

### SENDING CHRISTMAS CHEER TO ALL OUR MEMBERS *Judy Lea*

Dear Member,

Well, what a year it's been!

When the first lockdown started, like lots of others I was very down hearted, disoriented that my too-full diary had gone into melt down, anxious about people I dearly care for, and dreadfully missing the company of friends and family.

Now at last better news is emerging of vaccines and the chance to meet up carefully again. Indeed, one might even dare to think we really can learn to live with the virus provided due care is taken, which didn't seem at all possible nine months ago.

To my utter amazement, despite everything and with the very regrettable exception of our public meetings, the Society has still been active on every other front thanks in the main to our exceptional team of committee members, each with their varied but complementary talents. There's also been help from other members when we've needed a big push, like producing the useful lists to keep pace with the ever-changing High Street trading conditions. My sincere personal thanks to each of them.

We've continued to fight our corner against proposals that threatened to damage our environment or built heritage: the pedestrianisation of the High Street, the huge Chinese-driven Bradwell B nuclear station on vulnerable land, the thoughtless exploitation proposed by the County Council of the listed Friary East building by the Library (*see page 2*), as examples. We've also supported other more beneficial proposals, including some infilling behind the High Street.

We've just refurbished one blue plaque (*see page 4*) and are in talks about a brand new one, and even published a walk for all the existing ones.

We've taken the opportunity to dispatch well-ordered oral archives to the Essex Record Office and added more voices and pictures to the Maeldune Heritage Centre.

As the item on the Maldon and Heybridge Heritage Harbour Association (*see page 5*) illustrates, we've continued more than ever to closely collaborate with like-minded interests throughout the town such as the Maldon Heritage Working Group, Maldon Business Group, and liaised with the councils on various issues.

The possibility of a Zoom meeting in January didn't get enough responses to be viable but we do hope the extra member updates are proving useful for you while we can't meet, and we know from all the reports we've had that the relaxed afternoon picnic in Beeleigh Abbey Gardens was enjoyed. Indeed, we must be doing something right as new members continue to join, the most recent being one of the descendants of Jonas Malden who fitted inside the Fat Man's jacket, as depicted on the mural beside Continental Coffee.

So, both myself and all the Committee wish you as happy a Christmas as possible!

Thank you for your support by being a member, and do please continue to take care until we can meet up again, hopefully in April.



## **Planning matters—*David Smye***

We continue to scrutinise the local planning applications and support good design and appropriate uses for schemes in and around the town. On the other hand, we oppose proposals that are insensitive to the heritage and would affect the enjoyment of the cultural, architectural and historic aspects that make Maldon so special.

Well, that's our standpoint, but of course, such matters are subjective and what we wish for is not always what happens. Unfortunately, we have to comment within strict time limits on these public consultations, and the particular circumstances of the past year have meant that we could not present plans to you at our monthly meetings and so have not been able to discuss any proposals with you. Hopefully, 2021 will be different.

The appeal hearing on Friary East is on 9<sup>th</sup> December via Zoom. You may recall that we made strong representation against the proposals to develop the house and gardens with brutal blocks of flats, so we await the outcome of the Planning Inspector's deliberations.

Although we also voiced opposition to the ground investigations for the Bradwell B nuclear power plant, and this was refused by Maldon DC, recent announcements by the Prime Minister for a 'green industrial revolution' would seem to place more reliance on nuclear power, and again we await the government's decision.

Closer to home, the redevelopment of the children's play area at the Promenade Park has been sanctioned – with additional equipment more suited to youngsters with sensory and physical issues – although many people will mourn the loss of the present established maze.

More radical changes to the national planning system are proposed including designated areas for new housing with a target to build 300,000 homes a year. The strategies include councils being told how many homes are needed to be built in their area and for them to then identify potential sites.

Local residents would get a say on the initial 10-year plans detailing the housing zones, but with no power to comment on individual applications. We will contribute to the debates that will flow from this proclamation as details emerge on any effects upon our district.

