

Monumental Brass Society

in association with the Essex Society for Archaeology and History,
Rochford Hundred Historical Society
and the Rochford Town Team

Rochford, Essex

Saturday, 14th July 2018

The church of St. Andrew occupies a position in close proximity to Rochford Hall – once of great size and home of Sir Thomas Boleyn, Viscount Rochford, father of Anne.

The *pièce de résistance* of the church is the impressive west tower constructed of brick and bearing the arms above the west door of Thomas Butler, Earl of Ormond, 1515.

The church contains the enchanting and diminutive London F style brass commemorating Mary Dilcock who died on 14th December 1514. However, this meeting has been arranged to celebrate the recent introduction of the London B style brass depicting Thomas Stapel who died on the second day of March 1371. A rare example of a Serjeant-at-Arms with only two other examples remaining in the United Kingdom namely that commemorating Nicholas [Maudyt], Serjeant to Henry V, 1420, at Wandsworth, Surrey and John Borrell, Serjeant to Henry VIII, 1531, at Broxbourne, Hertfordshire. The Stapel brass is the earliest dated example and the eighth oldest brass to be found in the county of Essex.

The brass was moved to Sutton in 1957 following the closure and demolition of the church at Shopland. Sutton church has now been declared redundant and is in the process of being sold to a local landowner. The transfer of this important brass sets an important precedent in an era where the closure of churches is likely to increase.

Programme

- 2.00p.m. **Welcome**
by Martin Stuchfield, President of the Monumental Brass Society
- 2.05p.m. **Rochford Church and Hall: An Introduction**
by David Andrews
- 2.35p.m. **Moving target: the chequered history
of the Thomas Stapel brass**
by Martin Stuchfield
- 3.00p.m. Tea and viewing of the brasses
- 3.30p.m. **Thomas Stapel, Sergeant-at-Arms to Edward III:
Household service and social mobility in 14th century England**
by Matthew Hefferan

The Church will be open prior to the meeting and all are welcome.
The meeting which is free with no booking required.

The church is located off Hall Road, Rochford. The postcode for satellite navigation is SS4 1NW. The nearest station is Rochford (served from London: Liverpool Street) which is adjacent to the church with a walking distance of 0.2 miles (4 minutes).

Overleaf: Thomas Stapel, Serjeant-at-Arms to Edward III, 1371.

