

Local and Essex History Quiz November 2024

Miscellaneous

1. What subject connects Abberton, Ardleigh and Hanningfield?
2. Mistley Towers were originally part of one complete building. What type of building was it?
3. For which Essex Town was the diarist Samuel Pepys an MP?
4. Where in Essex did the Composer Gustav Holst write part of his "Planets Suite"?
5. Which Essex town is also the name of a make of photographic film?
6. In which ancient forested area would you find the Shell House?
7. Name the next town in this Sequence – London, Rochester, St Albans, ...?
8. In 1916 the occupants of L32 were buried in Great Burstead churchyard (though they were later removed). What was L32 and what happened to its occupants?
9. The Seventies pop group "The Kursaal Flyers" took their name from a famous landmark and carnival float that looked like a train. What was their biggest hit!
10. What is the telephone dialling code for each of these towns: Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow, Maldon, Southend?

1. What subject connects Abberton, Ardleigh and Hanningfield?

Abberton Reservoir is a pumped storage freshwater reservoir in eastern England near the Essex coast, with an area of 700 hectares (1,700 acres). Most of its water is pumped from the River Stour. It is the largest body of freshwater in Essex.

Constructed between 1935 and 1939, Abberton Reservoir is owned and managed by Essex and Suffolk Water, part of Northumbrian Water Group, and lies 6 km (3.7 mi) south-west of Colchester near the village of Layer de la Haye. In World War II, the reservoir was mined to deter invading seaplanes, and it was used by the RAF's No. 617 Squadron ("The Dam Busters") for practice runs for the bombing of the German dams in the Ruhr.

A project to increase the capacity of Abberton Reservoir to 41,000 megalitres (9.0×10⁹ imp gal) by raising its bank height was completed in 2013, along with a new link to transfer water from Norfolk's River Ouse to the Stour.

The reservoir is important for its breeding cormorants, wintering and moulting waterfowl, and migrating birds. It is an internationally important wetland, designated as a Ramsar site, Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Protection Area, and is listed in *A Nature Conservation Review*. A small part of the site is managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust.

Ardleigh Reservoir: Built in 1971 is a 49-hectare (120-acre) lake near Colchester in Essex, England constructed in the valley of the Salary Brook. It supplies water both to Anglian Water and to Affinity Water. The lake is also used for recreational activities including sailing and angling.

Hanningfield Reservoir: Hanningfield is the 11th largest reservoir in England with an area of 3.52 km² (870 acres).[1] The reservoir has a limited natural water catchment area and is principally supplied with water abstracted from the River Chelmer and River Blackwater at Langford about 14 km (8.7 mi) north east of Hanningfield. Water is pumped from Langford at up to 240 MI/day through a 48-inch (1.2 m) diameter underground pipeline.[5]

A joint venture by the South Essex Waterworks Company and the Southend Waterworks Company, the reservoir was built in an area known as Sandon Valley, construction was started in 1951 and entailed flooding an area of South Hanningfield covering the ancient hamlet of Peasdown.

Giffords Farm and Fremnells Manor were also demolished. The reservoir was completed by W. & C. French in 1957[6] at a cost of about £6m; the reservoir took 200 days to fill with water.

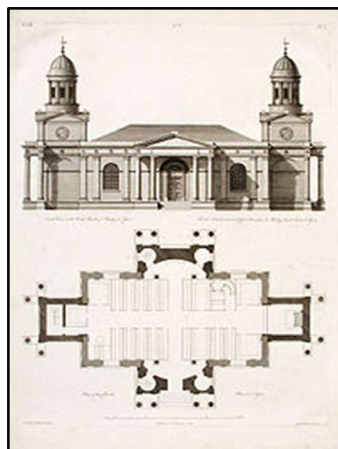
The dam is 2,088 metres (6,850 ft) long. It is an earth dam with a core of puddled clay, the inner wall is concreted to mitigate erosion by wave action.[7]

The South Essex Waterworks Company and the Southend Waterworks Company merged to form the Essex Water Company in 1970. In 1994 the Essex Water Company merged with Suffolk Water Company to form Essex and Suffolk Water.

