



Supporting Christian Churches &
Chapels in Essex & East London

FECT NEWS 2011

incorporating the Accounts for 2010

NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

First of all I would like to thank you all for supporting us by being members, taking part or sponsoring the Ride & Stride, and coming to our Study Days and other events. It all helps us to continue to give grants.

I would also like to thank the committees for all their hard work. The Grants Committee, under David Lodge's guidance, gives up a lot of time, visiting churches which have applied for grants, advising them on what we can help with, and reporting back to the Committee. We help whenever we can. Churches do need our support, as many are facing declining congregations and find it difficult to raise enough money, but do want to stay open.



*Bardfield Saling:
one of Essex's six round towers*

In the summer I visited Bardfield Saling and Little Bardfield churches. Both are packed with history and well worth seeing, along with Great Bardfield, Great Saling, and Finchingfield.

This year we are trying a new format for the AGM, which will take place at the end of the Study Day. So I do hope as many as possible of you will stay for the AGM and tea at New Hall.

Claire Cottrell

RIDE & STRIDE 2010

The weather forecast for the 2010 Ride & Stride promised a cool day with rain. Fortunately it was quite wrong and we actually enjoyed 'a fine mild day with just a few spots of rain at noon followed by very pleasant sunshine for the rest of the day'. At the time of FEET NEWS going to print, the 2010 event has raised £99,268. This figure is down on last year, but nevertheless, and given the economic climate, it is still a great result.

This year a number of our regular riders took advantage of the fact that the Ride & Stride is a national event and branched out in search of pastures new. The twenty-three cyclists from Wanstead headed for Canterbury, enjoying the welcome and refreshments awaiting them at every stop. A family from Woodham Ferrers journeyed to Sudbury, with the youngest member of the team (aged 4) visiting fifteen churches and enjoying several biscuits and a very nice cake with chocolate buttons on top.

Back in Essex (to be precise, East London), in Stratford a team of sixteen carried African drums and instruments and sang an African song at each of the churches they visited. St John the Baptist, in Finchingfield, was visited by a man on his penny-farthing. At St Andrew, Boreham, on the 60th anniversary of the Organists' Association, the organ was played by four visiting organists. And the team of seven from Plaistow loaded their bikes on to the train to Shenfield and cycled well over thirty miles in a circuit to Ingatestone and back; with thanks to the Roman Catholic church in Stock who provided welcoming cups of tea and biscuits at 5.15 pm, just when the team really needed them.

2010 saw the launch of the Ride & Stride community page on the Friends of Essex Churches website (www.foect.org.uk/rs/view_stories.php). This is a great way for people to share their experiences of the event and to publicise the fact that their church will be open on the day and serving refreshments. So, if anyone has a story they would like to share, or maybe a cycle route or walk they would recommend, we would love to hear from you.

Thank you to all who took part in the 2010 Ride & Stride. The 2011 Ride & Stride will be on Saturday 10 September.

Fiona Nelmes, County Organiser
01245 380365, fionanelmes@lineone.net
www.justgiving.com



Thomas Fogg and Zanthia Lawrence at Southminster



Dinah MacMorland, Woodham Mortimer



Shola Ajose at Doddinghurst



Natalie Snow at Theydon Mount

GRANTS

The Grants Committee met on four occasions and offered twenty-two grants totalling £129,822. Although this was higher than last year it still fell short of the budget which had been set by the Executive Committee. All the grants were for Anglican churches, although applications are welcomed from churches of all Christian denominations. The largest grant was to St John the Baptist, Leytonstone, for a major roof repair, and the smallest was for equally important roof repairs at St Mary the Virgin, Buttsbury. These two parishes, of vastly different size and character, were both faced with challenges which the Committee recognised and was pleased to be able to help with. The ceiling at St Nicholas, Laindon, became unsafe during the year and the building was filled with scaffolding to carry out the urgent repairs. Despite the inconvenience the scaffolding was decorated and a number of weddings went ahead; the grant made by the FECT enabled the work to be completed and the church restored to regular weekly use.

This year approximately half of the offers were for guttering and roof repairs, and while there was no bias towards such applications the Committee appreciated how important it is to keep buildings watertight. The Committee continued to encourage parishes to seek publicity for the FECT and a number of articles did appear in the local press, including a very good piece in the *Clacton and Frinton Gazette* showing the tower at All Saints, Great Holland, covered in scaffolding during the masonry repairs.

