
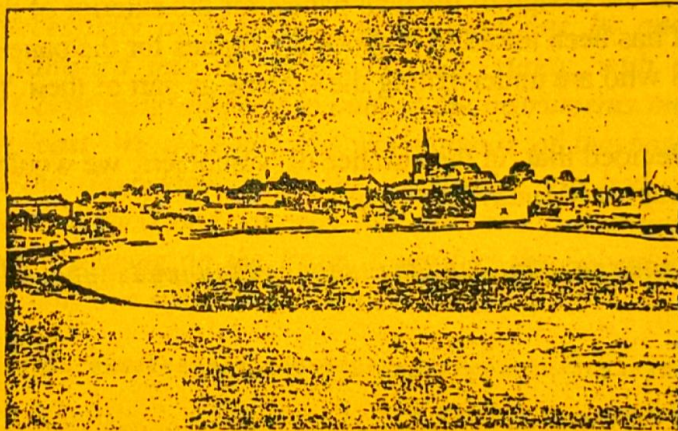


THE PENNY  FARTHING
 The Newsletter of Maldon District Museum Association

Marine Lake = = = Serenade,

BY
 F. ALLEN, Bandmaster.

DEDICATED TO
 ALDERMAN L. BENTALL, J.P.,
 DEPUTY MAYOR OF MALDON.



PLAYED WITH GREAT SUCCESS
 BY THE
 MALDON TOWN BAND.

od. nett.

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MALDON MUSEUM
 ASSOCIATION

In the absence of Chairman Paddy Lacey we have taken, subject to his subsequent approval, items from his report to the Committee on 8th July, all of which will no doubt be of interest to the majority of members, both active and otherwise and may even include mention of activities of not everyone is aware. We are fairly confident that Paddy's own 'Chat' would follow this pattern; so having said all that - here goes.....

Twenty members of Maldon U3A visited the museum on 16th June and we are now very pleased to include their leader, Tony Mandara, as a member of the MDMA: he has offered his services as a steward.

60 children with staff from Maldon CP School had attended on July 7th. Paddy had attended an interview with the Heritage Lottery Fund in Cambridge on June 24th, and our scheme for Improvements in the Courtyard had been well received. Several suggestions were made as to how it could proceed, but it was pointed out that in order to provide funding the HTF would require us to have a minimum of 15 years' tenure on the premise at the time that contracts are signed. Paddy was writing to the MDC concerning this matter.

Chloe Mather, a senior pupil at the Plume School has been appointed to be in charge of the design of the wall panels for the exterior of the building. Mike Bennett has been asked to produce the frames for the panels at the expense of BDFAS who are underwriting the scheme as part of their 'Young Artists' Project.

It was decided that, in the absence of volunteers, we would not be involved in the August Monday 'boot sale'.

#####

'www & e mail'

We needed a gentle prod of course, and received it recently with the result that both of these comparatively recent innovations are now added to our communications information on the outside of our back page.....viz...

www.maldonmuseum.fsnet.co.uk
e mail bygoness@maldonmuseum.fsnet.co.uk

#####

News Letter No. 33 reported the 'Stewards Meet' and the fact that Cllr Mrs Julia Bass presented the formal Certificate of Registration of the museum. It is slightly puzzling to read that Cllr Mrs Bass advanced within a few lines to become Cllr Mrs Peel; her maiden name of Bass cannot be found in any of our notes on the subject. We apologise of course to Mrs Peel but feel sure that she will if anything find the error amusing. Could it be that the ghost for which Maldon has been appealing had taken a hand?

#####

THOSE ELUSIVE BAND INSTRUMENTS!

Several weeks have passed since we appealed for any information which could lead to the Maldon Band mystery being solved. The band instruments were last known to have been lodged in the roof of Jack Reeve's (paint ?)-store in 1942, and that sounds to be long, long ago, but surely not too long for someone to recall. The Air Training Corps at that time had hoped to form a band, unsuccessfully as it turned out because one by one, each budding musician vanished into the forces but not, surely, with a band instrument ! So the Corps resigned itself to putting the instruments into store for the duration at least. We do know the whereabouts of the bass drum which belonged to the Heybridge Band. Yes! Heybridge too had a band, reputed to have been a good one, as was Maldon, and just a few of us nowadays remember it playing on the Prom. Long live the Salvation Army Band ! It's about the only one left in this district.

#####

19th Century - Fact or Fiction?

It was estimated that we get a complete new outfit of brains every two months. The duration of a nerve's life is about sixty days. Each nerve cell has its own independent functions, subordinate to the higher functions of the whole brain *en masse*; and the latter acts as a sort of boss or overseer to the individual actions and life of each separate cell. Every cell is destroyed and renewed every two months, so we get six brand new brains per year!

#####

THE PATIENCE OF MERLE PIPE
AND OUR EVER-INTERESTING SCRAP BOOKS

It would be interesting to know a little more than what we do, of the history of our Museum Scrap Books. A brief check would suggest that they were originally introduced in the late 50s and early 60s by someone unknown. Cath Backus produced a box full of cuttings, which Merle put into Scrap Books, and this led her on to reviving them from 1991 to date. They are particularly popular with members of visiting school parties who voraciously search for their own school and/or themselves.

