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repair*



**Traditional Building Skills
Courses, Seminars & Lectures
April 2012 - March 2013**



Essex County Council

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background*

Since 1997 the Historic Buildings and Conservation team at Essex County Council (ECC) has run a series of one, two or three day hands-on courses in traditional building skills. The courses aim to raise awareness of the importance of protecting our historic buildings by using the appropriate methods and materials to repair and conserve them.

The courses are run from our workshop at Cressing Temple barns, but where possible we use live sites throughout the county. Our tutors are all excellent craftsmen who run their own businesses using their skills every day, and who have a wealth of experience and knowledge.

Those attending the courses include owners of historic buildings, practising craftsmen who want to specialise in traditional repairs, and general builders and contractors as well as interested amateurs. Courses are open to all skill levels unless specified otherwise.

Running alongside the hands-on courses is a range of short lecture sessions. Topics vary annually but their aim remains the same, to educate and inform professionals such as surveyors, architects, building contractors, self-employed tradesmen, plus the owners of historic buildings, in the technical and practical issues involved in the care and repair of our historic buildings.

City and Country Group are pleased to announce the fourth year of their initiative to help address the problem of the traditional building skills shortage by running their own bursary scheme, offering free places on the Traditional Building Skills courses.

City & Country Group is the market leading heritage developer in the south east. From stylish apartments and duplexes to traditional mews houses, they offer an inspiring selection of homes to choose from. They have a reputation for creating outstanding developments and their schemes consistently win prestigious awards because they exceed expectations in terms of innovative, sympathetic design combined with high quality and traditional craftsmanship. Completed developments include The Galleries, the former Warley Hospital at Brentwood, and Old Saint Michaels in Braintree, Essex. Amongst current projects are Balls Park, Hertford, and the conversion of Bentley Priory in Stanmore. Details of these developments can be found at: www.cityandcountry.co.uk

The bursary provides an opportunity for acquiring experience of craft building techniques, relevant to historic buildings, for those in the building industry who could not normally afford the cost of the course, or of the time and travel involved. It will be particularly suitable for independent builders and small contractors.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- be working in the built environment and,
- show a commitment to expanding their knowledge of the built heritage sector

If you have any questions or are interested in requesting an application form please contact Katie Seabright on 01245 437672 or email traditional.buildingskills@essex.gov.uk

* Hands-on courses



Lime plaster for plasterers

Tutor: Roy Cafferty

20 April 2012

Cressing Temple barns

This one-day hands-on course is aimed at working plasterers interested in broadening their experience; and amateurs with some plastering skills. The day will explain how to fix laths, prepare lime putty mixes, and plaster on to laths as well as highlighting the importance of good preparation and aftercare. Roy runs his own plastering business and has been in the trade for forty years. He works in all aspects of lime plaster but specialises in fine plaster finishes. He is one of the few lime plasterers who still runs mouldings *in situ*.

Cost: £99

An introduction to rustic fencing

**Tutor: Steven Westover,
Westover Woodlands**

27 April 2012

Cressing Temple barns

Traditional locally made fencing may be more appropriate in the

setting of a historic building or in a conservation area, more sustainable and more attractive than modern styles and materials, and cheaper and more satisfying if home made. The aim of this one-day course is to introduce participants to different styles of traditional natural wood fencing, including both theory and hands-on experience in the use of the tools and the choice and processing of materials.

Students will be able to take home their finished panel.

Cost: £150

Timber frame repairs

**Tutor: Richard Green,
Green Renovations Ltd**

9 - 11 May 2012

Little Horkeley

Those attending this three-day hands-on course will learn how to repair historic sole plates and studwork on a live project. The course has been designed for working carpenters and joiners, but home owners with basic skills are very welcome. The course will also cover carpentry joints, the choice of timber



and analysis of repair strategy. Richard runs his own joinery business working mainly in north Essex where he has built up an excellent reputation for his high quality work on the historic buildings in the area. His work covers fine joinery to working with green oak on historic timber-frame repairs.