During the year the Committee decided to revise its Terms of Reference, which have been approved by the Executive Committee and should prove helpful when considering future applications. There was great concern that the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme would not continue beyond March 2011, but as the result of some excellent lobbying the scheme, under which churches can reclaim VAT on eligible repairs, will continue with some minor changes.

In 2011 the Committee will be working closely with the National Churches Trust, who are making available to the FECT (and some other county trusts) a sum of £20,000 to be used on small projects.

David Lodge, Grants Committee Chairman

*Application forms for grants available from John Bloomfield, 01708 745273,
john.bloomfield@btinternet.com*

GRANTS OFFERED IN 2010

Abridge Holy Trinity	Dry rot eradication	£6,000
Aldham St Margaret	Spire masonry repairs	£2,000
Alphamstone St Barnabas	Gutter and roof repairs	£10,000
Ashdon All Saints	Roof repairs	£3,500
Becontree St Mary	Asbestos removal	£5,000
Buttsbury St Mary the Virgin	Roof repairs	£1,500
Danbury St John the Baptist	Masonry repairs	£5,000
Fairstead St Mary the Virgin	Roof repairs	£5,000
Farnham St Mary the Virgin	Roof repairs	£2,500
Laindon St Nicholas	Ceiling repairs	£6,000
Leaden Roding St Michael	Roof repairs	£7,000
Leytonstone St John the Baptist	Roof repairs	£15,000
Little Hallingbury St Mary the Virgin	Gutter and roof repairs	£4,000
Little Ilford St Barnabas	Structural repairs	£10,000
Little Sampford St Mary the Virgin	Gutter and roof repairs	£10,000
Middleton All Saints	Roof repairs	£5,000
North Fambridge Holy Trinity	Replacement of hard render	£4,000
North Fambridge Holy Trinity	Additional floor repairs	£1,000
Ridgewell St Lawrence	Tower masonry repairs	£2,500
Runwell St Mary	Minor repairs	£2,000
Sheering St Mary the Virgin	Fire-damage repairs	£10,000
Stisted All Saints	Roof repairs	£5,000
Wicken Bonhunt St Margaret	Emergency electrical repairs	£7,000



Sheering: fire damage, January 2010



Little Ilford

“... FOR ALL THE GOOD WORK YOU DO ...”

...for all the good work you do... These heartening words very often accompany the donations and subscriptions that the Membership Secretary (that's me) receives day by day. I do hope the Friends in general realise how much good work the Trust in fact does.

Elsewhere in this FECT NEWS, the Grants Committee lists the grants offered to applicant churches and chapels in 2010. In the accounts, the Treasurer shows a single entry for the total grants actually paid in the twelve months. To supplement these, I have looked at the past thirteen years, for which figures are available. I am amazed to find that some 413 grants have been paid in this period. They exceed £2.2 million in total. Such is the good work achieved in this area as a result of your generosity.

Again, looking back over a number of years, I see that membership subscriptions, gifts from congregations, and individual donations total more than £320,000 in the nearly seven years since I took over from Alastair Stewart. Subs alone account for £140,000, congregations for £81,000 and individual donations for £74,000. To this must be added Gift Aid tax refunds of £28,000. Magnificent.



Taking 2010 alone, both subs and membership numbers have held up well, but we must be ever vigilant if momentum is to be maintained. Around 200 of the 1,000 Christian congregations in Essex between the Lea & the Sea support us through direct giving. Others do so through Ride & Stride. There ought to be more.

With these things in mind, we have endeavoured to secure someone to volunteer as a development officer, but without success. We need more members and more supportive congregations. If you feel you could assist by promoting the Trust in a

positive way, we would welcome you and work with you. If it might be for you, may I ask that you contact me or anyone else involved in the running of the Trust.

Every subscription and donation is very welcome and much appreciated, but we are especially indebted this year, as last year, to the Augustine Courtauld Trust, the Essex Club, and Lodge & Sons (Builders), who have each sent us substantial amounts.

The Southend Branch is always an essential element of our activities, and contributed £2,000 to the Trust funds in 2010. I believe this is a record. On behalf of the Trust, I thank everyone 'for all the good work you do'.



Somewhere in Essex...