## **Maeldune Heritage Centre needs your urgent help please!**

You already know the former church on the corner with Market Hill that houses the Maeldune Heritage Centre on the ground floor and makes sure our own Maldon Society photographic and oral archives are accessible to the public. Many people also use it for locally made gifts, tourist leaflets, and to see the art exhibitions as well as the Millennium Tapestry.

You may not know however that although the building is owned by the Town Council and provides a free public service, the Heritage Centre is expected to be financially self-reliant. Normally, the Council gives them a small grant but in these exceptional times this is not a given, and without it they would be forced to close.

The Centre is being asked to provide 'evidence' of their value to the community, and would really appreciate a line or two of support from you, with your name and general location, to be sent to [maldonsociety1957@gmail.com](mailto:maldonsociety1957@gmail.com) please, by Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Many thanks if you can do this.

## Oral History — *Wendy Howell*

DAVID PATIENT, born in 1947, is a well-known, recently retired Maldon shipwright and boat builder. I interviewed him last year when he had just completed writing a book on John Howard the barge builder, titled 'One of Howards'. These are David's words in describing his early life, his art school time and his many years of being involved with Maldon's marine heritage.

"David Patient here, born in Clapham in 1947 but didn't spend long there. We lived in Egypt as my father had a job there."

*"That sounds very exotic, living in Egypt"*

"That's right, we did all the pyramids, Tutankhamen, and everything else. I don't remember it but my sister does. It's somewhere in the brain. I think the revolution started, King Farouk was overthrown, so we had to remove ourselves and we ended up on Canvey Island with my grandmother. We spent most of our childhood messing around in the ditches and swimming. That was a wonderful upbringing. As a kid you had all this open ground, ditches to fall in and the swimming."

So I was at school, age 15, and I saw an advert to sail in a charter barge called the Memory; the first charter barge in Maldon. A friend and I went for a wonderful weekend and I got hooked and came back in winter time to help and became one of the permanent staff."

*"You were still at school?"*

"That's right. So I used to go down at weekends to Salcott Creek or Mill Beach, doing painting and messing about. Used to sail with them for years and subsequently my academic life at school wasn't good; but I was a good artist so I was encouraged to go to Art School at South-West Essex Art College, then later to Ravensbourne Art School for three years."

*(David went on to teach at Maldon Grammar school, which became the Plume school. At the time he was also barging and building his own boat. He retired from teaching after three years.)*

"As I'd been building my own boat at Dixon & Kerly's (now Downs Yard boatyard) and as I'd known everyone around there, because I'd been barging since I was 15, I got a job as a trainee at Cook's Yard, because I'd had some experience with tools with Barry Pearce who ran Cook's at that time."

*"So Cook's employed you?"*

"Well I was self-employed. I spent a long time at Cook's and I learnt my trade there with the others. What was happening at the time was that the charter business was taking off and Barry was buying a lot of motor barges that had finished in trade and they had to be rigged out. So most of the barges on the quay now, we probably worked on."

*"What does rigging out involve?"*

"Well you've got a barge that's just got a wheelhouse, which used to be a sailing barge. So you have to take the wheelhouse off and put back all the necessary sailing gear, and repairs of course. A long job and I was doing my own boat at the time."

*"So you were a number of years at Cook's?"*

"Yes, then Barry sold it and I went to Dan Webb & Feesey's yard and took over the shed which was John Howard's old blacksmiths' shed. It's down by the free hard at the end of North Street and 'Dagger Lane'. It's still there and it gets flooded. I worked in the shed building barge boats and then got a contact to work with the Cirdon Sailing Trust. The Rev. Bill Broad started this Sailing Trust for under-privileged children."

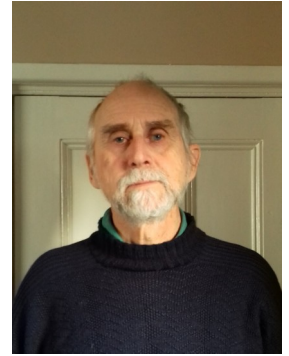
When I moved from the shed, I went to Downs Road Boatyard for a while, then on to where I was until recently (now retired) near the Fullbridge and took over some land and built a yacht there and then took over more Cirdon Trust work."