Cost: £255

Repair and conservation of flint walling

Tutor: Simon Williams, Anglian Flint

20 - 22 June 2012, Hadstock Church

Students on this three-day course will repair and rebuild a churchyard wall using flints and lime mortar. There will also be a demonstration of flint knapping with the opportunity to have a go. The course will be of interest to bricklayers, general builders and home owners alike. No experience needed.

Cost: £235

Lime mortar & conservation brickwork

Tutor: Mac Knox-Weir

6 - 7 September 2012 Braintree Museum

This two-day course aims to encourage correct brickwork repair and the use of lime mortar. We will also look at a selection of different pointing styles. The course is aimed at working bricklayers who would like to broaden their experience in conservation techniques. Mac has been working with lime for over 40 years and has his own company Weir Conservation. He has worked on the repair of many high profile buildings including Hampton Court Palace.

Cost: £210

Straw bale building

Tutor: Barbara Jones, StrawWorks formerly of Amazonails

12 - 14 September 2012 Onchors Farm, Gt Saling

One of the biggest attributes of straw bale building is its capacity for creative fun, and its ability to allow you to design



and build the sort of shape and space you'd really like. It is firmly based in the sustainable 'green building' culture that has brought to the construction industry many new and useful ideas about energy efficiency and responsibility towards the environment. Straw as a building material excels in cost-effectiveness and energy efficiency.

This three day course will look at all aspects of straw bale building, with the emphasis on practice, it will be ideal for anyone interested in natural building techniques, building their own home, architects, builders or local authority professionals. No previous experience or knowledge is necessary.

Cost: £250

Understanding wrought iron

4 - 5 October 2012

Malt Kiln Farm, Pentney, Norfolk

This is a rare opportunity to understand the art and science of wrought iron. The course is in three parts and it is the choice of the delegate how many parts they book, all parts include CPD

certificates:

Part I Morning: presentation and demonstration (**cost £55**)

Part II Full day: presentation, demonstration and 'hands on practise' (**cost £110**)

Part III 2 days: as parts I and II, plus a full day in the workshop with your project to take home (**cost £225**)

Lunch and refreshments are included.

This one to two day course will help delegates understand the complexities and aesthetic qualities of wrought iron by providing workshop facilities for hands on experience. Group numbers are limited on the second day to enable good personal tuition from Joe Orsi who was the last student to serve a traditional apprenticeship as a blacksmith and farrier in England. Accommodation can be organised for those who attend the two day course.



Lime plaster for homeowners

Tutor: Roy Cafferty

9 November 2012

Cressing Temple barns

A one-day course, aimed at owners of historic buildings who want to tackle small patch repairs to their homes. The day will show how to hand-mix small amounts of lime plaster, and to repair or replace patches. No experience needed.

Cost: £99

Lime plaster, run mouldings & pargetting

Tutors: Roy Cafferty & Bill Sargent

24 - 25 January 2013

Cressing Temple barns

A two-day course covering the art and craft of lime plastering, mouldings run in situ, and pargetting. It is open to working plasterers who want to broaden their experience, home owners and the enthusiastic amateur. No experience needed.

Cost: £210

CPD lecture programme

Each lecture will consist of two one-hour talks. They will be of interest to architects, surveyors, conservation professionals and planners for specification writing and site supervision, as well as owners of historic and listed properties. A light lunch and refreshments are included.

Timber framed buildings: historical development, maintenance and repair

Speaker: Joe Bispham, Historic buildings consultant and contractor

Tour of Cressing: Elphin Watkin, Historic buildings specialist

27 September 2012

9.30am - 2.15 pm

Cressing Temple

The morning session is divided into two talks. The first is an historic over view of timber frame building in Essex, a county which has very little in the way of natural building stone. The second part of the morning will illustrate through case studies the repairs to timber frame buildings and continues the theme that an understanding of the methods and materials used traditionally make it easier to undertake the repair and conservation of our historic buildings. This seminar will be followed by a tour of the 13th century barns and 17th century granary led by Elphin Watkin who will use them to illustrate how medieval carpenters converted and worked timber,



INSTITUTE OF HISTORIC BUILDING CONSERVATION

The home of the conservation professional

The IHBC recognises that this programme may provide part of the compulsory CPD requirements of a Full Member.



and the range of carpentry joints they used.

