified road and a bus route leading to the village of Alresford.. all the way to the village. The present Elmstead parish boundary comes practically to the railway line which runs through the village of Alresford, where there is a railway station, the nearest point on that boundary being only a few yards from the station. In our view the Elmstead heath area is undoubtedly more accessible to Alresford than Elmstead.*⁷

In June 1947, Essex CC made an order under section 141 of the Local Government Act of 1933 for the Parish boundaries to be increased to take in the fields north-east of the station and along the main road towards Elmstead.⁸ This area included the properties that had used the postal address of Alresford for many years and those at Elmstead Heath who had contributed towards the cost of building and running the Village Hall. In November, the Ministry of Health held a further inquiry at Alresford Village Hall where representatives from both villages had their say. The Deputy Clerk of Essex CC, Lewis stated that *One of the primary considerations is the*

community interest. As a whole the people of Elmstead Heath have closer community with Alresford than with Elmstead. The population was currently Alresford, 315 and Elmstead, 794. After this transfer it would be 565 and 544 respectively.⁹ Elmstead PC unsuccessfully suggested that the boundary line be between Blue Gates Chase and Woods Farm, approximately half a mile further north.¹⁰ The boundary change was confirmed in February 1948 and the Parish became 248 acres larger.¹¹

In March 1947, a milkman from Firs Dairy was fined £40, with £3 3/- costs, for exceeding the permitted amount of milk sold on ten occasions.¹² The Tendring RDC rate was set at 18/7 in the £.¹³ On April 15th 1947, Mrs Corker organised a flag day for King George's Fund for Sailors and raised £2 7/1½d.¹⁴ On Wednesday June 18th, ration books were distributed at the Village Hall between 2pm and 6:30pm.¹⁵ In July, the site for 36 proposed council houses was visited by a coach trip of Tendring RDC Councillors.¹⁶ These went for Tender in October.¹⁷

In August, the Bishop of Colchester opened the Village fete in the Rectory grounds, which raised £120 to remember the Fallen and for a new church organ. Following a road traffic accident at Weeley roundabout both a husband and wife from *The Cottage, Alresford* were fined a total of £9 and disqualified for 12 months. The car was uninsured and the wife did not have a license.¹⁸ There was a chimney fire at Plumpton's Farm which was extinguished by the pump from Wivenhoe NFS.¹⁹ In September, the Nursing and Cadet sections of the St John's Ambulance were inspected at the Cabin. by the Chief Commissioner, Colonel Hamilton, Branch President Lady Boulton and vice-President Mrs J Wright.²⁰

In February 1948, John Rankin McGregor became landlord of the Pointer Inn.²¹ In April 1948, Tendring RDC agreed a tender of £7,461 7/6 from Biggs, Wall & Co. for the Western Area water scheme, which included Alresford.²² At 2:45am on May 1st, a son was killed and a father, from the Council Houses, Alresford, was injured in a road traffic accident near to the island at Marks Tey. The father was driving a three-ton lorry which collided with a stationary fifteen-ton trailer and both were thrown from the vehicle.²³

On June 28th 1948, villagers collected their ration books from the village Hall between 2 and 6pm.²⁴

In April, fifteen families were on the council housing list of Tendring RDC.²⁵ In July, Mrs WE Pilkington won the best fruit cake award at the Tendring Hundred Farmers Club Show, Great Bromley. The local paper had to issue an

apology for not printing her name correctly.²⁶ In August, there was a joint Liberal-Conservative meeting, with Major Edward Boulton among the speakers.²⁷

In 1948, Alresford Conservatives was formed. At the AGM of January 1949, Sir Edward Boulton was elected Chairman; Lady Boulton, Vice-chairman; Mrs Daly, hon secretary; Mrs Whistlecraft, hon Treasurer; and committee members were Mr Swann, Baker, Pennell, G Doe, Mrs Baker, Swann, Gilmore, Crowther, Vardon, Alexander Holmden and Miss A Pilkington.²⁸

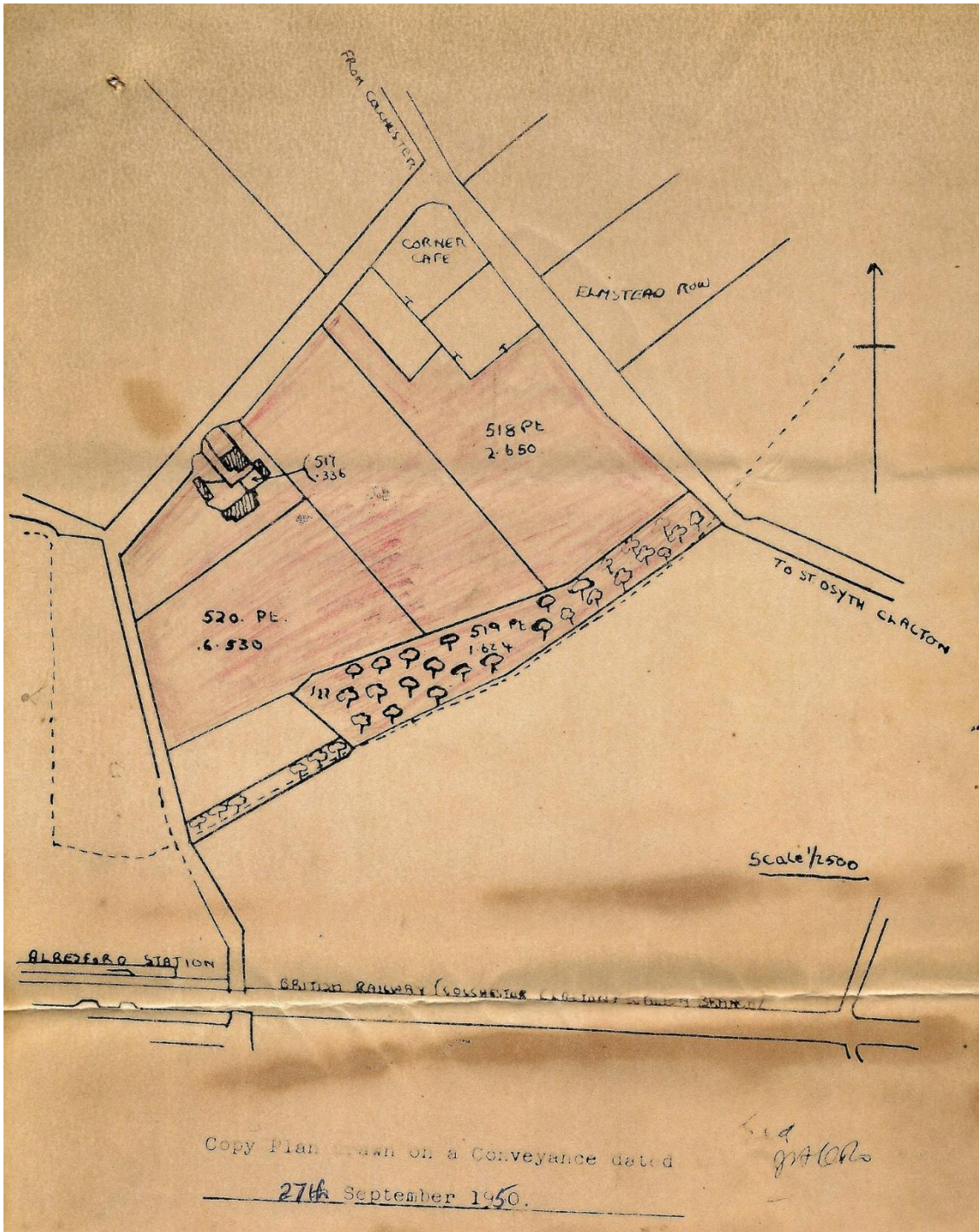
In January 1949, a mother living at Nursery cottage, Wivenhoe Road was prosecuted for taping her son's mouth, tying his mouth shut with a tie over his head and chin, and fastening his arms behind his back to stop him snoring. She was placed on probation for two years.²⁹ On Tuesday February 22nd, the Essex and Suffolk Foxhounds met at the Pointer.³⁰ In April, a further fifteen council homes were needed.³¹

In April, a postal error led to nominations for the Parish Council and Tendring TDC being received a day late at Weeley. They had been directed to Warley, near Brentwood, then returned. Essex CC determined that the nominations should stand without an election being necessary. Martin Alfred Swann continued to be both the Parish Council Chairman and Tendring RDC Councillor. The other Parish Councillors were George Herbert Baker of the Poplars; Joseph Barton of St Neots, Wivenhoe Road; Sir Edward John Boulton of Alresford Hall; and Rev JR McCallum.³²

During Easter week an art exhibition was held in the Cabin by local artist Henry Sayer. *Relics* were loaned by W Grimwood, Mrs Castle, Knopp, Rand, Miss N Humphrey, and Frank Judge. Mrs Watsham lent a photograph of the Silver Band's first performance at Elmstead in 1912. Excavations from the chancel were also displayed which included a medieval tile.³³

On September 27th 1950, Lucy Hall sold Heath Cottage Farm for £3200 to Arthur Charles Blain. He sold the land on March 31st 1959, to Arthur James and Raymond Raymond, of the North East Essex Building Company for £6750 . Bungalows then began to be build and sold to vendors.³⁴ In the 1960s and 1970s many houses were built in the triangle between Station Road, Wivenhoe Road and Main Road – initially on the 12 acres of Heath Cottage Farm, Station Road. Each bungalow sold for around £2,250.³⁵

