

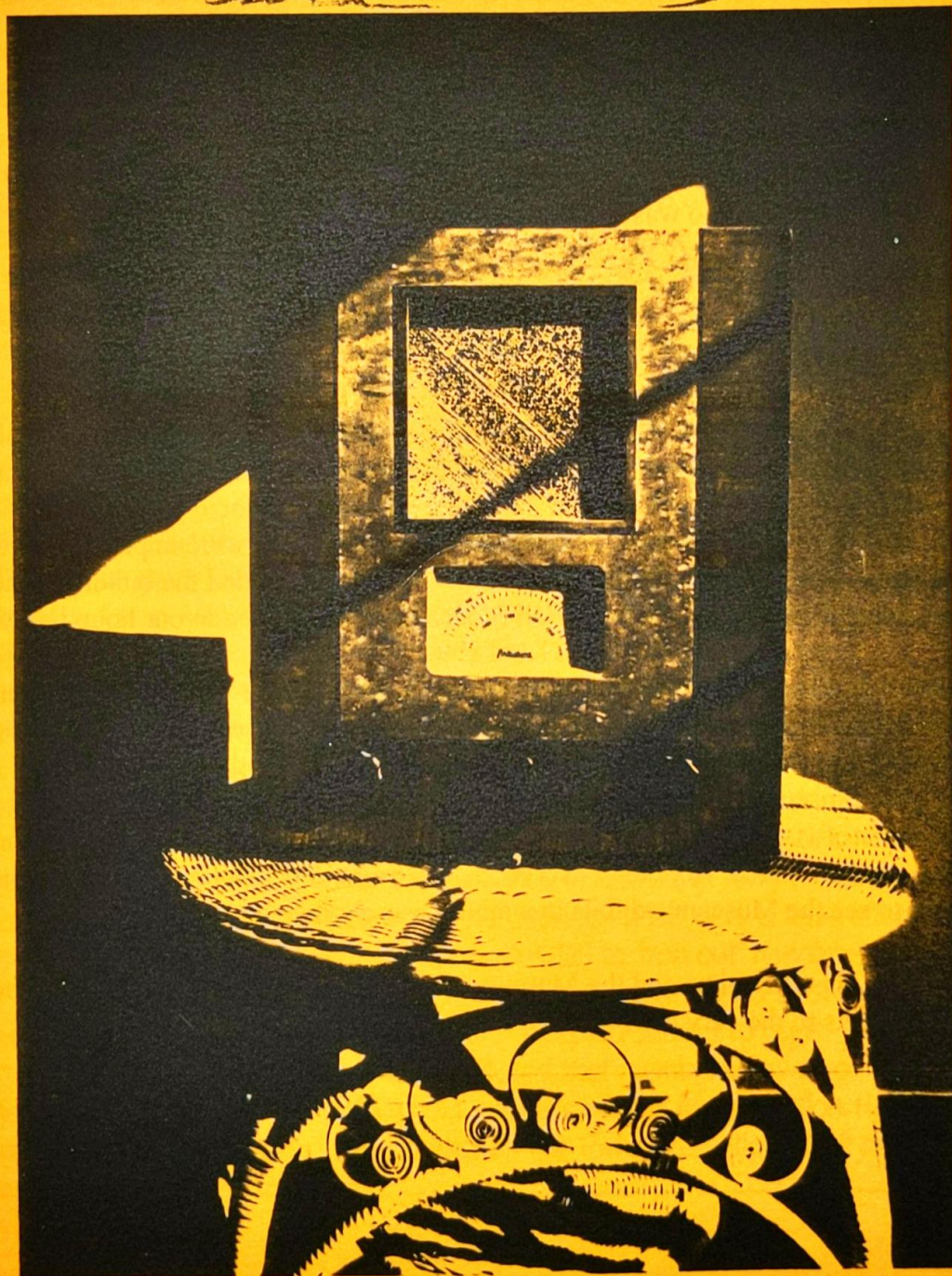
Issue 21

Summer 2000

# THE PENNY FARTHING

The Newsletter of Maldon District Museum Association

*This is the "Museum in the Park"  
with our News Summary, and yet  
another Parky Forecast.*



## 'Spring is in the Air'

Much praise has been received on the high standard of this year's exhibitions which are a credit to our Display Team. It was rewarding indeed to see "From Grain to Table" being acclaimed by an important group of visitors just before opening to the Public, when Bernard Lewis, ex Managing Director of Green's Flour Mill, Moira Green of the Green flour mill family, and Richard Hugh Perks, the well-known maritime expert and author visited the Museum.

