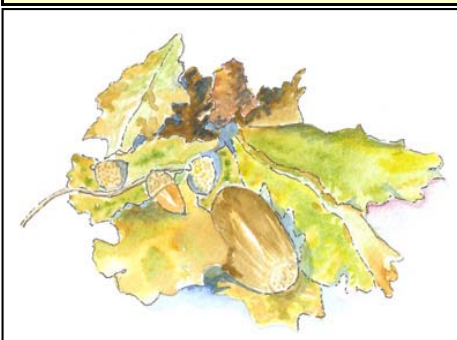


The North End Map

We started by searching the internet for examples of village or parish maps and used these as the basis for a display at a coffee morning, where people who were interested were invited to form a map group. As we wanted this to be a community project we decided we would design the map and create all the illustrations ourselves.

We decided on informal monthly map meetings and compiled a list of historical features and local flora and fauna at our first meeting, so that members of the group could choose their first subjects.

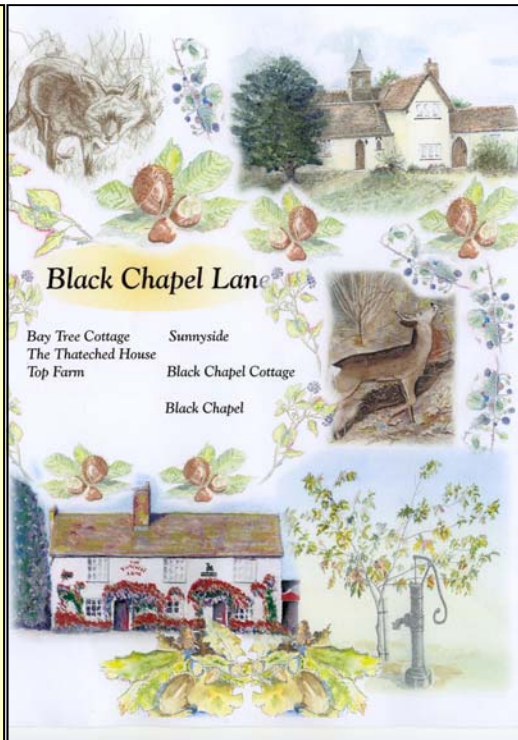
Artists were encouraged to use their own style and work in any medium. Each month, art work was shared with the group and further subjects from the list. As a result of the VDS workshop, we had access to a bank of photographs of village buildings and features which was very useful for reference. We were very lucky to have an IT specialist in the group who regularly collected and scanned the illustrations.



The map was created in layers using Corel Draw and Photoshop and as the finished size will be A0, used a huge amount of computer memory and its construction demanded considerable time and skill.

We decided on an informal border which incorporated animals and plants as well as a motif based on a mediaeval wall painting from Blackchapel.

The map is to be displayed on the reverse of a new parish notice board, so the map has been rotated to match the orientation of the reader viewing the map on the green.



An early draft of a corner of the map.



The map group looking at samples of the map.



The first full size mock up of the map.

This is the final digital version of the map which includes illustrations, house names or numbers, footpaths and historical notes. In this format it can be printed, then encased in laminate and framed before it is finally attached to the notice board.



The historic exhibition staged as part of our Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2002 aroused a great deal of local interest. Some of the information has been incorporated into the map and will also be used in the VDS document. Encouraged by residents' interest in the history of North End, decided to continue with our research in order to expand the exhibition.

Most of our information so far has come from the Essex Record Office where we have accessed census returns, tithe maps and the SEAX database to search the archive for relevant documents. We are hoping to link some Great Waltham parish records to census information and have begun to record the reminiscences of elderly residents who have lived much of their lives in this area. We have also managed to acquire a number of interesting old photographs.



The Butchers Arms in the early 1900s... ...and now



Blackchapel is a mediaeval chapel with adjoining priest's house dating from the 15th century. One theory is that it was an outpost of Leez Priory and that its name came from the black capes worn by the monks who were known as 'Black Canons'.

We have discovered that the poet Ruth Pitter, born 1898 and winner of the Hawthorndon Prize for Literature and the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry, once lived in North End with her sister. Ruth Pitter's love of gardening and the countryside are reflected in her poems.

