

Issue 23

Winter 2000

THE PENNY FARTHING

The Newsletter of Maldon District Museum Association



The Museum in the Park

The Chairman reports.....

As the Millenium Year nears its close this is an appropriate moment to look back at the highs and lows of the Museum's 2000 season; there have been wild swings in attendance figures, from the record-breaking late Spring Bank-Holiday to days, including one Sunday, when visitors have been scarce indeed. Both extremes present problems to our gallant band of Stewards who have coped well with the situation on hand. In addition, sudden illness, extremely adverse weather, and the petrol blockade have all presented their particular difficulties and have resulted in the very occasional necessity of leaving the Museum unopened. All this having been said, we have for the vast majority of the time provided the opening hours as advertised, which is particularly important for those people who are coming any distance expecting to visit us.

Next year it is planned to open every Bank Holiday Monday during the season and on some mornings during July and August if the availability of Stewards allows, and early indications are that this will be possible. For the moment the Stewards can take a well-earned rest until next March when there will be a series of meetings and visits leading up to our planned opening on Friday April 6th.

If anyone wishes to continue to help during the closed season do please contact the lead Committee Member as listed below, remembering too, that Secretarial help is required both in connection with general correspondence, and Stewarding for next year.

It only remains to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a successful New Year

Sincerely,

(Paddy Lacey)

Secretarial helpChairman: (01621) 828001
DisplaysOrganiser, Judy Tullett - 858690
Accessions/Catalogueing.....Organiser, Penny Cook - 852511
Technical Organiser (and occasional heavy lifting team) -
Mike Bennett - 854659

Thanks to all Stewards

When the Stewarding season ended in late October Paddy, on behalf of the Association, sent "Thank You" letters to all those who staffed the kiosk during 2000. He sent with it a modest questionnaire which invited those same Stewards to declare their preferences for 2001, but we learn that there are others willing to serve who have not been asked because we did not know. Please, if you are one such prospect or know of another, do tell a Committee Member or drop a line to Paddy a.s.a.p.

~~~~~16271000~~~~~



V.E. DAY 1945

At least one of our Members has scarcely changed, and whilst several others (non-members) are still recognisable, their whereabouts are mostly unknown. Anyone care to comment?

~~~~~


Our Displays Officer reports...

Camera Exhibition -

We were very pleased, at short notice, to be able to display a marvellous private collection of cameras and photographic equipment spanning more than a hundred years; it has proved to be a very popular display this season, coupled with our own collection of photographs of Victorian and Edwardian Maldon notables, plus information on past professional photographers and their studios. This has provided yet another insight into the history of our little Town, and our display was finished off with a lovely collection of old Town photographs lent to us by the Maldon Society. We hope that many of our Members were able to come and see this exhibition in particular, as we will be dismantling it during our closed season. If you did miss it you missed a treat, but perhaps we will be able to borrow it again in the future.

Next Season in the Museum -

A big change is occurring in Room 8 -the John Sadd Room- but I am not giving away too much information at this stage; suffice it to say that it will be different! Room 9 is also seeing a few changes. The Margery Allingham Society is moving to another space within the Museum and a host of smaller exhibits will be moving into room 9 - Maldon Swimming Club memorabilia, medals, coins, and more. The school room will still be here under the watchful eye of our Headmaster, dishing out discipline to a small boy who may have missed the 'bus, or not done his homework - who knows?

Our story of Bread/Baking exhibition downstairs will be with us for another season with one or two additions, although we may be missing our 'Baker'; rumour has it that he is retraining during the winter months to become a 'Joiner' working in room 9. Look out for him and say 'hello'.

We should also have some outdoor displays set up in our courtyard ; our team (this translates as Mike and John) have worked very hard laying paving stones etc: during the summer. Also Mike and Geoff have been creating a workshop in which to make their mess! (Sorry, boys!) and of course produce the masterpieces we all admire in the Museum.

Now we are closed the hard work for the Displays Team really begins, but I must admit that we do have a great deal of fun too!

Come and see what we have been up to - NEXT SEASON!

Judy Tullett

111100

The original Maldon Town Clock - A timely end

In our Spring News-Letter No.20, we gave a fairly detailed history of the Town Clock to date. In brief, it dated from 1881, was up-dated in 1971, and several of the original parts, but without the faces, were to be found stored in the Museum archives; this was satisfactory just as long as there was sufficient room to spare.

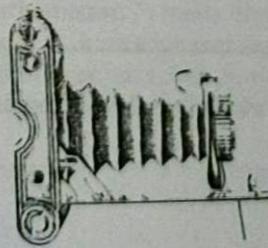
With the subsequent loss of rooms at 'St. Cedds' the heavy cable drums, cables and levers were moved to the store behind the Museum itself but even that became somewhat congested, and at a Committee Meeting in mid-summer it was decided that, like the copy charts, the clock must go!....but where?..... The answer came in the Museum of Power at Langford, with the support of their Terry Fleet, and within a few days the entire clock stock (less faces) was moved there.

It is hoped that, in due course, Terry may be able to complete and reassemble the complete kit so.....Watch that space!

