

THE BALDOCK SOCIETY

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newsletter

April 2007

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE BOARD

THE EVER CHANGING FACE OF BALDOCK

New Farm, Weston Way — will be demolished as the Herts County Council have granted themselves permission to construct a new **Children's Home** on the site. We did object to the demolition of the farm buildings and our letter was read out at the meeting, but as the vote was drawn at 5 – 5, the chairman had the casting vote and passed the plans. This fell to HCC as the land is owned by them and the development was for them, therefore NHDC did not have a say, so much for local control! We are very disappointed with this outcome as we have lost the last farming connection near to the Town Centre which had links to the Prior family.

The next one to look out for is the "*Rentokil*" *Building* on London Road. We understand that developers have already approached NHDC about its demolition following the recent decision to remove staff from the building by Rentokil. We have already written to NHDC stating we do not want this demolished under any circumstances, but we must be vigilant and build upon our knowledge of this building.

We already know it was built for and occupied by Sale Family. It was completed in 1908 which

makes it one of the few remaining Edwardian buildings in the town. The building was owned by the Sale family until the early 1950's and then sold, it then sold again, this time to Arthur Thake who developed the land when the 1960's housing scheme was developed on the land associated with the house.

We are looking to firm up these and any other details so we can to build a strong case to ensure it survives for the future. If you any first hand knowledge of the history of the building, have any photographs of the exterior or interior or any other information, please let us know. We understand this is an exceptional example of Edwardian Architecture and has many original features.

The building is on the NHDC schedule of "*Buildings of Local Importance*" but so was *New Farm*! Does not seem to mean very much.

April Meeting - If you did not make this meeting you missed a very special treat, it was extremely interesting and Joyce Vincent carried us through her experiences with the skills of a natural orator, keeping us engaged throughout. Thanks go to Joyce.

May Meeting - We have managed to offer tickets to all members who requested them (just) so we will have a full house for this ticket only event. We are very fortunate to have the Consultant's for the Town Centre Enhancement Scheme giving us a sneak preview of progress to date. As they will be making the public presentation of the "Options" in early June, we

expect they should have a lot to tell us. I am sure this will be another lively event on this hot topic.

August Meeting - We will be holding an Extraordinary General Meeting on August 16 at 8.00 pm to vote for the "*Changes to the Constitution*" which will be circulated to all members in accordance with the existing constitution ahead of the meeting. It will be a simple vote, but we will need a "Quorum" of members at the meeting, that will be about 100.

So, please support this meeting. This will be followed by the Open meeting with our local councillors, always great fun and very informative, so please attend if you can.

The **24th Baldock Festival** is upon us, just a couple of weeks to go. Already some events are sold out demonstrating the success the Festival has become. We will be having the photograph display in the community centre on the street fair day, so pop in and take a look. The committee is getting back to full strength but we still have some vacancies if you are keen to get involved. Why not come along and sit in on one of our meetings to get a feel for what is involved before you commit to it, just let us know at one of the public meetings.

A new Police group has been formed within Baldock to give more say on how the town is looked after. This gives us an opportunity to advise the Police direct of any concerns and they are responsible for advising how they

For those who have access to the internet. The new web address is:

We're on the Web!
www.baldocksociety.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR 2007-8

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| 17 May 2007 | - Baldock Town Centre Enhancement |
| 21 June 2007 | - History of Brewing by Terry Worbey |
| 19 July 2007 | - Inn Signs by Judy Flack |
| 16 August 2007 | - Extra Ordinary General Meeting followed by An audience with Baldock Councillors |
| 20 September 2007 | - British Birds by David Garner |
| 18 October 2007 | - The North West Passage by Duncan Hector |
| 15 November 2007 | - Base Camp One by Tony Allan |
| December 2007 | - NO MEETING |
| 17 January 2008 | - AGM |

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are tackling issues within the town. I have joined this committee, to make sure our members can have their say. We will be meeting the Police on a monthly basis and I will keep you informed of what is going on and how they are dealing with it.

Town Hall – Still no certain news on this. Recently, NHDC have invited interest from any companies or groups who may be able to use the building as part of the agreement to investigate all the options. This has been advertised in the local press. We are keeping a close eye on this but it is becoming an ever increasing problem. We hope a solution can be found soon. We understand that the latest problem will be resolved in the next couple of weeks and the Hall will be able to be used again.

So, it is business as usual for the committee, we are trying to stem the loss of our heritage, trying to stop buildings of importance from being demolished, commenting on relevant planning applications, providing interesting and varied meetings for our members, getting involved in various issues and committees around the Town and supporting other groups and events.

Chris Gomm
CHAIRMAN

GOING GREEN! If you would like to receive your Baldock Society Newsletter via email, then send your email address to:
Info@baldocksociety.org.uk
We promise not to forward your details to any third party.



MAY: Baldock Town Centre Enhancement

A presentation offering an update on the project and insight into the design process, from North Hertfordshire District Council's consultants, BDP.

Please note this is a ticket only event, due to the likely popularity and that this is the traditional Baldock Festival fortnight talk. All members have been contacted regarding obtaining a number of reserved tickets. Non-members should obtain a ticket from Baldock Community Centre - see the Baldock Festival website for information.

JUNE: History of Brewing by Terry Worbey

JULY: Inn Signs by Judy Flack

AUGUST: Extra Ordinary General Meeting followed by An audience with Baldock Councillors

Both informative and entertaining, this popular meeting offers you the chance to quiz you local Councillors.

SEPTEMBER: Birds by David Garner

Our longest standing speaker offers another informative talk about our feathered friends.

OCTOBER: The North West Passage by Duncan Hector

The North West Passage is a sea route connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans through the Arctic Archipelago of Canada. This is your chance to hear a first hand account.

NOVEMBER: Base Camp One by Tony Allan



17 JANUARY 2008 – AGM ...

A new time of year for us so this is an experiment. Last year saw the largest attendance at our AGM for some time and everyone agreed it was an excellent evening, with a photo display, quiz, raffle, food and drink, as well as the business of the AGM. We had some lively debate about the town and increased our committee by several people. An all round success and we are hoping this one will be as well.