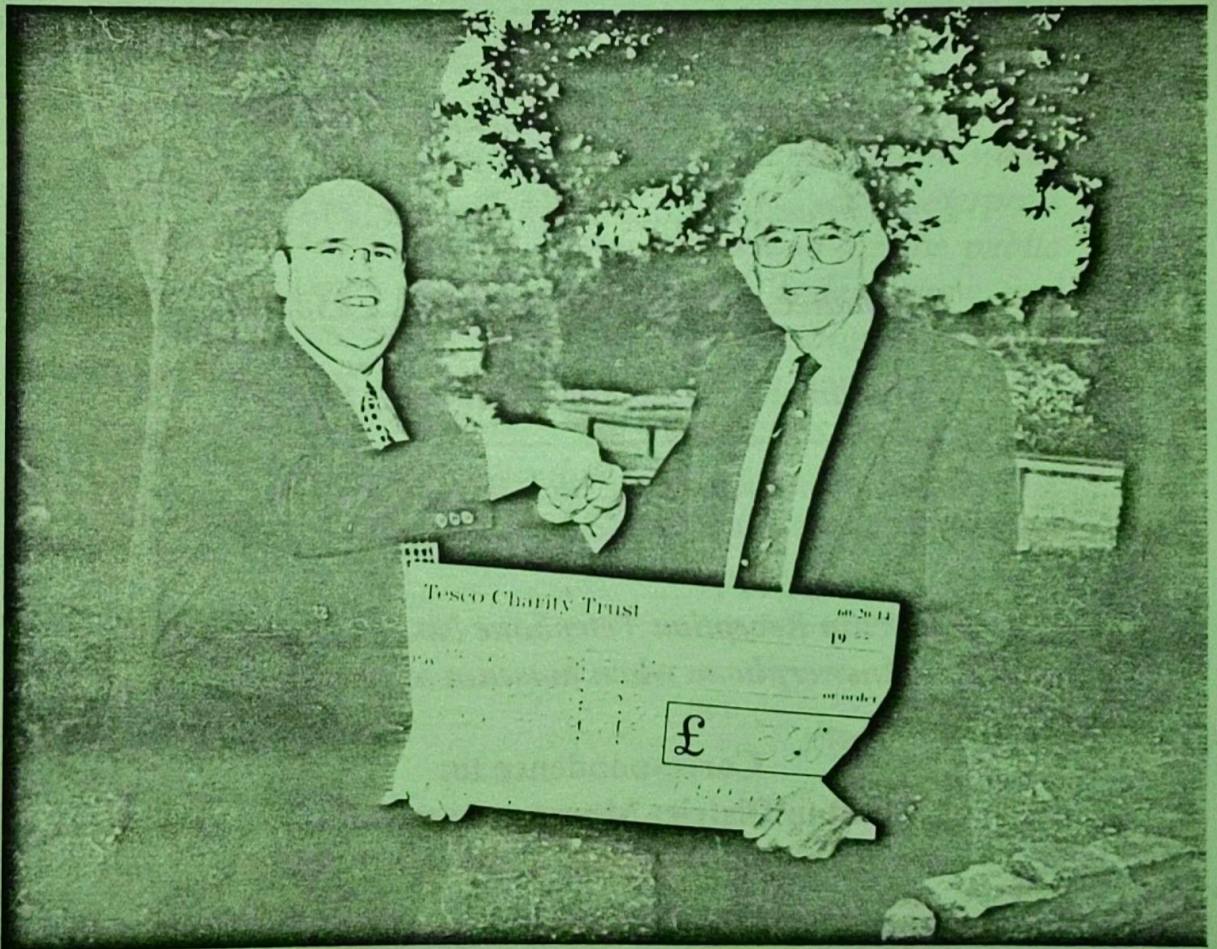


THE PENNY FARTHING

The Newsletter of Maldon District Museum Association

PRESENTATION AT MUSEUM 26TH JUNE 1998



Mr Chris May

Dr Paddy Lacey

**Maldon District Museum Association
Committee**

Chairman.....Paddy Lacey.....

Vice-Chairman ..Len Barrell.....

Hon. Secretary...Tony Froom.....

Hon. Treasurer...Tony Tullett.....

Membership Sec.:..Ray Brewster.....

Accessions Officer...Penny Cook.....

Committee.....Mike Bennett....

Committee.....Patrick Preece....

Committee.....Judy Tullett.....

Committee.....Bob Wallwork....

~~~~~  
**Curatorial Adviser....Nick Wickenden Esq**  
~~~~~

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

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

FortyFourEightyFour Productions, Farnbridge Road, Maldon.

