

**Museum Management Working Group
Meeting 10th September 2014
Museum Society Chairman's Report**

The Webmaster is to make a presentation of suggested improvements to the Museum Web site to the Group at this meeting. The Society much appreciates the work that Tony Morton has undertaken in updating the site and the Board recommends that the MMWG approve a recommendation that the Council adopt these improvements.

The Board agreed to the gift of a Tip Cart to English Heritage for use at Audley End. The Cart fits one of the horses and will be used around the site. As no requests for the remaining Tip Cart or the Brougham were received, the Curator obtained the appropriate authority for these to be sold; Cheffins were instructed to include these in their July sale and the total net sum of £2,035.60. The proceeds are to be included in the Acquisition fund for future purchases. The remaining Hay Wagon is being restored and will be moved to the new store this month together with the Langley Hearse.

The Board were represented at the handover of the new store on 1st July and were pleased that the Council have agreed to match the Society's funding for the provision of racking. The draft Leases and other documents required to document the provision of the new store have now been agreed and completion of the Leases to and from the Society should take place in the immediate future.

The sale of 40 Castle Street took place on 22nd August and the net proceeds are now held in the Society's account pending the completion of the Lease of the new store. Surplus funds will be reinvested pending the future development of the main Museum site.

August has been a very busy month. On the first Friday the Chairman opened the World War I and II exhibition prior to the entertainment of World War songs by singer Alexandra Jones. On the following Friday, the Society provided labour to make the site ready for the public event "Music & Memories" and assistance during the event. Alexandra Jones again provided the Musical entertainment to the delight of the elderly residents of Highfields and Stanley Wilson Lodge. Although the weather provided showers, it fortunately held off the downpour until the end of the afternoon. We understand that around 1500 members of the public attended. Finally on the third Friday, the Society held its Annual General Meeting. It was recorded that the Museum had had a very successful year despite the staffing difficulties and particular note was made of the funds raised, over £60,000, for the purchase of the North West Essex Ring and other Treasure.

Tony Watson
25th August 2014.