Cost: £55 (lunch included)

The use and application of traditional linseed oil based paint

Speaker: Michael Knights, Historic buildings consultant

11 October 2012

9.30am - 12.30pm

Cressing Temple

Why have modern paints failed so dramatically to protect softwood joinery to such an extent that millions of old wooden windows and doors have been replaced with plastic? Old fashioned traditional paints were made using natural plant oils as a binder together with earth pigments that not only protected timber but also lasted longer, required less maintenance and whose hues were subtle and attractive. Without the use of modern solvents linseed oil paints provide a healthy alternative and are environmentally more sustainable. These two sessions will explore some of these questions and will include

practical demonstrations showing how these paints are made and applied to timber.

Cost: £55 (lunch included)

Maintaining thatch roofs and managing fire risk

Speaker: Marjorie Sanders, National Society of Master Thatchers

25 October 2012

9.30am - 12.30pm

Cressing Temple

There has been a notable increase in thatch fires in recent years. Such devastating losses are costly, in terms of the irretrievable loss of historic fabric and financial reinstatement. Preventing the ever-increasing destruction of thatched buildings by fire is widely recognised as being one of the primary tasks facing the emergency services, conservationists, thatchers, insurers, and owners. This session will be in two parts - **Part 1:** owning and maintaining a property with thatch. **Part 2:** understanding and managing the risk of fire in properties with thatch.

Cost: £55 (lunch included)



Historic environment records
Speaker: Historic Environment branch, ECC

22 November 2012

9.30am - 12.30pm

Cressing Temple

The importance of evidence based planning and the role of historic environment records are emphasised in PPS5 Planning and the historic environment, and in the National Planning Policy Framework. The Essex historic environment record (EHER) is the most complete inventory of the archaeological sites, historic buildings, historic landscape features and significant finds from the county. For many years the EHER has been available for consultation at County Hall, Chelmsford. However, in recent years this invaluable resource has also become available online. The course will explain the background behind the creation and purpose of the EHER and outline the different kinds of information that it contains such as database and photographic records, modern and historic mapping, published and

unpublished reports. The course will explore the various ways in which the EHER can be used and during the breaks attendees will have the opportunity to search the online versions of the EHER.

Cost: £55 (lunch included)

Building stone in Essex

Speaker: David Andrews, Historic Buildings & Conservation team, ECC

6 December 2012

9.30am - 12.30pm

Cressing Temple

Essex has more local building stones than most people are aware of. They, and the stones that have been used before the 20th century, generally present major problems in terms of conservation, repair and replacement. This session will identify the building stones that occur in Essex and trace how they have been used. It will cover repair and conservation, and include flint walling. Samples of stone will be available to handle and inspect.

Cost: £55 (lunch included)

Heritage statements and impact assessments

Speaker: Historic Buildings and Conservation team, ECC

7 February 2013

9.30am - 12.30pm

Cressing Temple

PPS5 emphasises the importance of evidence based planning, and of applicants documenting their proposals to identify the significance of the buildings and sites involved, and the impact of their proposals on that significance. 'Heritage statements' now routinely accompany listed building consent applications. This seminar will look at policy framework for heritage statements and impact assessments, how they should be structured and what they should include. It will also cover requirements for building recording.

Cost: £55 (lunch included)

Retrofitting historic and traditional buildings for improved energy performance

Speaker: Jarrod Hill, jhconsulting architects

21 February 2013

9.30am - 12.30pm

Cressing Temple

This talk will explore the various means of improving the environmental performance of traditionally built and historic buildings, recognising that they must play their part but that there are special considerations which should be borne in mind - to work with rather than fight against their characteristics. With selected examples, the talk will explain how to avoid the pitfalls of 'emptying the box' characteristic of many deep retrofit projects and ensure the outcome of any project is the most sustainable it can be.

