

## THE FRIENDS

The Friends of Thomas Plume's Library was founded in 1988 in order to help the Plume Trustees to preserve their collection in a good state for future generations. The Friends became a registered charity in 2003.

The Friends help the Trust in its educative function with the History prize for year 8 students of the Plume School. This is an award for the best essay submitted following their visit to the Plume Library. The Friends also raise funds for the repair and renovation of the books and pamphlets, and help to purchase replacements for the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century books that have been lost.

The committee of the Friends arrange four events annually; the AGM, which includes a talk, a visit to an outstanding library, an open day in the Plume Library itself, and a social evening.

If you would like to help the Friends' work in caring for this magnificent collection, you can become a member for only £5 a year (although additional donations are always very welcome). Please use the insert and send your subscription to our Hon. Membership Secretary, Mrs Sue Edward, 7 Highfields Mead, East Hanningfield, Chelmsford CM3 8XA.

## THE LIBRARY

Dr Thomas Plume was born in Maldon in 1630 and died near Rochester in 1704. From 1658 he was vicar of Greenwich and from 1679 he was archdeacon of Rochester. He left considerable sums for charitable purposes, including the creation of a chair of astronomy at Cambridge University, but he maintained close links with his native Maldon.

In 1698-9 Dr Plume funded the erection of a two-storey building on the site of the partly collapsed St Peter's church; the ground floor for the Grammar School and the first floor to house the considerable collection of books which he bequeathed to Maldon on his death.

His library remains in its handsome panelled room, approached by the ancient spiral staircase in the church tower. It provides the perfect setting for the collection of some 8,200 books and pamphlets and in excess of another 2000 which have been since 1704.

The Library is open to visitors on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 2pm and 4pm and on Saturday mornings from 10am to 12 noon.

For further information see [www.thomasplumeslibrary.co.uk](http://www.thomasplumeslibrary.co.uk) or contact the Plume Librarian Dr Helen Kemp on 01621 854850; [info@thomasplumeslibrary.co.uk](mailto:info@thomasplumeslibrary.co.uk)

## THE FRIENDS OF THOMAS PLUME'S LIBRARY

*Registered Charity no.1098311*



## EVENTS 2024-25

# The Friends of Thomas Plume's Library

## Events 2024-25

Our 2024 **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Saturday 18 May** at 7.30pm in the **D'Arcy Room, All Saints Church, Maldon** (*there is parking nearby in the White Horse car park, accessed via Fambridge Road and White Horse Lane*). After the formal part of the meeting, and an interval for refreshments Emma Pound about 'Samuel Johnson's "Nancy": An introduction to the life and library of Anne Welch' - an intellectual, linguist, traveller, cross-dresser, book collector and art dealer. One of the few women book collectors of her time her library reflected her many varied interests



Annual outing to the **Caird Library and Archive at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich** on **Monday 8 July**. Please see separate information sheet and booking form. Places are limited to 30 so please book **as soon as possible** if you wish to join us, and no later than **Friday 21 June**. Named for the Glaswegian shipowner Sir James Caird Bt. (1864-1954) the library has been facilitating research into maritime endeavour for over eighty years. Today it is the largest maritime reference library in the world.

We will be running our usual bookstall in the garden of the Plume building for Heritage Open Day 2024. Please do join us on **Saturday 14 September**. The Plume Library will be open to visitors in the afternoon (as well as the normal opening of 10-12 in the morning). This year's theme is "Routes-Networks-Connection"s. You can bring donations for the book stall to the Library in advance of Heritage Open Day during normal opening hours (books in good condition preferred) **until 31 August**.



\*Please note for your diary that the annual **Plume Lecture** will take place on **Saturday 28 September at 7pm**, this year at the **URC**. The Lecture will be given by Professor Claire Jowitt (University of East Anglia). The title is: "The Last Voyage of the Gloucester, 1682, and Why it Matters".

The next **Quiz Evening** will be held in **early February 2025**. This has been a very successful and enjoyable event in previous years. Further details to follow.