The merry 'Museums and Galleries Month' of May has just come and gone, during which our Museum has been busy playing its part commencing early in the month with Cara Wetmore, Cath Backus's daughter, renaming the room formerly known as the Victorian Room, after her mother who was Chairman of the Museum Association for 25 years from 1969 to 1994. This was a very pleasant occasion attended by the Committee and Members who had known Cath. Father Andrew McIntosh presented Cara, and the Museum copies of his address given in 1998 at Cath's funeral are featured elsewhere in the 'Penny Farthing'.

On the day nominated by the National Museums and Galleries Committee for official and civic visits we had the honour to welcome John Whittingdale OBE, MP for Maldon and accompanied by Roy Pipe, Chairman of the Maldon District Council, with Eunice Downes, the Deputy Town Mayor. They enjoyed their visit and were impressed by the progress made both within the Museum and in the Courtyard behind the building. They were interested to inspect the 'Jubilee Hall Stones' now embedded in our boundary wall.

The month was brought to a sparkling conclusion by the amazing 'Museum in Flower' exhibition when, in partnership with the Maldon Flower Club (another connection with Cath Backus) and with the generous donation of flowers by Glenda from "Talking Flowers", the Museum experienced its most successful Bank Holiday weekend ever. A record number of visitors on the Sunday was dwarfed on the Monday when nearly three times that number visited. Hopefully everybody enjoyed the wonderful experience and will return to see the Museum exhibits in a more leisurely fashion at a later date.

It has been an important time and the Museum is now firmly on the map of local visitor attractions thanks to the very hard work of all Museum Workers and Stewards.

*Paddy Lacey  
Hon. Chairman*

\* Members of the Association gathered in 'St. Cedds' on Tuesday 23rd May, not as many as last year perhaps, but in considering the inclement weather leading up to the event, the attendance of twenty one members was encouraging, with an identical number apologising for absence; the other fifty-odd absentees had no doubt overlooked the event, forgotten the date, or had other commitments.

\* Chairman Paddy opened proceedings with a welcome to all, reminding us that this was the last AGM of the 20th century. Commenting on the recent visit to the Museum of John Whittingdale, M.P. with M.D.C. Chairman Roy Pipe, he said that both were very complimentary on the layout and presentation of the artefacts.

\* The 1999 AGM minutes were approved with no matters arising and the Chairman continued with his report, thanking both the District and Town Councils for their support, including Councillors and staff. Thanks also to all Museum staff, stewards, and other members.

He referred to the winter talk by Roger Johnson, reported in our last newsletter, the visit to the Braintree Museum and the Working Silk Mill.

We now have 'Provisional Registration' with the Museums & Galleries Commission, East Anglian Region, and received an inspection by George Monger for them.. George was quite critical of our lack of suitable storage and facilities.

We received a sizeable grant for upgrading the rear courtyard and workshop, and should receive another to assist with advertising and publicity.

As reported elsewhere, the 'Cath Backus Room' has now been so named.

During the year Tony Froom resigned as Hon. Secretary and Len Barrell had intimated that he would not be available as Vice-Chairman at the AGM. Both however would be available to produce the 'Penny Farthing' if needed.

\* Vice-Chairman Len Barrell, reported that Colin Barbrook would not continue as Stewarding Secretary from the end of the season in October, and congratulated him on doing a good job with the stewards. Len wished to propose a vote of thanks to Pam and Paddy Lacey for their efforts at the museum during the year.

\* Acting Secretary Tony Tullett had agreed to stand in until this AGM. He had succeeded Tony Froom who formally resigned in February, Tony T. thanked Len and Paddy for their help, stating that the Secretarial job was 'a team effort'. It was hoped to hold regular meetings with MDC to 'iron out' remaining problems.

\* Treasurer Tony Tullett produced accounts for the year ended 31st March 2000 which, in the absence of any query, were accepted subject to audit.

