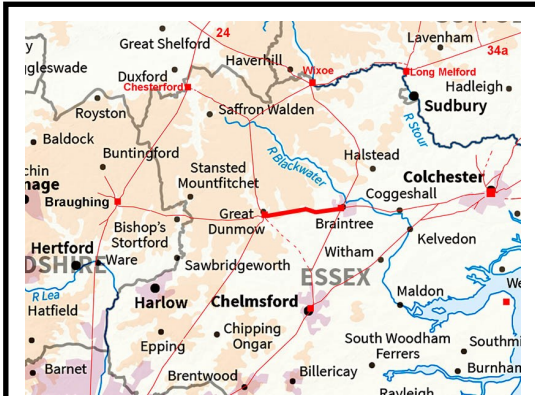




Weaving a way through Braintree

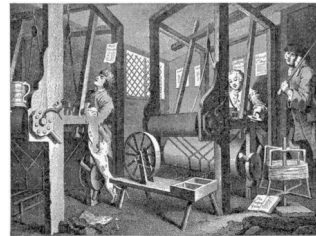


Braintree was an important Roman settlement on the Roman Road, 'Stane Street'. Evidence for this settlement has been found where the George Yard Shopping Centre now stands.

When the Romans left Britain, the Saxons also settled in Braintree, followed by the Normans after William the Conqueror's victory at the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

It was recorded in the Domesday Book as 'Branchetreu'.

Bradford Street in Braintree became a significant place for the production and trade of wool and cloth from the 1200s, becoming increasingly prominent in the 1600s. Many of the historic buildings can still be seen today.



In the 17th Century (1600s), Flemish workers came to Braintree and settled here. They brought with them new ways of working and manufactured a fabric called 'bays and says' which became increasingly popular and made lots of the clothiers in Braintree rich.

Probably Braintree's most famous ever resident was John Ray. He was a naturalist, which means that he was interested in the study of plants and animals. He investigated their similarities and differences in order to classify them. John Ray is often referred to as the father of natural history in Britain. He was born on November 29, 1627, in the village of Black Notley.



Vocabulary

Domesday book - a record of all the land owners made in 1085, by order of William the Conqueror

loom - a device used to weave cloth

weaving - a method of creating fabric by interlacing two different threads

medieval - approx. 500 - 1500CE

architecture - the design and construction of buildings

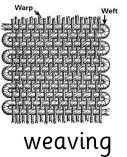
cottage industry - a business or manufacturing activity that takes place in a person's home

industrial revolution - the period of time in which manufacturing industries shifted from much agricultural and handicraft work to large-scale, industrial production

merchant - a buyer and seller of cloth

clothier - any person involved in the making or selling of cloth

fuller - the name given to the person who 'cleansed the cloth', to prepare it for weaving



Braintree established as a settlement

Romans settled in Braintree

Weaving trade starts in Braintree

Industrial revolution in Britain

Factory Act became law in Britain

George Courtauld opened his silk mill

Warner and Sons manufacture the coronation robes for Queen Elizabeth II

present day