The popularity is underlined by the complimentary comments made in the visitors' Book, whilst the success of our collection is almost without exception due to Merle, who was also involved in stewarding school visits, yet we rarely get the opportunity of expressing our appreciation, so perhaps we should all, when we meet her, say "Thank you Merle, for quietly keeping them going!". So - Thanks Merle!

#####f#090703#####

LIMBS OF THE MIND

One is curiosity: that is a gift, a capacity of pleasure in knowing, which if you destroy you make yourself cold and dull. Another is sympathy; the power of sharing in the feelings of living creatures, which if you destroy you make yourself hard and cruel. Another of your limbs of mind is admiration; the power of enjoying beauty or ingenuity which if you destroy you make yourself base and irreverent. Another is wit, or the power of playing with the lights on the many sides of the truth which if you destroy you make yourself gloomy and less useful and cheering to others than you might be. So that in choosing your way of work it should be your aim, as far as possible, to bring out all those faculties, as far as they exist in you, not one merely, nor another, but all of them. And the way to bring them out is simply to concern yourself attentively with the subject of each faculty. To cultivate sympathy you must be among living creatures, and thinking about them; and to cultivate admiration you must be among beautiful things, and looking at them.

=====JRuskin=====

91, Wantz Road previously 63. continued

20

THE

MALDON TOWN BAND

(BRASS, REED AND STRING),

Conductor - Mr. FRANK ALLEN,

Accepts Engagements to Play at

FÊTES,
GALAS,
REGATAS,
DANCES,

FLOWER SHOWS,
GARDEN PARTIES,
CRICKET MATCHES,
BEANFEASTS,

SCHOOL TREATS, &c.

The Repertoire includes the Newest Music.

HUSSAR UNIFORM.

Full Terms on application to the Conductor, Mr. F. ALLEN,
63, Wantz Road, Maldon.

Frank seems to have been something of an institution in the Maldon of his day as the three cuttings which we have reproduced shew. The one above was taken from Fitch's 1894 Yearbook. It appears that he was something of a composer "acknowledged by Queen Victoria" according to his advert... He is shewn as being conductor to the Maldon Town Band, but also in that year (1894) he was conductor of St. Mary's Drum & Fife Band - presumably composed of boys, though whether attached to the Church of England School or not, is not clear. We know that he conducted the Town Band at least until 1916.

Subsequent history of No.91:-

1926	Frank H. W. Turner	Shopkeeper
1929	Herbert Freeman	"
1933-37	William Clarke	Hairdresser

No. 93 - previously No. 65

This, the southern end of the terrace abutts Dyers Road.

1891	James Bateman, tailor, accompanied by his wife and four female 'boarders', one aged only 15.
1906	Frederick Jack Brewster Shopkeeper
1910	Herbert William Healey Tailor
1917-45	Robert Charles Reeve Hardware dealer

When he left No.93 Reeve transferred his business to No.126 High Street on the corner of Wantz Road, and fifty years later the business he built up there is still flourishing - run by the third generation.



Between No's 93 & 95 Wantz Road lies Dyers Road. It is really nothing more than a wide alley but even in 1873 it had a row of eight houses in it. Seemingly then it had no name, though by 1897 it had acquired one. We know that in 1870 Wantz Road held Edward Newman, a Dyer, and that in 1878 Amelia Rayment was also practising that trade. We are not told whereabouts in Wantz Road they had their place of business but it seems highly probable that it was here, and that the road was named after their calling. 'Jack' Reeves recalled that when he was at No.93 there was a dyer's shed in the lane.

In 1912 the three Wantz Road schools were built, with their main access via Dyers Road, though there were others. There was accommodation for 260 boys and 260 girls in separate establishments, and at the other end of the site, accommodation for 316 infants. Today the 'primary' departments are part of the biggest comprehensive school in Essex, the "Plume", grant maintained, which has its secondary provision in the old Grammar School in Fambridge Road - thus it operates on two campuses. The Wantz Road provision is known as the "Lower Plume".

The following entries are all taken from the 1891 census. The numbers given are those of 1891 but I assume that they are still current today.

- | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------|------------------|---------------|
| No. 2 | Thos Willett | Plumber | No.10 | Abraham Heasley, | Labourer |
| No. 4 | Joseph Harvey | Labourer | No.12 | Jas Cottee, | Timber Hewer |
| No. 6 | Joseph Raymond | Dock Labourer | No.14 | Chas Smith | Mariner |
| No. 8 | Ruth Halls, married, aged 42, | | No.16 | Wm. Mynard | Dock Labourer |
| | husband at sea? | | | | |

#####

NATURAL HISTORY -

THE ART OF CONSERVING BEASTS AND BIRDS

By K. McDonald, Taxidermist, Museum Exhibition - c.1987

TAXIDERMY - a word which seems to provoke either pleasure or anxiety; as practising commercial taxidermists we encounter both reactions. With some people we share the beauty of nature, with others we are forced, understandably, to prove a point.

It continually surprises us how many people still think of all Taxidermists as owners of guns who use them to obtain their specimens. In the great majority of cases this is just not true, and, in fact, it is illegal so to do. Unfortunately, as with everything else, there are always a few who 'play dirty' with no regard for the harm they do. Personally, we have the highest regard for nature and the history of nature. We do not own any kind of gun, weapon or trap.

It is possibly a measure of our success that those who know us are willing to listen, enjoy, and often help. They accept the reasons we give for the art we practise. They believe in our ideal and sentiments. What are these ideals and sentiments? How do we justify our art? To answer such questions, to dispel such anxieties is the reason for this informative exhibition.

