

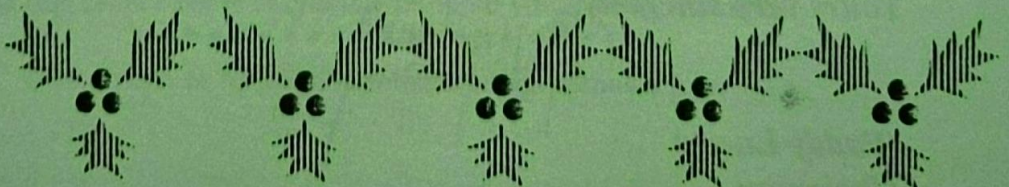
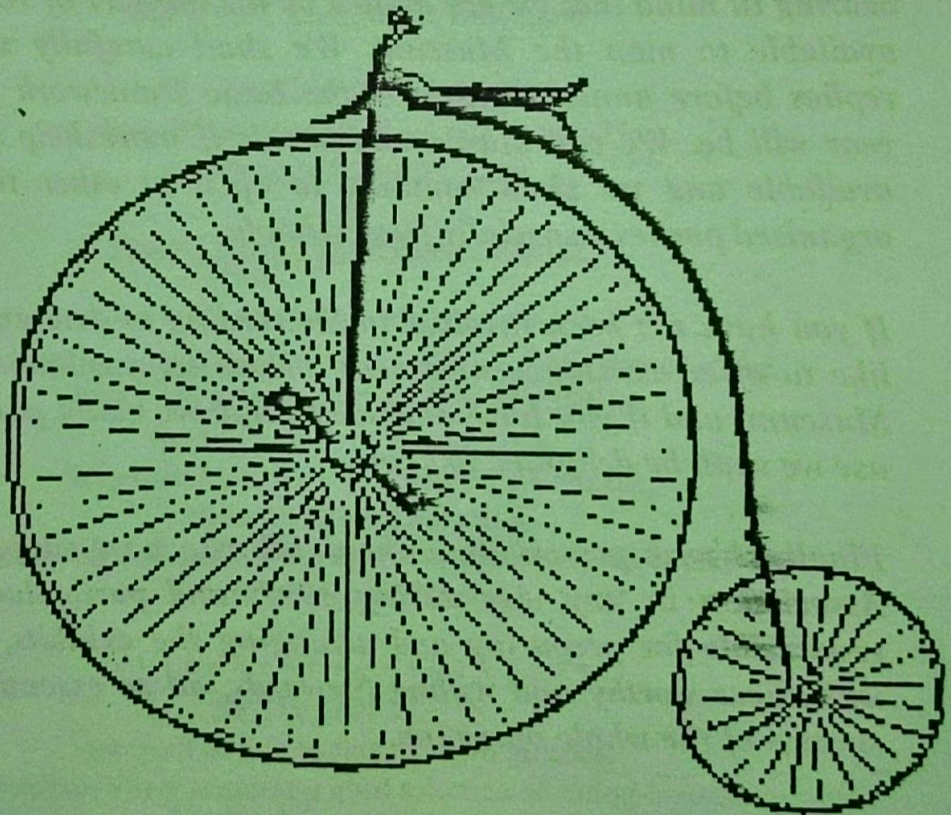
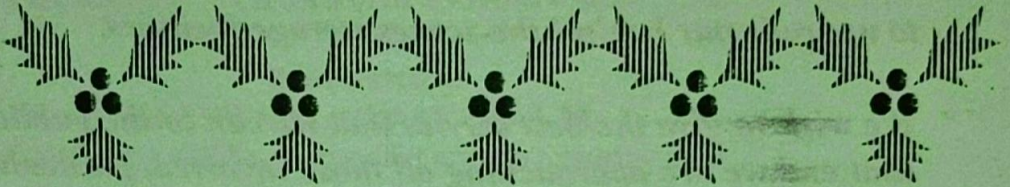
Issue 11

Winter 1997

# THE PENNY FARTHING

The Newsletter of Maldon District Museum Association

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Dear Members,

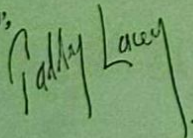
May I wish all Members and Friends a very happy Christmas and a successful enjoyable 1998! 1997 has been a very good year for the Maldon District Museum Association with the opening of our premises with a display that has brought pleasure to Maldonians and visitors alike. I am certain that we shall continue to improve and add to our collection on view and to upgrade our behind-the-scenes storage facilities.