*"So you must have worked on 100s of boats and barges over the years?"*

"Yes, yes, 20-30 individual vessels with Cook's, then all the work at Fullbridge as well; then I was shipwright/advisor to the Cirdon Trust and they had several craft which we looked after."

*"What does the title 'shipwright' actually mean?"*

"There is a distinction between a shipwright and a boat builder. If you're being pedantic you could say that shipwrights work on large craft, doing repairs and building them. Boat builders build boats."



## Blue Plaque project – *Peter Holmes*

For many years the Society has, in conjunction with Maldon District Council, been responsible for supplying and maintaining the Blue Plaques which you will see as you walk around the town. These plaques commemorate historic buildings and famous Maldon residents. We are currently in the middle of a project to restore and, where necessary, replace some of these plaques. Several have become quite faded and, in the light of new information, one or two have been found to be incorrect.



A couple of years ago, Lynne Raymond carried out some in-depth research into the life of Edward Bright, 'the fat man at Maldon', and discovered that, contrary to previous knowledge, the fat man did not live at Church House; it was his son Edward Bright junior.



This meant that new plaques had to be ordered, not just for Church House but for Edward Bright senior's correct address at No. 57 High St. These have now been fitted and correct this long-held belief.



Entirely funded by the Society, we have recently replaced the plaque on the old workhouse on Market Hill. This plaque had become so faded that it was almost illegible.



The opportunity was also taken to simplify the text so that it could be more easily read from the pavement. The workhouse was built in 1719 and served the poor of Maldon for over 150 years before being replaced in 1873 by the new workhouse on Spital Road:

If you are aware of any other location in Maldon which could justify a plaque, either a historic building or the home of a famous person, please do let us know.

## **Maldon & Heybridge Heritage Harbour Association – *Dorreen Linton***

A group of like-minded residents who belong to local sailing clubs, owners of boatyards, Thames Sailing Trust, residents, Town Councillors and boat owners gathered together to hear a presentation by Dr Andrea Raiker and David Harris at Maldon Little Ship Sailing Club in September 2019.

They explained the process involved in Maldon & Heybridge Heritage Harbour Association (MHHHA) applying for Heritage Harbour status.

Since then, regular monthly meetings have been held with the Association formalising its position with the appointment of committee members and an agreed constitution in June 2020. The Association's aims and objectives have been finalised. MHHHA is to focus on Maldon's unique maritime heritage and to promote its recognition locally, nationally and internationally.

This has happened with many harbours in Holland which has led to financial and other support to ensure the future of their maritime heritage. Heybridge is a heritage partner.

Research has been carried out to find the historical links with Maldon, the village at Heybridge Basin, the Blackwater and Chelmer Navigation, Langford and Ulting and Chelmsford. This has led to sub-committees being formed to concentrate on specific projects.

Meetings with all relevant Parish Councils and Town and District Councils have been held. Several members have enjoyed the sunny weather and have been investigating our local heritage sites and this has led to discussions on establishing heritage footpaths and cycle ways from Northey Island to Heybridge Basin and others, including the Heybridge and Ulting areas.

Andrea writes articles for the Maldon and Heybridge Life journal every month to raise awareness of the uniqueness of this area.

HM Lord-Lieutenant of Essex, Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst is the Association's Patron and Brian Corbett, a Trustee of the European Marine Heritage Group representing the UK, attends meetings. If you would like to know more about MHHHA, just get in touch with Andrea at [dr.a.raiker@gmail.com](mailto:dr.a.raiker@gmail.com) and <https://www.facebook.com/Maldon-Heybridge-Heritage-Harbour-Association-109577900963614/>

## **Biography of Dr. Thomas Plume**

We have been notified by Dr.Helen Kemp, the Librarian at the Thomas Plume Library in Maldon, that the long-awaited biography of the famous man has now been published.