\* Membership Secretary Ray Brewster stated that membership was on the increase but that he personally would not be available for re-election. He has been representing the museum in discussions on the Town Recreation Week and meetings on Crime Prevention.

\* Displays Officer Judy Tullett was grateful to those who, following a change of plans, had produced excellent models for "From the Grain to the Table", and for a display of pit saws entitled "The Cutting Edge". "A Century in Camera" included photographs lent by the Maldon Society.

\* Accessions Officer Penny Cook repeated George Monger's report. It has been suggested to Maldon Town Council that they take back the framed copies of the old Maldon Borough Charters, for which we just do not have the room, into the Town Hall. We have discussed with Mr Terry Fleet of the Museum of Power the possibility that he could receive the parts which made up the old Moot Hall Clock. She was pleased that she had received help with object-marking and cataloguing, and would welcome additional help.

\* Chairman Paddy thanked Mike Bennett, in particular, for his tireless work in and about the Museum.

\* Publicity Officer Molly Middleton confirmed that all leaflets were updated and that the Flower Festival would be announced on BBC Radio.

\* Schools Liaison Officer Cherry Ponty has circulated thirty schools and received a request for a revisit from Wentworth School.

\* Stewarding Secretary Colin Barbrook, through Len, thanked all stewards, in particular those who had stood in at short notice.

\* Subscriptions remain unchanged for the year.

#### ELECTIONS

The following Officers and Committee were proposed, seconded, and elected.....

President	Miss Joyce Allingham
Vice-President	Mr Len Barrell
Chairman	Dr Paddy Lacey
Vice-Chairman	Mr Tony Tullett
Hon. Secretary	Mr Tony Tullett
Hon. Treasurer	Mr Colin Barrell
Hon. Membership Secretary	Mrs Penny Cook
Committee	Mr Bob Wallwork
	Mrs Cherry Ponty
	Mrs Judy Tullett
	Mrs Molly Middleton
	Mr Mike Bennett
	Mr Ray Brewster
Hon. Auditor	Mr Peter Maynard

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FINIS

Mrs Cherry Ponty later agreed to be put forward as Hon Secretary of the MDMA.

#### IN MEMORIUM - CATH BACKUS

*We are pleased to reproduce here, with the permission of Cara Wetmore, Cath's daughter, memories of Cath recalled by Father Andrew at the funeral service.....*

*"When I think of Catherine Backus three small details come to mind -*

*.....first, the angular handwriting in turquoise ink on envelopes: you knew immediately - Catherine Backus.*

*.....secondly, those looped gold earrings that she seemed always to be wearing, which shook with her animated conversations.*

*.....and thirdly, the striking flower arrangements which graced the bay window of Evelyn House: how magnificently they made use of the available flowers, using stunning combinations of shape and colour; and how movingly they reflected the seasons of the Church's year, with particular attention to the starkness of Good Friday and the glory of Easter.*

*These are vignettes (the first and second almost trivial); but I'm sure you -each of you- will have little images, as well as more profound memories of Cath as we reflect on her life and commend her soul to the God in whom she believed so ardently.*

*These memories - yours and mine, the minor and the important - come together to remind us of a person of quality, integrity and determination. And we in Maldon know in particular how much energy she -and Geoff- put into the life of this town over their thirty years here.*

cont'd.....

Most of us will have had dealings with her in one way or another; many of us will have had skirmishes with her from time to time!

I focus on three particular areas in which Catherine Backus left her mark...

1) Maldon Museum.

The recent issue of 'Penny Farthing' carries a tribute by Robert Long, which I am pleased to quote (and parts of that Obituary were read at the funeral)

2) The Maldon Society.

Cath had a sense of history and a well-stored mind. She could see dangerous threats to the integrity of this town and through her vision enabled others to use their eyes and their imagination. She was a dedicated haranguer of Councillors and planning officers and a persistent writer to the press. Sometimes incautious, she was once threatened with a libel action when she concluded a poem...

"You were not here, you did not know,  
You ought to keep your profile low!"

3) Maldon Flower Arrangement Club.

We know that Cath had an eye for beauty, an ability to plan and to get others to work in ways and on scales which they might have considered beyond their capabilities. She devised grand schemes; if something was to be done, it must be done. Geoff's engineering and electrical skills were called upon and he was closely involved in the setting up of many flower festivals. And when tempers got a bit hot, he had the solution: "How about a pint, dear boy?" Those are three areas but there are others, many others, in which Cath had a hand.

