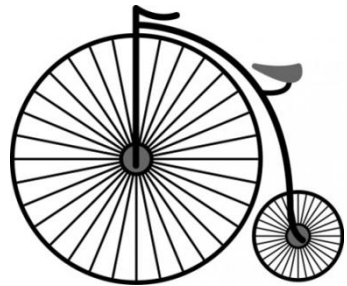


# The Museum in the Park Maldon



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**The Penny Farthing**  
Issue 91 August 2020

## Chair's Chat

Dear Friends,

The April newsletter was well underway, preparing to go to the printers in time for our Museum Opening on Good Friday. That of course was B.C. (Before COVID-19) and lockdown and everything grinding to a halt. So, apologies for this late arrival.

The Museum has sadly remained closed. Hopefully by the time you read this we will back in business, even if in a reduced capacity. Details of opening dates and times are published in this newsletter.

The Council offices are shut and so no progress has been made on transferring the assets, our collections, to our new Charity or to getting a new lease.

But, we are using the time to work on our application for Accreditation to Arts Council, England and are lucky to have the very active support of the new Museum Development Officer for Essex.

One good thing to come out of these difficult times is finding how much help there is for small independent museums and how important it is that they should survive

We were not able to hold the AGM for Maldon Museum in May and this has now been postponed until May 2021. You will find the Chairs' report to the Meeting and Treasurer's report further on in the newsletter. The committee has agreed to serve for another year, for which we thank them.

Some of you have very kindly sent your subscriptions for this year, without being reminded, and several have included additional donations. We are most grateful for these generous gestures. They make a significant contribution to our survival. You will find a renewal form included in this newsletter for your use.

Once Maldon Museum in the Park is up and running we will have a modern bank account that will operate online and where direct debits and standing orders can be set up. So we won't need to nag.

Some concern has been expressed about the cost of postage of our newsletter. So from now on, our volunteers will be sent the digital version and members who would prefer to have an e-magazine instead of the printed copy can just let Jenny know. Otherwise our excellent magazine will still be printed and sent out to you three times a year.

We have welcomed a new committee member, Lucy Franklin, who joined us serendipitously just as we locked down. She has experience in preparation for opening with Covid-19 preparations and was immediately drafted in to help Keith, our technical officer, who was writing our risk assessment

Thank you all for your continued interest, support and encouragement. It means a great deal to all our Trustees and volunteers and is much appreciated.

*Brigid van Bruggen & Flo Shaughnessy – Joint-Chairs*  
*Jenny Sjollema - Friends' Secretary*

## **Reopening the Museum**

We reopened on 2nd August and will be open on Wednesdays and Sundays 1–4pm .

Wednesdays will be reserved for families only during August. Sundays—groups, families or individuals can visit. Group visits can also be arranged on other days.

Where possible, please book a timeslot before you visit via this website page  
<https://e-voice.org.uk/maldonmuseuminthepark/contact-us/>

For other opening dates on Bank Holidays or Heritage Weekend, please check the website or our Facebook page. Contact details are on the back page.

# Caring for your Sculpture Workshop

On the 26<sup>th</sup> February I had the pleasure of attending a workshop on looking after and preserving sculptures, held at the Beecroft Art Gallery in Southend.

The workshop was held by Clare Mitchell of Mitchell Heritage, and Art UK invited Maldon Museum to have a representative attend as part of the Art UK Sculpture Project.

The day started off with an introduction to what a sculpture can be and what materials can be used to make one. The answers were quite surprising, including non-permanent or moving elements such as gas, water, and even live human beings!

As someone who considered his main experience of sculptures to be only a recent visit to an exhibition on Julio González, I soon came to realise other works I have known such as Marcel Duchamp's *Fountain*, the mosaic salamander *El Drac* at Park Güell, and even a mattress with a tree branch on it I once saw at Turner Contemporary, were all indeed sculptures.

