

Chairman's Introduction - *Judy Lea*

The dreadful attack on Ukraine starkly reminds us all how truly fragile one's physical heritage is, and yet also how strong and significant a shared sense of communal heritage can be. It should certainly make us all the more determined to continue with our own Society's efforts in my view. I'm particularly pleased about the special Migration event with the Plume Academy on Tuesday 26th April, both for the current relevance of its general subject matter and the opportunity to further encourage our young people. (see page 6)

Now that our regular meetings are back on, our newsletter can revert to its more normal (but less frequent!) format, and we hope you enjoy this edition which tries to reflect some of the Society's wide range of activities.

AGM

After two years disturbed by Covid, this year our AGM will take place at the Cygnet Room on 7th July. It is necessary but usually very brief, and will precede enjoyable selections by Wendy and Peter from our archives. Nominations are sought in advance both for the current committee who are all due for re-election and prepared to stand again, and of course for welcome fresh extra nominations. These can be made by emailing maldonsociety@aol.com or by phoning 01621 851142. Members' comments or suggestions about the Society are of course also always welcome.

The current committee members are:

Judith Lea – Chairman

John Came – Vice Chairman and Talks Organiser

Lindsey Wright – Treasurer

Peter Holmes – Archives Manager

Dorreen Linton – Heritage and Publicity Manager

David Smye – Planning Adviser

Jane Senior – Membership Secretary

James Reece-Ford – Technical Consultant

Virginia Playle - Minute Secretary

(The committee also receive considerable additional help from Wendy Howell our Oral History Manager and Ian Linton our Website Designer.)

Inevitably, given the current price rises, at the AGM we will be asking to raise the subscriptions in April 2023 (next year), but when you renew with the old (bargain!) subscription rate for this financial year just starting now, please feel free to make an extra donation. The hire of the Cygnet Room for example was to have increased by £45 each booking with immediate effect, but for now we have staved off that increase by agreeing to set up the room ourselves for a trial period, so any help stacking the chairs at the end of each meeting would be much appreciated.

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

Website: www.maldonsoc.org

Planning issues – *David Smye*

Additional Conservation Area

In our last newsletter we reported on the proposal to create an additional Conservation Area encompassing 41 single-storey cottages in three rows off Colchester Road, Heybridge known as Woodfield Cottages, which were developed by the industrialist E. H. Bentall in 1873.

This has now been confirmed by Maldon District Council and forms the fifth Conservation Area within Maldon and the immediate surrounding area.

Woodfield Cottages are a special example of a Victorian planned industrial housing community. The settlement retains a distinct character defined by 41 small-scaled cottages arranged in long rows. They were classified as Grade II listed buildings in 1971.



Photo – Tim Howson

Review of Local Development Plan

In order to discharge their obligation to have an up-to-date and relevant Local Development Plan (LDP) Maldon District Council issued a consultation document in January called ‘Issues and Options’ and asked for comments and views on the outline proposals set out in the document and invited discussion on the major issues that they consider we will be facing over the next 20 years.

The final document along with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) will be used in the determination of planning decisions. It sets out how an area can meet its growth needs for things such as new housing, employment development, cultural and recreational facilities.

The District Council has published a timetable for the next phases of the process, and they intend to further consult on ‘The Preferred Strategy’ this summer with an anticipated publication of the Draft LDP in early spring 2023.

Government legislation

Recent international events seem to have also had an impact upon planning legislation. As was mentioned at our last public meeting, the government has apparently dropped plans to introduce a standalone Planning Bill.

It is probable that there will be the introduction of a national levy for developer contributions, rather than the current system of Section 106 agreements, which can involve months of negotiations and result in the necessary facilities or infrastructure improvements only materialising long after the development is completed.

The present calculation includes determining residual land value, agreeing on acceptable levels of profit, and quantifying predicted sales values based on ‘comparable’ developments. The assessments are often made using loosely defined inputs thereby permitting the basis of the calculations to be dealt with differently by developers and the local authority, leading to months of negotiations.