ROOM TO(i)LET

Ever since we adopted the 'Museum in the Park' the old Toilet Block has been something of an enigma - not only was it full of items too good to throw out, others were too shabby to keep, yet we were reluctant to dispose of anything....'in case'!

Now Mike and his team have at last solved the problem by turning it into an excellent workshop, fully lined and floored, complete with benches, electricity, and (their own) power tools. Somewhere to work!...and the items stored there?....Much of it 'dumped'; the best of it moved elsewhere, at least for the time being.



DEREK MALDON FITCH

In the last issue of the "Penny Farthing" we referred to Derek Maldon Fitch's continued interest in the town and promised to comment further on his unusual Christian name.

It goes back to 1888 when Ald. E.A. Fitch, being Mayor, was presented by his wife with a son - a unique co-incidence in the town's history - and decided to christen him Thomas Maldon in recognition of the occasion.

The Town Corporation also decided to mark the event in a fitting manner, and commissioned C. & S. Finch, Jewellers, then at No.96 High Street, to make a silver cradle. This is shown in our accompanying picture....

It was made and duly presented to the Mayor by his deputy, Ald. J. Sadd at a ceremony in the Moot Hall on 26th October 1888, together with an illuminated address, in the presence of everyone who was anybody in the Maldon of that time. The "Essex Independent" in its next edition faithfully recorded the names of everybody present and every word that was spoken.

Thomas Maldon Fitch had a son in 1916, whom he christened Thomas Henry Maldon, and who died the following year. A second son, born at Hazeleigh in 1922 was the Derek Maldon Fitch we know today. Sadly he has no son to continue the tradition and it seems the 'Maldon' story ends here....

But not quite; for the cradle still exists and is in the custody of Derek's younger sister Barbara, and perhaps one day - who knows? - Maldonians may be permitted to view it once again.



OBITUARY - MRS JUNE PRIME

June was born in Romford of a Galleywood family. She later worked at Crompton Parkinson as a tracer, and there met husband-to-be John. Both were barge enthusiasts and complete with their own family eventually sailed into Maldon and moored at the Hythe Quay which became their home until, spotting a nearby house, they bought it and made Maldon their permanent home, much to the benefit of the town and several organisations.

The Maldon Society is about forty years old and ten years ago John and June were amongst members who set about its regeneration. Areas of responsibility were shared, one of June's being to arrange the speakers for the monthly meetings and we all appreciated the extraordinary range of subjects she managed from Victorian Music Hall to the History of Shipbuilding in Maldon; from 19th century fashion to the founding of Crompton Parkinson; it all helped to build the membership to its current healthy level.

June has been a strong supporter of The Maldon Society, The Archaeological Group and the Maldon District Museum Association. As an experienced photographer she was involved (for example) in the recent cellar survey and was not averse to crawling around in inaccessible corners, photographing, and later illustrating her findings for use in "Underground Maldon". With a keen interest in the Museum, when her Mother died June offered relevant items from her effects to help create the WWII room which has since drawn much interest.

One of June's greatest contributions locally is the part she has played in the historical photographic archive of Maldon which she helped John to compile from photographs owned by the Maldon Society, the Museum Association, and others. John in fact produced something over 2,000 negatives and June catalogued and referenced them all. As a result of their efforts, earlier this year the Maldon Society received a Lottery grant which enabled the creation of an 'interactive computerised archive' for public access in the Maeldune Heritage Centre. So nearly ready but, sadly, June was not to see it in place.

June was involved quietly in more than most of us realised and will be greatly missed in many ways, summed up perhaps in the words of Pam Wright at June's funeral service - "Had I not joined the Maldon Society I might never have met June - and my life would have been the poorer. Had June not joined, the whole culture of Maldon would have been the poorer".

SCHOOLS REPORT

from Cherry Ponti

Another successful round of school visits this year, mainly from Primary Schools in Maldon. However, approximately ninety children from St. Mary's C of E School, Shenfield, trooped around our Museum in less than two hours. As a result we intend to extend our publicity to schools which can do a half-day trip as they did, reducing coach costs by visiting not only the Museum but the Barges and Knot Man as well, with a picnic lunch in the park before returning to school for the normal exit bell.

The ages of the children have ranged from five to nine years with class sizes of approximately thirty. Our aim is to give the children maximum viewing and opportunities to ask questions, which they certainly do. There is a testing one for Stewards - "What is the oldest object in the Museum?". Answer below.

They are also very good at spotting the article without a label; if one doesn't know, one should always reply "What do you think it is?" or "What do you think it is used for?".

Most children are well behaved, whilst teachers and helpers control the more lively ones. Our Museum is ideal for reception classes, or as an introduction to Museums. A short thirty minutes visit, combined with a visit to the Prom doesn't overload them but gives some focus of interest, especially if linked to a current school topic - e.g. water or laundry linked to the Victorian room with mangle and washboard and black irons.

During the summer and autumn terms Penny Cook and I visited Wentworth School, Viking Road, Maldon, where a number of Museum exhibits/items were shown to the children, many of which they held, wore, or touched (i.e. "hands on!"). We set some questions and asked them to name the oldest items or to guess their functions. We ended with each child ringing hand-bells as ringing was a Victorian pastime in an age where there were no Televisions or Play Stations. Penny and I both enjoyed ourselves and judging by the "Thank You" letters so did they.

