

## Walking Tour of Goldhanger

Nearly 30 people were able to enjoy the walking tours of Goldhanger on 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June. Some juggling of the itinerary was necessary to dodge the showers of rain, but local expert David Newman skilfully guided people round the church and the village.

He explained the history of local landmarks such as the Chequers Inn, the village water pump (Grade II listed) and the old 'Shell' petrol pump in the garden of the property opposite which was a garage and workshop in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In Fish Street they brewed and sold low alcohol beer to discourage the residents from drinking smuggled spirits. Nearby in Church Street is a terrace of four red brick cottages built to accommodate the Coastguard men and their families.

St Peter's church has a sunken floor which dates back to Saxon times, though the stone construction we see today dates from 1100 to 1500. Since 1951 the church has had a peal of eight bells that can be rung by one person – an 'Ellacombe chime', unusual because it is in working order, as David demonstrated. The rectors of Goldhanger have been responsible for some of the finer buildings in the village and for the (unique?) red brick walls round the churchyard and many front gardens built to keep farm animals out. This quiet coastal village is definitely worth a visit, and the food at the Chequers is highly recommended.