



Update on Rescue of Friends' School Archives

Earlier this year the Administrators removed all confidential material, some of which was destroyed and the rest stored securely somewhere in the Saffron Walden area. Access to this remains a mystery. The remaining items, including material from the archive room, were displayed on tables in the library and dining hall, and in March this year the Old Scholars' Committee were invited to rescue what items they thought were worth saving before being disposed of.

At that point we were informed by the Administrators that the Essex Record Office had been contacted and were not interested in adding to the archives they already had been given in 1986 of pre 1936 items.

We were limited by time (had to be done before Easter) and by storage space - one palette load in a warehouse in Saffron Walden; many thanks to parent Sam Phillips. It was all hands on deck as a team of us spent a couple of days sorting through items that we thought were the most precious and rescuing these. These included many photographs and albums and other documents, the architect's watercolour picture from the library and the samplers from the Head's area.

Shortly after Easter it transpired that the Essex Record Office were in fact very interested in acquiring the archives and we spent another couple of days helping them to salvage the remaining archive items which were transported to Chelmsford in a van and two cars. These items have all been catalogued by them and details can now be seen in the Archive and History pages of our website. The Essex Record Office are only interested in one of each

item and have recently returned to us a number of duplicate items, the future of which has still to be decided.

Recently the first batch of archive items we had stored in the warehouse were transferred to Martin Hugall's garage and there was time to sort through some of these and to make copies of a number of photographs (see the one at the top of girls' hockey in about 1918). And the Essex Record Office returned last week to collect the remainder of the archives. In the next few months these will be sorted by them and catalogued and stored safely in the Essex Record Office in Chelmsford.

When the second lot of duplicate items are returned we hope to be able to retain some, including all the school and Old Scholar magazines, in the Saffron Walden area for future reference. Copies of these are already stored in the Town Library.

One item that the ERO was not interested in was the Swimming Award plaque 1903-1914 which will have to be disposed of unless anyone is interested in it. It measures 66cm by 51cm and can be seen in the attached photo. If interested contact martin@hugall.co.uk

Martin Hugall

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