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TOWN COUNCIL STAFF

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Planning Clerk: Mrs Caroline Hooper
Environment Committee Officer: Miss Jennifer Eva
Administrative Assistant: Mrs Nina Miller

The offices of the Town Council are located on the first floor of the Town Hall, Market Hill, Maldon CM9 4RL.
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For up to date information and news checkout the Town Council’s Website: www.maldontowncouncil.gov.uk

HIRE CHARGES

Main Hall
Monday – Friday
(9.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.)
£15.00 per hour
Minimum charge £45.00
Monday – Friday
(9.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.)
£17.00 per hour
Minimum charge £51.00
Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays
(day and evening)
£14.00 per hour
Minimum charge £42.00

Conference Room
Monday – Friday
(9.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.)
£12.00 per hour
Minimum charge £36.00
Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays
(day and evening)
£14.00 per hour
Minimum charge £42.00

Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays
(day and evening)
£18.00 per hour
Minimum charge £57.00
Foyer (if hired separately)
£7.50 per hour
Minimum charge £22.50

MALDON TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
April 2016

Message from the Town Mayor Cllr Mark Heard

In May 2015 I was delighted to be elected by colleagues to be Maldon’s new Mayor for this municipal year. I decided to theme it as ‘The Year of our Neighbourhood’ and I really wanted to get involved locally as much as I could to help organisations associated with the town.

During my year I have attended over 150 events and met many good people diligently working for the benefit of the community. It has made me realise that it is people, not titles or badges of office that makes things happen and together we have achieved many good things.

I am so grateful for the support I received from the Town Hall Staff and my fellow Councillors. The Town Council continues to manage its affairs extremely well with good reserves, recently achieving a clean bill of health from our independent external auditor.

I decided from the outset to nominate two local charities to help – The Maldon Salvation Army and secondly the restoration of Maldon All Saints Church bells. I recognise the great work undertaken by The Salvation Army because this group funds other clubs and activities run by the organisation itself such as helping to reunite families and provide emergency assistance, budgeting and debt advice and supporting vulnerable people in the community. Their work often goes unnoticed to people who are happy and in full-time employment, but to those in the community who are lonely, desperate and lost - the Salvation Army is always there to help and I admire this organization and its members enormously.

The eight All Saints’ Church bells are a special feature of Maldon and they have rung for so many people at weddings and christenings alike; they have been in place for almost 100 years and are now in desperate need of essential maintenance. They have to be removed and taken away for repair then on to Whitechapel for re-tuning and retiffing, a very expensive, but necessary process. There will be a re-dedication service in June.

This year was the first year that the Town Council was solely responsible for the Christmas Vintage Fayre and a good night was had by all. It was so successful with visitors, shops and stall holders that I certain it will be even bigger and better next year.

My sincere thanks go to local schools and businesses which have contributed much to my charity events allowing me to promote the town and its commerce. Maldon is world famous for many things, such as the Maldon Mud Race, Maldon Salt and the beautiful Thames barges that still sail from the Hythe. The Carnival, Cabbie Day, The Remembrance Service, and Maldon in Bloom this year winning the Gold award will remain with me as a happy memory and a wonderful opportunity to be part of this great town’s history. In May a new Mayor will be elected. I hope that whoever it may be, he or she will feel always the same pride that I have felt since the day I first became Maldon’s 206th Mayor. Like every other Mayor before me I can truthfully say it has been an honour and a privilege to represent and lead the Town Council of Maldon over this past year.

All Maldon Residents are welcome to attend the Annual Town Meeting to be held on Tuesday 19 April 2016 at Maldon Town Hall. Local organisations will have displays and the Maldon in Bloom team will give a short talk about its activities. The Mayor of Maldon’s Award for Services to the Community will be announced and donations made to local charities from the Mayor of Maldon’s Fund. Doors open at 6.45pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits available.

Designed and printed by Point Graphics Ltd, 21c High Street, Maldon, Essex CM9 5PE Tel: 01621 858849

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The Town Council took on the responsibility of running the Christmas Fayre, and in 2015 members agreed to take on the running of the Christmas Fayre. Whilst this did cause an increase in expenditure, we all thought it worthwhile to retain this annual family event. The Town Council owns 3 major buildings in the Town centre, the Town Hall, the Moot Hall and the Plume Building. This is a considerable financial responsibility for a local Council but we have harnessed the power of the voluntary sector to make good use of the two Heritage properties. The Town Council provides a support grant to the Friends of Moot Hall to run the Moot Hall and to the Maldonium Heritage Trust to operate the Heritage Centre in the Plume building.