Figure 30 – Conveyance map of Heath Cottage with 12 acres for building



This led to the population growing from 926³⁶ living in 311 houses³⁷ in 1961; to over 2000 people living in c.800 houses by the Millennium. A new school was built in 1965.³⁸ Most of the village shops and Post Office are located in Station Road, north of the level crossing. One of the first to open was Bruce’s at 58, Station Road³⁹ which still operated as a grocery and Post Office into the mid-1990s. To cope with the growing population in 1962 it was announced that a sewerage treatment plant would be opened on land near to Tenpenny Brook.⁴⁰ In November Tendring RDC gave permission for the Heath House Farm Estate to be extended with five more pairs

of semi-detached bungalows, three pairs of semi-detached chalet bungalows and two bungalows.⁴¹ In 1973, permission was granted for 100 new houses to be built and in 1975, a further 44 houses were to be built next to the Pointer. In 1975, it was announced that houses not on the main sewer would receive a rates rebate.⁴² House construction in the fields to the north of the railway station and south of St Andrew's added the majority of the additional 314 homes from 2018. In August 2022, the *Alresford Advertiser* was delivered to over 1250 residencies.⁴³

Many of the streets are named after varieties of apples and trees previously grown in the orchards. One is named for William Warwick Hawkins MP (1816-1868) who lived at Alresford Hall and was Chairman of the Tendring Hundred Railway that reached Alresford in March 1866. Crestlands is named after a Victorian villa that occupied the entrance to the road. St Peter's Mews refers to the old church half a mile away. Munson Gardens honours a former Parish Councill Chairman. De Staunton Close and Staunton Gate are named after a previous Lord of the Manor, Anfrid de Staunton (1312- 1337).

On January 31st 1953, the Great Flood hit the low-lying farmland at the Creek, with fields at Marsh Farm, Plumpton's Farm and Lodge Farm flooded. The water level was 1'9" above the highest recorded tide. Farmers were compensated at between £4 and £10 per acre according to how badly the land was affected.⁴⁴ Magistrates Courts Committee suggested to Essex County Council that Alresford move from Tendring Petty Sessional District to Lexden and Winstree Petty Sessional District.⁴⁵ Alresford celebrated the Queen's Coronation in June. An electrical engineer installed a television in the Village Hall for villagers to watch. The Scouts and Guides performed in a Variety Show and a tree was planted at the Pointer.⁴⁶

In 1953, the Village Hall committee and the Alresford Silver Band united to hold a village fete. In 1969, the Church joined with the organizing of the village fete after the withdrawal of the Silver Band. In 1970, the Carnival was held for the first time. The following year, the Scouts took over from the Church in organizing the Carnival and fete. In 1972, Tommy Tinder opened the fete.⁴⁷ In December 1976, the Carnival organising group of the Village Hall and Scouts set up committees to run the events in 1977 and 1978. At the later, groups were able to keep a proportion of their collections.⁴⁸

In February 1962, the 1st Alresford Guide retained the Harvey Cant shield competing against four others companies. They wrote a logbook for Northern Rhodesia.⁴⁹ F Geddes, civil defence assistant to Tendring Rural

District Council held a meeting attended by forty to establish a parish group. The Guides held a party attended by children from Doctor Barnardo's Home at Stanway.⁵⁰ The farm and market gardening equipment at Brickhouse Farm were sold. Mrs Grimwood organised a Mothers Union Party attended by fifty.⁵¹ In March 1962, Tendring Rural District Council resolved to standardize the numbering of houses in Alresford with even numbers on the north side and odds on the southern.⁵² The bollard at the junction with the Clacton Road was re-sited during road improvements.⁵³ The Youth Club celebrated its first anniversary in the Village Hall, organised by B Marshall. The Women's Institute Estuary Group met in the Village Hall convened by Thorrington. Musical pictures were sung by the Thorrington WI. The Football Club held monthly dances, with music by *Dane Stephens and the Deepbeats* in March. The Tendring RDC rates were set at 22/4 in the £ with 4d for additional Parish items.⁵⁴ On May 8th, Hatfield House and Welwyn Garden City.⁵⁵ The Brightlingsea, Alresford and Thorrington VAD raised £51.⁵⁶ Edward Tankin Nicholls of *Chyandour*, Colchester Road, was awarded the British Empire Medal by General Sir Roderick McCloud. Raymond Copping and Edward Pheasant of the 1st Alresford Scouts competed in the annual hiking and cycling marathon.⁵⁷ In June 1962, the Charity Commissioners started to draw up a list of Alresford Charities.⁵⁸ A new selection of fiction and technical library was brought from the Chelmsford Centre to the Alresford County Library. The existing stock had been in place for four months and were returned to Chelmsford. The Darby and Joan Club went on a mystery tour organised by the WVS to Felixstowe and Pin Mill. The Ratepayers Association announced that new street name plates were to be installed for all roads that had been renamed. The footpath to Frating was signposted.⁵⁹ Mrs Crowther organised a collection for the Royal National Institute for the Blind raising £8 16/8. The Youth Club, led by Mrs Sheppard, held a rummage sale raising £7 10/-.⁶⁰ In July, there was a two hour power cut *as a result of a power failure*. Alresford Brownies came third in the Brownie Revels held at Heather Cottage, *home of Mr and Mrs RC Finch*. They won the under-nine ball balancing competition competing against 100 Brownies from Brightlingsea, Great Bentley and Wivenhoe.⁶¹ Alresford Sand and Ballast won the Harry Gray Challenge Bowl for the best trade stand at the Tendring Hundred Farmers Clun annual show.⁶² In August, the Parish Council asked Tendring RDC to provide more litter bins and also contacted the Village Hall about building a car park.⁶² On August 18th, a fatal crash in an Austin A30 at the Pointer Crossroads was caused by the poor visibility at the junction from Church

Road. Two villagers donated land so that the junction could be made safer and hedges cut back.⁶⁴ Sixteen Brownies went to Dovercourt for a picnic; then boarded the *River Lady* to cruise down to Pin Mill and Shotley. They were accompanied by Brown Owl Billy Fitch and Tawny Owl Mrs Townrow. The Elmstead Heath Methodist Sunday School's Annual outing was to Walton with tea provided at the YMCA.⁶⁵ In September, Mrs R Crowther raised £6 for the St John's Ambulance with a door-to-door collection. A coffee evening at Heather Cottage raised £4 10/- for WI funds.⁶⁶ Forty-one members of the Darby and Joan Club visited the Ocean Theatre, Clacton with the WVS.⁶⁷ In November, the library announced a large increase the lending of fiction books due to the growing population.⁶⁸ In December, Audrey Goode was *Alresford Princess* at the Parish Church Bazaar held at the Village Hall, which raised £27 to repair the Tower.⁶⁹ There was a Public Inquiry at Weeley into the rejected plans of John L Adams, the licensee of the *Rose and Crown* to build a dwelling and chicken farm on land close to the Inn that backed onto the railway line. The property had a frontage of 280' on to the B1027.⁷⁰

In January 1963, the Library reported an increase in the number of books issued.⁷¹ A residents party was held attended by fifty *old people* in the Village Hall who ate a three course meal and were entertained by Mrs Plowright on the piano, the youth group and the Alresford Princes. Finance was freed for the construction of the new rectory in the grounds north-east of the Georgian building which was to be sold. Part of the Rectory Glebe behind the buildings would be used for Parish events. Work started in late March.⁷²

In February, a driver from St Osyth collided with another vehicle when turning across the road to the petrol station on Brightlingsea Road. He was fined £5 with one guineas advocate fee. A combined Mothers Union meeting, with Thorrington and Wivenhoe, raised £11 11/6 from a bring-and-buy sale. The church sent a donation of £10 to the Bishop's Famine Appeal. The Ratepayer's Association held their first dance at the village Hall.⁷³ During the coldest winter for sixty years, the church was encircled by snow drifts, the radiator pipes burst and emergency oil heaters were employed. The Elmstead Heath Methodist Church Sunday school held a party. D Prior showed films; D South and Mrs J Wingrave organised games in the Village Hall.⁷⁴ On Wednesday February 19th, the Mothers Union held a business meeting in the Cabin. A whist drive was held raising funds for the King George's Fund for Sailors. The Youth Club held a dance for fifty. Two radiators, the boiler and an overhead pipe were damaged in the Church.⁷⁵

In March, over forty young people attended the Tuesday Alresford Youth Club. Val Alton and the Tempests played dance music. E Jennings of the Silver Band gave instruction on various brass instruments. PT was led by Mr Weeks of Wivenhoe. At the Women's Institute, Mrs Scofield demonstrated patch-work and a club was formed. Mrs Fitch shared her slides of France and Italy. Mrs Swann organised a guessing game won by Mrs Ham, Potter and Godwin. The design a headdress competition for an inn was won by Mrs Ham and Taylor. The Guides and Brownies held their Thinking Day at their Headquarters led by Mrs Fitch (Brown Owl) and Mrs Sallows (Guides Captain.)⁷⁶ Heath Farm Service Station opened opposite the Pointer Inn. For the first week, petrol was on special offer with a saving of a 1/- per gallon: Little David Standard 3/ 4½ (90 oct.); Little David Mixture (94 oct.) 3/8½ (94 oct.); Little David Supreme (98 oct.) 3/11 (98 oct.) and Little David Super (100 oct.) The Darby and Joan Club were entertained by the women from Great Bentley Women's Institute's mimes and sketches. The Mother's Union met in the Cabin and Mrs Loveless spoke about Lenten resolutions.⁷⁷ After the cold weather, Tendring Rural District Council were to repair burst pipes, cracked sanitary pans, water tanks and wash-basins in council houses. Below ground water pipes had also frozen. There was a chimney fire at 9 Wivenhoe Road. The Alresford rate was set at 8/10 including an one-penny prescript.⁷⁸ In April, the Parish Council asked Tendring RDC to build council houses in Wivenhoe Road as the sewer had been completed. This request was dismissed.⁷⁹

