



Protecting the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation

After the Chelmer Canal Trust AGM business, will be a public talk:

“Robert, the 9th Lord Petre”

A talk by our President, the present 18th Lord Petre about his ancestor who was the first chairman of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation company in 1793.

Robert, 9th Lord Petre was one of the promoters of the Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation and the first Chairman of the original Company. He was a leading figure in the movement for Catholic emancipation which culminated in the Relief Acts and was the first Catholic to play host to the Monarch since the Reformation, when George III stayed at Thorndon Hall after reviewing troops at Warley.

Robert had demolished the old hall and built in its stead the grandiose Palladian mansion we see today, to a design by James Paine with a park by Capability Brown

In 1776, Robert was appointed Grand Master of All England Freemasons, a seemingly unusual appointment for a Catholic since, during the previous 40 years, two Papal Bulls or edicts had been issued outlawing and excommunicating the Freemasons. Evidently, as there was no formal Catholic hierarchy in England at the time, the Bulls could not be published and therefore did not apply.



**Tuesday 19th September 2017 at 8:00 pm
at Moulsham Mill, Parkway, Chelmsford. CM2 7PX.**