2. **Mistley Towers were originally part of one complete building. What type of building was it?**

Mistley Towers are the twin towers of the now demolished Church of St. Mary the Virgin at Mistley in Essex (sometimes known as Mistley Thorn(e) Church).[1] The original Georgian parish church on the site had been built in classical style early in the 18th century following the death of Richard Rigby Esquire. Later in that century there was a grandiose plan by his son, the wealthy politician Richard Rigby, to transform Mistley Thorn into a spa town. Rigby wished to see a church from the windows of his mansion and a suitably grand church was required for the affluent visitors expected to patronise the new spa.

The south front and plan of Mistley Church by Robert and James Adam.



Thus in 1776, the renowned architect Robert Adam was commissioned to enhance the church. His design was in the neoclassical style, with a tower at both the east and the west ends of the church, and full height porticos to the north and south of the nave.

Demolition

After just under a century in this form, the nave was demolished in circa 1870, when the new parish church of Church of St. Mary and St. Michael was built[2] in New Road. Columns from the porticos were reused at the inner corners of the towers, and the towers are now all that now remain of the once magnificent structure.

3. For which Essex Town was the diarist Samuel Pepys an MP?

Samuel Pepys was a Member of Parliament (MP) for Harwich, Essex from 1685–1689. He was elected in 1679 along with Sir Anthony Deane, a Harwich alderman and naval architect. Pepys was often in Harwich for naval business and was known to enjoy the town's food, wine, and company.

4. Where in Essex did the Composer Gustav Holst write part of his "Planets Suite"?

Gustav Holst - first visited Thaxted in 1913 when on a walking holiday in north-west Essex. He decided he must return. The next year he and his wife rented a cottage in Monk Street, a small hamlet south of Thaxted. The cottage is no longer in existence due initially to a fire and then road widening. It was here that he composed much of his suite "The Planets." He had been declared unfit for military service; this, compounded by their name being von Holst, caused some suspicions amongst their neighbours. The authorities, however, were unconcerned.

Conrad Noel, the vicar of Thaxted, and Holst soon became friends with Holst taking a great interest in the church choir. In 1916 Gustav organised a Whitsun Festival in the church. He taught music at Saint Paul's Girls School, James Allen's Girls School and was Director of Music at Morley College and some students from all those institutions came to Thaxted to be part of the festival. One, in particular, who came was Jack Putterill, who also has a place in Thaxted history. The Festival in this form was repeated in 1917 and 1918. In 1917 the family moved into Thaxted to live in "The Steps", 19 Town Street. A blue plaque is beside the front door. In those days it was a quiet place to work.

5. Which Essex town is also the name of a make of photographic film?

The Essex Town that is the name of photographic film is Ilford. - **Harman Technology Limited**, trading as **Ilford Photo**, is a UK-based manufacturer of photographic materials known worldwide for its **Ilford** branded black-and-white film, papers and chemicals and other photography supplies.

The company was founded in 1879 by Alfred Hugh Harman as *Britannia Works*, which became the *Britannia Works Company* in 1896. It was renamed *Britannia Works Company Limited* in December 1891.[2] Initially making photographic plates, it grew to occupy a large site in the centre of Ilford.

Historically it also published the *Ilford Manual of Photography*, a comprehensive manual of everything photographic, including the optics, physics and chemistry of photography, along with recipes for many developers.

Under the ownership of the industrial conglomerate ICI in the 1960s, the company produced a range of Ilfochrome (Cibachrome) and Ilfocolor colour printing materials at a new plant in Switzerland developed in partnership with the Swiss company CIBA-Geigy, which later acquired ICI's shares. By the 2000s, as the UK/Swiss company Ilford Imaging, the decline of the film market saw the UK company in receivership by 2004, but rescued by a management buy-out, Harman Technology Ltd, which today continues the production of traditional black-and-white photographic products, under the Ilford, Kentmere and Harman brands.

