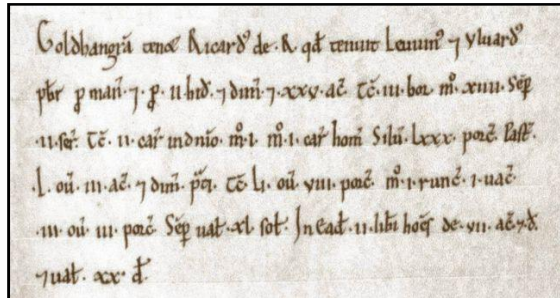


Ancient Goldhanger Documents

a selection of the ancient and past documents held in the archives
in chronological order

1085 - Domesday Book entry for Goldhanger. . .

Probably the oldest document in existence that refers to the village. Here is an extract, but in its original form it is difficult to understand. . .



...fortunately there is a translations. . .

1180 - Extract from *Monasticon Anglicanum*...

referring in Latin to Beeleigh Abbey ownership of Goldhanger village (reprinted in 1610) ...



1293 - Presentation of Revd Wytham to Goldangre. . .

CALENDAR OF PATENT ROLLS.

1293.

Membrane 20— cont.

April 7. Presentation of William de Wytham to the church of Goldangre, in
Soham. the diocese of London, in the king's gift by reason of his custody of the land
(Saham.) and heir of Philip de Eveningeham, tenant in chief.

1325 - the rector was prosecuted for *Forestalling*. . .

(Forestalling was a offence in English common law, and term used to describe an unacceptable method of influencing the market, usually food)

Royal Regulation of Loans and Sales in Medieval England

(Gwen Seabourne, 2003)

Laws against Forestalling and Regrating

... Comparatively prominent people, who might not be challenged by local forestalling laws, could find themselves accused under royal justice, as in a presentment to the King's Bench at Chelmsford, 1352 concerning Sir John Chapleyn, parson of the church of **Goldhanger**...

Item ils pres[entent] q[ue] Sir John Chapleyn la Parson de la Eglise de Goldbangr' est un comm[un] forstaller dez Auenes brans & altres vitailles issint qe p[er] cause de] sa Richess ne li ose contredier en grant oppression & arerisement du poeple.

(They present that Sir John Chapleyn, parson of the church of **Goldhanger**, is a common forestaller of oats, malt and other victuals, and that, on account of his wealth, no one dares to act against him, in great oppression and damage of the people.)

Although this does not demonstrate that royal action was intended to benefit the poor, it does show that it was seen as having some hope of helping the comparatively disadvantaged against more powerful neighbours.

CALENDAR OF PATENT ROLLS.

1361.

MEMBRANE 34d.

April 8. Commission to John Grete of Maldon and William Pellard of Westminster. Goldangre to explore and investigate in all ports and arms of the seas and other waters descending to the sea, in the county of Essex, for wools, hides and wool-fells shipped for foreign parts without payment of the customs and subsidy due to the king, and for victuals and other things put in ships to be taken to the said parts and brought within the realm, and arrest and keep until further order such as they find, certifying the king in the chancery of all arrests made and of all they do in this behalf.

1549 - Church Goods, an inventory of St Peters Church. . .

Maura Benham's book *Goldhanger - an estuary village* describes the effect of the reformation on St Peters Church in Goldhanger. This document identifies the contents of the Church before that event. . .

An inventory of all the goods in the Churche of Goldhanger in Essex.

In primis. One chalice all gylt weying viij. oz.

Item, one other parcell gylt weying vij. oz.

Item. ij. corporys kasys with clothes in them.

Item. iiij. copps, one Blew Velvet, another of Sarsen a third Grene and one of Black worsted, and another of Dornyx olde.

Item, iiij vestments, iij of them hathe Albs.

Item, ij Dekons tonyckylls.

Item, a Crosse of copper and gylte.

Item, one surplis.

Item, a dowsyn of puter dyshys.

Item, x sawsyr of puter the Church vessel

Item, iiij greate bells hanginge in the steyll with a lettell saunctus bell.

Item, solde by the hands of John Tele and Edward Poste the Churche Wardens, unto Edward Leg of Maldon xxijjs. iiijd., 6 skore pounds of latten kanstyks with it letell hand bells.

Item, the same churche wardyns solde unto the sayd Edward one byndyll of wax the whyche was the bachelars and the maydyns Sepulkar lyght xs.

Item, the same men solde sartan olde paynted clothes iis. vd.

Item, the same John Tele and Edward Poste hath in their hands of the churche monye for sarton thyngs whyche they sold as ys above wrytten to the sum of xxxvs. ivd.

Item, that John Hyvyngham dothe owe to the churche iijs. iiijd.

The Church Stoks.

Item, John Tele, the elder, hath a stoke of viijs. and John Kynge ys hys suerte for the same.

Item, John Tre, the elder hath a stoke of xs. and Rychard Faukyn ys hys suerte for the same.

Item, Thomas Ranke hathe recyvyd ij stoks of xxs. and John Tele, the elder, ys hys suerte for xs. and Myllard Ledleg ys hys suerte for the same xs.

Mem. that the chalyce of sylver parcell gylt weyinge vij ounces, and the cope of grene saten of Brydges bene appointed for Deryne Seryce, and all the resydew of the goods, plate, bells, and ornaments be delyvered unto the Custody of Robert Kyng, husbondeman P. Pynford,

John Leyteler, John Tey.

1600s - Extracts from the Court Rolls . . .

Extracts from the Court Roll

General quarter sessions of the peace held at Ingatestone on Tuesday 12
January 1696.

Tho. Sparrow, labourer, to do what the court shall enjoy,
concerning his endeavoring to steal and convey
away the daughter and heir of John Lasby Clerk, she being
a minor all of Goldhanger.

Tho. Matthew's of Tollesbury, labour, to do what the court shall enjoy
concerning his eaves dropping in the night time at the house of John Lasby Clerk
and setting up ladders in the night time against the said house in order to have
taken Lasbys daughter being a minor out of the window and have conveyed her
away.

Man Indicted for Being a Public Nuisance

Year - 1575

Thomas Keys of Goldhanger, yeoman, for causing out of his own diabolical and
perverse mind divers false clamors and quarrels without any reasonable or just
cause against many of his neighbours, faithful subjects of the lady the queen,
dwelling at Goldhanger, and for being a common brawler there. End.

Return of Surveyor of Weights and Measures

Year 1758

Charles Rofsbrook at Chequers - 3q quart stone mugs
defective by 1/2 quart

1651 "Wholves" in the Sea Wall.

Tho. Stubline of Goldhanger for not laying a bridge over a water course
being in the highway betwixt his own house and Rob. "Grantes", Rob.
Grant of Goldhanger for not laying "Wholve" in the (sea) wall leading from
the "Salt House" to Goldhanger Church, the path being "flowen" with water
for want of the same.

"Wholve" meaning A short arched or covered drain under a path".

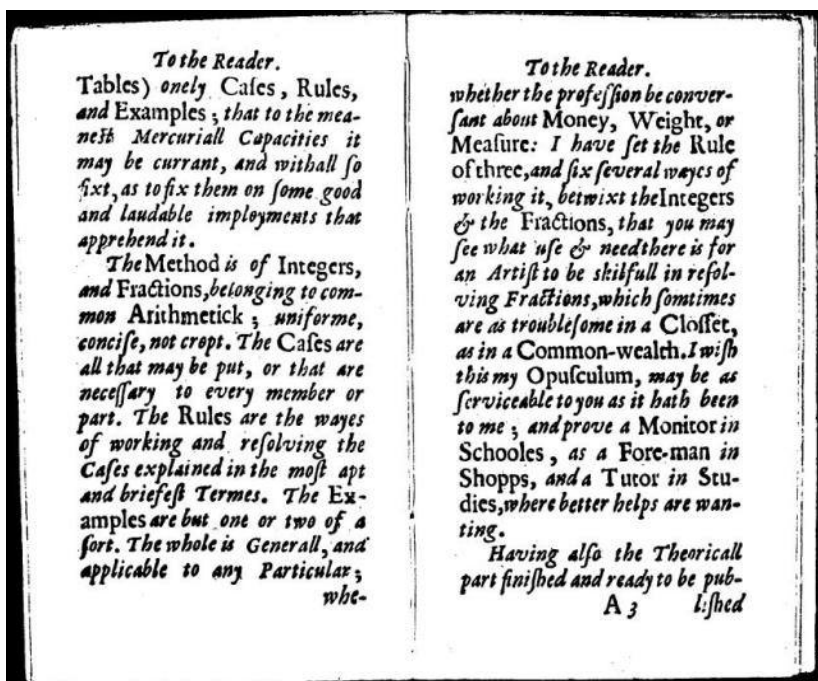
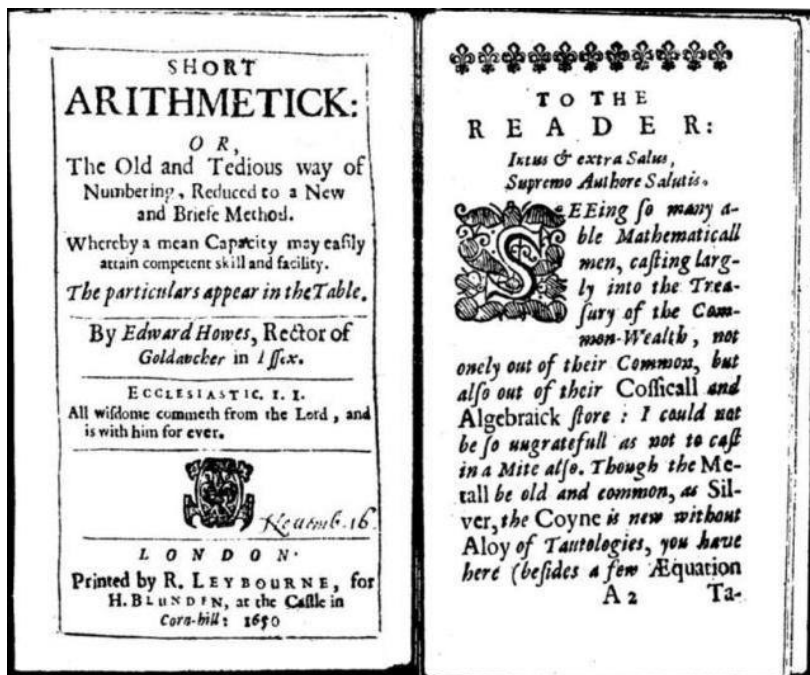
1666 - 4th Jan - Geo. Drywood of Gt Totham, tailor, Rich Hollington of
Tolleshunt Major, husbandman, and Wm. Hayward of Goldhanger, butcher,
all to give evidence against John Keeble esq., for threatening words by him
spoken to the great disturbance of the public peace.

1666 - 10th July - Tho Cripps of Goldhanger, mariner, Gregory Hawkins
of E. Hammingfield and John Bedwell of Little Coggeshal, husbandman,
before and since 4th June, have kept common ale houses without licence.

Michaelmas 1666 - John Waite of Goldhanger for not coming to his parish
church for one month. Tho Crips of Goldhanger for drawing beer without licence.

1650s - Short Arithmetick, a book written by the Revd. Edward Howes, Goldhanger Rector. . .

The title page, introduction, and index of his 100 page hardback book are shown here. . .



To the Reader.
 I beseech, if desired, which is an
 Exposition of Arithmetical
 Termes. I need not to Apologize
 for seeming to be out of my Pro-
 fession while I endeavour to
 make all the Arts Handmaids,
 and Servants to it, yea with St.
 Paul, I could willingly be-
 come all unto all. 1. Cor. 9.
 20, 21, 22. that I might save
 some, yet not I, but the Al-
 mighty LORD who is my
 Tutor, and to whose tuition I
 leave you, subscribing my self,

Your Friend in the
 best Service,
 Edward Howes.

