

The Poor Law Unions

Billericay Poor Law Union, Essex

Constituent Parishes

Basildon, Billericay, North Benfleet, South Benfleet, Bowers Gifford, Brentwood, Great Burstead, Little Burstead, Childerditch, Downham, Dunton Waylett, East Horndon, Hutton, West Horndon with Ingrave, Laindon, Mountnessing, Nevendon, Pitsea, Ramsden Bellhouse, Ramsden Crays, Shenfield, Thundersley, Vange, Little Warley, South Weald, Wickford.

Later Additions: Basildon, Lee Chapel (from 1858). Lee Chapel was an extra parochial place See England Jurisdictions 1851 for surrounding ecclesiastical and civil parishes.

Braintree Poor Law Union, Essex

Constituent Parishes

Black Notley, Bocking, Bradwell by Coggeshall, Braintree, Cornish Hall End, Cressing, Finchingfield, Great Saling, Panfield, Pattiswick, Rayne, Shalford, Stisted, Wethersfield, White Notley.

Chelmsford Poor Law Union, Essex

Great Baddow, (with accommodation for up to 20), Buttsbury, (10), Chelmsford, (100), Danbury, (18), Fryerning, (20), South Hanningfield, (9), Roxwell, (20), Springfield, (35), Stock Harvard, (10), Great Waltham, (100), Little Waltham, (20), Writtle, (100).

Constituent Parishes

Boreham, Broomfield, Buttsbury, Chelmsford, Chignall Smealy, Chignall St James, Danbury, East Hanningfield, Fryerning, Good Easter, Great Baddow, Great Leighs, Great Waltham, High Easter, Highwood, Ingatestone, Little Baddow, Little Leighs, Little Waltham, Margaretting, Mashbury, Moulsham, Pleshey, Rettendon, Roxwell, Runwell, Sandon, South Hanningfield, Springfield, Springfield Holy Trinity, Stock Harvard, West Hanningfield, Widford, Woodham Ferrers, Writtle.

Colchester Poor Law Union, Essex

Constituent Parishes

Berechurch, Colchester All Saints, Colchester Holy Trinity, Colchester St Botolph, Colchester St Giles, Colchester St James, Colchester St Leonard, Colchester St Martin, Colchester St Mary Magdalen, Colchester St Mary at the Walls, Colchester St Nicholas, Colchester St Peter, Colchester St Runwald, Greenstead-juxta-Colchester, Lexden, Myland St Michael.

Dunmow Poor Law Union, Essex

Constituent Parishes

Aythorpe Roding, Barnston, Broxted, Chickney, Felsted, Great Bardfield, Great Canfield, Great Dunmow, Great Easton, Hatfield Broad Oak, High Easter, High Roding, Leaden Roding, Lindsell, Little Bardfield, Little Canfield, Little Dunmow, Little Easton, Little Saling, Margaret Roding, Stebbing, Takeley, Thaxted, Tilty, White Roding.

Epping Poor Law Union, Essex

Workhouses are recorded at

Epping, Harlow, Theydon Garnon, (from 1704) Chigwell, 1728.

Constituent Parishes

Buckhurst Hill, Essex from 1894 added to the Union. Chigwell, Chingford, Epping, (Epping Upland added from 1896) Great Parndon, Harlow, Latton, Little Parndon, Loughton, Magdalen Laver, Matching, Nazeing, Netteswell, North Weald, Roydon, Sheering, Theydon Bois, Theydon Garnon.

Halstead Poor Law Union, Essex

Constituent parishes

Castle Hedingham, Colne Engaine, Cornish Hall End, Earls Colne, Gosfield, Great Maplestead, Great Yeldham, Greenstead Green St James, Halstead, Halstead Holy Trinity, Little Maplestead, Little Yeldham, Pebmarsh, Ridgewell, Sible Hedingham, Stambourne, Tilbury juxta Clare, Toppesfield, White Colne.

West Ham Poor Law Union, Essex

Constituent Parishes

East Ham, Leyton, Leytonstone, Little Ilford, Plaistow St Mary, Stratford St John, Walthamstow, [St Mary], Walthamstow St James, Walthamstow St John, Walthamstow St Peter, Wanstead, West Ham, Woodford, Woodford Bridge.

