

Aylett's Building,
Maldon Road,
Kelvedon,
Essex CO5 9BA

Welcome to -

FEERING & KELVEDOM LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM



Our displays are open to the public in one large and two smaller rooms in what was the old British School in Kelvedon. Visitors are also welcome to refer to the archives under the supervision of the Steward in attendance. The archive is kept under controlled conditions and whilst we cannot provide the resources of the records office or larger museums, nonetheless valuable information about individual and community life in our villages of yesteryear may be found via our detailed indexing.

1. **Main Room predominantly 19th to 20th century:**

A digital display rotating images of Carnivals, A12 Kelvedon Bypass, Village Pubs, Felix Hall, Moore's Buses, Mills, Railway, Kelvedon Fire Brigade, Bacon's and other local themes;
Property History Files Research - Kelvedon & Feering Heritage Society;
A century of change - then and now photographs;
Charles Haddon Spurgeon - Preacher of note;
Building & Architectural items and tools;
Agricultural and seed-growing implements;
Village pump over Marler's well;
Kelvedon's Voluntary Fire Brigade;
Schools and children's pastimes;
The Great War and Second World War;
Charles George Bacon & William Bacon - Service Medals
Capt. Frederick William Hunt of 19th Bengal Lancers Swords & Decorations;
Domestic Life - household items, ornaments and amusements.

2. **Sage Room archaeology:**

Fossils and other prehistoric finds;
Stone age artefacts including flint axes, blades and scrapers;
Local Medieval Bricks including from the Chantry House at St Mary's Lands;
Roman pottery, coins and other small objects from Canonium 'The Place of Reeds';
Blake & Dunnett Collections - metal detector field finds from within Feering & Kelvedon.

3. **Lobby Room transport and related:**

Crab & Winkle Railway line;
Great Eastern Railway;
Deal's of Kelvedon Garage;
Moore's Bros. Buses.

The Wheldon Archive:

Photographs, literature, burial records, local history society bulletins, parish council and many other community group records relating to the two villages. All records are indexed and stored on shelving within the archive that may be accessed under supervision. The facility to copy documents and photographs up to A4 is available for a small charge per copy.

About The Museum:

Founded in 1975 the museum is governed by a committee of six or more including three Trustees and three officers; a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and is served by between 15 and 20 voluntary Stewards who between them assist with research enquiries and the indexing, display and storage of donated artefacts, documents and information.

Some of the committee members have also produced publications periodically relating to local historical interests and you will find copies of many of these for sale in the museum.

The museum is financially supported by the Parish Councils of Feering and Kelvedon and by your donations and purchases. We do not charge for admission and, with your help, we hope we can continue to avoid such charges.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BUILDING

Thomas Aylett built this school about 1630 and endowed it in his will in 1637. Within a couple of decades it was used to accommodate Cromwellian cavalry. An enquiry in 1739 found the school house ruinous and unsafe without seat or flooring windows broken and roof ready to fall in. The date of the restoration in 1746 is still visible on a wall inside the library.

With the death of schoolmaster John Fuller the school closed in 1842. Led by the Minister of the Congregational Chapel a committee succeeded in re-establishing it as The British School in 1846. John Orst a smallholder seedgrower and part time accountant took on the post of Schoolmaster and markedly raised the standards of discipline and education. It became necessary to add a room for infants (now the main room of the Museum) in 1886. From 1902 to 1944 the school operated as a Non Provided School under the dual control of Local Managers and the County Authority.

When it was again occupied by troops in the First World War, lessons temporarily transferred to the Quaker Meeting House on the High Street. Its most famous teacher arrived in 1919, this was the innovative Helen Corke, confidante of D H Lawrence, who instituted school badge, uniform, physical education, and outings.

Lessons here ceased in 1944 but the building continued to serve as a school canteen for St Marys Primary School (then in Easterford Road) until a new school was built in 1969. The local branch of the County Library transferred here from St Marys Hall in June 1970, to be joined by the fledgling Museum five years later.