

Issue 3

August 1995

The Penny-Farthing

The Magazine of Maldon Museum Association



Get a friend
to join the
MMA -
Membership
Application
Form
on back of
this issue.

Permanent Home for Maldon Museum

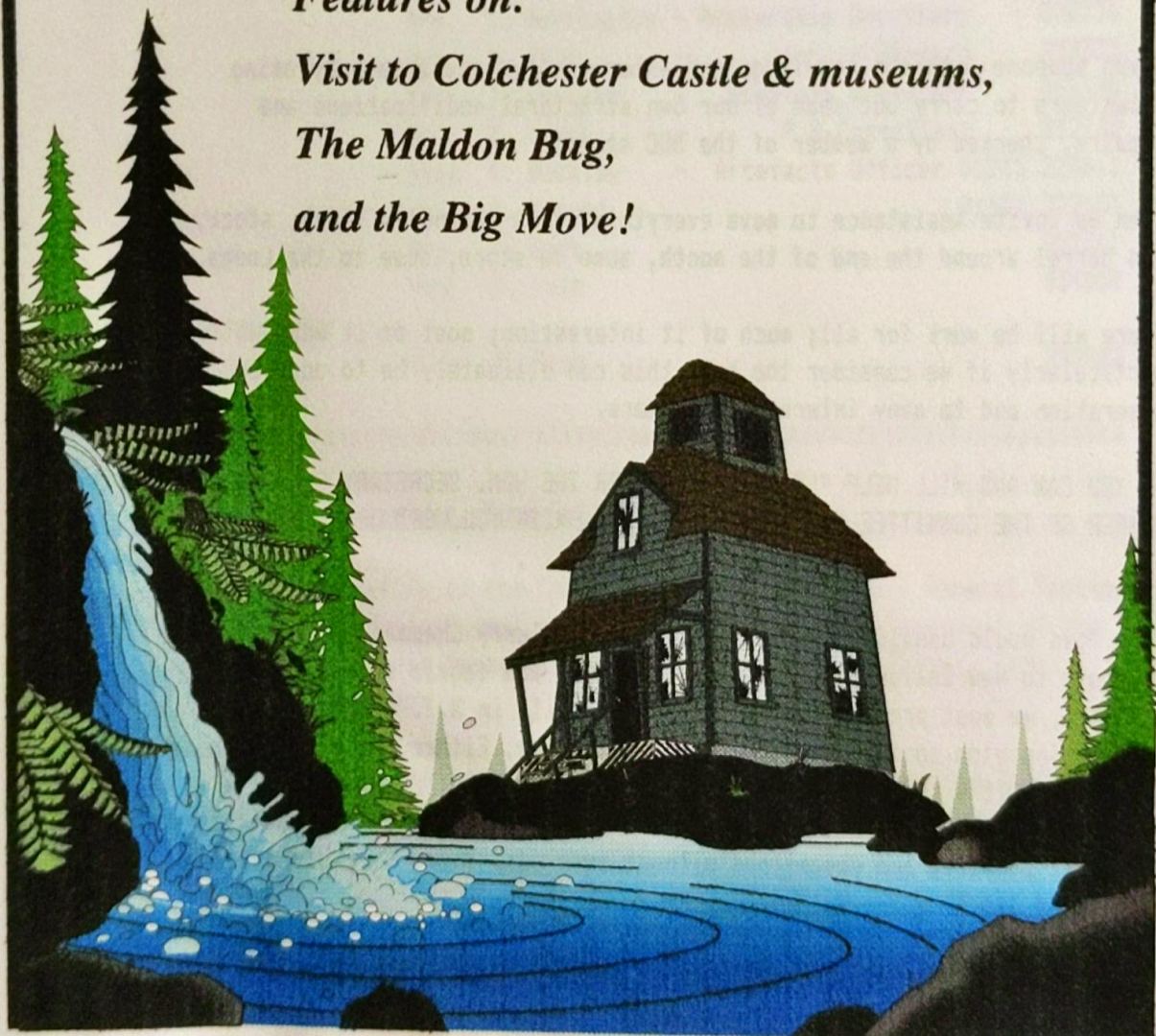
Help needed for conversion of Park Lodge!

Features on:

Visit to Colchester Castle & museums,

The Maldon Bug,

and the Big Move!