In May applications for nine detached bungalows in Ford Lane.⁸⁰ During Whit Week, Essex CC conducted a traffic census which showed an average of 6836 cars passed daily along Brightlingsea Road. There was a peak on Whit Sunday of 11,556 and on Whit Monday 10,669. The normal daily rate was 4,500.⁸¹

In May, a whist drive for church funds was held in the Village Hall. The Methodists looked for a building closer to the new houses in the village. The grounds of Alresford Hall were open for people to view the bluebells. The WI made £13 13/2 from their Spring sale. The Guides and Brownies made £11 4/-. Rosemary Hodge, Sarah Fitch, Mrs Crowther, Janet farthing, Mrs Farthing, Mrs Hall and Mrs Johnson were competition winners.⁸²

In June, the Methodist Church held a Summer Fete which raised £30. Forty-one members of the Darby and Joan Club went on a mystery tour to Bury St Edmund's visiting the Abbey gardens and cathedral. They

stopped for tea at Kersey on the way back. Lynne Watson, 11, was selected as the Fete Princess by the judges Joy Harvey of the Portway-Harvey School of Dancing, Colonel Bird and Major Lance. The three losing finalists were presented with *a bottle of scent*: Pat Nunn, June Swingwood and Beryl Bream.⁸³

The Methodist Church celebrated their anniversary with the pupils singing special hymns and recitations. A quarter of Mr and Mrs Smith, Angela and Derek sang with Mrs Greenaway at the organ. The collection was donated to the Sunday School funds. Mr S Ennew's home at 12, Coach Road, Alresford was burgled.⁸⁴ The Women's Institute heard about Rev Johnston's experience as a Fleet Street journalist. The president showed the first place certificate from the *Essex Show* for their entry in the *Garden Produce Cooperative Class*. A competition for the most visible buttons was won by Mrs Bailey with 18 buttons. Mrs Blackmore and Farthing won the cricket competition.⁸⁵

In July, WT Davies, Housing Ministry Inspector, heard concerns about 100 houses being built by North East Essex Development Company off Cockaynes Lane, behind Station Road with a narrow access road to the B1027. The company had built 400 houses in the previous five years. The land was owned by Councillor Cecil Harvey who was also *Chairman of the rural council*. Essex CC opposed this plot of land being built on. In August, Mr Davies reported that a substantial proportion of the cars would use Cockaynes Lane and it would be inappropriate to widen and improve the junction with the B1027 unless both sides of Cockaynes were developed. Land would be developed in the existing limits of Alresford. The minister dismissed the appeal.⁸⁶

In July, funds raised at the fete were to be principally given to the Church for running costs and the Tower restoration. Alresford Fete Princess Lynne Watson with her attendants Rosemary Peck and Alison Sibley would be take part. A barbeque and dance were held by the Liberals in the Village Hall. A coffee evening for Brightlingsea & District Guides was held by Mrs Baker at the Poplars. Guides from Wivenhoe, Great Bentley, Thorrington, Brightlingsea and Alresford attended with campfire songs sung. The Mother's Union had a talk from hospital almoner Mrs Gaye. The Housing Committee of the Tendring RDC discussed a crash scheme for 300-400 new council houses as the £400,000 drainage scheme through Alresford was completed.⁸⁷ The school pupils won the monthly Tendring RDC National Savings Shield, which was presented by The Chairman Captain GE Kemball. Over 93% of the pupils were members, organised by Mrs DE Whistlecraft.⁸⁸

The Alresford Guides entertained at a coffee morning at the Lodge, Thorrington singing camp-fire songs with neighbouring groups. The Women's Institute visited the Ocean Theatre to Clacton. Darby and Joan Club were entertained by the Calvary Sisters of Kirby Cross.⁸⁹ A whist drive was held in the Cabin for Church funds.⁹⁰ The Thorrington Parish Council discussed the closure of Alresford Railway Station.⁹¹ On Thursday August 28th, the Methodist Church Sunday School went on their annual outing at Felixstowe.⁹²

In August, the Ratepayers and Residents Association met the Essex CC Councillor about the state of Station Road, especially *the pond*. Essex CC workmen had worked I Station Road on Saturday August 30th. Essex XCC were to build a footpath westwards from The Pointer. Tendring RDC would be recommended to adopt the sewer on Heath House Farm Estate as soon as the last properties were connected. The solicitor of the Essex federation of Ratepayers and Kindred Associations was to be kept fully informed about the outstanding footpaths on the Heath House Farm Estate.⁹³

The school Harvest Festival was at the Village Hall. Gifts of produce, flowers and vegetables were sent to the Seven Rivers Cheshire Home at Great Bromley. The collection of £2 was sent to Oxfam. Weekly keep-fit classes were run by Joy Harvey on Monday evenings. From November 1st, the Post Office moved from Mrs Marks to Mr Bruce's grocery shop, near the level crossing gate⁹⁴

The Harvest Festival at St Peter's Church gave the collection to Church of England Pensions Fund and the Hostel of St Luke. The Darby and Joan Club by the Tendring RDC Road Safety Committee members, Mrs M Taylor and Mr Carter.⁹⁵ Alresford residents asked for a Co-op shop to be opened, with a petition of 120 signatures. The Methodist Church held their annual prize-giving service led by Mr Minter of Brightlingsea. Prizes were given to every child by Mrs R Griggs.⁹⁶ A WVS jumble sale made £32 for the Darby and Joan Club. The Women's Institute Birthday cake was cut by Mrs Rogers. Mrs Leeks gave a talk on Christmas decorations. On October 25th, the Ratepayers' Association held a sherry party at *Brecky*, Coach Road organised by Mrs J Corbett. They celebrated the successes of their first two years which included a doctor's surgery, street lights and a telephone box.⁹⁷

In November, Mr and Mrs Marks retired as sub-postmasters and the Post Office moved to Hunters grocers near to the level crossing. Nine year old George White of Crestland Wood was in a collision with a car. He was detained in hospital for three days with head and wrist injuries.⁹⁸

The final open day was held at the Victorian School building. The Darby and Joan Club met and played games. The Mothers Union met and welcomed new members. The Remembrance Parade was led by the band of the Queen's Own Buffs Regiment; and played the *Last Post* and *Reveille*. Wreaths were laid by Sir Edward and Lady Wyatt. Captain GE Kemball led the British legion detachment. The WVS and Girl Guides were present. Colours were presented and placed at the East End of the church.⁹⁹

The Liberal Association held a whist evening. Essex CC exchanged the library books which were chosen by volunteers Mrs Grinsted, Spence and Miss Carruthers.¹⁰⁰ The Labour Party canvassed in the village before David Winnick spoke to the members. At the annual meeting of the Women's Institute, Mrs Rogers was re-elected president; Mrs Bush, treasurer and Mrs Gorham, secretary. Committee members elected were Mrs Blackmore, Dyer, Farthing, Jennings, Marks, Schofield and Swann. Mrs Ham won the competition for best WI motto.¹⁰¹

On Saturday December 7th, Lady Wyatt opened the Village Hall Christmas Bazaar. Proceeds went to Church Funds. The Christmas Club at the Pointer paid out £1,270. Later the Football Club held a Christmas dance with music by Lee Scott and the Roulettes. Seventeen members of the Mother's Union met and raised £2 10/- with a bring-and-buy sale. A collection for £1 was taken for the children's home.¹⁰² At the Women's Institute social Mrs Boreham became secretary. Mrs Surann accompanied carol singing. Refreshments were served by the committee. At the Liberal Bazaar, a stall for Muscular Dystrophy raised £2.¹⁰³ Major Roland Edward Corbet of Brecky, Brightlingsea Road retired from the army after 37 years.¹⁰⁴

In 1968, Don Munson approached the Sand & Gravel Company with a proposal to fish one of the worked-out pits at Church Meadows. A meeting was held at the Pointer and sixty joined the Alresford Angling Association. This soon grew to 200 fishing in five ponds in the village and Frating.¹⁰⁵

In 1970, the *Alresford Advertiser* was established by Rev Hallidie-Smith as a quarterly magazine.¹⁰⁶ A modern Rectory was built north of the existing one in 1976; but replaced by one built opposite St Andrew's in 1983 and the older ones' sold. The Church raised £3500 for the new building, recovered £1500 from the 43% tax, received grants from Church Commissioners and Diocese of £2500 each.¹⁰⁷ Also in Autumn 1970, the Parish Council successfully applied to Tendring Rural District Councillor to have two more members, up to eleven, as the village population had grown to 1468; with an election on December 5th. They also wanted a third District Councillor.¹⁰⁸

