

Spring 2011

FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

✦✦✦ *Sharing the 15th Century Moot Hall with 21st Century visitors.*

Special points of interest:

- * The story of the Friends of the Moot Hall since 2008.
- * Meet the Trustees and the management group at the social evening and AGM
- * Progress reports on Civil Weddings, Lottery funding widening the use of the building

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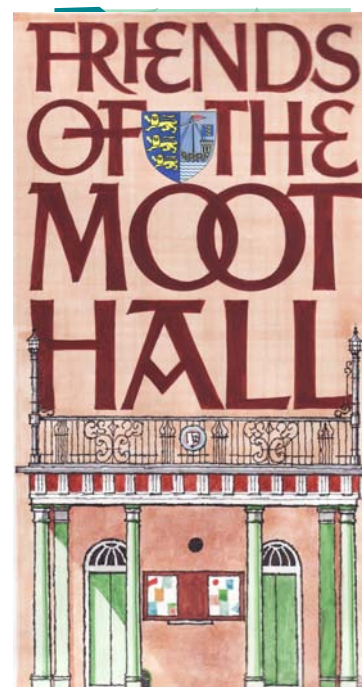
Building a new attraction for Maldon

The 'friends' were formed following a Public meeting to take on the challenge of making greater use of this historic and architectural treasure in the heart of our ancient Town.

Starting with a small grant from Maldon Town Council we formed the 'Friends' Charity and an Executive group of enthusiasts, appointed a dedicated Manager—Julie Miller and rolled up our sleeves to build a successful organization with it's own identity, a good Bank bal-

ance and a portfolio of ideas that will attract visitors and Maldonians to enjoy the unique features of this historic Grade One building and to discover the fascinating social history that has moulded Maldon over the last 400 years and given us the vibrant Town we have today.

The story of the Moot Hall is the story of the Town, its distinguished visitors, its triumphs and disasters and some of its darker secrets have been acted out by generations of public servants and ordinary people.



An invitation to all Friends and a date for your diary

You are cordially invited to a Wine and Nibbles evening on Friday 1st April 8pm.

The evening will also be the Friends AGM with elections to the committee, a financial report and more details of our programme plus news

of forthcoming events and reports on the progress of the various initiatives. Moot Hall Common Room ground floor.

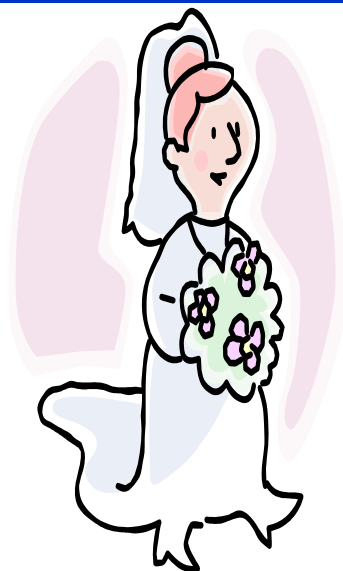
CIVIL WEDDINGS — A VERY SPECIAL DAY IN MALDON 'S MOOT HALL

An application has been made to obtain a License to have Civil Weddings at the Moot Hall. The application will cost £1600.00.

The Management group believes that the atmosphere, history of the building and the choice of the three different rooms will have a special appeal. If the License is granted, the Moot Hall will become the only Civil

Marriage facility in the town centre of Maldon. Preliminary enquiries have suggested that the Licensing Authorities would look with favour on the Moot Hall, provided that the building can meet the health and safety requirements.

Provision of other services such as flowers, transport and catering will be offered to local businesses in Maldon.



LOTTERY FUNDING FOR DEVELOPMENT AS A MUSEUM

An application has been made for £50,000.00 from the Lottery to help finance displays that will breath life into the various periods and events that have shaped the life of Maldonians over the last 400 years.

Wax figures dressed in costume of a particular period in a

room setting will tell the story of the building, who lived and worked there during it's long history as a private residence and as the seat of local Government since the 15th Century.

These tableaux will be a great asset for School visits and other special interest groups.

Other projects planned include a virtual tour of the building for visitors who are restricted to the ground floor by disability.

Multi lingual commentary can be added to the video and copies would be available from the Moot Hall shop.

