

The Maldon Society

Members News Update August 2021

Dear Member,

Welcome back!

Meetings restart in Swan's Cygnet room on Thursday 2nd September at 7p.m.
(Doors open at 6.30 p.m.)

Meetings will still be publicly advertised in accordance with our aim of spreading knowledge of Maldon's past and its current community more widely. Now that seats will be more spaced however, we don't want to turn members away once capacity is reached. If you intend to attend a meeting we therefore simply ask you please that by the Wednesday, at the very latest, you **either** email maldonsociety@aol.com **or** phone membership secretary Jane on 01621 851142 - whatever's more convenient for you. Thank you - this will help everyone. If you intend to bring your own guests, obviously please include them in the number of seats you are requesting.

The Swan has confirmed that after each use the room and adjoining areas are cleaned and misted. The room has a good high ceiling, and ventilation will be maintained during the meeting using the doors and/or windows, as appropriate for the weather. Meanwhile the committee have been discussing what extra measures need to be in place recognising that the virus itself hasn't gone away, and that all those attending will need to feel safe and comfortable.

As a result you will notice the following:-

- for everyone's safety, including committee members, everyone will be asked to wear a mask when entering and moving around the room. When seated mask wearing will be a personal choice. Hand gel and spare masks will be available at the entrance.

- there will be a broadly one way system with the entrance as usual and exit through the fire door at the rear. Doors will open at 6.30pm but entry might be slightly slower as it will be staggered to maintain distancing. When moving around the room please be mindful to distance yourself from those not in your own household.

- our membership secretary Jane Senior will log your entry, and also ask non members for their contribution by card reader (if its ready!) or cash.

- if you prefer to pay for the raffle by payment card let Jane know when entering.

Thanks for all your questionnaire responses

As you know the Committee want to ensure that the society continues to meet the needs and wishes of its members, and have regarded this rebooting after the lockdowns as a good opportunity to retune to current member views. We are therefore really grateful to all those who responded with their comments. All of these have been collated and were considered at a special meeting of the committee this month, and we trust you will see requested changes and suggestions evolve in practice. The comments ranged widely, but there were some common threads. Unsurprisingly there was a strong desire to know more of our local history and contribute to preserving the historic town. In particular they also revealed a thirst for more knowledge of how Maldon's community currently functions, examples being how businesses manage on the high street, planning, housing and environmental matters and

many more. We are confident that we can seek to take most of these on board, especially as we formulate future talks programmes. One simple but revealing request was to modernise our font heading at the top of this newsletter. Unless anyone has a counter view we can put that in hand immediately.

Talk Programme for this autumn

The next three Maldon Society talks (all at the new time of 7p.m.) are:

September 2nd: Local historian **David Newman** on “**The amazing Major Hay of Goldhangar**” which should be a lively talk to get us restarted.

October 7th: **Dr Helen Kemp** from the very special **Plume Library** in the centre of town by Market Hill will tell us about its “**Past, Present and Future**”.

November 4th: Following recent grants for the Museum of Power **John Lowe** will give a talk entitled “**Powering On**”.

Planning Issues

There have been some recent major changes to the Town and Country Planning Act and the effects are outlined in three analysts papers on our website (maldonsoc.org) under planning as ‘Changes to planning legislation’, “The future of our high Street” and Developers and local authorities have a moral duty to work with communities and new design codes.

Some other events of possible interest

5th September Merchant Navy Day: commemorated on the Hythe at 11.30a.m.

10th-19th September Heritage Open Days: whilst still more restricted than in pre Covid days this will still provide opportunities to learn more of some local special places, including access to such places as the Friary walled garden and the Friends Meeting House. The society is contributing to the theme of ‘Edible Maldon’ with special edits of our oral history and pictorial archives at the Maeldune Heritage Centre.

7th October: Maldon’s Royal charter was signed 850 years ago by Henry II.

Meanwhile please do continue to support our local businesses and economy, either out and about on the High Street and at other independent businesses nearby, or online with collective enterprises such as ‘Click it Local’ and ‘Saltmarsh Deli’. A new craft shop will be opening soon right by the old police station at No.1 High Street.

Meanwhile both myself and the committee look forward to welcoming you back to the Cygnet room on 2nd September, so do book your place. With very best wishes,

Judy Lea, Chairman