According to the 1971 Census, 93.5% of homes had bathrooms.¹⁰⁹

1972 started with parties in the Village Hall for the church choir, the Social Club,¹¹⁰ 35 children from the Sunday School¹¹¹ and Co-op Guild.¹¹² A new by-law made it an offence for dogs to foul pavements.¹¹³ Permission to build three bungalows at Rose Cottage, Colchester Road was denied.¹¹⁴ In February, the Guides held a party for children from the Dr Barnado's home and the Scouts held a sausage and mash supper, with a wine bar.¹¹⁵ Mrs Billy Fitch raised £36.68 for the Sunflower Guild of the Church of England.¹¹⁶ On Brightlingsea Road there was a collision between an E-type Jaguar and a Morris pick-up.¹¹⁷ In March, Tendring RDC set the domestic rates at 72p in the £ and commercial at 82p. Alresford villages would pay an additional 2p in the £.¹¹⁸ The Parish Council complained about the continued use of a premise in Coach Road for light engineering, there not being a low speed limit on the B1027 and *indiscriminate rubbish dumping* at the Ford.¹¹⁹ In April, a 30mph limit was imposed on Coach Road, and Wivenhoe Road between there and Station Road.¹²⁰

In January 1974, 189 villagers signed a petition organised by Thomas Roberts against the plans to build 96 houses on 16-49 acres of Heath Farm, Cockaynes Lane. The owner, TA Tinneveld of Keelars Tye, had appealed against the refusal of planning permission by Tendring RDC. The development was outside the village limits; Cockaynes Lane was only ten feet wide and the B1027 junction had limited visibility; would strain the newly built Thorrington sewerage works and the school was full to capacity.¹²¹ An appeal was heard in May for 9 ½ acres off Station Road. . This was the third attempt to build this site. Mr Fitch spoke and explained the number of fatal accidents on the B1027. There were four permanent and five temporary classrooms at the school designed for 315 pupils, but already held 325.¹²² Both appeals were denied by the Ministry Inspectors.¹²³ The Co-op Guild held their New Years Party.¹²⁴

In February, a military whist drive was held for the blind fund.¹²⁵ The Guide Company raised £25,50 which was spilt between their own funds and blind children.¹²⁶ In March, Ernest Braithwaite of Heath Farm House was jailed for three years after receiving £9500 in bribes from John Poulson. He had been South-west Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board and pleaded guilty.¹²⁷ The Lavenham Merry Makers entertained Alresford church members and friends at an old-time musical. £40 was raised for the church building fund.¹²⁸

In April, Mrs Swann organised a collection for the *Mission to Seamen* which raised £13.95.¹²⁹ On St George's Day, thirty Cubs and 6 Scouts attended the Parade at Wivenhoe. Other Scouts were away camping. A rummage

sale raised £35 for Scout funds. The Women's Institute were entertained by *Alresford and Wivenhoe Junior Tappers*. A WI fashion show raised £23.¹³⁰

In May, twenty-five members of the Women's Institute attended the Estuary group meeting at St Osyth.¹³¹ The Scout Group held their AGM in the school hall. Belle Ridgers stood down as secretary. The Committee elected was Philip Dow, chairman; Hazel Baker, secretary; Bill Jennings, Social secretary. A coffee morning for the Darby and Joan Club was held by Mr and Mrs Sallows at *Maunderlay*.¹³² Alresford PC agreed to write to Essex CC about the B1027 at Elmstead Heath, which had a speed limit of 70 mph. Donald Munson was re-elected as chairman and Dorothy Rogers as vice-chairman.¹³³

In June, Sixteen year old Susan Pearce was crowned as Carnival Queen at a concert organised by the Co-operative Women's Guild. Mrs V Edwards organised a house-to-house collection in aid of cystic fibrosis which raised £21. The 1st Alresford Guides won the Baker Cup for the second year running. They built a dolls house which was exhibited at the Tendring Show. The Brownie Revels were held at Brightlingsea School and won the trophy for creating a scrap-book showing fifty years of Guiding. Fifty-two members of the Darby and Joan Club went to Cambridge.¹³⁴

In July, forty children from the Plygroup went to the zoo. Two waste paper collections had raised £35 and a grocery stall at the fete a further ten pounds. Mrs Reed was elected chairman; Mrs Day, secretary; Mrs Dow, treasurer; and the committee were Mrs Briggs, Lord, Coldbeck, Smith and Hester. At the women's fishing competition, Mrs Collins was the only one to catch a fish. Twenty-four members of the women's Institute went on a mystery tour to Maldon, via Peldon and Tiptree.¹³⁵ Twenty-four Guides of the 1st Company camped at Ramsey for five days with four guides and Wivenhoe Guides.¹³⁶

In August, Mrs Metson organised a whist drive for the Essex Fund for the Blind.¹³⁷ Fifty members of the Alresford Social Club went on a coach trip to Yarmouth.¹³⁸ Mr and Mrs W Boulton held a tea party at the Quarters which raised £10 for the Colchester league of Friends.¹³⁹ Alresford Social Club organised an *It's a knockout* Competition. Over two hundred spectators watched teams from the social club, football club, Colchester royal Oak, PTA, plygroup and Old Codgers. The winners trophy was donated by CB Motors and presented by Rev Hallidie Smith. £25 was raised for the *old folk of the parish*. A rummage sale for Alresford Colne Rangers raised £32.¹⁴⁰

In September, Alresford PC sought a loan of £3,000 from Tendring DC for the playing field. Essex CC refused a request of double wide lines along the B1027 as it was wider than 6m; but were checking to see if a 40mph speed limit was necessary.¹⁴¹

In October, a whist drive was held for the Essex Fund for the Blind was organised by Mrs E Metson. Alresford Social Club held a whist evening.¹⁴² A rummage sale for the Darby and Joan Club raised £87 and a whist drive a further £9.20.¹⁴³

In December 1976, the Women's Institute held a competition for the last rose of Summer won by Turnbull and Mrs Marriott. Mrs Latford won seven categories of the WI Flower and Handicraft Show. Other winners were covered coat-hanger, Mrs Marriott; flowering house-plant, Mrs Jennings; Christmas card, Mrs Crick; natural autumn arrangements, Ms Latford.¹⁴⁴ The Darby and Joan Club had their Christmas meal at the Geisha, Clacton and received a 50p voucher as a present.¹⁴⁵ The Co-op Guild visited the jigsaw factory at Stonham Aspel, near Ipswich and a basket meal at *The Magpie*.¹⁴⁶

In 1977, the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II was celebrated with activities organized by Mrs Fitch. Over £1100 was raised including £95.51 from a *managed* football match on April 24th 1977, between the "Posh" and the "Scruffs" during which the Rector was sent off for dissent and ungentlemanly language. Silver Jubilee activities costing £750 and feeding over 1000 people included a dance with raffle and bar. There was the first ever flower festival at the Church on Saturday, Sunday and Monday with a commonwealth theme. On Sunday 5th June, there were Church Thanksgiving Services at 11:15am, at 6:30pm, a Sunday School celebration and a mammoth bonfire lit with sing-song to piano music by Eddies Clarke, free hot-dogs and drinks at 8pm. Festival Queen Beverley King made the Jubilee draw. On Monday 6th June, a crazy sports day included space hopper races and apple bobbing; a never-ending game of rounders; a children's party with a puppet show and magic for 150 under-sevens; 657 children up to sixteen received Jubilee Crowns. On Tuesday 7th 120 senior citizens attended a meal with entertainment by Mrs Norrington, the Optomists and the Rangers at which five received £10 food hampers in a free raffle; baskets of fruit were delivered to house-bound senior citizens; a disco for *teeny-boppers* with record vouchers given as free raffle prizes was followed by a formal dance for the *In-betweeners*. Each children's dance had a free raffle, with five prizes of £2.50 vouchers. School children planted thirteen trees at the

Playing fields and at St Andrew's. A village sign was designed by Mr Slater showing the area's milling heritage and built by John Huke. It was placed in Wivenhoe Road near to the Station Road crossroads.¹⁴⁷

In 1992, temporary permission was granted for agricultural buildings to be used for industrial purposes at Heath Farm, Cockaynes lane. *One was for storing a refrigerated van overnight, another for making and storing stage scenery, a third for storing and handling animal foodstuffs and the fourth for storing toys and models.* There were already two businesses on site with permission for two more.¹⁴⁸

In May 1992, after a six year struggle, Brook Farm also received permission to continue as a riding school after Tendring District Council received 40 supportive letters and a petition signed by 401.¹⁴⁹ But the following year, plans for a mobile home to be used by the manager for overnight security of the 34 horses was rejected.¹⁵⁰

To celebrate the Millennium in 2000, an amusement park was created for the night at Alresford Hall. In On January 1st 2001, a time capsule was buried and blue fir tree were planted on the Green in Ford Lane by Philip Dow, Jim Sutherland and Alan Green. Inside were newspapers and the histories of village organisations. A millennium book was also signed by villagers.¹⁵¹ In June 2000, the old petrol station opposite the Pointer Inn was redeveloped into four detached houses; but was delayed to wet weather with a smell of petrol lingering over the village for some time.¹⁵²

In June 2002, a man was disturbed at 5:15am by staff at the Pointer Inn stealing cash from a fruit machine and collection bottle.¹⁵³