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Errata. Page 3. line the last read 4 Strikes. P. 5. l.
 3. & 4. for Hats, r. Fans. At the end of P. 34 insert
 these words. 4s. 46s. 137 l. ii. to be divided among
 579 men, what is each mans part? SHORT



SHORT ARITHMETICK.

Rules for English Money.

NOte, that 4 farthings,
 or 2 half pence, make
 a penny: 16 farthings,
 8 half pence, or 4 pence,
 make a Groat: 48
 farthings, 24 half pence, or 12 pence,
 make a shilling: 40 pence, or 10
 groats, is 3 sh. and 4 d. 80 Pence,
 20 groats, or 6 sh. 8 d. is a Noble:
 160 pence, 40 groats, or 13 sh. 4 d.
 is a Marke: 20 sh. 4 Crownes, 3

B No-

1661 - Watermill at Goldhanger. . .

Feet of fines for Essex - Court of Common Pleas

The Society, 1910

1661. Mich.* Philip de Hevenyngham and Matilda his wife, pl. Roger de Jarpenvill, impediēt. The manors of Little Totham and Golehangr' with appurts. Plea of warranty of charter. Pl. granted to impediēt the said manors with appurts., except 40 acres of land with appurts. lying in *culturis* called Heycroft and Westfeld, 4 acres of meadow with appurts. lying in the meadow called Holemede, 10 acres of wood with appurts. lying in the grove called Othulvesheve and the watermill of Goldhanger with suits and all other things

1768 - Highams Manor, an extract from *History and antiquities of the Essex*, by Philip Morant. . .

HIGHAMS

is one of those Estates, so named from the Higham family, its ancient owners.

The mansion house lies near the road leading from Goldanger to Tollebury [P].

Here lived successively three of the name of *Robert Higham*, that are buried, with their wives, in this Church. The first dyed 23 June 1427: Leticia was his wife. The second dyed 16 August 1429: Margaret was his wife. The third dyed 4 February 1460: His wife was Johanna, daughter of Thomas Barrington.—The two following are buried in the Chancel of Goldanger Church.—*Thomas Heigham* Esq; who dyed 31 December 1531. and—*Antony* 15 November 1540. The latter, at the time of his decease, held the maner of Higham of Sir Thomas Seymour, as of his maner of Tollehunt Major, by fealty, and rent of 3 s. 4 d. He had also the maners of Wickhams in Woodham-Ferrers, Harons in Althorn, Batells in Bradwell, &c.—*Robert Higham*, his son and heir (*w*), had license, 24 October 1545, to alienate the maner of Higham, with appertenances to

Stephen Beckingham. A fine was levied soon after between the said Stephen, plaintiff, and Robert Higham Esq; and Margaret his wife, deforc' for the Maners of *Highams*, and *Joyces*; 20 messuages, 1 dove-house, 3 orchards, 4 gardens, 300 acres of arable, 100 of meadow, 400 of pasture, 40 of wood, 400 of marsh, and 40 s. rent in Tollehunt Major, and Darcy, Goldanger, and Little Totham (*x*).

Mr. William Harris is the present owner of this estate.

FOLLIFAUNTS

a maner, or Ferm, whose house is about half a mile north-east from the Church, was given to Bilegh-Abbey by Robert Mantel their founder [K].

It was lett to Thomas Whittelocke at the rent of 5 l. 11 s. *per annum*.

Upon the suppression, K. Henry VIII. granted it, in 1543, to

Stephen Beckingham Esq; and to Anne his wife, by the name of the maner of Follyfaunts, and the site of the same maner. — *Thomas* his son fold it to

John Sammes Gent. 1 March 1573 (i).

Alderman *Clithero* had it, with Joyces and Highams in Tollethunt-Major, and by female heirs it came to

William Waddis and Henry Heath, who fold it, but to whom we do not find.

It has since been in Sir *Nicolas Gerrard* of East-Ham, Bart. and is, or lately was, in his Family.

Some of the Heveningham family are said to have anciently resided here.

1787 - Degrees & Tithe Causes, a report of a court case of non-payment of tithes at Longwick Farm. . .

A
COLLECTION
OF
D E C R E E S
BY
THE COURT OF EXCHEQUER
IN
TITHE-CAUSES,
FROM
THE USURPATION TO THE PRESENT TIME.
CAREFULLY EXTRACTED FROM
THE BOOKS OF DECREES AND ORDERS

COWLEY *against* KEYS. HILARY TERM
27. Geo. 3.
Essex, 28th February 1787.

THE rector of *Goldbanger*, with the chapel of *Little Toltham*, in the county of *Essex* annexed, claimed the great and small tithes of the parish, particularly the tithes of *Longwick Farm*, of a decoy pond for taking wild ducks, widgeons, teals, and other wild fowl, of wheat, barley, rye, oats, pease, beans, coppice wood, underwood, sheep, milch cows, lambs, milk, calves, and various other titheable matters and things; and stated, that the defendant had yearly sold wild ducks, widgeons, said minister's book of the parish of *Goldbanger*, dated the thirtieth of *December* 1695, and the twenty-fourth of *June* 1698; an extract, dated the fourth of *November* 1647; and on full debate of the matter;

THE COURT ordered a trial upon the following issue, to wit,
“ Whether the lands, in the pleadings in this cause mentioned,
“ of which the defendant is owner and occupier, and from
“ which tithes are demanded by the bill, or any and what part
“ thereof were, at the time of the surrender of the abbey of
“ *Coggeshall*, part of the possessions of the said abbey.”

The defendant in equity to be plaintiff at law; to be tried by a special jury; the judge to indorse, &c. with the usual directions.

On the sixth day of *November* 1787, the plaintiff moved for a new trial, when the defendant was ordered to shew cause, and upon the twenty-fifth day of *January* 1788, a new trial was granted, without allowing any costs of the former trial, some evidence on the part of *Keys* having been improperly rejected.

The rector afterwards agreed to give up his demand of the tithes of the said farm, so long as *Keys*, or any future owner thereof should occupy the same; and the said agreement was on the twelfth of *February* 1788 made an order of the Court; and the bill, pursuant thereto, dismissed with costs.

1813 - An agricultural survey, referring to Mr Lee of Bounds Farm. . .

1813 Agricultural Surveys: pts. 1-2. Essex

Marsh.—Mr. LEE, of Maldon, has 250 acres of marsh at Goldhanger, worth 20s. an acre, which carries 70 bullocks and 300 wethers and lambs : feeds in winter on hay and turnips ; having 350 acres of arable, worth 30s. most of it also at Goldhanger, and the rest at Totham. He stocks the marsh at the rate of two acres to a bullock.

The marshes near Maldon, and to Bradwell, are much better than those on the north shore of the Blackwater ; but Mr. LEE observes, that those from Bradwell to Burnham are much better than any. He mows 30 acres of marsh every year ; and I may note, that hitherto I have found every man in the habit of mowing and grazing alternately : a bad system on uplands, but pernicious on marshes. At Goldhanger Mr. LEE has 30 acres taken in ten years ago ; for which he had the Society's medal ; also 15 taken in four years ago : these last have not produced much yet.

EXCURSIONS
IN THE
COUNTY OF ESSEX:

COMPRISING A BRIEF
HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL DELINEATION OF
EVERY TOWN AND VILLAGE;

TOGETHER WITH
DESCRIPTIONS OF THE RESIDENCES OF THE
NOBILITY AND GENTRY,
Remains of Antiquity,
AND EVERY OTHER INTERESTING OBJECT OF CURIOSITY.

FORMING A COMPLETE GUIDE
FOR THE
TRAVELLER AND TOURIST.

Passing Maldon, which we have fully described, and pursuing the course of the Blackwater, we arrive at **GOLDHANGER**. This parish is situated upon the bay which receives the Maldon stream, opposite to the Isle of Osey. The distance is four miles from Maldon, and seven from Witham; and the soil is low and light. The earliest possessors of the manor of Totham, with Goldhanger, were the Jarpenwill family, the Heveninghams, the Browns, and the Sammes; it now belongs to G. W. Cole, esq. of Church Hall, Kelvedon.

Goldhanger Hall and the demesnes were purchased of the widow of Frances Sammes, and of Henry Germaine, by the Rev. Henry Barrett, rector of Herthurst, in Suffolk, whose heir and daughter married the Rev. John Casbourne, but they afterwards sold it.

Fawltly, a mansion in this manor, lies near the Channel, at the distance of about half a mile south-west of the church. It belonged to Beleigh Abbey, and ultimately came to the family of the Coes, at Maldon, and is now the property of Mrs. Piggot.

The salt-works here are considerable: rock salt from Cheshire was formerly used, but in consequence of the erection of very extensive works by Messrs. Bridges, Johnson, and Co. the manufactory of salt from the sea-water by steam has been practised with considerable success. The salt of this place, and that of Winstree Hundred, are frequently mentioned in the Domesday survey.

HUNDRED OF THURSTABLE.

715

GOLDANGER, OR GOLDANGRE.

This parish occupies low marshy ground, extending from Little Totham to Black-water bay, opposite the isle of Osey.§ The village is on the road from Maldon to Colchester. There is a fair for toys on Whit-Monday: distant from Maldon three miles, and from London forty.

In the time of the Confessor, Leuin Posthagra; Leuin and Uluuard; and Elric, were the owners of these lands: at the survey, they belonged to Hugh, son of Malger; Ralph Peverell; and Eustace, earl of Boulogne. There are three manors:

The name of this manor indicates its connexion with the adjoining parish: in the reign of Henry the third this lordship belonged to John de Iarpenvill, who, dying in 1259, left Roger Iarpenvill his heir;* who died in 1287. His heiress was his daughter Maud, married to Philip de Heveningham. In 1318 Roger de Heveningham died holding this estate, by knight's service; and Alice his widow, remarried to William de Maldon, had a third part of it in dower, with the advowson of the church, and other possessions, which she held till her decease in 1322: the two other parts of the manor were holden by her son Philip, who died before her in 1321. Sir John, son of Philip, held jointly with Joanna his wife this manor, of the dean of St. Paul's, London, and of the earl of Hereford. John, son and heir of sir John, succeeded his mother in these estates in 1394; and on his death in 1425 was succeeded by sir John, his son; on whose decease in 1499, his son Thomas Heveningham was his heir. In 1536, the manors of Goldanger and Totham, and the advowson of the church of Goldanger and of Totham chapel, were in the possession of sir John Heveningham; and the next owner was sir Anthony, who died in 1557; Henry his son; and Arthur Heveningham, esq., after he had manumised the tenants, sold this estate to John Brown, esq. attorney at law, who died in 1591; John Brown was his son; who, with Silvester his father's widow, and William Stark, sold "these manors of Little Totham and Goldanger," to John Sammes, esq. succeeded by his son sir John Sammes, whose heir was his son, sir Gerard Sammes, knt. who died in 1630, leaving his son Richard his heir; who married Frances, daughter of Thomas Still, esq., by whom, besides several sons and daughters, he had Anne, married to — Germaine of Wickham; Francis, who married —, daughter of — Waldgrave, afterwards wife of — Poley; and Elizabeth, wife of the rev. John Lasby, twenty-six years rector of this parish. Mr. Lasby purchased the lordship of this manor, and died in 1703, leaving Elizabeth his only

* This Roger had salt-works here, for which he paid a yearly rent to the king.

daughter; on whose death without issue, Henry Germaine, son of Anne Sammes, inherited this manor, which he sold to Mr. John Price; and he left it to his eldest son, Robert Price, esq., serjeant at law, recorder of Colchester, who died in 1741. It afterwards belonged to Mr. John Cole of Colchester, who married one of the daughters of serjeant Price. Goldanger hall and the demesne lands were purchased of the widow of Francis Sammes and Henry Germaine, by the rev. Henry Barret, rector of Herthurst in Suffolk; and now belong to N. Wescomb, esq.

