

Time line of historical events

- 750K BC The Ice Age created glacial ponds around the village
- 10 K BC Neolithic flints found in Goldhanger Creek
- 500 BC Salt extracted from the Red Hills during the Iron Age
- 990sAD Viking attacks left burial mounds near The Creek
- 991 Byrhtnoth killed in Battle of Maldon
- 1000s Saxon religious settlements in the area
- 1085 The Domesday Book records the Manor of Goldhanger
- 1200s Fish traps from this period found in Collins Creek
- 1200s The local highways would have been very different to today
- 1216 The Magna Carta refers to fishing Weirs in Estuary and Creek
- 1271 A watermill was recorded at Goldhanger
- 1285 First recorded Rector of Goldhanger
- 1292 Taxation of ?10 13s 4d taken from Goldhanger & Lt Totham
- 1300s A tidemill was built in the locality
- 1346 John Ffalons is recorded as owner of Falcons Hall
- 1348 The Black Death reduces the population by a half
- 1375 Village was known as "Goldhanger cum Totham Parva"
- 1381 Goldhanger men take part in Peasants Revolt in Brentwood
- 1400 First reference to Highams Farm at this date
- 1400s Bell tower and South Chapel added to the Church
- 1439 First evidence of seawall construction
- 1500s The Chequers Inn was built as a yeoman's house
- 1534 Henry VIII gave Follyfaunts Manor to Stephen Beckingham
- 1549 An inventory of "Church Goods" was made (now in ERO)
- 1558 Earliest known legacy left to the village poor
- 1564 Date of the earliest court case referring to the village
- 1570 Reclamation of land at Joyces marshes
- 1598 Goldhanger man fined for playing football on the Sabbath Day
- 1599 A Goldhanger witch was excommunicated
- 1602 First reference to school rooms in the village
- 1623 Earliest known Trust created for the poor
- 1650 The Revd Edward Howes published a book on mathematics
- 1657 The Church belfry contained 4 bells
- 1671 Hearth tax records show 49 households, most with one hearth
- 1671 One third of villagers were too poor to pay the hearth tax
- 1696 Labourer prosecuted for "stealing" the vicars daughter
- 1716 Income from Beckingham Hall bequeathed to New England Co.
- 1700s The original Beckinham Hall was destroyed in this century
- 1722 Daniel Defoe wrote about the Ague around the Blackwater

- 1736 Earliest recorded newspaper article about the village
- 1736 Great tide burst the seawall and drowned 5 people in the decoys
- 1760s The heyday of smuggling in the area
- 1760 Earliest records of Goldhanger Fair
- 1767 Clockmaker & silversmith lived and worked in The Square
- 1768 Hignams Manor decribed by Philip Morant
- 1776 Blackwater Estuary froze over, causing major unemployment
- 1778 Village has 50 households with a population of 205
- 1780 Sketch of the Church from this time showing three gables
- 1787 Rector takes Longwick farmer to court for non-payment of tithes
- 1790 Thomas Lee acquired land at Bounds Farm with a seawall
- 1795 William Bentall invents the Goldhanger plough at Cobbs Farm
- 1795 A plan for a Redoubt at Goldhanger - that never happened
- 1801 Village has 48 households with a population of 331
- 1805 St Peters Church donated 2 shillings towards Nelson's victory
- 1810 The end of salt making in the village
- 1811 Earliest date recorded for the Friendly Brothers Society
- 1805 William Bentall moves business to Heybridge near the canal
- 1813 A Parish Poorhouse has 11 residents
- 1814 Revd. J C Atkinson, famous historian, born in Goldhanger
- 1820 The Goldhanger salt works at Bounds Farm closed down
- 1822 First reference to Coastguards at Goldhanger
- 1832 A sales poster exists for the Rectory and Parsonage
- 1838 Earliest reference to red brick walls in churchyard. See 1850s
- 1839 42 children attending school in the Church vestry
- 1839 Wesleyan Chapel built in Head Street
- 1841 Village has 108 households with a population of 520
- 1841 Parish Poorhouse has 3 residents
- 1842 Parish Poorhouse was sold off
- 1845 Henry Co Coape wrote his first book
- 1846 The Revd. Charles Brian Leigh was appointed Rector
- 1851 Rev. C B Leigh built a new Rectory, now Goldhanger House
- 1849 Revd Jay went to India and taught Maharajah Duleep Singh
- 1850 370 gallons of Geneva found in an outhouse in the village
- 1851 Village has a population of 535
- 1851 Mr Ponder's beehive design shown at the Great Exhibition
- 1850s Architect Ewan Christian describes the architecture the Rectory
- 1850on Red brick walls built along the village streets
- 1850s Henry Coe Coape was a prolific author at this time
- 1850s The Church was refurbished and new fittings added
- 1860s Pitt Cottages on the Lt.Totham Rd junction used as the school