During the 2020-2 Covid Pandemic, the Parish Council and Colchester Food Bank delivered food to the vulnerable. On April 27th 2021, a villager was stopped in London for not wearing a mask, leading to a fine of £660 with a victims surcharge of £66 and £225 costs.¹⁵⁴

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3. **East Coast Gazette** November 24th 1945
4. **East Coast Gazette** September 15th 1945
5. **East Coast Gazette** October 20th 1945
6. *Formation of Alresford Parish Council Alresford Advertiser October – November 2021 p.14*
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8. **ERO D/P 22/3/10; Clacton Times** June 27th 1947
9. **Clacton Times** November 28th 1947
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12. **Clacton Times** March 28th 1947
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14. **Clacton Times** April 2nd 1947
15. **Clacton Times** May 30th 1947

16. Clacton Times July 25th 1947
17. Clacton Times October 10th 1947
18. Clacton Times August 15th 1947
19. Clacton Times August 1st 1947
20. Clacton Times October 3rd 1947
21. Clacton Times Friday February 6th 1948
22. Clacton Times April 30th 1948
23. Clacton Times May 7th, June 4th 1948
24. Clacton Times June 18th 1948
25. Clacton Times April 29th 1948
26. Clacton Times Friday July 23rd 1948
27. Clacton Times August 13th 1948
28. East Essex Gazette January 28th 1949
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30. East Essex Gazette February 18th 1949
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34. Conveyance of the land 1950
35. *Few growing pains for Alresford* East Essex Gazette September 2nd 1960; Conveyance of the land 1961;
36. http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10234153/cube/TOT_POP
37. http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/unit/10234153/cube/HOUSE_OCCUPANCY
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39. Hedges J (2000) p80; Trinder IF (1971) *The Postal History of the Tendring Hundred of Essex* p70 The Post Office had moved from Mead's Corner in the 1950's to 123, Wivenhoe Road run by Mrs GC Marks; then to 58, Station Road run by the Grocer and Newsagent Mr Bruce; and in 1965 by D Hunter.
40. Municipal Journal (1962) Public Works Engineers contractors Guide p2575, 2585
41. East Essex Gazette November 2nd 1962
42. Paula Munson Orange File
43. Alresford Neighbourhood Plan Draft 2b p.7 para 2.8; Alresford Advertiser August/September 2022 p1
44. Hedges J (2000) p9; ECC (2013) *The Great Flood of Essex 1953*;
45. Clacton Graphic April 14th 1953
46. Hedges J (2000) p90
47. Paula Munson Orange File
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49. East Essex Gazette February 2nd 1962
50. East Essex Gazette February 9th 1962
51. East Essex Gazette February 16th 1962
52. East Essex Gazette March 2nd 1962
53. East Essex Gazette March 23rd 1962
54. East Essex Gazette March 30th 1962
55. East Essex Gazette March 16th 1962
56. East Essex Gazette May 18th 1962
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63. East Essex Gazette August 17th 1962
64. East Essex Gazette October 12th, 26th 1962
65. East Essex Gazette August 24th 1962
66. East Essex Gazette October 12th 1962
67. East Essex Gazette October 5th 1962
68. East Essex Gazette November 2nd 1962
69. East Essex Gazette December 7th 1962
70. East Essex Gazette December 21st 1962
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72. East Essex Gazette January 11th, March 8th, 29th 1963
73. East Essex Gazette February 1st 1963
74. East Essex Gazette February 8th 1963
75. East Essex Gazette February 22nd 1963
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103. East Essex Gazette December 13th 1963
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110. East Essex Gazette January 7th 1972
111. East Essex Gazette January 14th 1972
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113. East Essex Gazette January 14th 1972
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122. East Essex Gazette May 31st 1974
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124. East Essex Gazette February 1st 1974
125. East Essex Gazette February 15th 1974
126. East Essex Gazette February 22nd 1974
127. East Essex Gazette March 8th 1974
128. East Essex Gazette March 29th 1974
129. East Essex Gazette April 11th 1974
130. East Essex Gazette April 26th 1974
131. East Essex Gazette May 3rd 1974
132. East Essex Gazette May 17th 1974
133. East Essex Gazette May 24th 1974
134. East Essex Gazette June 14th 1974
135. East Essex Gazette July 19th 1974
136. East Essex Gazette August 2nd 1974
137. East Essex Gazette August 16th 1974
138. East Essex Gazette August 23rd 1974
139. East Essex Gazette August 23rd 1974
140. East Essex Gazette September 6th 1974
141. East Essex Gazette September 18th 1974
142. East Essex Gazette October 4th 1974
143. East Essex Gazette October 18th 1974
144. East Essex Gazette December 3rd 1976
145. East Essex Gazette December 10th 1976
146. East Essex Gazette December 17th 1976
147. Paula Munson's Orange File; Tendring Silver Jubilee Celebrations Souvenir Programme ; East Essex Gazette June 17th 1977
148. Rural Development Plan Encouraged East Essex Gazette May 1st 1992
149. Riding school fears rejected East Essex Gazette May 20th 1992
150. Fear for horses over home plan rejection East Essex Gazette October 15th 1993
151. Villagers mark end of the year 2000 East Essex Gazette December 29th 2000
152. Better news is in the air for villagers East Essex Gazette June 2nd 2000
153. Staff disturb pub burglar East Essex Gazette June 14th 2002
154. Alresford man who failed to wear face covering fined £660 Daily Gazette Sept 23rd 2021

Alresford Hall (after 1945)

On Thursday 22nd March 1945, Major Cobbold again auctioned the Hall's fixtures and fittings.¹ These included furniture by Chippendale, Sheridan and Hepplewhite; a Lanchester 17 horse-power saloon motor car and an 18" Atco motor mower.²

By August 1946, Sir William Whytehead and Lady Rosalind Boulton Baronet, DL had sold Braxted Park, Witham and moved into Alresford Hall. (Telephone Wivenhoe 450.)³ Soon after his sports car was in collision with a bus in Thorpe le-Soken and he was fined £5 for careless driving.⁴ He had served as a Lieutenant in the Household

Cavalry: Royal Horse Guards Reserve Regiment and as Major in the 7th Battalion Essex Volunteers Regiment during

World War One.⁵ Sir William was MP for central Sheffield from 1931 to 1945, Government Whip and Lord Commissioner of the Treasury (1940), Vice Chamberlain of H.M. Household (1942-1944) and Deputy Lieutenant of Essex (1947) He was created Baronet Boulton of 'Braxted Park, co. Essex' in 1944⁶ and was also Lord of the Manors of Great Braxted and Kelvedon Hall⁷ He died in January 1949 and was buried at Braxsted Hall by the Bishop of Chelmsford.⁸

He was succeeded in the Baronetcy by his sons, Major Sir Edward Bt (1907-1983), and Lieutenant-Colonel Sir William CBE (1912-2010), who had been injured whilst serving with the Royal Horse Artillery in Tobruk; helped to re-establish the legal system in post-war Germany (1945-50); then become Secretary of the Council of the Bar for twenty-five years.⁹ The fourth Baronet is Sir John Gibson Boulton (b.1946) who was resident at the Quarters in Autumn 2020.

Lady Boulton moved to Ouaine Lodge, Portlet, Jersey;¹⁰ whilst Sir Edward sold Alresford Hall and moved to the Quarters in 1952.¹¹ He had fought in World War Two and been mentioned in dispatches. After the war he became a stockbroker with Mitton, Butler, Priest and Company and a *prospective Conservative candidate for Ilford, North*.¹¹ On January 28th 1963, he was violently attacked in his flat at Rutland Gate, South Kensington. He was robbed of £50 by three men, then left bound and gagged in his bed.¹² Sir Edward was a supporter of the National Art Collection Fund¹³ and the United Nations Association.¹⁴ He hosted parties for his nephew John in

London,¹⁵ attended the funerals of Sir William Teeling¹⁶ and Lord Weatherill;¹⁷ and the Marquis of Bristol's banquettes in London in 1972¹⁸ and 1974.¹⁹

In November 1955, Myles Dermot Norris (1903-68) and Dorothy Wyatt were resident at Alresford Hall.²⁰ He was Chairman of Cripplegate Property Holdings Limited,²¹ Burntisland Shipbuilding Group,²² British United Airways (merged with Caledonian Airways in 1970) and Admiral of the Royal Ocean Racing Club. He was awarded the CBE in 1954 and Knighted in 1963. Whilst living at Alresford Hall, he attempted to sell BUA to the larger British Overseas Airways Corporation, but this was rejected by the Government. He pioneered car-ferry flights to the continent²³ and purchased fifteen twin-engined BAC one Eleven aircraft.²⁴ He sold his sixty-three foot ocean racing yawl *Bloodhound* to HM the Queen in 1962²⁵ and had built the eighty-eight foot long auxiliary ketch *Tyger*, by the shipbuilders in Aberdeen he chaired. On Sunday May 18th 1963, the grounds of Alresford Hall and the Quarters were open for people to see the bluebells.²⁶ In 1968, he won the Royal Cruising Club's challenge cup for a voyage from Iceland to Spitsbergen, then home via Norway and the Faeroes Islands. He died at Alresford Hall in April 1968²⁷ leaving £176,275 14/- gross, £145,485 2/- net and death duties of £142,719.²⁸ Lady Dot Wyatt died in October 1978 and a memorial service was held at St Andrew's.²⁹