This system is to be replaced with a set of nationally, value-based flat rate or rates, with an offset for any affordable housing provided. This new levy will provide a more defined mechanism to help to prevent further manipulation of the well-intentioned, but previously flawed system. The hope is that this new infrastructure levy will prove to be ‘up front and very clear’ in order to ‘put more ammunition into the hands of local authorities.’

Local Planning News

There are always changes afoot in our town – some small, some major, and we aim to keep you abreast of what proposals are going through the council’s planning system. One recent proposal that will please most people we imagine, is that the old Police Station in West Square has received consent to be occupied by a financial consultant practice on the ground floor with lettable office space on the first floor – with no alteration to the external façade. So, this iconic and very visible building will remain as an example of Victorian public building at the gateway to the commercial area of the town.



There are signs that the recovery of commercial enterprises is slowly gaining pace. Local businesses are learning to cope with the after-effects of the pandemic and now the financial and logistical pressures imposed by international strife beyond their control. We urge all to support our local businesses and view efforts that are made by entrepreneurs to diversify or broaden the range of services or goods that they offer, with encouragement and support. An example of a developer taking a bold step and seeking to enhance a highly visible aspect of the waterfront follows

The former Haslers Mill, Fullbridge

The former Hasler’s Mill site is listed as a development opportunity in the draft publication of the North Quay Regeneration Development Brief, which states that it offers “a key opportunity at the riverside location for a mixed use including a food and drink offer and visitor attractions to support the visitor economy”.



Silo and Mill building to be demolished. Low building (Granary) to right of silo to be converted.

Photograph by Jean Smye



Fullbridge Offices on left – Mill building and Silo to be demolished on right.

Photograph by Jean Smye

This is how the site looked some years ago, but it’s now considerably more dilapidated and ruinous and the plans are to:

- Demolish the former mill and silo
- Erect two commercial blocks each accommodating four class E units (shop/offices)
- Convert former granary into four class E units (shop/offices)
- Erect a block of nine two-bedroomed apartments with two retail units at ground level.

The view across the river from the south will be immensely improved and the development will provide employment opportunities, nine new homes in blocks echoing the design of the adjacent Fullbridge Mill, and access for the public to the riverside – a prime objective of the North Quay Regeneration brief.

Proposed elevations from south side of river



The application has not yet been considered by the local authority, but we have indicated our support of this revitalisation of such a noticeable site.

Oral History – Wendy Howell

To date, Judy and I have done 63 recorded interviews since we started in late 2016. We have two more planned for the near future and always welcome suggestions of possible new participants. If you know of anyone who might be interested in taking part, please do have a word with them to explain what we are doing and then pass on their phone number or email address to the contact shown below.

We will be pleased to be introduced to anyone who has lived in Maldon for all or most of their lives, or who has worked in the Maldon area or who has memories and experiences of life in the town during recent years; anything from 10 to 80 years ago!

Currently Peter Holmes, who manages the Photographic Archive, and myself are thinking about our presentation of photos and voices following the Society's AGM in July. We aim to include a selection of 'royalty' related pictures and recordings, being a very special year for the Queen. We hope that members will come to watch and listen!

A few weeks ago I interviewed Stafford Chipperfield who was trained as a carpenter. He has always loved living in Maldon and, as a young boy, enjoyed going to the Point-to-Point horse racing which took place every Easter Monday on fields near Beeleigh. This was a very popular event, organised by the Essex National Hunt and attracted very many people from Maldon.

Before his carpentry apprenticeship, Stafford worked in the 'Valley' in the Prom Park as a teenager and used to help to walk the donkeys down every morning for the donkey rides for the children, and then back again in the evening. The donkeys were kept on a field just behind where the Smokehouse now is, by the river bank. Stafford also has vivid memories of the week-long annual carnivals which were, as a boy, the highlight of the year!