6. In which ancient forested area would you find the Shell House?

The Shell House in Hatfield Forest, near Bishops Stortford, Essex. This was built for Jacob Houblon (1710–70) an MP and a member of the Cocoa-Tree Club chocolate house, who purchased Hatfield Forest (NT), part of the Hallingbury Place estate, in 1729, using funds amassed by his large family of bankers and traders. His uncle, Sir John Houblon (1632–1712), was a founding member of the Bank of England in 1694 and its first Governor. Readers will be familiar with Sir John's appearance as recently featured on the £50 note.

The Houblon family formed a partnership with the Hankeys, plantation owners, and together they traded with Jamaica, Antigua and the Leeward Islands. Shell House is located in Hatfield Forest. According to Houblon family tradition, the Shell House was decorated by Jacob's fifteen-year-old daughter Laetitia (1742–1828) with shells from the West Indies, West Africa and the Indo-Pacific combined with split flints, blue glass and a variety of sands. Laetitia was a talented artist, a work bag she embroidered remains in family ownership.

The Shell House replaced a small structure, built in 1746, where Jacob Houblon could entertain his friends to tea, and enjoy the little garden, with its seven walks in the adjoining coppice. The woman who kept Mrs Houblon's poultry and peacocks lived in the adjoining house. Hatfield Forest became an extension of the Hallingbury Place estate; the main house, just two kilometres away, was rebuilt in the early 1770s.

Payments to Capability Brown in the family archives demonstrate that the landscape was transformed between 1758 and 1762. Brown was responsible for planting a range of fine trees including yew, cedar, black pine, horse chestnut, copper beech and stone.

7. Name the next town in this Sequence – London, Rochester, St Albans, ...?

8. In 1916 the occupants of L32 were buried in Great Burstead churchyard (though they were later removed). What was L32 and what happened to its occupants?

The population of east London were denied the comfort of their beds on 23 September 1916 by police whistles, as the city was attacked by four German zeppelins.

At about 01:30, the Zeppelin L32 was struck by Second Lieutenant Frederick Sowrey of the Royal Flying Corps. A further burst of machine-gun fire with delayed incendiary bullets severely damaged the airship's gas-filled cells; the ship twisted and turned, blazing from end to end, shedding burning debris as she passed over Billericay's High and Chapel Streets. Local residents said that it sounded like a train rattling windows, making a rushing noise as it went past, and the fire illuminated the countryside for miles around.

The ship's captain, Oberleutnant Werner Peterson, jumped clear clutching the ship's log. Its stern struck an oak tree near present-day Greens Farm Lane, and the ship ploughed into nearby fields at Snails Farm. The body of the commander was found in the field, and the rest of the crew died in the L 32's twisted aluminium hull.

The 22 crew members of L32 were recovered and placed in a barn near Greens Farm Lane. The next morning, the church road was impassable due to spectators approaching the crash site. Two days later, the bodies of the Zeppelin crew were transported by road to a prepared burial site.

In 1966, the crew were exhumed and moved to the Cannock Chase German Military Cemetery in Staffordshire. The church was visited by a number of German citizens from the 1916 burial to the late 1960s.

9. The Seventies pop group “The Kursaal Flyers” took their name from a famous landmark and carnival float that looked like a train. What was their biggest hit!

The biggest hit of the Kursaal Flyers was “Little Does She Know” in 1976. It reached number 14 in the singles chart.

10. What is the telephone dialling code for each of these towns: Chelmsford, Colchester, Harlow, Maldon, Southend?

Chelmsford is 01245; Colchester is 01206; Harlow is 01279
Maldon is 01621 and Southend is 01702.

Miscellaneous

What subject connects Abberton, Ardleigh and Hanningfield?

They are all connected to water-based nature reserves and wildlife.

Abberton Reservoir Nature Discovery Park is a wetland site of international importance for water birds, including ducks, swans, and geese. The reservoir is fed by local rivers, including the Roman River, Layer Brook, and the River Stour. The Visitor Centre is located on the B1026, 6 miles southwest of Colchester.