Cost: £55 (lunch included)

The design and geometry of timber-framed buildings: a seminar in the Lordship barn

6 July 2012

9.30am - 3.30pm

Interest in timber-framed buildings has recently focused on how they were set out and designed. The late Adrian Gibson and Laurie Smith examined the 13th century great barns at Cressing Temple and concluded that they were designed using a compass drawn geometrical system. More recently, David Leviatin has analysed the fabric of the 15th century Lordship barn at Writtle College and concluded that the barn's design and construction were based on the clever use of an ingenious regulating line. This seminar will set out the arguments for these theories with a view to establishing the importance and future direction of this fascinating topic. Other talks will cover medieval building design and barns in general.

Essex County Council working in partnership with:



Cost: £35 (lunch included)

Build your own bread oven

Tutor: Tony Minter, Bulmer Brick & Tile and Mike Hogan

7 March 2013

9.00am - 4.30pm

Cressing Temple barns

Take outdoor cooking to the next level by learning how to build a traditional brick bread oven for your back garden. This course would be suitable for homeowners, or bricklayers and builders who would like to offer their clients something different.

Cost: £110

A tour of a traditional brick works and a guided walk through Bury St Edmunds

21 March 2013 9.00am - 4.30pm

A rare opportunity to visit Bulmer Brick & Tile Company's brickworks and Bury St Edmunds in the company of one of the country's leading traditional brick-makers. You will look at and discuss the conservation and repair of historic rubbed and gauged brickwork. The day will help professionals to specify and oversee work in the correct manner, and will also be of interest to the enthusiastic amateur.

Cost: £95 (inc. CPD certificate)

Essex County Council Heritage Publications (P&P included)

Regional variations in timber framed buildings in England & Wales down to **1550 - £16** (limited stock available)

Information booklets produced by Essex County Council - £1 each

Looking after your old buildings
The conservation and renewal of timber windows
Pointing with lime mortars

Conservation in practice information booklets 50p each

Weatherboarding
Plastering & limewash
Wattle & daub
Repointing

Conservation in Essex Series

No. 4 - Historic buildings - 50p
No. 5 - Shopfronts - £1.50
No. 6 - Signs & lettering - £1
No. 7 - Conservatories & historic buildings - £2
No. 8 - Infill in historic areas - £2

Traditional building materials in Essex - Pargetting £1

Mr Pink - the architectural legacy of W.F. Crittall - £10

Conserve* Typical details for historic buildings & conservation areas - £7.50

To order publications please contact **Katie Seabright** on **01245 437672** or at **Historic Buildings and Conservation, Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1QH.**

terms and conditions of booking*

Paying for courses

Payment must be made in full at the time of booking. Please note we can only accept payment by cheque.

Please make cheques payable to Essex County Council.

Cancellation of course by Essex County Council

If the course is cancelled by Essex County Council we will refund you in full or you may transfer on to another course within the same programme.

Cancellation of booking by attendees

If a booking is cancelled more than four weeks in advance of the start date of the course we will refund you in full.

If a booking is cancelled fewer than four weeks before the course, booking fees will not be refunded unless the course is full and the place can be resold.

Changes to published information

At the time of publishing all information is correct, however Essex County Council reserves the right to make changes to the programme if necessary.

Any people booked on these events and affected by changes will be contacted as soon as possible.

respond*

Booking Form

To confirm your booking return this form with a cheque, payable to **Essex County Council**, to:

Katie Seabright, Historic Buildings & Conservation, Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1QH.

Tel: **01245 437672** Fax: **01245 437213**

Email: **traditional.buildingskills@essex.gov.uk**

Please check availability before sending in payment.

Course name:

Date of course:

Name:

Company/organisation:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel:

Email:

How did you hear about our courses

We may use your details at a later date to gain feedback on the courses. Be the first to find out about ECC heritage courses and help reduce the amount of paper we use by signing up for email updates. Please tick to receive course information via email.

Thank you.



This information is issued by

Essex County Council, Historic Buildings and Conservation Team.

You can contact us in the following ways:

By email:

traditional.buildingskills@essex.gov.uk

Visit our website:

www.the-edi.co.uk/traditionalbuildingskillscourses.php

By telephone:

01245 437 672

By post:

**Essex County Council, Historic Buildings & Conservation,
County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH**

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