

# repair\*

**Traditional Building Skills  
Courses, Seminars & Lectures  
April 2010 – March 2011**



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## background\*

Since 1997 the Historic Buildings and Conservation team at Essex County Council 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 comprehensive range of short lecture sessions. Titles 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.





## Hands on courses\*

### **Lime Plaster for Plasterers** **9 April 2010**

#### ***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.

**Cost £95**

### **An Introduction to Long Straw Thatching**

**29 - 30 April 2010**

#### ***Belhus Woods Country Park***

This two-day introductory course will give you the opportunity to learn the basic method of long straw thatching. We will be working on a 'live' project in one of Essex County Council's Country Parks, using long straw, the traditional thatching material of Essex. No experience needed.

**Cost £190**

### **Timber Frame Repairs**

**12 - 14 May 2010**

#### ***Stambourne***

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.

**Cost £235**

### **Understanding Wrought Iron** **27 - 28 May 2010**

#### ***Cressing Temple Barns***

The purpose of the course is to offer a rare opportunity to work with hot iron in the forge and to understand the art and science of wrought iron. All participants will be able to take away their forge work at the end of the day.

**Cost £190**

### **Wattle & Daub**

**10 - 11 June 2010**

#### ***Great Saling***

This two-day course shows how to use traditional materials for infill panels in timber-framed buildings. The course is intended for people who want to broaden their experience into the area of conservation and repair. No experience needed.

**Cost £190**



## **Repair and Conservation of Flint Walling**

**23 - 25 June 2010**

**Hadstock**

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**

**1 - 2 July 2010**

**Braintree**

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.

**Cost £190**

## **An Introduction to Conservation Brickwork for Home Owners**

**2 - 3 September 2010**

**Castle Hedingham**

This two-day course is aimed at home owners or beginners wanting to tackle repairs to their property. We will be using traditional lime mortar to repair the brickwork of a 19th century wall. No experience needed.

**Cost £190**

## **Building a New Flint Wall**

**8 - 10 September 2010**

**Wendens Ambo**

Students on this three-day course look at the construction of a new build flint wall and construct the flint panels of the churchyard wall using flints and lime mortar. There will be a demonstration of flint knapping and the opportunity to have a go. The course will be of interest to bricklayers, general builders and home owners. No experience needed.

**Cost £235**

## **Lime Plaster for Home Owners**

**15 October & 19 November**

**2010 Crossing 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 £95**

## **Lime Plaster, Run Mouldings & Pargetting**

**20 - 21 January 2011**

**Crossing 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 £190**



## **Repair & Conservation of Historic Windows**

**17 - 18 February 2011**

**Crossing Temple Barns**

In order to keep as much of the old fabric of the historic building as possible, conservation officers will normally insist that doors and windows are repaired and not replaced. This two-day course is intended for working carpenters and joiners who want to develop their experience in this area of woodworking.

Amateurs with an interest in historic joinery and who have basic woodworking skills are also welcome.

**Cost £190**



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.

### **Making old buildings sustainable**

**22 April 2010**

**9.30am - 12.30pm**

**Cressing Temple**

Traditionally built housing represents a significant investment in embodied energy. Therefore the preferred route is to upgrade them in terms of energy conservation, whether listed or not. Strategies will be explored for improving insulation and energy efficiency without damaging the character of the buildings, together with issues relating to HIPs and the building regulations.

**Including lunch £50**

### **Landscaping for Historic Buildings**

**6 May 2010 9.30am - 12.30pm**

**at Cressing Temple**

Planning guidance recognises the importance of the setting of a listed building. Hard and

soft landscaping, boundary treatments and garden design can have a decisive effect on the appearance of listed buildings and conservation areas.

This lecture will examine the legislative framework affecting these issues, and will look at solutions suitable for the context of a historic setting.

**Including lunch £50**

### **Conservation & repair of concrete**

**23 Sept 2010 9.30am - 12.30pm**

**Cressing Temple**

Concrete has been used in construction since the end of the 19th century. Old concrete which has lost its surface integrity or which is suffering structural problems presents difficult conservation problems. Modern concrete with chemical breakdown or corroded reinforcing is a familiar problem, but concrete in general often lies outside the experience of those working with historic buildings. This seminar will consider approaches to the conservation of concrete structures.

**Including lunch £50**



### **Buildings at risk - redundancy & reuse**

**7 Oct 2010 9.30am - 12.30pm**  
**venue to be confirmed**

Buildings fall into disrepair for many reasons including changing patterns of agricultural, industrial and social activity. This seminar will illustrate the various legislative problems, fund raising and other strategies, together with repair approaches, from the successful example of the Dunmow Maltings.