The Town Council is keen to receive grant applications from small, local, not-for-profit groups. In the financial year up to mid-February, we awarded a total of £3550 to local organisations to support their activities:

- Maldon Carnival Association £700 annual Carnival
- Maldon & Heybridge Horticultural Society £300 new gate for Friary Garden
- Maldon Town Regatta Association £230 annual Town Regatta
- Maldon Twinning Association £500 hosting visitors from Villeparisis
- Plume School £350 Christmas Party for older residents
- St Mary’s Music Guild £250 purchase of demountable staging
- St FM Community Radio £500 purchase of equipment
- Sea Change Sailing Trust £300 activities for local young people
- YMCA £250 summer activity day at the Prom

And further in kind support through use of the Town Hall to the value of £1864

- Maldon Arts Trail £144 children’s art workshop
- Maldon District Orienteering £72 film show fund raising
- Maldon Drama Group £1000 two amateur drama productions
- The Joy of Maldon £45 Cray day
- Maldon & E Essex Scouts £558 Maldengoodo-annual garg show

The Town Council took on the responsibility of running the Christmas Fayre in 2015. A team of enthusiastic members and volunteers from our town worked hard to provide a happy family-friendly Christmas Fayre on the evening of Thursday 26 November. There was a great selection of stalls and entertainment was provided by local choirs and dance groups, Maldon Pantomime, Maldon Youth Orchestra and others. We were fortunate with the weather and a great time was had by all.

In 2016 the Fayre will be on Thursday 24 November. Local traders and entertainers who wish to take part can log their interest on event@maldontowncouncil.gov.uk.

The Environm ent Committee is responsible for overseeing the maintenance of many open spaces within the town: 3 closed churchyards, Market Hill Garden, Leech Memorial Garden, 3 allotment sites, Ware Pond, Wyckie Hill Pond, St Giles Ruins, and amenity areas.

The closed churchyards, All Saints’, St Peter’s and St Mary’s, are respectfully maintained and kept in a safe and tidy condition. Plans to rebuild the tomb, at the front of St Peter’s churchyard are underway and the wooden park benches in the garden ‘nook’ have recently been refurbished. Students from the Plume School designed and built a wooden planter for the alcove seating area on the High Street. Colourful hand painted plaques with Maldon themed designs adorn the planter and help brighten up this area for everyone to enjoy.

The allotments continue to be very popular and a number of new allotments have started this year. The allotment sites are monitored throughout the year by the Environment Officer, who carries out plot inspections during the growing season, to ensure each site is well tended. Regular plot inspections have reduced the waiting list over the past 3 years and enabled quick turnover of vacant plots to new tenants. From October 1st 2016 the charge for all allotment plots will be £43 per square metre.

In 2015 the Town Council approved a request from the Dengie & Maldon Beekeepers’ Association to create a Divisonal Training Apiary, at the largest allotment site, Maldon Hall. The apiary will improve pollinator numbers in the area and benefit allotment tenants by maximising pollination of their crops. The apiary has provided a valuable learning resource for trainee beekeepers and in August, the apiary was awarded a Highly Commended certificate in the Maldon District Conservation and Design Awards.

Market Hill Garden continues to develop, with the addition of a new interpretation board, bird boxes and extended perennial planting. The garden provides a pleasant stopping point half way up the steep Market Hill on your walk into town. Leech Memorial Garden, on the route down to Beeleigh Abbey, is a peaceful haven for people and wildlife alike. We work closely with the Friends of Leech Memorial Garden to monitor and maintain the unique character of the garden.

Wycke Hill Pond, located on the Wycke Hill Industrial Estate is a wildlife area that is sensitively managed to provide suitable habitat for wildlife and good access for visitors. Future plans for this site include the installation of a seating area, an information board and a bug hotel.

In addition to the “Maldon in Bloom Campaign”, the Town Council runs a hanging basket scheme for High Street businesses, which really helps brighten the town centre from May until October. The wooden roofbox planter at the bottom of the High Street has been replaced with a more durable fibreglass alternative, which was kindly provided by the Maldon Yacht Club.