Views expressed are those of the individual contributors

L.F.B. June 1998

Ed's Ha'p'orth

For sure, we are making progress, and not resting on our laurels. The 'Other Place' - The Maeldune Centre - has now opened its doors and clearly means business with a 'serious' till, and souvenirs and artworks for sale! Of course we embrace it as a complementary attraction and, I dare say, part of the rich tapestry of Maldon's future heritage too! We have just noted a proposed new definition of a Museum - 'Museums are for people to explore and learn from collections for understanding and inspiration. To do this, a museum collects, safeguards, researches, develops, makes accessible and interprets collections and associated information which it holds in trust for society'. Compare this with the current (duller) definition 'an institution which collects, documents, preserves, exhibits and interprets material evidence and associated information for the public benefit'. You know we already successfully collect, show, and provide enjoyment and aspire to implementing in full the other principles. So far for us it seems to have been more perspiration than inspiration but nonetheless satisfying for that! Visitors should note that our admission charge has gone down - IN WEIGHT - but considerably up in value when you come in.....thus

old

new



The Chairman speaks.....



Steady as you go, but where is the Stewarding Secretary?

The Annual General Meeting held in St. Cedds on Tuesday 12th May was not as well attended as in recent years. This could be because the Members are well satisfied with the way that the Society is being conducted by its Officers and Committee on their behalf, but may have been to an unfortunate clash of dates with meetings of other town organisations. We shall do our best in future to ensure that our own AGM date is announced as early as possible. Arthur Simpson was re-elected to serve as our President for a further year, and the Chairman and present Committee re-elected en bloc. The one major disappointment was that there was no volunteer to take over the post of Stewarding Secretary from Len Barrell, who had 'temporarily' combined this with his many other duties during the past year and now wishes to relinquish the task which he has performed so ably. Although the present post is combined with the duties of major key holder for opening and closing the museum there is no reason why this should be so, and it is felt that the post could be filled by someone who is not necessarily fully mobile as long as he/she has organisational skills sufficient to prepare rotas for our Stewards, and acting as a clearing house for changes within the rota which will inevitably occur. The rota for this year is in fact all but complete but still needs a little nursing. Expenses incurred by the Stewarding Secretary are reimbursed by the Association. There must be someone out there who would find this role both interesting and challenging and who would thereby contribute greatly to the successful running of the Museum. Please do let me know if you are willing to fill this vacancy!

The Chairman's report, and those of other Officers combined to show how much had been achieved in the past year and how many problems had been overcome. The future outlook was good and it was hoped that progress will continue in providing a first class museum for Maldon.

Paddy Lacey...June 1998

Highlight of the AGM - A Surprise from the Treasurer

In the course of the Treasurer's report Tony Tullett was clear that prudence in expenditure should continue, bearing in mind that we had been kept solvent by donations rather than income. There should be thought given to increasing admission charges next year, but on the day of the AGM, Judy Tullett had collected from Tesco a sponsorship cheque for £1,500. Tesco had told us earlier in the year that we had been selected for one of two such Community Awards given by them on the advice of their Branch, and 'this was it'. The Association is most grateful for this generous donation which will greatly help our finances and ease our problems. It will enable us to replace the tape-recorder in the 1940's room and upgrade our present vacuum cleaner and still let our Treasurer sleep at nights.

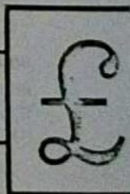
Paddy Lacey...June 1998

Tesco Charity Trust

26

Pay MALDON DISTRICT MUSEUM

ONE THOUSAND AND
FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS



For and on

⑈ 205272⑈ 30⑈ 1553⑈ 0233582⑈

A Handsome Gift

On what proved to be a disappointingly dull evening weatherwise on Friday June 26th the Committee of the MDMA entertained Cllr John Smith, Chairman of the Maldon District Council, Cllr Peter Nickolls, Town Mayor, and Members of the District and Town Councils at the Promenade Lodge to view the newly opened Long Hall and the various improvements made throughout the building in the past twelve months,

Any dullness was dispelled by the formal presentation of a large cheque, both in size - some 3' x 1' - and in amount £1500 to the Chairman Paddy Lacey by Chris May, a member of the Management Team at Maldon's Tesco Stores. This was part of their Community Grant made to charitable organisations in the town and was given at a most opportune moment when our funds were at a very low ebb after recent heavy spending on new lighting and floor covering. This grant is also mentioned elsewhere under the AGM report.

Food and drink for the event was also generously supplied by Tesco and the Museum is most grateful for their interest and help in this way. The evening appeared to have passed very satisfactorily, with considerable interest shown, whilst the plans mentioned by Paddy for the development of the courtyard appeared to receive general support.

Paddy produced four Certificates from 'Volunteers Week' (1-7 June) to present to Penny Cook, Judy Tullett, Mike Bennett and Len Barrell 'in recognition of their outstanding contributions as volunteers to Maldon District Museum Association'. All four later commented that these were accepted by them as being representatives of all our Museum volunteers.