Without assistance from School Stewards such visits would not be possible; often schools make requests with less than a week's notice, and Stewards have been extremely flexible and anxious to help whenever possible. To them - "Thank you for your support and I look forward to your help in 2001".

To end on a festive note - a school party whilst visiting the Museum was shown the Victorian Christmas Cards and a discussion arose about the term 'Xmas'. Up piped a small voice "Please Mrs Cook, I know all about that. I've got it!. He shows a skin lesion on his arm - eczema!.

~~~~~ Answer - A Mammoth's Tooth ~~~~~

*p.s...Bob Wallwork was much missed from the schools team this summer ..Cherry P.*

## EDUCATION IN MALDON

*There were Grammar Schools in 1408, and in 1608 Ralph Breeder, a local haberdasher and Alderman left £300 'to maintain a schoolmaster to teach a Grammar School in the town. By 1621 it was established under its first master John Danes. Danes died in 1639 and does not appear to have been replaced for eleven years. Others were subsequently appointed - Robert Gouge (1650 - 55); and John Hatt (1655 - 95).*

*The school was on the upper floor of St. Peter's Church. In 1664 part of the tower collapsed but the school still continued in the ruins. Thomas Plume later rebuilt the tower, with an additional two storeys in brick. The lower floor housed the school; the upper the Plume Library of 6600 books.*

*In the period up to 1769 known masters included William Scarrow, Francis Thompson, William Harris and Robert Hay.*

*With legal problems the school had an uncertain future until about 1834 when it was re-established, but meanwhile education of the poor was beginning to flourish and two schools emerged - the 'British Schools' controlled by Non-conformist Churches, and the 'National Schools' by the Church of England.. About 600 children were thereby receiving some form of education and the 'Grammar School' was no longer the mainstay of education in Maldon. Smaller schools also appeared but not all survived.*

*In 1833 Government assistance to education commenced with teacher training and certificated teachers appeared. From the 'British' and 'National' schools in 1841 'Mechanics Institutes' were founded but failed in 1882 due to lack of interest. In 1870 the Education Act was designed to ensure that all children had at least a basic education, and in 1876 it became compulsory; in 1891...free! The County Council assumed overall control in 1902.*

*From 1895 the Grammar School acquired a new lease of life and the roll grew under R.L.Ryland when much reorganisation took place. A new school building was opened in 1907. However, by 1911 it was £1300 in debt and closed in 1913/14, to be re-opened in 1914 under Sydney G. Deed who was Headmaster until just before the second world war; the Grammar School had meanwhile become a much respected local institution and in 1932 had opened a new Hall and Library Wing. At the same time the 'Elementary' (British & National) Schools also settled into place.*



## MALDON PHOTOGRAPHERS

Apologies!... We have blundered!... and thank our observant member for noting that we omitted a well-known and comparatively recent photographer from our list; namely Cyril Osborn of 112 High Street, whose wife was a very popular infants' teacher at All Saints' School, whilst members of his family are still to be found in the District. The elders among us may remember his nick-name as 'Bogey' but where that came from, and why, we have no idea. Any takers?

## MALDON'S WINDMILLS

In 1826 there were two Smock Windmills in Maldon; one stood near Fullbridge in the Parish of St. Peter. It had three pairs of stones and was advertised as being of timber construction with six floors; it produced flour much of which was for the London trade, being conveniently near shipping. It had gone out of production by 1841.

The second was Herbert's Mill in St. Mary's Parish from which the name Mill Road is derived. Erected in 1825 it was sold in 1842 to a miller working in Stebbing. Unfortunately the main section of the mill fell from its carriage during the loading procedure and it had to be dismantled and transported in pieces.

The early demise of windmills locally was due to the vigorous competition from the very efficient water mill at Beeleigh with its ten pairs of stones.