We wish to give the best service that we can to the public and to that end we are approaching all those involved, particularly our Stewards, for their views on what our opening hours should be, bearing in mind that we are limited by the number of volunteers available to man the Museum. We shall carefully study all replies before announcing what the basic framework for next year will be. We can always add to this if more help becomes available and we shall continue to open at other times for organised parties, especially from schools.

If you have not been involved in Stewarding to date and would like to offer assistance next year, please let me know via the Museum, and if you have any talents that we could put to good use we shall be delighted to know.

Finally, I wish personally to thank all who have supported the Association in any way during 1997, and particularly those responsible for preparing and arranging the exhibits, together with those worthy and willing Stewards, all so essential to the success of the whole operation.

Yours very sincerely,



(Paddy Lacey)  
Chairman

## AWAYDAY with MUSEUM COLLEAGUES

A VISIT HAS BEEN ORGANISED  
to  
**THE ESSEX POLICE MUSEUM**  
at the Police Headquarters in Springfield  
on  
**THURSDAY 15TH JANUARY 1998 AT 10.30 A.M.**

It is planned to  
**LEAVE MALDON AT 9.45 A.M.**  
Car-sharing will be arranged for anyone requiring a lift.

We shall be guided by our good friend Fred Feather  
who is the Curator of the collection.

**NUMBERS ARE LIMITED**  
so please 'book your place' as soon as possible,  
stating your Transport needs,

to  
Paddy Lacey, at the Museum address.

\*\*\*\*\*

Following our tour of the Police Museum we shall proceed to the  
**CHELMSFORD AND ESSEX MUSEUM**  
in Oaklands Park, Chelmsford.

Of particular interest and now on view is the  
**Tunstall Glass Collection**  
newly displayed following restoration in which our friend  
Ann Day has been involved.

\*\*\*\*\*

### BETWEEN VISITS

we shall be free to find our own lunches.  
Moulsham Street presents a good selection of eating-houses,  
and Oaklands Park is only a few hundred yards along the road.

\*\*\*\*\*

Our return to Maldon is scheduled for about 4 p.m.



## WINDMILLS



A recent arrival in Mill Road wanted to know where the Mill had been located and asked his neighbours, but none being able to tell him he asked us. Fortunately we knew - it use to stand on the corner of St. Mary's Lane, but its *exact* location is not known. It was called Herbert's Mill, but has not been traced on any map. It is known that it existed in 1826 and in 1842. Fitch confirms its approximate position, and the "Windmills of Essex" suggests "just north of the junction of St. Mary's Lane with Mill Road, and close to 31".

In 1842 a Mr Whitehead, miller, of Great Totham, purchased it and arranged its transportation to Stebbing for re-erection. This was quite a common procedure in those days. Unfortunately, whilst being loaded onto a carriage (a team of oxen was normally used) it fell off, and being damaged was dismantled. Its further fate is not known.

Incidentally, Mill Road was known as Keaton's Lane in the Middle Ages, and was Mill Lane up to 1855, becoming Mill Road shortly afterwards.

It seems that Maldon had at least two other windmills. One is thought to have stood on land at the eastern junction of Chequers Lane with The Chase. Dr. Petchey says it "...had ceased to be used for a windmill...by 1630, when occupied by Christopher Wells, a yeoman of Messing...who was also a freeman butcher of Maldon". This is the only reference I can find.