There were many reminiscences from some of our more senior Councillors and these were of great interest to us; we are hopeful that some may be encouraged to commit them to paper for publication in future 'Penny-Farthings'.

~~~~~PJJ...June 1998

Our very active member and keen investigator Bob Wallwork reports....."Last year I was talking to John Daniel, a local friend, about the marvellous model of the Motor Torpedo Boat we now have on display in the 'Sadd's Room' at the Museum. I knew John had served in the Royal Navy in Coastal Services and in fact was skipper of an M.T.B. during the war. As I was interested in the history of the original MTB 796 which was actually built at John Sadd & Sons I asked John if he could find out more for me through the ex-service magazines of the Royal Navy.

On Friday 10th April ('98) John 'phoned to tell me he had received two letters and a photograph of the crew from ex-crew members of MTB796 - one from Australia, the other from Manchester". Both are reproduced verbatim, but in type as lack of space prevents photocopies of the actual letters....

Letter 1 was from Gordon Maycock, 442, Wright Road, Modbury, Stth Australia, 5092. - and quotes his CFVA membership number as 3243. He writes -  
'Dear John,

I only joined the CVFA in the last month and in the first newsletter I received I was pleased to see your letter about MTB 796. POH/M Alf Wallace and I were the first of the crew to stand by 796 while being built. I am sorry I can't remember the name of the people we were billeted with; they were a couple with 2 young children and we enjoyed the weeks we were with them. My girlfriend who is now my wife remembers staying a weekend there. Sad to say Alf Wallace died 12 years ago.

We were with MTB 796 right through to the end, and it was a good boat with a good crew, all with a lot of experience in coastal forces. It was a happy boat more so maybe because things were going well and the end of the war was in sight. This put the crew in a great frame of mind and perhaps came through in their attitude.

After leaving Maldon in October 1944 we sailed round to Holyhead for working up trials; while there we took part in the rescue of the crew of a tanker torpedoed in the Irish Sea and also did anti-submarine patrols.

We left Holyhead in February along with MTBs 774 -765 - 778-781-5005 for Yarmouth, and operated from there getting plenty of sea time along with a lot of boring patrols, with a bit of action in between.

On the morning of March 19th 1945 we ran into some E-Boats, damaged a couple of them but also got some damage ourselves in the engine room and fuel tanks. Lucky nobody injured.

We were towed into Grimsby where we had a refit. This was the end of our active war as VE day came along while we were there.

We returned to Yarmouth in May hoping to stay in commission, but it was not to be and the boat was payed off on the 21st June, a date I remember well as I got married 2 days later on the 23rd, and I am glad to say my wife and I are still together after nearly 53 years.

MTB796 was a well built boat and we had no problems with her; we were out in some rough weather at times, and she took everything that was thrown at her. My only regret is Jerry stopped her on that night in March.

I have enclosed a couple of photos that may be of interest, one of the engine room crew, the names are on the back. The other one is most of the crew taken the day we payed off. I can't remember all the names now, but they were a good bunch of lads who like me are a bit old and grey now, and a few no longer with us, but happy memories, there were a few rough moments but I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

I was made up to P.O. while abroad, and also celebrated my 21st birthday, a bit false really as I put my age up to fool

the R.N. so celebrated my 21st a year early although nobody knew at the time, and we had a great time.

We have been here 30 years now; we came back in 1995 and while there visited relatives in Clacton passing very close to Maldon, and wish now we had called in there. Who knows, we may come again although age is creeping up on us and that was meant to be our last trip back.

I would like to hear from anyone connected with 796, or remembers Alf Wallace and I. We had a good time there but don't think we upset anyone to make us stand out.

I hope I have been of some help; anything I can help with in future let me know, although the distance doesn't help.

Thank you for keeping the memory of 796 alive; it has many happy memories for me and it's great to think her number lives on. I would really appreciate a photo of the model if that could be done.

All the very best to Maldon

Yours sincerely

(Lofty) G. Maycock.

~~~~~  
Letter 2 was from Ken McKeown, whose C.V.F.A. No is 3120, from 8, Monaco Drive, Northenden, Manchester M22 4FG and he says.....

Dear John,

Regarding MTB 796 I was drafted along with its first crew from HMS Hornet to join the boat at Brightlingsea in late October 1944.

We took part in the boat's final acceptance sea trials under the command of Lt. M.Evans RNVr. After completion of these trials we sailed to Holyhead to complete our working up trials. During the period of these trials we were involved in the rescue of several seamen from a stricken tanker in the Irish Sea.

At short notice the boat was directed to its operational base at HMS Midge (Great Yarmouth) due to a number of boats

having been lost in a serious incident in Ostend Harbour, Belgium. The boat was then involved in general patrolling of North Sea convoy routes to counter the minelaying operations of German E-boats.

