

# THE BOOK OF BRAMFORD

## DIAMOND JUBILEE EDITION

Bramford Local History Group

Bramford is situated just over two miles north-west of Ipswich, the county town of Suffolk, and has been in existence for well over 1,000 years. The River Gipping has always been central to the lives of the people and the name of the village suggests that it began life as a favoured crossing point. The route of the ancient Colchester to Norwich Roman road passes through the parish. St Mary's church, nestling in the trees beside the river, is naturally the oldest building, dating in part from the thirteenth century, and its majestic slender spire can be seen for many miles from every direction. Early in the nineteenth century Bramford was mainly agricultural, with nearly all the inhabitants living in the main street and working on the farms. The coming of the railway, however, heralded a period of expansion and additional employment, primarily from two industrial companies who pioneered the UK fertiliser industry.

For many centuries, until the mid-1900s when the Loraine family name died out, the life of the people was dominated by the lord of the manor at Bramford Hall. Today, as the twenty-first century unfolds, the identity of Bramford at times seems threatened, as the A14 road is now all that stands between the village and Ipswich. But here, in this very special village, there is still a thriving community spirit: Bramford today is a parish proud of its rich and fascinating past.

First published in 2003 and quickly sold out, this new edition of *The Book of Bramford*, published to coincide with the Diamond Jubilee, brings the story of the community fully up to date. A new section highlights what has happened since the book was first issued, such as the extension to the Primary School, and new images capture how the Jubilee was celebrated. This unique publication is a vital record of the history and inhabitants of the ancient parish of Bramford, presented in a single volume for all to treasure.

### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

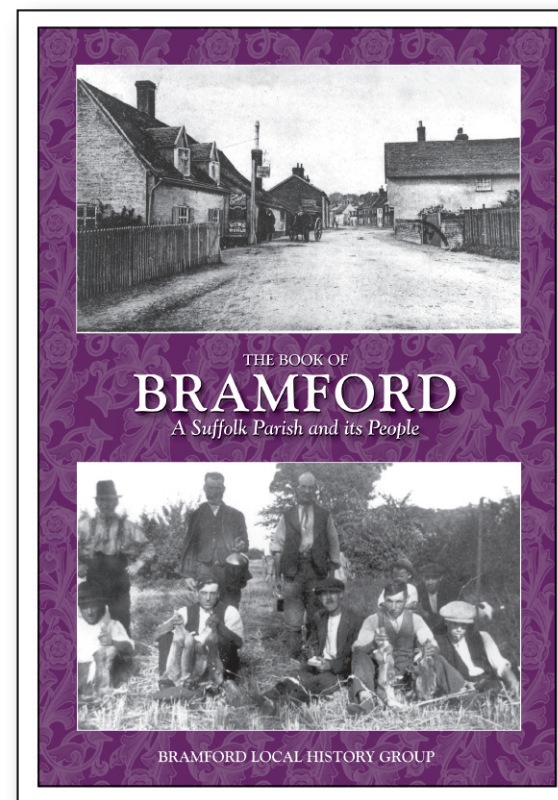
Bramford Local History Group was formed in 1994 and membership has grown steadily since then. Apart from organising a regular programme of speakers, the group has held a number of exhibitions, produced postcards, tea towels, and several small booklets about village history and memories. Its earlier publications have been very modest, but in this volume, *The Book of Bramford*, the group covers a wealth of topics surrounding parish life, from the manorial lord to the agricultural labourer. The material for this unique project has come from a wide variety of people, both past and present, and the History Group is very grateful for their generous support and loan of photographs.

### HALSGROVE CATALOGUE

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Workers digging clay from the pits in Paper Mill Lane to make bricks, c.1930.



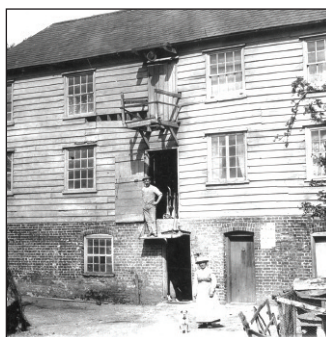
The village street and pump, which is now the entrance to Gipping Stone Road, c.1900.



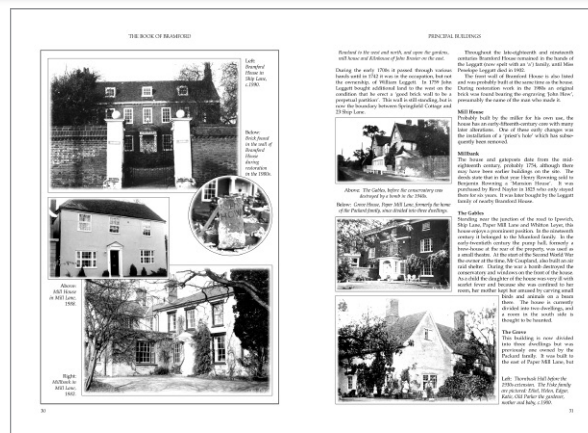
Bramford Works Quoits Team, winners of the Samford League, 1923.

Right: Bramford Street, 1930s.

Below: Rushbrook's Mill, c.1920, formerly the paper-mill.



Example of a double-page spread.



The Howlett family enjoying Diamond Jubilee celebrations, June 2012.