Dr Plume was born in Maldon in 1630 and is remembered today for the many bequests he left which established important scientific, religious and cultural charities.

The biography is titled "Dr.Thomas Plume, 1630 – 1704, His Life and Legacies in Essex, Kent and Cambridge". The price until the end of the year is £18.99 and can be purchased directly from the publishers, on their website : [www.UHPress.co.uk](http://www.UHPress.co.uk)

Alternatively you could ring Gill Cook at the University of Hertfordshire Press on 01707 284654.

If you would like any further information about the Maldon Plume Library, the email address is [info@thomasplumeslibrary.co.uk](mailto:info@thomasplumeslibrary.co.uk) and phone number 01621 854850.



## Extra Christmas cheer for lucky members!

Although we haven't been able to meet for some months, the Committee really wanted to ensure that we still brought some seasonal cheer to members, by having a special raffle in time for Christmas.

Our very own Santa (John Came) as you can see performed the selection of winning tickets, providing five lucky members with a £20 voucher redeemable at a specific High Street shop.

Congratulations to Dot, Maise, Sylvia, Amicie and Karen. We hope you enjoy having an extra present this year!



*PS. Although John is widely rumoured to have a penchant for the ladies (!) as it happens the draw was entirely anonymous with numbered tickets drawn from the tub, then subsequently matched by Martin against the order of his membership list.*

## Lockdown lifted from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December!

With lockdown being lifted back to Tier 2, we thought it would be worth providing you with updates of both the local restaurants with outdoor spaces and an updated independent shops list. Both are attached and we hope you find them useful. Local traders do really appreciate your custom.

<b>LOCAL SERVICES</b>			🚚 = DELIVERY AVAILABLE	📦 = COLLECTION AVAILABLE
BUSINESS NAME	WHAT'S ON OFFER?	CONTACT		
<b>Classic Professional Drycleaners</b>	Drycleaning, laundry service, alterations & repairs	<a href="http://www.classic-drycleaners.co.uk">www.classic-drycleaners.co.uk</a>	📦	
<b>Cute Cuts Grooming</b>	Dog grooming	<a href="http://www.cutecutsgrooming.co.uk">www.cutecutsgrooming.co.uk</a>	📦	
<b>Kate Lifestyle</b>	Hair services (COVID restrictions permitting). Gift vouchers	<a href="http://www.katelifestyle.co.uk">www.katelifestyle.co.uk</a>	🚚	
<b>Maldon Foot Clinic</b>	Comprehensive medical footcare	01621 851 544	📦	
<b>Point Graphics</b>	Full design services from logo design to full colour printing and signage. The only High Street Design and Print shop	<a href="http://www.pointgraphics.co.uk">www.pointgraphics.co.uk</a>	🚚	📦
<b>Reed Hair</b>	Hair services (COVID restrictions permitting). Gift Cards & a selection of Christmas box sets	<a href="http://www.reedhair.com">www.reedhair.com</a>	📦	
<b>Templeman Opticians</b>	Eye examinations. Dispensing of spectacles. Adjustments and repairs	<a href="http://www.templemanmaldon.co.uk">www.templemanmaldon.co.uk</a>	🚚	📦
<b>The Courtyard Clinic</b>	Osteopathy, Podiatry and Massage Therapy	<a href="http://www.osteopathmaldon.co.uk">www.osteopathmaldon.co.uk</a>		
<b>The Hair Room</b>	Hair services (COVID restrictions permitting). Delivery on retail products	01621 855 559	🚚	
<b>The Spa Maldon</b>	face & body beauty treatments. Dermalogica & Espa products. Gift Vouchers	<a href="http://www.thespamaldon.co.uk">www.thespamaldon.co.uk</a>	🚚	📦

👉 Visit [www.aroundmaldon.co.uk/local](http://www.aroundmaldon.co.uk/local) for a more detailed list.