**Including lunch £50**

### **Lime & traditional buildings**

**21 Oct 2010 9.30am - 12.30pm**  
**Cressing Temple**

Because it is breathable, flexible and sustainable, understanding lime as a material and how to use it are crucial to all aspects of modern building conservation. The talks will cover the different types of lime available, and how and when to use them, including renders, brickwork and floor construction.

**Including lunch £50**

### **Single & double glazing in traditional buildings**

**4 Nov 2010 9.30am - 12.30pm**  
**Cressing Temple**

Generally double glazing

is not allowed for use with listed buildings. Pressure is growing to make all buildings energy efficient, and to relax the exemption which listed buildings enjoy from Part L, and so this issue has become more complex. This morning session will look at the different kinds of glazing suitable for use with listed buildings and when they might be used, and will consider the results of English Heritage's recent research on the efficacy of single glazing.

**Including lunch £50**

### **Repairs to timber frame & historic joinery**

**25 Nov 2010 9.30am - 12.30pm**  
**Cressing Temple**

Timber frames and joinery present differences of scale and technique, but both are aspects of valuable historic fabric which it is important to preserve and repair rather than replace. Joe Bispham will look at strategies for timber frame repair, including case studies, and historic joinery repair techniques, covering specification, design and selection of materials.

**Including lunch £50**

### **New uses for farm buildings.** **2 Dec 2010 9.30am - 12.30pm** **Cressing Temple**

The fate of old agricultural buildings, a much loved feature of the rural landscape but now lacking a beneficial use, presents a huge problem for their owners and those working in the planning system. Guidance will be provided on the legal and planning framework to finding new uses for barns and other buildings, as well as on design solutions likely to prove acceptable for listed buildings.

**Including lunch £50**

### **Extensions to listed buildings** **27 Jan 2011 9.30am - 12.30pm** **Cressing Temple**

The changing way we live in our houses, and what we expect of them, mean that listed buildings are put under great pressure to be adapted to modern requirements. This seminar will look at the factors that have to be considered when deciding whether change is possible, and examines some possible approaches to extension design.

**Including lunch £50**

### **Structural repairs to historic buildings – some case studies**

**10 Feb 2011 9.30am - 12.30pm**  
**Cressing Temple**

Standard engineering solutions to repair problems are often inappropriate for historic buildings. Instead a conservation approach taking into account their construction, materials and character is required. This seminar, led by a former English Heritage engineer, considers some repairs to the structure of masonry and timber buildings and the philosophy behind them.

**Including lunch £50**

### **Materials & details for conservation areas & listed buildings**

**31 Mar 2011 9.30am to 12.30pm**  
**Cressing Temple**

Unsympathetic materials can spoil the appearance of new buildings and erode the character of old ones. Similarly poor architectural detailing can be disfiguring, or worse still damaging. This seminar will look at these issues and consider materials and details appropriate for use in traditional Essex buildings and conservation areas.

**Including lunch £50**

## special events\*



### **Caring for your traditional building**

**5 June 2010**

**9.30am - 12.30pm**

**Great Dunmow Maltings**

Intended for owners of traditional buildings, this course will look at sympathetic methods of repair and show how a simple maintenance programme can avoid many problems associated with historic buildings. We will look at why it is so important for your building to breathe, how and why you should give your home an annual health check, and give advice on making your home more energy efficient.

**Including lunch £25**

### **Build Your Own Bread Oven**

**3 March 2011**

**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 £95**

### **A tour of a traditional brick works & a guided walk through Bury St Edmunds (CPD Certificates provided)**

**17 March 2011**

A rare opportunity to visit Bulmer Brick & Tile Company 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 work. 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, lunch not included**



# 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.

## 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.

**Essex County Council Heritage Publications** (P&P included)

**Regional Variations in Timber Framed Buildings in England & Wales** down to 1550 - £16

**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**  
No4 - Historic Buildings – 50p  
No5 - Shopfronts - £1.50  
No6 - Signs & Lettering - £1  
No7 - Conservatories & Historic Buildings - £2  
No8 - Infill in Historic Areas - £2

**Traditional Building Materials in Essex – Pargetting £1**

**The Changing Church - £3**

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

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.**

Please make cheques payable to Essex County Council.

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## 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: .....

Post code: .....

Tel: .....

Email: .....

How did you hear about our courses .....

We may use your details at a later date to gain feedback on the courses. Help reduce the amount of paper we use. Please tick to receive course information via email.

Thank you.





**This booklet is issued by**

Essex County Council Historic Buildings and Conservation Team

You can contact us in the following ways:

**By post**

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

**By telephone**

01245 437672

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[traditional.buildingskills@essex.gov.uk](mailto:traditional.buildingskills@essex.gov.uk)

**Visit our website**

[www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk)

The information contained in this leaflet can be translated,  
and/or made available in alternative formats, on request.

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