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Inevitably I must look forward to 2011. Many of you will have committed your contribution to us by Standing Order. Others will have already sent me a cheque. For everyone else, now is the best time to renew your subscription, while it is on your mind.

There is a separate sheet with FECT NEWS 2011 to help you to make your renewal quickly and easily by post to me, the Honorary Membership Secretary. If you would like to set up a Standing Order or have not already Gift Aided the amount, there are sections to do this on the Renewal Form. Please remember that any new Standing Order will cancel an existing one.

To keep our overheads to a minimum, we do not acknowledge subscriptions as a matter of course, so please accept our thanks now, in advance. But if you would like a receipt, please indicate accordingly when you complete the Renewal Form and I will be happy to send one.

Thank you.

Keith Gardner, Honorary Membership Secretary
01708 688576, keith@thegreenwood.me.uk

TREASURER'S REPORT

I would like to begin my first report by thanking Ian Dudley for his cooperation when I took over from him in mid-year.

Given the wider economic background, it is encouraging that total income at £136,307 was only marginally less than that of 2009. Our share of the proceeds of the Great Essex Feast, totalling some £11,000, was a highlight. Income from cash deposits fell but action has been taken to mitigate the effect of low interest rates. Our cash deposits on call were receiving a very low return but by depositing £100,000 for fixed periods, the interest rate has been increased, the full benefit of which will be apparent in 2011. Grants allocated came to £129,822, which was lower than the total allocated at the beginning of the year of £152,000. That was mainly because some applications at the November meeting were incomplete and were held over until the current year, for which a grant allocation of £150,000 is planned. It is also pleasing to note that our fundraising and support costs were lower than in 2009; thank you to all for giving of your time.

Looking briefly ahead to the current year, the amount that can be reclaimed in Gift Aid will reduce from 28p for every pound given to 25p from 6 April. This was announced by the Government some time ago; the effect of this will be to reduce our income from that source by about £1,500. However, with a high level of cash reserves and the increase in investments of 7% in 2010, we can be confident that our work to assist in repairing and restoring the fabric of our churches can proceed as it has done for many years.

Philip Smith, Hon. Treasurer

	Total 2009 £'000	Restricted Funds 2010	Unrestricted Funds 2010 £'000	Total 2010 £'000
Subscriptions	18.7	0.0	18.0	18.0
Donations	27.9	0.0	27.3	27.3
Legacies	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Fundraising - ride & stride	61.3	0.0	55.8	55.8
Fundraising - other events	16.5	0.0	25.0	25.0
Interest and dividends	13.2	0.0	10.2	10.2
Gazetteers sold	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Income	139.2	0.0	136.3	136.3
Support costs	(0.9)	0.0	(0.4)	(0.4)
Governance costs	(1.8)	0.0	(2.0)	(2.0)
Fundraising/publicity costs	(3.2)	0.0	(4.1)	(4.1)
Fundraising expenses - ride & stride	(3.6)	0.0	(3.9)	(3.9)
Fundraising expenses - other events	(6.8)	0.0	(5.3)	(5.3)
Grants payable	(81.6)	(0.8)	(115.5)	(116.3)
Total Expenditure	(97.9)	(0.8)	(131.2)	(132.0)
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	41.3	(0.8)	5.1	4.3

59.6	Net movement in Funds	(0.8)	20.3	19.5
Summary balance sheet as at 31st December 2010				
2009			2010	
£'000			£'000	
220.3	Investments - market value		235.5	
232.4	Cash and deposits		265.3	
10.4	Sundry debtors		13.6	
463.1	Total assets		514.4	
(82.3)	Undrawn grants		(112.0)	
(1.8)	Creditors		(3.9)	
379.0	Net assets		398.5	
Represented by				
378.2	General Fund (unrestricted)		398.5	
0.8	Landfill Tax Credits (restricted)		0.0	
379.0			398.5	

Auditors Statement to the Members of the Friends of Essex Churches Trust. We have examined the above summarised financial statements. **Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Auditors.** The trustees are responsible for preparing the summary financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and the recommendations of the charities SORP. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and Trustees' Annual Report.

We also read other information contained in the summarised annual report and consider the implications for our report if we became aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statements.

Basis of Opinion We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 issued by the Auditing Practices Board.

Opinion In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of The Friends of Essex Churches Trust for the year ended 31st December 2010.