## Shove-Groat or Shovel Board

*A game much in favour in Shakespeare's day, in which a groat or an Edicard shilling was flicked by hand along the polished wooden surface. These Edicard shillings were particularly broad and when worn smooth by age and use were much sought after by players. The boards were sometimes known as 'Edicard' shovel-boards thus in "The Merry Wives of Windsor" 'Slender' complains of having had stolen 'seven groats in mill sixpences and two Edicard shovel-boards'. The game has survived, little changed and certainly with no loss of enjoyment to the present day, in the form of the well-known and ever popular "Shove Halfpenny"*

## A Long-Awaited Occasion

by Monica Bayley

For a long time we of the Essex Branch Western Front Association (WFA) had wished to commemorate the life and death of Driver Benjamin Cobey 75226 of 37th Battery Royal Field Artillery, killed in action on August 26th 1914. Ben Cobey's story has already been told in the "Penny-Farthing" issue 22, Autumn 2000.

The 'Long Awaited Occasion' materialised on a fine autumn morning, on Saturday September 23rd, when the Essex WFA joined Maldon District Museum officers and members in a short ceremony of remembrance, and presentation of a plaque and picture recalling the action in which three Victoria Crosses were awarded. Ben Cobey took a leading part in this action and had he survived would have been eligible for the same award. He died, and was soon forgotten, without any formal recognition. We can find no memorial bearing his name except that of 'La Ferte sous Jouarre' where 4,000 men of the British Expeditionary Force are commemorated, all of them with no known grave.

Ben Cobey was a Maldon boy born at No.39 Church Street, and we know that some of Ben's family moved to Corbett Street, Walthamstow, but we do not know yet if Ben moved with them. Other Cobey's however remained around Maldon and Heybridge, so it is reasonable to assume that he is, at last, remembered in a part of Maldon which he knew well.

We were delighted to have with us for the ceremony Mr F. & Mrs R. Cobey, of Chelmsford, certainly related to Ben and very interested in family history. They had known that "Benjamin Cobey" was included in their family tree but they knew nothing about him and were astonished to learn details of his life, although saddened at its brevity and heroic ending at only 19 years of age.

We had got to know Rosemary well during telephone conversations we had with her, and it was good to meet them at last with their son and daughter-in-law. The Mayor of Maldon, Cllr Peter Roberts; Mrs Julia Peel, Chairman of MDC Leisure Services; with other officers and friends from both Town and Museum, were there. Dr Paddy Lacey, Museum Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Maldon and District Museum in the courtyard behind the main building, and Mrs Mari Simpson (Chairman Essex WFA) spoke, briefly explaining the reason for the presentation and thanking the Museum Committee for their cooperation. The plaque and picture were unveiled by Mr Roy Little, himself a retired Gunner who had been so helpful in contacting Woolwich and obtaining the picture, and copies of it for the Cobey family. Roy handed both plaque and picture into the care and safe keeping of the Museum -- all necessary paperwork was completed later and during the winter break both plaque and picture will be permanently fixed inside the museum buildings.



After a two minutes silence John Bailey (Memorials Officer) spoke the exhortation "They shall grow not old...etc". The Last Post and Reveille were sounded most beautifully by Bandsman Ron Brewer of the local Salvation Army. The notes were heard all along the Promenade where many people stopped to listen.

The occasion seemed to call for a special touch and John Bailey stood up and recited from memory A.E.Housman's poem....

"Here dead we lie, because we did not choose  
To live and shame the land from which we sprung;  
Life to be sure, is nothing much to lose,  
But young men think it is, and we were young".

Rosemary Cobey then joined Roy Little and Mari Simpson and gave a short speech, very appropriate to the day and although 86 years since the event was very poignant, adding how happy they all were to be with us this Saturday. The event ended with refreshments kindly provided by the Museum.

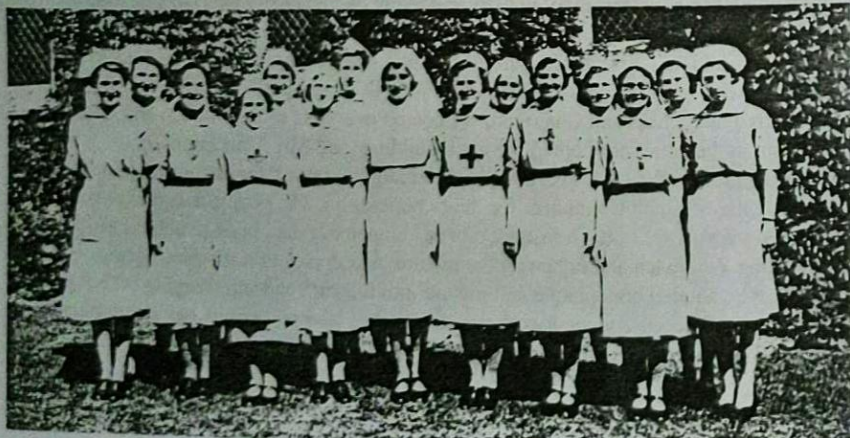
I have received, since then, a letter from Rosemary, as follows.....

"The article I wrote for the Church magazine was very well received and several people have commented on how poignant the story was. The St.Andrews Church Brownie Pack have used it to learn about what happens in war and why we still hold Remembrance Day dear. I think they are now more aware of why they take part in the Remembrance Day Church Parade and I hope this will enable another generation to remember the sacrifices that were made for the prosperity and freedom we know today".

