

**Museum Management Working Group
Meeting 30th September 2015
Museum Society Chairman's Report**

The Board have, following the resignation of Andrew Penman, recruited and nominated Peter Walker for appointment as a Director and Treasurer at the AGM on the 25th September. I hope to be able to report at this meeting that he has been appointed. The Board are most grateful to David Laing for resuming the post of Treasurer and completing the annual accounts in time for the delayed AGM. Following her appointment by the Council we have welcomed Barbara Light to the Board. We have also nominated Christine Sharp, the current membership secretary, as a new Director for appointment at the AGM. The Board have also nominated Keith Eden for appointment as a Vice-President in recognition of his support during his eight year term as a Director. We regret that I have to report the death of Vice-president Edwin Planterose in July.

Work on the packing at the Newport continues but delays in the installation of alarm and communication services at the New Store have delayed the move from Newport. The Development Committee has now met three times and is making progress in setting up the framework for the plans for the re-development of the Museum Buildings. The Committee has visited the Chelmsford Museum to view their recent extension and also the Guildhall at Finchingfield. We have discussed a draft Design Brief prepared by Douglas Kent and will consider the updated draft in November.

Both the new Society Website and the Museum Website have been very successful. The visits to both sites have substantially increased. Tony Morton, a member of the Support Committee, is to amend minor items to increase the access to the sites and its use.

The preview of the latest Exhibition "Uttlesford – A Community of Collectors" on Friday 28th August was attended by over eighty members and guests including Councillors. The exhibits are the result of volunteer collectors who have been mentored by the Museum Staff to display their personal collections ranging from Royal Mugs, via Military badges, model airplanes, tokens to a selection of cats. The Collectors range from Retired members of the Society to a local pupil just starting senior school. We should congratulate Leah Mellors who has led this Exhibition. A further six collectors will exhibit their collections in November.

The autumn series of talks begins in October with a talk on Moorcroft Pottery and is followed in November by a talk on Farming in the 1950's. A visit to Hill Hall, Theydon Mount will have taken place by the time of this meeting.

Tony Watson.
8th September 2015