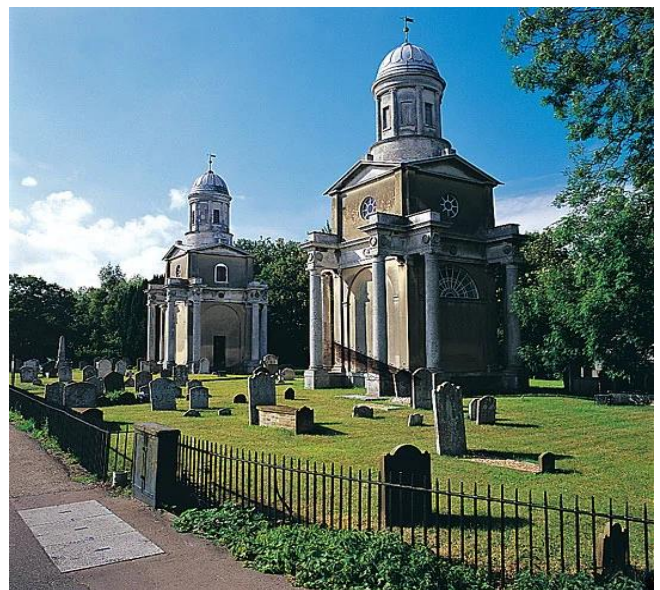
Ardleigh Reservoir is a 49-hectare (120-acre) lake near Colchester.

Hanningfield Reservoir is renowned for its nationally important populations of wildfowl and the reservoir is a haven for nature and wildlife. *(The café is good too!)*

Mistley Towers were originally part of one complete building. What type of building was it?

Mistley is a building of architectural significance as it is one of only two churches designed by Robert Adam, whose client was Richard Rigby of Mistley Hall. Rigby's father had made a great deal of money at the time of the South Sea speculation and Rigby himself attained further wealth and influence when George III made him Paymaster General of the Forces in 1768. At that time the village of Mistley consisted of warehouses, a granary, a large malting office and new quays. There was also a medieval church, only the porch of which survives, and a new church that Rigby's father had built to the north of the village in 1735. When Rigby wanted to turn Mistley into a fashionable spa this plain, rectangular brick building was not in keeping with his grand plans. Rigby originally called in Robert Adam to design a saltwater bath by the river, but this plan was never carried out and instead the architect was put to work on the church in around 1776.

Sadly for Rigby his grand plans were unsuccessful. The main body of the church was demolished in 1870 when a new and larger church in the then fashionable Gothic Revival style was built nearby. However, the towers were preserved as a seamount, and made symmetrical by adding the columns from the porticoes to the sides formerly attached to the nave. They were then sold to two local families who intended to use them as mausolea, but this did not happen and they fell into disrepair. They were restored in the 1950s by the distinguished local architect Raymond Erith under the auspices of the Georgian Group.



For which Essex Town was the diarist Samuel Pepys an MP?

Pepys was elected MP for **Harwich** in 1679 in Charles II's third parliament. He was often in Harwich on naval business.

Where in Essex did the Composer Gustav Holst write part of his " Planets Suite"?

Originally, Holst composed The Planets on the piano, using a piano in his newly built sound-proofed room in the music wing at St Paul's Girls School, as well as the piano at home in **Thaxted**.

Which Essex town is also the name of a make of photographic film?

Ilford (originally part of Essex until 1965 when it was absorbed into Greater London). Alfred Harman founded the business in 1879 (Ilford recently celebrated the 145 year anniversary with special retro packaging!) and began by making dry plates in the basement of his house in Cranbrook Road, Ilford. The business was then called 'Britannia Works'.

In which ancient forested area would you find the Shell House?

Work on the building, thought to have been built in about 1750, sits within the National Trust's **Hatfield Forest** nature reserve, in Takeley. It was built for Jacob Houblon (1710–70) an MP who purchased Hatfield Forest (NT), part of the Hallingbury Place estate, in 1729, using funds amassed by his large family of bankers and traders. His uncle, Sir John Houblon (1632–1712), was a founding member of the Bank of England in 1694 and its first Governor.