On the domestic side we thank naturally of Cath and Geoff, of Evelyn House, of cats, fine furniture, kind hospitality and witty conversation. We also, of course, think of their daughters Anastasia and Cara, to whom our sympathy is extended.

Catherine Backus was a woman of faith, and it is the context of the traditional Roman Mass that we celebrate this funeral service. She was not alone in feeling uncomfortable with 'modernisation' in forms of worship. We are grateful to the Bishops of Chelmsford and Brentwood for permission to have a Latin Mass here in St. Mary's, a Church she loved.

Words from the sequence - the Dies Irae;

Rex tremendae majestatis,

King of majesty tremendous,  
Who dost free salvation send us,  
Fount of pity, then befriended us.





Think, kind Jesus, my salvation  
Caused thy wondrous incarnation:  
Leave me not to reprobation.

So, for Catherine Backus, we pray....

Requiem aeternam dona eam, Domine,  
Et lux perpetua circeat eam.

& and may she rest in peace


Andrew McIntosh.....8 May 2000



# MALDON DISTRICT MUSEUM

PRESENTS

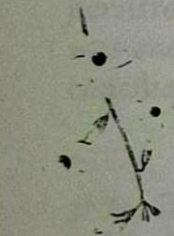
## "MUSEUM IN FLOWER"



*A Festival of Flowers  
in conjunction with  
MALDON FLOWER CLUB*


*Sponsored by  
TALKING FLOWERS LTD*

*MUSEUM IN FLOWER  
May 27th - 29th*



*We will remember that the weather on Saturday and Sunday of the last Bank Holiday weekend was terrible, but the sun came out for us on Bank Holiday Monday.*

*On the first two days of the Flower Festival we received just over 100 visitors, but with the cancellation of the Promenade Park market a staggering 190 people visited the Museum on Bank Holiday Monday.*



*We do thank Glenda at 'Talking Flowers' for her generous sponsorship of the event, the members of the Maldon Flower Club for their lovely displays, which were much admired, and their help with providing much needed extra stewarding for the weekend. I would personally thank all of those members and stewards who helped in making the occasion such a big success.*

*Judy Tullett,  
Displays Officer*

*.....and Judy received cards from Cara (Cath's daughter) - before the Flower Club event...*

*Dear Judy,*

*This comes to wish you, the Museum, and of course the Flower Club, every success with your floral weekend.*

*I'm sure you and your public will derive great pleasure from it!*

*With love*

*Cara.*

*and after the naming of the Cath Backus Room...*

*.....Matthew and I so enjoyed our visit to the Museum for the opening of Cath's room - thank you again for including us and for all your hard work.*

*I haven't forgotten the jet earrings I promised, but can't lay my hands on them at the moment - like mother like daughter! Hope to see you again soon.*

*Cara*

\*\*\*\*\*  
**An HMS OSEA Reference Book**

A compact version of the Osea Story, featuring photographs and articles and secret letters from the Osea Exhibition, has been compiled in book form, very informative if a little bulky; it will be available for inspection by members and visitors on request at the kiosk.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Did you know that?.....*

*The first organist at the 'Mighty Wurlitzer' in Maldon's Embassy Cinema was Leslie James, followed by 'Vic' Hammett?.....but more on that in our next issue. Meanwhile, thanks to those who sent information as requested.*

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**SUBS OVERDUE???**

*Please don't send them to Ray, but to Colin Barrell, our new Membership Secretary, addressed either to the Museum at 47 Mill Road, OR to him personally at - 6, Markland Drive, Maldon, CM9 6UD.....and many thanks. (Yes! he's Len's son, Mk 2)*

*[Thanks too, to those who have already renewed to 31.03.01]*

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## Borough of Maldon Police

The force of eleven part-time constables was formed in January 1836 in the reign of William IV. It is this Sovereign's initials which appear on the truncheons. The number of constables varied over the years and the force was not declared efficient in the eyes of Her Majesty's Inspectors until 1872.