Between 1989 and 1991, Alresford Hall was advertised with up to 167 acres of land for around £750,000. Lot 1 was the Hall with 55 acres; Lot 2 - the Lodge Cottage with two acres.³⁰ In October 1991, permission was granted to FH Harrigon of *English Heritage Homes*, and Mr Lawrence and Mr R Kemp, for a change of use to a residential home for the elderly in 50 acres for 30 pensioners; and for the building of a new sewage treatment plant.³¹ An archaeological evaluation was made of the land to the rear and east of the Hall (**TM07502040**) in 1993 looking at the cropmarks, before Whistleberry Nurseries was constructed on eight acres. This found undated, post-medieval features.³² In 2001, permission was given for a new driveway and gates from Ford Lane against the objections of the Parish Council which felt that it was "*too ostentatious, too wide, too high and out of keeping*".³³ In 2005, the barn was converted into two properties.³⁴

Again in 2008 Alresford Hall was for sale – reportedly for £4 million.³⁵ By August 2020, the nursery was cleared by the owners Will and Susie Marsden for a "*.farm diversification to create a children's adventure play-land within Alresford Hall Farm..*"³⁶ called Wyvernwood. Archaeological investigations of the seven earthworks

to the east of the house prior to this found little dating evidence. During the Covid-19 lockdown of 2020/1, a 11 metres long swimming pool was built in the Eastern Walled Garden of the house – a retrospective archaeological examination of the spoil heap found a *sherd of pan-tile dating from the 17th century onwards, a piece of Roman imbrex* (raised roofing tile) and ten *pieces of animal bones*.³⁷ Construction for a new entrance was due to start from the B1027 in September 2021; 3500 new trees were planted with thirty bat and bird boxes installed.

Adventure play zones were and temporary buildings were then installed. The centre opened on July 15th 2022.³⁸

1. **The Times** Thursday 2 March 1945
2. **The Times** Tuesday March 13 1945
3. **The Times** Tuesday August 13 1946
4. **Chelmsford Chronicle** Friday 13th December 1946
5. **Who's Who** 2021
5. **The London Gazette**. 11 July 1944. p.3243
6. **ERO T/Z 151/93**
7. **Essex Newsmen** Tuesday 11 January 1949; **Clacton Times** January 21st 1949
8. **The Daily Telegraph** 20 September 2010
9. **The Times** Friday April 18th 1952
10. **The Times** Monday December 15th 1952
11. **Clacton Times** March 18th 1949
12. **The Times** Thursday March 3rd 1963
13. **The Times** Thursday February 11th 1965
14. **The Times** Tuesday July 7th 1953
15. **The Times** Wednesday December 20th 1967
16. **The Times** Friday November 28th 1975
17. **The Times** Wednesday October 24th 2007
18. **The Times** Thursday October 12th 1972
19. **The Times** Thursday October 24th 1974
20. **The Times** Wednesday November 16 1955
21. **The Times** Monday December 4, 1961
22. <http://www.aberdeenships.com/single.asp?index=101622>
23. **ONDB**
24. **Flight International: 365. 14** March 1968
25. **The Times Wednesday** January 31st 1962
26. **East Essex Gazette** May 24th 1963
27. Obituary in **The Times** April 16th 1968
28. **Probate, 28 May 1968, CGPLA Eng. & Wales; East Essex Gazette** June 14th 1968
29. **The Times** Saturday October 14th 1978
30. **ERO SALE/C1382; East Essex Gazette** April 28th 1989; April 12th 1991
31. **Tendring District Council – TEN/91.962; 91_000962_FUL—9671.pdf; East Essex Gazette** October 18th 1991
32. **Ecclestone J (1993) Whistleberry Nurseries, Alresford Archaeological Evaluation; Tendring District Council – 93/00001/AGRIC**
33. **East Essex Gazette** May 4th 2001
34. **Tendring District Council – 05/00444/FUL; 05/00472/LBC**
35. **Daily Gazette April 16th 2008**
36. **Tendring District Council – 19/01856/FUL**
37. **Polley L (2021) CAT Report 1682: Archaeological evaluation at Alresford Hall, Ford Lane, Alresford, Essex – June 2021 p2-3**
38. **Alresford Advertiser** October/ November 2021 p20; April/May 2022p14; August/September 2022 p6 **22/00248/FUL**;

St Andrew's Church (from 1976)

A fire was spotted at St. Peter's Church, by Peter Page of Ford Lane, at 1:30am on Saturday 2nd October 1971. Arson¹ or smoking embers from the stove² were suspected, but no-one was ever charged. Two hatchments and the foundation stone from the Victorian rebuild were left in place; but were vandalised within two years.³

£1,000 of the insurance payment was spent making the walls safe.⁴



Figure 31 - St Peter's Church the day after the Fire, Sunday October 3rd

1971⁵

Fundraising started straight away with a gift of £50 from Alresford Sand and Gravel.⁶ The loss adjuster came the following week and agreed the building was a total loss – paying £31,500. Salvaged items included the brass Communion Cross, lead from the font, the new brass alms dish, and a piece of the wood engraved *Pulpit built 1848 JB*. Some of the tiles were sold to roof a cottage in Sible Hedingham. The remaining assets of the Church were valued at £1,480.⁷

The Congregation worshiped in the Village Hall⁸ with the first service being a Harvest Festival and Baptism the next day.⁹ Fifty-six Baptisms took place in the Village Hall, six in the open-air at St Peter's, two at the Primary School and one at the Cabin. Weddings were held at Elmstead. A gold brocade cover was made to cover a trestle table to act as a Communion Table. An outdoor Carol Service was held in the ruins of St Peter's December 17th 1972. Considerable discussion and prayer followed before it was agreed to build a new church closer to the main village for £30,000.¹⁰



Figure 32 - Church in the Village Hall (March 1976)¹¹

Early plans included having separate nave, chancel, kitchen, toilets, general purpose room raised to act as a stage and chair store within a 2700 square foot building. There was to be a fibre-glass spire housing the recast spire bell; wooden doors on the south; and wheel-chair access.¹² Four years of fund-raising followed, including selling dishes made with pieces of the melted window glass and leaving the cast iron safe outside the ruins for donations.¹³ There was a barbeque in the grounds of the Old Rectory; a curry in the garden of Dr Smeadon's; a *Hobbies and Handicraft Exhibition* on October 21st 1972; calendars with a colour picture of St Peter's in the snow of Winter 1970; Collection of Green Shield stamps; a donation of fees from a television programme *Shepherd in the Country* filmed at the Creek by Peter Barkworth;¹⁴ a Brownie Concert raised £3.50; Mother's Union coffee morning £58.89;¹⁵ sponsored walks by the Guides raised over £60;¹⁶ an egg-throwing competition with the cheque for £72 written on a white, hard-boiled egg;¹⁷ Due to the high inflation of the early 1970s the cost rose to £45,262; with a grant of £11,000 coming from the Diocese of Chelmsford.¹⁸

In May 1972, the first of the three destroyed church banners was replaced. The Mother's Union banner was dedicated in a service at St Paul's Clacton.¹⁹

Throughout 1974, the Parochial Church Council and Rector became anxious over the delays of the diocesan parsonage committee.²⁰ It was suggested that Alresford went into partnership with Elmstead Church, but this was declined as a link with Wivenhoe, Thorrington or Brightlingsea was more suitable.²¹

In October the Harvest festival was held in the Village Hall, after an open day for the Sunday School. The produce was donated to Hamilton Lodge, Great Bromley.²² After family services cups of tea were served as an experiment that has continued. The Sunday School was to allow Secondary school pupils to attend.²³

The 1975 Essex-barn style church of St. Andrew's and St Peter's was designed by Bryan K. Thomas and Partners.²⁴ (They had earlier been commissioned for the house at Beth Chatto's garden, c1960.)²⁵ A fixed price contract was awarded to Cadman's of Colchester the builders and work commenced in early May 1975. The new church was built on the existing playing field next to the Village Hall;²⁶ in 1972 Jeremy Wyatt of Alresford Hall donated a larger recreation field neighbouring the building²⁷ and the Church gave him a piece of the Glebe behind the Old Rectory.

The new construction was built around hot-dipped galvanised steel box-section A-frames, which were reputedly the largest in the country at the time.



Figure 33 - On July 31st Ernie Jennings, a former Church Warden, laid the foundation bricks. The built took forty-six weeks. A Hammond electric organ was purchased from Frinton. The first Wedding took place on Saturday March 13th 1976 between Scout Leader Nicholas Webb and Sunday School teacher Lesley Pearce; on a hardboard floor as the building was not dry enough to lay

down the maple. Ray Milburn came dressed as a chimney sweep.²⁸ On Sunday 4th April, Richard Chrisnall, the architect's son, was the first to be baptised. In the next three months there were a further fifteen.²⁹

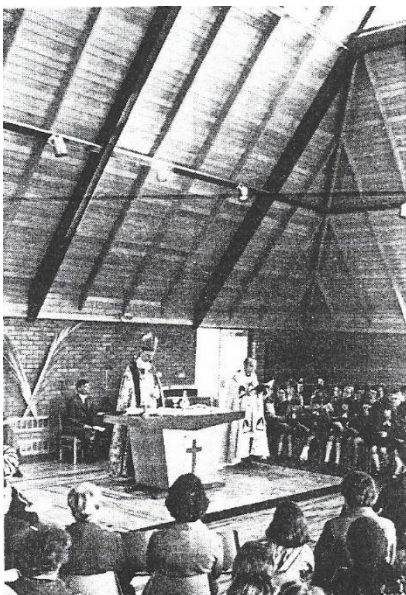


Figure 34 - The official dedication by the Bishop of Chelmsford, Bishop Roderick Coote, on Palm Sunday 11th April 1976.