At a rough estimate, there are something like 500 professional Taxidermists in the U.K., some solely employed by museums, some commercial, and unfortunately a few 'cowboys' selling their wares to sometimes ignorant clientele.

The various conservation organisations have released an alarming statistic. Approximately 50 million creatures are killed each year on the roads alone. Obviously this is where we get the majority of our specimens. It is a sad source but better many come to us than rot in the gutter. We get additional specimens from zoos, wild-life centres, falconers, conservation societies and breeders. Many creatures, believe it or not, die naturally. They, like us, suffer from disease and exhaustion. They drown or fly into windows. They cannot survive the elements when human beings destroy their habitats. What would be the point in killing when we have a legal supply with which we can hardly cope?

We believe the mounted specimen, the product of our art, has an important role to play in the classroom as a stepping stone to the appreciation and understanding of the living creature, the many wonders of natural history and the vital role of the protection of nature in our own survival. It is encouraging that the new 'O' level G.E.C. art allows stuffed subjects. We, ourselves, deal with over 150 schools in Essex alone. Backed by the Essex Education Authority we run an alternative but larger hire service to that of the Museums.

TO COMPLY WITH THE WILDLIFE & COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 *all Taxidermists and anyone who sells dead protected specimens, however old, must be registered with the D.O.E. This includes auction houses, antique shops etc. Taxidermists must also be licensed to practise their art. Furthermore every protected item must be logged by the receiver and periodically the D.O.E. informed of the species, sex, age, donor, cause of death and the eventual owner. This item is then given an official number which stays with wherever it goes. It is illegal to sell a protected specimen without a D.O.E. number and anyone thinking of purchasing such an item should question the status of the seller and require proof.*

***It is illegal** for anyone to be in receipt of a protected specimen that has been taken illegally, i.e. shot, trapped, or poisoned, and there is a duty to report such a situation to the authorities*