According to Houblon family tradition, the Shell House was decorated by Jacob's fifteen-year-old daughter Laetitia (1742-1828) with shells from the West Indies, West Africa and the Indo-Pacific combined with split flints, blue glass and a variety of sands.



Name the next town in this Sequence – London, Rochester, St Albans, ...?

Chelmsford

History of the diocese

Essex see was independent until 675, when Bishop Eorcenwald moved to London. After that Essex remained within the **London** diocese until the 19th century. In 1845 Essex was removed from the overpopulated London diocese and united with **Rochester**, only to be transferred again to **St Albans** in 1877.

In 1914 Essex again had a bishop of its own. Chelmsford Cathedral is the former 15th century parish church with 19th century additions.

In 1916 the occupants of L32 were buried in Great Burstead churchyard (though they were later removed). What was L32 and what happened to its occupants?

L32 was the first genuine German Zeppelin shot down over England during the First World War, early on the morning of 24 September 1916. L32 was shot down by Second Lieutenant Frederick Sowrey and crashed in flames at Great Burstead, near Billericay. All 22 members of the crew were killed. Most died due to the flames, but some, including the airship's commander, Werner Peterson, chose to jump to their deaths. The crew was initially buried at Great Burstead until their remains were moved, along with those of the crews of SL11, L31 and L48, to be reinterred at Cannock Chase German Military Cemetery in Staffordshire in the 1960s.

The Seventies pop group "The Kursaal Flyers" took their name from a famous landmark and carnival float that looked like a train. What was their biggest hit!



What is the telephone dialling code for each of these towns ?

Chelmsford 01245 Colchester 01206 Harlow 01279 Maldon 01621 Southend 01702

Mavis Regan

Abberton, Ardleigh and Hanningfield are all Reservoirs.

Abberton

Abberton is a small Essex village near the coast. Its main attraction is the Abberton Reservoir, a large body of water that is home to a variety of wildlife. Over 40 species of birds have been spotted there and the reservoir is also used for fishing and sailing. Abberton Reservoir is managed by the Essex Wildlife Trust.

Ardleigh

Ardleigh Reservoir is situated in the Dedham Vale area. Visitors to the reservoir can enjoy fishing, boating and hiking. The reservoir is home to a variety of wildlife including birds, fish and mammals. Ardleigh Reservoir is a popular place to visit for anyone who is looking to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Hanningfield

Hanningfield Reservoir offers a warm welcome at its visitors' centre which is an ideal place to view the wildlife and receive the latest sightings news. The site is run in partnership with Essex and Suffolk Water. The reservoir is a Site of Special Interest as during the autumn and winter it is used by large numbers of wildfowl. The 30 acres of woodland are ancient and full of spring flowers such as bluebells and stitchwort.



Abberton Reservoir



Ardleigh Reservoir



Hanningfield Reservoir

Mistley Towers is one of only two churches designed by Robert Adam built for Richard Rigby of Mistley Hall. Rigby originally asked Robert Adam to design a salt water bath by the river. This plan was never carried out and Adam was put to work on building a church in around 1776. Adam's design was not like other 18th century parish churches in that he added towers at the east and west end of the church and semi-circular porticoes on the north and south sides thus creating a symmetrical design. This unusual arrangement meant that Mistley stood out from other 18th century churches. In 1870 the main body of the church was demolished when a new and larger church was built nearby. The towers were kept and sold to two local families but soon fell into disrepair. They were restored in the 1950s by Raymond Erith.



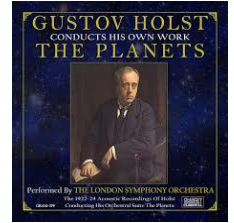
Samuel Pepys MP

Samuel Pepys was born in London in 1633 and lived through some of the biggest events of the time. He lived through the Plague in 1665 and the Great Fire of London in 1666 after which he started writing his diary. In 1679 Samuel was elected MP for Harwich in Essex in Charles II's third parliament, along with Sir Anthony Deane, a Harwich alderman and naval architect.