There is now little doubt that we shall be moving into the Promenade Lodge, 47 Mill Road, Maldon, CM9 5HX from 1st September 1995. It must be emphasised that we are under no pressure from our present landlady who has always been most co-operative in all matters relating to the museum. Our rent in 'Spindles' was paid up to the end of August thanks to a grant from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, and instead of more rent assistance from either the Town or District Councils the District Council offered us the Promenade Lodge, which at the time of writing has been verbally accepted although the legal formalities have yet to be completed. The local newspapers put us in there weeks ago.

We need several willing volunteers for both before and after the move....

Before, and starting any minute now, we need help to clear and prepare the back garden, heavily overgrown with weeds; to clear and make presentable the front garden area; to clear and make useable the 'hall' behind the house.

Given someone with the knowledge and experience we could save by using volunteers to carry out some of our own structural modifications and repairs, checked by a member of the MDC staff.

Then we invite assistance to move everything from 'Spindles' lock, stock, and barrel around the end of the month, some to store, some to the Lodge.

There will be work for all; much of it interesting; most of it worthwhile, particularly if we consider the help this can ultimately be to our younger generation and to many interested teachers.

IF YOU CAN AND WILL HELP PLEASE TELL EITHER THE HON. SECRETARY OR ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE NOW, SO THAT WE CAN, WITH YOU, GET ORGANISED.

P.S. This would usually be written by Chairman Terry Chapman. Terry however flew off to New Zealand on an extended holiday and (again at the time of writing), we must presume that either he is still in N.Z. or has found an interesting stop in the course of his flight home. Either way, if this news letter with it's invitation to assist is to be circulated before the proposed move of which most members are aware, it can't wait; it must be prepared, printed, and despatched without more ado. Terry will undoubtedly understand and be appreciative.

=====

THURSDAYS.....10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
SATURDAYS.....10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

AND AT OTHER TIMES BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE SENIOR STEWARD ON 01621 858333 OR THROUGH A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE.

THE COMMITTEE elected at the Annual General Meeting on March 28th for the Year 1995/6 plus others since co-opted is:-

Chairman.....	Mr T. C. Chapman	01621 772103
Vice-Chairman....	Dr.P. Lacey	828001
Hon. Secretary...	Mr L. F. Barrell	852749
Hon. Treasurer...	Mr A. F. Tullett	858690
Committee Members...		
	Mr A. J. Froom - Minute Secretary	854184
	Mrs S. Norrington - Membership Secretary	858736
	Mrs M. Pipe - Senior Steward	858333
	Mrs J. Tullett - Displays Organiser	858690
	Mr R. Long - P.R.Consultant	817762
	Miss K. Buckley - Artefacts Officer	01245 224613
	Ms. R. Knight	01621 772103
	Mrs P. Cook	852511
	Mrs E. Vale	859059
Council Members		
Co-opted.....	Cllr B. Mead	852882

PROFILE - Hon. Treasurer, Tony Tullett

Following a re-shuffle of the Committee at the last Annual General Meeting (see above), Tony Tullett took over the position of Hon. Treasurer of the Maldon District Museum Association in succession to Len Barrell, the present Hon. Secretary.

Tony, a practising Chartered Accountant, has been a resident of Maldon for nearly seven years and his other interests include Handbell ringing, Cricket and Bridge.

He is also a member of the All Saints', Maldon, Handbell Team.

WE ARE GRATEFUL..

...to our MEMBERS for their continuing support and assistance both in financial and more active matters. Without them it would sometimes be difficult to operate on a regular basis.

...to the MALDON TOWN COUNCIL for a donation of £250.00 towards expenses for the current year.

...to the MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL for what at long last promises to be an answer to our number one problem, namely secure, hopefully permanent accommodation.

...to the GENTLEMAN who offered the use of his copier at an extremely favourable rate in order that we may produce this newsletter economically.

Extract from - 'ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONGRESS'
Newsletter No.54

Essex Society for Family History Annual General Meeting
Saturday 16th September 1995
at Christ Church United Reformed Church, Chelmsford

Essex Congress Archaeological Symposium
Saturday 4th November 1995 at Clacton-on-Sea

Essex Congress Local History Symposium
Saturday 20th April 1996 At Christ Church, Chelmsford

British Association for Local History Annual Conference
Saturday 18th May 1996 at Cressing Temple

THE ESSEX RECORD OFFICE

...has been enlarged and improved with space for 50 searchers and includes a separate microfilm reading area.
From the 8th July 1995 opening hours are extended to include every Saturday from 9.15 a.m. to 4.15 p.m.