Robert Mantel gave the estate of Follifaunts to Bileigh abbey. The house is half a mile north-east from the church. It was granted by Henry the eighth to Stephen Beckingham; whose son Thomas, in 1573, sold it to John Sammes, gent. It afterwards belonged to alderman Clithero; and by female heirs was conveyed to William Waddis and Henry Heath: and passed into the possession of sir Nicholas Gerrard, bart. of East Ham. Some of the Heveningham family are said to have resided here.

The manor-house of Fawltly is near the channel, half a mile west from the church: this estate belonged to Bileigh abbey, and after the dissolution was granted, in 1538, to Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk; who, the same year, sold it to Robert Trapps, of London, goldsmith: whose son and heir, Nicholas, on his death in 1544, left his daughters Mary, wife of lord Giles Paulet, and Alice, wife of Henry Brown, his heiresses. A partition being made in 1565, this was the share of the lord Giles Paulet and Mary his wife, who sold it to Humphrey Shelton. In 1627, John Whigtaeres had this estate; John Shaw was his cousin and heir. It afterwards belonged to the Coe family of Maldon.

The church is dedicated to St. Peter; it has a nave and chancel, and the chancel has a chapel on the south. The steeple is of stone.*

The population of this parish in 1821 amounted to four hundred and fifty-nine, and to four hundred and ninety-six in 1831.

* Arms of Heveningham: Quarterly, or, and gules, within a bordure engrailed, sable, eight escallops, argent. Crest: within a crown, a morion's head proper; on his head a turban of five folds, gules, a button on the top, or.

† Arms of Sammes: Or, a lion rampant, sable, vulned, armed, and langued, gules.

‡ In the chancel, an inscription informs us, that, "Here lies the rev. John Lasby, and Elizabeth his wife, second daughter of Richard Sammes, esq., lord of this manor. He was rector of Goldanger and of this parish twenty-six years; and died in 1703, leaving his daughter Elizabeth lady of the manor.

There is also an inscription for John Sammes, esq., who died 18th of Oct. 1606: and of dame Isabel Sammes.

A farm, called Vouchers, in this parish, or in Great Totham, was left by Dr. Williams, for the education of a certain number of young men in Glasgow college.

§ Soil, light and gravelly. Average annual produce, wheat twenty-six, barley forty bushels per acre.

1832 - Rectory and Parsonage sales poster. . .

CHURCH PREFERMENT.

THE
VALUABLE RECTORY
OF
GOLDHANGER, WITH LITTLE TOTHAM ANNEXED,
SITUATED NEAR

MALDON,
IN THE
COUNTY OF ESSEX.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION
BY

Mr. W. W. Simpson,

AT THE AUCTION-MART, LONDON,
On **TUESDAY**, the 21st Day of **AUGUST**, 1832,
AT TWELVE O'CLOCK, IN ONE LOT,

THE PERPETUAL ADVOWSON AND NEXT PRESENTATION
TO
THE RECTORY

OF
GOLDHANGER, WITH LITTLE TOTHAM ANNEXED,
Pleasantly situated within Four Miles of MALDON; Six of WYTHAM, Twelve of COLCHESTER, in

THE COUNTY OF ESSEX,

And about Forty-Three Miles from the METROPOLIS, comprising an excellent

PARSONAGE-HOUSE,

Containing, on the Upper Story, Three Servants' Bed-Rooms; First Floor, Drawing Room, Study, and Three principal Sleeping Rooms; Ground Floor, Dining Room, Housekeeper's Room, Kitchens, Pantry, Dairy, Wine, Coal, and Beer Cellars, and a Water-Closet; a large detached Brew-house, Stabling for Three Horses, with a Coal-House attached, and a Loft and Granary over;

Pleasure-Grounds, tastefully disposed, and a large productive Kitchen-Garden;

Farm and Stack Yards, Double-bayed Barn, Cow-House, Calf-Pens, and Piggeries, and various Enclosures of GLEBE LAND, the whole containing

36 A. 3 R. 38 P.

Of which 29 A. 2 R. 33 P. is in the Parish of GOLDHANGER, and the remainder in the Parish of LITTLE TOTHAM:
There is a Coach-House and Waggon-Lodge on the Glebe Land. Also,

THE GREAT AND SMALL TITHES
OF

3601 A. 0 R. 9 P.

(Except one Farm which does not pay Tithes.)

OF FERTILE ARABLE AND RICH PASTURE LAND,

2219 A. 0 R. 3 P. of which are in the Parish of GOLDHANGER, and 1382 A. 3 R. 6 P. in the Parish of LITTLE TOTHAM, for which a reduced Composition is now paid amounting to

£731 : 12 : 6,

Free and clear of Land-Tax and all Parochial and other Rates, which are paid by the Occupiers.

The present Incumbent was 60 Years of Age on the 23d of April last, and the Population of the Two Parishes is about 700.

Particulars may be obtained of C. C. PARKES, Esq. Woodham-Mortimer-Place, near Maldon; of D. STONE, Esq. Solicitor, 5, Castle-Street, Holborn; at the CUPS INN, Colchester; STARR, Oxford; BULL, Cambridge; at the MART; and of Mr. W. W. SIMPSON, 24, Bucklersbury, near the Mansion-House, London.

1841 - Electoral Register for Goldhanger...

(this was at a time when only landowners could vote)

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GOLDHANGER, a neat and pleasant village, at the head of a short creek, on the north side of the estuary of the Blackwater, 4 miles E.N.E. of Maldon, has in its parish 520 souls, and 2110^a. of land. The village has a *fair* for toys on Whit-Monday, and a great part of the parish is low and marshy, but on the north side the surface rises gently, and the soil is a gravelly loam. Geo. Nottidge, Esq., is lord of the *manor*, called Totham-with-Goldhanger, but a great part of the soil belongs to H. C. Coape, Esq., the Rev. T. Leigh, Sir R. M. Rolfe, and several smaller owners, and is occupied partly by farmers residing in neighbouring parishes. This parish was anciently called *Goldangre*, and includes the small manors called *Follifaunts* and *Fawity*, and several scattered farm-houses. Several small hills are supposed to be Danish *barrows*, as human bones, tiles, &c. have been found in some of them. The *Church* (St. Peter) is an ancient structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, south chapel, and porch, with an embattled stone tower, containing four bells. The nave is in the early English style, but the chancel and porch are mostly of the Tudor period. In the chapel, or south chancel, is a tomb in memory of Thos. Heigham, who died in 1531. The *rectory*, valued in K.B. at £25. 14s. 9^d., and in 1831 at £403, with that of Little Totham annexed to it, is in the patronage of the Rev. Thos. Leigh, M.A., and incumbency of the Rev. C. B. Leigh, M.A., who has a good residence, and 29^a. 2^r. of glebe. The tithes were commuted in 1842, for £612 per annum. The *Parish School* is in a building, recently purchased by the patron. Here is a small *Wesleyan Chapel*, built in 1839.

POST OFFICE, at C. Chaplin's. Letters desp. 5 evening, *via* Maldon
Belsham Jacob, miller and maltster
Belsham Mr. A. I. || Cheney Mr.
Cooper John, vict. Chequers
Jay Rev. Wm. J., B.A., curate
Leigh Rev. Chas. Brian, M.A. rector
Quy Edward, rake maker
Raylin Joseph, decoyman
Smith Shadrach, bricklayer
Stowell George, butcher
Thorne Saml. saddler; h. *Witham*

BEER HOUSES.	Cooper James (& wheelwright)
Chaplin Caleb	Hutley Charles
Coker Richard	CARPENTERS.
Grimwood Chas.	Ardley Jacob
BLACKSMITHS.	Rollinson Saml.

FARMERS.

Boys John (and *Little Totham*)
Carter John Wilkin (& *Little Totham*)
Fairhead Wm. F. (& *Little Totham*)
Francis Thomas, *Follifaunts*
Francis Robt. (and Tolleshunt D.)
Foster Isaac (and *Great Totham*)
Gurton Stephen || Wade Wm.
Hutley John (and *Rivenhall*)
Stedman John, *Goldhanger Hall*
Wood James, *Burrow Marsh*, &c.

SHOEMAKERS.

Austin Joseph
Bateman James
Sealey Arthur
SHOPKEEPERS.
(* are Bakers.)
*Alexander John
*Chaplin Caleb

*Coker James
*Coker Richard
Downes Martin
*Grimwood Chas. (& maltster)
King Wm.
*Quy James

THE GREAT GATHERING OF THE INDUSTRIOUS BEES

1851

We must now quit the North Transept gallery, in order to examine the rest of the hives contributed by British apiarian exhibitors, and which are scattered about in the Agricultural Implement department, Class 9. The names of these exhibitors are Golding, Phillips, Wood, Pettit, Istance, Briggs, J. Sholl, Ponder, Keene, Hayes, Nunn, Marriott, Rowbottom, and Jones. We shall take them in the numerical order in which they are named in the official Catalogue...

... 146. W. R. Ponder, of Goldhanger, near Maldon, Essex, exhibits his bee-house or apiary, of wood, having eight windows, with outside shutters, the whole divided into three compartments, with three small semicircular entrances and landing-places. By means of a false bottom and zinc slides, the refuse of the apiary is easily removed.

1850s - part of an architectural description of the new rectory designed by well known architect Ewan Christian and funded by the Leigh family . . .

from...
Villa and Cottage Architecture (pp. 50-53)
Blackie & Son, London, in the 1850s

GOLDHANGER RECTORY,

NEAR MALDON, ESSEX.

EWAN CHRISTIAN, ARCHITECT, LONDON.

PLATES XLII.—XLIV.



GOLDHANGER is a village to the east of Maldon, in the flat marshy part of Essex north of the estuary of the Blackwater. The Rectory, illustrated in our plates, was erected in the years 1851-52. The building must be considered remarkable for the amount of accommodation provided as compared with the cost. Its decorative character corresponds almost exactly with that of the true Tudor domestic Gothic style. A Rectory being intended to last for generations, and the law of ecclesiastical dilapidations, which requires an incumbent to keep his house in proper repair, being very stringent, it becomes important that parsonages houses be built in a plain and substantial manner. In this house, therefore, care has been taken to provide materials and workmanship the best of their several kinds, and to avoid all ornamental features which would involve costly or frequent expenditure for their preservation.

The house contains a drawing-room, a dining-room, a study, a housekeeper's room, a storeroom, a butler's pantry, and a kitchen, in the principal block, to which is attached a conservatory; whilst there is a one-story addition containing a large scullery, brewhouse and bakery, and places for coals and wood: the main block also contains cellars; and there are nine bed-rooms of various sizes, and two dressing-rooms,—two of the bed-rooms being in the roof.

The aspects of the drawing-room are south-west and south-east; and those of the dining-room and study are a little south of east,—the modification by the bow-windows not being taken into account in this statement. There is no prospect that required to be considered.

1883 - Transactions of the Epidemiological Society...

Transactions of the Epidemiological Society of London

1887-88

NOTES ON DIPHTHERIA.