~~~~~*That says it all! Thank You, Rosemary*~~~~~

WHO'S WHO, WHAT & WHEN??

Replies, please, to 'Penny-Farthing'



Co-op Movements in Essex

by Stan Newens M.P.

The Maldon & Heybridge Co-operative Society was founded late in 1873 following meetings at the "Welcome Sailor" Inn, Maldon and the "Queen's Head", Heybridge on the initiative of employees of Maldon Ironworks.

The first quarterly balance sheet (17.3.1874) recorded Shareholders' capital of £139.15s. 0d; Sales were £971.12s. 4d. After some difficulties attributed to deficiencies of its storekeepers leading to losses, it began to progress and by 1877 was doing trade of £60-£70 per week. The quarterly balance sheet (12.12.1887) showed sales of £825.18s. 4d; the number of members was 204; and dividend of 1/3d in the £ to members. and 7.1/2d to non-members.

By 1883 membership was 356, annual sales £6,443. By 1895 there were 717 members and a dividend of 2/6d in the £ was paid.

~~~~~P.J.L091100~~~~~

**MALDON'S BAKERS**

*from our year-2000 display*

Bakers have been a feature of the Town since its very beginnings with lists of those practicing their skills of the trade existing since 1791. Numerically they reached a peak in 1881 when there were 17 bakeries; 7 in the High Street, 4 in North Street, 3 in Wantz Road, and 1 each in Market Hill, Fullbridge, and Spital Road. One of the most interesting was that in North Street belonging to Sarah Ann and Caroline Nethercoat who, in 1851, were described as Ship's Biscuit Manufacturers and Bakers. A list of bakers in 1896 is as follows:-

|                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Thomas Alexander De'ath,  | 18, North Street |
| Walter Washington De'ath, | 7, Fullbridge    |
| John Emberson . . . .     | 54, Spital Road  |
| Ebenezer Finch,           | 32, North Street |
| John Herridge Gill,       | 55, Wantz Road   |
| George David Handley,     | 87, High Street  |
| Henry Handley,            | 14, North Street |
| Samuel Lewin,             | 135, High Street |
| Hepzibah Matthams,        | 80, High Street  |
| Robert Edward Tew,        | 103, High Street |
| Henry Ward,               | 179, High Street |
| Sarah Wilding             | 35, Market Hill  |



## What News of Esperanto?

How many of our members remember "Esperanto", the intended international language which seems in recent years to have gone very quiet?

We are in possession of a booklet, fairly well preserved, and fitting neatly into the shirt pocket; it is entitled "A Key to Esperanto". A magnifying glass may be useful. The first page says it all.....

"Esperanto is the International language, created by Dr. L. L. Zamenhof, of Warsaw, and first published in 1887. It is designed for use as the neutral, second language for everybody, *not* to replace the national languages.

At Montevideo, on 10th December 1954, the General Conference of U.N.E.S.C.O. accepted the following resolution:

*The General Conference, having discussed the Report of the Director-General on the International Petition in favour of Esperanto,*

- (1) takes note of the results attained by Esperanto in the field of international intellectual relations and in the rapprochement of the peoples of the world;*
- (2) recognises that these results correspond with the aims and ideals of U.N.E.S.C.O.;*
- (3) authorises the Director-General to follow current development in the use of Esperanto in education, science and culture, and to this end to co-operate with the Universal Esperanto Association in matters concerning both organisations;*
- (4) takes note that several Member States have announced their readiness to introduce or expand the teaching of Esperanto in their schools and higher educational establishments, and requests these Member States to keep the Director-General informed of the results attained in this field.*

This booklet contains the whole grammar and a vocabulary sufficiently large for daily use.

The grammar can be learned in a very short time. Exceptions and irregularities do not exist"

.....and etc page 2.

*We shall be interested in up-to-date information on Esperanto and any member or friend who still uses or has knowledge of it.*

## A Baltic Diary - 1919 - Part 5

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

*Our food was now getting from bad to worse only bread & suet available. On Oct 15th the "Delhi" took part in a violent bombardment of Krasnia Goroka. On arrival we were met by most of the Esthonia fleet & after a 114 hours waiting the Esthonians opened fire: it was not long before the Bolsheviks returned our fire and the "Delhi" seemed to be the centre of attraction as all their 12" shells were dropping near or around her. The "Delhi's" 6" guns were causing damage onshore as their firing was growing weaker. Extra blankets were served out to us now but still no signs of the much needed winter gear & food: the food question was now quite serious & it only needed a spark to upset things as the butter onshore was now 10/6d a lb. The result of our bombardment was that one battery was completely destroyed & many troops killed. Our airmen however finished the day with 9 air attacks made in reliefs at times flying so low that they were able to fire their machine guns on the retreating Bolsheviks: the Esthonians managed to advance within a few miles of Krasnia & its fall was expected daily.*

*On Oct 11th a Bolshevik Cruiser was reported in Kaporia Bay so we left harbour at 25 knots in a lovely shower of sleet & closed up for action. After searching from one end of the Bay & seeing no signs of her we again returned to our base. On Oct 12th a 'white' flag reported flying over Kronstadt caused much excitement onboard. Our airmen however reported that it wa not a white flag, the Bolsheviks had now started to destroy some of the guns in Krasnia Goroka & its fall was expected at any minute. On Oct 13th one of our seaplanes was shot down from a height of 4,000 ft: strange to say however both the occupants escaped unhurt, leaving the machine a total wreck. On Oct 20th the Esthonians quarrelled with the*



