PLACES OF INTEREST

ST ANDREWS PARISH CHURCH 1276

The Parish Church of St Andrew lies in the heart of the town where the main roads from Colchester and Sudbury meet. It was mainly built in the 14th and 15th centuries. In the 19th century it was extensively restored, and the tower was added. It contains several interesting monuments, including tombs, tablets and effigies of the Bourchier family; one, dated 1400, has a richly carved canopy.

THE LIBRARY

In 1864-65 a large grey gault and brick corn exchange was erected in Bridge Street in the hope of generating income. The venture, however, failed, and the building went through various uses including those of a technical school and a youth centre. In 1970 it became the Halstead Public Library.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Holy Trinity’s 150ft high tower and broach spire form a prominent and handsome feature of Halstead’s skyline.

The church was built in 1843-4 by the famous architect Sir George Gilbert Scott to serve the community which had grown up on the western side of the River Colne. It is one of his earliest works and one of the first examples of a Gothic Revival church in the early English 13th century style.

In 1888 Holy Trinity Church ceased to be used for regular worship. Because of the church’s architectural and historical importance, it is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust for the benefit and enjoyment of visitors and the local people of Halstead.

TOWNSFORD MILL

Townsford Mill was built by Samuel Courtauld in 1818, and converted to a silk mill in 1825. Today Townsford Mill is an antiques centre, one of the largest in the county, selling thousands of items of furniture, porcelain, war memorabilia, coins, stamps, postcards, dolls, old lace, clocks, glass, ceramics and paintings.

The Halstead Public Library includes a range of clinics.

BRAINTREE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Empire Theatre, 57 Butler Road CO9 1LL

Light entertainment. Shows films.

THEATRE/ CINEMA

Halstead has no railway station – the nearest are at Chappel & Wakes Colne (6 miles) Braintree (8 miles away), Sudbury (9 miles) and at Kelvedon (10 miles).

BUSINESS CENTRE

The main Post Office is in WH Smith Newsagents in the High Street. Sub post office in Parkfields in the co-op.

POST OFFICES

Halstead Gazette (published every Friday) whose offices are at 76 High Street, Braintree CM7 1PF. 01376 343344

REGISTRARS OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

All enquiries to Braintree. 01376 320762.

THE HALSTEAD CENTRE

Townsford Mill is an antiques centre, one of the largest in the county, selling thousands of items of furniture, porcelain, war memorabilia, coins, stamps, postcards, dolls, old lace, clocks, glass, ceramics and paintings.