

Report from Oliver Cooper on the Progress of his History of Great Bricett.

Since I attended last year's meeting on 23rd May, Edward Martin -the historian I have commissioned to undertake this work-has continued to work on this project.

Following an on site investigation by the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, and the oak beam dating information that flowed from Dr.Martin Bridge's work, Edward has worked with Philip Aitkins to revise parts of the original drawings of the oak frame of the Hall,which Philip did many years ago. This required another visit to the Hall by Edward and Philip during the Summer of last year.

The fact that there is a book underway on The History of Gt. Bricett has helped Arland Shawe Taylor in his pursuit of National Lottery funds for the repairs badly needed mainly on the Church roof, and following discussions with Arland and Edward it was agreed that although this work was not yet ready for publication , a presentation would be made of Edward's work so far. Edward gave this presentation himself in the village church on the evening of 12th October last year and it was well attended. Arland may be able to report on the funding quest.

Since then Edward and I continue to meet and discuss all the peripheral details as we move towards publication. Copyright is an example of one of those details and this in turn leads to decision on which images and maps can be used. There are several different organisations from whom we have to gain permission and/or agree a fee for the use of their property. We are communicating with potential publishers for this work, and numbers of finished books to be printed, size of book, type of binding, quality of paper etc, all are all being looked at on this journey.

Edward believes now that his brief is pretty much researched ,but the nature of a project this big ,means that there will always be some tempting piece of new information that just presents itself. On Saturday 21st April the Suffolk Historic Buildings Group's AGM was held in the village hall and following the AGM, the 60 or so numbers that attended, visited the Church, the Hall and the Nunnery Mount. This is a good example of how significant this site is, and in bringing such a concentration of historical knowledge to the village I have no doubt that some such tempting piece of information may just pop up.

Our challenge now is to aim for a publication date, and this hopefully will drive the editing and proof reading process. Edward feels that Easter next year is a reasonable target date and we are aiming for this with all the caveats that can potentially skew this.

This brings my report up to date.