

Sir Roger Manwood and Place House

Sir Roger Manwood was the second son of Thomas Manwood and Katherine. He was born in Sandwich in 1525 where he was educated at St Peter's School. In 1548, he began his training as a barrister in the Inner Temple and was called to the bar in 1555.

He was then appointed Recorder of Sandwich and MP for Hastings. He won the favour of Queen Elizabeth, who in 1563 gave him the estate at Hackington. A huge mansion which stood on the field beside the church, known as Place House, had once been used as the Archdeaconry and he refurbished it in grand style. He also spent vast sums restoring the church to a building of character and beauty, much as we see it today.

He was soon appointed a judge for the South-East Assize circuit. One of his first edicts as a judge was to decree that non-attendance at church would attract a fine. Many churches benefitted from this, including St Stephen's. He was a man of stringent discipline and laid down harsh punishments for disloyalty to the queen. He presided over burnings at the stake, having tongues cut out and imprisonment for life.

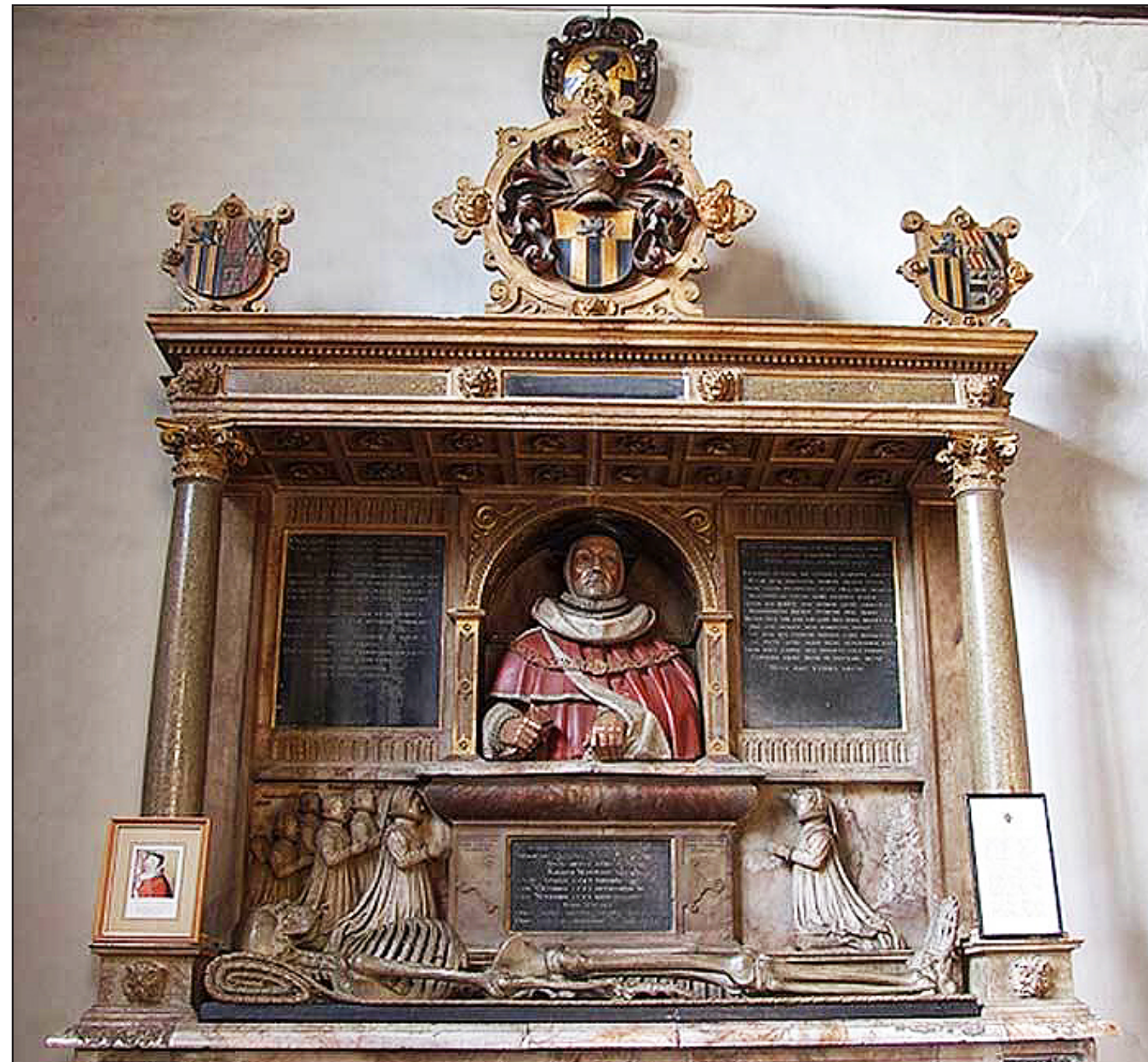
Despite rising criticism, Roger Manwood's status grew, and he was knighted by the Queen in 1578. He was appointed Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer the same year and seen as a man of great standing in national affairs. He sat on the commission that considered the fate of Mary, Queen of Scots and concurred with her execution.