Edmund Carr LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors 146 New London Road Chelmsford Essex CM2 0AW

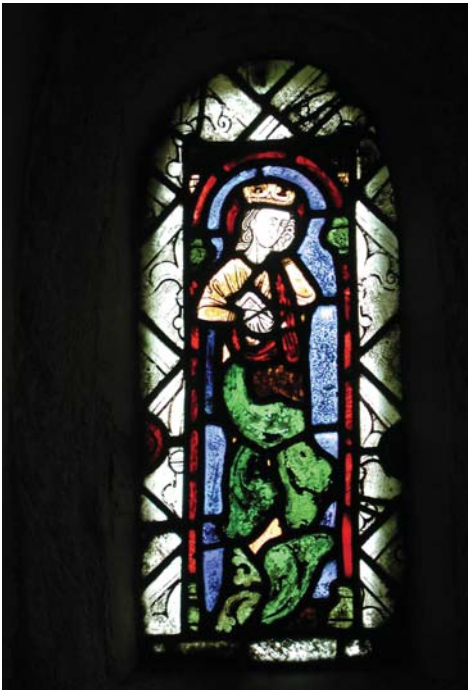
14 March 2011

STUDY DAYS 2010

Our two Study Days this year took place as usual in May and October; on both occasions we had reasonable weather and a good turnout from Friends and guests.

In May the theme for the day was the history of the Tyrell family, and we visited four churches with this connection. St Mary's, Buttsbury, is a remote but well-loved little church which stands close to the original home of the Tyrells. St Mary Magdalene, Great Burstead, followed; this site was clearly important to early Christians in Essex and is the supposed burial place of King Saeberht in 616 (as well as of a child of George IV). After lunch we met at St Mary the Virgin, Little Burstead, and saw the fine timberwork and excellent series of monuments in the church. Some of us took the opportunity to ring the bells and we all enjoyed the refreshments kindly provided by the churchwardens. Our last church was All Saints, East Horndon, a building constructed almost entirely of brick. It was declared redundant in 1969 after a fire and serious damage by vandals, but it has since been cared for by local volunteers and the Churches Conservation

Trust. We were delighted to be joined by John Vigar from the Trust, who kindly unlocked the church for us and explained the work of the CCT. Having studied the church from my schooldays I enjoyed relating the history of the building and the Tyrell family of Heron Hall, whose mausoleum it is.



White Notley: thirteenth-century glass

Our October Study Day began at All Saints, Terling, an unusual church which has a close association with the Strutt family. Here we had refreshments and a look at the United Reformed Church across the green built in 1752. St Mary the Virgin, Fairstead, was our next church; this is one of the most isolated churches in the county. It stands close to the site

of a Roman villa and much of it was built before the Conquest. Here too are some important early fourteenth-century wall paintings. At St Peter and St Paul, Black Notley, the small Norman church is best known for its connection with the world-famous botanist John Ray whose monument is close by the porch. After lunch we reconvened at St Etheldreda, White Notley, another church of pre-Conquest date, which may have been a minster in Anglo-Saxon times. Here we saw not only some early wall paintings but one of the earliest pieces of stained glass in Essex. We ended our tour at St Germanus, Faulkbourne, which is situated within the park of Faulkbourne Hall, many of whose former proprietors are buried in the church. The earliest surviving monument in the church is a rare coffin slab of c.1250 which retains the battered outline of a helmeted knight.

We are most grateful to incumbents and churchwardens for their assistance and hospitality. I would also particularly like to thank Sarah White for making the administrative arrangements which ensured our smooth progress from church to church.

Christopher Starr
For information about
Study Days, please
contact Sarah White
01245 233363,
sarahwhite279@aol.com



Black Notley: John Ray's memorial

SOUTHEND BRANCH

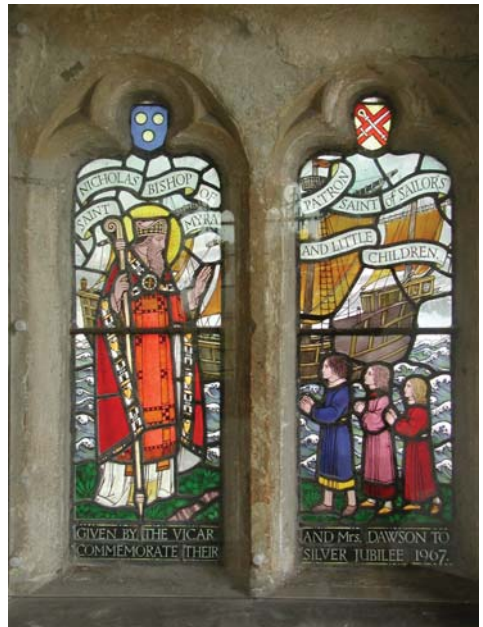
We are delighted to record another successful year, 2010 being one of full coaches, fine weather, friendly company, a warm welcome at all of the venues, and, a record donation to County funds of £2.000.

