

## The High Street Update

Lots of changes in the High Street over the past year, including a new 20 mph. The 20 mph also includes Market Hill. The limit was signposted in June 2020, but unbelievably was only enforceable from July 2021!

Not confined to the High Street, ClickitLocal is a group of businesses in Maldon and the surrounding area that will deliver. Many have special offers on at certain times.  
[www.clickitlocal.co.uk/maldon](http://www.clickitlocal.co.uk/maldon)

Fiverfest will start again on 9<sup>th</sup> October. This is where numerous High Street shops offer special deals for £5.

Another High Street initiative is the parking rebate scheme. On a minimum spend, the participating shops will give back 50p on parking fee. The shops currently taking part are:

Aesthetics Hair	Maldon Books	The Card Company
Bluebell	Maldon Coffee	The Foot Clinic
Bobby's Girl	Maldon Gadgets	The Maldon Barbers
Borough Carpets	Mitchells Jewellers	The Vintage Rose
Bra Consultancy	No1 Boutique	The Waffle Bar
Bridal Reloved	Ruby & Rose	Two Become One
Crystal Shack	Sark	Upstairs Downstairs
Dantes Restaurant	Scarlett's Hair & Nails	Village Cobbler
Dawn Interiors	Serendipity	Wenlocks
Emporium	SILLO	White Horse
Jewellery Design Workshop	Simply the Best	Willow & Fox
Just the Thing	Supernatural	Woof & Co
Key Station	Talking Flowers	Yours in Sport
Luxe Avenue	Templeman's Optician	

The Christmas Event this year will be on just one evening 25<sup>th</sup> November. It will be a much smaller event, limiting visiting stalls to 30, giving more space for the High Street shops to expand into the pavement.

- The old Police station has had its application for conversion into flats turned down.
- A new craft shop at Number one. "Heart of Craft", opened in August. Currently stocking yarns, embroidery silks, paints and various other items. She hopes to add to the variety as and when requested.
- "Two become one" who moved into the High Street from Bright's Path, are on the move again to number 1a High Street, re-naming themselves "Cal & Co".
- The former Thomas Cook building near All Saints' church is now Maldon Books and another estate agent, Temme English.
- The Blue Boar is now cashless. Due to the closure of HSBC they are unable to pay in their cash receipts.
- Talking Flowers, our only High Street florist, has a new owner and he has completely changed its character. It's hard to recognise that it is still a florist.
- The Gnome Café has finally opened in the former Art Café near the Moot Hall after a long makeover.
- Away from the public gaze, the Old Post Office (more recently Morrison's Local) is having a major facelift. Let's hope someone is interested in taking it on. It's a big building to fill.
- Aesthetics of Essex beautician's is open in the old Dorothy Perkins shop, with a balloon shop open at the rear.
- Pook Insurance has closed permanently.
- As always, Coes menswear has another enticing window display.
- The Maeldune Centre is open as usual 11.00-4.00 Tuesday-Saturday. As well as the embroidery, there are lots of wonderful locally made gifts.

- Mrs Salisbury's has changed. The original house is now the main café, with outside seating on either side. Sadly, the wonderful garden at the back is to be lost to 4 new houses!
- In Bright's Path there is a new business helping clients with both ear wax problems and chiropody.
- The slot vacated by Silo in Bright's Path is now Harry Green's barbers. He's been in several locations over the past few years.
- Prezzo's has closed down permanently. It closed several times during lockdown, obviously, but did re-open with some improvements. However, the premises are now empty. Another big premise to fill.
- The café in Wenlock Way, Driftwood has moved its kitchen into the former chocolate shop opposite creating more space inside the café itself. There's loads of seating outside too, which is very popular post Covid.
- The Emporium has had rumours of closing down for a very long time. However, it managed to remain open all during lockdown using it's dog food as the life-line.
- A new greengrocer has opened behind the Emporium. It has developed very well, using lots of local produce. During lockdown it provided an excellent delivery service which continues, ring 07494 938801.
- The former Mogul Indian restaurant on the corner of Butt Lane is now "Maldon Spice". Jhual Hafiz formerly of Maldon Tandoori is the new owner.
- Another new sweet shop is opposite the Post Office: Maldon Candy Shop
- Keystation has moved into number 179 vacated by Borough Carpets. The fourth key cutting service in the High Street.
- The Warwick public house which had an awful reputation has been redecorated and rebranded "Bar 185" hoping to attract families.
- Borough Carpets was a small shop at number 179, he has moved across the road into the former fireplace shop.
- Two new dress shops have opened either side of the Pie and Mash Shop: "Danielles Styles" and "What a Boutique" catering for the younger market.
- Intimo Italian restaurant closed and has been refurbished as an impressive Indian restaurant: "Chutney House"
- TDR Computers has a new owner.
- The Discount Store that has been empty for so long, is seeking permission to conversion to a pizza takeaway. Town council have approved, waiting for District decision.
- Sark and Cocktail Bar has opened in the former Shoezone premise. It's had a remarkable facelift and is extremely popular. It has moved from its much smaller former home at the top of the High Street.
- A new charity shop benefitting RSPCA has opened opposite Poundstretchers.
- HSBC has sadly closed its doors in Maldon. This is affecting many businesses in the town that are now unable to bank their cheques and cash.
- The former TUI holiday shop has just received planning consent for conversion into a cocktail bar.
- Lloyds' bank has substantially reduced its opening hours to just two days a week. They are sharing staff with the Witham branch. Let's hope that it doesn't also close completely.
- Silo, which was previously in Bright's Path has moved into the High Street next to M&Co, formerly the Best Wishes card shop.
- Although there is a "To Let" board on M&Co, they insist they are not going anywhere.
- Luna Blue Interiors has opened in the Kings Head Centre selling various items to accessorise one's house.
- There is a new sweet shop in the Kings Head Centre: "Little Shop of Sweets & Treats"
- Kings Head Centre now has a "Staycation" office in the main building. Meanwhile in one of the rear shops is a Maldon Event office.
- Willow & Fox has moved from Quest Place into the front of Edwards Walk. A much more prominent position.
- In Edwards Walk, we now have Crystal Shack selling a variety of gifts. The Bra Consultancy has also opened.
- Also in Edwards Walk is a private GP and a chiropodists sharing premises, Blackwater Podiatry and GP Services.
- Supernatural has been taken over by Jane, formerly of Talking Flowers. With the two new shops opposite I hope customers will visit all three boutiques.