North West Army & the "Delhi" after firing a few shells at the fortress returned to base owing to snowstorms. The middle of Oct now with bombardments nearly every day, snow, & we living on bread & suet. On Oct 26-27-28 and 30th violent bombardments were carried out by "Delhi" & the Monitor "Erebus" on Krasnia Goroka our fire being heavily returned. Our aircraft assisted us by spotting for us; these bombardments were carried out while the "Delhi" was anchored. The "Erebus" with her guns assisted by destroyers was close inland leaving only the "Delhi" & "Dunedin" visible to the gunners of Krasnia Goroka who either must have been well-trained men or in charge of German officers as their shells dropped round or near the "Delhi", made one blink & wonder where the next one was going. During these bombardments our searchlights were smashed to pieces, doors blown out & our aeroplane platform was a complete wreck. During the covering of this heavy bombardment it was planned that the Estonians should advance and capture Krasnia Goroka but their quarrel with the Russia North West Army hindered them so much that the Bolsheviks advanced & drove them back 30 miles: thus Krasnia Goroka which meant so much to them was safe, & the Bolsheviks advancing. All the effects of the Baltic Fleet's work was therefore disorder & except for small bombardments Krasnia Goroka never again came under the fire of the "Delhi". One cannot help thinking that we had plenty of things to cause discontent living on bread & jam & suet, and then to go out for 4 hours in the bitterly cold weather & under well-directed enemy fire of 12" guns, the "Delhi" only having 6" & then after all this trouble to hear that the Estonians had been driven back 30 miles, it must be remembered that England was not at war with the Bolsheviks. On Nov 2nd the discontent of the crew was noticed by the officers so the Captain read 'The Articles of War' out to us; this in itself caused more discontent. On Nov 4th during a heavy storm two Bolshevik destroyers were reported out so 4

Camels were sent up in a terrible wind to attack them. 2 hours later 2 Camels returned having done nothing to the enemy; the remaining two machines were never heard of again. On Nov 3rd we received news that a large food ship was on its way to us with food & warm clothing & was due at Bioroko on Nov 5th. Of course this good news put us in the best of spirits; however during the evening the news comes through that she had struck a mine off Copenhagen & gone down. We were then put on half rations, bully beef being served out every other day for a change of menu. About Nov 5th the harbour started freezing up & now we had our sheepskin coats served out to us. The weather conditions made it nearly impossible for the aeroplanes to go up & things in general were fairly quiet; however, the bitterly cold weather & bad food soon filled up the Hospital ship with illness. On Nov 7th a Bolshevik submarine fired 4 torpedoes at our patrols, all of them missing however. On Nov 8th a store ship arrived but with metal polish & emery paper & 4 men were put below for refusing to unload her. On Nov 9th while at Reval the crew were very anxious to get ashore & get some food; however after an hour after our arrival we had orders to return to Bioroko. The ship's company refused to get the ship ready for sea and a mutiny broke out. Marines were stationed all over the ship & destroyers in Reval harbour had their guns trained on us; the men refused to listen to the officers & threatened to throw the Captain overboard; they met in the Recreation Room & smoked & sang "I want to go home". However this did not touch the W/T & Signal Branch & we carried on our duties just the same, although we were in sympathy with the Seamen. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon news came through that a Store ship had arrived at Bioroko so on conditions that the Store ship came alongside the "Delhi" on her arrival there, the crew got ready for sea, the mutiny having lasted just 6 hours.

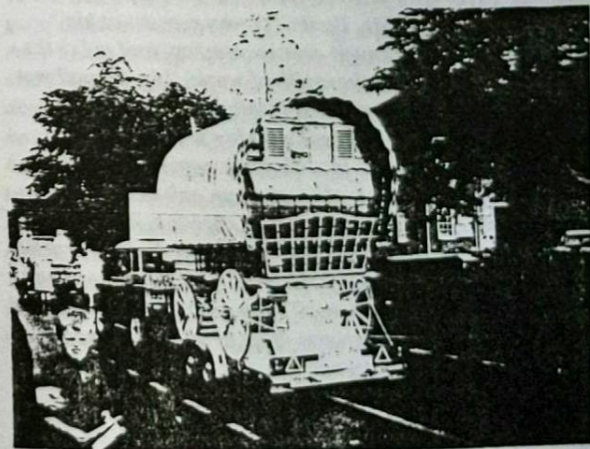


On arrival at Biorbo Nov 10th the food was taken aboard & everything was quite normal again except that the "Delhi's" seamen refused to bombard any Bolshevik positions again. this however was madness as duty is duty. The weather in the Baltic now was 20 degrees below freezing point & the harbour rapidly getting frozen over. During the end of Nov a thaw set in & most of the ice melted, thus we lost all hopes of getting home for Xmas. The Bolshevik destroyers were rather active then as 4 left Kronstaad & steamed towards Biorbo; however, they fell foul of our minefields & only one escaped. The total survivors from the other 3 amounting to 6. At Riga & Libau our ships were again in action this time against the Germans who were in occupation there. They were driven out after some trouble but 15 men were killed among our ships. The ice again started setting in so all the air machines were packed up ready for leaving. On Dec 8th the destroyers were relieved. On Dec 9th I had to fall sick & was in bed for 4 days just escaping pneumonia. The harbour then was one mass of ice & the ship like a ghost. On Dec 19th the evacuation of Biorbo commenced owing to the snow which in places was 8 to 10 inches thick; we found considerable trouble in getting out. On Dec 20th we left Biorbo for Reval; the temperature was now 5 degrees below zero & getting worse. Reval, we discovered was free from ice. Christmas Day was spent at Reval as best as the circumstances permitted; the temp was now 10 below zero & frostbite quite common. At dinner time the Admiral told us he hoped to sail for England before Jan 1., this being the best Christmas greeting of the day. On Dec 28th orders were received to return to England so, in company with two destroyers we sailed for Libau & then to Copenhagen; the passage from Libau to Copenhagen was very rough...  