The Police Station was the ground floor of the Moot Hall

In 1889 the Borough force was amalgamated with the Essex County Police Force when five men of the Borough force joined three hundred and ten colleagues from Essex.

Head Constables of Maldon Borough Force include.....

William King (1872 - 1878)

George Wombwell (1878 - 1888)

Charles Halsey (1888 - 1889)

The present Maldon Police Station in West Square was opened in 1913.

~~~~~pj1030400

### REMINDER..... "THE ESSEX MILITIA"

The Essex Militia, the 'living historians', will bring to life 17th century Maldon in the grounds of St. Peter's, Market Hill, on Maldon's Town Day, June 24th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The local group includes our Association members Ray, Chris, and Rose Brewster, who will be pleased to receive you in their encampment on Town Day.

-----jfb 020600

60TH ANNIVERSARY!!  
WERE YOU INVOLVED??

WE INVITE MEMORIES OF HOME GUARD EVENTS,  
SERIOUS OR AMUSING, FROM EX-MEMBERS.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Maldon Platoon 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt. Essex Home Guard



DID YOU KNOW THAT?.....

The author Robert Louis Stephenson was buried on a mountain top in Samoa?

The Kingdom of Hanover ceceded from the British Crown when Victoria became Queen because German Salic law forbade a lady from acquiring the throne. This let in the Prussians who took over.

## Reminiscences of Richard Poole, Printer of Maldon

In issues 19 & 20 we published Parts 1 & 2 of Richard Poole's reminiscences in 1902. We now continue with another excerpt, beginning c.1825.....

### Part 3

*As Cricket is closely connected with a boy's school life (and some girls also like the game) I must not omit to mention that in the Forties Maldon had an excellent Club; its ground was on Potman Marsh, the site on which the Railway Station and its buildings stand. In matches wickets were pitched at 10 o'clock so there was a chance of the game being played out - and we had good men. I would mention Richard, familiarly known as "Dick" Devenish who delivered the ball left-handed in a hop-skip-and-jump fashion often to the detriment of the wicket. John Rumsey, James Beale, William Beckwith and William Devenish were prominent members and most of them adopted the orthodox garb of the day - white shirts and top hats. Might I say that when quite a boy I saw a three days' All England match at Chelmsford, when Pilch Parr, Box, Carpenter, Wisden and Lillywhite all were so dressed: and when Lillywhite was at the wicket a rising ball did serious damage to his tall hat.*

*Round-arm bowling was then uncommon, and Beckwith introduced it to the Maldon club; opposing clubs objected to it as unfair, that he delivered a ball with a jerk which constituted a throw. He went to Lord's ground to be tested and his bowling was pronounced good and admissable. I must not further criticise the play as the oldest umpire of the day, Mr James Ashley, is a member of this Association, and technically more apt.*

*Maldon fairs were also held on this ground, and for days prior to the fairs, particularly so in September, cattle for sale were brought into the town in large herds, so that in the early mornings of these days the fields around the town were quite full of beasts, and the cool autumn air was resonant with bovine sounds.*

*Wombwell's Menagerie attended the September fair, and his brass band was a great attraction, in fact many of the leading families in the town went specially to hear the band music.*

*A Literary and Mechanics' Institute was formed in 1841, and for very many years our good friend Mr. W. K. Digby (who like many more has joined the majority) was the untiring Hon. Secretary. This Institute offered opportunities to young men to spend their evening leisure comfortably and profitably: the library was well furnished with books and in due time with newspapers also. Under its auspices lectures, entertainments, concerts, fetes and galas were arranged; many of these lectures were on scientific subjects and were well attended. This Institute introduced Penny Readings and Spelling Bees, and I can look back to enjoyable evenings so spent. I remember one Spelling Bee at which I was a competitor, and the late Dr. May presided: .....*

*when my turn came it seemed to me he had a fund of tricky words and that I got the worst: these I remember were some:--chiroprapist--eschscholtzia parallelogrammatic--phthisis--phthisical-- pachydermatus-- --harassed-- ovoviviparous--embarrassed--hypochondriacal-- ornithorhynchus. I pulled through to the final, and after some ties he gave me one word in the whole dictionary I always stumbled at, viz:--hypochondriacal, and I put an "r" in the third syllable. I had one chance left, as my rival had to spell once more to equalise; the word was benefited - this is often mis-spelt, so I had one ray of hope - but calmly the letters came b-e-n-e-f-i-t-e-d and I had to take second place. My victor was a lady.*

*After many years, owing to kindred societies and the increase of Entertainers' visits to the town, and cheap newspapers in almost every household, it was found difficult to maintain this Institute in its former efficient state, so that after various struggles to re-organise and set it fairly going it ultimately expired in 1886.*