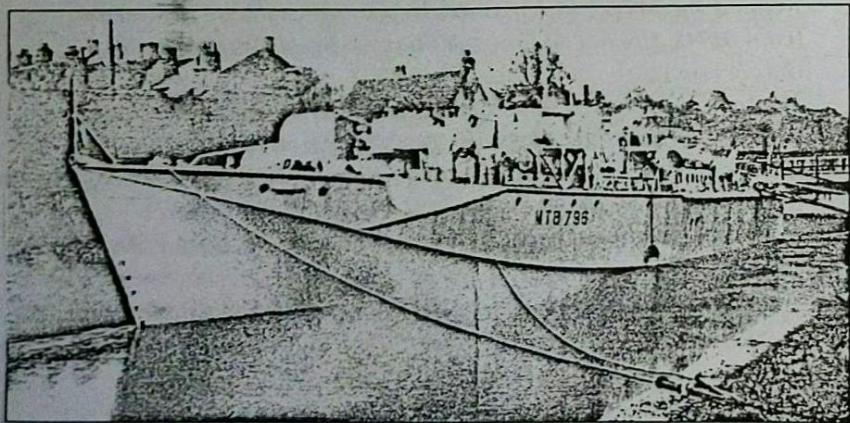
After one such incident the fuel tanks of the boat were damaged flooding the bilges with petrol resulting in the need for us to be towed into Grimsby Harbour by MTB 765. We celebrated VE Day at Grimsby followed by showing the flag at the Channel Isles and several South Coast Resorts. The boat was eventually paid off in August 1945 and was laid up on the River Dart along with many light coastal forces craft.

I joined 796 as a 18yrs old wireman and enjoyed the comradeship of the entire crew who were drawn from all parts of the country.

Yours faithfully

Ken McKeown . C.F.V.A No 3120.

Picture of crew prompted memory of torpedo boat



THIS photograph of a motor torpedo boat was sent in by a former crew member from Goldhanger, who recognised last week's MBS picture of a smiling forces crew from 1944.

Cyril Southgate, 70, of Hall Estate, Goldhanger, saw the picture of the Motor Torpedo boat crew published last week and has sent in this photograph of the vessel shortly before it went to sea.

"When I saw the piece in the paper it triggered my memory a bit and began to search for the photo," he said.

After delving through his old photographs he spotted a black and white print of the boat.

Bob Wallwork, of Maldon Museum Association, who appealed for any crew

members from the MTB 796 – a model of which is at the museum – to get in touch, said there had been a tremendous response.

CONTACTS

"As well as contact from crew from Australia and Manchester there have been others as well," said Mr Wallwork.

He paid tribute to John Daniel, of Maldon, who served on MTBs for his help in getting the appeal into the coastal forces association magazine.

"I am indebted to him. He greatly assisted in arranging the request for ex-service members of MTB 796," added Mr Wallwork.

REGARDING the article featured in the Maldon and Burnham Standard on April 30 on the John Sadd-built Motor Torpedo Boat, I would like to mention I am indebted to Mr John Daniel of Maldon, who served on MTBs during the War.

He greatly assisted in arranging the request for ex-service members of MTB 796 in the Coastal Forces Association magazine.

PO Gordon (Lofty) Maycock and PO Alf Wallace were billeted in the Maldon area while attending the building of MTB 796 in September/October 1944.

In his letter Lofty Maycock says he can't remember the name of the people they were staying with, but they were a couple with two young children and they enjoyed the weeks they were with them.

Does anyone remember Lofty Maycock and Alf Wallace, or who helped to build the vessel? – Bob Wallwork, Maldon District Museum, Mill Road, Maldon.

Can you
remember
Lofty
and Alf?

MTB 796

By now the majority of readers will know of MTB 796, the Motor Torpedo Boat built by John Sadd & Sons Ltd during the last war. Contact was made with crew members through our Bob Wallwork and his friend John Daniel. One crewman was Gordon Maycock, of Australia, and his last letter to Bob is reproduced below; it was dated June 6th 1998.....

Dear Bob,

Thank you for your letter and photos of MTB796, the letter from Dinah, Mrs Tyler's daughter was a lovely surprise, I have already written to her and hope to hear from her soon.

You say my letter has caused a stir in Maldon, it has caused one for me also, bringing back memories of times I spent in Maldon with the Tyler family. Also regrets that I did not keep in touch after the war. I suppose having a family of your own and worrying about the present and future, the past gets pushed in the background, but in old age the past comes flooding back with the thought of those two words "if only", how many times in life do you use those words.

My other regret is that Alf Wallace is no longer around to join in all this. I made contact with his family last year through a strange coincidence, but found that he died 12 years ago, he lived in Stevenage and I'm sure he would have been to Maldon like a shot if he heard of 796.

It is a lovely photo of the boat at mooring and looking at it brings back memories of a trippy boat with a good crew, usually you will find one bad egg sometimes two in a crew, but I can't remember one on MTB796, they were a good crowd, maybe because they were mostly experienced coastal force men who had seen plenty of action in the past, and took things in their stride knowing the war was coming to a close, and we were going to make it, although we nearly didn't in March 1945.

I have written to Ken McKeown and hope to hear from him. I can remember the name but can't put a face to him, which applies to quite a few of the crew I am afraid, but hope to share some memories in the future with Ken, maybe we can fill in some gaps together.

Although I have never met you or John Daniel and probably never will now, I regard you as friends, any friend of my boat is a friend of mine I suppose, funny how something like that can bring people together isn't it, but its lovely to hear from you all.

It is marvellous to hear Mrs Tyler is alive and 97. I can't imagine her as old as that, I don't know if it is living so far away but you tend to feel you're getting old but other people are not, and are surprised when you find they are too.