The other windmill is better documented, and we have a picture of it. It stood in Mill Lane at Fullbridge, and was a tower mill. It is known to have been in existence in both 1799 and 1831, but no later references have been found as to its fate.

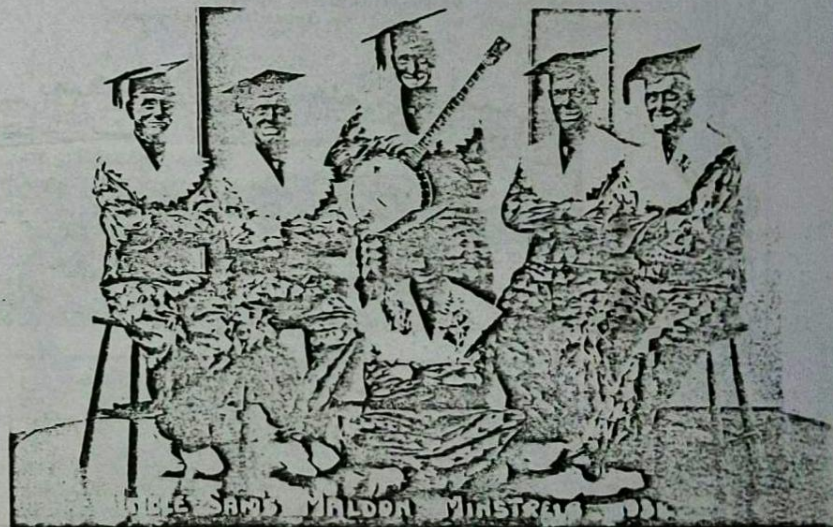
At the start of the 19th century Heybridge was not part of the Borough of Maldon, but today is generally so regarded, and so we include it here. There is ample evidence that, in the neighbourhood of Mill Beach/Basin there were two windmills in the 19th century, but their exact locations are not known. One thing is certain though - they did not grind corn or anything else, but were used to pump sea-water into the pans of the Essex

Salt Works located in the vicinity. The "Windmills of Essex" gives a great deal of information on their existence but is silent about their fate. John Coe had his salt business here pre-1770 (when he died) and when this was auctioned in 1825 it had "two excellent windmill pumps". These pumps were much smaller than corn mills.

We have a photo of a windmill "at Mill Beach" and the legend dates it as 1831-1892, but gives no authority for this. Certainly it appears to be small and has only two sails.

Maldon had quite a number of other mills - water and steam, but no other windmills so far as I have been able to discover.

W. Geo. Ginn - Nov 1997



Does anyone have a photo of Uncle Ken's Company?

# Marine Lake = = = Serenade,

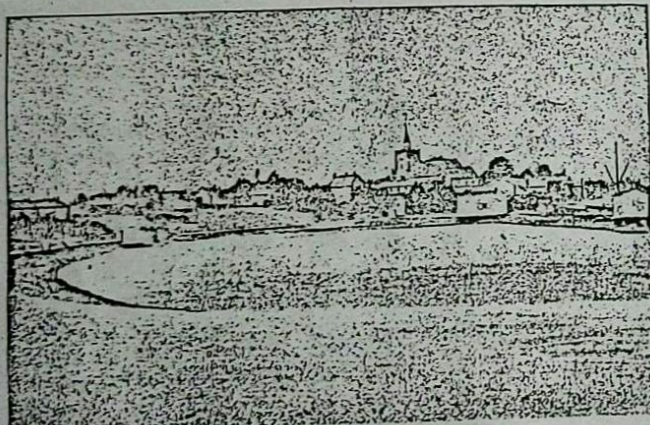
BY

F. ALLEN, Bandmaster.

DEDICATED TO

ALDERMAN L. BENTALL, J.P.,

DEPUTY MAYOR OF MALDON.



PLAYED WITH GREAT SUCCESS

BY THE

MALDON TOWN BAND.