🏦 Local banks are also open offering a range of Covid secure & virtual services

Deliveries may be subject to a small delivery charge and area restrictions. Please discuss this with the individual vendors before ordering. This list is not an exhaustive list of businesses still providing a service on the high street. Check with your favourite vendors to see what they're offering.

## LOCKDOWN OR NOT, YOUR HIGH STREET NEEDS YOU.

On behalf of Maldon High Street, we'd like to invite you to shop local wherever you can this Christmas. We've compiled a small list of Maldon High Street's shops, eateries and service providers who would love for you to shop with them.

👉 Visit [www.aroundmaldon.co.uk/local](http://www.aroundmaldon.co.uk/local) for a more detailed list.

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR LOCAL HIGH STREET.

Whether locked-down or not we want to let you know that we're still here and still offering our products and services. To keep the high street going, we're urging the people of Maldon and surrounding areas to shop local wherever you feel safe, able and comfortable to do so. Many of our local businesses are even offering a COVID friendly delivery and collection service!



👉 Find more local business across the Maldon District at [www.SaltmarshCoast.co.uk](http://www.SaltmarshCoast.co.uk)

🚗 Some local taxi drivers are also offering to support Click & Collect, contact them to see if they can help you.

This leaflet was produced by The Maldon Business Board with collaboration from Maldon District Council and The European Regional Development Fund.



# The Maldon Society

## HIGH STREET CAFES AND RESTAURANTS WITH OUTSIDE SEATING

This list was first put together a few weeks ago before Lockdown 2! We hope that from 2<sup>nd</sup> December, all the outside seating will be restored in accordance with the details below. Some of the areas had heaters and some others were trying to obtain them, so let's hope that extra ones have now been acquired to enable some comfort!

### **THE QUEEN VICTORIA PUB, SPITAL ROAD.**

Several outside tables in marquees and gazebos.

### **THE BLUE BOAR PUB, SILVER STREET**

Garden to the side and marquee in the courtyard.

### **CAFÉ BRAZIL, HIGH STREET**

Garden at the back with some cover.

### **THE COFFEE COMPANY, HIGH STREET**

Take-away drinks. Limited covered seating at the side in Edwards Walk or, uncovered, across the road in All Saints Churchyard; or in the Maeldune Heritage Centre garden.

Do pop into the Heritage Centre after your coffee – Christmas Market in December.

### **THE WHITE HORSE PUB, HIGH STREET**

Some covered seating in the alleyway alongside the pub.

### **THE OAK HOUSE, HIGH STREET**

Several tables in the front and side, mostly covered.

### **CONTINENTAL CAFÉ, HIGH STREET**

Large area at the back with shelters and covered seating.

### **MRS SALISBURY'S RESTAURANT, BRIGHTS PATH**

Several outside tables with covering.

### **PREZZO RESTAURANT, HIGH STREET**

Large area at the back with some covering.

### **THE SWAN PUB, HIGH STREET**

Large new marquee at the back for outside dining.

### **DRIFTWOOD CAFÉ, WENLOCK WAY**

Several tables outside. Awnings available as covering.

### **THE VINTAGE ROSE CAFÉ, QUEST PLACE**

A couple of outside tables. No covering.

### **BLACK RABBIT PUB, HIGH STREET**

Garden at the back with some cover.

### **THE SUNNY SAILOR, FULLBRIDGE**

Seats outside by the river with umbrellas.

### **THE QUEEN'S HEAD AND THE JOLLY SAILOR PUBS, HYTHE QUAY**

Both have extensive outside seating, mostly covered.

### **PROM PARK CAFES**

Several cafes in the park, all with plenty of outside seating. No covering except for the nearby shelters.

## **Keep in contact with The Maldon Society**

Does the Society have your email address? It would help us to get in touch with you about future events and news. Please contact us via the website to give us your details. Thank you.

**Email: [maldonsociety@aol.com](mailto:maldonsociety@aol.com)**

**Website: [www.maldonsoc.org](http://www.maldonsoc.org)**