We have an Anzac day march of all the Veterans here every year, I don't march but watch it on the television, and I think of the old codgers marching and how old they look, and then realize I am one of them, I'm also an "old cadger", brings you down to earth with a bump.

We have been in Australia 30 years now, it has been a good life, it's a great country, but the biggest drawback is missing relations and friends more so as you get older, and then something like MTB796 turns up and you wish you were in England to join in personally, I retired in 1986 at 61. You can retire at 60 if you are ex service, so I have been retired 12 years now and enjoying every minute of it.

My wife and I celebrated our 50th 3 years ago in 1995 and came to England for a holiday. It annoys me now to think we passed close to Maldon on our way to Clacton, but I suppose when you're with relations in their car you can't dictate where to go to easy, maybe if we had been on our own it may have been different. I did see Maldon and Chelmsford on the signposts, and my mind did go back a bit, but did not think after 51 years anyone would remember MTB796 being built there. "How wrong I was!". I can't see me making the trip again but you never know what the future holds and if we do, we shall certainly make our way to Maldon for sure, so if you see a 6'4" grey-haired "old codger" around 19 stone strolling around your museum paying particular attention to MTB796 it may be me, hope so anyway.

Today is June 6th D Day which also brings back a few memories. Where have all those years gone, way back then I could jump straight through the engine room hatch on 796, now I would get stuck half way, if I could ever jump that is.

Anyway thank you once again for your letter and photos, I also had one from John and appreciate them very much, if I come across anything more on 796 I will let you know.

All the best to you and yours,

Yours sincerely,

Gordon.

Elms Farm,
Lodge Road,
Woodham Mortimer,
Maldon,
Essex,
CM9 6SJ.

8:5:1998

Dear Mr. Wallwork,

I am writing with reference to your letter in the Maldon and Burnham Standard concerning the Motor Torpedo Boat built by John Sadd & sons during World War 11.

The two members of the crew, P.O Gordon (Lofty) Maycock and P.O Alf Wallace were billeted with my parents, Mr and Mrs. William Tylor in Cross Road, Maldon. My mother who is in her 97th year remembers them well.

My mother met them by chance as they were looking for lodgings. she took pity on them and said she would put them up for the night whilst they continued to look. However, they remained with us for almost 6 weeks.

She also remembers that the day the M.T.B. finally sailed was "Lofty's" 21st birthday. She managed, with his help, to gather enough ingredients to make him a birthday cake which was delivered to him on the morning of the sailing by my father who worked for John Sadd and sons at that time.

I know my mother would be pleased to hear any news of these two gentlemen who she remembers as "sailor boys". Therefore if you should have contact with them please pass our name and address on to them. My mother now lives with my husband and myself at the above address.

Yours sincerely,

Dinah E. Macmoland.



SITUATIONS VACANT

Cleaner(s) for light Museum duties for two or three voluntary hours per week. Please contact Penny (Cook) - 852511.

Stewarding Secretary to supervise duties, already arranged for the 1998 season. Please contact Len (Barrell) - 852749.

Caretaker, for occasional opening/closing duties. Suit retired person living locally. Please contact Paddy (Lacey) - 828001

MEMBERS!

Our Membership Secretary wishes to thank all those who have renewed for the current year ending 31st March 1999, and politely prod those who have not.

However, to avoid the bother of renewals for the next millenium, simply apply for Life Membership at £60 single/£90 family, from Membership Secretary Ray Brewster, 83 Wantz Road, Maldon, CM9 5DB.



REMINDER TO TEACHERS

AND PARENT/HELPERS

Classes/Groups of School Children are welcome to visit the Museum by prior arrangement at mutually agreeable times outside normal opening hours.

Arrangements can be made through our Schools Liaison Steward Mrs Cherry Ponty, 01376 571002.

Prospect of the High Street

One of the highlights of the Long Hall at the Museum is the magnificent photograph of the High Street which stands next to the 'Maldon General Stores' in a most satisfying juxtaposition. For many years this photograph was on display, first at Tesco's High Street store, now 'Iceland', and then in the window of their new premises at Fullbridge. In April of this year the firm kindly donated it to the Museum where it deservedly attracts much attention, but when was it taken and by whom??

It was certainly taken after 1892 because the gap in the line of High Street properties which was left following the Great Fire of Maldon can be clearly seen. It must have been after 1894 because the building which now houses the Abbey National and the shops, presently occupied by Clarkes and 'Tops and Toes' are seen. These were rapidly rebuilt after the fire to the designs of Percy Munro Beaumont, Architect and Surveyor to the Maldon Urban District Council, who had offices together with F.H.Bright, Solicitors, at No.55, the first of these buildings.

It was taken after 1902 because Henry Leech's hardware shop can be seen, its exterior hung with brushes. This was the year this business commenced.

Similarly it was after 1905, for in this year the highly ornamental railings were placed on the roof of the portico of the Moot Hall.