*Many good buildings now occupy the sites where familiar but less imposing houses formerly stood. The Public Hall was a furniture shop: Messrs Barclay's Bank was an ironmonger's: London and County Bank a public house, "The Spreadingeagle": Mr Archer's a butcher's, and other changes too numerous to name. Personally I can but regret that the old family residence of the Pattisons and Miss Mary Wedd, opposite the Moot Hall, has succumbed to the speculative spirit of the age and been converted into business premises. Our Town Clock had no dial, but merely struck the hours from the spire of All Saints' Church. Subsequently a subscription clock was placed on the late Mr. Cook's house, now Mr. Dibben's, and the worthy tonsor undertook its superintendence: this clock was hardly to be depended upon for its accuracy (it certainly was at times erratic) and it was said that the ticking sometimes disturbed the slumbers of its custodian and his wife so that it was stopped at night and started again in the morning.....*

*"I cannot tell how the truth may be  
I say the tale as 'twas told to me."*

*Mr Courtauld has in later times relieved us of all uncertainty, and there is now no excuse for want of punctuality because all can know the correct time. The mechanism of this clock illumines it during the varied hours of darkness throughout the year, and chimes the quarters, and strikes the hours sufficiently loud to be heard at the most distant parts of the town.*

*In July, 1847, when the Railway was in course of construction, we had a Parliamentary Election, and Mr David Waddington, Chairman of Directors of Eastern Counties' Railway, was a candidate, in conjunction with Mr Quintin Dick, one of our old Members: it was owing to his connection with the Railway that a great many Maldon electors found work thereon at one guinea per week as labourers, these were called "Waddington's guinea pigs". At this election Waddington was returned at the head of the poll, and Quintin Dick, the old Conservative Member had to give place to Lennard, thje Liberal. Much flagrant bribery took place, but as I shall refer to Parliamentary Elections later on I will leave this matter until then. ....*

Probably it was due to this political vent that Maldon had such an imposing station built, whilst Witham the main line junction had a poor one. On October 2nd, 1848, the Railway was opened, and I was a passenger to Braintree and back. I believe also a member of this Association went that day to Braintree Fair. Originally the long platform was completely covered in by glass roofing, but the bursting of an engine boiler utterly destroyed it, and portions of the glass were picked up long distances away. Some may ask "Did we have Excursions in those times?" "Yes, we did." May I give you my experience. When peace was proclaimed at the close of the Crimean War there were great rejoicings in London, and an excursion train ran from Maldon about six in the morning: we were stopped, shunted, left on a siding here and there, and finally our carriages, otherwise cattle trucks with seats, reached Shoreditch about eleven o'clock. Our train was timed to return at twelve, midnight; We started about three a.m. and reached Maldon about half-past seven. It was in that War that the memorable Charge at Balaclava occurred, led by the Earl of Cardigan, and immortalised by Tennyson. Let me say I once had the honour of a personal visit to the Earl, and on a piece of blotting paper, in his library when I interviewed him, he sketched and described to me the incidents of that charge.

The Police Force in the Forties and early Fifties was not very numerous. I think we had three, one was constable and gaoler, "old" Stephen Clarke, the others followed their daily occupations except when roused by the call of duty, so that petty thefts and nocturnal offences were not uncommon. I was coming down High Street very early one morning in the gloom which precedes dawn, on fishing bent, when I saw three gentlemen actively engaged in adding a coat of tar to the newly painted, grained and varnished shutters of a prominent and worthy citizen's house. I am afraid the mischief inherent in boyhood was strong in myself, for I held my tongue and never divulged who these industrious gentlemen were. Not very many years ago I mentioned this incident to one of the trio, who though much my senior was a personal friend. I cannot repeat what he told me, it was too warm. Political bias probably accounted for the red-hot phraseology of his speech. In the vigilance of the present day these industrious gentlemen would have been disturbed in their work and possibly confronted with the "powers that be".

The duties of our present worthy Recorder are incomparably lighter than in the days of Mr. Walford, the then Recorder, thanks to the Summary Jurisdiction and other Acts. In my early days I have seen as many as three cart loads of prisoners brought over from Chelmsford whence they had been committed for trial till our next Borough Quarter Sessions, and on these occasions there were quite as many men who then, as also at our Petty Sessions now, were ready to leave their work and idle away their time in the precincts of the Court.

to be cont'd

The first Governor of the Bank of Scotland (founded in 1695) was an Englishman named John Holland from Colchester?