Do you know anyone with memories of old Maldon? Please do let me know:
Wendy Howell 01621 857054. Email wendyinmaldon@gmail.com

Ironworks Meadows now Chelmer and Blackwater Nature Reserve

Help requested by Chelmer and Blackwater Community Interest Co.

A small group of individuals have combined to own this significant patch of land by Tesco and so save it from development, in order to protect the special wildlife there while also making it more accessible to the public.

The non-profit making company needs support, both practical and financial, to achieve their aims and have asked us to draw their website to your attention in the hope you will find out more and be minded to get in touch.

Website chelmerblackwatercic.uk or email cabreserve@outlook.com



Drone image – Simon Farr

The High Street update – *Lindsey Wright*

- Not the High Street, but at the bottom of Wantz Road, is a second-hand book shop with a small café.
- The 20mph speed limit should finally be permanent by the summer.
- Post boxes in the High Street have been painted, looking magnificent.
- The old Police Station now has been granted permission for conversion into offices. The applicant is the financial services advisor over Specsavers.
- During storm Eunice on 18th February the Blue Boar suffered a fallen chimney, crashing through the rooms below. There are rumours that the Blue Boar is to have a new owner. Negotiations continuing.
- The building used by Salty Dogs at Christmas is to be a florists – Dilly's.
- The Maeldune Centre is open as usual 11.00-4.00 Tuesday-Saturday. As well as the embroidery and exhibitions, there are lots of wonderful locally made gifts.
- The former Prezzo's has a planning application for a few changes. The applicant is the owner of Sark restaurant.
- The small furniture shop at number 133 has closed.
- The Bath Store by the entrance to the lower car park has been emptied.
- The little gift shop at number 177 that has been empty for a while is now having a facelift for Princeton Consumer Research - a company specialising in using the public to test products for various industries.
- Key Station at 179 has closed down after barely a year. Another beautician appears to preparing to fill the space.
- The Raj Indian take-away has had a few improvements.
- The Discount Store at number 102 that has been empty for so long failed in its application to convert to a pizza takeaway. It remains empty.
- Next door, Gelato Ice Cream Café has closed
- Another bank has closed: Lloyds. As well as a favourite bank for personal accounts, it affects many businesses in the town that are now unable to bank their cheques and cash. The Lloyds in Tiptree is also closing in July, meaning the nearest branch is now Witham or Chelmsford.
- M&Co has closed. There were mixed rumours of moving to the Old Post Office.
- Luna Blue Interiors that recently opened in the Kings Head Centre has already closed. It appears that KeyMann is spreading from the shop next door.
- Also next door, the Cake Supplies shop has closed down due to increased rent.
- Finale in Kings Head Centre is moving to the former Point Graphics site near the top of the High Street, also due to rent increase.
- In Edwards Walk, there is a new health food shop also selling fresh smoothies.
- Upstairs Downstairs is having a "retirement" sale. A new owner will be taking over after a re-fit.
- Verdeli has opened next to the White Horse, specialising in vegan and gluten free foods.
- Anna Belle Brown architect has moved from 16 into Bright's Path and Mediavita Graphic Design has moved in its place.
- A new licensed convenience store opened at the top of the High St. called 'Yessam'. It sells freshly baked bread as well as the usual groceries.

Our Migration Story

**Your invitation to a special event at the Plume Academy on 'Our Migration Story'
Tuesday 26th April commencing at 6pm**

We are really thrilled to announce that our long standing efforts for closer collaboration with young people at the Plume Academy have just borne some fruit! Two GCSE history teams working on research into migration into the Maldon District have won recognition from the National Maritime Museum, and so with the school we have arranged a special extra Maldon Society meeting to hear the interesting findings from the 7 pupils involved.

An introduction from their teacher Matt Springett will give an illustrated overview of Maldon migration and the context of their work. The evening is expected to be limited to no longer than 90 minutes. We will be extending the invitation to local U3A history groups. Representatives from the National Migration Museum will be in attendance and afterwards present their awards.