Lexden and Winstree Poor Law Union, Essex

Constituent Parishes

Abberton, Aldham, All Saints in Stanway and Lexden, Birch, Boxted, Brightlingsea, Chappel, Copford, Dedham, East Donyland, East Mersea, Easthorpe, Fingringhoe, Fordham, Great Horkesley, Great Tey, Great Wigborough, Inworth, Langenhoe, Langham, Layer Breton, Layer Marney, Layer de la Haye, Little Horkesley, Little Tey, Little Wigborough, Marks Tey, Mount Bures, Peldon, Salcott-cum- Virley, Stanway, Wakes Colne, West Bergholt, West Mersea, Wivenhoe, Wormingford.

Maldon Poor Law Union, Essex

Up to 1834

A workhouse was built in Maldon in around 1715 under the terms of the will of Thomas Plumb (1630-1704) Archdeacon of Rochester for "erecting a workhouse for the poor of Maldon ...".

Situated on Market Hill, it served the parishes of All Saints, St Peter's and St Mary's. According to the 1725 edition of *An Account of Several Workhouses...*, the building cost around £1,000 plus a further £200 for "goods and utensils".

A parliamentary report of 1777 recorded parish workhouses in operation at Burnham (for up to 24 inmates), Goldhanger (18), Maldon—St Mary (40), Purleigh (20), Southminster (30), Steeple (6), Stow Maries (10), Tillingham (6), Tollesbury (2), Tolleshunt Darcy (10), Tolleshunt Major (10), Great Totham (20), Little Totham (16), and Woodham Ferrers (30).

A cottage on The Street in Woodham Walter is said to have been used as the village poorhouse in the early 1800s.

After 1834

Maldon Poor Law Union was formed on 14th December 1835. Its operation was overseen by an elected Board of Guardians, 36 in number, representing its 32 constituent parishes as listed below (figures in brackets indicate numbers of Guardians if more than one):

County of Essex: Althorn, Asheldham, Bradwell, Burnham (2), Cold Norton, Creeksea, Dengie, Goldhanger, Hazleigh, Heybridge, Langford, Latchingdon, Maldon All Saints, Maldon St Mary's (2), Maldon St Peter's (2), Mayland, Mundon, North Fambridge, Purleigh, St Lawrence, Southminster (2), Steeple, Stow Maries, Tillingham, Tollesbury, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Tolleshunt Knights, Tolleshunt Major, Great Totham, Little Totham, Woodham Mortimer, Woodham Walter.

Later Additions (all from 1883): Great Braxted, Little Braxted, Ulting, Wickham Bishops.

Ongar Poor Law Union, Essex

History

A parliamentary report of 1777 recorded parish workhouses in operation at Lamborne (for up to 40) see Lambourne with Abridge, Navestock (25) see Navestock, and Willingale Spain (12).see Willingale Spain.

Constituent Parishes

Abess Roding, Beauchamp Roding, Berners Roding, Blackmore, Bobbingworth, Chipping Ongar, Doddinghurst, Fyfield, Greenstead, High Laver, High Ongar, Kelvedon Hatch, Lambourne with Abridge, Little Laver, Moreton, Navestock, Norton Mandeville, Shelley, Shellow Bowells, Stanford Rivers, Stapleford Abbots, Stapleford Tawney, Stondon Massey, Theydon Mount, Willingale Doe, Willingale Spain.

Orsett Poor Law Union, Essex.

Constituent Parishes

Aveley, Bulphan, Chadwell St Mary, Corringham, East Tilbury, Fobbing, Grays Thurrock, Horndon on the Hill, Langdon Hills, Little Thurrock, Mucking, North Ockendon, Orsett, South Ockendon, Stanford-le-Hope, Stifford, West Thurrock, West Tilbury, Later Addition: Canvey Island (1837-80) Canvey Island.

Rochford Poor Law Union, Essex

Constituent parishes

Ashingdon, Barling Magna, Canewdon, Canvey Island, Eastwood, Foulness, Great Stambridge, Great Wakering, Hadleigh, Havengore, Hawkwell, Hockley, Leigh-on-Sea, Little Stambridge, Little Wakering, North Shoebury, Paglesham, Prittlewell, Rawreth, Rayleigh, Rochford, Shopland, South Benfleet, South Fambridge, South Shoebury, Southchurch, Southend St John the Baptist, Sutton, Thundersley.