In April we visited St Nicholas, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, receiving a really lovely welcome and enjoying a detailed talk on the history of the church and village. Afterwards, whilst many sat in warm sunshine outside having light refreshments or walking about the village, two members found themselves invited into adjacent D'Arcy Hall (much associated with St Nicholas) when strolling through the private garden... Then, to Colchester Mile End W.I. for the usual nice welcome, first class tea, and pleasant tunes on the piano! The Branch AGM followed when the Chairman, whilst thanking the present officers for their dedication, felt obliged to question the very future of the Branch without additional help on the Committee. (This was, thankfully, later forthcoming.)

At the County AGM in May we were again to enjoy the company of our friends 'Up North' and the delights of Waltham Abbey, its grounds, and tea.

26 June, a glorious day, found us in Cambridgeshire at the Hemingford Abbots Flower Festival, including a superb floral display in St Margaret's Church; Morris Dancers; craft stalls; a display of old bicycles, including riders on penny-farthings, and, of course, numerous grand gardens to visit. The favourite for many was to hear the brass bands playing in the Old Rectory garden as we consumed tea and cakes, brought to us in the shade of the surrounding trees.

Our final outing, in September, was to the delightful village of Stebbing and the Church of St Mary. Such a nice welcome was received at the door, followed by an informative and humorous talk. Members later



Tolleshunt D'Arcy: porch window by Joseph Nuttgens, 1967

strolled around looking at the splendid old houses in the village before we moved on for a short but very worthwhile visit to Tilty Church. Finally, there was tea of the usual high standard with our old friends at Tilty & Great Easton W.I.

*Don Woracker, Southend Branch
01702 203027,
donworacker@hotmail.com*



*Stebbing: model of the church
by Henry Fitch, 1850*

GIFT AID

We are keeping our fingers crossed that, among all the dire threats of cuts to almost everything we hold dear, the powers that be will maintain Gift Aid credits to charities in 2011 and beyond.

In 2010, total Gift Aid refunds either actually received or pending which I have claimed for Ride & Stride and for our subscription income amounted to something between £15,000 and £20,000, the equivalent of two or more substantial grants for our churches and chapels.

So if you are a tax-payer and are visiting a church either for a service or as a casual visitor, make sure that you donate in a Gift Aid envelope, and if

there are none available, **make a fuss!**

They may tell you that there is no such thing as 'easy money', but Gift Aid really is just that. So let's make the most of this system for the good of all our parishes.

*Alastair Stewart,
Gift Aid Secretary*



Tilty

ST PETER'S, PAGLESHAM: SAVED BY OYSTERS

The tower of St Peter's started shedding stone in the 1980s and fundraising then enabled the battlements and east face to be restored. Twenty-five years later the other three faces again needed to be fenced off, and large sums had to be found to complete restoration of the 15th-century structure.

The west window had been installed in the restoration of 1883 in memory of four of the young children of Zachary Pettitt, one of the churchwardens and a major benefactor of the village. Large chunks of masonry of window mullions were now missing and the Kentish Rag stone elsewhere was very badly eroded. The other churchwarden in 1883 was J. F. T. Wiseman and both were oyster merchants. Records from both families survived and we decided to write the story of the village using the hundreds of notebooks, ledgers, diaries and letters to which we had access. *Paglesham Natives: 400 Years of Lives, Loves and Labours in an Essex Marshland Village* was published in 2006.

Wiseman's grandfather, James Wiseman, had started buying oyster layings in the 1770s, and married Susannah Ley, the daughter of the rector of Tolleshunt D'Arcy and Layer Marney. Their two sons formed separate businesses, with their lives and interfamily feuds making interesting subjects for the letters between Fred Wiseman and his brother Charles, who had become a paddle-steamer captain in Australia. Fred accused his aunts of 'robbing the tin kettle' to account for their new-found wealth!