*6d. nett.*

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## Heritage Open Days

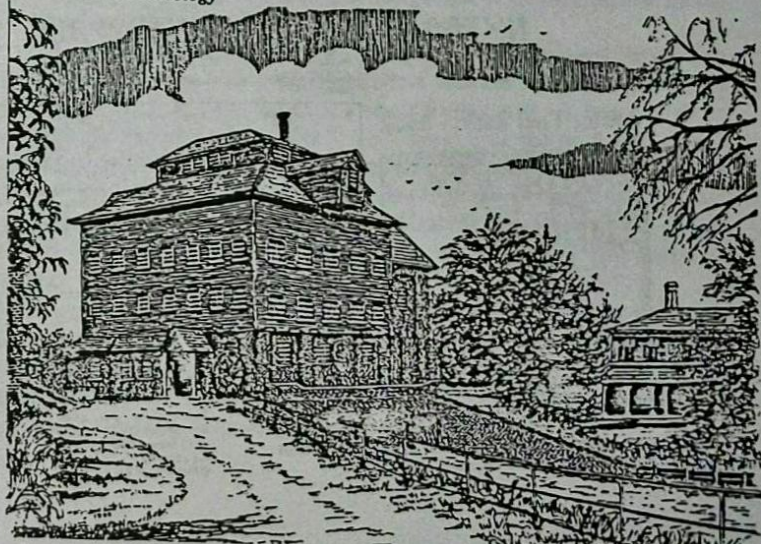
Wouldn't it be nice to get into those interesting buildings we pass daily but never see inside beyond the door? Well, the mechanism now exists in the form of the Heritage Open Days organised by the Civic Trust over the last four years. On the second weekend in September, owners of buildings normally closed to the public open them to visitors. The Civic Trust co-ordinates the event, offering encouragement and advice, and publishes a directory of all the properties which can be visited. This can be used as a most effective guidebook to what is the best opportunity in the year to explore buildings of all sorts, from landmarks of modern architecture to Georgian town houses and timber-framed cottages. On no other occasion is it possible to see so high a proportion of the 450,000 listed buildings which exist nationally. This proportion is inevitably small.

Essex with its 15,000 listed buildings has a rich architectural heritage, and just over 30 buildings or sites were open this year. The County Council has been trying to increase that number. This year, Beeleigh Mill just to the west of Maldon was opened for the first time. The timber-framed upper storeys of the mill burned down in 1875, leaving just the brick ground floor and the sunken barge docks where lighters could enter the basement of the building. The auxiliary steam mill dating from 1845 is housed in a separate structure and was undamaged by the fire. The elephant boiler and Wentworth beam engine are rare survivals. A joint event was organised with the Museum of Power at Langford Pumping Station. Visitors either walked or took advantage of a minibus service down to Beeleigh Bridge, and then did the short but fascinating walk over the

Blackwater and Chelmer rivers and the canal. The Museum of Power is a voluntary organisation which has taken on the restoration of the only surviving engine at the Pumping Station, and has also assembled a remarkable collection of steam and related machinery. If a bid to the Heritage Lottery is successful, then the Museum will be put on a firm footing and become a major public attraction.

*The Maldon Archaeological Group, with help from the County Council, has published 'A history of Beeleigh Mill', an excellent account of the development of the mill and its ruins. It costs £2.95, and is available locally from book shops or from Ken Cook, 38 Victoria Road, Maldon. For information about the Museum of Power, contact Joyce Fleet, 25 Manstead Gardens, Rochford.*

xiv Essex Archaeology



Artist's impression of how Beeleigh Mill looked before the fire of 1875 (by June Prime)

PALESTINE



B. T. E.



P. A. I. C.



# Christmas Greetings

## 19 45



G. H. Q.

# The Middle East



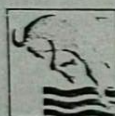
N. LEVANT



CYRENAICA



ADEN



DODECANESE



SUDAN



TRIPOLITANIA

Monica Bayley

continues, from Penny-Farthing No. 8, her account of Thaxted/ Maldon related events in the first World War through 'The Fries' who for many years were at Jacob's Farm, Goldhanger Road. (Her absence from Nos 9 & 10 resulted from causes beyond her control).....

