

# THE FRIENDS OF THOMAS PLUME'S LIBRARY

Registered charity no. 1098311

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April 2021

Dear Friend,

I did not think when writing this time last year that we would be in the same situation now and having to hold all our meetings by Zoom and the AGM by email again. You will read in the annual report about the kind of year 2020/2021 has been.

In this newsletter I will try not to be too gloomy about the year ahead but again we are relying on virtual ways of communicating with our membership. I am enclosing/attaching herewith the Agenda for 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the minutes of our last AGM held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020; the Annual Report; a summary of the Accounts for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and last but not least the annual Subscription form. With a few exceptions, the Minutes are not included in the postal envelopes but will be available to view on the Friends page of the Plume Library website at [www.thomasplumeslibrary.co.uk](http://www.thomasplumeslibrary.co.uk) together with the full Annual Accounts. The latter will be added when they have been returned by our Independent Examiner, David Sage.

**The committee will assume your agreement to the minutes of the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the adoption of the Accounts, the Annual Report and the election of the honorary officers and committee if we do not hear from you to the contrary by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021.** It will be helpful if any representations to the committee can be made as soon as possible.

The good news I am able to bring you is that the repair work on the ceiling of the Plume Library is nearly complete and it is hoped that the books will be able to be returned to the shelves sometime in May. The Librarians, with the help of volunteers, spent most of December packing up the Library contents and the books, manuscripts and paintings are currently being safely stored in the Essex Record Office. The builders started work in January and completely removed the old ceiling. A new lathe and plaster ceiling has now been installed together with an up-to-date fire suppression system. New storage heaters are also being fitted to give more control over temperature.

I must also mention that *Dr Thomas Plume, 1630-1704 His Life and his Legacies in Essex, Kent and Cambridge*, which was published in November is selling well. This is the definitive account of Dr Plume for our generation and has been very well reviewed. It is very comprehensive and contains new information about Dr Plume which only came to light during the team's researches. I can thoroughly recommend it to our Friends.

It is sad that we are unable to hold our AGM in the usual way this year. This is a good opportunity to meet other members of the Friends, share a glass of wine and refreshments and hear an interesting speaker (as well as conducting the Charity business). For this year we do have something to offer; a previous speaker and one of our members, Lynne Raymond has produced a video of her excellent talk on Edward Bright which is available to watch on You Tube via this link: <http://youtu.be/Xk6tEvn6dJ8>, or by going to Google videos and typing in 'Edward Bright Maldon'. This is based on her original talk but also contains some new information. I apologise to those who are without an email address and who will be receiving this by post. We have tried to gather in as many of you as we can to receive the mailing electronically.

We will not be re-arranging the Westminster Abbey outing for this year as the situation is still so uncertain. We will be trying to offer a virtual library tour which could take us to Libraries in other parts of the world. At the moment we are researching tours of libraries in New York and Los Angeles. We will be in contact again as soon as we have something to offer.

We held a successful virtual Plume quiz on Zoom in February which raised £785 for the Friends. This was very ably compiled and hosted by our treasurer Janis Croom. We hope to arrange another sometime during the year and if any of you would like to take a turn compiling the questions your help would be much appreciated.

The Friends need help in another way too. As you will see from the agenda, there is no-one willing/able to take over as Chairman when I stand down in May. It will be very difficult to run our Charity with no-one in this role. If you think this may be something you could offer please get in touch. We have an excellent team in place, we just need a Chairperson.

Keep safe and well during these uncertain times,  
With very best wishes

*Sue*

Sue Swaffin-Smith  
(on behalf of the Trustees of the Friends of Thomas Plume's Library)