

THE PENNY FARTHING

THE MALDON DISTRICT MUSEUM ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

It is with regret that we are unable to send the usual copy of our Penny Farthing newsletter.

Our editor Kelvin Brown has had to resign due to other commitments and so far we have been unable to find a replacement editor. Our thanks go to Kelvin for the excellent job he has done, and he will be hard to follow.

However, we are hoping that, by the summer edition we will have a new editor and our usual excellent newsletter will be back.

We have retained the Chairman's Chat and the St Cedd's Chatline.

Included with this newsletter are the Agenda for the AGM and the Membership renewal letter.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

Once again, I apologise for the depleted version of this Penny Farthing. Due to other commitments Kelvin has stood down and currently we are without an editor. Rather than miss an edition we have decided to send you this newsletter, along with the AGM agenda and the Membership renewal notices.

Whilst on the subject of editors, if any of our readers are interested, or know anyone who may be interested in taking on the editorship, do please contact me. My details are on the back page of this newsletter.

Since the museum closed at the end of October, we have had the kitchen area completely renovated. New sink unit, new flooring and fresh, new paint. I am sure the stewards will be most impressed!

The new displays are taking shape, and the winter display team have been kept very busy. The usual cleaning programme is also under way and the brass and silver are looking splendid. There are two new "cleaners" this year and they are making good progress. My thanks to all involved during the closed season. Four members have decided not to re-new their membership this year, and we have lost 6 stewards for a variety of reasons. However, my thanks go to all of them for their support. We have recruited 4 new stewards, who, I am sure, will enjoy working at the museum.

During the last six months we have been extremely fortunate in securing a grant from the Town Council. This will pay for the publicity leaflets and a new Accessions Register which is a mandatory item. The £2000 cheque received from Len Wilkinson is about to purchase new audio/visual equipment to enable disabled visitors, and those who cannot manage the stairs to view the upstairs rooms.

We are also planning to put in a grant to AIM (Association of Independent Museums) for a new colour photocopier. This will assist us in many ways, not the least being we can upgrade the in-house leaflet and childrens' leaflet.

Once again my apologies for the lack of a full Penny Farthing, but we are hopeful to be back on track by the summer edition.

Christine Steel

St Cedd's Chatline

I feel a bit of a fraud reporting on the industry and activity at St Cedd's during the early part of the winter, as I was away in Australia for 9 weeks. However, I have now returned to the fold and become fully immersed in the task of helping to set up a new display and getting the museum ready for re-opening.

During the closed period it is usual for most of the St Cedd's team of Judy Betteridge, Betty Chittenden, Mags Simmonds and myself to be spending a considerable time at the museum, joining forces with Christine Steel and her "sprucing up" and polishing team, not forgetting Charles Middleton, Graham Reeves and Peter Thorpe watched over by their "gang-master" Paddy Lacey.

As displays are dismantled or up-dated items are returned to St Cedd's for storage and checked back into their places on the shelves in the store. This can present problems as it is not unusual for some long term display items to be missing from the records, never having been formally accessed. When this is discovered they must then be dealt with as a new donation would be, which entails registration, numbering and packing for storage on our already groaning shelves. This is an on-going process which will eventually result in the entire collection being fully recorded and documented.

In between these tasks Betty and Judy have compiled a "Memories Box" for taking out to a residential home. This contains photographs of the local area and tactile objects of a domestic nature which will help to stimulate the memories of the elderly residents and encourage discussion and conversation about the past.

With the new display in mind, Mags has been conducting a search through all the photographic archive, quite a feat as this contains a considerable number of photographs.

The display is entitled "Maldon through the Lens" and will feature some of our collection of photographs of local scenes, people at work and family groups and social gatherings. Altogether it presents a picture of Maldon's past and hopefully it will bring back some memories. A small selection of cameras and photographic equipment is also displayed.

We all look forward to seeing members and friends at the museum for the new season which opens on Saturday March 31st.

Liz Willsher

February 2012

Maldon District Museum Association

Registered Charity 301362

President: Mrs Julia Peel
Vice Presidents: Mrs B Chittenden
Mr L. Barrell

Committee to AGM 2012

Chairman Christine Steel
Vice-Chairman Paddy Lacey
Hon Secretary Jenny Sjollema
Hon Treasurer Tina Miller
Committee: Liz Willsher
Mags Simmonds
Jane Bodley
Ken Smith
Cllr Stephen Nunn

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Please note that the opinions expressed in this publication are those of individual contributors and not necessarily agreed by the Association

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