An engraved piece of pulpit was reused in the Communion Table and lead in the new font.³⁰ Initially, the underground boiler room and the recreation field flooded as they were below the water-table. An automatic pump was fitted to rectify this in St Andrew's.³¹ St Andrew's opened as a multi-purpose building with a main room of 16m x 16m, with sufficient storage for all of the chairs in March 1976.

In December 1976, four adults and six children were confirmed by the Bishop of Chelmsford. Twenty members of the Sunday School received prizes and other more recently arrived received book-marks. A Carol Service was held for Alresford, Elmstead and Wivenhoe Girl Guides and Brownies. Rev Hallidie-Smith blessed the 2nd Alresford Brownie Pennant after which they sang *The wind through the Olive Trees*.³²

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The Brightlingsea Gospel Singers from sang at a service. The following Sunday, the children from St James' Primary School, Brightlingsea sang and played the Carols at the *Christmas Happening*.³³

In 1990, six AGAPE (area groups for area pastoring and evangelising) were formed and in May 1991 four men took part in the *walk of a thousand men*.³⁴ In March 1995, a Roland digital piano HP1800e was purchased in memory of Walter, Honor and John Humm. In 1999, an induction loop system was installed by John Hearn and Sons at a cost of £385.³⁵ On 15th November 2003, St Andrew's received £500 from Community Reach towards the installation of additional lighting costing £1368.32.³⁶

In 2013, St Andrew's opened an annexe, called The Hub³⁷ again designed by Bryan Thomas, supervised by Don Cardy and built by Cadman's. This provided much needed extra space for children's groups, mid-week groups and events including a fortnightly Internet/Book Cafe, Memories Cafe, Knit and Natter, Friendship Circle.³⁸ A new entrance as well as a new Vestry and storage space were also added. The build cost around £440,000, mostly financed by church members, and was officially opened by the Rev Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford on Sunday 17th November 2013³⁹ and won a Merit Award for individual design at a celebration on 6 July 2015.⁴⁰ There is a thriving congregation of 70 adults with a children's and youth ministry. This was also used by local groups, Tuesday Tots and Lego Club.⁴¹

The Rector is Rev Andrew Fordych MBE (since October 2019) and is part of the Tenpenny Benefice with Elmstead, and Frating with Thorrington Parishes. Over the weekend of Saturday 2nd October 2021, the fiftieth anniversary of the burning of St Peter's Church was commemorated with an open air communion service; a lantern procession in torrential rain from St Peter's to the village hall, then across to St Andrew's; and an exhibition in the Hub.⁴²

1. **Evening Gazette** Thursday 7th October 1971
2. **Recollections of Ray Giles (spoke to the fire fighters) and Paula Munson Sep 30th 2021**
3. **Evening Gazette Friday June 22nd 1973**
4. **East Essex Gazette** April 28th 1972
5. **Alresford Advertiser** April/May 2001 p8-9
6. **Alresford Advertiser** October 1971 p2
7. **Cardy D, Huke J (2001)** The Fire and the new building: The Church Wardens Account **Alresford Advertiser** April/May 2001 p8-9 **7. Evening Gazette** Friday June 22nd 1973
8. **Bettley J, Pevsner N (2007) The Buildings of England: Essex p.87**
9. **Cardy D, Huke J (2001) p9**
10. **Alresford Advertiser** April/May 2001 p8-9
11. **Alresford Parochial Church Council** January 10th 1972 **Minutes**; **East Essex Gazette** March 31st, April 28th 1972
12. **ERO D/P 336/1/14; Essex Standard** October 7th 1971
13. **Cardy D, Huke J (2001) p.9-10**
14. **Hedges J (2000) Alresford p35**
15. **East Essex Gazette** January 28th 1972
16. **East Essex Gazette** April 28th 1972
17. **East Essex Gazette** April 22nd 1972
18. **Bettley (2007) p.343**

19. **East Essex Gazette** March 17th 1972
20. **East Essex Gazette** June 7th , September 6th 1974
21. **East Essex Gazette** October 11th 1974
22. **East Essex Gazette** October 11th 1974
23. **East Essex Gazette** October 11th 1974
24. **Cardy D, Huke J (2001) p11-12**
25. **www.bryanthomas.org.uk/thebeth-chattos-house**
26. **Cardy D, Huke J (2001) p12-13**
27. **East Essex Gazette** March 24th 1972
28. **Alresford Advertiser**
29. **Alresford Advertiser**
30. **Cardy D, Huke J (2001) p10**
31. **Cardy D, Huke J (2001) p12-3**
32. **East Essex Gazette** December 10th 1976
33. **East Essex Gazette** December 23rd 1976
34. **Cobb G** December 7th 1990 **letter to Bishop Michael** about the coming Decade of Evangelism
35. **Receipt from John Hearn & Sons, Colchester** May 27th 1999
36. **Cardy D** May 11th 2004 **letter to Community Reach** confirming the work was done
37. <http://tenpennyvillages.uk/history.html>
38. <http://tenpennyvillages.uk/hub.html>
39. <http://tenpennyvillages.uk/history.html>
40. <https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/news/article/excellence-in-design-and-craftsmanship-recognised>
41. <http://tenpennyvillages.uk/hub.html>
42. **Alresford Advertiser** Oct/Nov 2021 p.1

Listed Buildings

In October 1987, the historic buildings of Alresford were listed. There are now twenty Grade II buildings, one Grade II* (The Quarters) and St Peter's as a scheduled monument - which prevents any future development of the site. Many of these buildings are on the grounds of the Georgian Alresford Hall Estate, between Church Road, Wivenhoe Road and Thorrington Road. These include the Hall, a barn, Brook Cottage, North Lodge and the walled gardens to the south and east of the Hall. Around the Quarters: the bridge, a cottage, dovecote, ice-house and an outbuilding are listed.

Others are Alresford Lodge, the War Memorial (in 2018), Brook Farmhouse, Church Farmhouse, Fanmans Farmhouse, Ford Cottage, Plumpton's Farmhouse (**TM0721196**), Tenpenny Farmhouse (previously known as High Elms Farmhouse) and The Old Bottle and Glass (now again, called The Old Ship Inn.)

There are also two milestones giving the distance to Colchester and Clacton-on-Sea, that date to 1912, when they were taken up, re-cut and replaced by Durrants of Colchester. They were not in place and were tracked down to the Alresford Blacksmiths shop, with others taken from the road. After refusing to hand them over to the Surveyor,



Figure 35 – Milestone opposite *The Firs* on west side of St Osyth Road. **(TM074213)**



Milestone on west side of the Main Road 200m south of the junction with Cockaynes Lane. **(TM064222)**

he returned next day with more men and seized them. They were then over 100 years old and made from brown, Portland stone. Durrant also reported that a farmer at Great Oakley had more than three for sale.¹ One is opposite the Firs, on St Osyth Road; the other is 100m south of the junction with Cockaynes Lane. These are part of a series between Colchester and Clacton that are all listed. A third is on the eastern verge of south-west of Dial Corner, Great Bentley. **(TM 113189)** The fourth is opposite 76/82 Colchester Road, St. Osyth. **(TM123161)** A fifth on the north side of Clinghoe Hill had disappeared after the road was widened in the 1920s. In November 2021, Alresford Parish Council asked for tenders to straighten the mile post close to Cockaynes Lane.³

The Parish Council has also proposed that other buildings are listed including Heather Cottage, Baytree Cottage (1788), Station House (1866), Old School House (1846), Alresford Grange (1911) and The Pointer (1730s).²

1. Laver PG (1925) Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society new series xviii p305
2. Alresford Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2033 Draft 2b (September 2019) p.4, 48-50
3. Alresford Parish Council minutes November 2021

Alresford Creek



Figure 36 – sunset at Alresford Creek

A mile to the south of the village, past the ruins of St. Peter's, is the picturesque Alresford Creek which flows mile up to Thorrington Tide Mill. A footpath on the north side allows access. Looking westwards, the remains of the pillars of the swing viaduct, bridge-keeper's boat shed, and the wooden ballast conveyor at Ballast Quay can still

be seen near the mouth of the Creek. Behind the trees on the right are the remains of the Roman Villa and Warren House, home of one of England's greatest ever naval Heroes, Sir John Lawson. One hundred metres past there, Bronze Age urns and beakers were discovered.