We, therefore, will not enter into any such situation unless proof of legality is offered and we will report any transgression immediately.

~~~~~  
---Notes by Mr K. McDonald, Taxidermist, The Studio, Fullbridge, Maldon. c.1987---

### **THE HORSE-SHOE SUPERSTITION**

*The belief in the horse-shoe attained its greatest diffusion at the end of the seventeenth century and the beginning of the eighteenth. Aubrey, in his "Miscellanies" tells us that in his time most houses in the West End of London had a horse-shoe nailed over the threshold. In 1813 Sir Henry Ellis counted seventeen horse-shoes in Monmouth Street, but in 1841 only five or six remained. Lord Nelson nailed a horse-shoe to the mast of the "Victory" and "Lucky Dr. James" attributed the success of his fever powders to the finding of a horse-shoe, which symbol he adopted as a crest for his carriage.*

**The Farmer** will never be happy again, he carries his heart in his boots,  
For either the rain is destroying his grain or the drought is destroying his roots.

You may speak if you can to this querulous man though I should not attempt to be funny  
And if you insist he will give you a list of the reasons he's making no money.

He will tell you the Spring was a scandalous thing for the frost and the cold were that bad  
While what with the heat and the state of the wheat the summer was nearly as bad.

The Autumn of course is a permanent source of sorrows as black as your hat  
And as for the winter I don't know a printer who'd pass his opinion on that.

And since (to our shame) the seasons I name keep happening year after year  
You can calculate out to a minute about how much he enjoys his career.

No wonder he eyes the most roseate skies with a mute inexpressible loathing,  
No wonder he swears and no wonder he wears such extremely peculiar clothing.

Poor fellow, his pig declined to grow big (you know what these animals are)  
His favourite heifer is very much deafer, the bull has a chronic catarrh.

In fact when you meet this unfortunate man the conclusion is only too plain  
That nature is just an elaborate plan to annoy him again and again.

Which makes it so difficult not to be rude, as you'll find when you're lunching together,  
he is certain to brood if you speak of the food, and it's fatal to mention the weather.

You must never, I beg, refer to an egg, however deplorably done,  
And it's cruel to say 'It's a very fine day' when he's probably sick of the sun.

But under what head to address him instead I cannot pretend to be sure  
Though no doubt there are many and things to be said deploring the price of manure.

While if you are short of appropriate themes there is always the state of the nation,  
And dress and art and the meaning of dreams and proportional representation.

But you cannot be wrong if you stick to this song and assume that his heart's in his boots  
For either the rain is destroying his grain or the drought is destroying his roots.

*With acknowledgements to A. P. Herbert*

The gratitude of every home in our Island, in our Empire, and indeed throughout the world, except in the abodes of the guilty, goes out to the British airmen who, undaunted by odds, unwearied in their constant challenge and mortal danger, are turning the tide of world war by their prowess and by their devotion.

Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.



WINSTON CHURCHILL



**'Blackshirts' in Maldon**

Amongst the memories of old Maldon there was the rumour that Sir Oswald Mosley and, perhaps, even William Joyce, alias Lord Haw-Haw, were entertained in Maldon between the Wars. This has yet to be established but older Maldonians can remember the Black shirts assembling near the Moot Hall on occasion where the watching crowd jeered them. The British Union of Fascists were founded nationally by Mosley in 1932 and existed until 1936 when the Public Order Act forbade the wearing of political uniforms and the formation of political processions.

The Essex Chronicle of January 1936 records that Maldon had been visited by Mrs Olga Shore, Chief Executive Officer of the British Union of Fascists, as a culmination of her national tour of instruction and inspection. She held a private conference with local officers and members at their HQ, 1A High Street, and was later given a Reception at a house in London Road.

On 27<sup>th</sup> March the local Fascists had a meeting at the Parish Hall when Mr Henry J. Gibbs was given a good reception speaking on the subject "Blackshirts were loyal to their Country and to the Empire". There was an appeal for more members. A week later at a meeting, with Captain Harold Blind presiding, it was announced that a women's section was to be formed.

One month later, on 29<sup>th</sup> April at an open air meeting Mr P. Owen-Burke spoke on the international situation. A large public meeting was held in May at the Institute Hall in Braintree and was addressed by A Raven Thomas with the Maldon contingent acting as stewards.

Almost six months later in the Essex Chronicle of 9<sup>th</sup> October it was reported that there had been an open-air meeting on the previous Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> when Mr Wallis, propaganda officer, spoke for an hour during which he was subjected to 'a running fire of comments'. The heckling was, however, quite good-natured with frequent reference being made to the horse trough by which the speaker stood! Local members of the BUF had brought back stories from the Rally held in London the week before.