HANDBELL EXHIBITION

We invited All Saints' Maldon Handbell Team to exhibit their handbells and were pleased to display them on three Saturdays, 22 April, 29 April and 6 May.

Some of the bells, the original set of twelve, were approximately 125 years old, and in recent years the Team has made several additions with some of their bass bells being only one year old. The collection on display at 'Spindles' included a very large 326 Bass Bell on loan from the Whitechapel Bell Foundry; this weighed approximately 18 lbs and was displayed in it's own case.

In recent years it had come to the notice of All Saints' that St. Mary's Church also had a Handbell Team and the display at the Museum included St. Mary's Bells of which some were even older than the oldest of All Saints'.

We were grateful to the ringers from All Saints' who provided their own stewards on the three Saturdays of the display, and also played between 11.15 am and 12 noon in the Museum. Visitors to the Museum were invited to participate in ringing and it did seem that the venture was a success, although it was not sufficiently well advertised. Hopefully, more notice will be given of future individual displays and exhibitions.

Tony Tullett

THE EAST ANGLIA TOURIST BOARD

Most members have heard of the East Anglia Tourist Board, and that it exists to promote interest in tourism in East Anglia. Maldon, it can be debated, just about creeps into the southern extremity of the region, dependant on the matter under discussion.

The East Anglia Tourist Board -

‡ produces the 'East Anglia Guide' ‡ supplies information to the English Tourist Board for national publications ‡ answers specific enquiries from press and journalists ‡ answers general enquiries from members of the public ‡

It is in our best interest to be included in the Guide and to this end we have completed and returned the latest questionnaire, noting of course the possible change of address, and accepting that we will observe, as far as they can be applied to our particular circumstances, the terms of the 'VISITORS' CHARTER' and exhibit a copy in the Museum premises. The terms are largely made up of common courtesy and common sense and should present no serious problem...viz...
(cont')...

VISITORS' CHARTER

(National Code of Practice for Visitor Attractions)

The owners and management have undertaken:

1. To display this Visitors' Charter prominently, and to include the symbol wherever possible in promotional material, to signify compliance.
2. To describe accurately in any advertisement, brochure or any other printed means, the amenities, facilities and services provided and to indicate on all such promotional material any significant restrictions on entry.
3. To display clearly at public entry points (a) any charges for entry (including service charges and taxes where applicable) and whether there are additional charges for individual attractions, and (b) hours of operation (opening and closing).
4. To manage and, where appropriate, staff the attraction in such a way as to ensure visitor safety, comfort and service by maintaining a high standard of customer care, cleanliness, courtesy and maintenance. All staff who meet visitors should be distinguishable as employees or volunteer staff.
5. Where appropriate to the nature, scale and location of the attraction, to provide adequate toilet facilities, coach and car parking and catering arrangements.
6. To give due consideration to the requirements of disabled people and people with special needs, and to make suitable provision where practicable.
7. To deal promptly and courteously with all enquiries, requests, reservations, correspondence and complaints from visitors. To advise visitors how comments may be recorded, and to whom they should be addressed.
8. To provide public liability insurance or comparable arrangement and to comply with all applicable planning, safety and other statutory requirements.

VISITORS' COMMENTS CONCERNING THIS ATTRACTION'S COMPLIANCE WITH THIS VISITORS' CHARTER WILL BE WELCOMED DURING YOUR VISIT TO A MEMBER OF THE STAFF, OR IN WRITING TO THE MANAGER WITH A COPY TO THE ENGLISH TOURIST BOARD, CUSTOMER SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THAMES TOWER, BLACK'S ROAD, LONDON W6 9EL.

- English Tourist Board -

DENNIS SWINDALE - A FRIEND OF THE MUSEUM

=====

With the death of Dennis Swindale in May the Museum lost a good friend. He was involved in various exhibitions which reflected his particular interests and expertise at the old Museum premises of Powell Brothers. Vera, his wife, has passed to the Museum Association posters which hung in Dennis's hobby room and record those exhibitions in which he played a major part. 'Branch lines to Maldon'; 'Lest we Forget, Memories of 1914-18 War'; and 'Wings over Essex: the story of the R.A.F. locally in 1939-45 War'.