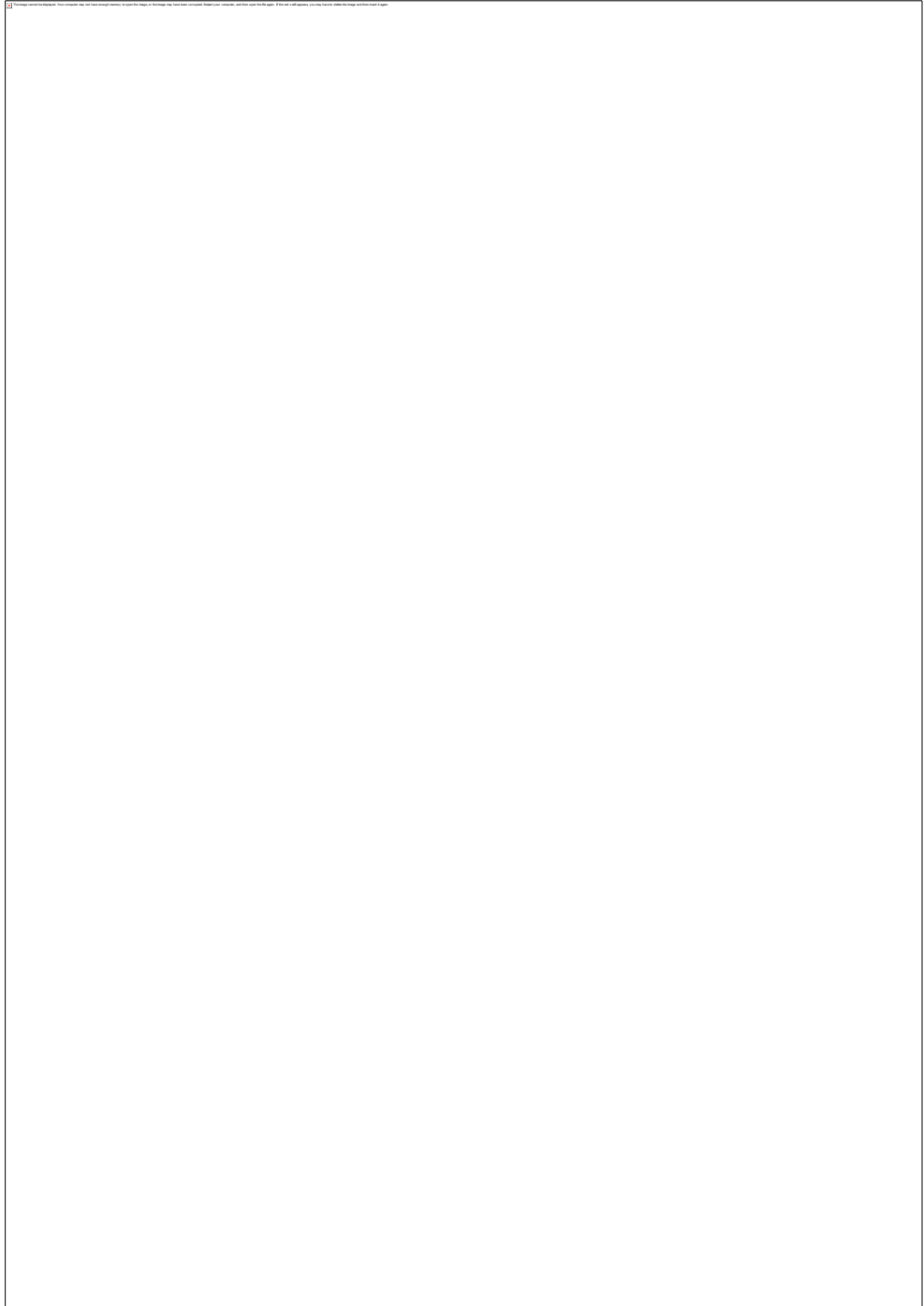
209

The conveyance of diphtheria by fomites is perhaps not so fully recognised by the medical profession as it deserves. I have seen it apparently conveyed to a washerwoman by infected linen, and by the clothes of visitors.

A remarkable outbreak occurred in the Maldon district in 1883. Diphtheria had been brought from Halstead to a family at Goldhanger, in the neighbourhood of which village no throat-illness was then known. Two children were attacked at Goldhanger, of whom one died. On October 19, their mother took some needlework to an isolated farmhouse, some two miles distant. On October 22, two boys at the farmhouse sickened with diphtheria. One of them had been in the kitchen at the time of the needlewoman's visit, but had not spoken to her; the other was away at a day-school, a mile distant, in another direction. The needlework was sent straight to the washtub, and the boys never touched it; but the brown paper in which it was wrapped was given, it was believed, to the two boys on the evening of the 19th, and was cut up by them into patterns for their amusement.

1891 - Extract from a report on Maldon water supplies by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine...

1898 - Extract from *Maldon & the River Blackwater* by E.A. Fitch...



1899 - Goldhanger entry in Kellys Directory. . .

GOLDHANGER is a village, on the low ground near the north bank of the estuary of the Blackwater and on the road from Maldon to Colchester, 4 miles north-east

from Maldon station and 7 miles east from Langford station, on the Maldon, Witham and Braintree branch of the Great Eastern railway, 9 south-east from Witham and

42½ from London, in the Eastern division of the county, Thurstable hundred, Witham petty sessional division, Maldon union and county court district, rural deanery of Hatfield Peverel, Colchester archdeaconry and St. Albans diocese. The church of St. Peter is a building of dressed flint with Caen stone facings, partly in the Early English and partly in the Perpendicular style, consisting of chancel, nave, south chapel, south porch and an embattled western tower containing 5 bells: in the church is an inscribed stone to Anthony Heyham, gent. and his wife c. 1557: the church has been thoroughly repaired at the expense of the Leigh family and affords 270 sittings. The register dates from the year 1558. The living is a rectory, with that of Little Totham annexed, joint net yearly value £554, with 35 acres of glebe and residence, in the gift of the trustees of G. D. Collins esq. and held since 1893 by the Rev. Frederick Thomas Gardner M.A. of St. Peter's College, Cambridge. There is a Wesleyan chapel in the village. Numerous mounds on the river, called barrow hills, were demolished to convert the ground into salt-pans for the manufacture of salt, which have now reverted to pasture. A fishing trade is carried on here and in the vicinity is a large decoy for wild fowl, which is not now used. Frank Postle Bawtree esq. is lord of the manor. Henry Fraser James Coape-

Arnold esq. M.A. of Wolvey Hall, Warwickshire, is the principal landowner. The soil is light; subsoil, gravel. The chief crops are wheat, peas, beans and barley. The parish contains 1,802 acres of land and 5 of water; rateable value, £1,823; the population in 1891 was 466 in the civil and 489 in the ecclesiastical parish.

By Local Government Board Order 22,354, March 24, 1889, detached parts of this parish were transferred to Tolleshunt D'Arcy and Little Totham, and a detached portion of the latter parish added to Goldhanger.

Sexton, Shepherd Clarke.

Post Office.—John Stokes, sub-postmaster. Letters from Witham arrive at 7.15 a.m. & 5 p.m.; dispatched at 9.10 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Sunday 11.55 a.m. Postal orders are issued here, but not paid. The nearest money order & telegraph office is at Tolleshunt D'Arcy, 3 miles distant.

National School (mixed), built in 1875, for 120 children, & enlarged in 1897 by the erection of an infants' school for 50 infants; average attendance, 92 & 30 infants; Harry Branch, master; Mrs. Branch, mistress; Miss Branch, infants' mistress.

Carrier to Tolleshunt & Maldon.—C. Bidgewell, daily; S. Sampson; daily to Chelmsford; George Emeny, for Collins' bus to Tolleshunt & Maldon, Tues. Thurs. & Sat.

Francis The Misses

Gardner Rev. Frederick Thomas M.A.

Rectory

Littlehales Rev. Charles Gough M.A.
(curate)

COMMERCIAL.

Alexander Chas. beer ret. & shopkeeper

Argent John, shopkeeper

Baines Joseph, boot & shoe maker

Belsham Oliver, Daniel & Lewis,
millers (steam)

Bunting John, farmer & landowner,
Jehew's farm

Cooper James & Son, wheelwrights
Cracknell George, farmer, Falcon hall,
Pump house & Carter's farms

Dobson John, farmer, Street farm

Francis Robert (exors. of), farmers

Emeny George James, blacksmith &
carrier

McDonald James, Chequers P.H.

Miller Thos. shopkeeper & beer retlr

Owers John, butcher

Page Robert, farmer, The Highams

Page William R. farmer, Folly Faunts

Walden Henry James, Cricketers P.H.

Waring William, farmer

1890 - Descriptions of Goldhanger Decoy Ponds in Birds of Essex, by Essex historian and author, Miller Christy. . .

For information as to this decoy, I am indebted to Mr. Fitch.

The above are all on the S. of the Blackwater, except the last-named. Those on the N. bank (also ten in number), passing from W. to E., are:—

(12.) **Goldhanger Decoy** (No. 1), which was one mile S.W. from Goldhanger, two and a half miles E. from Maldon, and 150 paces from the shore. It had five pipes. Traces of it, situate on Cobb's Farm, may still be seen. It was worked until about 1870.* Mr. Fitch writes:—

"This was used as a flight-pond until about twenty years ago, and has altered little in appearance since then. A man named Cooper, who is now dead, used to take large numbers of Pochards in some seasons. His spring nets were attached to long stout poles, which being weighted at one end were, by the removal of a peg, made to fly up and extend the net at a height of about ten to twenty-five feet. This was done when the gun was discharged. The birds, rising against the wind, the flight of poles in that direction being sprung, struck the net and fell down into the pens or pockets at the bottom, from which they were unable to rise, and were then secured."†

(13.) **Goldhanger Decoy** (No. 2), was a very fine one, with eight pipes. It lay one and a quarter miles E. of the former, on a point of land on the N. side of Goldhanger Creek, and half a mile S.E. from Goldhanger village. It has been worked within living memory.

(13A.) **Goldhanger Decoy** (No. 3), presumably once existed on "Decoy Marsh," which consists of about eight acres of grass-land, lying next to the sea-wall, immediately in front of the farmhouse, on Bound's or Bartlett's Farm, Goldhanger, now held by Mr. Abram Francis. It is called "Brand's Farm" on the six-inch Ordnance survey map, probably in error. No trace now exists of either the decoy-pond or its pipes. This is another of Mr. Fitch's discoveries.

(14.) **Joyce's Decoy**, also known as the "Wigeon Pond," is half a mile E. from the last named, one mile S.S.E. from Goldhanger, and beside the creek running up to Joyce's Farm. It is in

Tolleshunt Major, or Beckingham, parish. The pool is a large one, with eight pipes. It has not been used for about twenty-five years.*

(15.) **Gore Decoy** is on Harvey's Farm, in Goldhanger parish (detached portion), half a mile E. from the last-named and close to the sea and the W. end of Gore Saltings. It has not been worked for many years, but has been within living memory.

(16.) **Skinner's Wick Decoy** is within one hundred paces of the shore, and opposite the last-named, across a creek. It is in Tolleshunt D'Arcy parish and takes its name from the farm on which it is situated.† It had eight pipes, and was formerly worked with great success, but was given up about thirty years ago.

(17.) **Bohun's Hall Decoy**, so called from an adjoining residence of that name, is on the N. side of Old Mill Creek, a quarter of a mile W. from Mill Point, and rather over one mile and a half S. from Tolleshunt. It is situated on "Decoy Farm," and is the one named "Left Decoy" on the one-inch and other Ordnance Maps. It was large, with eight pipes, and formerly possessed a set of poles and nets for taking Pochard, but has been out of use for many years.