One can only wonder if on the following day there was a further visit to the Capital for on that day took place the infamous 'Battle of Cable Street' where Moseley's followers were involved in violent struggles with their opponents. As a direct result of this the Public Order Act was passed by Parliament forbidding the wearing of political, paramilitary uniform and restricting the provocative marches. Did the Chelmsford Rally advertised to take place in Chelmsford, as advertised on this flyer found stuffed in a drainpipe in Gate Street that is now an artefact held in our Museum, a memento of one of the least attractive aspects of the past?

There was definite support for the Blackshirts in Maldon and some of the organisation's top brass were certainly entertained here but it is clear that even at the time their activities were resented by many in the town as evidenced by the reminiscences that have been given to us by older Maldonians.

Pjl Jan 2003

*Remember Box Iron Cottage at the foot of Woodham Mortimer Slope?  
Remember the massive glass dish which the services had installed nearby?  
When this searchlight(?) was switched on it was as though the whole area was in daylight and there resulted some remarkable imaginative reports of all sorts and sizes.  
Our favourite was the motorist - "I was driving up the slope when this light came on and my engine immediately cut out; when the light went off my engine started again!".....(self-starter?). Any more such yarns?*

LACKSHIRT  
MEETING

CORN EXCHANGE

STAND SQUARE CHELMSFORD

STURDAY 25 OCT, 1936

AT 8 PM

(DANCE TO BE HELD)

BY RAVEN THOMSON

WILL SPEAK

ADMISSION FREE

TICKETS 10/6

IF YOU WANT

From a bunch found tucked into a gutter  
of a house in Gate Street in 1967.

Winnie & Walter  
(So you've heard it all before?)

"Warm weather, Walter! Welcome warm weather! We were wishing winter would wane, weren't we?"

"We were well wearied with waiting," whispered Walter.

Wan, white, woe-begone was Walter, wayward, wilful, worn with weakness, wasted, waxing weaker whenever winter's wild, withering winds were wailing. Wholly without waywardness was Winifred,

Walter's wise, womanly watcher, who, with winsome, wooing way, was well-beloved. We won't wait Walter; while weather's warm we'll wander where woodlands wave, won't we?"

Walter's wonted wretchedness wholly waned. "Why, Winnie, we'll walk where we went when we were with Willie; we'll weave wildflower wreaths, watch woodmen working, woodlice, worms wriggling, windmills whirling, watermills wheeling; we will win wild whortleberries, witness wheat winnowed."

Wisbech woods were wild with wildflowers; warm, westerly winds whispered where willows were waving; wood-pigeons, wrens, woodpeckers were warbling wild woodnotes. Where Wisbech watermill's waters, which were wholly waveless, widened, were water-lilies, waxen white. Winifred wove wreaths with woodbine, whitehorn, wallflowers, whilst Walter whittled wooden wedges with willow wands. Wholly without warning, wild wet winds woke within Wisbech woods, whistling where Winifred wandered with Walter; weeping willows were wailing weirdly; waging war with wind-tossed waters. Winifred's wary watchfulness waked. "Walter, we won't wait."

"Which way, Winnie?" Winifred wavered. "Why, where were we wandering? Wisbech woods widen whichever way we walk; where's Wisbech white wicket; where's Winston's water-mill?"

Wistfully Walter witnessed Winifred's wonder. "Winnie, Winnie, we were wrong, wholly wrong, wandering within wild ways. Wayfaring, weather-beaten waifs, well-nigh worn out."

Winifred waited where, within wattled woodwork walls, waggons, wheelbarrows, wains were waiting, weighty with withered wood. Walter, warmly wrapped with Winifred's well-worn wadded water-proof, was wailing woefully, wholly wearied.

Winnie, who, worn with watching, well-nigh weeping, was wistfully, wakefully, waiting Willie's well-known whistle, wholly wished Walter's well-being warranted. With well-timed wisdom, Walter was wound with wide, white worsted wrappers, which wonderfully well withstood winter's withering, whistling winds. Wholly without worn wrappers was Winifred, who, with womanly wisdom, was watching Walter's welfare, warding Walter's weakness.

"When will Willie wend where we wait?" wearily wondered Walter. "Whist, Walter," whispered Winnie; "who was whooping."  
"Whereabouts!"

Welcome whistling was waking Wisbech woods when winter's windy warfare waxed weaker. "Winnie! Walter!" Winnifred's weakness was well-grounded. "We're well, Willie; we're where Winston's waggons wait". Without waiting, Willie was within Winston's woodwork walls. "Welcome, Welcome, Willie;" Winnie was weeping with weariness with watching Walter, weak with wayfaring.

"Why, Winnie! wise, watchful, warm-hearted Winnie," Willie whispered, wheedingly, "we won't weep; Walter's well; what were Walter without Winnie?"

Wholly wonderful was Winifred's well-timed, womanly wisdom, which well warranted weakly Walter's welfare. Whenever wandering within Wisbech woods with Winnie, Walter would whisper, "What were Walter without Winnie? wise, watchful, Winnie!"

Try a wine!

By now, most of us will have 'had a go' at making 'Country Wine' with varying degrees of success. The best results seem to be obtained when the particular batch is sizeable and not made in an egg cup, so how about some "Cowslip Wine", which, it must be admitted, is well worth the bother IF you can find the time, and utensils.

Boil 20 gals of water for 1/4 hour, then add 2.1/2 lb of loaf sugar to every gallon of Water, then boil it as long as the scum rises, till it clears itself. When almost cold pour it into a tub with one spoonful of yeast, let it work for 1 day, then put in 32 quarts of cowslip flowers and let it work for 2 or 3 days, then put it all into a barrel with the parings of 12 lemons, the same of oranges. Make the juice of them into a thick syrup with 2 or 3 lb of loaf sugar; when the wine has done working add the syrup to it, then stop-up your barrel very well and let it stand for 2 or 3 months, then bottle it.

#####LuffL40703#####