MOOT HALL MERCHANDISE

Visitors to the Moot Hall will wish to be offered a choice of mementos to remind them of their visit, or to take home for some further reading about the history or for School visits. There will be an opportunity to spend a little precious pocket money to remember what captured visitors interest.

To meet this anticipated demand the management group have researched a wish list of items that includes post cards (We have a fine selection of professional quality pictures on file donated to the Friends by Bryan Panton), pencils and stationery items overprinted with Moot Hall, gift mugs, coasters for example.



A view of the High Street looking South West is typical of the fine panorama from the roof

TOURS OF THE MOOT HALL—2010 HAS BEEN A RECORD YEAR

The season for tours has been extended into December and will resume in March.

Being a Tour Guide can be a rewarding experience in many ways and Julie Miller the Manager needs more Guides. Training is provided and the Guides are paid for their time.

Each tour takes about 90 minutes and is usually on Satur-

day afternoons, visitors pay a modest fee with concessions for the Tour which in turn gives the Friends some useful income. The National Heritage weekend attracts very large numbers of visitors for the Tours and additional Guides and other helpers would be most welcome.

Another date for your diary, Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th September 2011.



SPREADING THE WORD . . . THE MOOT HALL LEAFLET

2010 saw the production of a completely rewritten and redesigned 1/3 A4 colour leaflet telling the story of the Moot Hall. The pages illustrate the main features of the building with new photographs set against a visual of the interior. The history of the

building was written by Stephen Nunn, the historian and lecturer on Maldon. A series of sketches show what the building was used for over the last 500 years and they hint at some of the characters in the Moot Hall story. The leaflet has gone out to all the Tourist Information-

Centers and visitor accommodation providers in East Anglia. Copies are available in the Moot Hall to send to your friends and family and also from the Tourist Information Centre in Maldon. We have joined the Essex County Council 'Visit Essex' scheme that gives us access to their publicity

Brown signs are on our agenda and an application for the Moot Hall is being progressed by the Council on behalf of the Friends.



Curiosities uncovered

Among the host of tasks facing the Friends management group they have completed a full in-

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

ventory of the artifacts within the building. This was a requirement of the 25 Year Lease from the Town Council but it also provides the basic information of a Museum Catalogue and will tie in the description of artifacts on display to the catalogue—a valuable tool for researchers. into the his-

tory of Maldon. A survey of the electrical installations has been made and recommendations have are made for some changes to the lighting, starting with the ground floor Common Room. We have received prices for restoration of some of the pictures that have lost their colour or been damaged.



Sharing the 15th Century Moot Hall with 21st Century visitors.

In this picture we're sharing the Moot Hall with Robert Thompson, the Curator of the museum at Maldon in New South Wales, Australia, Maldon Town Mayor Councillor Ken Smith and Lady Mayoress Lyn are presenting a picture album of his visit.

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2011

Thursday 24th February 10am—3.30pm ECC Visit Essex, Tourism and Leisure Show

Friday 1st April 8pm Friends of the Moot Hall Social evening with the AGM

Thursday 7th, Friday 8th April The Maldonians. Performance by David Hughes and Barry Jaimeson

Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th April The Maldonians. Second performance

Sunday 19th June 10am—5pm Blackwater Country Show

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September —10am—5pm Heritage Weekend

A programme of entertainments that are in keeping with the Moot Hall is being planned.



We're on the web
www.themoothall.co.uk

Moot Hall Manager
Julie Miller
07711 985540

Trustees:
Richard Woolridge
Stephen Nunn
Peter Hedge

Secretary
Sandra Stubbings
0621 855158

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Newsletter Edited and
produced by Pat Willis and Bill Geller

A DAY TO REMEMBER FOR MALDON IN 2010 WITH THE MOOT HALL AS A BACKDROP

The Friends management group have spent a lot of time and effort in building the foundations of an entirely new organisation to run the Moot Hall as a museum.

Teamwork and a clear direction has achieved results in all the projects and problems that have been addressed across a wide range of issues.

We have received generous help from the Town Council, from suppliers, the media and

local people. Working together and benefitting from the experience and knowledge that is available in very large measure in Maldon has added value to the successful fund raising that has been achieved for the Moot Hall. The headline refers, of course to the Queen's visit in November. A second visit after 39 years with lunch in Maldon after a memorable walk about with the Moot Hall as a backdrop plus visits to Maldon Salt and Wilkins Jam.