(18.) **Old Hall Decoy** (No. 1), which is still used, is in Tolleshunt parish, close to Pennyhole Fleet on the Old Hall Marshes, and in the centre of the peninsula of land between Salcot Creek and Tolleshunt Fleet North Channel. Sir Ralph P. Gallwey says the pool covers about fourteen acres, and has eight pipes, but these are errors, though eight pipes are shown on both the six-inch and twenty-five-inch Ordnance Maps. The decoy, which covers only about two acres, was visited by Mr. E. A. Fitch and myself in June, 1888, when we learned that it has now but six pipes, instead of seven as formerly, the two south-easterly ones having been disused and a new one dug in place of them. The decoy is very ancient, but the date of construction is unknown. Dr. J. H. Salter is the present tenant. The numbers of fowl formerly taken are reported to have been almost fabulous; but although the decoy is one of the largest and best in the county, no account is now kept, the adjoining marshes being largely used for grazing.

1901 - a letter from Dr Henry Salter to Stanley Wilkin of Bounds Farm giving a testimonial on the conditions at Wilkin & Sons Tiptree factory. . .

D'ARCY HOUSE,
TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY,
WITHAM, ESSEX.

Jan'y 26. 1901.

Dear Mr. Wilkin,

You have paid me the compliment of asking me to give you a testimonial; not so much, I presume, that you consider me an expert in Jam-making as that I have lived close by you for a great many years, and am well acquainted with your surroundings.

I have watched the creation, development, and steady rise of your Enterprise with wonder and admiration!

You have invited me to visit your works at any time, and to make the closest investigation of your goods and ingredients - I have done so, and not only do I testify that everything I have seen used is pure, wholesome, and

of excellent quality, but I look upon your Jam, when made, as the best in the world!

As lately as last week I paid your marmalade-making a "surprise visit", and was much interested in the different kinds then in process of manufacture - all was pure, fresh & reliable - scrupulously clean, and conducted on the best hygienic principles -

I have no hesitation in ~~trusting~~ stating, with my best congratulations that the excellence of your Jams &c. is denoted not only by their visible superiority but by the actual assurance you give of their positive purity -

believe me, my dear Sir
Yours very truly
J. H. Salter

1909 - The Goldhanger Stone

by well know Essex historian and author, Miller Christy. . .

THE GOLDHANGER STONE: WHAT IS IT?

By MILLER CHRISTY.

(From *Trans. Essex Archaeological Society*, vol. xl., new series, part 1, 1909.)

The Goldhanger Stone: what is it?—For many years past, I have been familiar (as, no doubt, have many other members of the Society) with a very curious stone, lying beside the road, on the village green, just in front of the Chequers Inn and the church, at Goldhanger, near Maldon.

The stone in question is a large thick semi-circular slab of excessively-hard black and white granite, 6 feet long, 3 feet wide at its widest part, and 17 inches thick. On what is now its lower, but evidently was originally its upper, face is a wide deep semi-circular trough or channel, about 12 inches deep, 18 inches wide at its top, and about 12 inches at its bottom. This narrowing of the trough at its bottom is due to the sloping inwards of its outer (but not its inner) side.

The only Essex writer who notices the stone, so far as I know, is Mr. E. A. Fitch, who describes it as "a curious old stone, . . . lying inverted in the roadway—a [semi-] circular piece of granite about 6 feet in diameter, with a large central boss surrounded by a deep channel, reminding one of a primæval pug-mill."

The accompanying photograph shows the stone as it is to-day. The more diminutive of the village boys are accustomed to amuse themselves by crawling through the curved tunnel which the inverted stone now forms, as shown.

There can be no doubt that this stone is only one of two similar ones. It will be seen that, if the stone figured was turned right-way-up and another similar stone was placed along-side it, the two together would form a large circular slab, 6 feet in diameter, with a broad deep circular trough on its upper side. What is, beyond question, the fellow stone, completing the circle, lies about 50 yards distant, where it forms the doorstep of a cottage, at present occupied by the Rev. B. H. D. Field, curate of the parish. This other stone is broken. How much of it remains cannot be stated, as most of it is buried, but apparently a large portion of it remains.



The questions naturally arise: What is the age of this remarkable stone (viewing the two as one) and for what purpose was it made, brought to Goldhanger, and there used?

The inhabitants of Goldhanger have themselves no clear ideas on these points, though they often discuss them. One suggests that it formed a circular drinking-trough; and it could certainly have been used very well as such; but it is impossible to suppose that so large and costly a stone can ever have been made and brought to Goldhanger for that purpose. Another suggests that it once formed part of a cider-press, apples being placed in the trough and there crushed by the broad face of a wheel which was kept running round the circular trough, as in a modern chocolate-mill or mortar-mixing machine. This suggestion is more plausible than the foregoing; for cider certainly was made in Essex, to some extent, in former days. At the same time, the suggestion must be rejected; for a much less costly mechanism could have been devised for crushing apples.

Still, it seems not improbable that the stone did form part of a mill or press, intended for crushing something in the way suggested. Can it have been used for crushing linseed, to extract the oil? Perhaps some member can explain its real use?

1911 - an extract from the New York Times. . .

VILLAGE TRIO SEEK SPITZBERGEN GOLD

English Parson, Doctor, and Engineer Combine to Exploit Field the Former Discovered.

LONDON, Aug. 5.—In a quiet village in sleepy Essex there are three men, a parson, a doctor, and a musician, who are the moving spirits in a search for gold which is said to be as full of romance as Stevenson's "Treasure Island."

The three principal characters in this story of real life are the Rev. Mr. Gardner, rector of Goldhanger, the Essex village referred to, whose greatest excitements have been a wedding, a birth, and a death; Dr. Salter of Tolleshunt D'Arcy, three miles from the rectory of Goldhanger, and Ernest Mansfield, a musician, a man of letters, a great traveler, and a mining engineer, who is the neighbor and friend of the rector and the doctor.

Both Mr. Mansfield and Dr. Salter have hunted and explored in wild places, and Mr. Mansfield as a mining engineer and one of the early pioneers of Klondike had searched for gold in many parts. He held firmly to the theory that there were great gold deposits in the arctic regions at present untouched by men...

1916 - Christmas card from Goldhanger Flight Station. . .



1919 - an extract from the New Zealand Herald. . .

"UNGODLY" VISITORS.

FRANK INDICTMENT BY VICAR.

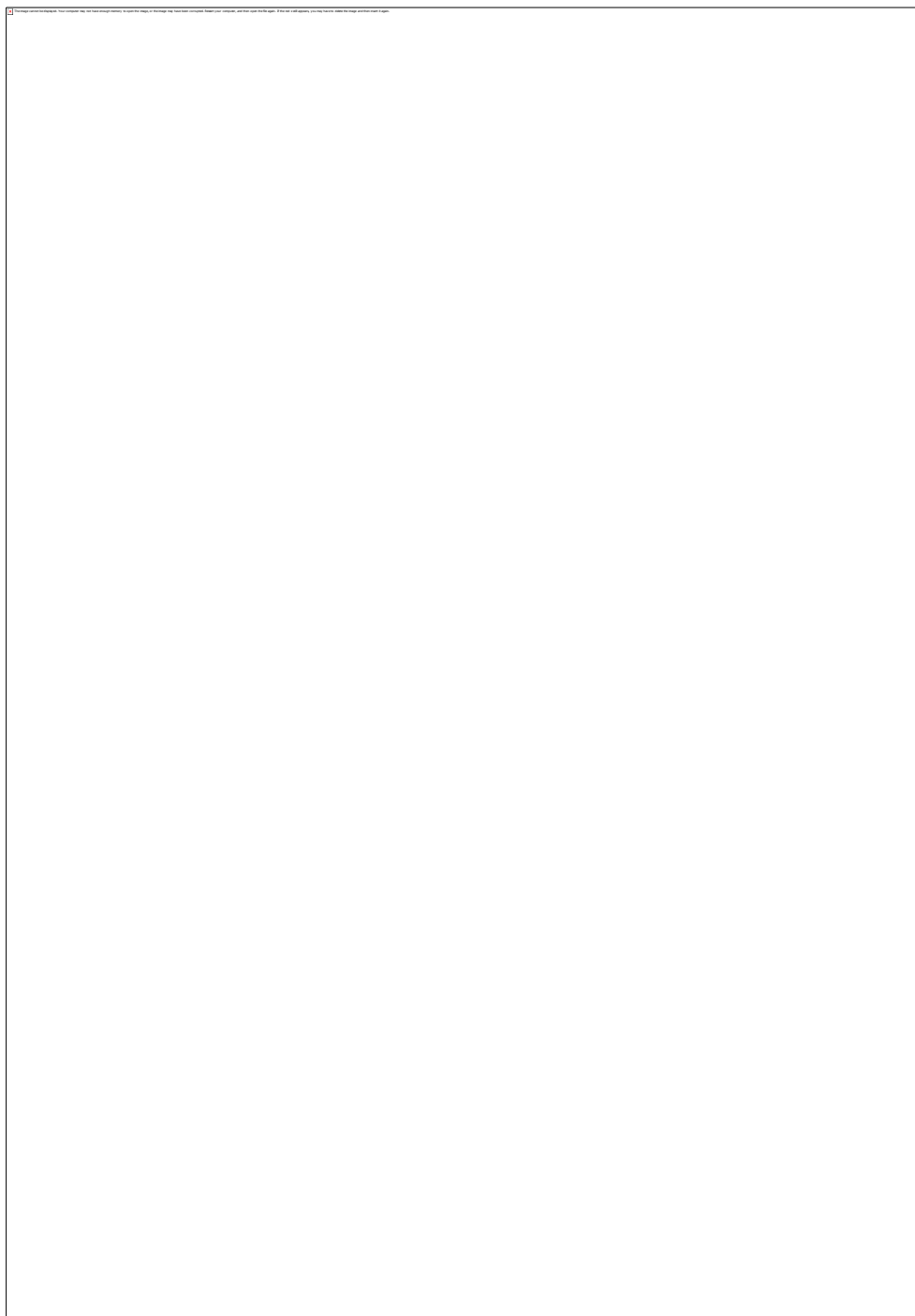
People who visit the Goldhanger district of Essex will not be flattered by the Rector of Goldhanger's opinion of them.

Writing in his parish magazine, he says :—

"It has become increasingly the fashion during recent years for a host of ungodly people to come and squat themselves down in our midst for the greater part of the summer months. They get themselves billeted in the home of our people, who are expected to wait on them both week-day and Sunday.