Both families were regular churchgoers, and their numerous graves can still be found in the churchyard. The church, which is normally kept open, shows its Norman origins despite the Victorian restoration, and other gravestones of 18th-century oystermen are now laid in the chancel floor.

The Friends of St Peter's was formed and sales of *Paglesham Natives* swelled the Tower Fund. This helped attract grants from both English



Paglesham: work in progress, December 2010

EVENTS

The Events Committee had a bumper year, resulting in a total of £20,300 being transferred to the main FECT account.

Our fundraising year began in February with the Great Essex Feast, a joint venture between the FECT and Essex Air Ambulance. Together we invited friends and supporters from every corner of Essex to host a lunch or dinner party over the weekend of 27-28 February, the objective being to raise vital funds for these two local charities. The event was both great fun and a resounding success, with the FECT's share of the proceeds totalling an incredible £11,000!

For the third year we held our annual Christmas Fair at Hylands House in October, and despite our fears of credit crunches and the economic downturn, profits were well up on 2009. The fair at Hylands has now become an established annual event on the shopping calendar and is much enjoyed by both members and stallholders.

In November we organised a bridge day, and were most grateful to Lord and Lady Rayleigh for allowing us to hold the event at Terling Place. Fifteen tables played either Chicago or Rubber bridge, and the afternoon was ably coordinated by the wonderful Pat O'Gorman. There was a delicious tea, and with numerous raffle and bridge prizes handed out, everyone appeared very happy on departure.

We have a number of exciting ideas for events in 2011 and much look forward to your support over the next twelve months.

Diana Thompson - 01371 872246, dianathompson113@btinternet.com

Katie Griffith-Jones - 01245 222857, cmgriffithjones@aol.com

ST PETER'S, PAGLESHAM (contd.)

Heritage (£49,000) and the FECT (£9,000), which allowed work to be started in September 2009. Unfortunately the bad weather prevented its completion by November as planned, and at the time of writing we are waiting patiently for the end of the freezing weather and for the work to be finished.

Mark and Rosemary Roberts

Paglesham Natives is available from the authors (01255 822310), as well as their Zillah's Village: a Family's Record of War and Peace in Rural Essex (2009; profits to Cancer Research UK)

CALENDAR FOR 2011

Saturday 7 May

SPRING MEETING AND STUDY DAY

In 2011 we shall be combining the Spring Meeting and AGM with the first of the year's two Study Days. The day will begin with visits to churches at Great and Little

Baddow and Boreham, ending up at New Hall for a talk, the formal meeting, and tea. Study Day details from Sarah White (01245 233363, sarahwhite279@aol.com).



New Hall, Boreham

Saturday 10 September

RIDE & STRIDE

To raise funds for the Trust and participating churches. 10.00 am to 6.00 pm.

Saturday 8 October

AUTUMN STUDY DAY

To include visits to Hatfield Broad Oak, High Laver, Little Laver, Magdalen Laver and Matching. Details later from Sarah White (01245 233363, sarahwhite279@aol.com).

Wednesday 12 October

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Hylands House near Chelmsford, 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. Many new stalls. Details later from Rachel Grainger (dr.rockhills@lineone.net).

Other events are still being planned for 2011 – please visit our website, www.foect.org.uk, for up-to-date information.

FRIENDS OF ESSEX CHURCHES TRUST 2010-11

Patrons: the Bishops of Brentwood and Chelmsford, H.M. Lord Lieutenant for Essex

President: George Courtauld

Executive Council and Trustees: Claire Cottrell (Chairman), James Bettley (Vice-Chairman), Philip Smith (Hon. Treasurer), Keith Gardner (Hon. Secretary & Hon. Membership Secretary), Katie Griffith-Jones, David Lodge, Ralph Meloy, Fiona Nelmes, Christopher Starr, and Don Woracker

Advisory Council: John Bloomfield, Ray Clements, Ann Hilder, David Hoppit, Simon Mynott, Neil Stedman, Sir Alastair Stewart, and Sarah White

Registered Charity 236033

www.foect.org.uk

Photographs by Rex Berrecloth, James Bettley, Philippa King, Brian Longman, Fiona Nelmes and Christopher Starr