Dennis was best known locally as author of the books 'Branch Lines to Maldon' and 'Branch Lines to Southminster', both of which have been long out of print. The Stow Valley Railway Preservation Society who run the East Anglian Railway Museum at Chappel and Wakes Colne and of which Dennis was a founder member intend to publish new editions of these books, on which Dennis was working at the time of his death, as a tribute to him. When these are released it is proposed to have an exhibition concerning local branch lines, at the Museum, in association with their publication.

Any member having items, memories, or photographs relating to the Maldon Railway, and who would like to contribute to the exhibition should contact the Vice-Chairman, Paddy Lacey, on 01621-828001, who will be co-ordinating it.

One item that will certainly have a prominent place in the exhibition is a framed replica 'Great Eastern Carriage Map', on which the lines to Maldon feature, and which has been given to the Museum Association by Vera in memory of Dennis.

=====



When I first started stewarding a mere three years ago it was very much a chore that I felt I should do to help other members on the Committee. How wrong I was! It hasn't been a chore at all and, apart from doing my bit, the friendships with other members, the many interesting visitors from the public, and the feeling of goodwill, make it all worthwhile; even more so now that I am 'experienced'.

There are several types who visit the museum and psycho-analysing them becomes part of the job. There are those who breeze in, know exactly what they are doing, are usually from another part of the country, and well used to visiting museums all over. They usually like to know the 'potted history of Maldon' and like to tell of their own areas, which are usually better, older, etc...!. (Colchester people hate to hear about Elms Farm). Foreign visitors are often knowledgeable and very interested and somehow we overcome language problems, although many speak excellent English. Many Commonwealth visitors already have relatives or friends in the area. Almost all can themselves be interesting.

Some come looking for particular items because that is their hobby. A gentleman from Wickford said he 'could kill' to own one of the salt-glazed pots dug up at Wycke Farm when they put in the by-pass. One lady spotted the hand-made linen buttons on the girl's smock in the display cabinet in the kitchen, and was able to give us lots of information on them.

We have our regulars. Richard, or Mr T, as he signs himself in the visitor's book, pops upstairs to see 'my swords' as he calls them. Mr Snell checks that the 18th century telescope, which he dug up when puttings in footings at Crescent Road, Heybridge, is still around. Mr Hodgkin's family borrowed back their Victorian pram, which gave some anxious moments seeing it unloaded from a tiny hatch-back car on a wet Sunday night. The opposite is the one who hesitantly looks through the door and has to be encouraged to come inside and needs to have things pointed out to him. Edward Bright is handy for this.

School visits can be an experience. In the younger age groups there is usually one who 'knows it all'. It is best to find something early on in the visit that he won't know about; a big put-down is the best way to quieten him!. The 'naughty' one is removed by his teacher, which is a pity because I like the challenge of getting through to him. To inspire interest is the aim, and when the thank-you letters arrive, with illustrations, you know that it was O.K. The 14 year olds from the Plume arrived; no conversation; no knowledge; and seemed bored, as 14 year olds feel they should, and as we no doubt did at that age. So it was immensely satisfying to visibly see them come alive and they didn't mind missing their morning break so that they could stay a bit longer!. Some return on Saturdays to have a better look and one even wants to be a steward!. (cont'd)

The stuffed birds and animals are sometimes criticised and I am careful to explain that nowadays we do not deliberately catch them for display, but to see the look of wonderment and to answer the varied questions, is an experience not to be missed.

I particularly enjoy talking about our Royal Charters and explaining about the Jersey, having read it all up, hopefully to get the facts right. It is a bit beyond the younger child but it doesn't matter when the teachers and mother helpers are fascinated.

It never fails to amaze me how little the people of Maldon know of our own wonderful history, and I love to develop in some small way an interest - through the Maldon Museum.

Merle Pipe

=====

V.E.DAY EXHIBITION

Most will already have read newspaper accounts of the display in the Plume Building or, as some of us like to think of it, St. Peter's Hall not to be confused with the hospital hall of which the majority are completely unaware. In fact, one local report states that the exhibition was in the Thomas Plume Library, and that would certainly have created havoc given the nature of the display.

The exhibition was officially staged by Maldon Museum Association in conjunction with Maldon Town Council who contributed towards the cost & setting up of the displays, but the organising and much of the actual work was carried out personally by Chairman Terry Chapman, who 'borrowed' the first world war trench mock-up from the Epping Forest District Museum and carried out much of the assembling of it himself.

The '39/45-style sitting room, as also almost all the war-time items on display were kindly loaned from locals. All contributed to a successful event, appreciated by a variety of visitors, with estimates of over nine hundred, many from overseas.

