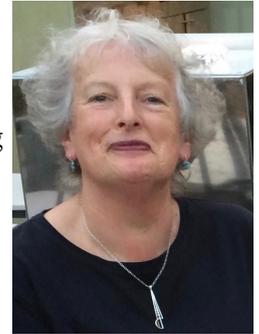


Welcome — *Judy Lea*

Before we resume after the summer break I want to record my pleasure that our monthly talks continue to interest so many members of the public, and that our own membership continues to healthily replenish, both of which are excellent news for the Society. Of special delight is the fact that since the last newsletter was published we have been able to attract an able new committee member in the shape of David Smye.

David will be taking over planning from myself and we're very grateful for him stepping up. All of this is taking place against a strange political background both locally and nationally, and continued change on the High Street. Although the larger shops are struggling and some owners retiring, it is amazing that younger entrepreneurs are still hungry for the smaller premises, and we hope they will weather whatever political and economic winds approach and wish them well, hopefully by using them!



I do hope you enjoy the forthcoming season of talks and wish each of you well too.

Planning — *Judy Lea*

When I first took on this role several years ago, it was just at the start of the huge consultation and then enquiry on the Local Development Plan, but with the very helpful personnel at the District Council I felt I at least partly understood what was going on. Sadly the significant recent staff cutbacks and turnover have made that more difficult, but I hope David Smye in taking over the planning role with his previous relevant professional experience will find his own methods of getting to the bottom of things! Fortunately Tim Howson retains his job as Conservation Officer, which is good news for all of us.

The different political allegiances separating District and Town following the elections in May have not helped either. It's hard not to speculate that if, instead of holding on by one vote the district had become hung, it might have increased the chances of the district being held to account for their actions, and of course their inactions too. Determined to think the best of the new arrangements though, by the time you read this we will have had our requested meeting with the District's Leader Adrian Fluker. We shall see!

As far as specific planning applications are concerned the major 'garden suburb' schemes continue to press on albeit with some checks imposed, and sometimes major disruption to traffic and residents as their various service needs are met. The Travelodge hotel at the Blackwater retail park off the Causeway is also now taking shape. Otherwise, the number of significant applications does seem to have diminished lately.

We continue to try and assist all those we think will be of benefit, to the High Street in particular, and object wherever we believe schemes would be detrimental to the town as a whole.

Photographic Archive — *Peter Holmes*

In the last newsletter, I mentioned the lovely collection of railway photographs that John Whiskin has kindly allowed us to scan so we could add them to our ever-growing photographic collection.

Since then, we have received two further donations for scanning. The first was from Clare Kirby and is a tiny photo album containing sepia views of Maldon and dating, we think, from the 1930s. Clare found the album when clearing out her loft and imagines it was purchased as a souvenir by her father. Using our photographic scanner, I have managed to enlarge and enhance the photos and an example is shown here. The full collection will be soon be available to see on our media centre display in the Maeldune Heritage Centre.



The second donation was from Anne Smith and is an amazing collection of more than 100 black and white photos of Maldon's historic buildings. Anne's father, Mr. WCB Smith, was an architect living in Spital Road and, in the early 1960s, decided to record and photograph examples of the different architectural designs before they were lost forever. Each photograph is associated with hand-written personal observations on the building in question. These photos will take some time to scan but I hope to have them available on the media centre before too long.

Included with the pack of photographs were plans (dated February 1961) for a new Maldon ring road to link Fambridge Road to Mundon Road. This road would have gone beside the Maldon grammar school (as it was then), across Longfields and Wantz Road to connect with Mundon Road. I understand from John Came that Anne's father worked for Essex County Council at the time and was involved with this project. Luckily, this plan was shelved and was eventually superseded by Limebrook Way and the bypass. Many thanks to Clare and Anne for donating the use of their collections to the Society. If you, or someone you know, have old photos of Maldon, we would love to hear from you!

Maldon Society talks 2019/20

All talks take place in the Cygnet Room at the back of the Swan Hotel in Maldon, starting at 7.45pm. Doors open at 7.15pm. Entry for members is free but visitors are requested to make a £3 donation. Thanks are due to John Came for arranging these interesting talks.

- November 7th Tony Tuckwell – 'The only coastal way is Essex'.
- January 9th David Gibson – 'The Thames Sailing Barge Trust – a history and the future'.
- February 6th Patrick Chaplin and Irene Allen – 'Langford Grove from construction to destruction'.
- March 5th Steve Williams – 'The Moot Hall; 600 years of history'.
- April 2nd Elfin Watkin – 'All Saint's Church tower with a unique spire'.
- May 7th AGM followed by refreshments and a presentation of the Maldon Society's Photographic and Oral History archives.
- June 4th Tim Howson – 'Behind the Façade; discovering historic buildings in Maldon town centre'.
- July 2nd John Lowe and Debbie Thomas – 'The Museum of Power, present and future ambitions'.

Oral History — *Wendy Howell*

We have recently installed new recordings in the Listening Station at the Heritage Centre — new voices and new stories. Please go and listen to some of them – they are enthralling! Having completed our 45th interview for ‘Memories of Maldon’ we thought you might like to read a word-for-word part of one of the recent ones. Do tell us what you think about it at our website www.maldon.org or tell us at the next meeting. Thank you.