Romford Poor Law Union, Essex

Constituent parishes

Barking, Barkingside Trinity, Cranham, Dagenham, Great Ilford, Great Warley, Havering-atte-Bower, Hornchurch, Rainham, Romford, Upminster, Wennington.

Saffron Walden Poor Law Union, Essex

History

Saffron Walden, had a parish workhouse in the High Street and a further adjacent cottage was purchased in 1798 to form a bridewell or gaol. The building was damaged by fire in 1835.

Ashdon, Essex former guildhall became a parish workhouse in 1775. A Parliamentary report of 1777 recorded that the Ashdon workhouse could accommodate up to 30 and that inmates were employed in spinning yarn.

Clavering, Essex also converted its old guildhall into a parish workhouse in 1760. In 1782 records indicate that Clavering was paying for Thaxted to house paupers.

Newport, Essex had an early workhouse in 1709, possibly at the south side of the junction of the High Street and Wicken Road. The inmates were employed in spinning, with any income generated going towards the inmates' maintenance. A new workhouse was erected in 1799 at Bury Water Green (now 1-2 Bury Water Lane). The building, was financed by local Lord of the Manor, the Honourable Percy Charles Wyndham to provide a "common working room for the poor of Newport". Debden, Essex had a parish workhouse on the east side of Thaxted Road. Saffron Walden Poor Law Union was formed on 6th April 1835.

The Saffron Walden Board of Guardians met for the first time on the 13th April, 1835, at the Rose and Crown public house. They resolved that a new workhouse building was needed and set about finding a suitable location. They originally planned to buy a three-acre site in White Street Field. However, this proved to be unsuitable for the workhouse, and the Guardians' Chairman Lord Braybrooke purchased some land on the north side of Seward's End Road (later Radwinter Road) which he then leased to the Union.

The new workhouse, to accommodate 340 inmates, was built in 1835-6 to a design by James Clephan of Silso who was also the architect of the workhouses at Amptill and Wellingborough. The construction was carried out by Messrs Bennett and Barber of Cambridge. total cost of the land and building works was £7,333. A further £1200 was required in 1841-2 for additional expenses incurred in completing the building.

In 1846, the Guardians decided to build an infirmary, washhouse and laundry in the north-east yard. Four fever wards were erected in October 1848. By this time the workhouse could accommodate a total of 400.

The workhouse later became St James' Hospital, and later Saffron Walden Community Hospital. A new hospital has now been built on an adjacent site and the workhouse converted to private housing.

Constituent Parishes

Arkesden, Ashdon, Chrishall, Clavering, Debden, Elmdon, Great Chesterford, Great Sampford, Hempstead, Langley, Little Chesterford, Little Sampford, Littlebury, Newport, Quendon, Radwinter, Rickling, Saffron Walden, Strethall, Wendens Ambo, Wendon Lofts, Wicken Bonhunt, Widdington, Wimbish.

Tendring Poor Law Union, Essex

Early parish workhouses were recorded in 1777 at

Ardleigh for up to 40, Beaumont with Mose (14), Little Bentley (26), Bradfield (12), Great Bromley (30), Great Clacton (30), Harwich—Dover Court (8), Harwich—St Nicholas (60), Kirby (24), Lawford (22), Great Oakley (20), Ramsey (14), Tendring (20), Thorpe (50), and Wix (25).

Constituent parishes

Alresford, Ardleigh, Beaumont with Moze, Bradfield, Brightlingsea, Dovercourt, Elmstead, 1838-1925
Frating, Frinton, Great Bentley, Great Bromley, Great Clacton, Great Holland, Great Oakley, Harwich St Nicholas, 1838-1925, Kirby le Soken, Lawford, Little Bentley, Little Bromley, Little Clacton, Little Oakley, Manningtree, Mistley, Ramsey, St Osyth, Tendring, Thorrington, Thorpe le Soken, Walton le Soken, Weeley, Wix, Wrabness.

Later Additions: Brightlingsea, (1838-1880), Dovercourt (1838-1925), Harwich (1925-1930), Harwich St Nicholas (1838-1925).

Witham Poor Law Union, Essex

Constituent Parishes

Coggeshall, including Great and Little Coggeshall, Fairstead, Faulkbourne, Feering, Great Braxted, Hatfield Peverel, Inworth, Kelvedon, Little Braxted, Markshall, Messing, Rivenhall, Terling, Ulting, Wickham Bishops, Witham.