Financially the event was a success with the V.E.Day Charities as main beneficiaries.

'THAT MUSEUM BUG'

"There is something going about" in Maldon just now. I don't think it is in the water because I believe I caught it in early childhood, and I didn't live in Maldon then. I can only call it a bug, and I have seen signs of it recurring in the district recently. It is a benign infection however, so there is nothing to fear. It can lie dormant in it's victims for years, but it can break out again at short notice and when stimulated by an unexpected 'find'. It often rises to the surface on retirement and grows with the years. It has several different names - 'Museum Magic', 'Museum Mystery', even 'Maldon Museum', - and even, in extremes - 'Museum Madness'. My strain is slightly different, and is known as 'Memorial Madness'. I fear that all strains are terminal but not painful, and very enjoyable if encouraged.

My childhood was spent, not in Maldon, but in Thaxted, - Thaxted with Maldon connections. My grandfather was a Harness-maker, Saddler, born of a large Victorian family who lived off horses. I do not mean that they ate them - that would have been desecration, and the low-down sort of crime perpetrated by 'they French' across the Channel. As French cuisine was deemed to consist chiefly of horses and frogs, washed down with a large intake of red wine, the Entente Cordiale never meant much to beef, beer and pudding-fed East Anglians.

The Rogers family's entire life, work, finance, amusement, skills, investments, and love affairs revolved round their horses, -a syndicate of father and six boys doing the manual work and driving, and the distaff side taking care of everything else including the men. They were wheelwrights, coach builders, taxi, 'bus, dog cart, wagonette owners, saddlers, blacksmiths. - Willy Nilly, my grandfather became the saddler; his name was Fred.

Fred did his apprenticeship in London, came to Braintree as a Journeyman, married my grandmother and went to Witham as manager of Crickmore's Saddlery in Witham High Street "between The Spread Eagle and The White Hart, so I'm all right mate!", with it's back entrance onto the Maldon Road.

A well loved and oft recalled outing was by pony and trap to Maldon - the Promenade and 'on the Annie' and to Osea Island - but "Look up the Essex Weekly first,...is there any water?,...don't wanna set and look at sud".

...cont'd

In 1906 Fred bought his own business in Thaxted and to the delight of the Rogers family they quickly discovered a family with Maldon connections living immediately across the road - and easy to 'run over'. Remember this was 1906 - to 'run over' then did not suggest blood and carnage on the hill - it meant slipping across a road deserted of all but a couple of wandering dogs, and a horse and cart, to perform a neighbourly act or enjoy a 'full and frank' discussion.

Miss Bates, of Maldon, and a teacher at Thaxted School, had married a local farmer Mr Archer and had a young family. One little girl known as 'Lally' became quite friendly with my mother, the 'big girl' of the Rogers family opposite. Many Maldonians will remember the Bates family business and many will remember with affection little 'Lally' who became Mrs Knightsbridge of the Tobacconist's shp in the High Street, and who passed peacefully away just recently at the age of 94.

The Rogers were able to take up old family friendships with both the farming and the town communities. One of these families, the Frees of Richmond's Farm, was very close to both the Rogers family and the Archers across the road. There were visits, outings, dances, many social events in which both Lally and Ivy (my mother) took part. Lally even acted in a tableau organised for charity. Lally was small, and light, and young. She had to appear slung over the shoulder of a burly fireman, just rescued from a blazing inferno, off stage. My mother and aunts seemed to be in everything, especially dances. Ivy had a partner, dark and handsome and lively - the 'terror' of the neighbourhood. He swung Ivy off her feet in 'The Lancers'. His name was Martin, - Martin Free -. This is where the Maldon and Thaxted connections draw together. Young Mr George Free had a sweet-heart too -Miss Ethel Lily - another friend of the Rogers girls. It was a very close knit community then and when Mr George married Miss Ethel in Thaxted church the wedding guests danced all the way from Thaxted church to Richmond's Farm, at least two miles, to the strains of a barrel organ hired for the occasion. (I was not there at the time but have it all on good authority).

Eventually, Mr & Mrs George Free came to Jacob's Farm, Heybridge, and with the help of the first car in Thaxted, a Bull-nosed Morris with a dickey seat, the Rogers maintained contact. (Yes. I know very well that Heybridge is not Maldon - my grandmother nearly wrecked the friendship of years by insisting that she addressed her letters to Mrs Free of 'Maldon'. Mrs Free of 'Heybridge' remonstrated and eventually won the battle. I think strawberries had something to do with that, but that's another story.)