It must be later than 1906 because in that year Ortewells moved their business to No 47 High Street. Their sign, a large hanging kettle, can be seen. It will be remembered from Issue 13 of the 'Penny-Farthing' that the 1892 fire had completely destroyed their premises at No 53 High Street, site of the gap.

Eventually in 1909 a mock-Tudor style building, now occupied by Dorothy Perkins, was constructed for the General Post Office in the space. Why this gap had remained unfilled for 17 years is a mystery? Our picture pre-dates this building but my guess is only just. I think therefore that it must have been taken in the high summer of 1908, or just possibly in 1909 if construction took place towards the end of that year.

.....cont'd

The presence of the London Central Meat Company, the name of which first appeared in the Directory for 1910, would perhaps suggest the latter date. Does the appearance of a gentleman in khaki uniform give any further clue?

Now who took the photograph? Well, there is a possible clue in that an advertisement in the window of Pooles at No 37 High Street offers 'Picture Post Cards' and 'Books of Views'. Is the bearded figure standing in the doorway Richard Poole or a near relative? Could this picture have been taken for Pooles? I have a growing collection of postcards of Maldon but have not yet seen an original card of this view. Can any member confirm or deny these guesses? It would be good to know!

In conclusion I must acknowledge the use made of George Ginn's comprehensive work 'Maldon High Street, West Square to Jacob's Cross' in preparing this short article.

-----PJL... June 1998

The Magic Firkin

Who would believe that we were having trouble in finding a Firkin for our rack in Bob's Bar and that we had searched for weeks without success, when in came member Brian Mead to Len's 'office' one evening complete with a treasured find and the news "There is a Firkin in Cromer if you get on the 'phone without wasting time" - and that's where the coincidences began.

First thing the following morning Len phones 'Aladdin's Cave' in Cromer and "yes" they still had it and "yes" they would reserve it if Len sent his cheque in settlement. That was done.

Next - how to get it here? Len has a cousin in Cromer; 'phoned his home, spoke to wife who 'phoned cousin at work, who 'phoned Len at home. "Yes" he would collect it the following day and "How did you know I was coming to Maldon on Friday?" Well, we didn't, but it transpired that cousin was collecting his mother to take her back for a few days, and of that we had no idea at that time.

Friday came, cousin arrived about five o'clock complete with Firkin, and as he stopped, Brian too arrived.... to complete the story.

-----LFB...June 1998

Ed's p.s.- A Firkin is a quarter of a barrel holding 9 gallons; a Len is a whole Barrel.

Monica Bayley

continues from Penny-Farthing No. 13, her account of Thaxted/Maldon related events in the first World War through 'The Free' who for many years were at Jacob's Farm, Goldknanges Road.

CONCLUSION.....

There was a Casualty Clearing Station near a sunken lane which led from the battlefield in "Cambridge Road", as the troops had named it, past the old railway to Ypres, past the wood now known as "Railway Wood" down towards the Zillebeke road. Due to heavy shelling those unfortunate enough to be on stretchers in the sunken road, awaiting an ambulance, could not be moved for several hours. This was the way many ambulances took at this time because the Menin road entered the city at the town gate, now the Menin Gate. This entrance, in peacetime the busiest and quickest way into the city, was now under constant fire and so many disasters occurred there that the last part of the road was known as Hellfire Corner. Sometimes the ambulances risked it and made a dash through the devastated city square, leaving by the Lille Gate. In other cases they circled the city on minor roads to get to various base hospitals.

The Base Hospital to which Martin was taken was in Bailleulactually over the Belgian frontier and in France. All these factors being taken into consideration it would seem that Martin arrived at Bailleul during late evening of the 13th May.

The Essex Weekly News of May 28th 1915 was full of the story of the charge.....and full also of details of men who had been killed or wounded.....and, fewer in number, of those who had "Died of wounds". These figures were bad enough, but were incomplete and took no account of those who could not be traced. When the roll was called on the morning of Friday 14th May "there were many empty saddles" but during the night some men had struggled in, some had been put on Hospital trains, and some were in hospitals behind the lines. **Martin was in one of the latter.**

The final words shall be given as printed by the Essex Weekly on Friday May 28th. These were the words read by Heybridge and Maldon people at the time. The paper was full of such accounts and local people all over Essex had good reason to repeat my mother's comment, 'a black day for Essex', with which I began Martin's story -

"Trooper Martin Free, died of wounds, aged 25, was the son of Mr David Free, Richmonds Farm, Thaxted, and enlisted in September last. He had previously resided with his brother, Mr George Free, of Jacobs Farm, Heybridge, and was attached to the Epping Troop. The first intimation received by the family was a letter from the nurse in charge of a clearing hospital stating that deceased was brought in mortally wounded. He lived for 24 hours and was conscious at the last. On Sunday evening after the normal service at St Andrews, Heybridge, a

Memorial Service was held for the deceased trooper who, previous to joining the Yeomanry was a member of the choir. The service was taken by the Rev. G.H. Manbey and the congregation was unusually large, deceased being well known and very popular. The music included the hymn "Peace, perfect peace". The sadness of the occasion and the solemnity of the service were most impressive".