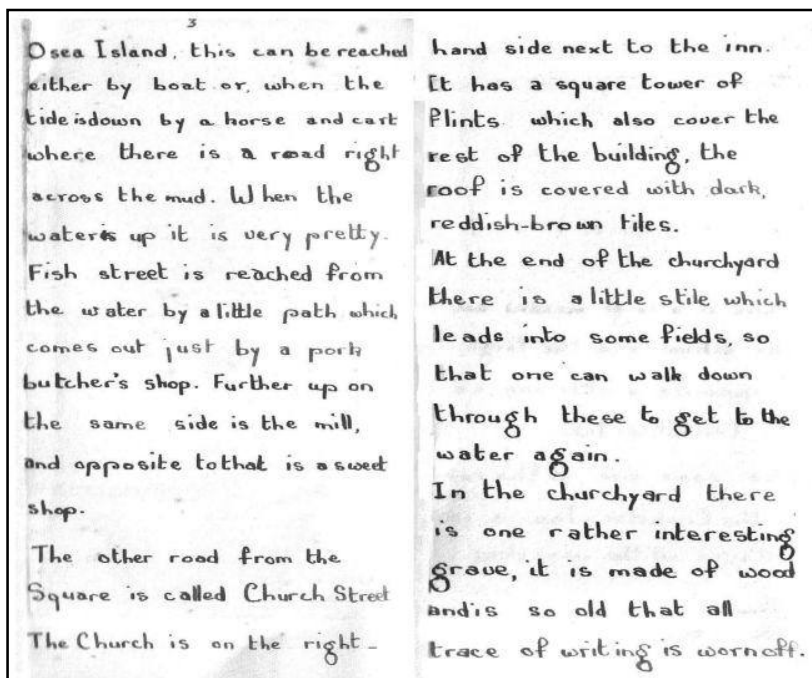
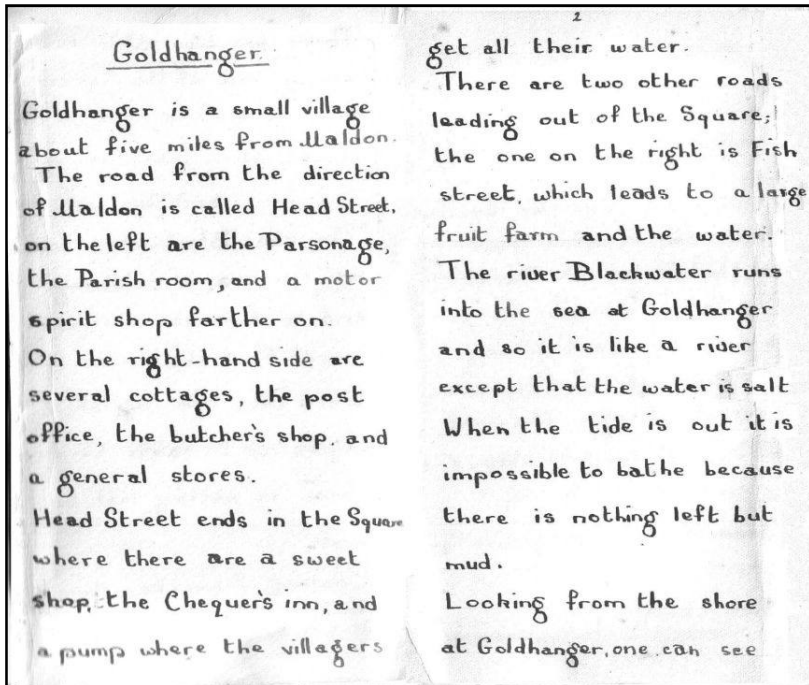
"Now, for the most part, these people have no use for the House of God, nor yet for the Sacraments, and, moreover, they are of small benefit to anyone here."

1922 - Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Essex



1930s - A child's description of the village

written as a short tour by Mary Horsley, the Curate's granddaughter, while staying at The Parsonage in Head St. The first 4-pages of this tiny booklet are shown here. . .



1937 - poster for the opening of the Village Hall. . .

= Opening =
OF THE
Goldhanger Village Hall.

President :

A. P. McMULLEN, Esq., C.B.

Vice-Presidents :

Mr. J. Bunting	Mrs. C. Page
Mrs. L. Hay	Mr. E. L. Pledger
Major L. F. Hay, D.S.O.	Rev. R. Gordon Rowe
Mrs. C. M. McMullen	Mr. L. Speakman
Mr. C. Mann	Mr. W. Simpson
Mr. S. S. Wilkin	

Chairman of Committee : **Mrs. E. L. Bunting.**

Hon. Sec., **Miss M. Simpson.** *Hon. Treas.,* **Mr. G. Bunting**

The Hall will be opened on
Wednesday, May 5th, 1937,
at 7 p.m., by

MRS. COLLEN, of Brakeys, Hatfield Peverel,
followed by Prayer by the Rector.

Reports by the Chairman, Secretary and
Treasurer of the Building Committee.

Speeches not exceeding 3 minutes by

The Builder	Mr. Evers
The Architect	Mr. Brown
Essex Rural Community Council					Mr. Gifford
National Council of Social Service					Mr. Davies

God Save the King.

1938 - a local newspaper report on plans to demolish Fish Street cottages. . .

A Reprieve For "Street Smugglers"

GOLDHANGER, Essex, Thursday.
PEOPLE of this tiny Essex village, nestling on one of the numerous creeks in the Essex coast, are breathing more freely to-day following the visit of members of the Maldon Rural District Council.

One of its officers had recommended that some 23 houses in the village—practically a whole street—should be demolished. but the visit of the Council resulted in a "reprieve" for most of the houses.

The houses—or cottages, as they really are—form Fish-street, and the majority of them are centuries old. In fact the whole village is made up of old cottages, homes for centuries of families of East Coast smugglers.

The world has passed Goldhanger by; for it remains to-day as it was when the English Civil War began.

The Inspection

Leading from the village centre is Fish-street, which, with its white and cream washed cottages, might well have been taken from a Cornish village and planted here.

Yesterday, headed by the chairman of the Maldon R.D.C., Mr. T. Barber, a specially appointed committee met and inspected the houses, watched by an interested crowd of villagers.

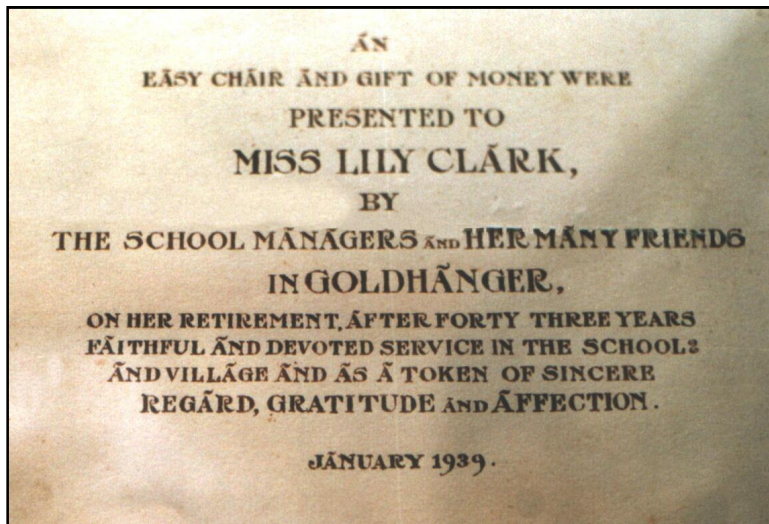
A member of the committee said to me afterwards: "Only a small minority will, after all, be pulled down. We shall try to get the others thoroughly repaired."

spoil the undoubted charm of the street and the village."

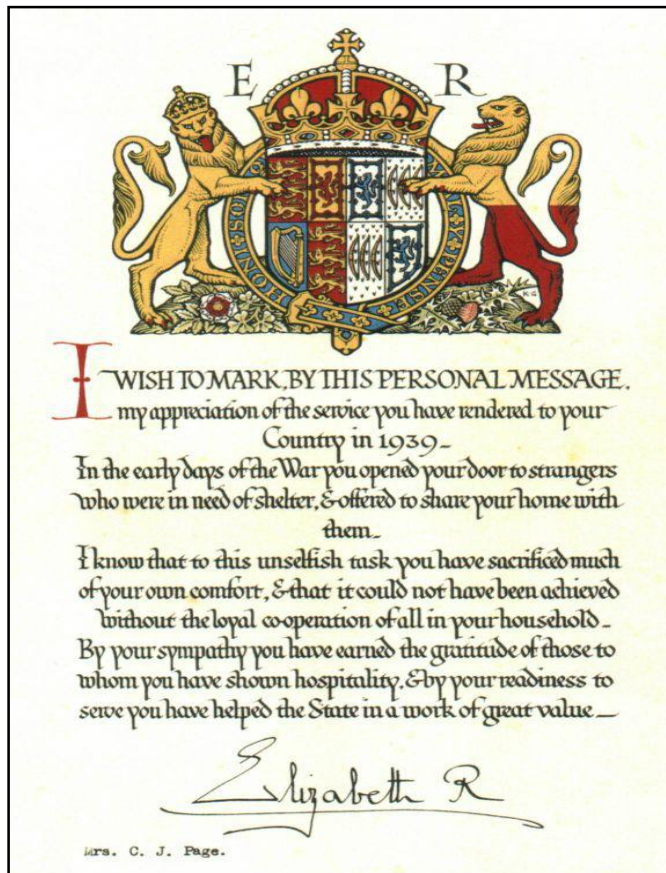
Mr. E. L. Pledger, one of the largest farmers in the district and Goldhanger's representative on the Maldon Council, said to me: "I want the cottages to remain, and shall strenuously contest any measure to have them demolished. Of course, one or two of the worst will have to go."

Said 76-years-old Mrs. Barnard, of Fish-street: "The committee came to my house to-day. I soon told them I was warm and comfortable here, and didn't want to move. I told them about my mother-in-law, how she was 95 when she died, and how she was never ill. Why don't they leave alone. We're all right."

**1939 - Presentation to retiring Goldhanger village school teacher
Miss Lily Clark. . .**



**1939 - Certificate, awarded to Mrs Page of the Old Rectory,
after WW-2. . .**



1940s - extract from "British Island Pilots". . .

From Mill Point the coast runs westward for 5 miles to the river entrance. There is an extensive mud flat off it, intersected by Thirstlet and Goldhanger Creeks, the latter leading up to a village of that name. Osea Island, off which there is a short pier with 4 or 5 feet (1.2 or 1.5 m.) at its head, is situated on this flat.

The configuration of the southern bank follows generally that of the northern bank and on an average about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from it. It is faced by a mud flat, on which, opposite Tollesbury Pier, is Pewit Island, with Bradwell Quay on the mainland 400 yards eastward of it. Mayland and Lawling Creeks are 1,400 yards southward of Osea Island.

Rifle Range.—There is a rifle range between Goldhanger and Thirstlet Creeks, northern side of the Blackwater, the sea danger area extending out to low-water mark. The by-laws are similar to those of Clacton on Sea.

Lights.—Two fixed red vertical lights are shown from Tollesbury Pierhead and 1 fixed red light from Osea Pierhead.

Beacons.—The edge of the northern flat as far as Goldhanger Creek is marked by beacons. The edge of the southern mud flat is marked by beacons as far as 1.3 miles above Pewit Island.

The various creeks and anchorages in the river used by local pilots and fishermen are buoyed, as also is the channel from Heybridge Basin to Maldon.

Coast guard.—There are stations at Tollesbury and Goldhanger on the northern side and at Bradwell on the southern side of the Blackwater, where life-saving belts are kept.

1940s - Brass Band poster. . .

Goldhanger Village Brass Band

Trustees : J. S. WILKIN, ESQ.

W. WENDEN, ESQ.

Bandmaster : C. RUFFLE

The above Band is in need of funds for purchase of instruments. Five have already been purchased and there is a waiting list of other members who are ready to take up more instruments. The above Band, when complete and able to play their parts, will be ready for any event in the village when called upon. Therefore we, the Trustees, hope that everyone in the village will respond with their help.

A member of the Band will call upon you a week from to-day to collect for same.

THIS IS YOUR OWN BAND.

1950 - from the local newspaper. . .

Play about village life scores at Goldhanger

AT the Village Hall, the Goldhanger Players presented R. C. Sherriff's "Miss Mabel"—a play which is effectively real in a small community, for all the characters are taken, even if they are exaggerated, from rural life.

Edmund Askew (the lawyer from London) and Brian Hodgkin, as the rather bewildered but very sincere vicar, were excellent. Christopher Ruffle made a humorous study of a jobbing gardener of uneven temper, and Mae Page played competently as the vicar's wife.

Maude McMullen played Miss Mabel, about whom the whole plot is woven. She made the rural benefactor a kindly but at times a dominant person. She fluffed lines perhaps too frequently but covered well—the next best thing.

Bernard Hull, as the doctor, was too young in appearance although he assumed an older voice and movements.

