

## **Ursula Kemp's Place in Witch History**

- 1545 The word occult first appeared in the dictionary meaning "that which is hidden or is beyond the range of ordinary apprehension and understanding"
- 1562 Elizabethan Witchcraft Act was passed during the reign of The Virgin Queen, Elizabeth I. It was an act 'agaynst Conjuracions Inchauntmentes and Withecraftes'.
- 1563 Twenty years before the trial of Ursula Kemp, the Church re-enforces its rule as The Council of Trent, begun in 1545, is concluded. It is decided that tradition is to be judged co-equal to scripture as a source of spiritual knowledge, and that only the Church is to be considered as having the right to interpret the Bible.
- 1572 The religious fervour throughout Europe comes to a head on August 24 when about 3,000 Protestants in Paris are massacred. Across France within three days approximately 20,000 Huguenots are executed. Catholics across Europe rejoice and Protestants mourn and express anger.
- 1566 The first witch trials to appear in a secular court in England take place in Chelmsford, Essex. The first woman to be hanged for witchcraft was Agnes Waterhouse.
- 1579 The second Chelmsford witch trials.
- 1582 Ursula Kemp is accused of witchcraft in St Osyth.
- 1582 On March 29th at the Spring assizes in Chelmsford, Ursula along with 13 other women are tried of witchcraft. Ursula and Elizabeth Bennett are subsequently hanged.
- 1921 A Mr Brooker, a resident of St Osyth, was removing gravel from his garden when he uncovered two skeletons. One was believed to be that of Elizabeth Bennett; the other, Ursula Kemp. The remains quickly became a macabre tourist attraction.
- 1963 The remains were deliberately exhumed by a Mr Scolding who had sold the plot for re-development. The bones were sold to the Witchcraft Museum in Boscastle, Cornwall.
- 1999 'Ursula's' remains passed into the hands of the eccentric artist Robert Lenkiewitz.
- 2011 After protracted negotiations John Worland secured the release of 'Ursula's' remains in order that she may be brought home, re-buried and finally put at peace. And in April 2011 a small group of people gathered at the unconsecrated part of St Osyth Cemetery for a private reburial ceremony.