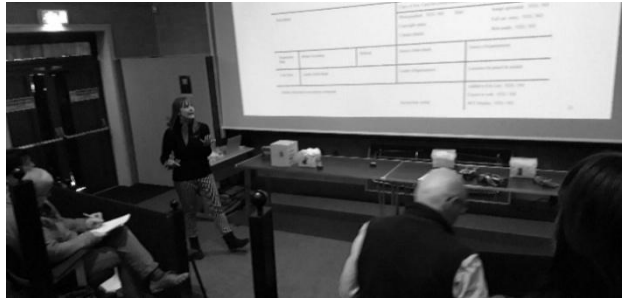
Essentially any three dimensional work of art using real materials, with some debate existing over where the limit is, such as whether architecture or ceramics count.

The workshop moved onto accessioning and documentation of sculptures, which I have zero experience on, and which gave me a good starting point on the subject for me to build on from there.

We were also taught about the best approach to cleaning a sculpture (dry methods to clean, with wet methods as an absolute last resort. Environmental impacts on sculptures were covered, such as temperature, dust, light (including ultraviolet), and humidity.

Examples were given of ways to measure these factors, including light meters and dust monitoring strips, and ways to reduce the impact such as through pest traps, banning flash photography, and using glass cases for sculptures.

The best materials to protect a sculpture whilst in storage were looked at, teaching me about acid-free pillows, which give the sculpture air whilst still protecting it, and doesn't risk breaking the artwork as it doesn't have to be unwrapped. Strong materials such as Tyvek are used to cover outdoor sculptures to protect them in winter whilst still allowing the item to breathe.



The workshop concluded by addressing how to limit damage done in emergencies such as floods, pest infestations, cyber attacks, and of course, pandemics. A list was given of what an Emergency Plan should look like, and what an on-site 'Disaster Kit' should contain.

This workshop gave me a great starting foundation on looking after sculptures and about sculptures in general, which hopefully I can build on in future. I was given a lot to think about on a subject too complex for me to really properly illustrate in this article. But everything starts with baby steps.

After the workshop I was free to have a nice wander around the Beecroft Art Gallery, where I checked out their exhibition on 'Colour' and the emotions they cause. Amongst all the exhibits I particularly enjoyed the works by Tad Blower.

A huge thank you to Clare Mitchell for the very informative workshop and to Beecroft Art Gallery of the Southend Museums for accommodating the event.

*Jonathan Cruikshank*

# OLD LADY OF ROAD IS OFF AGAIN AT 47



Both back from retirement . . . Ernest Linnett (left) supervises the rebuilding of 800 BPU, a 47-year-old Benzol car which will take the road again after years as a tractor.

## Million miles and never a rebore

NO one wrote a song about her, no one filmed her, but her place is with the immortals.

She is—having General's Bedouin—the famous lady of the English road, a car made as only the English could make them 50 years ago.

On the twentieth of this month 800 BPU—that's her registration number—sets out on a non-stop run from Hyde Park Corner in Edinburgh. It is a celebration ride to mark the 150th anniversary of the firm that built her—E. H. Beith & Co. Ltd., of Newbridge, Midlothian, Essex.

**800 BPU**

From 1893 to 1916, the firm built 100 cars and BPU—"best possible utility"—shall be the legend—was one of them: "15-20 horse power, standard side entrance, five feet, marked price £227 10s. 0d."

She was built in 1908, sold to a civil servant in Devon but turned up four years ago doing postman service as a tractor on a Dorset farm. Back she came to Bentalls with about one million miles behind her, and to the men whose hands created her, 72-year-old Ernest Linnett. He worked with the firm from the age of 13 until 1931.

Piece by piece over two years he has rebuilt B.P.U.'s engine entirely from memory. Never was man and his machine more truly reunited.

In 1938—with a driving

By MICHAEL GILDERDALE

license issued to him four years earlier—Ernest drove B.P.U. in the Scottish motor trials. That was the day of the Geostairer, woggles and wassered driving capes. That was the time he went to Glasgow by way of Inverness, by the Devil's Elbow and the Rest and be Thankful. That was the 45 m.p.h. flat-out time—with 18 miles to the gallon.

"She was a proper step-up job," Ernest recalled. "With day's green coachwork and far-side lamps of brass. They don't make 'em like that nowadays. This one? Never had a rebore in all those years."

Yesterday B.P.U. received the finishing touches to her coachwork at Munnich, Chalmersford, Ltd., the coach-builders.

Craftsmen like Dick Bright and Edgar Larntson, coach trimmer, have replaced the ash

frame, green hide seats and the hand-turned brass, mirror-bright.