...cont'd

At four or five I was running in and out of the Saddler's shop to 'talk to the min' (men) and to eavesdrop on the male conversation which fascinated me then, and has remained in my memory all my life.

It was less than ten years since 'the war to end wars' had ended, and Thaxted had lost more than fifty young men, and Maldon and Heybridge well over one hundred. But some came back - and many found their way back to Fred Rogers' shop - many still wearing remnants of old uniform. At six I could 'do up' puttees, and 'funny names' were part of the shop's language. 'Wipers' always pleased me; 'Somme' chilled me; and 'Gallipoli' raised my hackles, all the fault of "oe Churchill" at the Dardenelles.

Horses were still the essential basis of farm work, and bread and butter to the Rogers family. George Rogers, when it was suggested that the family should venture into motor transport said "Nao, they'll never replace hosses". George was wrong. Meantime, 'hosses' needed harness, harness needed mending, or replacing from time to time and Fred, always a superb craftsman, could work and listen...

"Where were you in the war then, Mick?"

"Aubers Ridge"..(grunt)

"Why did yer stick it then, Mick?"

"'Cos they'd shot yer if yer dint".

Silence....

Aubers Ridge and Mick with his lame leg and his bitter memories, drifted into the back of my mind but when, fifty years later, I stood on Aubers Ridge myself, Mick was as clear in my mind as yesterday.

As I became a school girl, fashions began to change. Home dress making was the thing and my grandmother and mother, with their prized and respected 'Singers' wound and steered and clicked their ways through a spring morning, and with the click of the machines something seemed to click in my memory and sometimes a strange litany of names commenced - names that were familiar to me because the families were still living in the district, and because a race memory was building up, part of my background, but not of my experience."Oh yes...Bert Stalley. - Fred Speller, did he work at the factory?...No No! That was the Hayden boys - they were both killed. Alfred Bright - Alf Foster - Raymond Hedges - where did he live? - can't remember him. Oh No! He was away a lot ('away' being anywhere more than three miles from Thaxted). Reuben Bartrop the blacksmith; Fred Challis - was that Maudie Challis' brother? (yes it was!) - and - Spencer Stone - long pause - then- "...and Martin Free" -; whatever was said, it always either began or ended with Martin Free. Martin Free's story is too long to be told today - one day perhaps -.

...cont'd

Ben Cobey's story I hope to tell as a matter of justice. You have not heard of Ben Cobey?. Oh but you will, before I die, God and The Editor being willing. To preserve Ben Cobey's story and many another story of the district, I hope, will be part of the work of the Maldon Museum of the future.

To end, I will misquote Thomas Hardy where, at the end of 'The Woodlanders' Marty South says...."If ever I forget your names, let me forget home and heaven, for you was good men and did good things".

I shall not forget!

Monica Bayley

NORFOLK PUNCH

- About 1847 -

In 20 quarts of French Brandy put the peels of 30 lemons and 30 oranges, pared so thin that not the least of the white is left. Infuse 12 hours. Have ready 30 quarts of cold water that has boiled. Put to it 15 lb of double-refined sugar and pour on the brandy and peels, adding the juice of the oranges and of 24 lemons. Mix well. Strain through a very fine hair sieve into a very clean barrel that has held spirits, and put 2 quarts of new milk. Stir, bring it close, let it stand 6 weeks in a warm cellar. Bottle the liquor for use, observing great care that the bottles are clean and dry and the corks of the best quality and well put in. This liquor will keep many years and improves by age.

GINGER BEER

Bruise 3 ozs whole ginger. Wash 3 lemons; slice them, pips and all. Put these ingredients, with 2 lb of loaf sugar and 1 oz of cream of tartar, into a large crock. Pour over 1 gallon of boiling water. Leave until nearly cool, then add a piece of toast spread with 1/2 oz of yeast. Cover and leave for 24 hours. Skim off the yeast and strain. Bottle, and tie down the corks. Ready for use in 2 days' time.

(Beware fragile bottles if you try this; memories of childhood days!. Ed.)

THE AMENDED CONSTITUTION

At the Annual General Meeting on the 28th March 1995 the Agenda included 'Adoption of Amended Constitution' (as updated by the Committee). Further amendments were made by the members present before the draft was accepted by the meeting, to be forwarded to the Charity Commissioners for their formal approval. This has been done and we await their response.