...indeed & 4 motor launches were lost, a drifter which had been a tender to the Baltic Fleet & had a crew from the "Delhi" on board was lost with all hands during this passage. We arrived at Copenhagen on Dec 31st &

sailed for England on Jan 1st. Terrible weather was experienced in the North Sea & no hot food was obtainable owing to the galley breaking down. We arrived at Rosyth on Jan 3rd & sailed again for Devonport which was reached on Jan 4th having taken us a week to reach England. On Jan 4th the advance party went on 6 weeks leave & on the 5th the Admiral struck his flag & the remainder of the crew went on what I think a well deserved rest. The "Delhi" is now in the hands of the Dockyard & getting ready to escort the Prince of Wales on his trip to Australia.

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THE NAVAL SIGNAL from the ADMIRALTY and dated 2-1-20 reads...  
"The Board of Admty desire to convey to R.A. Sir W. Cowan & to the officers & men of the Baltic force now returning to England their marked approbation of the manner in which the work of the force has been performed. The Baltic force has during the past year cheerfully endured trying conditions and when occasion offered has attacked the enemy with the utmost gallantry. It has prevented destruction of States which have upheld the Allied cause & supported the forces of civilisation when menaced with anarchy & has worthily upheld the honour of the British Navy. This record is the more praiseworthy because it comes after the long previous strain of war at a time when other forces of the Crown have for the most part been enjoying a relaxation of effort. The Board's gratification is to be known to all concerned.



*FIND MIKE*  
in the High St  
at one of the  
*VICTORIAN*  
*SHOPPING*  
*EVENINGS*

\*\*\*\*\*  
*THURSDAY*  
7th and 14th  
*DECEMBER*  
6.30 p.m. to  
....9.30 p.m.



## Reminiscences of Richard Poole, Printer of Maldon

We continue with another excerpt of Richard Pooles reminiscences in 1902, beginning c.1825.....

### Part 4

*The celebrations of Guy Fawkes day were carried on without hindrance, notably in 1846, 1848, 1850, when the office of Mayor was for these years filled respectively by John Payne and Arthur Jennings Aiken, both of whom favoured these celebrations and declined to allow any interference. I once heard John Payne, when appealed to by the feeble representatives of law and order, say in his stentorian voice, "Let them enjoy themselves". We had fireworks in those days, more powder and less charcoal than in modern manufactures, they had plenty of "go" in them. I saw one squib rise, enter a bedroom through the glass, and heard it expend itself by explosion in the middle of a counterpane; that was considered 'mild fun'. I must confess I was its maker. I have heard it related of one bonfire, that Richard Pettit, originally a hair-dresser in High Street, but who afterwards cultivated the "Hilly Fields" adjacent to what is now called "Constitution Hill" and on which certain dilapidated buildings stood, when boys brought fuel for the fire he urged them on, saying "Bring some more, boys, bring some more"; next morning he discovered that he had unwittingly given permission to wreck some of his own sheds, for many posts, railings, and boards were missing.*

*In 1856 Maldon could boast of a Pawnbroker, and it was in this establishment that a fire broke out and spread to the two adjacent houses - the owner did not rebuild, but presented the site to All Saints' Church which is now enclosed by the iron railings and entrance gate into the High Street. I have heard the wish expressed that the remainder of the block had been burned down and the whole space thrown open to the church.*

*Referring to the Industries of the town I must first and foremost mention that of Mr. E. H. Bentall at Heybridge, which was in the Parliamentary Borough and therefore entitled to a place in these Memories. His "Broadshare" ploughs were then in great demand, and from my earliest recollections of Mr. Bentall (I was present at his marriage in All Saints' Church), his works continued ever increasing, and today the manufactures of that firm are known throughout the civilised world. Mr. Bentall was a gentleman of fine physique and manly bearing, of keen forethought and highly intellectual and inventive genius. When I was a boy and working with Mr. Youngman in the printing office, Mr. Bentall came in with some engravings of his "Broadshare", and after speaking of the work, he looked up at an oak beam which traversed the length of the building and called attention to its deflection, adding we should be crushed ere long unless it were attended to; next afternoon, to our surprise, two men brought an iron pillar, followed by other two with bricks, cement, stone cap, and lifting jack, and said "Master's coming". Mr. Bentall soon arrived and under his supervision and partly with his own hands, the pillar was fixed firmly as a support - to this day it is to me a pleasing monument to his memory.*

*In 1868 he was returned Member for Maldon by a majority of 153 over Mr. Sandford the sitting Member in the Parliament then recently dissolved. He spent the greater part of the hour from 3 to 4 o'clock on polling day in the quiet seclusion of my counting house not wishing to be disturbed (he and I were enjoying a cigar); he was sought many times during that time, but I did not reveal his whereabouts; shortly before four he walked into the street amidst the shouts and plaudits of his supporters, for, as it was open voting, all knew he was returned the new member for Maldon. I for many years had the great privilege of enjoying his friendship and hospitality, and to spend an evening with him was always to learn something. I was guest on his yacht "The Jullanar", which made so much stir in yachting circles when in the Solent; we went ashore at Cowes calling at a large nautical depot, the proprietor of which expressed a wish to go on board the yacht; Mr. Bentall