.....or a D.I.Y. Norfolk Punch - 150 years old

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 for 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 24 lemons. Mix well. Strain through a very fine hair sieve into a very clean barrel that 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.

#####Mrs Coment 1850#####

"How to prolong Life"

Activity, without overwork, healthy living, moderation, self-control, the due exercise of all the faculties, the cultivation of the reason, the judgement and the will, the nurture of kindly feelings, and the practice of doing good - all things in fact, which tend to build up a noble manhood - also prepare the way to a long life and a happy and blessed old age.

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## (Other) MUSEUMS

### 1. The British Museum.....

...opened in London in 1759 when the government of the time accepted responsibility for the preservation and maintenance of three collections 'not only for the inspection and entertainment of the learned and the curious, but for the general use and benefit of the public'. These collections were housed at Montagu House in Bloomsbury, purchased for this purpose.

The collections had been made by Sir Robert Cotton, Robert Harley (1st Earl of Oxford), and Sir Hans Sloane. The Cotton/Harley collections were mainly of manuscripts, but the Sloane collection included his specimens of natural history from Jamaica, plus classical, ethnographic, numismatic, and art material as well as the cabinet of William Courten, some 100,000 items in total.

Public access was from the outset free of charge, then for many years by ticket only, issued with a daily limit. Admission now costs.....

#####p14#####

### Another Museum Loss - Ron Wells

He could easily have been mistaken for one of his own artefacts as he quite proudly displayed his facial foliage. It might easily have been a deliberate attempt to give him the reputation he had earned, of being a 'character', and those of us who had known him over the years would readily agree that he was most certainly this. He no doubt mellowed with age and certainly knew how to accumulate objects for his Agricultural and Domestic Museum in Goldhanger.



Following a series of heart attacks, Ron died on the very Saturday set aside for the Maldon District Residents' Open Day, at all the museums in the area. With him goes a great deal of knowledge, of heavy equipment and transport in particular. He was in fact a brilliant engineer but could never resist the offer of vintage items which seem now to completely fill the premises at Goldhanger.

It is understood that the museum will continue to be operated by his sons, no doubt with support from his widow, Wendy, to whom we send our sympathy. His old friends will miss him.

#####

## A MEMBER REMEMBERS

*(and prefers to remain incognito)*

*The war had already seen three Christmases and each Christmas had seen celebrations in the local church or chapel. I personally had just spent December at home, reporting to the RAF at Cardington in the New Year. After several months of technical training I joined a squadron at Ludford Magna in Lincolnshire and here we learned to forget the comforts of home. Everywhere, other than on the narrow concrete paths, was mud and as Christmas approached and no hope of Christmas passes, we resigned ourselves to the NAAFI or Church Army huts and perhaps a game of Table Tennis. Many readers will have known the feeling!*

*Came Christmas Day and someone in our hut suggested that we cycle to the not-too-distant church; a three o'clock service was advertised on the camp notice board and three of us decided to go. We arrived at about five to three to an empty, cold, and unwelcoming building out in the wilds, or so it seemed, and we had just decided to get back to camp when the local vicar arrived, puffed out with hurrying.*

*The Vicar was elderly, concerned, apologetic for being late and for the absence of any more congregation. He lit a single paraffin stove, rubbed his hands together, and suggested that as we had no organist we would have no hymns, but we could still observe the Christmas service, which we did. This was followed by his invitation to join him at the vicarage for tea. We declined on the grounds that we would soon be on duty, and left, feeling really sorry for him and promising we would see him again, which of course we never did.*

*To this day I still feel sorry for the old boy, and wonder whether my companions feel likewise. The problem is that I now have no idea who they were or even if they are still alive; they'd both be over eighty, and the Vicar long since buried*

#####1866637#####

### Reconditioning 'Cycles

Mike Bennett is appealing for help in reconditioning and refinishing bicycles given to the Museum for display purposes. This is not a 'panic' appeal for help as the work is not urgent BUT if you are able to offer a few hours do please contact Mike Bennett on 854659 or leave a message on 842688..

and Thanks!

#####

161 Church St.  
Duxbury  
MA 02332  
USA

May 21<sup>st</sup>. 2003

Dear Paddy,  
Please find the enclosed articles, photographs and Memories etc. for the Penny Farthing.  
I have numbered the various items and they are listed below with a brief description.

1. Article for the Penny Farthing, the Hinton and Ruggles connections to Town businesses came to light over the past two years whilst researching my Family History.
2. A Biography of Horatio Gates, this was copied from information on the Duxbury Town Library computer; a very brief and factual story covering his life in England and the United States.
