



Essex Historic Buildings Group

Day School Saturday 28th June 2025



**MARKET AND SHOPS
IN THE MEDIEVAL & EARLY MODERN PERIOD**



Medieval shop windows,
Aubyns, Writtle, Essex

At Maldon Town Hall, Market Hill, Maldon, Essex CM9 4PZ

PROGRAMME

9.30 **Chairman's introduction and welcome**

9.35 **Essex markets and their archaeology**

David Andrews

The archaeology of Essex towns can tell us about the type and grouping of medieval shops and workshops, and about the form and layout of these buildings.

David Andrews is an archaeologist and historic buildings adviser who has worked for Essex County Council for 30 years. Prior to that he worked for the DoE in the Central Excavation Unit, and in Italy where he did research and ran excavation projects.

10.20 **How did medieval towns run their markets?**

Professor Mark Bailey

There were two types of towns in the Middle Ages: boroughs enjoyed a degree of legal and trading autonomy, whereas market towns remained firmly located in the manorial system, with just a weekly market franchise to set them apart commercially from other rural places. This had direct consequences for the ways in which they were run, including who ran them, and this lecture will explore the essential features and differences.

Prof. Mark Bailey is Professor of Later Medieval History at the University of East Anglia. In 2019 he delivered the prestigious Ford Lectures in British History at the University of Oxford, which have been published as a monograph: 'After the Black Death. Economy, society and the law in fourteenth century England' (2021)

11.05 Tea

11.35 **Late medieval shops and workshops in East Anglia**

Leigh Alston

The market towns and villages of Suffolk and Essex are rich in well preserved medieval and Tudor shops due to the region's economic success in the 15th and early-16th centuries, followed by relative poverty after the collapse of the woollen cloth industry.

Leigh Alston is an architectural historian and building archaeologist of over thirty years' standing, specialising in the timber-framed structures of Eastern England.

12.20 **Discussion**

12.30 **Lunch**

14.00 ‘A rich thriving industrious place ...’ The development of medieval Norwich and its markets

Brian Ayers

Norwich had a range of markets, both general and specialized. Development of these markets greatly assists understanding of the development of the city itself with analysis of market areas, shops and buildings informing social and political use of the open spaces.

Brian Ayers is the former County Archaeologist for Norfolk and is an Honorary Associate Professor at the University of East Anglia. He has published extensively on medieval Norwich and also undertakes research in the hanseatic region of northern Europe.

14.45 **Medieval merchants and their buildings**

John S Lee

Using written and physical evidence, this talk will examine the buildings that medieval merchants needed to operate, principally for storage, processing, marketing and accommodation, and including temporary structures in fairs.

John Lee is a Research Associate at the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of York. He has published The Medieval Clothier (2018) and is currently researching fairs in medieval and Tudor England.

15.30 Tea

16.00 **Shops & market buildings in medieval and early modern London** Professor Vanessa Harding

This talk will explore the evolution of retail premises in medieval and early modern London’s most important shopping street, Westcheap or Cheapside. In the 14th century, these were numerous and varied, and often transient – small shops, selds or bazaars with stalls and benches, and market standings. When the city’s population and economic activity revived after the Black Death, reaching even greater levels in the 16th century, the characteristic form of shop was larger and more permanent, and well equipped, and at the same time market trading acquired new built form and regulation.

Vanessa Harding is Emeritus Profesor of London History at Birkbeck, University of London, and has published widely on the housing, population and economic activity of medieval and early modern London.

16.45 **Discussion**

17.00 **Close**

Also in the hall will be the EHBG’s cash bookstall of secondhand books for you to purchase

Cost: £40 (£35 members)

Tickets can be purchased from the EHBG website, <https://www.ehbg.co.uk>

Or you can complete this **Booking Form for the EHBG Day School 28th June 2025** and return it to:

Essex Historic Buildings Group, John Walker, Marks Cottage, Stoke Road, Layham, Ipswich IP7 5RB
Tel: 01473 829774 Email: englishmedievalroof@hotmail.co.uk

I wish to book

..... places for EHBG members at £35.00 each

..... places for non-members at £40.00 each

I enclose a **cheque** payable to **Essex Historic Buildings Group** for £.....

and a **Stamped addressed envelope** for tickets. (Applications not including a SAE may be delayed)

IMPORTANT: Applications must be accompanied by a cheque for the appropriate amount, even if payment by a third party is anticipated, in which case you should make a note to this effect on your application form. Your personal cheque will then be held for a reasonable period and returned when the third party payment is received. **Please note that no cheque means no place.**

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