"She is a lady—every inch of her," they say.

**800 BPU**

Of old Ernest Bentall—the man who designed B.P.U.—Mr. Linnett said: "It was no accident. He was a genius. He had only one bled spot. He should have continued manufacturing cars, but he turned out a luxury job, and the parts were just a bit too steep."

Of himself? Mr. Linnett has no false modesty. "When old Mrs. Ernest finished with me I should have left and started up on my own."

One wish he holds most dear—that he will be at the wheel when, set on fire, B.P.U. sets out for Scotland again to prove that Britons build to last.

## NOEL TAKES FOG TO DESERT

LAS VEGAS, Wednesday. NOEL COWARD brought London—and its fog—to the Nevada desert for the opening night of his two-week cabaret run at \$14,230 a week.

An elaborate number called "So this is London" had an artificial fog and a silhouette of Lombard on a backdrop showing Big Ben and the Thames bridge.

Last night's opening at the Desert Inn was a big success, with scores of men at the end.

The capacity audience of 2300

people cheered all the songs which have made Noel Coward famous over the last 30 years.

His biggest hit was an item called "Let's Do It," in which he parodied a score of celebrities.

With it were the old favorites "Mac Duggs and Englishmen" and "Don't put your daughter on the stage, Mrs. Worthington."

The hotel said Noel Coward's salary worked out at 3 2/3c per minute—twice the usual cost of a meal—but that the attraction in the gambling tables would make good this loss.—R.U.P.

# Thank you Keith

Sadly, Maldon Museum in the Park is to lose one of our most stalwart volunteers. Keith Davis joined us more than 6 years ago and, since then has contributed to every aspect of Museum life.

He has been Treasurer, twice, and most recently Accessions Officer. Keith has been involved in every stage of our conversion to an incorporated charity, and has been a trustee of both the present and our new organisation.

In addition, he has been a driving force behind our application for accreditation from the Arts Council - writing policy documents and encouraging us when the bureaucracy threatened to make us want to throw in the towel.

Apart from being a regular steward, Keith was a member of the Museum Liaison committee with MDC and a steady hand on the tiller through the inevitable crises.

There will be a hole at the Museum that will not easily be filled and in addition we will miss the stories about his adventurous holidays to exotic places. He leaves with thanks from us all and our best wishes for the future. We will miss you!

## Our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Next year is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Museum and, to help celebrate, we would like to put together a book with a collection of memories from Friends and other Maldon residents.

We're at an early stage of planning, but if you have any special memories you would like to share, please contact us.

[enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk)

<b>MALDON MUSEUM IN THE PARK</b>				
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2020</b>		<b>2020</b>		<b>2019</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Admission Charges		1,253.50		1,344.50
Subscriptions		349.00		510.00
Grants Received		850.00		500.00
Donations		1,172.50		644.88
Shop Sales	889.64		1,111.49	
Less cost of goods sold	190.01		455.11	
Gross Margin		679.63		656.38
Interest Received		9.42		6.23
Miscellaneous		32.02		147.96
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>4,346.07</b>		<b>3,809.95</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Rent		17.00		30.00
Insurances		795.92		824.98
Lighting and Heating		1,083.33		1,120.46
Property Maintenance		64.13		350.99
Telephone		53.25		170.00
Printing Stationery and Postage		763.99		881.58
Subscriptions and Donations		65.00		50.00
Archive Maintenance and Display		21.74		0.00
Equipment Maintenance		39.00		673.02
Equipment Purchases		82.80		0.00
Sundry Expenses		42.00		0.00
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>3,028.16</b>		<b>4,101.03</b>
<b>SURPLUS(DEFICIT) for the Year</b>		<b>1,317.91</b>		<b>-291.08</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2020</b>				
		<b>2020</b>		<b>2019</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Equipment and furniture		1.00		677.00
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash in Hand		103.00		70.00
Balance at Bank - Current Account		4,625.36		3,359.29
- Deposit Account		4,641.27		4,631.85
Stock estimated		600.00		600.00
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>9,970.63</b>		<b>9,338.14</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>				
Balance brought forward		9,338.14		9,629.22
Surplus (Deficit) for the Year		1,317.91		-291.08
Equipment written down to nominal value		-676.00		
Balance carried forward		9,980.05		9,338.14
Chair				
I have reviewed the attached Accounts without carrying out an audit and confirm that they are in accordance with the records of the Museum				
Reporting Examiner	Date			



## **MALDON DISTRICT MUSEUM ASSOCIATION Chair's annual report 2019/2020**

Following a well-attended opening ceremony performed by Christopher Foyle of Beeleigh Abbey, the Museum enjoyed a productive and successful year.

