

THE FRIENDS OF THOMAS PLUME'S LIBRARY

Registered Charity No. 1098311

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2020

This is the Chairman's report to the 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Friends and seventeenth 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 147, 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 interesting talk by Dr Anna Reynolds who spoke on her research into how waste paper has been used in the bindings of early printed books including those in the Plume Library.

The annual outing this year was to the Albert Sloman Library at the University of Essex followed by a visit to Beth Chatto gardens, Elmstead Market in the afternoon. The Heritage Open Day, together with the Friends 'Tea in the Garden' event held on 14th September was very successful largely helped by wonderful weather which brought out lots of visitors. Many thanks to the many Friends who helped on the day and donated funds, cakes or books beforehand. There were 153 visitors to the Library, and we raised a total of £750.25 on the day. A further 10 stewards from the Friends were involved in the Plume School Year 8 visits which took place in November. Tony Doe attended the prizegiving at the school when four students received book token prizes for the best essays. The final event of the year was the Quiz which was held on 29th February. This was a very enjoyable evening as usual. The quiz master was Frank Garcia, master at KEGS in Chelmsford and a member of the Friends. Thanks go to the committee for providing raffle prizes and for all the hard work that goes into making this such a successful and enjoyable event.

We have funded the purchase of 3 books in this financial year:

- Thomas Barlow, *The Gunpowder-Treason: With a Discourse of the Manner of its Discovery*, printed by Tho. Newcomb, and H. Hills, and are to be Sold by Walter Kettilby, 1679
- Anon, *The answer of the new converts of France, to a pastoral letter from a Protestant minister: Done out of the French copy publish'd there with permission*, London: Printed by Henry Hills, printer to the King's most excellent Majesty, for his household and chappel, 1686. (This was an original Plume book with the Library's "Ex Libris" inscription.)
- Edward Brown, *A brief account of some travels in divers parts of Europe*, for Berry Tooke, 1685.

The Library continues to search auction catalogues and booksellers' lists for missing editions we can purchase. We have also provided money for the purchase of a new computer for the new Plume librarian, Dr Helen Kemp.

The Committee (Trustees) has met four times during the year. We would like to thank all the members of the Committee for their help and support during the year. The Trustees of the Charity for the year 2019-2020 were:

Helen Kirstine Kemp: Chairman (until 16.9.19)
Robert Anthony Doe: Secretary and Correspondent
Janis Elizabeth Croom: Treasurer
Diana June Arthur

Alan Louis Brown
Susan Jean Edward
Susan Swaffin-Smith
Mary Carmen Wells

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

Helen Kemp and Sue Swaffin-Smith 31st March 2020