

The Maldon Society

May 2021 - Annual General Meetings for both 2019/20 and 2020/21

Each May we are obliged, under the terms of our constitution, to ask you to approve the committee member appointments, to send out our accounts for your approval, and give you an opportunity to comment on how the society is being run. Your papers are attached which, exceptionally, cover two years. Due to the Coronavirus which has affected this country since early 2020, we had to postpone the AGM for May 2020. We propose to amend the constitution to ensure we can better adapt to similar circumstances in the future, but fervently hope they won't arise!

It's easy to think that most of the last two years have been overwhelmed by long periods of considerable anxiety and confusion, including a year with sadly no public talks, but in fact looking back as Chairman at the Maldon Society over the last two years, I've been surprised by what else is evident:-

- Our membership was increasing before Covid and new members are still joining.
- The lockdown gave us opportunities to further demonstrate our support for the High Street and this has been recognised with formal membership of the Maldon Business Board, which aims to boost the prosperity of the town.
- The refocusing of the Maeldune Heritage Centre has re-energised our mutual collaboration. The tourist information function, now housed there, is a natural fit with our own public interests and access to our oral and visual archives.
- With our active help, significant unwanted changes threatening the town have been deflected, at least for now, including the Bradwell new nuclear station site works and large-scale development behind the Friary garden.
- Our understanding of current changes to national planning laws has been considerably increased with David in this role.
- Mutual cooperation with other heritage interests in the town has accelerated.
- As a committee we have coped far better than I ever dared hope with the very sad loss of a crucial member. Instead we have two able new members, Jane and James, who between them are bringing valuable additional skills to the mix. Meanwhile the others have continued valiantly undaunted, and I'm full of admiration for what they each contribute.
- We have restarted the talks programme which aims to widen understanding and appreciation of our heritage and community, albeit on-line for now.
- We took the opportunity to at least meet informally at Beeleigh Abbey gardens.

None of us know what is ahead, but I'm reassured we're currently in good heart. Your feedback will help us further adapt and improve and is most welcome.

Judy Lea, Chairman