Meanwhile, it was requested by a small number of members that the form approved by the A.G.M. be made available. What better medium than our own news letter?...so herewith a copy as sent to the Commissioners, bearing in mind that there may still be minor changes which can be published in our next issue:-

AMENDED CONSTITUTION (AGM 28.3.95) RESUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE FOR CONFIRMATION 16th MAY '95.

THE MALDON DISTRICT MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

1. Name:

The Association shall be called The Maldon District Museum Association.

2. Object:

The object of the Association, a Charitable Trust registered with the Charity Commissioner as Charity number 301362, shall be the management of the museum to be known as 'Maldon District Museum'.

The museum shall be managed in accordance with the allowable activities of a charity; the Committee of the Association are the Trustees of the charitable trust.

3. Aims:

The Association shall seek to maintain the museum as a registered museum in accordance with the Museum and Galleries Commission instructions and guidelines.

The collection policy of the museum is to be defined by the museum's Acquisition and Disposal Policy which shall be maintained in accordance with the approval of the Museum and Galleries Commission.

....cont'd

4. Membership:

Membership shall be open to any member of the public upon payment of an Annual or Life subscription as determined from time to time at a General Meeting.

The Membership Year shall run from 1st April. New subscriptions will be for the full amount during the first half year up to the 30th September and 50% during the remainder of the membership year to 31st March.

5. Committee and Officers:

The business of the Association shall be conducted by a committee of ten members including the following officers:

- † Chairman
- † Vice-Chairman
- † Secretary
- † Treasurer
- † Membership Secretary

The Committee shall have power to co-opt members and to fill casual vacancies. The Officers and other Committee members shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election at subsequent Annual General Meetings. Other than in exceptional circumstances the Chairman should not serve for an unbroken term exceeding three years.

6. President and Vice-President:

A President and Vice-President may, at the discretion of members, be appointed at any Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election at each Annual General Meeting. Such appointments may be made other than from the members of the Association.

7. General Meetings:

An Annual General Meeting shall be held during the month of May.

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the President or the Chairman, and must be called within four weeks in response to a written request stating the purpose of the meeting, and signed by at least ten members of the Association.

All General meetings shall require at least 14 days' notice to be given to all paid-up members.

All business to be voted on must be stated in the notice; no new motions may be accepted.

.....cont'd

8. Quorum:
Four members shall constitute a quorum at Committee meetings.

Ten members of the Association shall constitute a quorum at General Meetings.

9. Funds:
The Committee shall maintain banking accounts in the name of the Association into which all monies shall be paid, and shall render audited accounts to the Annual General Meeting. Two Officers shall be required to sign cheques; at least one of these shall be the Treasurer or the Chairman. Transfers between the Association's accounts may be made against any one of the approved signatures.

The Association's Financial Year shall run from 1st April to 31st March.

10. Emoluments:
Committee members must not receive any emolument from the funds of the Association.

11. Expenses:
Any member may reclaim expenses at the discretion of the Committee of the Association.

12. Maintenance of Records relating to the Museum Collection:
Those items forming part of the museum collection shall be listed and identified in an Acquisitions Register, maintained in accordance with the requirements for a registered museum as specified by the Museums and Galleries Commission. Further records documenting the addition or removal of items to or from the collection, and associated transfer of ownership shall be maintained as required for a registered museum as specified by the Museums and Galleries Commission.

13. Items Received by the Association other than those forming part of the Museum Collection:
The Committee shall maintain a register of all items held by the Association. This register shall contain a description of the item sufficient to identify it, the date of acquisition and the mode of acquisition whether it be by purchase, loan, or donation.

14. Termination:
Termination of the Association and museum shall only be by a properly notified motion brought to a General Meeting and voted for by at least two thirds of the paid-up membership, and by the unanimous decision of the trustees.

15. Disposition of Assets - other than those forming part of the museum collection:
In the event of the Association's existence being terminated the Officers shall to the best of their ability ensure that all items on loan to the Association are returned to their owners. Other Assets may be sold and their value added to the funds of the Association.

16. Disposition of Funds on Termination:
In the event of the Association's existence being terminated, funds remaining after payment of debts and return of any loans shall be given to a registered charity nominated by the trustees.