The first 'Pop-Up' exhibition, to compliment the opening, was arranged by Judy on a history of Beeleigh Abbey, and included some interesting artefacts from the dig at Beeleigh by Maldon Archaeological Society, kindly loaned by Mr. Foyle.

An Easter Egg Hunt, designed by Steven, was a great hit with our younger visitors - getting us off to a great start.

There were several group visits during the year - one of which resulted in takings of £100 on the day. A class of primary children from St. Frances School was entertained with various activities and art students from Chelmsford spent an afternoon drawing exhibits in a sunny courtyard.

Jenny organised children's activity sessions on Wednesday afternoons over the summer and these began to attract a good audience. We have been promised the very generous gift of a fully stocked Art Cart from the Blackwater Arts Society. Hopefully we will be able to make good use of this when the Museum is able to open again.

We also welcomed two Plume School students for a two-week work experience project. They researched and mounted an excellent display on the Mayor of Maldon, Edward Arthur Fitch - and we were delighted when both the present Mayor and her Deputy came to see the result.

The students also organised an imaginative 'Spot the Stranger' hunt for children during the school holidays - again a popular attraction.

Open Days when free entry was offered were well attended and donations for the year were nearly double those of previous years.

We have had a full committee for this year and welcomed several new volunteers who have taken roles or join existing teams. Our thanks to all of them for their time and effort so generously contributed.

On the premises front, we at last have a spanking new boiler and three new radiators - so hopefully the arctic conditions in the kiosk and front-of-house will be a thing of the past. Several volunteers worked hard to reclaim the courtyard with various plantings and were rewarded with a Maldon in Bloom certificate.

Administratively, our new Charitable Incorporated Organisation is registered with the Charity Commission. We are grateful for the support of the Museum Development Officer, Museums Essex, SHARE, solicitor Julie Cole and Sarah Troop of Maldon CVS, for their financial help, time, advice and support. It would have been a much more difficult and onerous task without all that.

We continue to pursue regaining our Accreditation status. The documentation required is quite mind-boggling but we have excellent support and encouragement from SHARE and Robyn at Chelmsford Museum. Our aim is to submit our application by December 2020. Accreditation will enable us to apply for funding on a much wider basis.

Redundancies at Maldon District Council somewhat disrupted our good relationship with the liaison committee at the Council in the summer, but, following reorganisation, good new contacts have been established and it is hoped that strong and useful cooperation will ensue.

Finally, a big 'Thank You' to our brilliant stewards. A quick glance at our visitors' book would confirm how much their friendly, interested and helpful presence means to our visitors and so to the Museum. They really are Maldon Museum in the Park.

*Brigid van Bruggen*

*Flo Shaunessy*

# Friends of Maldon Museum in the Park

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone / mobile.....

Email.....

I/We wish to RENEW Membership of the Friends of Maldon Museum

*Please find enclosed my/our subscription for:*

Single Membership - £10

Single Life Member - £90

Family Membership - £15

Family Life Members - £120

### DATA PROTECTION

I agree that Maldon Museum in the Park may hold my contact details securely in order to communicate with me about the Museum.

*Signature and date:*.....

### Please return to

Friends' Secretary – Jenny Sjollema

10 Spinnaker Drive, Heybridge Basin CM9 4UG

*Have you Gift Aided your contribution?*

This page is deliberately blank  
Reverse of membership renewal form

EXCERPTS FROM THE FIRST EDITION OF THE DAILY EXPRESS  
PUBLISHED ON 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 1900

Whilst clearing out some cupboards during lockdown, I discovered a copy of the very first issue of the Daily Express. As the 2<sup>nd</sup> Boar War was in full spate, most of the news is war-related and grim. However, there is much of interest on a lighter vein, and I have chosen some of those items.