### The Battle

During early Spring there had been a wave of influenza amongst the troops and the Commanding Officer, Colonel Edmund Deacon, had recently returned from leave after suffering an attack, but the situation had changed rapidly since his return and on the night of May 12th (1915) some of the Yeomen had been digging trenches on the outskirts of Ypres. So close to the city walls were the Yeomen that they watched the city in flames behind them as they worked. One of them later described the scene as "a mass of flames with dead people and horses lying around".

The Essex Yeomanry, raised for the defence of their island home, were receiving their baptism of fire indeed, and worse was to come....During the night Colonel Deacon had taken a party out to Bellewaarde to dig a communication trench; but, better equipped and with unlimited shell power behind them the "Grey Hordes" were sweeping on to Ypres. Bellewaarde today is a huge fun park complex, with a lake and sports of every kind, but then it was still a private estate, the sport of a very different nature. The Yeomen had to dig in darkness with their enemies well knowing what they were about, raking the site with both machine gun and rifle fire. As dawn broke it was apparent that there had been casualties. In the half-light Colonel Deacon withdrew his party and rejoined the main group gathered in the east corner of the garden of another chateau on the other side of the Zonnebecke road.....Potijze Chateau.

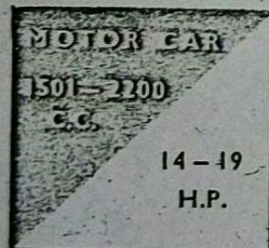
The Germans broke out again at 4 a.m., the German bombardment fiercer than before. At this point the Essex Yeomanry were with the 10th Hussars and the Horse Guards, with the 3rd Dragoon Guards further east. A typical Belgian spring day dawned and a bitter north wind swept over the tired men, with a penetrating rain to damp the spirits and chill to the backbone. A pall of smoke hung over the whole area, trees crashed down in the garden; buildings, and trenches lately dug, were shattered, Potijze Chateau was razed to the ground. After the war there was much rebuilding, but the chateau was never restored and exists today only as a point on an obsolete map.

Under these extreme conditions some of the younger Yeomen appeared a little shaken; all those under nineteen were supposed to have been weeded out before the Regiment left for France in the previous November, but in spite of that there was at least one Trooper there on May 13th who was under age - Benjamin Snell, aged seventeen, of Earls Colne Grammar School..

NH3522865

NH3522865

Motor Fuel Ration Book



The coupons in this book authorise the furnishing and acquisition of the number of units of motor fuel specified on the coupons.

Registered No. of Vehicle	Registered No. of Vehicle
Date and Office of Issue	Date and Office of Issue

This book is the property of Her Majesty's Government

Instructions to Issuing Clerks  
See that the issue of this Ration Book is recorded on the applicant's registration book.

This portion, after completion, to be detached and forwarded to the Regional Petroleum Officer with Form P 2218

The Yeomanry was split into three Squadrons - A, B & C; and the Squadrons were split again into Troops. Martin Free had been placed in the Waltham Abbey Troop of C Squadron with Major Andrew Roddick in charge. Andrew Roddick was a typical gentleman farmer of the period - Squire of the village, Master of the local hunt, and a long-serving Essex Yeoman, he farmed at Upshire Hall, near Waltham Abbey, and in the days of peace had been accustomed to walk his land with a stick in his hand and a pipe in his mouth. At this moment, far from his farm and responsible for the safety of his men, knowing the strain that they were under, his mind went back to his old customs.....He mounted the parapet, lifted his field glasses, and stood there calmly surveying the situation. It was a foolhardy gesture which was noted and recorded in years to come by his men. He survived in spite of shells, splinters, and rifle bullets all around him but, sad to say, he never again saw his farm.

