

FRIENDS OF CHELSMFORD MUSEUMS

TEA AND TALKS SPRING 2026

The talks take place at the Museum. Refreshments will be served from 1.30 p.m. with the talk commencing at 2.00 p.m. and finishing at approximately 3.00 p.m.

Monday 12th January A DEEP HISTORY IN WALLS by Ian and Ros Mercer. Ian, a retired geologist and gemmologist, takes a close look at the walls of St. Mary's Broomfield and provides an intriguing insight into the links between 'gravel' and human history and geology. There is much gravel in Essex. Why is it here and what part does it play in the story of church materials? Ian's degree in geology and x-ray crystallography at Birkbeck, his work with the Geological Survey and his Fellowship of the Gemmological Associations help provide the answers.

Monday 9th February A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME: A HISTORY OF SURNAMES by Julian Whybra. Julian's talk provides a fascinating study of the meaning of our names. Surnames, now meaning an inherited family name: originally it denoted simply an additional name, arose from 10th to 15th centuries and provided a key to where our ancestors came from, their trade, their appearance and sometimes even their name. It can even be used to trace your family's origins. I will ask one or two of those attending the talk if I can give their name to a speaker some days before the talk so that he can do some research into them. He may tell us too the origin of his surname!

MONDAY 16TH MARCH BRAINTREE'S ROMAN DOCTOR by Richard Bale. Richard read Roman History and Archaeology at Nottingham University and has spent fifteen years as a volunteer digging Roman sites in Kent, Essex and London. He is the Rayne Heritage Advisor and is a member of The Roman Society and The Association for Roman Archaeology. In 1983 an engraved Roman gemstone depicting Asklepios (the Greek God of Medicine) was discovered by Brain Valley Archaeological Society. This talk highlights the uniqueness of the find in Roman Britain and explores Roman medicine, identifying some known doctors who might have used it as their personal seal.

The cost is £7.00 for members, (£20.00 for all three talks), and £9.00 for non-members, (£25.00 for all three talks). Please return the form below with a cheque made payable to The Friends of Chelmsford Museums or make payment by credit transfer to Metro Bank, sort code 23-05-80, account The Friends of Chelmsford Museums, a/c no. 43165984. Send the form by post or by e mail to David Jones, 93, Hillside Grove, Chelmsford. CM2 9DB: david_jones@btinternet.com 01245 281899. Please ensure you put The before Friends either on a cheque or in a bank transfer. Subject to Friends' Events Policy (see website).

Please return the lower part of this form, retaining the top section for dates and details

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	Date	Number of people	Cost per member	Number of People	Cost per non-member
Talk 1	12 th January		£7.00		£9.00
Talk 2	9 th February		£7.00		£9.00
Talk 3	16 th March		£7.00		£9.00
All three			£20.00		£25.00

I enclose a cheque for £

Payment made by credit transfer for £

Names of people attending

Telephone no

E mail address

Address