My name is Winifred Wright. I’m a hundred years old. I was born in Goldhanger and I now live in Goldhanger Road, Heybridge. Lived here since I was married which is nearly 79 years ago.

Winifred, what are your early memories of Goldhanger?

Well it was a lovely little place then. Now like everywhere else it has grown and grown. But then there were very few of us really. We had a little Church school. We had, I think now, a very good education really and we did Rudyard Kipling and Shakespeare and all that sort of thing. A very good head teacher. We had shops - butchers, bakers, post office, 2 pubs. We had our own mill with a high chimney. I used to go there on Saturday mornings for my grandmother to get grain for her chickens. I used to love going there because you went up wooden steps to the first floor and the engine would be going chomp, chomp, chomp and the whole place would shake. It smelt beautiful, all the grain being ground up. The mill was in Fish Street.



And your parents, had they always lived in Goldhanger?

Yes both Goldhanger people. Their name was Appleton. There were a lot of Appletons. My father was one of 12 children. I had 3 brothers, no sisters. We used to play out for hours on end, no trouble at all. My mother wouldn’t let me swim in the river but my brothers did.

Were you sad to leave Goldhanger when you went to work?

Not really. I was 14. All children left school at 14 unless they went on to the grammar school, which was rare. And all children found jobs, even the dullest ones.

What was your job?

Well, cooking when I worked for Mrs Freeman (wife of Horace Freeman, solicitor) and keeping the place tidy. I lived there in Beeleigh Road. Quite a big wooden house. It’s still there. They were nice people to work for.

Could you tell me about your 100th birthday celebrations?

Well, I didn’t celebrate because at the time I was very poorly. The boys had booked a lunch at the Bull in Great Totham for family and friends. There was no way I could go, so they all went, very reluctantly, and I slept all the time they were gone. I had a card from the Queen and from Esther McVee, the Health Secretary. *Do you ever go back to Goldhanger?*

I belonged to the WI for 60 years. They did give me a nice party in the village hall last year, two or three weeks after my 100th birthday. I enjoyed that. It was one of the high spots.

St Mary’s Church Flower Festival

Prompted by the committee, member Bobbie Marchant and chairman Judy Lea designed (a first?) Maldon Society entry for August’s annual flower festival to reflect the given theme of ‘All around Maldon’ which was complimented by many who saw it. Helped considerably by a round table top from treasurer Lindsey Morrison and flowers from several members’ homes we felt we met the brief even though neither of us are serious flower arrangers! At its heart was a photo of the celebration of those involved with the latest blue plaque. This was the description that went with our entry pictured below.

‘The Maldon Society’s arrangement seeks to illustrate how separate individuals, groups and public bodies come together to both discover and celebrate Maldon’s heritage, becoming bound together by it (represented by rosemary for remembrance and ivy for long affection). Its simple flora comes from both Beeleigh Abbey and members’ cottage gardens. The latest blue plaque went public in July 2019. Orange echoes the poster colour for our monthly public talks to which all are invited.’



We very much hope that since we entered this year some members might like to collaborate on doing one next year?

What's happening in the High Street — *Lindsey Wright*

- Where Kate's Nails was at number 18 is soon to be a handcrafted jewellers - Anvil & Ivy.
- The front of Edwards Walk has been decorated. The sign on the brickwork is a real improvement.
- In Edwards Walk the accessory shop, EL's is closing but another gift shop, Just the Thing which was once part of Upstairs Downstairs, has opened in the opposite corner.
- The cake shop, Lottie & Jakes, in the Kings Head Centre is now a cake decorating supplies shop instead.
- The new baby shop at the back of the Kings Head Centre was not there for long, and has already closed.
- The card shop next to Halifax Building Society has been refurbished with new owners.
- Shoezone has moved to the Retail Park. There is a planning application for change of use to a restaurant, believed to be Sark (from opposite the police station) on the move.
- Gelato Venice ice cream parlour has had its retrospective planning application for the change to the shop front refused.
- Intimo restaurant applied for planning permission to put up a small flag outside. Maldon District Council disallowed it.
- The hairdresser by the lower zebra crossing has closed.
- The old toyshop, next to the bakers, is now a ladies' hairdressers, Salon Central. It has moved down from next to Wenlock Way.
- The Emporium is rumoured to be closing in September, but struggles on in the meantime.
- There is a new barber shop next to Wenlock Way. The hairdressers' has moved further down.
- Bright's Path continues to be popular, hosting monthly evening events.
- Coes menswear has another wonderful window display — a real joy to see their windows change each season.
- Kate Lifestyle has moved from the top of the High Street opposite Ansell's into what was formerly Avanti with nail treatments on the ground floor, hairdressing on the first floor, and the cellar for other treatments. It looks very smart, including the new Blue Plaque recording the correct birthplace of Edward Bright, the Fat Man at Maldon.
- Cash Converters closed to be replaced by a Turkish barbers.
- The corner building, formerly Thomas Cook, applied to be another mini bar. However, the planners refused it on account of the potential noise. With so many other bars in the vicinity I'm not sure that it would have made much difference.
- The old police station has been sold with all sorts of speculation for its new use.
- There were several sensors on Market Hill recently, presumably to monitor air quality.
- Dorreen has compiled a list of street furniture needing attention which will be sent to Maldon District Council and Maldon Town Council. .



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.

Website: www.maldonsoc.org