Suddenly a nightingale struck up in the chateau garden! Major Anthony Buxton, who was by way of being a sportsman and a naturalist, noted the bird and afterwards stated "It was 3 a.m.....German shells were rained upon the garden incessantly throughout the day, the bird sang without pause where the shells fell thickest until 12 noon, and survived, for next morning he started again as cheerily as ever". After the war, Anthony Buxton wrote a little book called "Sport in Peace and War" describing his hunting and fishing exploits whilst in France and Belgium...but as to the nightingale I rather suspect that Anthony Buxton was little off the mark; much as the bird cheered up the men he was not singing for joy...like the human beings below him, he was defying the elements and defending his territory!

About midday there was a change over in the trenches. The Yeomanry and the Dragoon Guards left their trenches about the same time, so there was the usual pushing and shoving of men passing each other in narrow spaces, and in this manoeuvre two Heybridge men - Martin Free and Herbert Minter - met face to face. Herbert Minter had joined the Army as a young man, had served in South Africa during the Boer War, and was now serving in the 3rd Dragoon Guards and defending the city of Ypres. What these two who must have known each other well, said to each other, is not known, nor how long they managed to talk, but they met and parted and never met again. In the years to come *George* Free and Herbert Minter were often seen together, and Herbert was a frequent visitor to Jacobs Farm. One can only guess at their conversations.

Herbert Minter had a daughter, Phyllis. Eric Major, coming to Maldon as a young man met, fell in love with, and married Phyllis. Eric is well known in Heybridge to this day. He has served his adopted village well and still takes a big part in the life of St. Andrew's Church. He it was who gave me this very personal information

.....to be continued

*The Association wishes to acknowledge and thank individuals and organisations who have been of considerable service to members in supporting the Association in the completion of the new museum. Additional to those listed in Issue No.10 are -*

British Red Cross Society  
Chadwick Interiors  
Maldon Salt Company  
Territorial Army  
Roy Terry Fireplaces

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**WANTED!**

*for failing to respond to the announcement in Issue 10...*

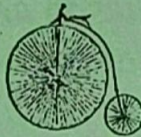
*The new active, willing, and able Stewarding Secretary, still waiting in the wings and too modest to come forward and volunteer to fill this responsible, not too demanding vacancy. Please write -*

*The Secretary, at 47 Wantz Road, or 'phone him on 854184,  
(or the Vice-Chairman on 852749)*

---

**STOP PRESS**

Recent acquisitions have included personal documentation from a missionary who was with Alfred Sadd of The Gilberts; a set of old Woodworking Tools; Maldon Angling Society memorabilia; Yachting Equipment and local boatbuilding papers; volumes of 'Essex Journal' and a number of old photographs of local interest. We hope to include everything recently given, in our new displays. When their budget permits, the MDC will continue with matters of health and safety on the museum site and when we have put up our flagpole the Union flag will be flown the right way up.



**MALDON DISTRICT MUSEUM ASSOCIATION**

Registered Charity 301362

*Your President Arthur Simpson and Committee  
extend to all members and friends the  
Compliments of the Season.*

- Paddy Lacey (Chairman).....
- Len Barrell (Vice-Chairman)....
- Tont Froom (Secretary).....
- Tony Tullett (Treasurer).....
- Ray Brewster (Membership).....
- Len B (Acting Stewarding Sec)...
- Penny Cook (Accessions).....
- Pat Preece (Committee).....
- Judy Tullett (Committee).....
- Bob Wallwork(Committee).....

*....Join us in preparing for the reopening, Spring  
1998!*

Museum Reception Telephone No.....842688  
(Answerphone when Museum unattended)

**Correspondence to:  
Maldon District Museum Association  
47 Mill Road, Maldon, Essex. CM9 5HX**

All views expressed are those of the contributors!  
Forty Four Eighty Four Productions, Pambridge Rd, Maldon