3. A photograph of a Pageant or a Celebration with a banner showing an old ship and "Maldon" underneath the ship. My apologies for the condition of the copy; the original was very brittle and also had a number of cracks around the periphery and a missing section in the centre. So far I have not been able to identify any of my Family members in the group; it appears that the photograph was taken in the Towers at Heybridge.
4. Copies of postcards of Maldon and Goldhanger, you may already have copies of these.
5. Copy of an article from MG World, the car seems to be pictured at the Hythe Quay in Maldon. I placed the location by the yellowish coloured funnel on the old tug which is moored towards the Marine Lake.
6. Copy of an article from Classic Cars which shows sports cars in front of the Blackwater Sailing Club at Heybridge Basin.
7. A copy of my Apprenticeship Agreement with E.H. Bentall Co. Ltd. of Heybridge.

Hopefully these items will be of interest, possibly you may already have some of the information listed above.  
The articles are donated permanently to the Museum by Terry Ruggles and their use and or display is the decision of the Museum Officers and Committee Members.

Please convey my regards to the Museum personnel who remember me from school or Bentall's!

Yours Sincerely,

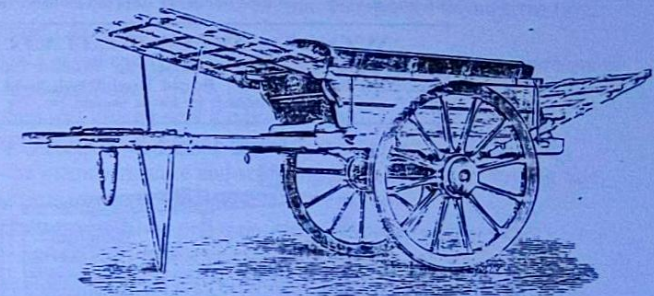
Terry Ruggles.

No. 226.

June, 1898.

# Price List of CARTS, WAGGONS, WATER CARTS, Etc.,

MANUFACTURED BY THE  
MALDON IRON WORKS COMPANY, LIM<sup>D</sup>.  
MALDON, ESSEX.



### Improved Scotch Carts.

#### PRICES.

|                                  |                         | SIZE OF TYRES. |                 |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
|                                  |                         | 3in. x 2in.    | 3 1/2in. x 2in. | 4in. x 2in. |
| Two-Horse Cart, to carry 40 cwt. | Wheels, 4ft. 9in. high. | £15 10 0       | £16 0 0         | £16 10 0    |
| One-Horse Cart, to carry 30 cwt. | Wheels, 4ft. 9in. high. | £14 5 0        | £14 15 0        | £15 5 0     |

Extras:—Harvest Ladders, as illustrated, £1 10 0. Jointed Harvest Frames, £2, 2 0 0  
Side Ladders, 15s. per pair.

These Carts are of superior construction and are very strong and durable. They are made with oak frame and bottom, pitchpine sides, ash shafts, etc. The tipping apparatus is simple and efficient.

### London Hay Cart.

Price. to carry 30 cwt.. Wheels, 5ft. 2in. high, Tyres, 2 1/2in. x 2in. } £21 10 0  
with Ladders complete.

This Cart is specially built for conveying Hay or Straw to market. It is made with oak frame and bottom, deep standard sides, and high wheels; it is also fitted with extra large ladders at front, back, and sides.

## ROAD AND HARVEST WAGGONS.

PRICES.

|                                                                                                                                                    | Single Shafts. | Double Shafts. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Road or Harvest Waggon, to carry 3½ tons, with front ladder, wheels 3ft. 10in. and 5ft. high; tyres, front 3in. x ½in., hind 2¼in. x ¾in. ...      | £34 0 0        | £36 0 0        |
| Extra Strong Road Waggon, to carry 5 Tons, with front ladder, wheels 3ft. 8in. and 5ft. lin. high; tyres, front 3in. x ½in., hind 2¼in. x ¾in. ... | £38 0 0        | £40 0 0        |

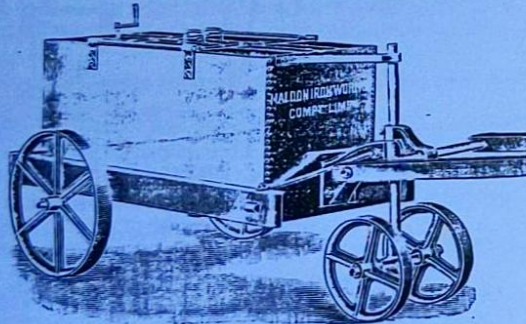
*The following extras can be supplied, viz:—*

Hind or Loading Ladder, 15/- Wheel Shoe and Chain, 12/6 Drag-bar and Fittings, 12/6.  
Those Waggons are built in a strong and substantial manner, with the best materials and workmanship. The front wheels are made to lock under the body.

## WOOD WHEELBARROWS.

General Purpose Size, with 18in. iron wheel, 25s. Stable or Yard Barrow, 27s. 6d. Extra Large Stable Barrow, 32s. 6d. Hooped Wood Wheel, 2s. 6d. extra. Removable Top (framed) for leaves, manure, etc., 10s.

## WATER CARTS.



|         |             |              |              |              |
|---------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| To hold | 80 gallons, | 100 gallons, | 120 gallons, | 150 gallons, |
| Price   | £7 15 0     | £8 10 0      | £9 5 0       | £10 0 0      |

These Carts are made with an oblong wrought iron tank, fitted with outlet valve, and mounted on an oak frame and four strong cast iron wheels, 15in. and 24in. high, except the 80-gallon cart, which has three wheels. The shafts and wood covers are made to fold back over the wheels, making the tank convenient for cattle to drink from.

## WATER AND LIQUID MANURE CARTS.

PRICES. To hold

|                                           |                                               |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 100 galls., wheels 4ft. high, £12 10 0    | 150 galls., wheels 4ft. 8in. high, £15 0 0    |
| 120 " " " 13 10 0                         | 200 " " " " 16 10 0                           |
| 1 table Pump, 3in. £2 10 0, 4in. £3 10 0. | Indiarubber Suction Hose, 2/- to 2/9 per foot |

These Carts consist of a square wrought iron tank, fitted with outlet valve, and mounted on an oak frame and two strong cast iron wheels, with wrought tyres, 4in. x ½in.

In Bavaria, Wednesday and Thursday were especially lucky.

In many countries, rice was thrown after the newly married couple.

In Scotland, the last day of the year was a very popular time for espousals.

In Derbyshire, the bees were informed of a wedding and their hives decorated

In India and in most European countries a rainy day was said to be unlucky.

An Italian proverb - 'Friday & Tuesday neither marry nor set out on a journey'

In England it was considered extremely unlucky for the bride to wear green.

In Greece neither bride nor groom would enter the house until promised presents by the groom's father.

In the north of England, the wedding cake was cut into bits, passed through the ring, and thrown amongst the crowd.

In Russia the bride would avoid eating the wedding cake on the eve of the ceremony or she would lose her husband's love.