- 1870 First reference to the Cricketers Inn in Church St.
- 1870s Local population drops due to migration
- 1871 Dr Salter: "busy vaccinating against smallpox"
- 1873 Henry Co Coape wrote "Ringwoods of Ringwood"
- 1873 First Coastguard Cottages built in Church St.
- 1875 The Goldhanger Windmill ceases operation
- 1875 Church of England school built in Church Street
- 1881 Village has a population of 498
- 1882 Plans for a railway through Goldhanger
- 1884 The Essex Earthquake was almost certainly felt in the village
- 1890s Four Coastguards monitor sea wall and live in Church St.
- 1891s The Revd. C B Leigh was declared bankrupt
- 1893 The Revd. C B Leigh retired after 47 years as Rector
- 1895 Revd. Gardner started the Goldhanger/Lt Totham Parish Mag.
- 1897 First car in Goldhanger was photographed
- 1899 Church bells upgraded to a peel of 6
- 1899 The churchyard was extended
- 1900 Isolation tents put up in Goldhanger for diphtheritic patents
- 1900 First car registered in Goldhanger to Rex Page
- 1900^{ish} Prince Nicholas, later to be Tsar, stayed at the Chequers
- 1901 Village has a population of only 400
- 1902 F. Charrington buys Osea Island as a
- 1903 Friendly Brothers is re-formed after the funds were stolen
- 1904 First trip to Spitzbergen by the Rector
- 1905^{ish} Village streets first surfaced with Tarmacadam
- 1907 Second Expedition to Spitzbergen organised from the village
- 1908 Ellacombe Chimes mechanism installed on the church bells
- 1908 Third expedition to Spitzbergen organised by the Revd.Gardner
- 1908 The first telephone was installed in the village at the Rectory
- 1909 Redhills around Goldhanger Creek excavated
- 1909 Canon Francis Dobson was born at Hall Farm
- 1910 Ernest Mansfield published "Austria - the Ice Maiden"
- 1910^{ish} Petrol pumps are installed in The Square
- 1912 The Parish Room was built on the Revd. Gardners land
- 1914 Last known "Juggy Rose" Toy Fair held on Whit Monday
- 1914 House-to-house collections for the "War Fund"
- 1914^{on} Seventeen parishioners lost their lives in The Great War
- 1915 59 Goldhanger men have "joined the colours"
- 1915 World War I - "Flight Station" constructed at Gardeners Farm
- 1916 Boys of 13 are permitted to work on the farms
- 1917 BE-12 from Goldhanger shot down Zeppelin over Theberton

- 1918 20 aircraft leave the aerodrome for sortie on Ypes
- 1918 Two Flying Officers killed locally and buried in the Churchyard
- 1918 Meeting held to plan the War memorial
- 1919 The Rector planned to have field guns in the Churchyard
- 1919 End of WW-1 celebrations held in the school
- 1919 Mr Bentall donated "Sergents Mess" as chapel in Heybridge
- 1919 Fire at The Parsonage was put out by villagers
- 1919 A Cricket Club was formed
- 1920 Dedication service for the new War memorial held
- 1920 New football club formed at a meeting in The Parish Rooms
- 1921 New village well dug in The Square
- 1922 Aerodrome facilities removed
- 1922 The coastguards left the village
- 1923 Stanley Wilkin purchased Bounds Farm
- 1924 St Peters organ blower's salary increased from 5 to 6 shillings
- 1924 Stanley Wilkin becomes preacher at the Wesleyan Chapel
- 1925 Crawshay Frost rents a Coastguard cottage for a schoolroom
- 1925 Charles Mann was landlord of the Chequers Inn for 2 years
- 1926 Jack Spitty became landlord of the Chequers
- 1927 First phase of Maldon Road houses built with new well & pump
- 1928 "Rice Grass" introduced to The Creek
- 1929 Rector's wife lost arm in accident at the Rectory
- 1930s Lindsay Fitzgerald Hay wrote several novel at Follyfaunts
- 1932 NEC assets on Spitzbergen sold to Norwegian government
- 1933 Dr Salter's diaries published with many Goldhanger entries
- 1934 H C Frost wrote article in The London Illustrated News on owls
- 1935 Court case held over illegal winkle picking in Creek
- 1936 Stanley Wilkin advertising his famous Whippets for sale
- 1936 The Revd. Gardner died
- 1937 New bus shelter commemorates King George VI's coronation
- 1937 New village hall built in Head Street
- 1937 Mains electricity and water supply installed in the village
- 1937 Mains electricity installed in church at a cost of ?36
- 1937 Coronation celebrations in The Square
- 1938 Proposal to demolish 23 cottages is recorded in local paper
- 1939 Article about Crawshay Frost in local paper
- 1940 World War II - search light positioned on cricket pitch
- 1940 German fighter aircraft crashed near Charity Farm
- 1940s First of several ancient barns were lost in the village
- 1940s Village Brass Band practice in the Wesleyan Chapel
- 1941s Hall Farm barn struck by incendiary, and put out by AFS team

