

The Maldon Society

Members Newsletter - July 2021

Dear Member,

Despite lockdowns our membership has nevertheless continued to grow, which is really great news and rather unexpected! In June our membership secretary Jane Senior welcomed Suzanne Wood with a celebratory certificate and some wine at the Maeldune Heritage Centre, for becoming our current hundredth member. We welcome all the new members who've joined us despite the lack of meetings, and only wish we could treat you all....!



Please return your questionnaire!

With the pandemic putting all of us through such a strange period we want to make sure the Society emerges from lockdown freshly tuned to members wishes. We'd be really grateful therefore if everyone could please complete the short questionnaire attached and send it back before **19th July** to maldonsociety@aol.com or to Jane Senior, 48 Mariners Way, Maldon CM9 6YW. The results, together with the government's announcements by then on Covid restrictions, will enable our autumn programme, already in hand, to be finalised and included in the August members' update. The first talk is due to be on Thursday 2nd September.

Visit to Josua, no.4 Silver Street

Following the talk by Tim Howson in May, many members went to see for themselves the investigatory work underway at this town centre property. The owner was very patient with everyone's questions and most generous with his time - only small numbers could go round together due to Covid restrictions, so multiple tours were needed over the whole weekend. The Society has expressed its support for the planning application and listed building application as it will bring back to life an important and historic dwelling, whilst exposing and preserving some truly delightful illustrations of medieval, Tudor, and Georgian workmanship and problem solving, with instances of everyday life of the countless generations who have lived here. Incidentally English Heritage have said in their response to the planning application that the proposed work is exemplary.

Wendy Howell

Wendy came onto the Maldon Society committee all of 16 years ago. During her time on committee she has been a truly exceptional Secretary.

Undoubtedly her permanent outstanding legacy for the Town, as a whole, will be her ensuring the Society's important oral history recordings came into being. The recordings, stories from all manner of folk that tell of previous times in Maldon, have now become both accessible and permanent. They are presented in the Maeldune Heritage Centre and kept

as a research archive at the Essex Record Office. Fortunately she is still going to continue to mastermind these recordings.

The other Committee members, especially the various people in the Chair during all this time, have particularly appreciated her personal qualities - quietly providing a supportive voice of reason and calm. Former Chairman Bobbie Marchant for example, remembers how Wendy coped with a speaker collapsing at one of the public meetings. The current Chairman remembers times when meetings were cancelled at short notice due to ice, as well as Covid of course and only this winter another essential committee member died very suddenly. With Wendy's stalwart support things nevertheless got sorted.

Not only have her minutes been succinctly and accurately expressed and records well documented, she has always modestly turned her hand to anything else needed, be it to do with venues, contacting other organisations, providing food or anything else. So despite the recently renewed committee stepping up to cover the various different aspects of her current role, she will certainly be very much missed. The Committee and other Society members will wish her all the best in her partial retirement and desire to try out new things, and deeply appreciate all that she has done for them over all that time.

So finally, please do spare a few moments to return your questionnaire, and very best wishes to all members, old or new.

Judy

Chairman Judy Lea, on behalf of the Maldon Society Committee.

PS there is lots to entertain us within our local community at the moment - please do look at the Maldon District websites or visit the visitor information in the Maeldune Centre for musical and other events to enjoy and support. From 6-8th August the Society is supporting the St Mary's flower festival whose theme this year is 'Joy' - let's hope it anticipates the relaxing of Covid restrictions being possible!