

THE FRIENDS OF THOMAS PLUME'S LIBRARY

Registered charity no. 1098311

Market Hill, Maldon  
Essex CM9 4PZ

E-mail: [friendsofplumelibrary@outlook.com](mailto:friendsofplumelibrary@outlook.com)

31st March 2019

Dear Friend/s

Firstly, thank you to all those Friends who attended and in other ways supported our Quiz evening on 2nd February. It was a very enjoyable evening and raised a substantial sum of money. I hope you will be able to take part in this year's programme of events. The first is the Annual General Meeting to be held in the D'Arcy room of All Saints Church on Friday 17th May. The business part is kept as brief as possible after which there is time to enjoy wine and refreshments provided by the committee and meet with other members of the Friends. It is our tradition to follow this with an interesting talk, which this year will be given by Dr Anna Reynolds who has recently been researching the book bindings in the Library, and in other rare books libraries.

This year's annual outing on Monday 24th June will be much closer to home than last year's trip to Oxford, but no less exciting. We have arranged to have a private tour of the special collections at the Albert Sloman Library at the University of Essex (just the other side of Colchester), and in the afternoon we will visit the nearby Beth Chatto's Gardens. Please make your booking on the enclosed form (or by email to Al Brown) as soon as possible.

The Library will be opening for the Heritage Open Day on Saturday 14th September from 10am-4pm. Erica Wylie, the Plume Librarian, will be staging an exhibition of books which will include a selection by women writers. Our accompanying 'Tea in the Garden' event was a great success last year and we have permission from Maldon Town Council to hold a similar event in the Churchyard this year. There will be a second-hand bookstall; a raffle; and refreshments including home-made cakes. If you are able to give some time to steward in the Library on that day, or to help with our event in the churchyard, please email [sueswaffin@gmail.com](mailto:sueswaffin@gmail.com) or fill in the enclosed form. Last year we had thirty volunteers taking turns throughout the day. If you are able to donate any books that are taking up too much room on your shelves, please contact Dido at [fabiansfarm@btconnect.com](mailto:fabiansfarm@btconnect.com). The books can either be collected from your home or delivered to the collection address. We are also asking if you would be willing to sponsor a cake. A donation of £5 helps to cover the cost of the ingredients.

The Quiz is back in the programme for February 2020 so please look out for the booking form in the November mailing. With our successful fundraising events and your generous donations, we are in a much-improved financial position. This means that when books from the 'missing list' come up at auction we are ready with funds. We hope to have renewed effort in the search for these titles in the year ahead.

With warm regards,



Helen Kemp  
Chairman

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## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2019

This is the Chairman's report to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Friends and sixteenth Annual General Meeting of the Charity as required by our constitution. The objects of the Friends are to advance the education of the public in Maldon and the surrounding areas by providing support and assistance to Thomas Plume's Library (Registered Charity number 310661) through activities and projects and in such other ways as the Executive Committee may from time to time determine. In planning our activities, the Trustees have kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Membership of the Friends now stands at 153, each paying a subscription of £5 supplemented by generous donations. This year the AGM was held in the D'Arcy Room of All Saints Church, Maldon High Street. After the business part of the evening there was a break for refreshments provided by committee members followed by an enjoyable illustrated talk by Brian Mooney entitled 'On foot to Rome and back via Maldon'.

The annual outing was to the Bodleian Library in Oxford where we had a tour of Duke Humphrey's Library and the seventeenth-century court room. Many members also took the opportunity to visit the nearby Tolkien exhibition. During the same week our Tea in the Garden and Heritage Open Day event was very successful, thanks to the many Friends who helped on the day and donated funds, cakes or books beforehand. There were 127 visitors to the Library, and we raised a total of £691 on the day. A further eight stewards from the Friends were involved in the Plume School Year 8 visits which took place in late November and early December. Keith Davis attended the prizegiving at the school when four students received book token prizes for the best projects. The final event of the year was the Quiz which was held on 2nd February. This was very well supported by the Friends and their guests and made a total of £1,354.65 after costs for our funds. Thanks go to the committee for all the hard work that goes into making this such a successful and enjoyable occasion.

We have funded the purchase of two books in this financial year: William Turner, *A New Herball* (1551) and Christiaan Huygens, *The Celestial Worlds Discover'd: or, Conjectures concerning the Inhabitants, Plants and Productions of the Worlds in the Planets* (1698). The Library continues to search auction catalogues and booksellers' lists for missing editions we can purchase. We have also bought a new computer for the Library and contributed to the cost new window blinds.

The Committee (Trustees) has met four times during the year. I would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their help and support. The Trustees of the Charity for the year 2018-2019 were:

Helen Kirstine Kemp	Chairman
Robert Anthony Doe	Secretary and Correspondent
Janis Elizabeth Croom	Treasurer
Diana June Arthur	
Alan Louis Brown	
Susan Jean Edward	
Keith Davis (to January 2019)	
Susan Swaffin-Smith	
Mary Carmen Wells	

The principal address of the Charity is that of the Correspondent, Mr Tony Doe, 23 Wentworth Meadows, Maldon, Essex CM9 6EH.

Helen Kemp, Chairman



31st March 2019