- 1941 An air-raid shelter was built on the school playground
- 1942 Boston bomber crashed in the estuary near Lauristons
- 1942 Iron railings were removed from churchyard for the war effort
- 1942 Spitfire crashed in the estuary off the east end of Osea Island
- 1942 The Rector was appointed as an RAF chaplain
- 1942 Contents of the Church insured for £1000 war damages
- 1944 Jack Cohen (TESCO founder) started Goldhanger Fruit Farms
- 1945 VE day celebrations were held in The Square
- 1946 Major Hay's Ming china was sold at Sotheby's
- 1948 A new rectory built in Church St and the 1850s building sold
- 1950s Village cricket pitch in "The Park" returned to arable land
- 1950 British Legion Hall built for veterans with local donations
- 1950s The barge called "Snowdrop" hulked in the Creek
- 1950s 30 cottages demolished by the council
- 1950s Crawshay Frost claimed to find ancient ship in the Creek
- 1951 The council demolished many cottages
- 1951 New bellframe fitted and bells were upgraded to a peel of 8
- 1951 The old bellframe was made into domestic items
- 1952 Cricket in The Park was discontinued
- 1953 The East Coast floods caused breaches of the seawall
- 1959 Goldhanger Sailing Club formed
- 1962 Services ended in the Wesleyan chapel
- 1967 British Legion Hut moved to become Purleigh cricket club hut
- 1968 "Electrophants" robotic elephants developed at Follyfaunts
- 1960 Peter Padfield wrote two books while living in Fish St
- 1970 The Wesleyan chapel was sold for ?100
- 1970 Plan for the Wesleyan chapel to be used as a butchers
- 1970s Dutch Elm disease changes the local scenery
- 1970s The Tithe barn was demolished
- 1971 The Arthur Appleton bellringers Trophy was presented
- 1972 BBC TV programme about Osea Is made in the The Chequers
- 1977 The Queen's Jubilee celebrations held in The Square
- 1977 The Village school closed
- 1977 The school bell was moved into the church
- 1977 Planning application to build on the school field
- 1977 Maura Benham published: *Goldhanger - An Estuary Village*
- 1980 The Parish Rooms were leaning and were demolished
- 1981 Village party held at Folly Faunts for a royal wedding
- 1984 The Ernie Johnson bell trophy was presented
- 1985 Jeremy Bamber was arrested in Head St for the murder
- 1986 BBC get schoolchildren to record "every day life" of village

- 1987 The October storms cause significant damage in the village
- 1990 Hall Farm used for the last time as a farmhouse
- 1990s Goldhanger History paper archives were formed
- 1993 Maura Benham wrote the history of the Wesleyan Chapel
- 1998 School re-opens as *Wheatlands Nursery*
- 1998 The bell was returned to the school belfry
- 2000 A two year calendar/booklet records the Millennium
- 2000 A new village sign commemorates the Millennium
- 2002 The Queen's Golden Jubilee was celebrated in the village
- 2002 Cyril Southgate wrote his early memories of Goldhanger
- 2003 Petrol & service station in Church St closed down
- 2003 The Post Office on Maldon Rd closed down
- 2003 Friendly Brother 100 year anniversary dinner
- 2004 Goldhanger Digital Archives created
- 2005 "Funeral of a Bellringer" broadcast on BBC Radio-4
- 2006 New Maldon Salt works built at Longwick Farm
- 2007 Conservation area review undertaken by MDC
- 2007 The last Village shop closed down
- 2008 Ernie Johnson bellringers trophy was returned to Goldhanger
- 2009 Goldhanger in the Past went on-line
- 2009 Sailing Club celebrated its 50th year anniversary
- 2010 Community room built onto St Peter's church
- 2010 Fish St. Bakery restored as a shop for the Gala Weekend
- 2010 Site of Goldhanger Flight Station becomes a farm shop
- 2011 "Swedish cottages" replaced with new Moat housing
- 2012 Biography of Goldhanger resident Ernest Mansfield published
- 2012 Diamond Jubilee celebrations in the Village
- 2012 The pump in The Square was restored
- 2013 Maldon Salt works at Longwick Farm is expanded
- 2013 The *Cricketers Inn* re-opens
- 2013 Salty Dogs Tearoom & Gallery opens in The Square
- 2014 A new plaque unveiled on the War Memorial
- 2015 Salty Dogs Tearooms closed down
- 2015 Plaque placed at Gardners Farm to remember Flight Station
- 2016 Goldhanger in the Past book published