## A Baltic Diary - 1919 - Part 3

### My Seven Months in the Baltic (cont'd)

Peace day was kept in style by the Baltic Force - an extra to of rum for the men & a day's holiday the former being enjoyed most I believe. During firing practices of July 20th a Bolshevik airman came over but when he discovered he made a new target he quickly retired. During the railway strike in England things in the Baltic were terrible: no food could be got up to us & the mails which generally came every Thursday did not arrive so we had to be content on bully beef & bread. On July 28th one of our submarines failed to return from patrol & as the enemy submarines had been very active during the week she was given up for lost. On July 29th our aeroplanes & seaplanes carried out an allday bombing expedition on Kronstadt & caused severe damage to their docks, all our machines returning safely. During the night of July 29th & 30th another successful bombing raid was made, one of our machines however crashed while landing the pilot being badly bruised. On the 30th Liet Agar who was awarded the V. C. for sinking a Bolshevik cruiser last year made another attempt on a destroyer missing her with his only torpedos. He got in closer & swept the decks with machine gun fire. On July 31st a Regatta was held in Biorke Sound the Delhi being an easy winner by 11 points. At the beginning of August some Esthonian boats were out laying mines & on return to harbour they had lost the position of the minefield so no boats were allowed in or out until the sweepers discovered them which was the same day. On August 4th a small steamer was captured trying to get to Kronstadt with stores etc. On August 5th



the Delhi proceeded to Reval with despatches & mails. However at 8 o'clock we received the signal to say that 2 enemy Battleships & 2 large Destroyers were out so dropping the mail as quickly as possible we returned in a terrible thunder storm at 25 knots to Biorco to support the remaining ships as the Delhi was the biggest & most powerful boat of the Baltic Fleet.

By the time the Delhi got to Biorco the enemy had retired not even touching our patrols. On August the 6th the patrols sighted a Bolshevik submarine & dropped 7 depth charges on her. Oil had been rising for about 5 days when she was officially reported as sunk thus leaving the Bolsheviks only 2 left. On August 8th our seaplanes on patrol saw oil patches in the Bolshevik mined area & after dropping bombs on it more oil was seen to rise & as the submarines had been fairly quiet it was presumed that she had run into her own minefields thus two submarines were lost in one week. On the afternoon of Aug 6th a large Finnish seaplane crashed in the wood, the occupants which were 3 all being terribly injured 2 of them succumbing later from their injuries. At the end of July the weather began to change from hot to cold the change being so sudden that many men caught nasty colds. At the beginning of August it had started to hail & on Aug 6th the seaplane patrol had to return owing to the snow. On Aug 7th discontent started onboard owing to shortage of food, no hospital ship in case of a big action & also the lack of warm clothing, so on Aug 8th sheepskin coats for the coming winter were demanded. On Aug 9th 7 C.M.B.'s arrived from Osea Island but the weather hindered their mindelaying operations. On Aug 12th 2 Camels & 2 seaplanes started on a bombing raid but as one of the Camels was rising she seemed to turn over in mid-air & crashed to the ground; the pilot was killed instantly his machine gun being driven right through his head. About

5 minutes afterwards one of the seaplanes was seen to be in difficulties & to crash into the sea. By means of the C.M.B.'s the pilot & observer were rescued after climbing to the top of their plane. The remaining Camel & seaplane however carried out a bombing raid on Kronstadt which started a fire which lasted 4 days. They did not return unscathed however as the Camel was hit 8 times by their anti-aircraft fire. On Aug 14th a Bolshevik mine was discovered alongside "Delhi", by a risky manœuvre our motor boat managed to get it in tow but when nearing the entrance to the harbour it broke adrift where it blew up on the shore. On Aug 16th all the destroyers returned to England having been relieved by others Aug 17-18th. At 12.30 early morning 6 C.M.B.'s & 6 air machines left for an attack on Kronstadt, at a quarter to 1 the "Delhi" left harbour & also proceeded to Kronstadt, our airmen started the operations & as soon as the first bomb dropped the 1st C.M.B. after sinking the destroyer on patrol entered the harbour, the second C.M.B. fired both torpedoes at a Bolo Battleship when only 30 yds from her. The ship must have been hit in a vital spot as she blew to pieces, the C.M.B. also being blown up by the concussion, this explosion was plainly seen from the deck of the "Delhi", also the aircraft barrage & bursting bombs, the Delhi being anchored just outside the mined area. The result of the "Suicide Attack" as it was known was the battleship "Petrovavalosk" sunk, hit by two torpedoes, "Andrei Porvozzanni" torpedoed but placed in dry dock two hours after the operation, Cruiser "Bogatyr" sunk, Submarine Depot ship sunk, Destroyer Leader on patrol sunk. Our casualties in the above attack were 4 C.M.B.'s missing, 2 of these were last seen under heavy gunfire from Kronstadt forts, one was blown up & one was last seen on fire. Liet Reed, a Commander of one of the surviving C.M.B.'s was brought

onboard us mortally wounded from shrapnel wounds in the head, he died aboard the quarterdeck of the Delhi. Eight men were killed & 8 missing were the official casualties given. The aeroplanes returned to Bionka unharmed with the exception of one Camel which crashed, the pilot however being unharmed. The Bolshevik casualties were never disclosed to us. The damage done by our aircraft includes 2 oil tanks destroyed, a number of steam launches destroyed and an oil transport damaged.

