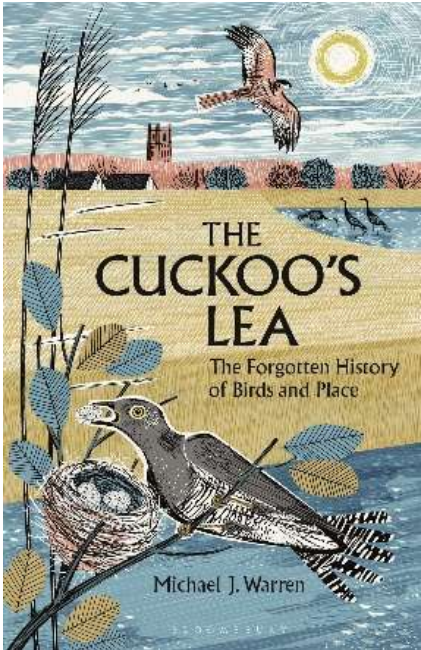


The Friends of Thomas Plume's Library



Our 2026 **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Saturday 9 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, an interval for refreshments and raffle, we look forward to a talk by author Michael J Warren about his recent book *The Cuckoo's Lea* which was a *BBC Wildlife* Best Book of 2025.

Hidden in the names of English towns and villages, in copses, fields, lanes and hills, are the ghostly traces of birds conjuring powerful identities for people in ancient landscapes. What are their stories and secrets? How did people encounter birds over a thousand years ago? Michael will talk about how he set out on the trail of these ghosts. Captivated and guided by the secrets of place names, their stories are entangled with his own explorations of places through birds all across England.

Copies of Michael's book will be available to purchase during the evening.

The Library will be open all day (10.00am to 4.00pm) on Saturday 12 September for **Heritage Open Day 2026**. The Friends will be providing an information stand and running a raffle. This year's theme is 'Everyday histories' and the Library will be mounting an exhibition linked to this topic.



The next **Quiz Evening** will be held in **early February 2026**. This has been a very successful and enjoyable event in previous years. Further details to follow.

We are hoping to provide our annual outing in **early autumn** this year. Details to be confirmed.