You are therefore invited to register to attend this special event in the normal way by phoning 01621 851142 or emailing maldonsociety@aol.com. The pedestrian gates to the main Fambridge Road buildings will be open, as will the school car park. If you give your name at the main reception you will then be directed to the main hall. There is a passenger lift to the hall but please advise when registering if the disabled access will be needed to avoid the few reception steps.

The school is genuinely grateful that we will be providing this special opportunity for the pupils to experience giving a public presentation. We hope in time more mutually beneficial collaboration will be possible, perhaps with our oral history recordings for example, in order to help our young people deepen their own appreciation of Maldon's heritage, which we share. So please do come!

The Maldon Society Talks, April – September 2022

Our monthly public meetings are held at the Cygnet Room, Swan Hotel, High Street, Maldon. The doors open at 6.30 pm with the meeting starting at 7 pm. Visitors will be requested to give a donation. Please pre-register your intention to come to our talks. It certainly does help to be able to monitor the numbers likely to attend. Please email maldonsociety@aol.com or ring Dorreen 01621 853428. Thank you.

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| Thursday, 7 th April | Tim Howson - Behind the façade of Maldon's medieval High Street |
| Thursday, 5 th May | Charlotte Harding - Royal connection of Warner & Sons, Braintree's luxury textile manufacturer. |
| Thursday, 9 th June | David Newman – A history of salt extraction around the Blackwater Estuary including the Royal commissioned Maldon Crystal Salt Co. |
| Thursday, 7 th July | The Maldon Society's AGM and Digital and Oral History presentations. |
| Thursday, 1 st September | Maldon High Street, an overview from business leader Allison Grey |
| Thursday 6 th October | Adrian Wright – By train to the Essex seaside, finishing up in Maldon |

Maldon Society Archive - Peter Holmes

I think Maldon residents must have spent lockdown clearing out their lofts as we have recently received quite a few donations of really interesting old photographs and other artefacts. Here is a selection of some of these:

Steam tug 'Brent' – David Leslie

David is a well-known local photographer and he has captured some good shots of 'Brent' leaving for a trip to the Netherlands in 1979; one of the last trips she made before being laid up at Hythe Quay to await restoration.



Maldon bypass – David Leslie

More photos by David, this time a series of shots taken during the construction of Maldon's bypass in 1989.



Maldon branch line – Martin Pike

We already have several historic photos of the Witham to Maldon railway line, kindly donated by John Whiskin but we have now added some more from Martin Pike's collection. These were taken in the late 1950s, shortly before the line closed.



The Queen's visits – Geoff Wass

We are really pleased to receive two really interesting sets of photos taken by local resident (and Maldon Society member) Geoff Wass. These are of the Queen's visits to Maldon in 1971 and 2010. As it is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year, we are hoping to show these photos at our AGM in July. Some are also included in the Platinum Jubilee display at the Maeldune Heritage Centre.



Maldon Carnival 1953

Ted Claydon, a long-standing Maldon resident, has lent us copies of carnival and Maldon Town Football Club programmes, dating back to 1953. As you will see from this 1964 football programme, some quite famous names were due to play in this Showbiz XI match. (see next page for larger version)

The teams will be announced
So pin back your ears in
MALDON TOWN F.C.

1. Charlton
2. [unclear]
3. [unclear]
4. [unclear]
5. [unclear]
6. [unclear]
7. [unclear]
8. [unclear]
9. [unclear]
10. [unclear]
11. [unclear]

over the public address system
have pencils at the ready

SHOWBIZ XI

1. [unclear]
2. [unclear]
3. [unclear]
4. [unclear]
5. [unclear]
6. [unclear]
7. [unclear]
8. [unclear]
9. [unclear]
10. [unclear]
11. [unclear]

Player names listed include: TOMMY STEELE, SEAN CONNERT, BILLY WRIGHT, RONNIE CARROLL, GLEN HADSON, TONY BALLY, EMMAS McBERTY, JOHN BURDESS, FRANKLYN BOYD, JIMMY HENNEY, and PIP WEDGE.