Martin was buried in Bailleul Communal Extension. With him lie Troopers Snell, Rust, and Robins.

The graves are beautifully kept and the gardener in charge of the cemetery came to England with the Free French in the last war, trained as a Commando in Scotland, and greets me as an old friend though, as he grips my hand he says with a cheeky grin, eyeing my white hair....."Ah...Long time ago....very old now".

Decus et Tutamen (*The inscription of the Essex Yeomanry Cap Badge*)

Monica Bayley - November 1997

SINGER SEWING MACHINE

(Donated by Mrs Barbara Wallis, Maldon)

In 1895 Lottie Phillips was born in Beeleigh Road, Maldon, and lived there when the first World War 1914-18 broke out, and Edward 'Charles' Marsh arrived in Maldon with an Army Regiment, later to be discharged for health reasons, suffering from heart trouble for most of his life.

'Charley' was billeted in Beeleigh Road and there met Lottie, romance blossomed, and she became Mrs Lottie Marsh. In 1915 they went to live at Charley's home of Dudley, Worcs, where baby Barbara was born.

In 1920 the 'Singer' Sewing Machine was purchased, and both Barbara and the 'Singer' came to Maldon when the Marsh family returned in 1926.

After nearly eighty years of constant use and still in excellent condition, the 'Singer' has now been donated by Barbara to the Museum for safe keeping.

Tony Wallis June 1998

ERNEST GEORGE WALLIS

Ernest was born in Mill Road, Maldon on 17th June 1883 to James and Ada Wallis, one of six children, all boys. Ernest had measles when he was two years old and later developed a 'gammy' leg, which could have been polio and for which he had electrical treatment in the London Hospital. He left school in 1895 at the age of twelve.

Ernest's father James was a Barge Captain and all the boys worked on the barges although Ernest was unable to continue due to his earlier illness. Instead, he went to work at Freeman, Hardy and Willis, in Chelmsford, and trained as a Boot and Shoe Maker and Repairer. Having learnt his trade and gained sufficient experience, Ernest opened his first shop at 102A High Street, Maldon, where the Drill Hall behind 'The Hippodrome', had been used by the Army.

From there he bought and moved to the larger house and business premises at 100 High Street, where he remained and traded until 1948 when he retired and sold the property to the Cooperative Society for just under £4,000.

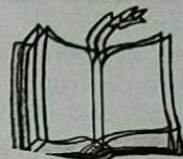
The Co-op opened No.100 as a Chemist shop until it was completely demolished to make way for 'Malco House' which was to be the Co-op's Furniture and Furnishings store. This later stood empty for many months before being opened by 'Peacocks'.

[Footnote - 'Great-Grandfather' was born 1848; Norman in 1911; Aunty Cynthia in 1914]

Tony Wallis..June 1998

FAREWELL to Sarah Burgess, our Liaison Officer with the Maldon District Council, who always smartly returned everything we served at her, and who is now an ace at the Millennium Commission.

WELCOME to Cllr Mrs H.M.Brock who is now the Leisure Services representative on our Committee.



Book Review.....

The Handleys and other Maldon Families in the 19th Century

This book by Jean and Doug Vesey has recently been added to the stocklist of the growing number of publications about Maldon and its history, held for sale by the Museum. It is a privately published document of just over 100 pages, which covers researches into the family history of the Handleys, one of the important local water-front families. They were fishermen, Trinity House pilots, and barge owners, but also inn keeper and shop owners.

In March of 1891 William Handley, who owned an earthenware shop at 31 High Street, stepped from the shop only to disappear through the pavement into the cellar beneath. Fortunately he was unhurt and took immediate steps to have a brick arch constructed to support the pavement. One wonders whether this cellar is one known to the Maldon Archaeological Group team in their recent researches.

Details of the lives of Benjamin Turnage Handley who owned the bathing machines at Mill Beach and the Promenade in addition to many of the local pleasure boats, and Charles Murrell Handley, Master Butcher of the High Street, Christadelphian preacher, and Borough Councillor are covered in this volume.

Other local families who were connected to the Handleys by marriage were the Barbrooks, Finches, Seex, and Strutts, and details of their family are given. The famous Maldon Barge Builder John Thomas Howard was also related, as was the eminent artist, Robert Nightingale.

There is a fund of knowledge in this book which will be fascinating to all who have an interest in the Social History of Maldon. It is excellent value at £5, obtainable at our kiosk in the Museum.

Paddy Lacey... June 1998

Ed - The M.A.G. publication is 'Underground Maldon' and we have it for sale - see Sales List following

SALES LIST

'Beeleigh Mill' A History of	M.A.G.	£2.95
'Bradwell on Sea' A Short History of	Stephen Nunn	£1.00
'Branch Lines to Maldon'	Dennis Swindale	£3.96
'Byrhtnoth's Last Journey'	Maura Benham	£1.00
'Carmelite Friary' The	Arthur Simpson	£2.00
'Chaff Cutters' The	TBSC	£7.00
'Handleys' The	D & J Vesey	£5.00
'Maldon & Heybridge'	Patrick Lacey	£9.99
'Maldon & Heybridge' Origins of	ECC/MDC	£1.75
'Maldon - Life in the Thirties'	David Germain	£-.75
'Maldon - Links with America'	---	£1.00
'Maldon - Then & Now'	Maldon Society	£5.99
'Underground Maldon'	M.A.G.	£3.50
'Traditional Sail'	Mike Emmett	£3.50

POSTCARDS (unless otherwise marked) 20p

POTTERY (unless otherwise marked).....Reduced Prices !!