The young couple with the rather thankless parts (they are not on the stage at all in the third act) were taken by Paul Townsend and Patricia Shuttleworth.

One production point—the two had many similar moves given them by the producer. At times they appeared to spring into the centre to speak their lines and then retired again. This fault, luckily, was confined to these two.

Other parts were taken by Eva Blighton, Dorothy Chapman, Jack Hugo and Will Mann.

The sets were excellent and far above usual amateur standards—each flat in one set was reversed for the other. Edmund Askew painted them and Will Mann was stage manager.

Brian Hodgkin's lighting effects were neatly timed. One jarring aspect was when people moved close to the footlights and turned amber and white in sections.

Prompter, who had too big a part, was Gladys Wakeling. Gwen Hodgkin was in charge of business arrangements and seating the enthusiastic audience in the hall.

K.W.

1950 - from an Essex newspaper. . .

MALDON COLUMN

By SHEILA PATTISON

Woodcrafts came here to dig Canal in 1785

THERE has always been a Woodcraft in Heybridge Basin since 1785, when a Lincolnshire man of that name came here to help with the cutting of the canal from Maldon.

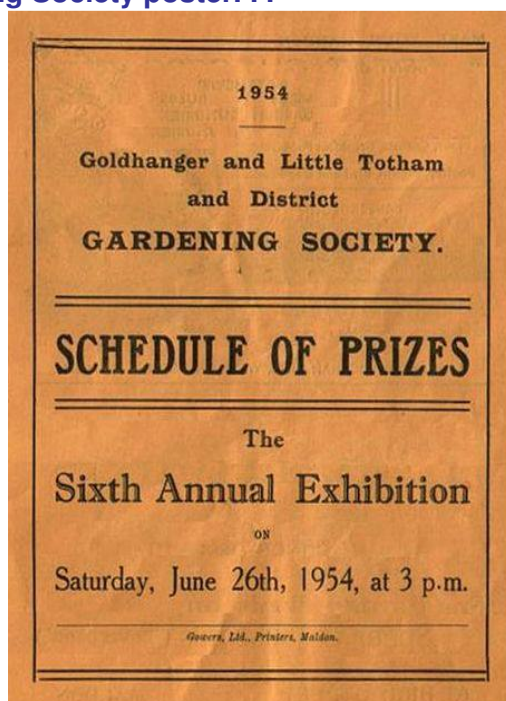
The people living there in that time were a tough crowd. And then the Basin was given the name of "Cannibal's Island," and is still known by this name among the older people living in Goldhanger.

The Goldhanger people gave it this name. Because, they said, a vicar visiting the Heybridge Basin, who had mysteriously disappeared, had been eaten by the people living there.

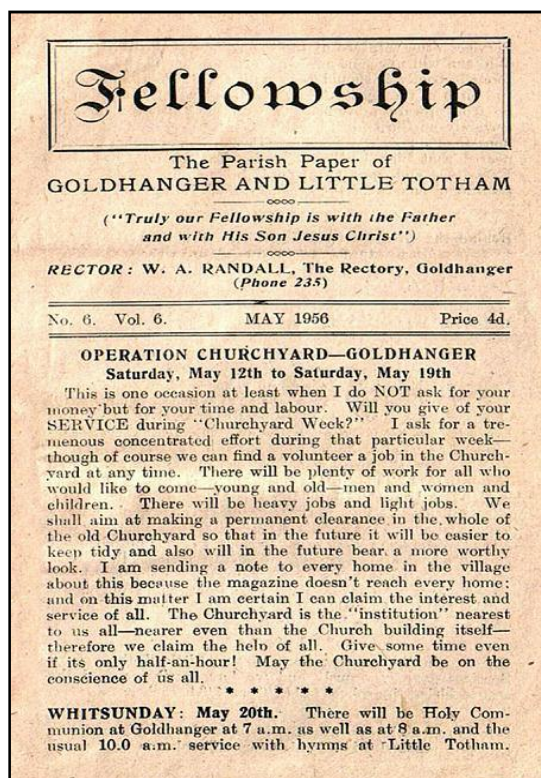
Although there were only about sixty houses then, there were seven inns. Now, with nearly 200 houses, there are only two public houses.

The majority of people now living here are in some way related to a Woodcraft or bear the name of Clark or Chaney. For these are the three names that predominate in this area.

1954 - Gardening Society poster. . .



1956 - The Parish Paper and "Operation Churchyard". . .



1962 - from the Essex Countryside magazine. . .



A quiet scene at Goldhanger Creek.

When life at GOLDHANGER was not very placid

written and illustrated
by Eric Rayner

THERE has never been any gold in "Goldhanger" except that made by salt-makers, oyster-dredgers and the scallywags who were always opening up unlicensed ale-houses with attendant facilities of "gamming."

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries life at Goldhanger never seemed very placid, particularly in Elizabeth's reign. First there was Thomas Keys, yeoman and a "common brawler," who was indicted for "causing out of his diabolical and perverse mind divers false clamours and quarrels," and then there was the unknown robber.

Constable Roger Armstrong made a hue and cry after the villain practically half-way across Essex, but at Layer-de-la-Haye it came to a full stop because Wilkinson, the constable of that place, said that he could do nothing without a justice's warrant.

In 1585, Mr. Allyson, minister, caused another upset by refusing to "baptise a child being base born weytin the paryshe beyng a vargrant person" and yet another was caused a few years later by another minister, Mr. John Knight, refusing to wear the surplice. Moreover, he tried to bring in

a substitute who was not licensed, an event which ended up with the churchwardens being excommunicated.

Someone always seemed to be keeping an unlicensed ale-house, enticing "poor men to spend their estates." Even the ladies were a wee bit unruly, with Mrs. Margaret Wade assaulting her brother-in-law and his cronies on the king's highway.

THREE WIVES

She was described as "a malefactor, calumniator and sower of discords amongst her neighbours"—not a good reference by any means, but not as bad as that of Annis Sebrucke. She apparently was "not of good fame, nor of honest conversation, but an evil-doer, barrator and perturber of the peace." But what about the widow Holmes? She not only opened an ale-house without a licence but pretended it "to bee an ancient Inn." Well!

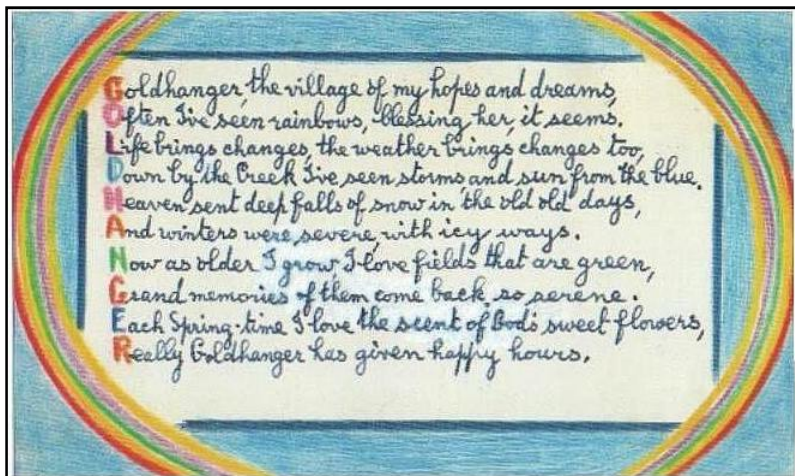
But then, what could you expect when the tall, rather corpulent Duke of Suffolk, up at Fawley House, had had three wives—two of them at the same time, and one a sister of Henry VIII?

That much-married monarch, however, let the matter go on a bond for £24,000 and the duke, Charles Brandon, went on as before. However, he did not stay long at Fawley, once the property of Beleigh Abbey, and the estate was sold to a London goldsmith.

Follifants Manor, also Beleigh's property once, was granted to Stephen Beckingham, but his family stayed only thirty years before they sold out to John Sammes. Today the manor house, with much of its old timbered walls, still stands, but it could not be rented at the price of 1813, when it and Pump House Farm with 146 acres were going for a rent of £295 a year.

John Sammes, after selling Follifants, finally bought Goldhanger Manor, which in due time descended to Anne, who married the rector, John Lasby.

1962 - a poem by Goldhanger postman A W Richards. . .



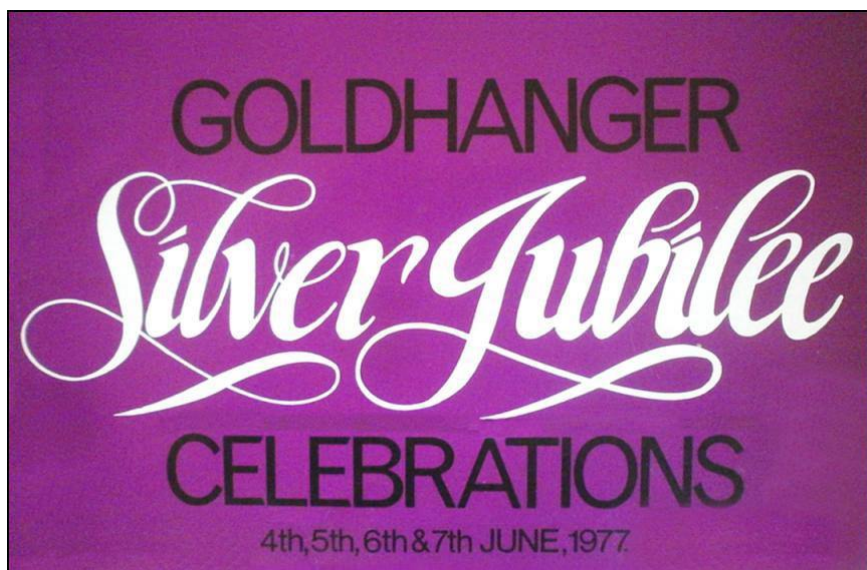
1970s - an extract from "Pub Walks in Essex" by Norman Skinner. . .

Goldhanger The Chequers

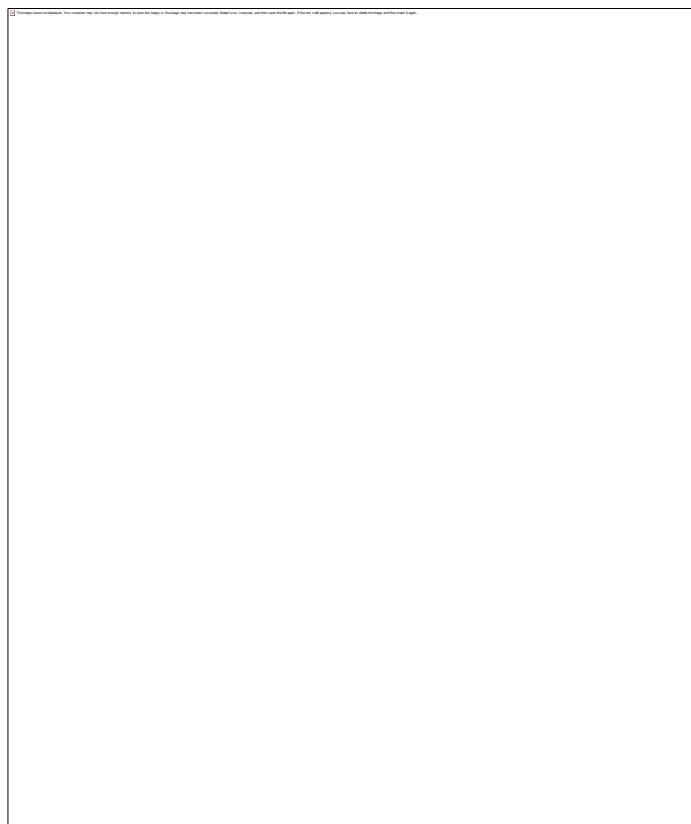


The Chequers and Goldhanger have a long history together. It is well known that in the days when smuggling was a frequent occupation all along the Blackwater estuary, Goldhanger played a leading part. Clearly the Chequers must have been the meeting ground for many a deal. Also when Osea Island was a home for curing alcoholics it is thought that bootleg liquor from the Chequers found its way by rowing boat to the island's patients! Strange that when the Chequers was first opened in 1410 it was in fact a courthouse. Becoming a coaching inn in 1560, its most famous guest was the Tsar of Russia. To this day it still does bed and breakfast.