The Creek Bed was the setting for the legal case of 1898-1904 that prevented oysters being laid. In 2014, it was designated as part of the Colne Estuary Special Protection Area.¹ This is to protect the non-breeding Dark-bellied brent goose, Hen harrier and Common redshank; as well as the breeding Common pochard, Ringed plover and Little tern.² The Colne Estuary also supports nationally important wintering populations of a further nine species:

cormorant, mute swan, shelduck, Goldeneye, grey plover, sanderling, dunlin, black-tailed godwit and curlew.³

The ford is no longer passable by 4x4 vehicles due to the amount of mud at the bottom of the Creek, although it is still marked as fordable on GPS and paper maps. There are fifty yacht moorings managed by Alresford Creek Boat Owners since 1976.⁴

This site was used by Apple Tv+ for two weeks in early April 2021 as a filming location for 1890's Adwinter (a fictional village set near the River Blackwater that is only five miles away) in *The Essex Serpent* starring Claire Danes and Tom Hiddleston This required all modern yachts to be removed for the duration of filming.⁵

1. <https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0013690>

2. Colne Estuary (Mid-Essex Coast Phase 2) SPA Conservation Objectives (2019)

3. EC Directive 79/409 on the conservation of wild birds: Special Protection Area Mid-Essex Coast Colne Estuary (2014) 4. <http://acbo.org.uk/>

5. Daily Gazette January 4th 2021 and Daily Gazette January 21st 2021; <https://variety.com/2021/tv/news/claire-danes-essex-serpent-apple-1234905078/> ; <http://acbo.org.uk/> Alresford 1890; ACBO News Summer 2021 p1

Outline Map showing the information mentioned in this project



Appendix 1 How did Alresford get its name?

No-one know how Alresford got its name, though several different theories have been suggested with links to the alders growing in the marshland; to eels caught locally; to a Saxon called Ægel or the Saxon name for Lord. Interestingly, the Oxford Dictionary of British place-names includes both eels and a Saxon name as possibilities. The spelling has changed many times over the past millennium. Alresford is *Ælesforda* in 1000x1002, yet in the Domesday Book of 1086 it is spelt as *Elesforda*, *Eilesforda*, *Elesforda(m)* and *Aleforda*. Over time, it has continued to change on official maps and documents to *Alesford* (1188, 1290), *Ailsford* (1361, 1721), *Awfford* (1587), *Alresford* (1544), *Alresforde* (1556, 1599), *Alsford* (1665), *Alersford* (1696), *Arlesford* (1711, 1768) and *Allersford* (1777, 1805).

Alders – This meaning has been offered by historians for the Hampshire village of Alresford,¹ which was first recorded in 701AD. Research has shown issues with this.² *Alor* is old English for alder; but *res* means singular. A ford by a single alder tree does not seem to make sense. The similar *Alrewas*, Staffordshire means *alluvial land where alders grow*.³

Eels – This meaning has been referenced by several historians since 2005.⁴ *Æl* is old English for eel, but few places in England are named after food caught there and I have not found any documents confirming large quantities of eels were caught in the Creek or the River Colne close to Alresford. No eels, or eel rents, are mentioned in Domesday Book for Essex;⁵ whilst 1000 were caught annually in Stratford, Warwickshire⁶ and Petersham, Surrey.⁷

Saxon name – Ægel's Ford is old English⁸ and follows the pattern of many places in England named after a local, including Ipswich. Ælfgar was Ealdorman of Essex until 950AD and father to Ælflæd who first wrote the name.

Saxon Lord – The pre-medieval words for Lord included Jarls, Ealdor (Leader or Prince), eallwealda (all-ruler)⁹ and Ealdorman. Other place-names in England are based on their Royal connections including Kingswinford in Staffordshire and Kingston-upon-Thames. The *Prince's Ford* would make sense for land owned by Royalty between at least 917 and 1066; Ealdorman Ælfgar, his daughter Ælflæd and then personal land of the King until Edward the Confessor. Historians in Alresford, Hampshire prefer this definition for their town.¹⁰

1. Mills D (ed) *Dictionary of British Place-Names* (2011 OUP) p.10; Morant (1768) *History and Antiquities ... of Essex* p.451
2. Abrahams, P. (2012) Alresford's Name -What does it mean? Historical and Literary Ideas in *Alresford Articles No.1* p32 3. Mills D (ed) (2011) p.10
3. *ibid* p.10; Coates R (2005) *A Tendring Hundred Miscellany* in *Journal of English Place-name Society* 37 p.37
4. <https://historiacartarum.org/eel-rents-project/english-eel-rents-10th-17th-centuries/> Interactive Map The closest place is Sudbury (100 eels in 1086). Nationally 500,000 were caught in 1086
5. National Archives E 31/2/2/1501
6. National Archives E 31/2/1/954 Also 1000 lampreys annually.
7. Mills D (2011) p.10; Ekwall E (1960) *Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names*; Reaney P (1935) *Place-names of Essex* ; <https://epns.nottingham.ac.uk/browse/Essex/Alresford/532858eeb47fc40a98000d87-Alresford>
8. <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/~cr30/vocabulary/> https://saxonhistory.co.uk/9900_saxon_village_names.php
9. Abrahams, P. (2012) p32

Appendix 2 Portraits of Prominent people in Alresford



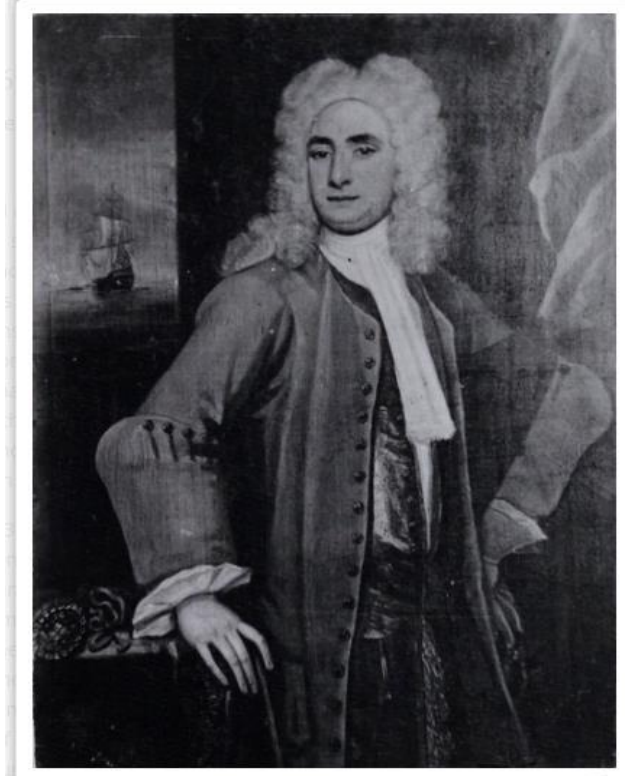
Admiral Sir John Lawson (1615-1665)
Family owned Alresford Lodge (1663-1721) by Sir Peter Lely, c. 1665 The Royal Collection



Lady Isabella Chicheley, nee Lawson (1641-1709)



High Admiral Sir John Chicheley (c1640-1691)



Captain Matthew Martin in 1712 (1676-1749) by Jacob Huysmans (ERO) owned Alresford Hall (1721-1749)



Richard Sanderson MP (1784-1857)

Owned Plumpton's and Brickhouse Farms
print made by Charles Eden Wagstaff (British Museum)



Rev Charles A. Smythies DD (1844-94)

(Clara Reynolds)



Sir William Boulton CBE (1873-1949)

MP for central Sheffield (1931-45)
Owned Alresford Hall from
1945– 1949



Sir Myles Wyatt CBE (1912-1968)

Chairman of British United Airways
Owned Alresford Hall from
1955– 1968

Appendix 3 – Village Organisations source: Paula Munson's Orange File

| Year started | Year closed | Organisation | Key Leaders / Notes |
|--------------|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1910 | 2007 | Mothers' Union | |
| 1935 | 1970 | Alresford Silver Band | |
| 1935 | | Alresford Colne Rangers | |
| 1950 | 2002 | 1 st Alresford Scouts | |
| 1951 | 2004 | 1 st Alresford Girl Guides | Billy Fitch. Paula Munson |
| 1957 | - | 1 st Alresford Brownies | |
| 1957 | 2007 | Darby & Joan Club | |
| 195? | | Women's Institute | |
| 1960 | 1987 | Rate Payer's Association | |
| 1961 | | Playgroup | |
| 1962 | ? | Baby Clinic | |
| 1962 | | Keep Fit Classes | |
| 1966 | | Co-op Guild | |
| 1970 | | Alresford Advertiser | |
| 1970 | 1979 | Alresford Social Club | |
| 1971 | 1975 | Alresford Players | |
| 1972 | 1984 | Alresford Eagles Youth Team | Reformed in 1986 |
| 1975 | 1981 | Amateur Dramatic Society | |
| 1975 | | Horticultural Society | |
| 1976 | 1978 | 2 nd Alresford Brownies | |
| 1976 | ? | 1 st Alresford Rangers | |
| ? | ? | 1 st Alresford Cub Scouts | |
| ? | | 1 st Alresford Beaver Scouts | Jan Diggins |
| 1984 | ? | Karate Club | |
| 1984 | ? | Dancing School | |
| 1986 | | Camera Club | Brian Light, John Hedges, Alec Corton |
| 1987 | | Scramblers (Under 5s) | 2022 renamed Tuesday Tots |
| 1987 | | Crusaders (Church Youth Group) | 2002 renamed <i>Work in Progress</i> |
| 1989 | | Late-Night Shopping outside Station Road Shops | 1998 moved to the Village Hall |
| 1992 | | Friends of Cockaynes | |
| 1992 | | Carpet Bowls | |
| 1993 | ? | Wednesday Club | Ray Milburn |
| 1993 | | Lunch Club | |
| 1994 | 2000 | Alresford Heritage Club | |
| 1994 | 2002 | Footpath Walking Club | |
| 2008 | | Alresford Project Group | |
| | | Motorcycle Enthusiasts | |
| 2010 | ? | Alresford Youth Group | |

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