'Penny-Farthing utensils'

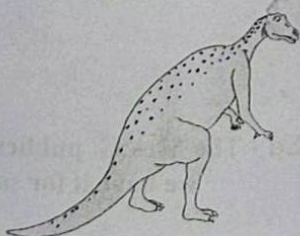
With Handles £5.80

Without Handles £4.90

FOSSILS.....to clear.....50p each / less if marked lower

=Updated 2.7.98/LFB

PLUS PENCILS, NOTELETS, BOOK MARKS, ETC:



The Next Best Thing...

Our aim for 1999 is the creation of a paved courtyard behind the Museum, in the old back garden of the Promenade Lodge where bulky objects such as boats, agricultural equipment and industrial artefacts related to Maldon could be displayed with access for viewing from the Museum. The area would be one of low maintenance needs but providing a pleasant environment for all our visitors, and a safe assembly point for school parties, minimising the risks of some pupils disappearing on to the Prom.

Our boundaries would have to be strengthened to prevent unauthorised entry to the courtyard and in doing this we hope to incorporate the inscription stones from the Jubilee Hall within the boundary wall and use the 'Jubilee' railings to surround the disabled persons ramp. Additionally, access to our storage base in the old toilet block will be achieved from the courtyard, improving both security and the ease with which items can be removed to and from this facility.

Probably on a longer term basis, although it would make an excellent Millenium objective, thoughts are being given to an extension from the toilet block to house the 'Pumper' and other wheeled vehicles, allowing them to be moved if required to be taken to events such as the Carnival and the Annual Essex Military Fair to publicise the Museum and free up an area within the Long Hall, perhaps for another shop.

Plans for these developments are to be submitted to the District Council with bids for funding, but other avenues for sponsorship will also be explored.

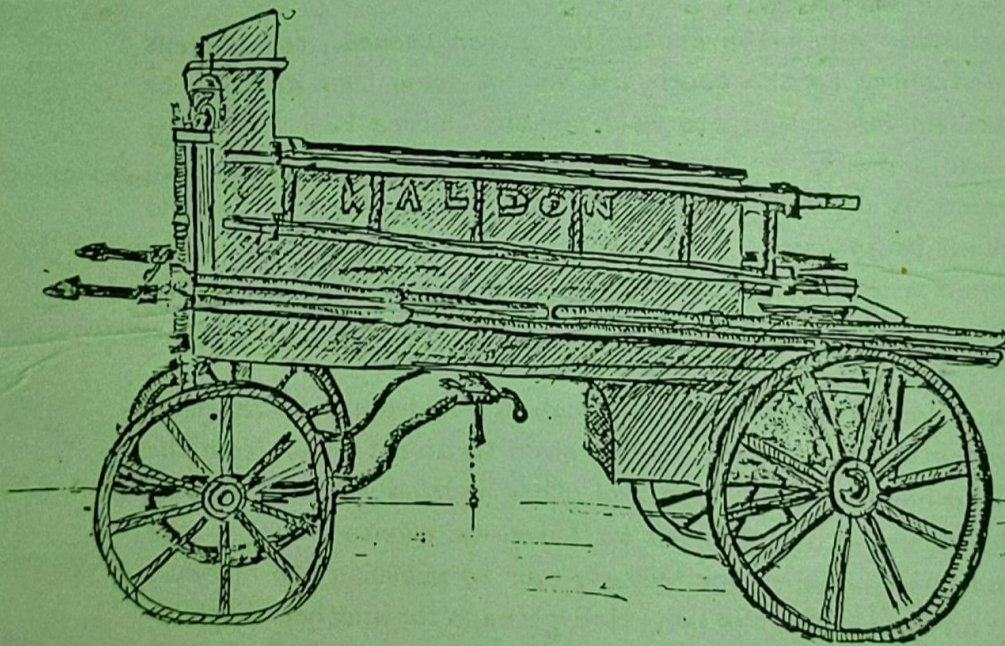
P.J.L. June 1998

...AND FINALLY...

Passers-by might notice the Museum is now well anchored - two large examples of the Fishermen type are displayed outside, one believed to be two hundred years old.

Visitors may be confused however about the origins of our building when they see a notice board in our porch, headed MOOT HALL - this of course is the old one recently donated by Maldon Town Council, and most useful for our own public notices.

E258. 2002. 2 .14



Maldon's
Fire Tender.
(at the Maldon Museum)

During a quiet period our Steward Bill Stichbury turned his pen to sketching -an additional credit to his account!