In Scotland a currant bun was broken over the bride's head.

In Estonia a can of beer was poured over the bridegroom's horse.

Many people wed on the moon's increase and seafaring people chose a flowing tide.

Athenians selected the time of the new moon.

The German maiden floated little silver plates on which favoured names were inscribed, in water. The one that approached her own was the destined groom.

A cat's sneeze on the eve of a marriage was, in the middle ages, considered to be a good omen, but the howling of a dog was especially ominous.

In Brittany, peasant girls visited certain shrines and prayed to be married during the year. Some stuck pins into the knees of the saintly image, to be treasured as charms.

Also, in Brittany, if the wife sought to rule, she must take care that the ring, when placed on her finger, should slip at once into place, instead of allowing it to stop at the first joint.

In the Vosges mountains, the young women who dressed the bride strove as to who would stick the first pin in the bridal robe, as the successful one would be married the same year.

In Catholic countries, shrines of the Virgin or particular saints were diligently visited and certain rites performed to insure the consummation of hopes and wishes as to marriage.

The Romans deemed it an ill omen to meet certain animals on the way to a ceremony.

In the middle ages a priest, hare, dog, cat, lizard or serpent was unlucky; but a wolf, toad, or spider, lucky.

In most countries Friday was considered to be an unlucky day on which to wed, but in Scotland it was the lucky day of the week, by far the majority of weddings being celebrated on that day - sacred to Venus and Freya.

In the north of England the bridegroom gave a ribbon to each of the young men as he came from the church. These ran a race to the house, and the first there could claim a kiss from the bride.

In France, in the middle ages, a ring of straw or one made from a horse-shoe nail, was placed on the bride's finger, and some had as many as five such rings. The couple also stood on a ring during the ceremony.

In the Scottish Highlands, care was taken lest a dog run between the bride and groom during the ceremony, and the groom's left shoe was left without buckle or latchet, to prevent witches from having any influence over him.

The Swedish bride tried to see the groom before he saw her, to gain the mastery. She placed her foot before his during the ceremony and sat in the bridal chair first. She stood next to the groom so that no one could come between them.

In Scotland it was deemed specially ominous for a lump of soot to fall down and spoil the breakfast on the day of a wedding, for a bird to die in its cage or for a bird to sit on the window sill and chirp long. The bride must carefully avoid breaking a dish on that day.

In later Greece there was a curious custom. The groom was shaved by a young man whose parents were both living, while the young girls and young men sang, "Razor, silvered and gilt, shave tenderly the young man's cheeks, don't leave a hair, lest the parents of his bride think him ugly".

*Do any of these superstitions still maintain? Your own opinion would be interesting!*

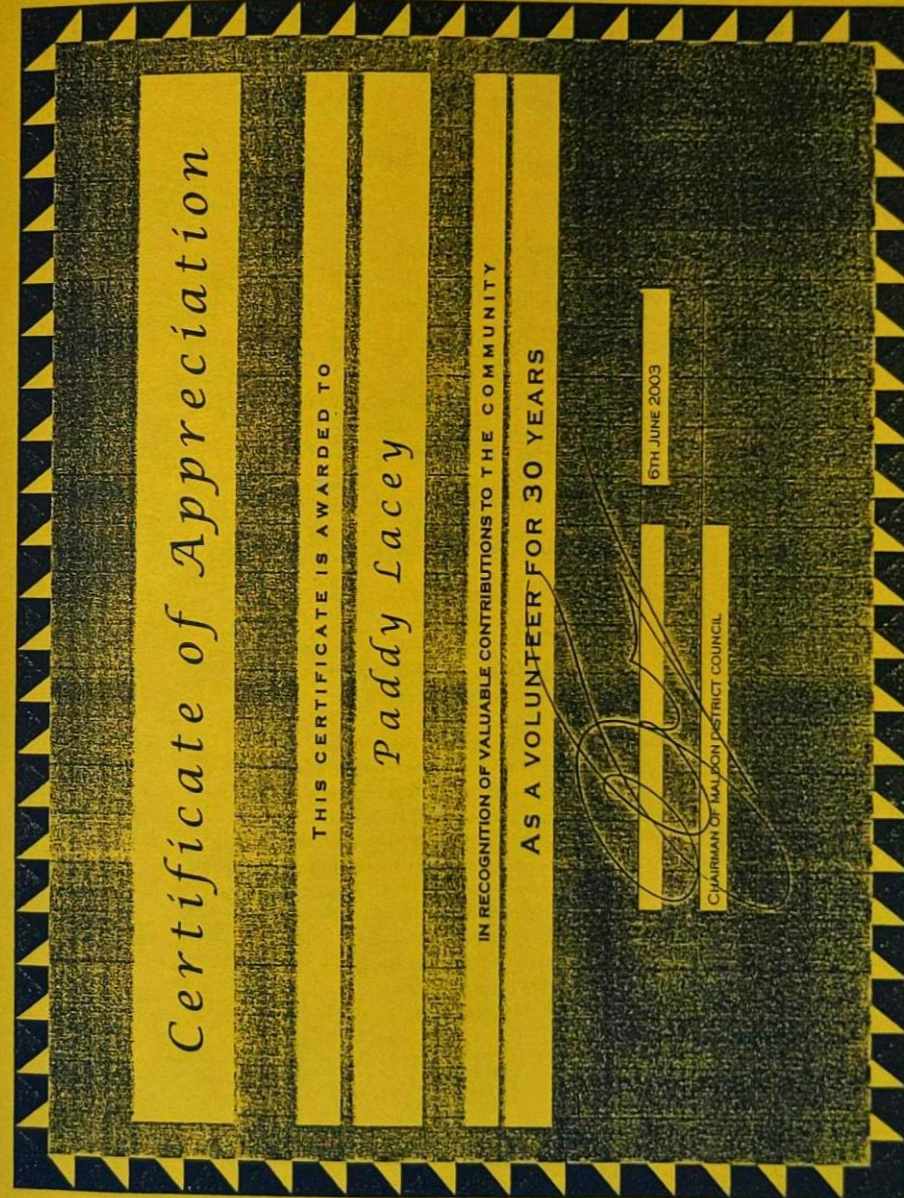
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### A TWINKLE IN THE EYE - (Repeated)

At the May Committee meeting it was recorded that in recent times we had received items related to Bentalls of Heybridge from Pauline Player, Terry Ruggles and Nick Wisbey to add to our growing collection of items from this firm that for over 150 years was so important locally. The help too, of Jean Wade and Michael Clark in donating related artefacts was also remembered. It was mentioned that Bentalls dated their foundation from 1805 the year in which William Bentall erected his first building close to the banks of the Chelmer and Blackwater canal where he was to produce the famous plough that he had perfected in Goldhanger. Would it not be appropriate to mount a significant display of these momentos in 2005 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of this event? The idea was accepted enthusiastically by all present and initial thoughts on how this could be done were given. It would be helpful to learn if there are other items in possession of our members and friends that could be loaned for such an exhibition bearing in mind that at this stage it is just a twinkle in the eye of the committee, but it is very likely to become a reality if the same response is obtained generally as that at the committee meeting.

*Our contacts for this event are Mike Bennett, Paddy Lacey, & Liz Willsher.*

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# Maldon District Museum Association

—Registered Charity 301362—

President - Mr. Derek Maldon Fitch

Vice President - Mr L.F.Barnell

## Committee - to A.G.M. 2004

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

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

Hon. Secretary..... to be advised

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

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

Committee.....Lynda Barrell.....

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

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

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

Committee.....Elizabeth Willsher.....

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Curatorial Adviser....Nick Wickenden Esq

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(Answerphone when museum unattended)

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Please note that opinions expressed are those of the individual  
contributors, and not necessarily agreed by the Association  
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