TOMMY STEELE
 Starting at London's Cambridge Theatre in "MILK & HONEY", making films and discs and all other activities which go with being one of Britain's top show business people does not leave Tommy much time for soccer, but he turns out whenever he can and we hope he will be here today.



SEAN CONNERY
 Now famous as "James Bond", of the Ian Fleming films — "Dr. No" is already released and "From Russia With Love" is on the way — Sean has one close penny from TV acting roles. He's married to actress Diane Cilento, (as which can't be told). Manchester United's loss (they once tried to sign him) is the Showbiz XI's gain.



GLEN MASON
 With hundreds of television appearances to his credit, a series of highly successful records for Parlophone and many film parts, Glen remains as keen a sportsman as he is a popular singer. Golf and soccer are Glen's favourite pastimes, and he's the regular Showbiz ladde left; he's also vice-captain.



DES O'CONNOR
 A multi-talented comedian these days, with TV and variety dates following one another thick and fast. Des still turns out for the team whenever he can make time. Maybe today's the day.



WALLY BARNES
 No introduction was needed to this former Arsenal and Welsh international defender, whose BBC commentating duties make it often difficult for him to turn out for Showbiz as often as he would like.



FRANKLYN BOYD
 One of the Showbiz XI's original players, and perhaps the Scotland in the side, music publisher Franklyn has now more or less given up his own singing career to concentrate on persuading others to sing his songs.

The teams will be announced
 So pin back your ears at

MALDON TOWN F.C.

Charrylton
 2 Antony
 3 Beart
 4 Leathwright
 5 Wilkinson
 6 Lodge
 7 Robinson
 8 Hobson
 9
 10
 11



JIMMY HENNEY
 A now familiar face as panellist on "Juke Box Jury" or guest on "Thank Your Lucky Stars", Showbiz XI captain Jimmy Henney is also a frequent broadcaster with his own disc shows on the BBC wavelength. Jimmy is proud to have founded the team in 1958.

BILLY WRIGHT

It's a great compliment to the Showbiz team that such a top international star as Billy is so happy to turn out with the lads every week. Not only did Billy marry into show business — he's a showbiz personality in his own right, with TV appearances, commercials and so on.



RONNIE CARROLL

Success with recording of "Say Wonderful Things" has meant plenty of stage and TV work for Ronnie, which in turn means that he has not been appearing for Showbiz very often. But miracles do sometimes happen, and we hope that perhaps he may be here today.



over the public address system
 have pencils at the ready

SHOWBIZ XI

- Pip Wedge
 2 John Burgess
 3 Franklyn Boyd
 4 Peter Shoubh
 5 Brian Clive
 6 Harry Fowler
 7 Sissy Jackson
 8 Glen Mason
 9 Ronnie Carroll
 10 Len Donachie
 11 Kenny Lynch

TONY DALLI



CHAS McDEVITT

The bearded half of the singing husband-and-wife team of Chas McDevitt and Shirley Douglas, Chas is as adept with a football as his feet as he is with a guitar at his fingertips. That wallet bulging his pocket is stuffed with the profits from his thriving London coffee-bar.



JOHN BURGESS

A recording manager with the powerful BMI group, John is particularly concerned with recordings by Adam Faith, John Barry and Freddie and the Dreamers. Another founder member of the team, John always plays a strong game at full-back or wing-half.



SIGGY JACKSON

Now handling the responsibilities of secretary of the team, Recording manager Sissy is a former Dunfermline professional soccer player and a real nine-minute man. Every time anyone buys a Melodisc record it gladdens Sissy's heart.



PIP WEDGE

One of the unpopular breed of two-percent bloodsuckers, a theatrical agent, Pip's firm handles such talent as Hughie Green, Diana Dors, Richard Burton, Glen Mason (who?), Annie Ross and Larry Adler. Plays in goal for Showbiz when not away on some stunt for "Double Your Money".