Why Are Dolls Always Blue-Eyed

Dolls began to be made more elaborately in the early years of our Queen's reign. She was then a fair haired blue-eyed girl, and every child wanted to have a doll baby exactly like her Sovereign. Thus the fashion arose, and we find that the children of today are as fond of their blue-eyed little ones as their Mothers.

The Defence of London

A new fort is to be constructed on the Isle of Grain, at the entrance of the Thames and the Medway, by way of strengthening the defence of London. The fort will be armed by long-range breech-loading and quick firing guns, and will command all the channels leading to the Thames.

Where Byron was Born

Another birthday of Byron has just passed and still the long-promised memorial to mark the spot is conspicuous by its absence. The place of the poet's birth is the corner of Holles Street and Oxford Street. The large drapery emporium of John Lewis covers the site, and their business stationery bears the poet's bust in the right hand corner. But Byronites look in vain for a marble bust outside, which it was understood would replace the bronze one removed years ago on account of structural alterations.

Tribute in London  
(Shakespeare's Birthday is on 23<sup>rd</sup> April)

"He was a guide, philosopher and friend to us all. He understood man. His gold was minted for all minds". In these words, accompanying a beautiful basket of flowers to the tomb in the Abbey, the Shakespeare Society fitly commemorated their hero's birthday yesterday. But the man in the street had forgotten, if he ever knew the fact. Small knots of people visited Poet's Corner and read the inscriptions on the wreaths. The interest, however, was languid and the attendance halting.

Bicycles at War

The War Office, in spite of the excellent work done by the few cycling corps in South Africa, fail to recognise the utility of the bicycle for mounted infantry. One can only understand this aversion on the grounds that in the face of necessity, bicycles, unlike horses, cannot be transformed into "chervil". No-one has yet suggested that the bicycle is fit to eat!

No. 1262

# TIN-CAN CRAFT

by W<sup>m</sup> A. BAGLEY



HOW TO MAKE YOUR  
OWN GIFTS, KITCHEN  
ACCESSORIES, GARDEN  
IMPLEMENTS — TOYS  
WORKING MODELS ETC  
OUT OF OLD TIN CANS  
DISCARDED FROM THE  
KITCHEN



NOVEL • INEXPENSIVE • INTERESTING



# **The Museum in the Park**

**Registered Charity 301362**

**Patron – Rt Hon. John Whittingdale, OBE MP**

## **The Museum team**

<b>President</b>	Judy Betteridge
<b>Vice-President</b>	Merle Pipe
<b>Co-Chair</b>	Cllr. Flo Shaughnessy
<b>Co-Chair</b>	Brigid Van Bruggen
<b>Friends' Secretary</b>	Jenny Sjollema
<b>Secretary</b>	Lucy Franklin
<b>Treasurer</b>	Aart Van Bruggen
<b>Accessions Team</b>	Judy Betteridge, Steven Gridley, Carly Nicholls
<b>Technical Officer</b>	Keith Jeary
<b>Social Media</b>	Steven Gridley
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	Jonathan Cruickshank
<b>Volunteer Co-ordinator</b>	Brigid van Bruggen
<b>Group Visits Secretary</b>	Margaret Rollinson
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Ian Linton

## **Would you like to be involved with the Museum?**

We are always looking for new volunteers to help us run our Museum.

You might like to be a Steward, or to be involved behind the scenes working on displays, conservation of our collection or carrying out maintenance work and cleaning during our closed period. Perhaps you may be interested in joining our management team.

*To find out more please contact  
[enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk)*

The Museum in the Park  
47 Mill Road  
Maldon, Essex CM9 5HX

You'll find us by the main gates  
of the Promenade Park.

**Open from August 2nd 2020**

Wednesdays 1– 4pm (families only in August)

Sundays 1—4pm

Entry for children is free; Adults £2

**Where possible please book a time slot before visiting —see  
page 3**

**Contacting the Museum**

By phone

01621 842688

By email

[enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk)

Website

<https://e-voice.org.uk/maldonmuseuminthepark/>

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**And on Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/maldonmuseum/>

**Contributions for the newsletter**

We welcome your contributions to this magazine and would be happy to receive articles, images, letters and comments. If you have something you would like to submit, however small, please email it to [enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@maldonmuseum.org.uk)