invited him to sail to Ryde, and when he examined and admired the metal fittings Mr. Bentall replied, with some pride, "they were all made at Heybridge". His kind liberality towards charitable institutions was great, and it may be truly said he followed the injunction in the Sermon on the Mount, "let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth". One instance comes forcibly before me in which a Maldon lady asked me for my vote for Earlswood Asylum, and remarked Mr. Bentall had six votes, would I ask if they were disengaged; I reminded her it was only about a week before the election, I however wrote to him soliciting his votes and received the prompt and emphatic reply inside an envelope "Yes". The day prior to the election the lady was somewhat perturbed that his proxies had not been sent me, but I assured her Mr. Bentall had said "Yes", and that was sufficient; shortly afterwards he sent a message that he had voted at the head office and given my candidate 500 votes, which of course placed him at the head of the poll. A few days later in thanking him for his magnificence he quaintly replied "I hardly knew whether you pleaded most for the lady or the gent so I bought you the votes".*

*Another industry was that of Messrs John Sadd & Sons, whose timber business was conducted at Hill House, Market Hill, and at the bottom of Union Lane, where they had a large bonded yard for timber; lath-rending, sawing, &c., was also carried on. There was a large pond in which timber was constantly kept, and which pond I have good cause to remember; it, being adjacent to the tidal river, contained some good eels; I was fishing here with one foot on land and one on floating timber, I had a bite and failed to notice the timber gradually moving away from the side, so in I fell, and disappeared in deep water; fortunately I was seen by two companions who caught hold of me when I rose a second time, pulled me to land and afterwards told me "I had a narrow squeak", - but I caught the eel. After the railway was opened this industry was removed to more commodious wharves and buildings adjacent thereto. Messrs Courtauld then established a silk factory in the old buildings in Union Lane, but this did not continue many years. I ought here to mention the Maldon Iron Works, which although it does not rank in my early memories, yet its founder Joseph Warren, of Broad Street Green, does. He manufactured a plough, "The Goldhanger", which brought him into some prominence, and subsequently he*



removed to less imposing buildings on the site of which the Maldon Iron Works now stand.

At his decease the Company was formed and took over the business. The late Mr. Float, many years manager to the Company, was a boon companion of mine at the commencement of the fifties; several of us owned a boat, and in those days of no half-holidays, no early closing, no bank holidays, and shops open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., our recreation was limited to the early morning; we generally had to wait for Float, he was not too good at early rising; we often adopted the string-out-of-bedroom-window alarm, and when we did pull, his slumbers had to end; he at this time lodged with the Cottees at the Post Office in the High Street.

Maldon can claim two artists of note, viz. John Rogers Herbert, R.A., who in 1846 was commissioned to paint frescoes in both Houses of Parliament, and Robert Nightingale who was originally a house painter, apprenticed to Mr. Stannard, predecessor of Mr. Samuel Hawkes, in High Street. Leaving Mr. Stannard he studied in the Schools of Art and first devoted himself to portrait painting, added to which he was skilled in the early art of photography and practiced the Daguerreotype process. In the end of the fifties he had established a reputation for his animal and still-life pictures. John Ruskin said of one of his paintings "he had never seen better fur or feathers".

In 1867 when Mr. Henry Chaplin's "Hermit" won The Derby, he commissioned Nightingale to paint the horse life-size, for which he had a large fee, and the painting now hangs in the gallery of the great banqueting hall at Blankney. Referring to this painting, Sir G. Chetwynd in his "Racing Reminiscences" says "Nightingale was one of the very few good painters of a horse I ever saw. He would have earned a great name if he had shown more application in his work". He also received a commission to paint a pony for our present Queen, when Princess of Wales. I have in my house a specimen of his decorative art (a marbled mantelpiece) and also some of his best pictures, - animal life, still life, and fur and feathers.

Sir Edwin Landseer spent many of his early years at Beeleigh Grange, and I have heard my mother tell (for she was born in Beeleigh Abbey) how she and her brother played with him in the adjacent fields, in one of which the Lion Tree has since developed its growth in animal portraiture. She had for many years the painting of a dog given her by Landseer and I have a dim recollection of seeing it. I can but regret that in those very early years my artistic taste had made slow growth.

No memories of Maldon in the Forties and Fifties can be complete without mention of its Parliamentary Elections and with these I will close.

to be continued

**we nearly forgot....**



**GREETINGS & BEST WISHES**

to all our

**MEMBERS & FRIENDS**





# Maldon District Museum Association

Registered Charity 301362  
President - Miss Joyce Allingham  
Vice President - Mr L.F. Barrell

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

- Chairman.....Paddy Lacey.....
- Vice-Chairman ..... Tony Tullett.....
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- Hon. Treasurer..... Tony Tullett.....
- Membership Sec:..... Colin Barrell.....
- Committee..... Penny Cook.....
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- Committee..... Bob Wallwork.....

Curatorial Adviser....Nick Wickenden Esq

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