Manwood built the seven almshouses in which the poor of the parish could live on parish relief and the residents had free meals in the Great House on Sundays. The almshouses stand today,

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still fulfilling their original purpose. He also endowed the Sir Roger Manwood School in Sandwich and built a House of Correction in Westgate.

However, it seemed that his mind began to decline when he was in his sixties as he began to sell property that did not belong to him, including the sale of the Queen's pardon and gold. He also at-



tempted to use his knowledge of the law to his own advantage and was put under house arrest in his beloved Place House whilst the Privy Council considered the accusation that he had tried to bribe the authorities.

Before any verdicts could be passed, he died at his home in 1592 aged 67. He was buried in the Manwood vault in the church, which has a magnificent memorial by Maximillian Colte – who later designed Queen Elizabeth's tomb in Westminster Abbey. His memorial is adorned with statues of both his wives and children kneeling [as well as a realistic wooden skeleton] which is much admired today.



The Garden Interest Group, a visit to Hyde Hall

On Sunday 3rd August we have arranged a coach trip to the RHS Garden at Hyde Hall, described as a garden of peace and tranquillity, nestled in the heart of rural Essex, with an eclectic mix of traditional and modern styles. Highlights include the Dry Garden with its fantastic range of drought resistant plants and the Hilltop Garden with its roses and herbaceous borders.

Our trip coincides with the annual Flower Show, which is promoted as an amazing event with dazzling flower displays, expert exhibitors, superb shopping and delicious food.

During the show you can discover a wide range of nurseries selling hundreds of plants from succulents and roses to bonsai and exotics. Each nursery will have a mini display garden to help you get inspiration for your own garden, and will be on hand to offer help and advice on choosing the right plants. There will also be a number of trade stands selling tools, pots, ornaments and furniture, everything you need to make your garden unique to you.

There are manual wheelchairs available on a 'first come first served' basis and mobility scooters can be booked in advance.

We have been able to keep the cost to £25pp.

I hope you can join us!



Garden Interest Group Programme Summer 2025

■ Planting Sempervivum pots – bring your own planter and we will provide plants and advice - it could be a plant pot, it could be a tea pot.

12 April, 10am – 12pm, 118 St Stephens Road

■ Ginger Challenge - come to collect a piece of ginger and advice on planting, at harvest time we will bring our plants back for comparison and to enjoy many ginger-themed bakes

Collect ginger - 17 May 10am – 12pm, 33 St Stephens Road

Share results - 27 Sept 10.30am, 33 St Stephen' Road

■ Visit to RHS Hyde Hall

Sunday 3rd August, 9am pick up from Archbishops School, leaving Hyde Hall at 4pm, Price £25