~~~~~ to be continued

#### THAT SEAPLANE BOTTLE.....

Observant visitors to the Osea Exhibition during 1999 will have spotted the picture of an unfamiliar seaplane. Bob Wallwork had offered a bottle of Burgundy as a prize to anyone who could name it (the seaplane that is!).

For many weeks, no-one had a clue until Mr Eckhart, a Dutchman living in Woodford Green, came forward with the manufacturer's name of Breguet, of French and Belgian design. It flew from Osea Island between 1917 and 1920. The handing-over ceremony was quite modest, with Bob feeling very pleased that at least someone had been able to trace the answer; the bottle changed hands unopened.

#### WANTED

*Help in gathering and assembling articles and snippets of news for the Penny-Farthing. Tony F intends to retire from the editorial team and Len B will be pleased to hear from those willing to assist in any way...e.g. assembling relevant articles of local interest, and historical nature.*

~~~~~  
Views expressed are those of the individual contributors.  
VP Productions, 44 Fambridge Road, Maldon, Essex.  
~~~~~

## Maldon District Museum Association

----- Registered Charity 301302 -----  
President - Miss Joyce Allingham  
Vice President - Mr I. J. Barrell

### Committee - to A.G.M. 2001

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

Vice-Chairman ..... Tony Tullett.....

Hon. Secretary (Acting)....  
Cherry Ponty.....

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

Membership Sec..... Colin Barrell.....

Committee..... Penny Cook.....

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

Committee..... Ray Brewster.....

Committee..... Molly Middleton.....

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

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

Co-opted..... Colin Barbrook.....

-----  
Curatorial Adviser.... Nick Wickenden Esq  
-----

Museum Reception Telephone No.. (01621) 842688  
(Answerphone when museum unattended)

Correspondence to:  
Maldon District Museum Association,  
'The Museum in the Park'  
47, Mill Road, Maldon, Essex. CM9 5HX.

E258.2002.2.21



*Cover picture is of a 1932 'Portadyne' Wireless Set, with 5 Mullard Valves, and mains powered. A red label states-*

**SUPPLIED BY  
C.O. CATER AMIEE  
RADIO CONSULTANT  
THE RED SHOP  
MALDON & BURNHAM  
PHONE 274**

*Mr Bright's father bought it from the 'Red Shop' in the High Street and when a valve failed later it was easier to transfer to the Maldon Wireless Relay system, based in Mill Road, -- and that's another story.*

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