

Committee Report to AGM on 4th May 2023

Since the last AGM in July 2022 committee activities have continued across the board on members' behalf, despite the committee still missing an admin secretary. We very much hope that new people will join the committee especially as our chairman for the last five years is now stepping down.

A notable highlight was the unveiling of a new blue plaque for the town, remembering Myra Sadd. She was a Maldon born notable Suffragette and was given full honours with the Lord Lieutenant, Mayor and District chairman and her relatives in attendance, followed by a reception in All Saints.

We were successful in obtaining funds for an interactive screen to better display our pictorial archives. We are indebted to the Essex Community Foundation in particular. The old screen was difficult to use and irreparable. The new screen is now installed in the Maeldune Centre and its interactivity will continue to improve as all the items are catalogued in more detail. We are grateful to those members and others who also made contributions to our funds during the year.

The oral history archive continues to grow with over 70 interviews conducted. These are now available in their entirety from a dedicated website. The Maeldune Centre houses the Society's Listening Station and excerpts from the recordings are available to any member of the public or residents who visit there. Feedback from listeners has been extremely positive and appreciative.

Our series of talks has continued as scheduled (this despite one speaker having to drop out only two days before!). Attendance has been particularly high this year indicating the popularity of the range of topics chosen. The introduction of a reservation system has proved useful and interested members now seem to be used to booking a seat well in advance. The talks are well advertised ensuring that as well as being open to members we are also able to welcome an average of 15 or so members of the public wishing to know more about the town and its context. The hospitality of the Swan is enjoyed by quite a few of the audience both during and after. Help with stowing chairs has helped keep our room charge down this year.

Membership has continued to grow and now stands at over 150. The number without email now stands at only 10. We have checked our Data Protection procedures are compliant. The accompanying Treasurer's report recommends a new single fee per person from April 2024.

We hope and believe we have carried out the Society's objectives and the wishes of its members to the best of our ability during the past year. Comments and suggestions are of course always welcome.

Judy Lea, Chairman, on behalf of the Committee.