17. Disposal of the Collection:
In the event of the termination of the museum all items in the collection must be disposed of in accordance with the Acquisitions and Disposals Policy.

18. Alterations to the Constitution:
This Constitution may be amended by the members at a General Meeting providing that the motion to do so is carried by at least half the paid-up membership, or two-thirds of those present, whichever is the smaller; except that no change may be made affecting this clause (clause 18) or to the clause relating to Termination of the Museum (clause 14) unless such a change is supported by two-thirds of the paid-up membership

NOTE:

AS THE ASSOCIATION IS A CHARITABLE TRUST THIS AMENDED CONSTITUTION, ALTHOUGH APPROVED BY THE MEMBERS AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON THE 28TH MARCH 1995, HAS YET TO BE APPROVED BY THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS.

(LFB230795)

COLCHESTER VISIT

Late in May, as a follow-up to suggestions from members, we circulated a simple questionnaire, the replies to which gave us an indication of their preferred days of the week for visiting and those which were 'impossible'.

The result was a semi-organised visit to Colchester Castle on Friday 21st July and we say 'semi-organised' because apart from the initial paperwork, and booking of our guided tour, for most of the day we were free to go our respective ways, be it to other museums or simply window shopping.

However, having travelled to Colchester in our respective/shared cars we all met at the Castle entrance at 10.00 a.m., paid our entrance and guide fees and awaited those who failed to turn up. At about 10.20 our guide, one David Davis a knowledgeable enthusiast, led us down into and around the vaults and by devious means up endless tower steps to the roof and down again, being careful to point out the medieval loo en route.

About an hour later he left us to explore on our own the interesting displays around the gallery, set out in such a way that they tended to draw one's attention, as did those on the ground floor to which the arrows eventually directed those of us who actually followed them. Inevitably, the route ended at the shop, which is all part of reception, and at about 1.00 p.m. our party, which had held together rather more by accident than by design split up into those who intended to keep exploring, those who were hungry, and those who had had enough for one day and were making tracks for home to 'get their feet up'.

Our particular group of four popped into the nearest Wimpey, refuelled, then made our way to the Social History Museum where one of the first exhibits to be seen was a farm cart in excellent condition, proudly displaying the name plate 'Robert Hendry, Round Bush Farm, Purleigh'. & 'Maldon Ironworks'. An interesting collection, in which we must include on this occasion the chatty Yorkshire couple we met, also visiting there.

By 3.30 p.m. after about five hours on our feet with only a short break, we decided to call it a day, found our way back to the car park, and headed for home. Altogether a very absorbing, satisfying day, and at least four of us look forward to the next one.

Len B.

THE BIG MOVE

Nothing you have read so far suggests the course of events AFTER 1st September, when we move, so a very brief summary of probable events, nothing yet finally decided, would not come amiss...viz: -

We do not, due to structural work being carried out, expect to be able to reopen straight away unless we want everything and everybody to risk being covered in dust. Instead, everything will temporarily go under wraps until we can safely and securely put them again on display. The indications are that we may not fully reopen until early next spring.

There will almost certainly be exceptions when the museum is called on to support (e.g) special events, and members as well as the general public will be notified through the local press. Events restricted to members and friends only will of course be advised to members as hitherto by letter.

When the big day arrives we shall with no shadow of doubt need even more stewards and that means yet more active members, (and see Editorial). Consider also that should the situation ever arrive when the museum needs to charge for entry, then this could scarcely be applied to a paid-up member who would simply produce his/her membership card or receipt.

So apart from the immediate future with willing manual workers being in demand, we probably have a few weeks in which to present this page to that interested friend and/or neighbour, complete the reverse, cut the page off and sent it to the Treasurer, (to 'Spindles' during August and 'The Prom Lodge' after that. Many 'intend to join' but need to be introduced.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To: The Hon. Treasurer,
Maldon Museum Association,

'Spindles',
Church Walk,
Maldon. CM9 4PY

OR

The Promenade Lodge
47, Mill Road,
Maldon. CM9 5HX.

From: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

.....
.....
.....
.....

Post Code

Tel:

I/We apply for Membership of the Maldon Museum
Association, and understand that members are
bound by the rules of the constitution.

[Cost is £6.00p single and £9.00 family membership]
(50% only is payable for new members for the 1/2-
year from 1st September to 31st March in any year)

Please find enclosed Cash/Cheque for £ to cover
membership to 31st March next.

Signed.....Date.....

Introduced by.....

