

What people have been saying in the press

"The worth of Grey Friars College in the town centre is immeasurable. It provides a much-needed presence which speaks of education and thought, a counterbalance to the dominant trends of commerce, fast food and alcohol. We urge our readers to have their say"

ECS Editorial Comment 6th Oct

"Grey Friars is a lovely old building with a long association with education and an ideal easy-access location"

J Bentley ECS 20th Oct

"Grey Friars holds an important place in the hearts of many Colchester residents. We need to see some transparency in the county council's decision-making, to properly analyse its plans."

Cllr R Bourne, Colchester B.C. EG 4th Oct

"I am horrified at the wanton destruction of a great Colchester institution, built up with hard work and dedication."

P Brown ECS 20th Oct

"This is absolutely crazy".

Bob Russell MP ECS 6th Oct

"Grey Friars should be allowed to develop and go on responding to our need for lifelong learning."

JHeath EG 5th Oct

"Grey Friars has thousands of students. Has the county council considered them?"

Editorial EG 2nd Oct

"This will inevitably lead to a 'run-down' service for adults. They do not deserve this."

J Gurney EG 13th Oct

"May I appeal for a period of calm and suggest a route towards an agreed solution based on an informed rational debate"

A Coleman EADT 10th Oct

"Surely being educated makes us realise we need to protect our heritage for the next generation."

M Gilbert ECS 20th Oct

Need some help?

We don't want anyone to be excluded from learning. We published some tips on breaking down barriers in our July newsletter (some still available from Grey Friars). Please pass them on to family and friends.

The Learning Shop

And don't forget another adult learning local charity, **Colchester Learning Shop** St Nicholas St. (off High St., near Jack's) for impartial advice 01206 368444
learning@shop47.fsnet.co.uk
www.thelearningshop.co.uk

Free Membership (giving access to our main meetings and a say in how we operate) is open to all who support our aims. We currently have over 50 people in membership. Just lending your name can help!

Leaflets from Grey Friars and Wilson Marriage.

We are also on the charities website www.guidestar.org



It's all happening at the AGM!

Prior to the AGM, there will be an open meeting for all concerned about Essex County Council's plans to close Grey Friars and sell it.

**Friday 10th November
7.30pm at Grey Friars
ALL WELCOME!**

This will probably be your only chance to contribute to the debate before plans are ratified at County Hall, Chelmsford in December.



There has not been a public meeting about this so far – so don't miss the chance to have your say!

THE BIG QUESTION: What happened to the 'Lift Fund'?

This is the most common question asked of CALCAG Trustees. The answer is two-fold: First, to keep your money separate from Essex County Council funds, the Lift Fund (previously operated as a sub-account of college finances) was converted in 2002/3 into the registered charity CALCAG, independent of ECC. Money donated to the lift campaign was paid to the charity account, joined by sums from students for other purposes. CONTINUED PAGE 2

Essex County Council's East Hill House is for sale. Will the signs soon cross the road to Grey Friars?

When you've read your copy of CALCAG News please pass it on to others. Thanks

Secondly, the money spent on the lift project so far is (a) £529 on an expert study to see whether it was possible to bring Grey Friars up to DDA standard - and the answer was yes! And (b) we then paid architects to draw up a set of costed plans to include a lift (illustration on right). The plans cost £4,600. We handed both documents to ECC in 2002 as our contribution to a joint plan to improve Grey Friars.

CALCAG Aims

The main aim of CALCAG is to work towards all adult education courses in the Colchester district being as open as possible to all who wish to study.

Whatever the outcome of Essex County Council's review of adult education for Colchester, we aim to continue to keep this 'watching brief' on how open the adult learning activities are - and, where possible, help by making grants or, as an 'action group' taking up the matter with the relevant authorities.

What had CALCAG and Essex County Council planned for Grey Friars?



Glass lift in the yard by back door

This design for a glass atrium and lift (stopping at mezzanine levels) and giving access to ALL classrooms, was agreed with English Heritage, Colchester Borough and Essex County Council officials before the project was withdrawn by Essex.

What has CALCAG done?

We have set out to help make education open to all adults, especially those with specific needs. As well as acting as an 'action group' to open up adult education, CALCAG has funded some special projects. In addition to the **survey** of Grey Friars and the **improvement plans** to include a lift, we paid for

<> **£2,000 worth** of hearing loops and a p.a. system

<> We are just about to buy a special hoist for **£1,600** to enable disabled people to get out of their wheelchairs for classes

<> Using separate money, we have **published books**, (see the "Access Books" leaflet) including the history of Grey Friars. All receipts from book sales go to our charity funds.

<> We're preparing a **website** for information and advice on taking part in learning.

<> And with the help of a Grey Friars student suffering from arthritis in the fingers, we have researched the availability of **easier-grip pens** and our first order will arrive soon.

How to help CALCAG

We'd be delighted to welcome your help in **raising funds, running the charity, or volunteer your expertise, or simply keep in touch!**

You may even:

name us in your will,

or

give a cash donation now

Other people have done all of the above!

Please contact John Knight c/o Grey Friars if you'd like to support our work.

CALCAG Who's Who 2005-6

Trustees and Committee:

- Diana Hargrave
- Doris Bishop
- Richard Cooper
- Joan Gurney
- Barbara Jeffriss
- Joan Nevard
- Jon Williams
- Norman Williams

President:

Bob Russell MP

"Access Books":

Alan Skinner

Treasurer:

Sue Tye

Secretary:

John Knight

Chairman:

Janet Fulford

We are grateful to the management of Essex County Council's "North East Essex Area Adult Community Learning Service" for providing space for meetings at Grey Friars.

Please see over for details of membership.