1977 - Silver Jubilee Celebrations programme cover. . .



1989 - A letter in the Maldon & Burnham Standard from Mrs Hopwood. . .



1989 - extract from a Essex newspaper article. . .

Fishing village is now home for busy commuters

GOLDHANGER may not be the busy fishing village it once was but it's still a popular haunt for holiday-makers and day trippers out to sample waterside tranquility.

Commuters have discovered the delight of Goldhanger too, travelling just 20 minutes to a mainline station from a community which gives the impression of being well off the beaten track.

So now there are sports cars and Mercedes outside the former fisherman's cottages in Fish Street and the old bakers, blacksmiths, butchers, fishing and post-office have closed along with two of the four original village pubs which have been converted into expensive homes.

The village primary school has been turned into a children's study centre and coachloads of youngsters from London armed with clipboards and enthusiasm are a frequent sight.

They come for up to a week, staying at the centre to look at village life, Essex countryside, zipping off to local farms, churches, Heybridge Basin and wherever else warden Alan Richardson thinks will keep them occupied.

Trevor and Joan Jones, landlord and lady at The Chequers, one of Goldhanger's two remaining pubs are only too happy to talk about their pub's history.

Trevor explained it was built in 1410 as a courthouse and turned into a coaching inn in 1560. Prince Nicholas of Russia is known to have stayed there in the 1800's when he visited Dr Salter of Tolleshunt D'Arcy. Dr Salter was not only the general practitioner, but an excellent boxer and a breeder of greyhounds — the reason for the Prince's visit.

Trevor and Joan have managed to retain the original flooring, layout and beams of the pub and have added all sorts of furnishings from a table made from a

local butchers slap to poachers traps, tack and old photographs of former Goldhanger villagers.

And one mustn't forget Scooby Doo, the extremely large Great Dane, or Flint the African parrot who sits in the corner muttering all day. Trevor and Joan bought him back with them when they returned from working in Saudi Arabia to take on the pub.

Goldhanger's annual May Fair is largely organised by the landlady of the pub just down the road, The Cricketers. Mary Stanford also has a full time job in Maldon and is secretary of the Maldon Chamber of Commerce.

The village also has a number of busy clubs which often combine membership with nearby Little Totham. The older village industries may have moved on but Goldhanger can boast an engineering workshop and marble product shop amongst its ventures.

1990 - A letter in the Maldon & Burnham Standard from Mrs Hopwood. .

Improved look for Goldhanger

Some years ago the Goldhanger village pump was situated where the phone box now is and for a time there were two pumps. Near the existing pump there is a controversial heritage stone which my father, born locally in 1870 and his father, always said was part of an old pug-mill. A dictionary version of a pug-mill is "a mill for working up clay". The pug mill was placed in Goldhanger Square in the days of horse mobility to be used as a mounting stone and my father thought that a craftsman must have, for safety reasons, bevilled the top edges.

When the existing pump was installed some authority partially buried the pug-mill and some parishioners may remember when small children could crawl through it?

Goldhanger village had a wealth of heritage red brick walls possibly made locally in the first half of

the nineteenth century but, sadly, they are disappearing.

Surely with memories still green of the 1987 hurricane would it be wise to plant trees on a main traffic route and near houses?

If Maldon District Council and Goldhanger Parish Council want improvements for Goldhanger, should they not turn their spotlight on to the eyesore of the derelict Hall Farm buildings and also the school Study Centre for the disgraceful condition of the school meadow where study will soon be limited to sheep's parsley, thistles and overgrown hedges?

I hope that MDC and GPC realise that they will be spending poll taxpayers' money and whatever "street furniture" means I hope it will not be another ploy for vandalism?

Mrs M W Hopwood,
The Old Rectory, Goldhanger.

VILLAGE VISIT: Geoffrey Perciv



Love of history

LOCAL historian Maura Benham stands by the old pump in the centre of the village she loves.

Miss Benham wrote a history of Goldhanger in 1977 and is full of enthusiasm about its past.

In the background are the 11th century village church and the historic Chequers Inn.

al meets the locals in Goldhanger.

Pride in the past fears for future

GOLDHANGER is a timeless village. It has a proud past — but there are fears about what the future will hold.

Nestling close to the River Blackwater, name such as Fish Street recall the days when fish would be carried from the seawall to the village centre — then livelier than much of the time it is today.

The church dates from the 11th century but it still remains a lively presence in the community today.

The organisations which exist in Goldhanger cater for a multitude of tastes from sailing to folk dancing and every year the centre comes alive with the village's May Fair held around the square.

In addition, the village boasts a Women's Institute, a parent and toddler group and also the Marigold Club for the elderly.

The Marigold Club gains its name in the same way as Goldhanger which was originally drawn from the marigold.

Fears for the future which exist in the village centre around proposals in the Maldon District Plan for a substantial amount of new housing.

One long standing resident, an 86-year-old woman who has lived in Goldhanger since she was three months old spoke of these worries.

"It's a nice quiet village at the moment but if we get more houses, I am worried about what trouble there might be," she said.

"We also want more shops. I remember when there was a bakery and other businesses around the square but now there is just the post office in the main road.

"I love Goldhanger as much as I did when I was young but I do feel we need more shops, especially a butcher."

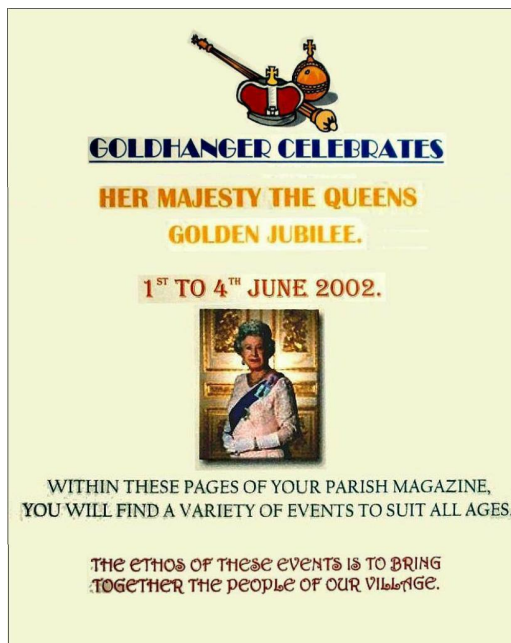
She also recalled the days when Goldhanger along with other places in Essex played host to a wartime airfield.

"When I was young, we used to go to dances in one of the hangars," she said.

So, Goldhanger remembers its past and waits with a certain amount of concern for the future.

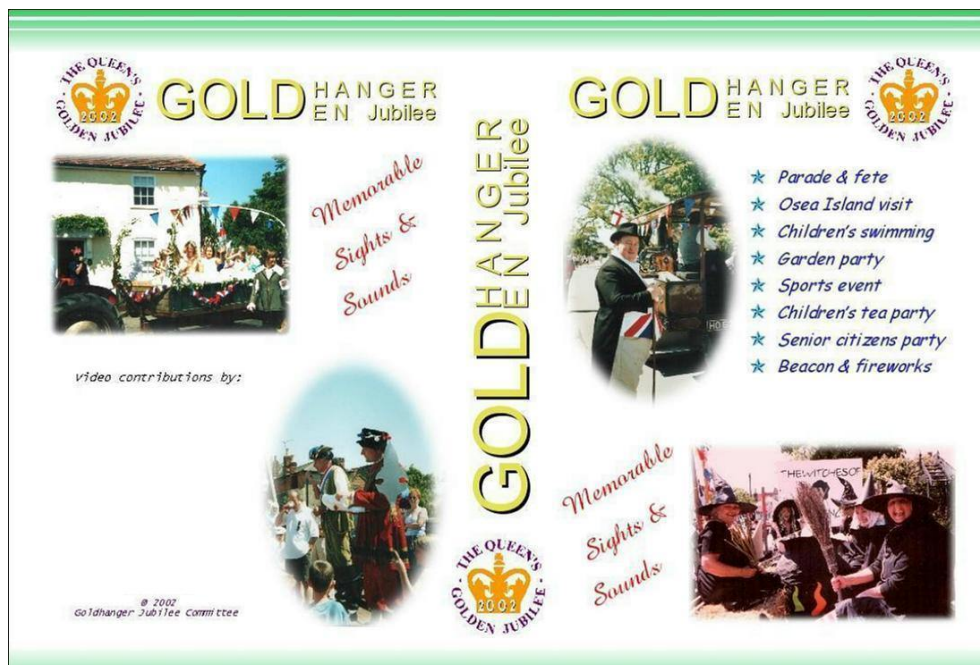


2002 - The Cover of the Parish Magazine. . .



2002 - Golden Jubilee Video Cover

50 copies of this VHS recording of the Jubilee celebrations events were distributed around the village. The VHS tape was digitised, stored on a DVD, and played in the Memorabilia shop during the 2012 Diamond Jubilee celebrations. . .



2005 - The unveiling of the Village Sign, as recorded in the Parish Magazine. . .

THE GOLDHANGER VILLAGE SIGN UNVEILED

The Goldhanger Village Sign was unveiled on 17th April, Ron Cook thanked everyone involved:

The Parish Chairman Michael Sargeant and all the Parish Council for the donation to the Jubilee fund.

Paul Smith - for dealing with the planning application.

Mark Owers - for the brickwork.

Ron Cook, Mark Owers, Martin Kemp, Bill Crab and Martin Gebel for erecting the sign.

Paul Livermore - for the oak cladding for the post.

Paul Willis - who designed and carved the sign.

The Jubilee Committee for their support throughout the period.

The Reverend Christopher Cook then blessed the sign with a special prayer. Ron handed over to Julian Jenkinson to perform the unveiling. Julian performed this task admirably with the following speech:

As my wife and I have only lived in Goldhanger for 43 years, I feel that the honour of unveiling this magnificent sign must mean that, at last, we foreigners are accepted as locals. We have the Jubilee Committee to thank for making the funds available to make the sign possible but, above all, I think we must thank Ron Cook, the real power behind the throne, who has worked so hard from conception to today's fruition.

The village sign evokes the long history and spirit of Goldhanger from it's Anglo-Saxon farming beginnings to the building of the church in about the middle of the 14th century.

In the early 19th century William Bentall, who lived and farmed in Goldhanger, invented the single furrow plough which became internationally known as the Goldhanger plough.

From time immemorial barges sailed up and down the Blackwater and into the creeks delivering such diverse products as manure from London and collecting local product (not manure we hope) for consumption in towns and villages on their route.

In World War I the Goldhanger airfield was wartime home for two squadrons of the SE5A fighter. The renowned air ace Mick Mannock was based here, or more likely in the Chequers, for a short period, he was finally shot down and killed in France with 61 kills to his credit.

Some might say, probably spuriously, that Goldhanger's main industry was smuggling up the creek into the refuge of the church but Goldhanger now is a mainly law-abiding spirited community whose inhabitants have a variety of diverse skills and many of whom have contributed to the new village sign which I now have great pleasure in unveiling.

Afterwards at the drinks David Webb made a speech thanking the Jubilee Committee for their efforts and for pulling the village together for the occasion.