Gustav Holst

Holst was born in 1874 at Cheltenham and died in London in 1934. He was an English composer, the son of a Swedish father and English mother. He studied at the Royal College of Music and his solo instrument was the trombone. In 1905 he became music master at St Paul's Girls School and two years later he became director of music at Morley College and he kept both of these teaching posts for the rest of his life. In 1914 Holst lived in Mons Street in Thaxted where he began writing "The Planets". Three years later he moved to the Manse, Town Street, Thaxted where he lived until 1925. The Planets' suite was first performed at the Queen's Hall, London in 1918.



Ilford



The town of Ilford has the same name as Ilford Photographic Film. For over 130 years there have been Ilford films, papers and chemicals in production. In 1879, Alfred H Harman, having moved to Ilford in Essex, started to make dry plate film. The plates were sold under the name Britannia Works. Harman built up his company, opened several factories and added to his range of products to include photographic papers. In 1881 his business was registered as a limited company. In 1886 he renamed his products "Ilford" following legal arguments. The modern company is Harman Technology and trades under Ilford Photo. Most of their products are Ilford brands.

The Shell House

The Shell House was built in the 18th century in about 1750. A generous gift in a will led to the building being restored where it sits in the National Trust's Hatfield Forest nature reserve, in Takeley. The shells used in the Shell House come from the West Indian, West African and Indo Pacific trade collected by the Houblon family. The building was designed to be used as somewhere to picnic and entertain family and visitors, about a mile from the family's home, Hallingbury Palace, which was demolished in 1926. The Shell House overlooks a lake believed to have been designed by Lancelot "Capability" Brown. It was built by the Houblon family and Jacob Houblon's daughter Laetitia aged 17.



Colchester

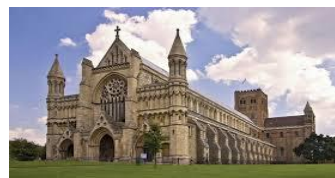
Colchester is the next town in sequence to London, Rochester and St Albans. The reason for this is possibly due to the fact that all four towns are historically notable locations in England. London is the capital city, Rochester is known for its castle and cathedral and St Albans is known as the site of Roman Verulamium and its cathedral. Colchester is also a historic town and is said to be the oldest recorded town in Britain with its strong Roman history. Linked historically to Roman Britain, Colchester logically follows St Albans in a northeastern direction towards the Essex coast.



London



Rochester



St Albans



Colchester

L 32

The L32 was a Super Zeppelin Type R Airship belonging to the German Navy. On 24th September 1916 it crashed on farmland outside the village of Great Burstead in Essex. All 22 crew members, including Oberleutnant Werner Peterson, were killed. The L32, together with three other Zeppelin airships, left Germany on 23rd September 1916 via Belgium for England, their mission was to bomb targets



across London. The bodies were pulled from the wreck and were placed in a barn known as High Barn where they stayed until 27th September 1916. On the morning of 27th the bodies were placed into coffins and taken to St Mary Magdalen church, about a mile away. In 1966 the 22 bodies were exhumed and taken to Cannon Chase, a German Military Cemetery, where they were put in a mass grave, along with the crews of four other Zeppelin crew members.

The Kursaal Flyers

The Kursaal Flyers made their debut at the Blue Boar in Southend in 1974. During the nine months they played there, with the help of Dr Feelgood they broke into the London pub rock circuit. The music press gave them glowing reviews which led to them being signed to Jonathan King's UK Records and their debut LP "Chocks Away" in 1975. Their biggest hit was Little Does She Know.



Telephone Dialling Codes

UK area codes are more than just a string of numbers at the beginning of our telephone numbers. Each code pinpoints a different region in the UK. When you decide to telephone a local or overseas number you must first dial the correct area code. Ofcom divided the UK into various regions making sure that each region had its own, unique code. These codes can vary in length from two to five digits behind the initial zero in a telephone number. For example, the area codes for the following Essex towns are as follows: Chelmsford – 01245, Colchester – 01206, Harlow – 01279, Maldon – 01621 and Southend – 01702.



Sources: English Heritage, Bitesize, BBC news, Britannica, Amateur Photographer, ChatGPT, Google Images.